



# Prophetic Observer

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Keeping Time On God's Prophetic Clock

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## Sham of the Year

by James Collins

I grew up on a small family farm in Southeast Oklahoma where we raised cattle. Even as a young child, I did not have to have a degree in biology to understand the difference between cows and bulls. For the record, I am not a veterinarian, but I know a male bovine is called a bull. A castrated bull is called a steer. It is not a female, a heifer, or a cow. I also know that you can't get milk from a bull or a steer because there is a biological difference between a female and male bovine. Today, however, some will say there is no difference between a female and a male. Recently, one prominent government official could not even define the word "woman."

### Supreme Court Justice of the Year

During the recent confirmation hearing for Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson, Tennessee Senator, Marsha Blackburn asked the Supreme Court nominee to define the word "woman." Jackson answered, "I can't." Blackburn, who seemed shocked by Jackson's answer, replied, "You can't?" To which Jackson said, "Not in this context. I'm not a biologist."

Think about that for a moment... The meaning of the word "woman" is so unclear and controversial that a woman who will serve on the Supreme Court of the United States can't define the word. It's mindboggling. I heard one commentator ask, "If the woman Biden nominated can't define what a woman is... why was it so important to nominate a woman?"

Of course, everyone knows Judge Jackson is perfectly aware of how to define the word "woman." She is a woman, who is married to a man, Dr. Patrick Graves Jackson, a Boston surgeon. She and Dr. Jackson are the parents of two daughters. However, if she were to define the word "woman," she would



upset those who are pushing the LGBTQ+ agenda. So, she said that she could not define the word "woman" because she is not a biologist.

### Swimmer of the Year

Senator Blackburn's question to Judge Jackson hits on nearly every political hot-button issue, from critical race theory to teaching children about gender identity in schools to

William Thomas, a transgender swimmer who calls himself Lia Thomas. Thomas who swims for the University of Pennsylvania's women's team began his swimming career at the age of five. When he first started his career, he competed in male swimming competitions. A couple of years ago, he decided to identify with the female gender. When Thomas decided he was a woman, he went from an average male swimmer to the top female swimmer in the nation. In the men's 200 freestyle, William Thomas was ranked 554th. Today, as Lia Thomas, he is ranked number one among women.

Even if a male has a sex-change operation (which Thomas has not) the hormone-suppressant therapy that follows the operation does not reverse the advantages of testosterone-driven puberty which gives greater height, greater natural strength, bigger hands and feet, a bigger heart muscle, and an enhanced lung capacity. In a sport like swimming, these physical attributes can make a great difference. Mr. Thomas is well over six feet tall, which gives him a major advantage over female competitors. Veteran swimming champion, Michael Phelps, recently spoke out against allowing Thomas to compete as a female. Phelps, who is the most decorated Olympian of all time with 28 medals, said, "Sports should be played on an even playing field."

This woke ideology of women facing unfair competition

in the name of inclusivity has been a problem for several years now. In September of 2014, Boyd Burton, a mixed martial arts athlete fractured an opponent's skull. Boyd is a man who had transgender reassignment surgery and fought in the women's MMA under the name Fallon Fox. He defeated his female opponent, Tamikka Brents within the first two minutes of their match. Brents' skull was fractured, she was knocked unconscious, and received a concussion. She later said, "I have struggled with many women, and I have never felt the strength I felt in a fight like that night." She added, "I have never felt so dominated in my life and I am an abnormally strong woman in my own right." Brents was vilified by the media over her remarks. On the other hand, Mr. Burton was called a "hero" and a "champion" for women by the media. It was recently reported that a Hollywood film based on his Fallon Fox alter ego is currently in production.

### **Special Contributor of the Year**

A few days ago, Fox News announced that Bruce Jenner had been hired as a Fox News Media Special Contributor. Bruce lived as a man until 2015 when he decided to change his name to Caitlyn. When I was a kid, Bruce Jenner won Olympic gold in the 1976 decathlon. His picture was on the Wheaties cereal box, and he was considered the epitome of masculinity. Today, he thinks he is a female, and Fox News (a supposedly conservative media outlet) has him on their programs speaking out on LGBTQ+ and (of all things) women's issues.

### **Secretary of the Year**

USA Today recently announced that a man was their "woman of the year." The man in question is Richard Levine, who calls himself Rachel. Mr. Levine currently serves as the Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services. On February 13, 2021, President Biden commissioned Levine as a four-star admiral in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps. USA Today named him as one of their "women of the year" because he "defines courage." Ironically, USA Today can use Richard Levine as a definition of courage, but the same publication (like Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson) cannot define the word "woman."

In response to USA Today naming Secretary Levine as one of their women of the year, several conservative and Christian media outlets wrote editorials. All the articles that mentioned the fact that no matter what he calls himself, Richard Levine is a man, were censored and not allowed to be shared on social media. A spokesman for Twitter said any article that calls Levine a man is "in violation of Twitter's hateful conduct policy."

### **Sham of the Year**

I would like to let Twitter (and everyone else for that matter) know that my intent in writing this article was not to be hateful. My message to anyone in the LGBTQ+ community is not one of hate. Instead, I would like to send a message of love. My Lord Jesus Christ loves all people. He wants what is best for all

people, but the LGBTQ+ lifestyle is not the best for anyone. It is sin, and a holy God hates sin. He loves the sinner, but He hates the sin. So, I would say to any LGBTQ+ person, come to Jesus and struggle against sin. Don't give into it.

At the same time, I want people to understand the goals of the LGBTQ+ agenda. Most people think their agenda is about winning acceptance and tolerance of homosexual Americans, something few people find objectionable. However, that is a sham. Ultimately, they want to force Americans to celebrate and bow before the full and ever-expanding LGBTQ+ agenda while detaching America from its Judeo-Christian heritage and moral framework. The destruction of Christianity and common sense in society is their goal.

Mark my words, Christian organizations will be forced to service behavior they find sinful or be driven out of business. What about the church that will be forced to offer bathrooms of choice where everyone gets to decide his preferred sex? What about Christian schools that will be forced to teach and accept dozens of "gender identifications" in their classrooms? What about the Christian hospital that refuses to perform gender reassignment surgeries? What about the preacher who opens the Word of God and calls homosexuality a sin? What about Christian parents who refuse the government ordering them to embrace their young child's chosen "gender preference?"

Unlike Christians who love the sinner but hate the sin, the woke who push the LGBTQ+ agenda take the opposite approach and fiercely hate Christians who don't believe as they do or serve the same master. These activists will not stop until everyone who knows the difference between a man and a woman is silenced forever.

Jesus said, "But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female" (Mark 10:6). God was not confused. Gender was created by God and people were created "male and female." Of course, sin has affected this fallen world, including gender. Consequently, some people struggle with gender identity. As Christians, we should have compassion for these individuals, but we should not accept and embrace their sinful choices. We should speak the truth in love and share the life-changing message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ with all people.

Abraham Lincoln once asked an audience how many legs a dog has if you count the tail as a leg. When the group answered, "Five," Lincoln told them the answer was four. He said, "The fact that you called the tail a leg didn't make it a leg."

Abraham Lincoln must have been a biologist...

# Saint Vladimir And The Brutal Cleansing Of An Empire

Pastor Larry Spargimino, Ph.D

Since February of 2022 the world has been shocked by the devastation the Russian military has brought upon Ukraine. While state media in Russia, and some groups in America, have claimed that the death toll has been “doctored” to deliberately arouse outrage at Russian nationalism, the abundant testimony of observers and Christian aid workers on the ground plus numerous satellite photos, leads me to believe that the wanton destruction of property and the targeting of civilians is real.

The attack on a maternity hospital, the use of cluster munitions and thermobaric bombs that suck oxygen out of lungs, and the testimony of refugees who have escaped to Poland and elsewhere testify, to the “scorched-earth” policy of the Russian military. What is Russia trying to accomplish? Are they afraid that Ukraine would join NATO? Are the Russians trying to stop the alleged “Nazification” of Ukraine? Or is there something else driving the madness?

## The Real Vladimir Putin

On May 7, 2018, 65-year-old Vladimir Putin was sworn in as president of Russia for another six-year term, having been elected with 77% of the nation’s vote. The ceremony was low-key. No one realized it at the time, but Russian Orthodox head, Patriarch Kirill, gave Putin a treasured 18th-century icon. After the ceremony, Mr. Putin attended a prayer service at the Cathedral of the Annunciation.

This would seem to be strange behavior for a Communist. Aren’t they generally atheists? Is Vladimir Putin a follower of Jesus?

In a pro-war rally in March of 2022 justifying the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Mr. Putin said: “Words from the Holy Bible come to my head: “There is no greater love than if someone gives his soul for his friends,” a paraphrase of John 15:13.

In a WorldNetDaily piece titled, “Is Putin chiefly motivated by spiritual beliefs” (3/14/22) Dr. Michael Brown argues that Vladimir Putin is really not threatened by the expansion of NATO, but by the moral degeneracy of the West. In a speech given on September 19, 2013 Putin said:

Another serious challenge to Russia’s identity is linked to events taking place in the world. Here there are both foreign policy and moral aspects. We can see how many of the Euro-Atlantic countries are actually redirecting their roots, including the Christian values that constitute the basis of Western civilization. They are denying moral principles and all traditional identities: national, cultural, religious and even sexual... *The*

*excesses of political correctness have reached the point where people are seriously talking about registering political parties whose aim is to promote pedophilia. People in many European countries are embarrassed or afraid to talk about their religious affiliations.*

President Putin’s return to what he views as Russia’s Orthodox Christian faith has become increasingly more public and open in recent years. While zealots in America’s cancel culture are pulling down statues that enshrine past heroes, Russia is doing just the opposite.

On July 17, 2021, Vladimir Putin took part in the unveiling of a second equestrian monument honoring Czar Nicholas II, who is seen riding a horse and holding a Russian Orthodox Church (ROC) cross. He is called the “Last Christian Czar In Russia.” Putin is also seen dedicating a statue to Russian Christian dissident Alexander Solzhenitsyn, the man who spent a decade in the Russian Gulag and who gave the reason for Russia’s decline as – “We have forgotten God. That’s why this has happened to us.” Surprisingly, Putin voiced displeasure with the Stalinist regime and called Solzhenitsyn “a true Russian patriot” who suffered “horrible abuse with millions of Russians under the gulag system.” Putin said, “December 11th marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of Alexander Solzhenitsyn. – a day of remembrance and respect and a day to revisit his literary legacy, his social and philosophical heritage (Michael J. Matt, Remnant tv). Do you ever think President Joe Biden—or Carter, Clinton, or Obama would dedicate a statue to a Christian hero, say Billy Graham, and praise Graham with such glowing words?

## Pride, Patriotism and Putin

A PBS News Hour Special Report, aired on 7/10/17 quoted a Russian Orthodox priest who said, “The state and my faith are united. They can’t be separated. The values of the church and the state coincide.”

What does this all mean for understanding the Russian invasion of Ukraine? PBS reporter Nick Schiffrin explained and said, “In Russia faith is patriotic. The Orthodox Church criticizes liberal Western values as heresies, while Orthodox priests bless Russian weapons and endorse Putin politically and personally. The president’s faith increases his popularity.”

This seems to be a common view. Marcel H. Vanherpen writes, “Traditional values have become the rallying cry of extreme Right populist parties, which are sponsored by Moscow in its effort to undermine Western Liberal Democracy and universal human rights.” Indeed, the Kremlin has delighted

in the ideological relationship between the Russian Orthodox Church and Russian Nationalism. Though the ROC is much like Roman Catholicism in many ways, it is very different in that Roman Catholicism has no specific connection with any nation or political system, whereas the ROC is Russian in every way. The Moscow Patriarchate considers Moscow as the “Third Rome,” the spiritual center for all ROC believers. To be Russian is to be a member of the Russian Orthodox Church. Anything less borders on hostility against “Mother Russia.”

### “Bad Boy Zelensky”

Russia sees Ukrainian President Zelensky as a danger to traditional values. Good looking and a Ukrainian TV star, Zelensky has already had to deal with hecklers who think he is taking the country in the wrong direction and somehow receiving a pay off from George Soros.

Pinknews.co.uk printed Zelensky’s response to an angry heckler who threw a number of charges at Zelensky. His response:

I don’t know Mr. Soros. I’m not his toadie so I can’t continue with his tasks because I have nothing to do with them, I’m not engaged in the legislation of prostitution which doesn’t exist in the country. Legislation of anything in the country can only be implemented through Ukrainian law if changes to the legislation are approved. This means by the hands of the Ukrainian parliament and by approval of laws.

When Zelensky saw an attack on Ukraine’s gay people coming he became visibly agitated. “Regarding LGBT—I don’t want to say anything negative because we all live in an open society where each one can choose the language they speak, their ethnicity and sexual orientation...Leave those finally at peace, for God’s sake!”

### Points For Prayer, Thoughtful Reflection And Serious Self-examination

\*Pray for Christian ministries in Ukraine and in European countries that are taking refugees, such as Poland. While Poland is a Catholic country, there are several evangelical churches providing food and shelter for refugees, and also sharing the Gospel.

\*Not everyone who quotes Jesus is doing Jesus’ work. President Putin quoted Jesus, but I do not believe Jesus is happy with Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

\*The war in the Ukraine has persuaded many people that we need a “New World Order.” Nations with weapons—especially nuclear weapons and chemical and biological weapons—pose definite risks to the human race. No matter how the war in Ukraine turns out, Putin’s attack on a small nation gave the world a time and motive to put aside differences and stand united against the Russian bully. That sounds noble, but those who know the dangers of globalism know that world

unity is a harbinger of a world government, a world economy, and a world church. Bad news, but it is coming! In Riga, Latvia, on the road in front of the Russian Embassy, there is a sign: “Putin: The Hague is waiting for you.”

\*The wanton destruction of Ukrainian lives and property by Russian troops is indeed morally wrong and must be condemned. However, Putin’s fears that Russia will be grievously harmed by the destruction of moral and religious values that are the bedrock of civilization are certainly justified. America has a serious problem that Russia doesn’t want. The Blaze News for March 8, 2022 announced “Biden requests \$2.6 billion from Congress to fund global gender equity programs.” Do we have \$2.6 billion to spend for a fabricated cause when the threat of World War III is hanging over our head like Damocles’ sword? And the madness continues. US troops are being brought back from their posts to be schooled in sensitivity training and the proper use of pronouns for those who have transitioned. Putin looks at stuff like this and he is horrified. So are many Americans! We should all be horrified. This is madness.

\*Vladimir Putin wants to leave a noble legacy. This desire may have been strengthened by the fact that he may be suffering from cancer. Putin has been seen with Dr. Yevgeny Selivanov, who specializes in thyroid cancer. If he is leaving this world Putin; First, wants to do something noble to earn God’s love so his sins will be forgiven; Second, he identifies faithfulness to God with faithfulness to Russia. He sees patriotism and godly behavior as a faithful “Russian Orthodox Christian” as part of the same package. This is a warning to conservative Christians in America. We love America and know that it is more than a place; it is also an idea. But we must never equate love for God, with love for our America. We should never feel that God has let us down if, in the next presidential election, a God-hating, America-hating candidate wins! It could happen. Despite the low scores Joe Biden is getting in the polls America may have come so far in the wrong direction, that a large number of Americans may still vote for a Joe Biden kind of a leader. I see Donald Trump as having accomplished much good despite the continual media thrashing he received, but let’s not make him a patron saint. I believe that there will be world-wide revival, but I do not believe that it will be centered in America.

\*Now is the time to heed Romans 12:1-2. It is the will of God to have the Spirit of God use the Word of God to make the children of God more like the Son of God.

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