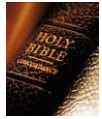


The DEFENDER— August 2026

“... defending the faith once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3)



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IN DEFENSE OF TRUTH radio broadcast
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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S Desk: Get With the Program

As the summer winds down and we look ahead to the mid-term elections, it's a good time to take stock again of where we are in light of Whose we are.

Each day Christians need to do God's will. And God's will for us is for us to do God's will. To align ourselves with Him. To put aside our great plans. I always think of the old expression "If you want to make God laugh, tell Him your plans." But that may be closer to the truth than most of us realize. God's plans are rock solid, formulated and ordained in eternity past. They are not moving. They are not going anywhere. What God wants is for us to surrender to Him. We sing a hymn, "I Surrender All," which means everything, including our will. We need to get in line with what His plan is. He has a plan for each of us. And He has set each of us on a path to accomplish that plan.

We're off on a journey. Every day. And it's the most exciting way to live life, following the Lord. The Lord has a path prepared for you. Put one foot in front of the other and follow it. He told us in Jeremiah 29:11, "... I know the thoughts that I think toward you ... thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end." Following that should be simple, except for one thing. Our pride. It will always get in the way. Pointing us in the direction that we think is best. But it doesn't have an expected end. How could it? It was driven by impulse. It will cause us to ultimately wonder why we're not having success here or why we're having failure there. We'll notice we're not growing in the Lord. Remember, if you don't feel as close to God as you once did, He's not the one who moved. We stray from the path, and the plan, which He has prepared for us.

Before we get too far into the weeds, missing time and opportunities, we need to get back on track. Get back in the Word. And pray! Get to the point where you can't wait to get up every morning and say "This is the day that the Lord has made. I will rejoice and be glad in it." When you open your eyes say "Good morning, Lord, what do You have for me today? Where are we going today?"

Time moves quickly and this life will soon be past. God has given us all an expiration date. I would like to do all that I can for God and with God every day until He calls me home. He has a plan for me. And for you. And for America in the coming years. I can't wait to see it all unfold.

Rev. David Lewis

PROPHECY: OUR PEARL OF GREAT PRICE
PART III – THE FUTURE: GOD’S RULES OR MAN’S?

COMPILED BY ROBERT LUTHARDT, SR.

The Bible is the World’s only “Holy Book” that even attempts to tell mankind the future and definitely the only one that succeeds. God’s infallible inerrant “Word” is nearly one-third composed of prophetic utterances that alert God’s called out children of His plans for this world in general and their own lives in particular – especially regarding our future homes in heaven.

God’s Prophets have said, “Behold, the former things are come to pass, and NEW THINGS, do I declare: Before they spring forth, I tell you of them ...” (Is. 42:9) and “I am the Lord ... there is none beside me ...” “I form the light and create darkness: I make PEACE AND CREATE EVIL: I the Lord do all these things” (Is. 45:5-7) and “Remember the former things of old: I am God ... Declaring the end from the Beginning and from ancient times the things ... NOT YET DONE ...” (that’s our future – Is. 46:9-10).

Where is the best place to begin to understand Biblical prophecy? Perhaps where God Himself started? If we are of Israel, God started with a Gentile who became the first Jew – Abraham. “Now the Lord said unto Abram, get thee out of thy country ... unto a land that I will show thee: And I will make thee a great nation ... make thy name great ... a blessing: and I will bless them THAT BLESSETH THEE, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall ALL FAMILIES of the earth be blessed (Gen. 12:1-3; 17:1-10, 15-16) and Sarah, a mother of nations ... is also not forgotten.”

As Gentiles, where do we begin? Especially in the current governance of the world that we live in at present. The Book of Daniel, most particularly in chapters 2 and 7, God established the political entities that hold rulership over us even now. More so He shows us His greater future rule, “... And in the days of these Kings of antiquity shall the God of heaven SET UP A KINGDOM, WHICH SHALL NEVER BE DESTROYED ... thou sawest that the STONE WAS CUT OUT OF THE MOUNTAIN WITHOUT HANDS, and that it brake ... the iron, the brass, the clay; the silver and the gold ... the Dream is certain, and ... sure” (Dan. 2:44-45).

In Revelation, chapter 17, we see the “... great whore that sitteth upon many waters ... [many nations] and I saw a woman [false religious system] sit upon a scarlet colored beast [NEW WORLD ORDER] having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman ... having a golden cup ... full of abominations and filthiness ... drunken with the blood of the saints, and ... of the martyrs of Jesus ...” (17:1-6). “And the angel said (vs. 7) ... The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sitteth ...” (vs. 9) “the woman ... is that great city, which reigneth over the Kings of the earth (vs. 18).” During the Middle Ages that city could only be Rome. She sponsored the murder of thousands of Christ’s followers during the Inquisition. What we see in 21st Century Europe is a reviving of that old empire of Iron and the rise of the symbolic “Ten Kings” who are defeated by the “LAMB,” for He is LORD OF LORDS, and King of Kings.” We will want to be of those who with HIM ARE CALLED AND CHOSEN, AND faithful (vs. 14) and not those whom God uses, “to FULFILL HIS WILL TO GIVE THEIR KINGDOMS ... UNTO THE BEAST ...” (17:17).

Also, Paul spoke of the “Mystery” whereby we shall all BE CHANGED from our corruptible mortal bodies into immortality (1 Cor. 15:53-54) and our victory through our Lord Jesus Christ (vs. 57). In the Old Testament dispensation, believers tended to confuse the first and second coming of Jesus Christ. Paul wrote to the Thessalonians to assure them that the believers who recently died would not miss

heaven: "For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with ... we which are alive ... shall not prevent (go ahead of) them which are asleep." For the Lord Himself shall descend FROM HEAVEN with a shout ... with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we ... shall be "caught up" together with them in "THE CLOUDS," to meet the "LORD IN THE AIR": and so shall we ever be with the LORD (1 Thes. 4:13-18).

When we are "CAUGHT UP" to be in heaven with the Lord, the church goes up from earth to heaven. When the Lord returns with His Bride, we descend from heaven to earth; the Lord will stand on the Mount of Olives (Zech. 14:14).

Our Lord commanded His disciples and us to WATCH for His Coming, "...Watch; therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour wherein the SON OF MAN cometh" (Mark 13:33). "Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth ..." (Rev. 16:15). This watching is for every believer for every day because we will not know the day nor the hour of Christ's return for His Bride. "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels in heaven, but my Father only" (Matt. 24:36).

We are told of a coming horrendous war against Israel from Gog of the Land of Magog that comes from the "NORTH PARTS" ... a great company, and a mighty army ... as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the "LATTER DAYS," and ... "that the heathen may know me, when I shall be SANCTIFIED IN THEE O GOG, Before their eyes ..." (Ez. 38:15-16). "Thus saith the Lord God; ... when Gog shall come against the land of Israel ... in that day there shall be a great SHAKING IN THE LAND OF ISRAEL ... All the men ... upon the face of the earth, shall shake at my presence, and the mountains shall be thrown DOWN ... every wall shall fall ... every man's sword shall be against HIS BROTHER ... I will rain upon him ... great hailstones, fire, and brimstone ... I will be known in the EYES OF MANY NATIONS ... I Am THE LORD" (Ez. 38:15-23).

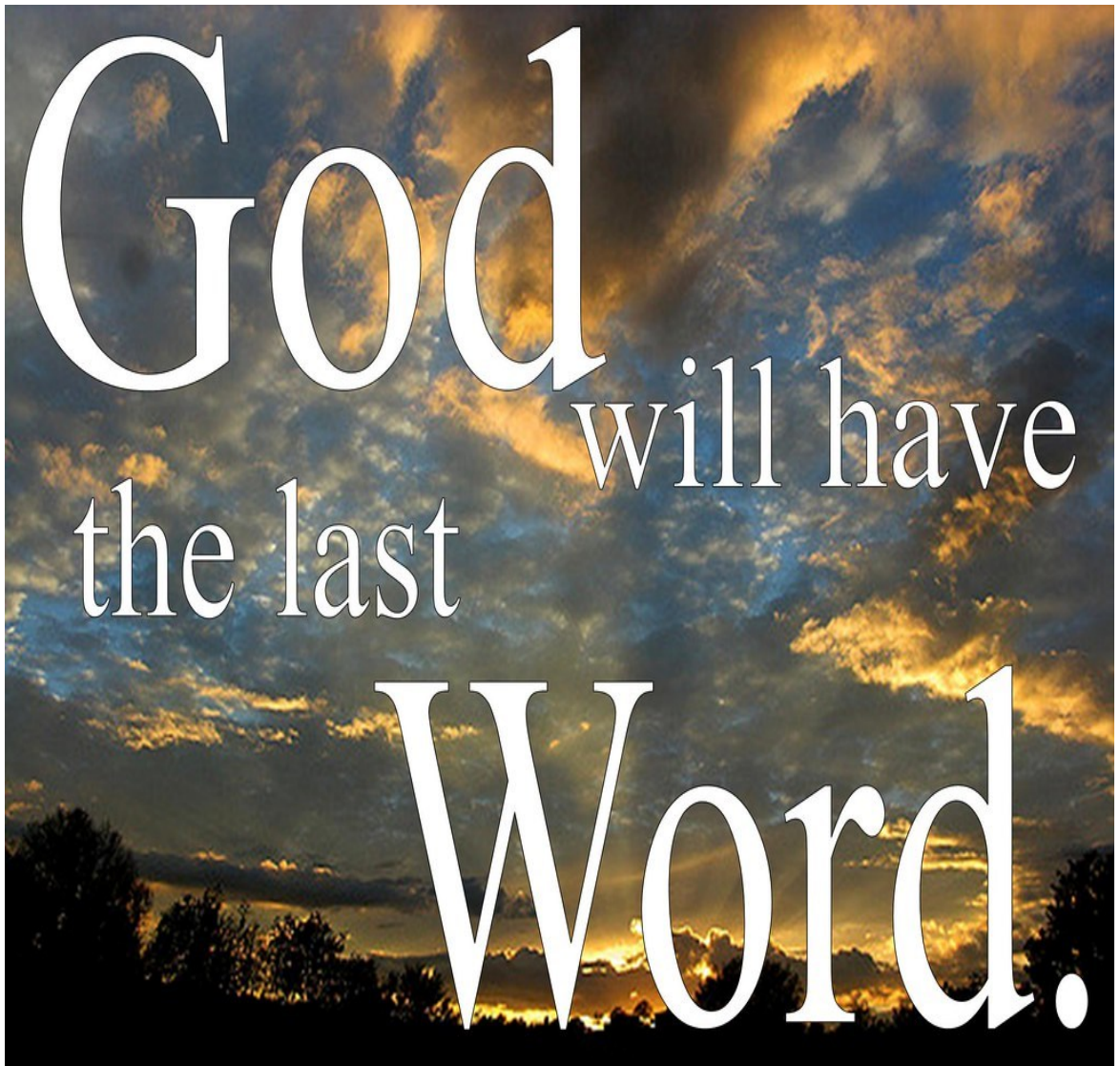
The Lord will turn back Gog with great destruction ... "I am against thee O Gog ... of Meshech and Tubal, and I will ... leave but the sixth part of thee, and will cause thee to come up from the North Parts and will bring thee upon the mountains of Israel ... I will smite thy bow ... thine arrows to fall ... THOU SHALT FALL UPON THE MOUNTAINS OF ISRAEL ... I will give thee unto the ravenous birds ... and to the beasts ... to be devoured ... I will SEND A FIRE ON MAGOG ... I am the Lord ... the heathen shall know that I AM THE LORD, THE HOLY ONE IN ISRAEL" (Ez. 39:1-8).

Ezekiel concludes, "Behold, it is come ... the day whereof I HAVE SPOKEN ... And they that dwell in the cities of Israel shall ... set on fire and burn the weapons ... shields and bucklers, the bows and arrows ... And burn them with fire SEVEN YEARS ... I will give Gog a place there of graves ... there shall they bury Gog ... seven months shall the house of Israel be burying them" (Ez. 39:8-13) "And I will set MY GLORY AMONG THE HEATHEN, and all ... shall see my judgment ... So, the house of Israel SHALL KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD THEIR GOD, from that day and forward ... Now will I ... have mercy upon the whole house of Israel" (Ez. 39:21-25).

"David my servant shall be King over them, and ... shall be their Prince for EVER ... I will make ... an everlasting covenant with them ... and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for EVER-MORE ... and the heathen shall know that I THE LORD do sanctify Israel ... for evermore" (Ez. 38:24-28).

Beyond the revealed will and Word of God, we do not know the world's nor our own future, near (in time) or far off; but God, living and true, absolutely knows. God knows the end from the beginning (Is. 46:10; Matt. 24:33-36) and the heavenly plans for everyone who truly LOVES HIM (1 Cor. 2:9; Rom. 11:5).

Keep looking up (Luke 21:28).



John 17:4: "I have glorified Thee on the earth: I have finished the work which Thou gavest Me to do." (KJV)

The Finished Work of Christ

By Joseph Burghauser

John 17:4 refers to Christ's work "on the earth," from His Incarnation to His Ascension. God the Son, Who created and upholds the universe, humbled Himself to become a man (while remaining God), in submission to God the Father (Philippians 2:7). This work includes His revelation of God, His teaching, His healing and other miracles, His keeping of the Law for us, His sacrificial death for His people, His Resurrection, and His Ascension. His work for His people fulfilled the Scriptures and continues after His Ascension "since He always lives to intercede for them" (Hebrews 7:25b).

How can we understand that Christ made this statement that He "finished the work" before His sacrificial death took place? One solution is that the Scriptures are said to use what is called the 'prophetic perfect tense', to describe future events that are so certain to occur that the past tense is used. Examples of this can be found in Numbers 24:17, Isaiah 9:6; 53:5, and John 16:33. So, when our Lord said His work was finished, it was as good as done because its completion was certain.

The "work" of Christ "on the earth" may be considered as 'the obedience of Christ,' since He "finished the work which Thou gavest Me to do." John 6:38 and Hebrews 10:7 tell of Christ's obedience to His Father's will. He obeyed His will in all things, even submitting to His suffering and death on the cross (Philippians 2:5-8; Luke 22:42). He came to glorify the Father (John 12:28; 13:31-32; 14:13). He came to teach (Matthew chapters 5-7) and to preach (Luke 4:43). He came to heal and to perform other miracles as well, in fulfillment of Scriptures such as Isaiah 35:5-6; 61:1-2. These miracles were done so that "though ye believe not Me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in Me and I in the Father" (John 10:38). Christ also came "to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). His saving work on earth is also referred to in Matthew 1:21 and in I Timothy 1:13-16.

Usually, when the term 'the obedience of Christ' is used, it refers to one aspect of His work: His perfect keeping of God's Law. There is disagreement among Christians concerning the details of our Lord's keeping of the Law. Some believe that He kept the Law to qualify Himself to be "The Lamb of God, Which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). Others, including myself, do not think that He had to qualify Himself. He was already qualified as the sinless God-man. We believe that He came as the Second or Last Adam, to "fulfill all righteousness" (Matthew 3:15), meaning that He came to obey God's Law to earn righteousness for His people. Many do not believe that His perfect Law-keeping is imputed to us in God's declaring us to be righteous. They hold that the Scriptures teach that His death is the only basis of our justification. But, I believe that the Scriptures teach that the forgiveness of the penalty of our sins is provided by the sufferings and the sacrificial death of Christ. Our sins

(past, present, and future) were imputed to Christ. Our imputed righteousness is from His perfect keeping of the Law for us.

The Scriptures are clear that God's Law must be obeyed. Adam was our first representative, but He failed to obey God. Deuteronomy 27:26 (Quoted in Galatians 3:10), 28:15, and James 2:10 are among the verses that teach that God requires perfect obedience. The Second Adam kept God's Law perfectly. Although as "Lord of the Sabbath" (Mark 2:28), Christ created and was above the Law, He was made "under the Law" (Galatians 4:4). He put Himself under the Law to obey it in our place.

Some would argue from Romans 3:20 and 3:28, that since our justification is "without the Law," that Christ's Law-keeping is not imputed to believers. However, Romans 2:13, 3:31 and 8:4 may be viewed as teaching that some (believers) will keep the Law (because Christ kept it for them). So, justification by faith alone does not set aside the need for God's Law to be perfectly kept. The imputation of the active obedience of Christ can also be deduced from Romans 5:19: "For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of One shall many be made righteous." We may rightly interpret "the obedience of One" to be Christ's whole life of obedience to God's Law. Philippians 2:8 seems to teach this as well: "He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." His was a lifetime of obedience, which is imputed to believers. Matthew 15:17 may also be taken that "fulfilling" the Law includes His Law-keeping. Does not this concept of His perfect obedience imputed to us, in addition to His sacrifice for us, give Him more glory?

Whatever our views of the details of Christ's work on earth, there is agreement that Christ's work included His sacrificial death for His people. And there is agreement among all true Bible-believing Christians that Christ's death was an infinitely sufficient payment for the sins of those who trust in Him alone. We cannot cooperate with God's grace to earn or to keep our salvation. Christ finished His work of seeking and saving the lost. As He grants us faith and repentance, we will trust in Him and His finished work for our eternal life with Him, and we will begin to turn from our sins. And He will return to the earth with His saints (Zechariah 14:4-5; I Thessalonians 3:13; Revelation 19:11-16), at the end of the Tribulation, to set up His earthly kingdom (The Millennium).

John 19:30: "When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, He said, It is finished: and He bowed His head, and gave up the ghost."

I Corinthians 15:17: "And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins."

Acts 1:11: "Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, Which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven



Let God

By Hank Arthur

When our country was founded, Our Lord God was there.
When they composed our Constitution, It was done with fervent prayer.
This great nation was founded on God's rules, justice, and might.
How can we possibly ever prosper when God is pushed out of sight?

Christians, is your heart right? Do you yearn for yesterday?
Would you like to see honesty and righteousness back in government to stay?
Take your petitions to the Lord. Don't just murmur and complain.
He can renew and cleanse our land and wash away every stain.

Your prayers He will answer if they come from a contrite heart.
He can do the impossible, but you must do your part.
America needs our help today, So pray and take a stand!
We must do our Christian duty and fight for our land.

Renew your walk with the Lord. Make Him your number one.
Then walk each day in the light that comes from God's own Son.
Set the example so others can see the love of God in you.
Show them how love and faith can accomplish what nothing else can do.

There is a rising tide of hate throughout the world today.
They are doing all they know how to take our rights away.
So Christians, it's up to you and I to take it to the Lord.
This is a battle that can only be won by God's almighty sword.

If you and I will believe, then God can do the rest.
Let's get our lives back on track and put Him to the test.
We were once a Christian nation when men had God in their soul.
Let's invite Him back where He belongs and let God be in control.



Our mission through the broadcast of In Defense of Truth and the publication of The Defender newsletter is to earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints (Jude 3). Our vision today is just as strong as it was back in 1963 when Dr. John Dekker began this outreach. We pray that you will continue to stand with us as we hold true to God's holy Word.

The Defender is available, free of charge, on audio CD.
Please contact us if you would like to receive a copy by mail.

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WRITE TO US!

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Upcoming Events!

If you are in or around the Baltimore area, we'd love to have you join us for these upcoming events!

Adult Bible Study	10:15 am
Sunday Morning Worship & Children's Church	11:00 am
Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study	12:30 pm
Wednesday Evening Bible Study	7:00 pm
Outdoor Movie Night (August 14th)	8:30 pm