

Truth Shall Make You Free

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Truth Shall Make You Free

- **Texts:** John 8: 31-32 ASV & II Corinthians 3: 17-18 ASV

³¹ Jesus said to those that believe, if ye abide in My word, then are ye truly My disciples; ³² and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. ¹⁸ But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord the Spirit.

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- My sons were young and our family enjoyed watching an animated version of Robin Hood. Two birds named Nutsy and Trigger were town criers. Every hour they would toll the bell and herald that all was well. That brought a laugh every time we viewed the DVD. We don't think much about watchmen on the wall and town criers, as Daniel and other watchmen, the prophets and apostles of old, God's generals, and men today like; Perry Stone, David Jeremiah, Joel Richardson, and Thomas Horn, sound warning. Today I herald warning like a

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town crier, ¹⁶ the word of Jehovah came to me; ¹⁷ hear the word at my mouth, and give warning from me. Ezekiel 3: 16-17 ASV You can not stop the kingdom of heaven. You can lose your place in it.

- Choice is made in eternity. Privilege is never an end to itself. Jehovah is never taken by surprise. History teaches His man or woman always is placed at the right time for the right event. I want to emphasize this eternal truth to you. You will be judged by your adherence or

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rejection of this truth. Children of God are raised up, not for themselves, but for what they can do to forward interests of the kingdom of God. No man is ever allowed privilege for his own sake. There is an obligation to be paid. We are what we are and where we are, not because God loves us better than He loves others; not because we can do more for humanity; not because we are special favorites of heaven. Not at all ! Jesus said, ²⁴ If any man would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. Matthew 16: 24 ASV

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- Esther had been kinfolk to a low grade official. Now she sat upon the throne. Immediately, Esther saw Haman had almost everything short of the throne. Everything except a bow from Mordecai. He was one bow short and that produced misery and restlessness in Haman that lent his political genius to eliminate an entire race. He forgot he was involving the God of heaven. Mordecai knew Jehovah works through human agencies and trusted the eternal plan. He realized why things like this are

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permitted and why they happen. Mordecai went to Esther and placed responsibility where it belonged. She hesitated, the move might cost her life, it was death to go before the king unbidden. But Mordecai made it an open and shut case. There could be no option and keep any sense of respect.

- Jehovah had Noah ready for a crisis of evil that swamped this planet and made it mandatory to begin again. Jehovah had Moses ready when a people had to be pried from 400 years of slave

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labor and led to the Promised land. God had Paul ready when the gospel had to bridge two continents and begin its journey as a witness. God had His generals; Calvin, Fox, Wesley, Whitfield, Mrs. M.B. Woodworth Etter, and others ready when English deism, French infidelity, and German rationalism were the harvest.

- Jehovah is never taken by surprise. Mordecai strengthened himself with this conviction;
14 who knoweth whether thou art not come to

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the kingdom for such a time as this? Esther 4: 14 ASV
He believed Jehovah places His people at the right place for the right time. Mordecai made Esther believe; ¹³ think not with thyself thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews. Esther 4: 13 ASV The victory has to be won first in yourself. Esther said; fast and pray for me three days, and I will go in to the king, if I perish, I perish (Esther 4: 16).

- If Jesus saved Himself as the world wanted Him to do, He could not have saved anyone else.

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The man who avoids Calvary can not save any one else. ²⁴ If any man would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. ²⁵ For whosoever would save his life shall lose it: and whosoever shall lose his life for my sake shall find it. ²⁶ For what shall a man be profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and forfeit his life? or what shall a man give in exchange for his life? ²⁷ For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then shall he render unto every

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man according to his deeds. 28 Verily I say unto you, there are some of them that stand here, who shall in no wise taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom.

Matthew 16: 24-28 ASV

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- The apostle Paul was haunted by shortness of time. It was the crisis of the Second Coming of Christ, which he expected at any moment, that had urgency. Today that expectancy may have grown faint and dim. Though no man knows when God will rise and bid him go. Time grows shorter, for we are every day one day nearer that time. Life should be lived in expectation of the crisis moment. We need to have all things ready.

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- **Text:** Romans 13: 11-14 ASV

¹¹ Knowing the season, that already it is time for you to awake out of sleep: for now is salvation nearer to us than when we first believed.

¹² The night is far spent, and the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. ¹³ Let us walk becomingly, as in the day; not in revelling and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and jealousy. ¹⁴ But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.

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- Paul selects six sins that typify a Christless life:
- Revelling was a friends accompanying a victor home from games, singing his praises and celebrating triumph as they went. Later it came to mean a noisy band who swept their way through city streets at night, a band of roysterers, which would have been called a rout. It describes the kind of revelry which lowers a man's self and is a disturbance and nuisance to others.
- Drunkenness was particularly disgraceful to the

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Greeks, a wine drinking people. The wine they drank was much diluted and even children drank wine. Breakfast consisted of a slice of bread dipped in wine because their water supply was inadequate and dangerous.

- Chambering means the forbidden bed and brings to mind a man who sets no value on fidelity taking his pleasure when and where he will.
- Wantonness describes a man who does not

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care who sees him, nor cares what they think of him, he has lost his shame.

- Strife is a spirit born of unbridled competition, desire for place, power, prestige, and hatred of being second place.
- Jealousy describes a man not content with what he has and when confronted with greater, wishes to attain it.
- God speaks to us about our relationship to government and leaders of governments. He

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tells us to honor our country and its leaders, as well as God. Paul conveys an urgency around the political situation of his day to the Church of God at Rome. He is urging the church to arise from spiritual slumber, telling it is a critical period and unique season. Time has come for the church to wake up.

- There really is a struggle in our nation. This has been said for many years. Some of us have been asleep, and we need to wake up. The Church of God in the United States remained

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quiet over too many moral and social issues. Many in our nation would prefer we remain asleep. They tell us to be silent. We need to stand up for the Word of God. Why? Because the nation is at stake and we are at war over these five truths:

- **AUTHORITY** God vs. Man. Who is going to be the authority in our United States of America? Which one?
- **CONTROL** God vs. Satan. Who is going to

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control these United States of America? It has nothing to do with political parties. It has nothing to do with social issues. It has nothing to do with moral issues. It is a spiritual war.

- TRUTH Bible vs. Opinion. What is truth? It is the Word of God. People's opinion matter but all opinion give way to God's Word.
- FUTURE Revival vs. Ruin. The Church of God in the United States of America has the answer for the nation and nothing else. It is a spiritual war.

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- ETERNITY Heaven vs. Hell. The course of our nation is to remind its people and the world for the need of Jesus Christ. Far more than politics and culture hang in the balance.
- These truths ought to motivate us to fulfill our mission to reach people for Christ and make disciples of all nations. We ought to do it with greater intensity, with greater internationality, with greater vision than ever before. It is time for the Church of God in the United States to wake up.

Wake Up

- Text: John 8: 31-32 ASV

³¹ Jesus said to those Jews that had believed him, If ye abide in my word, then are ye truly my disciples; ³² and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

- Discipleship begins with belief. The moment a man accepts what Jesus says as truth, when a man accepts all that Jesus says about the love of God, when a man accepts all that Jesus says about the terror of sin, when a man accepts all

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that Jesus says about the real meaning of life, on that day the man begins to be a disciple of Jesus.

- Abiding in Jesus' word involves:
- Listening to the word. A disciple listens for the voice of Jesus. He will make no decision until he hears what Jesus has to say.
- Learning from the word. Disciple translates learner. A disciple learns about Jesus. A shut mind ends discipleship.

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- Penetrating into the truth of the word. No one can hear the words of Jesus once and understand their full meaning. We go back to them time and time again; until more and more of the meaning becomes ours.
- Obeying the word. A disciple constantly obeys, not for academic satisfaction, or for intellectual appreciation, but to find out what God wishes us to do. A disciple learns in order that he may do the truth Jesus has designed for action.
- To learn from Jesus is to learn what truth?

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Jesus enables a disciple to get his scale of values right; discern things that are important and not.

- How does truth set a disciple free?
- It brings freedom from fear. A disciple never walks alone. He walks in the company of Jesus, and in that company fear is gone.
- It brings freedom from self. A man's greatest enemy is himself. The power and presence of Jesus recreates a man until he is altogether new.

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- It brings freedom from others. A disciple ceases to care what people say thinking only of what God says.
- It brings freedom from sin. Discipleship breaks chains which bind us to sin enabling us to be the person we ought to be.
- Text: John 14: 15-17 ASV
 - ¹⁵ If ye love me, keep my commandments.
 - ¹⁶ And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may be with you

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for ever, ¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth: whom the world cannot receive; for it beholdeth him not, neither knoweth him: ye know him; for he abideth with you, and shall be in you.

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- When ²⁴ David comforted Bath-sheba his wife, and went in unto her, and lay with her: and she bare a son. And Jehovah loved him; ²⁵ and he sent by the hand of Nathan the prophet; and he called his name Jedidiah, for Jehovah's sake.

II Samuel 12: 24-25 ASV Upon the death of the 10th son, Solomon, fathered by King David with his 8th wife, Bath-sheba, the promised land was divided. The Assyrians destroyed the northern kingdom of Israel, B.C. 722, ten lost tribes. Babylon assailed the southern kingdom of

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Judah over a hundred years later. Jeremiah had been warning Judah for 40 years of their sin. The message of repentance was rejected. Judah's doom was sealed.

- The first indictment of Judah is they did not hear. The people were deaf to the truth (Jeremiah 7). False prophets were feeding the people what they wanted to hear. Jeremiah was tossed into a pit because he kept preaching what was deemed offensive [hate speak].
- The second indictment of Judah is they

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progressed to the point where God's judgment was inevitable. They waited too long to repent. Even Moses and Samuel could not avert their doom (Jeremiah 15: 1). Plunging farther into idolatrous behavior they did not fear the consequences.

- The third indictment was their political leaders rejected divine guidance. In the course of three meetings with Jeremiah, the king of Judah, Zedekiah, merely asked for prayer, unresponsively heard warnings about coming

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judgment, and ignored advice that could have spared him and Jerusalem. Spurning God, he sought assistance of foreign countries. His spiritual blindness led to the death of his sons in his presence, and then Zedekiah's eyes were gouged out.

- Therefore, Jerusalem fell, and Judah was carried off to Babylon. The tragedy of the event is difficult to fathom. Jeremiah recorded the pain and starvation of children. Every prediction about God's judgment spoken by Jeremiah

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came to pass. The suffering was unbelievable.

- The book of Lamentations is a remembrance of the slaughter and enslavement of Jerusalem. It contains five funeral dirges for the devastated city; four of twenty-two verses and one of sixty-six verses. Acrostically arranged, these were not random comments; Jeremiah penned these sad words for the purpose of worship among God's people.
- In these songs you can visualize the destruction. Children are fainting in the streets,

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longing for sustenance. A city once filled with people and alive with activity is lonely and desolate. A proud Judah is a broken nation. No more could they assume that God would preserve them, for destruction had come. Jeremiah even personifies the city. He puts tears into the eyes of Jerusalem, as she recounts how the false prophets and foreign lovers abandoned her in her distress. Chapter two in Jeremiah is clear; Jerusalem transgressed, and God punished.

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- The story of Atlantis was told by the Greek philosopher Plato to show how heaven punishes those who worship false gods. He located Atlantis in the Great Ocean, the Western Sea whose swelling waves rose beyond the Pillars of Hercules which we know today are the Straits of Gibraltar. Atlantis was a vast island larger than Libya and Asia together, with magnificent mountain ranges, lush plains teeming with every variety of animals, and luxuriant gardens where fruit was in abundance.

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Plato hints the destruction is by a Great Asian Flood; a terrible cataclysm passed down by word of mouth for hundreds of years. Over the ages innumerable places have been suggested as the site. Modern scientists have narrowed the search down to two main possibilities; the Atlantic, either in the Azores or the Bahamas; and the Mediterranean, at Santorini or Crete. Did Atlantis really exist, or is it the account of an island paradise destroyed just as a moral tale?

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- What's the designed place in history for the United States of America? Schemes carefully concealed from colonists by our Founding Fathers are revealed by the author of *New Atlantis*, published in 1624. Sir Francis Bacon depicts a vision of a world government and new world order established upon the grandeur of Atlantis. Those secret, powerful, intellectuals who viewed America as the new world were Freemasons. Many heroic patriots of the United States were Freemasons. Forty-four of fifty-six

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signers of the Declaration of Independence were Freemasons dedicated to the New World Order. Cities were designed by Freemasons. Symbols on our currency were left to Freemasons. The Order for men follows strict Dogma in both Scottish and York rites. Order of the Eastern Star is the women's auxillary. The presidential inauguration of Barrack Obama was celebrated with the first ever Freemason sponsored Ball.

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- What does the story of Judah mean for the United States of America, as we experience assaults against Christianity?
- First, our present situation is not new. Many Christians in many countries have suffered in the past. History of the church is littered with martyrs. Even now we should be thankful for our freedom.
- Second, standing for truth and righteousness can be lonely. Out of hundreds of prophets, only Jeremiah spoke the truth.

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- Third, the faithfulness of a few is no guarantee that a nation is going to turn back to God. We must pray for revival even though we do not know it is possible for the United States to be saved.
- Fourth, a nation can reach a point of no return. At some point, prayer will not hold back the inevitable. Is this the fate of the United States of America? We do not know, but a part of God's judgment is here. We are already reaping the

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consequences of our sins as our families continue to fragment.

- Fifth, when a nation is judged, the righteous suffer with the wicked. Godly people like Daniel were carried off to Babylon.
- Sixth, God uses evil nations to judge His own people, as God proclaims in the book of Habakkuk. We should not be surprised to see certain foreign agents, who are seemingly more evil than ourselves, be the means by which God judges us.

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- Jerusalem suffered a direct hit of God's judgment. Jesus suffered a direct hit of God's judgment. Through the hands of evil and wicked people God allowed it.
- Jehovah said unto Abram, ¹ get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto the land that I will show thee: ² and I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and be thou a blessing: ³ and I will bless them that bless thee, and him that curseth thee will I

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curse: and in thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed. Genesis 12: 1-3 ASV Christ tied all nations to Israel. Israel faded out of the picture to allow the Church to take the spotlight. The reverse is happening today. The Church is fading as Israel comes forward, front and center. Jehovah has His hand upon the nations. At this very moment He is pouring all the nations into their respective prophetic molds for the purpose of being fashioned according to the pattern. ⁵ There are set thrones for judgment.

Psalms 122: 5 ASV

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- You had better believe something big is going to take place soon!
- King Nebuchadnezzar held his position and power by the will of God. He seduced himself to think differently. There came a moment when God was not in all his thoughts; ⁴ The wicked, in the pride of his countenance, saith , He will not require it . All his thoughts are, There is no God. Psalm 10:4 ASV He laid flattering unction to his soul that he had attained his dominion by his own right and would maintain it by his own

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power. Repeated warnings are matter of record. A year before disaster struck he had a dream (Daniel 4: 10). He was told a watcher and holy one came down from heaven (Daniel 4: 13). Our modern mentality conveniently forgets there is a watcher. For long he has kept silence, but in His own time He will break that silence. ¹³ Jehovah will go forth as a mighty man; he will stir up his zeal like a man of war: he will cry, yea, he will shout aloud; he will do mightily against his enemies. ¹⁴ I have long time holden my peace;

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I have been still, and refrained myself: now will I cry. Isaiah 42: 13-14 ASV Daniel made one last effort before sentence was passed. 27 Wherefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable unto thee, and break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by showing mercy to the poor; if there may be a lengthening of tranquillity.

Daniel 4: 27 ASV

- Is that sage advice applicable to this nation?

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- The United States, mighty with privileges, will be accountable. We know the past administration had enmity with Israel. Repeated choices against Israel are matter of record. Should the current administration of the United States turn from Israel, there will be no social legislation, no religious effort, no action to deter the supreme moment of judgment that will come upon this nation. It will take a total summons of moral strength to counter the pressures already in place. The shadows are lengthening. Only the blind refuse to see.

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- Past President Obama who grew up with the Bible, the Qur'an, and the Bhagvat Gita sitting on a shelf side by side, spent significant time during his campaign distancing himself from conservative Christians. Countering that his faith was more universalist and unconvinced of Bible inerrancy, in a five minute video available on YouTube, a pre-election speech by Obama was highly cynical of Bible authority and even derided specific Old and New Testament Scriptures. "Whatever we once were," Obama says, on the video, "we're no longer a Christian

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nation." He then adds, "Democracy demands that the religiously motivated translate their concerns into universal rather than religion-specific values... This is going to be difficult for some who believe in the inerrancy of the Bible, as many evangelicals do." This conscious effort to reorient the United States away from conservative Christianity was widely embraced by people who identified with the man who carried a tiny idol of the Hindu god Hanuman in his pocket, whose blessings he sought in the race to the White House. February 2009,

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Obama temporarily replaced Jesus Christ as the favorite United States hero according to a Harris poll and Terry Neal, writing for the Hamilton Spectator, proclaimed boldly: "The faiths of our fathers are tired now... only a global world view will suffice. The marriage of a believable faith with the husbandry of government is the union that must be contracted, for only then will there be peace on earth and goodwill toward all."

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- Light might be cast on why Obama seemed fascinated with such anti-Christian symbolism up to his election involves a Hadith (tradition) sacred to Shite Islam from the 17th century. Prophecy from Ali ibn Abi-Talib predicts that just before the coming of the Mahdi (who some believe to be the Antichrist), "a tall black man will assume the reins of government in the West." This leader will command the strongest army on earth and will bear a sign from the third imam, *Hussein*. The prophecy concludes that:

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"Shiites should have no doubt that he is with us." Barack Hussein mean the blessing of Hussein in "Arabic and Persian" while his family name Obama written in the Persian alphabet, reads O Ba Ma which means "he is with us." Is the formula complete?

- The presidential oath of office begins "I do solemnly swear." The word solemn means an invocation of sanction before a deity witness. The oath binds the individual before God to faithfully execute covenant. Government

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representatives make oath placing their hand on the Bible and swearing to execute office. 20 January 2009, one of the most hallowed traditions of the United States of America was flubbed. Obama had to repeat his swearing-in ceremony. The word "faithfully" was garbled by Chief Justice John Roberts, during the inauguration. So on the following day, in the Map Room of the White House, before a press pool and a small group of aides, the oath was administered without use of the Bible. Does the unprecedented gaffe symbolically represent the

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moment in United States history when it passed from biblical moorings, were powers, including supernatural agents, are released to execute blessings and curses as dire repercussion?

- June 2009, Barrack Hussein Obama gave an unprecedented speech to the Muslim world from Cairo, Egypt, declaring he was launching a new era between the United States and the Muslim world. For the first time, Obama was forthright about his Muslim heritage and stated the United States is no longer a Christian

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nation, and is now one of the largest Muslim countries in the world.

- Consider the issues of abortion and homosexuality in our culture. Our country is celebrating something God condemned. Viewed as a woman health issue abortions have been legal in the United States since the 1970's. Millions of babies have been murdered. Recently Planned Parenthood was recorded on camera selling dead baby parts. The image of technicians selecting hearts and kidneys of a

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dead baby is not a woman health issue. A recent ruling of the Supreme Court of the United States recognizes marriage to be the contractual union between a male and a male, a female and a female as well as a male and a female. This ruling promotes an abominable lifestyle and does not agree with God's covenant. Leaders of the United States of America do not accept the word of God, and are attempting to ostracize opposition to censure those speaking against sin.

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- Truth must be spoken!
- "Prophecy of the Popes" is a list of verses by St. Malachy predicting each of the Roman Catholic popes from Pope Celestine II to the final pope. The reign of "Peter the Roman" following Pope Benedict XVI, the last pope, heralds the destruction of the city of Rome, beginning great apostasy followed by tribulation. Tradition has long predicted it would begin after a Pope would take the name of the Apostle Paul. Pope Paul VI was accomplished

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eight days prior to the election of the current Pope. Is time running out?

- Pressure builds for a last diplomatic struggle where the Vatican will pressure to internationalize Jerusalem since it holds the holy places of three great religions. Israel will say no to the United Nations.
- ³⁷ As the days of Noe, so shall the coming of the Son of man be. ³⁸ In the days before the flood they were eating, drinking, marrying and giving in marriage. Until the day Noe entered the ark,

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³⁹ and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away. So shall the coming of the Son of man be. Matthew 24: 37-39 KJV

- The Lord is not slack concerning his promise. He is longsuffering, not willing any should perish. All should come to repentance.

II Peter 3: 2-9 KJV

- Forsake not assembling together as the day approaches. Hebrews 10: 25 KJV

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- Watch and pray always, ye may be counted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass. Luke 21: 36 KJV
- Be ready! In such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. Matthew 24: 44 KJV
- Has the count down begun? Have options for the United States of America played out? I posed the following question in the 19 March 2017 Adult Doctrine Message; "Is God using President Donald J. Trump, who is power ordained of God, to prove all the congregation

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of the United States of America, whether we will walk in His law, or not?" Do you think God is judging the United States of America? Will God turn toward us, or from us? Only the stupid quarrel with history. Will His forthcoming answer be heard or will we be murmuring?

Satan vs. Hebrew Nation

- From the day Jehovah showed favor to the Hebrew nation, Satan has persecuted them through several world empires. Throughout history we see willing vessels manifest hatred.
- Through Pharoah, the ruler of Egypt, when he ordered the slaughter of every male Hebrew child (Exodus 1: 5-22)
- Through Shalmaneser, the ruler of Assyria, when he conquered the northern kingdom of Israel and carried away and dispersed ten of twelve tribes into exile (II Kings 17: 5-6).

Satan vs. Hebrew Nation

- Through Nebuchadnezzar, the ruler of Babylon, when he attacked Jerusalem, the capital of the southern kingdom of Judea, and carried the Hebrews into exile (II Kings 24: 10-16).
- Through Haman, the man appointed as second in command over the Medo-Persian empire, when he attempted to have every Hebrew in the empire killed (Esther 3:9).
- Through Antiochus Epiphanes, the Greek ruler of Syria, when he laid siege to Jerusalem (Daniel 8: 23-25 & I Maccabees 1-6).

Satan vs. Hebrew Nation

- Through Titus, the Roman emperor, who attacked and captured Jerusalem killing more than 1.1 million Jews (Josephus Wars of the Jews VI IX 3).
- Through various Islamic and Christian empires.
- Through Hitler, fuhrer of Germany, who killed more than 6 million Jews in WWII.
- Eventually through the Antichrist and the False Prophet and their empire prophesized to kill two thirds of inhabitants of the nation of Israel (Zechariah 12: 8-9 & Exekiel 38).

Tale of Two Capitals

- Did you ever hear a joke about St. Peter at the pearly gates? Was it funny? Did you laugh? Maybe the joke was on you. Scripture teaches; that great city, holy Jerusalem, out of heaven, having the glory of God, has a wall great and high. On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates; written thereon, are the twelve tribes of Israel. The twelve gates, are made of pearl, and have twelve guardian angels (Revelation 21: 10-13).

Tale of Two Capitals

- Did ancients get into heaven through a gateway? The Pentateuch, the first book of Moses, contains a divine revelation of the gate of heaven. Jacob was traveling from Beersheba, where Isaac was staying, to Haran. Jacob came to a place where he was obliged to stop all night, because the sun had set. This accidentally chosen location was really a divinely appointed choice. After making a pillow with the stones, Jacob fell asleep and had a dream in which he saw a ladder resting upon the earth and the top reaching to heaven.

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Angels of God were traveling up and down. Jehovah stood atop. Jacob lying in solitude, helpless and forsaken heard Jehovah, in heaven, proclaim Himself as the God of Jacobs fathers, confirming all of the promises of the fathers in their fullest extent, and promising Jacob protection on his journey and a safe return home. Jacob had stood at the gate of heaven. Jacob awaked out of his sleep (Genesis 28: 16-17). He named the place Bethel, translated House of God; whereas the town had been called Luz.

Tale of Two Capitals

- How do you get into a house or an apartment? Enter through a door. How do you get into a country or kingdom? Upon proving credible bona fides you gain entrance through a gateway. Points of entry are restricted, guarded and require the proper identification. In the United States, entry is restricted, guarded and requires proper identification. Those providing credible bona fides are granted entry. Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty are a most notable gateway to the United States.

Tale of Two Capitals

- Obedient inhabitants are afforded rights and privileges and the dis-obedient punished.
- The Kingdom of Heaven is real, and citizenship is easily acquired.
- Do you ever think about how you get into heaven? Is there a door? Is there a gate? The Hebrew word gate translates divide. Its principle purpose was to make life secure.
- One night, I was invited to fellowship with men that held powerful stations in life. Little did I

Tale of Two Capitals

know Satan asked to have me, that he might sift me as wheat (Luke 22: 31). I arrived at the agreed time to a building called temple. I saw no one I knew and was escorted to a chamber where as an initiate I was to be shown ritual for raising life through constructs that had been perfected. As was tradition, I was told to undress and begin the journey in ritualistic garb of a medieval heretic being led to the gallows. I had a loose fitting shirt gaping open to reveal my chest, my left pant leg was rolled up to the knee and my right sleeve rolled up to the elbow.

Tale of Two Capitals

A cable tow (heavy rope and hangman noose) was fit around my neck and I was hoodwinked. Told to remove all my jewelry and place it in a bag, I refused to take off my wedding ring. An assembly of brothers adorned in their full regalia of lambskin aprons, sashes, and white gloves, with ceremonial jewels hung around their necks encircled me explaining I had to remove my ring. I explained it was symbolic of my eternal pledge to God and my bride, part of my marriage covenant. I declined to remove my ring. The assembly of brothers removed

Tale of Two Capitals

themselves from the chamber after dismissing me from the ceremony. I went home and told my bride.

- Jehovah blessed me that night. Iniquity is our guilt because of the sins of our fathers. Today, I understand the ceremony was about death. As the initiate I had to cradle in my palms a hollow skull filled with bloodred wine and drink it. I was to die as the fit extension for the reborn god to take residence, as the sex act was ritualized at the temple of Amun Ra, beneath the all seeing

Tale of Two Capitals

eye of Horus/Osiris/Apollo. I declare I have renounced Satan and accepted salvation, healing and deliverance. I confess with my mouth Jesus as Lord, and I believe in my heart that God raised Him from the dead, I shall be saved, for with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation (Romans 10: 9-10). Born again, I am baptized into the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit.

- There was a pantheon of divine beings or

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angels who, beginning at the Tower of Babel, were to administer the affairs of heaven and earth. Ancients labored with gods, after spiritual heirarchies had withdrawn into invisible worlds. Men bound together by common oath, labor to accomplish what the builders of the Tower of Babel failed to do. The Wisdom of ancients was endowed, and passed down through secret societies to the more modern. This New World Order, began when the serpent said to the woman, ⁵ ye shall be as God, knowing good and evil. Genesis 3: 5 ASV God is viewed as

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pantheistic; the existing universe is God, and humans understood to be divine. Freemasonry is older than Christianity.

- **Morals and Dogma of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry** by Albert Pike proclaims Freemasonry conceals its secrets from all except the Adepts and Sages, or the Elect. False explanations and misinterpretation of its symbols mislead those who deserve to be misled; to conceal the Truth, which it calls Light, from them, and to draw them away from it.

Tale of Two Capitals

- Substantial reasons exist that the government leaders have wanted to obscure the meaning behind the occultic layout for Washington DC. If the public had known the mysticism incorporated, and the enterprises invoked to the gods to whose protection the city was recommended, they may better understand the secret destiny of these United States.
- To illustrate the point consider the back of the United States one dollar bill. Observe "In God We Trust" joining an unfinished pyramid with an

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all seeing eye glaring from the top to the Great Seal of the United States.

- There are 72 blocks in the pyramid.
- To what god did this refer?
- Does this motto refer to the Father of Jesus Christ, a biblical Trinity, as you and I assume?
- Does the radiant eye, Sun Eye, or Spiritual Sun represent the invisible presence of the Great Architect, the High Spiritual Being invited by prayer and ritual to oversee the ceremonial.

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- Was it from Egyptian and Greek deities known at various times in history by the name Apollo, Osiris and Nimrod?
- Hidden in the Great Seal is a date, is that prophetic?
- Master Freemason and first president of the United States, George Washington, is honored by portrait, representing the ideals symbolized on the Federal Reserve Note, on display for all the world to see.

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- Through Masonic alchemy, the presidential *apotheosis* of the leader (Pharaoh) of the United States, is shown in a three sectioned temple symbolizing the Holy of Holies of Solomon's Temple.
- Master Freemason George Washington is depicted being transformed into a god within the womb of Isis.
- Washington, three stories above the floor of the Rotunda, is not in his tomb. He has travelled to the home of Osiris high overhead the womb.

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Just as the tomb of Jesus Christ was emptied before His ascension.

- The scene is rich with devils, pagan gods, and powerful deities including the symbolic trident accompanying Washington inside the Capitol Dome.
- 72 pentagram stars circle the scene, representing conspirators from the Tower of Babel disinherited by the sovereign God of Israel.

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- A domed temple facing an obelisk is an ancient, alchemical blueprint holding significant meaning. A parallel is clearly seen between the Capitol dome facing an obelisk known as Washington Monument and the Vatican dome facing an obelisk, at St. Peter's Basilica. According to official records, both are fashioned after the Roman Pantheon, a domed temple facing an obelisk dedicated to all pagan gods.
- The layout, modeled in antiquity, exists today on the grandest scale at the heart of the capitol of

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the most powerful government on earth, the United States of America; as well as in the heart of the most powerful and influential Church on earth, the Vatican. The majority of people never comprehend the Vatican and Washington DC are designed for the express purpose of deity incarnation from the earth's underworld to its surface through domes, the ancient structural representation of the womb of Isis, and obelisk, ancient representation of the erect male phallus of Osiris. Reproduced before all the eyes of the world, in all their glory, is an ancient talismanic

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diagram based on the history and cult of Isis, Osiris and Horus, including the magical properties meant to generate the deity's return.

- Design of the United States Capitol is based on a pagan Masonic temple. Thomas Jefferson, shepherd of the design, wrote architect, Benjamin LaTrobe, defining it as the first temple dedicated to embellishing with Athenian taste the course of a nation looking far beyond the range of Athenian destinies. The Athenian empire was known as Osira, the kingdom of Osiris. In 1793, cornerstone of the United

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States Capitol, was laid by George Washington in full Masonic garb and ritual. Grand Master Joseph Clark served as Pro Tempore, proclaiming; "I have every hope that the grand work we have done today will be handed down to as late posterity as the like work of that ever memorable temple to our order erected by our Grand Master Solomon. The work we have done today, laying the cornerstone of this designed magnificent temple, the Capitol of our States by the virtuous achievements of our most illustrious Brother George Washington."

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In other words, Master Freemasons including George Washington, Ben Franklin, and Pierre L'Enfant designed and dedicated a United States Capitol building to be a temple of pagan spiritual energy modeled after their mystical version of Solomon's temple. (Upon death of the 10th son, fathered by King David with 8th wife, Bath-sheba, the promised land was divided, because Solomon married himself to paganism through his wives. Assyrians destroyed the northern kingdom and Babylon assailed the southern kingdom.)

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- To procure approval of the pagan gods that Jefferson and Washington solicited, the cornerstone was intentionally set to coincide with the astrological time when the zodiacal constellation Caput Draconis, the head of the Dragon would be in Virgo/Isis while Jupiter was rising in Scorpio. Whoever arranged the cornerstone ceremony must have been alert to the fact they were inviting some archetype or spiritual being to direct the destiny of the city. The cornerstones of the Washington Monument and White House were likewise dedicated by

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Masonic ritual under the same astrological conditions, though laid in different years.

- Such mysticism incorporated into the layout of Washington DC was by design of Freemasons for summoning the timing, presence, and approval of the gods they consulted. Every August 10 an astrological event reoccurs in the sky above Washington, tying the city to the pagan god Virgo, known in ancient Egypt as the golden Isis. At dusk, as golden light turns brick facades a dusty rose, the shimmering sun floats

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a few degrees just to the left of Pennsylvania Avenue, gradually inching to the right until it sets directly over the famous street. If the horizon remains cloudless, three stars are visible in a straight line from the Capitol to the White House to the skies in the west. Known as Regulus, Arcturus and Spica, the stars form a right-angled triangle in the constellation Virgo.

Islamic Revival

- The clearest reason to study and understand Islam, and specifically Islam eschatology (end-time belief), is because Islam is the future. Today more than 20% of the world's population practice Islam. If present trends do not change dramatically, about 2030 A.D., Islam will pass Christianity as the world's largest religion. Half of all global births will be to Muslim families by 2055 A.D. if present trends continue.
- Since 9/11 there has been dramatic increase in United States citizens getting to know Islam.

Islamic Revival

Libraries run out of books on Islam. English translations of the Qur'an head the bestseller list... Thousands have responded to visit mosques. A sad aspect to this increase is 80% of the converts were raised in Christian churches. Almost 85% of the converts are African Americans living in larger metropolitan cities. It is estimated United States urban centers will be predominately Islam by 2020. Imagine Los Angeles, New York, Chicago, Houston, St. Louis, Denver, Memphis, San

Islamic Revival

Antonio, Miami, Minneapolis, Boston, and Cleveland, believing Islam and not Christ!

- Sacred texts to Islam are; the Qur'an, the Sunna, and the Hadith. The Qur'an is the first and most well known foundational holy book. It was conveyed entirely by Muhammad, the founder and prophet. An Arabic word, Qur'an translates: *recitation or reading*. It contains 114 chapters or *suras*, and is the only text to be the literal words of Allah. Sunna is an Arabic word that translates: *a clear or well trodden path*.

Islamic Revival

Equally as important as the Qur'an, its record of Muhammad's sayings, customs, teachings, and the example he left for all Muslims to follow. It refers to whatever Muhammad said, did, condoned, or condemned. The Sunna is from two types of Islamic literature; Hadith literature, consists of two parts: isnad (chain of transmitters) and the matn (sayings or actions of Muhammad); records sayings of Muhammad. Sirat or Sirah literature is biographical. The Qur'an can not be properly understood without the Sunna. Both are inspired and authoritative.

Islamic Revival

- From the Qur'an we read: It is not righteous that ye turn your faces to the East and the West; but righteous is he who believeth in Allah and the last Day and the angels and the Scripture and the prophets... Sura 2:177; Pickthall
- Five tenets of Islamic belief:
- Belief in Allah.
- Belief in the Last Day.
- Belief in angels.
- Belief in scripture.

Islamic Revival

- Belief in prophets.
- The Arabic word Mahdi translates *messiah* and is in the simplest terms Islam's savior. Tradition states Mahdi will descend from the family of Muhammad and will bear the name. The Mahdi is believed to be a future Muslim world leader who will not only rule over the Islamic world, but the non-Muslim world as well. The Mahdi is said to lead a world revolution that will establish a new Islamic world order throughout the entire earth. Means and method of accomplishing this

Islamic Revival

revolution will include multiple military campaigns, or holy wars (jihad). The Mahdi's ascendancy to power is to be preceeded by an army from the East carrying black flags or banners of war. Islam waves two flags. One is white, called Al-Liwaa and serves as the sign for the leader of the Muslim army and is the flag of the Islamic state; one is black, and is called Ar-Raya and is used by the Muslim army. It is the flag of jihad, and is carried into battle.

- Written across both in Arabic are the words:

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"There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is his Messenger." One flag is governmental and the other military.

- Tradition pictures Mahdi joining the army of Muslim warriors carrying black flags, leading them to conquer Israel. One hadith places this event at the time of a final peace between Arabs and Romans. This peace is mediated through a Jew from the priestly tribe of Aaron and is made for a period of seven years.
- The Islam Jesus differs greatly from the Jesus

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known by Christians. Their partnership is one of a leader and subordinate. The Mahdi is caliph of Allah and Jesus will espouse his cause and follow him. Jesus is used as an evangelistic tool in order to convince Christians of the truth of Islam. Jesus comes to convert the Christian world to Islam. Along with the Mahdi, he institutes Islamic law all over the earth and in so doing abolishes Christianity. He removes all crosses from rooftops and steeples of churches, making a clear statement of the false notion He was ever crucified on a cross. He will

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kill all swine so the belief of lawfulness is belied. He will abolish the *jizyah* tax leaving Jews and Christians the choice of accepting Islam or being slaughtered if they refuse to do so. He will kill the Dajjal, the Islam Antichrist. Remaining on earth forty years, He marries and has children before dying.

- Comparison of Bible and Islam
- Bible: The Antichrist is an unparalleled political, military, and religious leader that will emerge in the last days.

Islamic Revival

- Islam: The Mahdi is an unparalleled political, military, and religious leader that will emerge in the last days.
- Bible: The False Prophet is a secondary prominent figure that will emerge in the last days who will support the Antichrist.
- Islam: The Muslim Jesus is a secondary prominent figure that will emerge in the last days to support the Mahdi.

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- Bible: The Antichrist and the False Prophet will have a powerful army that will do great damage to the earth in an effort to subdue every nation and dominate the world.
- Islam: The Mahdi and Muslim Jesus will have a powerful army that attempts to control every nation of the earth and dominate the world.
- Bible: The False Prophet is described as a dragon in lamb's clothing.
- Islam: Muslim Jesus bears the name "Lamb of God" kills those who do not submit to Islam.

Islamic Revival

- Bible: The Antichrist and False Prophet establish a new world order.
- Islam: The Mahdi and Muslim Jesus establish Islamic order.
- Bible: The Antichrist and False Prophet institute new laws worldwide.
- Islam: The Mahdi and Muslim Jesus institute Islamic law worldwide.
- Bible: The Antichrist changes the times.

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- Islam: The Mahdi and Muslim Jesus will change the holy days Saturday and Sunday to Friday. The Gregorian calendar will be replaced with the Islamic calendar.
- Bible: The Antichrist and False Prophet will be powerful religious leaders who institute a worldwide universal religion.
- Islam: The Mahdi and Muslim Jesus will institute Islam as the only religion on earth.

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- Bible: The Antichrist and False Prophet will execute anyone not submitting to their religion.
- Islam: The Mahdi and Muslim Jesus will execute anyone who does not submit to Islam.
- Bible: The Antichrist and False Prophet will use beheading as means of execution.
- Islam: The Mahdi and Muslim Jesus use the Islamic practice of beheading.
- Bible: The Antichrist and False Prophet will kill as many Jews as possible.

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- Islam: The Mahdi and Muslim Jesus want to annihilate the Jews.
- Bible: The Antichrist and False Prophet will attack to conquer and seize Jerusalem.
- Islam: The Mahdi and Muslim Jesus will reconquer Jerusalem for Islam.
- Bible: The Antichrist will set himself up in the Jewish Temple as his seat of authority.
- Islam: The Mahdi will establish the Islamic caliphate from Jerusalem.

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- Bible: The False Prophet will do miracles supporting the Antichrist.
- Islam: The Mahdi will control the weather and crops. His face will glow. The Muslim Jesus was empowered by Allah to work miracles on earth the first time and will continue to do so when he returns.
- Bible: The Antichrist is described as riding a white horse.
- Islam: The Mahdi rides a white horse.

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- Bible: The Antichrist is to make a peace treaty with Israel for seven years.
- Islam: The Mahdi will make a peace treaty with a Levitical Jew for seven years.
- Bible: Jesus the Jewish Messiah will return to defend Israel from a military attack from a vast coalition of nations led by the Antichrist and False Prophet.
- Islam: The Dajjal will gain a great Jewish following and fight the Mahdi and Muslim Jesus.

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- Bible: The Antichrist denies Christian doctrines of the Trinity, incarnation and crucifixion.
- Islam: Denies the Trinity, incarnation and crucifixion.
- Bible: Jesus and the apostle Paul warn Christians of the abundance of deceit.
- Islam: Islam practices doctrine that allows and calls for deceit to achieve its desired end.
- Bible: The nations depicted as the empire of the Antichrist are Islamic nations.

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- Islam: Muslims give allegiance to the Mahdi as the final caliph and imam of Islam.
- Bible: The Antichrist empire will be a revived version of the Roman empire.
- Islam: The Roman/Byzantine empire was the Islamic Ottoman empire.
- Bible: A system will exist giving allegiance when the Antichrist emerges.
- Islam: Islam is the second largest religion and awaits the coming of the Mahdi.

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- Text: Acts 22: 1 ASV

Brethren, hear the defence which I now make unto you.

- The papacy is the oldest continuously functioning institution of the world. Before the United States of America fought for independence, there had been some 250 popes in office. The 251st pope was elected leader of the Roman Catholic Church in 1789. Pope is derived from *papa* which means father and is Christ's exclusive representative on earth.

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Stephen I, (r. 254-257) inaugurated the idea that each pope was in direct succession from Peter known as Petrine Doctrine.

- The papacy gains authority from the idea Jesus named the apostle Peter as the first pope.
- Texts: Matthew 16: 18-19 ASV

¹⁸ And I also say unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

¹⁹ I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on

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earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

- **Text:** John 21: 15-17 ASV

¹⁵ So when they had broken their fast, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of John, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. ¹⁶ He saith to him again a second time, Simon, son of John, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord;

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thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Tend my sheep. ¹⁷ He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of John, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

- What does the New Testament teach us about Peter? Peter his wife and mother-in-law lived in a house in Capernaum, Galilee, located on the

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northwest shore of the Sea, about two and a half miles west of the entrance of the Jordan. In the day, Capernaum was the economic center of Galilee. Peter's house was located during an archaeological excavation led by V. Corbo and S. Loffreda, in 1968. There was evidence of a Home Ministry. The Acts of the Apostles, chapter 12, chronicles Peter preaching in Jerusalem 45 A.D. He appears at the Jerusalem Council in 49 A.D. Paul's epistle to the Romans, does not include a salute to Peter, written 57 A.D. Paul greeted entire families and

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mentioning 29 folks by name. But he did not mention Peter, an unimaginable oversight to not greet the Bishop of Rome. This omission suggests Peter was not in Rome. Further, it suggests that except for preaching on the day of Pentecost, Peter had no part founding the Church of God at Rome. It is probable converts from that day carried Christianity to Rome coming for commercial reasons. A few years after writing his letter to the Romans, Paul stood trial before Caesar in Rome. The

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Christian community met him (Acts 28: 15). Again no mention of Peter.

- Mount of Olives is in walking distance from Bethany. The catacombs, discovered by Clermont Ganneau, had sarcophagi with identifying cross inscriptions. He discovered the names of Eleazar (Lazarus), Martha, and Mary, and one bearing cross marks and inscribed with Shlomzion followed by the designation daughter of Simon the Priest. The most fascinating ossuary was one inscribed with crosses and the

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name Sapphira (*Acts 5:1*) This places Christian tombs at the Gate of Jerusalem, which fell in 70 A.D. If in fact Peter's daughter is buried at Bethany it speaks volumes that Peter lived in Palestine and not Rome.

- Sentenced on charges Peter was sentenced for crucifixion at Rome. He requested to be crucified upside down being unworthy to die in the same manner as his Lord. The papacy is symbolized by an inverted cross, the same icon used to represent the opposite of Christianity by

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Satanists. Has the papacy accepted a Satanic symbol? In 1950 Pope Pius XII stated the bones in St. Peter's grave could not be confirmed with absolute certainty, there is no scientific evidence to support Peter was buried in Rome. One could allow Peter was in Rome for a short time and crucified. His friends and family in accordance with Jewish tradition, carried his body home to the Mount of Olives, as exemplified by Joseph (Joshua 24: 32).

- Rome has never relinquished her dream of

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world domination under papal supremacy. The Vatican's backing of Hitler and Mussolini and the Nazi regime in France during WWII was consistent with its desire to resurrect the Holy Roman Empire. Countries where the Catholic Church held great power had governments willing to work with the Vatican never thinking twice about humanity. In 2012, during a conclave, Petros Romanus arrived. He is the prophetic last pope, bearing the same name as the first.

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- Despite the fact that the Gospels set forth with the greatest care the fact that Mary must not be considered above the rest of humanity by reason of her relationship to Jesus, with the passing of years, Mary was deified. The earliest mention of the perpetual virginity of Mary was in a piece of fiction setting aside the genealogy of Matthew and destroying the Davidic descent of Jesus as the legal heir of Joseph, dethroning Jesus. The *Protevangelium of James*, an apochraphal Gospel, written in the second century, describes at the age of three Mary

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danced in the temple and was "nurtured as a dove in the temple and received food from the hand of an angel" until she was twelve years old, when she was betrothed to Joseph, a widower eighty years old, who had sons by a former marriage. This effort explains away the obvious meaning of "the brethren of the Lord" and kindred passages in the New Testament, receiving exposition at the hands of Epiphanius (A.D. 377).

- Tertullian (A.D. 160 to 240) refers to the

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marriage of Joseph and Mary and to the brethren of the Lord, making it evident he believed them to be the children of Joseph and Mary.

- Clement of Alexandria (A.D. 165-220) refers to the perpetual virginity of Mary with the phrase "Some say."
- Origen (A.D. 185-254) holds the Christian view supported by scripture that Joseph and Mary had children. ²⁴ And Joseph arose from his sleep, and did as the angel of the Lord

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commanded him, and took unto him his wife;
25 and knew her not till she had brought forth a
son: and he called his name JESUS.

Matthew 1: 24-25 ASV ; 7 And she brought forth her
firstborn son; and she wrapped him in
swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger,
because there was no room for them in the inn.

Luke 2: 7 ASV ; 3 Is not this the carpenter, the son of
Mary, and brother of James, and Joses, and
Judas, and Simon? and are not his sisters here
with us? Mark 6: 3 ASV

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- Deification of Mary was caused by vulgar and blasphemous attacks on the birth of Jesus. The pagan, Celsus and unbelieving Jews, told the slanderous story, Jesus was the illegitimate son of Mary and a Roman soldier named Ben Pandera. The fanciful name "Pandera" is corruption of the Greek word *parthenos* meaning virgin.
- There is no New Testament information on the death of Mary. The last book was written A.D. 85-90, does not mention her death or anything

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concerning her. The apochraphal Revelation of John does not mention her. Two conflicting traditions state she died in A.D.63. A letter of the General Council at Ephesus, A.D. 431 states she lived at Ephesus with John and died there. Another writing, about the same time, says she died at Jerusalem and is buried in Gethsemane. Legend has it Thomas desired to see her remains, and when they opened her grave after three days, her body was not to be found. They concluded it had been taken to heaven, supposing she was not translated while

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alive, but that her dead body was taken up to heaven, The Assumption. The religious world worshipped female deities, Hera, Juno or Venus. New Testament Scripture affirms the deity of Jesus in such a fashion to make Him far removed and giving place to a mediator such as Mary. ¹⁴ Having then a great high priest, who hath passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we have not a high priest that cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but one that hath been in all points tempted like as

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we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us therefore draw near with boldness unto the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy, and may find grace to help us in time of need. Hebrews 4: 14-16 ASV

- A lifelong training in heathen belief made it easy to substitute Mary.
- Christian Science gains authority from the idea there was nothing made except that which God made.
- **Text:** John 1: 3 KJV

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All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made.

- God made neither sin nor sickness, there is therefore no such thing as sin or sickness.
- Text: Genesis 1: 31 KJV

God saw every thing that He had made, and behold, it was very good.

- Train your mind to believe this, disregard sickness and pain, exert your mind to correct this error, and all is well.

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- This however, is not the teaching of the Bible. Sin and sickness were brought into the world through the fall, when Satan entered the garden of Eden in the form of a serpent, deceived Eve, and brought in, through disobedience to God, the curse of sin, suffering, thorns, and thistles.
(Genesis 3: 9-18)
- The Bible teaches there is not only such a thing as sin but that it is exceedingly sinful. ¹³ Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin,

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working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful. Romans 7: 13 KJV No amount of correct thinking or turning over of new leaves or cultivation of self-righteousness can cleanse us from its stain. There is but one remission of sin, and that is the shed blood of Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of the Father, who told His disciples; 28 this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. Matthew 26: 28 KJV

One With Authority

- These words conclude the Sermon on the Mount, where Jesus set forth a vision for life in the Kingdom of God.
- **Text:** Matthew 7: 28-29 ASV

28 And it came to pass, when Jesus had finished these words, the multitudes were astonished at his teaching: 29 for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.
- Jesus turned our world upside down with the Sermon on the Mount. The ones we thought were blessed are now cursed, and the ones we

One With Authority

saw as cursed are promised blessing. We hear Jesus warn that some who sure look like prophets are false, and hear Him say that His judgment will be definitive. "I never knew you." The radical nature of Jesus' ministry and teaching is on full display. When He teaches, He does not cite human authorities, enter into irrelevant debates, or cushion His words. He speaks on His own authority. He will make that authority clear by healing the sick, casting out demons, staring down the religious authorities, and forgiving sins. At the end of Matthew's

One With Authority

Gospel, He will announce that all authority in heaven and on earth has been granted Him, and He will send His disciples out into the world as ambassadors of the gospel.

- We thought we knew what God required of us. No murder and no adultery, for example.
- But Jesus, now demands no anger and no lust, "You heard it was said," He begins, "but I say to you," He concludes.
- He rejected rabbinical reasoning and moral cause.

One With Authority

- He warns of hell and commands that we love our enemies.
- He warns us not to trust our bank accounts or retirement plans but to lay up treasures in heaven.
- He reminds us that we can not add a day to our lives or an inch to our height, but assures us that our heavenly Father will clothe us in more glory than the lilies of the field and care for us more than He cares for the birds of the air.

One With Authority

- He tells us to seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and promised that all these things will be added to us.
- We are instructed to judge a tree by its fruit, even as we shall be judged.
- We are to build our house upon a rock and not upon the sand, for the house on the rock stands while the house on the sand falls, and great was the fall of it.

One With Authority

- Two apostles fresh from the exhilaration of the day of Pentecost, found themselves arrested for, of all things, healing a lame man and daring to preach Christ. The high priest and his family, along with the rulers, elders, and scribes, were ready to sit in judgment on two men who had just been used by God to demonstrate healing and declare salvation. With Peter and John before them, they asked the question: ⁷ by what power, or in what name, have ye done this? Acts 4: 7 ASV

One With Authority

- This is the question every minister should be asked! They should reply;
- We minister in Jesus Christ's name, the Son of God incarnate!