

GROWING IN GRACE LETTERS! — Calling saints in Christ, (in our Homes and with one another in Church), to Walk in the Steps of CHRIST, (1 Peter 2:15-25)! (Edited by James Bell, a servant of Jesus Christ)

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2025, JULY the FOURTH and BEYOND!

In the United States of America, July 4th is INDEPENDENCE DAY! Historically, it is a time when many Americans think about and are THANKFUL for the blessings and freedoms we have. SADLY, growing mega millions who (legally or not!) live in the USA, have no real love or loyalty to OUR COUNTRY— their love and loyalty is with the countries and cultures from whence they came! They are only here for what they can get or have given to them! FOR OTHER MILLIONS, the ‘Fourth of July!’ is mostly a day for fun, cook-outs, sports, and fireworks.

HOWEVER, IT IS ALSO becoming a time when growing numbers of freedom loving Americans ARE in SILENT DREAD that WE HAVE ‘LOST THE AMERICA’ we once knew!

[AND it is no surprise that there ‘experts’ who are ready to set forth ‘Hidden INSIDE truth’ of what is really happening! They will keep you ‘informed’ as to how close we are to political and economic DOOM! AND YOU can purchase their products and publications, etc. ... and likely escape the worst of the doom!]

REALITY: Some of them bring up valid points of real concern and offer sound temporal wisdom. However, they usually miss the ‘BIGGER PICTURE!’ as to God’s over-riding rule in all things!

WE DO SEEM TO BE IN A TIME OF DEEPENING DARKNESS and GRAVE DANGER— in America and worldwide! SO LET US TURN TO THE WORD OF GOD!

HERE IS, IMPORTANT TIMELESS TRUTH, REGARDLESS OF THE COUNTRY IN WHICH ONE LIVES! Fourth of July extravaganzas, speeches, and firecrackers in America will come and go— AND THIS YEAR there may well be various ISLAMIC RETALIATIONS... and loud cries of 'DEATH TO AMERICA!' ... and death to our President, etc. **BUT REGARDLESS, HERE IS THE LARGER REALITY! HERE IS TRUTH CHRISTIANS IN EVERY NATION NEED, 365 DAYS A YEAR:**

I. THE News Behind all the News— GOD IS SOVEREIGN!

* Psalm 22:28— GOD is THE GOVERNOR among the nations;

** Psalm 75:6, 7— GOD is THE JUDGE and He puts one down and sets up another; *** Psalm 103:19— The LORD'S kingdom rules over all; **** Psalm 115:3 / 135:6— GOD has done whatsoever He pleased in heaven, in the earth, in the seas, and all the deep places;

* Proverbs 16:9— A man's heart deviseth his way; but the LORD directeth his steps; ** Proverbs 19:21— The counsel of the LORD shall stand; *** Proverbs 21:1— The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water; HE turneth it whithersoever HE will;

* Isaiah 43:13— God: There is none who can deliver out of My hand; I work and none can reverse it; ** Lamentations 3:37— Who is he that saith, and it comes to pass, when the LORD commanded it not? *** Daniel 2:20-21— GOD: He removes kings and sets up kings; **** Daniel 4:17; 4:34-35; 5:21— The MOST HIGH GOD rules in the kingdom of men, and He appoints over it whomsoever He will.”

The point of all these and many more Scriptures is that Almighty God is in sovereign control! Satan, men, and nations do all manner of RAGING. (Psalm 2) However, they cannot frustrate the plans and purposes of God. In spite of current appearances, the God haters and satan don't win! GOD and the saints of God in Christ win! MOREOVER, satan and the wicked will be held accountable and judged for their rebellion. **INDEED, THE LAST BOOK OF THE BIBLE gloriously unveils the sovereignty of God and the reality of God holding satan and rebel humans accountable!**

THE REVELATION and SOVEREIGNTY— Read Revelation 1-22, looking for the Sovereign, Supreme, all Sufficient LAMB OF GOD!

1. Revelation, chapters 1-3 — The Sovereign Lamb is in Heaven working through His BLOOD BOUGHT REDEEMED on earth.

2. Revelation, chapters 1-19 — The Sovereign Lamb is in Heaven AND IS ALSO ruling and over ruling people and events on earth! KINGS and KINGDOMS, PRESIDENTS and DICTATORS, and even events of this present hour— He is MOVING THEM ALL toward that great and glorious day when He, the LORD Jesus Christ, will come back to this earth as King of Kings and LORD of Lords!

3. Revelation, chapters 20-22— THE SOVEREIGN LAMB IS ETERNALLY enthroned; and His holy Bride, (ALL of those redeemed by the blood of the LAMB of all ages!), will be with Him in the New Earth and the New Heavens— forever and forever... ruling, reigning, seeing HIS FACE, worshiping and serving Him for all eternity! **NEVER FORGET IT:** The supreme, ultimate goal of all history is THE LAMB'S WIFE comprised of all those redeemed by the blood of the Lamb... from all eras of time: Revelation 21:9-14.

NOW: READ THE REVELATION 'beholding' those REDEEMED BY THE SOVERIGN LAMB OF GOD!

1. Revelation, chapters 1-20— All through the Revelation those redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, GOD'S ELECT, those who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ) — by whatever name they are called and in whatever era of time they live on earth; they are seen on earth,

moving through struggles, tribulations, and martyrdom; **and** they are seen IN HEAVEN in glorious, eternal joy!

WHILE ON EARTH, these REDEEMED were, are, and will be the subject of man's and satan's HATRED and WRATH. They were, are now, and will at times be PRESENT when God pours out some expression of His Holy Wrath— AS WAS NOAH; AS WAS ISRAEL ON THE NIGHT OF PASSOVER; AS WAS LOT. BUT although affected, they were protected and never the subjects of God's wrath.

2. Revelation, chapters 21-22— ULTIMATELY, OUR LORD'S REDEEMED ON EARTH become the REDEEMED completely triumphant in Heaven, the Bride adorned for Her Heavenly Husband, the Lord Jesus Christ. THROUGH OUT THE NEW TESTAMENT ERA, Revelation 1-22, has ESPECIALLY given encouragement to persecuted SAINTS OF GOD IN CHRIST. **Jesus said, "In the world ye shall have tribulations, but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)**

The Revelation could well be called Jesus' commentary on John 16:33. The early Christians were being killed by the thousands; and the Revelation came to them with a very powerful message: ***The Lamb is the Lion! He is supreme, sovereign and sufficient ... AND YOU shall reign with Him!***

So, it is no surprise that the Revelation is a book filled with praise songs exalting the Conquering Christ! Every line in the Revelation and every song in the Revelation encourages the Redeemed of every age that **God will have the last say!**

No matter what IS ... OR WHAT seems to be happening in AMERICA and/or the whole world in 2025 or later — JESUS is supreme! He is sovereign and He is sufficient. MOREOVER, the Revelation is a reminder that joy is not the absence of suffering but the presence of God and confidence in God IN THE MIDST OF THE MOST TRYING OF CIRCUMSTANCES.

[BY THE WAY: There has been no 'RAPTURE' ESCAPE for persecuted, tribulation experiencing saints over the last 2000 YEARS!

INSTEAD, For the last 2000 years JESUS HAS BEEN CALLING OUT IN the Revelation, **"BE THOU FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH; AND I WILL GIVE THEE THE CROWN OF LIFE! "** ... and **LOOK AT THE GLORY THAT'S COMING!**

The Revelation gives needed re-assurance that Jesus is SUPREME, SOVERIGN, and SUFFICIENT. HERE IN 2025, couldn't we use some of that same reassurance? YES! AND WE MUST UNDERSTAND SOMETHING OF THE WAYS OF GOD:

II. SOVEREIGN GOD WORKS THROUGH CHOSEN INSTRUMENTS!

(1) INDIVIDUALS: God uniquely works through chosen individuals like Abraham, Moses, Jacob, David, or one of the Prophets... or through those for whom this world is not worthy! (Hebrews 11:36-40)... or any believer He so chooses!

(2) PAGANS: God sometimes raises up cruel pagans so as to chasten His own people: Isaiah 10:5; Habakkuk 1:6-7! [MATTHEW 5:13!!]

(3) ISRAEL: God raised up Israel. Within the physical nation of Israel was a redeemed remnant. Israel was sovereignly chosen by God to be a holy nation and a kingdom of priests. **They were to show to the world what a people would be like whose God was the true and living God! (Deut. 7:6-10; Ex. 19:4-6) ...** *[Israel REJECTED God's plan. GOD has judged and is judging them. They languish under the chastening judgment of God. HOWEVER, God will yet work REDEMPTIVE wonders!]*

HERE IS SOMETHING TO CONSIDER, THIS JULY FOURTH: Not in the same sense as with Israel; but God uniquely raised up America; and gave her FREEDOM, and WEALTH, and the GOSPEL— all at the same time in a fashion unique among nations. (When Israel insisted on rebellion against God, He severely judged them. What should America expect?)

(4) NATIONS TODAY: In the New Testament era of our day, God continues His sovereignty in the midst of all the nations of

the world... moving kings and kingdoms in accordance with His sovereign purposes: **Revelation 17:12-18!**

(5) ONE, SPECIAL WORLD-WIDE NATION: IN THIS PRESENT ERA, and UNTIL JESUS COMES BACK— GOD IS MOST especially working through ONE SPECIAL CHOSEN NATION! This GREATEST OF ALL NATIONS spans the globe and ultimately will have citizens out of every physical nation, kindred, tongue, tribe, and people on the earth! She is one Holy Nation— She is His Elect, His true Church, the redeemed, the body of Christ, Jew and Gentile, **Ephesians 2:1-22!**

O CHRISTIANS AROUND THE GLOBE, "YOU ARE a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, AN HOLY NATION, a peculiar people! [A people claimed by God for His own]; that ye should show forth the praises of Him who called you OUT OF DARKNESS into His marvelous light; ..." (1 Peter 2:9-10)

BEWARE: There is a massive religious Harlot system with many daughters who seek to pass herself and themselves off as the Bride of Christ, but she is not! Matthew 7:21-28; Revelation 17!

NOTE: Travel the world. Go to any town or village: There are only two churches— The Bride of Christ and the Harlot. **Today the true Church of Jesus Christ is** a worldwide holy nation, a kingdom of believer priests, God's own unique people, called to SHOW FORTH His praises! (1 Peter 2:9-10)

Christian: The LORD JESUS CHRIST has a specific and important word for all true saints in John 15:16; Ephesians 1:1-14; 2:1-10 and Titus 3:1-7. **As another has so well said:**

"Out of the tragedy of the Cross and the glory of the empty tomb and the wonder of the indwelling Holy Spirit came **the New Testament Church— A New and Holy Nation!** She has often been persecuted. She has often been obscured to the masses by clever and impressive counterfeits. She has at times been assumed and/or pronounced dead.

Nevertheless, Jesus continues to build HIS CHURCH and no one will stop Him!" **God has chosen to span the GLOBE with the Good News of Saving Grace, through each and every person (JEW and GENTILE!) whom He has already saved—therefore,** we must not FOCUS on and we need not fear what satan and men may do or attempt!

YES! The whole world SEEMS TO BE MORE dangerously close to 'WAR as war has never been' because POLITICIANS are fighting over control over pieces of land and spewing out demonic hate one against another AS THEY JOCKEY for superior positions; and they, (and satan their chief leader, is, as usual), are wanting Christians to join in these wars! AND MANY PREACHERS ARE joined in! **HOWEVER: NEITHER JESUS nor the Apostle Paul** tried to help the JEWS over come Rome or to get them released from Rome's rule. **INSTEAD, THE NEW TESTAMENT PASSION IS THAT both Gentiles and Jews are LOST SINNERS who need**

salvation! (**Romans 1-3**) AND PAUL was especially BURDENED FOR THE SALVATION of his fellow countrymen, the Jews— that they be saved! (**Romans 10-11**)

TO GOD BE THE GLORY: Every born again Christian, by the indwelling Holy Spirit, is motivated, empowered, and under orders to BE HIS WITNESSES, to GO TO ALL NATIONS (JEW and GENTILE), making, marking, and maturing Disciples of Jesus. (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8; Acts 2:42-47)

This supreme global enterprise will proceed, (regardless of whatever else is or is not happening on earth), until the return of Christ! (Matthew 24:14; 28:19-20) **Ultimately, it matters not whether we live or die— it only matters that we be found faithful!**

Grace! Peace! Love in Christ!

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

EVERY SATURDAY * 8:00am,** — Men's Bible Study! (*Doors open by 7:30am... coffee, juice, donuts, and Hardee's Biscuits!*)
[7/5/25 - Ephesians 6:14-15 - 'STAND THEREFORE... 'HAVING YOUR FEET FITTED WITH THE GOSPEL OF PEACE' ... 'AS READY MESSENGERS OF THE GLAD TIDINGS OF PEACE!']

NEXT Ladies Bible Study, JULY 8, 2025 @ 11:00am (LADIES Bible Study, from JOB!) (NO CHILD CARE.)

*****EVERY TUESDAY: LADIES PRAYER MEETING FROM 10:00 to 10:30am, come in back door, under drive-thru awning, go IN THE IMMEDIATE FIRST ROOM ON THE RIGHT!**

WEDNESDAYS: 6:30pm— Adult MEN'S Prayer Service **
Young FAMILIES STUDY/Prayer Service**

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***** LOVE OFFERINGS UNTO THE LORD BY MAIL or by ONLINE GIVING; For Church Ministry and/or MISSIONS: SUCH funds, (if checks), make out to Southside Baptist) — MAIL TO: Southside Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1594, Gallatin, TN 37066 / OR... TO GIVE via ONLINE GIVING:**

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