



Prophetic Observer

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Keeping Time On God's Prophetic Clock

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Standing in the Fire Today

by James Collins

In the book of Daniel, we read about three young Hebrew men who were taken from their families when King Nebuchadnezzar conquered Judah. These three faithful men stood against their new king with boldness and refused to bow to his false idol. Their names were Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. The chief of the eunuchs of Babylon gave them new names. Hananiah's name was changed to Shadrach. Mishael to Meshach, and Azariah's new name was Abednego.

In the beginning of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego's captivity in Babylon they went through a time of preparation before coming before the king. Finally, when it was time, they were brought to the king. After he interviewed them, King Nebuchadnezzar was well pleased finding the young men to possess ten times the knowledge and wisdom than that of his own magicians and astrologers. God gave them the knowledge and wisdom the king witnessed, and after some prompting by Daniel himself the king set them over the affairs of the province.

After a while, King Nebuchadnezzar became so full of himself that he commissioned a golden image. When the statue was completed, it stood approximately 90-foot-tall which is about the size of a ten-story building. Nebuchadnezzar commanded everyone, "that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up." (Daniel 3:5).

Now the king received word from certain people of



the province that his three favored young advisors, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, were being disobedient to his command and refused to bow down and worship the golden image. So, the king sent for the three young men and explained to them that if their disobedience continued, they would be thrown into a fiery furnace. In other words, the king gave them one last chance

to change their minds and bow down to the golden image.

They responded with the following declaration. "O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up" (Daniel 3:16-18). Basically, the three young men told King Nebuchadnezzar in no uncertain words, "We will absolutely not worship your stupid statue, O king."

As you can imagine, the king was infuriated. He had the furnace heated seven times hotter than normal. Then he ordered his mighty men of valor to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and cast them into the fiery furnace. The heat was so intense that the mighty men were consumed by the fire when they tossed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego into what was supposed to be their fiery grave. However, God miraculously and supernaturally delivered Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego unharmed from the flames and intense heat of the furnace. In a pre-incarnate appearance, the Lord Jesus Christ was there in the furnace walking beside the three young

men, keeping them from harm.

What is the lesson for Christians today? What can you and I learn from the fiery experience of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego? The answer is we can gain courage from knowing Jesus is with us, even when we face persecution and trials.

Granted, you and I are not being tossed into fire for our faith, but I do believe that persecution of the Christian Church is coming. It would be quite arrogant of us Christians living here in the United States of America to think we are immune. In fact, we are already witnessing some of it today. Watch the news, read a newspaper, or scan an internet news site and you'll see the agenda of Satan as he works to steal, kill, and destroy all things Christian. Here are a few of the stories that have made headlines recently:

In Colorado, Christian baker and cake artist Jack Phillips is back in court. He is being sued by homosexual activists again, this time for refusing to make a "gender transition" cake. Phillips isn't the only cake artist in Colorado, but because he is a Christian, he is the only one being taken to court on these issues.

The University of Iowa recently decided to deregister all on-campus Christian groups. The reason university officials gave for this action was because the Christian groups required their leaders to agree with a statement of faith. They believe it is discrimination for a Christian group to insist their leaders be a Christian.

Last August, the city of Fredericksburg, Virginia denied the housing tax exemption of a Christian couple who serve as college ministers. The husband and wife live in a parsonage provided by their church, and they minister full-time to students at the University of Mary Washington. City officials believe that since the couple does not work in a church, but on a campus, they should not get the tax exemption.

In late July, a Christian woman was beheaded and dumped onto the street in front of horrified eyewitnesses in a residential neighborhood in Shakopee, Minnesota. The suspect arrested for the horrific crime is a Muslim man who is also an illegal alien. Police say the suspect often carried a machete with him as he walked around town.

In Oregon, dozens of black-clad Antifa militants assaulted Christians, including children, who were attending a prayer and worship event in Portland. Local police looked on as the Antifa members threw "flash bombs" into the crowd and pushed the sound equipment being used for the event into the Willamette River. One of the members sprayed a congregant with pepper spray and shouted, "Where is your God now?"

A conservative Christian organization's request to fly the

Christian flag was rejected last month by the city of Boston. The rejection came even though numerous other private groups had successfully applied to wave flags representing sovereign countries and nonreligious causes. There are three 83-foot-tall flagpoles outside Boston City Hall, two of which always fly the U.S. flag and the state flag. The third usually flies the city flag, but citizens can petition to raise other flags temporarily. City records show that since 2005, Boston approved hundreds of requests to fly other flags – including the LGBTQ rainbow flag.

These are just a few of the recent stories that show how the devil is working against God's people. I didn't mention how churches are still being closed due to COVID, but massage parlors and medical marijuana dispensaries are deemed "essential" and allowed to remain open. I could have discussed the laws that are being formulated to systematically eliminate God's Holy Word from all venues in our public arenas. I could have communicated how a drag queen can read filth to your children in a public library, but you can't read the Bible there. There are hundreds of instances I could have cited.

All around the country today Christians are being persecuted, abused, discriminated against, and even martyred for adhering to their faith in Jesus Christ. Freedom of religion is of the past, intolerance toward Christians is the order of the day. Our own government is involved in silencing the Christian's voice in one way or another. No, they won't admit it. None-the-less, they are hard at it and won't be satisfied until their satanic mission is complete.

Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego did not bend or bow to evil pressures, or influences. They stood on God's inerrant word. They were bold in their response to the king. They knew God would see them through whatever evil obstacle was placed before them. Believers can take heart in knowing that many Christian brothers and sisters have gone through countless trials and hardships, but God, through His Holy Spirit, went with them through their adversity and He will be right beside us, too.

In the times when we're urged to give in to pressure, we don't have to be afraid. We may not always know how or when God will help us, but we know He is with us. He will give us the strength to stay faithful to Him through every "fire" we endure. Let me encourage you to hold on to God's promises. Be as steadfast as Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were in their time and don't let any evil king sway you in your beliefs. Our only King is King Jesus, and we follow His Word for our lives.

Censorship, Intimidation and The Apollyon President

Pastor Larry Spargimino, Ph.D

“...but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon” (Rev.9:11)

In the past tyrannical governments have not only banned religious messages, but also novels, poems and short stories, along with paintings and other visual art forms that were deemed “anti-government.”

On May 10, 1933 university students in 34 university towns across Germany burned over 25,000 books. The works of Jewish authors like Albert Einstein and Sigmund Freud went up in flames, alongside works of black-listed American authors such as Ernest Hemingway and Helen Keller. As the ravenous flames lit up the night sky, 40,000 students and adults gave the Nazi salute. This marked the intellectual impoverishment and decline of a great nation and a great people who had contributed immensely to humanity. Is the current wave of censorship against medical and scientific experts who oppose the vaccines a harbinger of the rise of The Antichrist?

Meet The Bully and His Slick Protégé

The Biden vaccine mandate brought grief to freedom-loving Americans by forcing them to make a tragic choice: take a vaccine that a growing number of medical experts condemn, or face: (1) loss of employment, (2) a dishonorable discharge from the military, (3) get rejected for an organ transplant that you need to stay alive, (4) experience a thousand other things that evil minds have planned for resisters.

The Epoch Times (10/7/21) reports that a Colorado hospital has rejected a woman for a kidney transplant after she refused to get a COVID-19 vaccine. Leilani Lutali received a letter on September 28 informing her that the transplant team at the University of Colorado Hospital decided to designate her “inactive” on the waiting list for transplants.

Neither Lutali, nor her donor, Jaimee Fougner are willing to be vaccinated. Fougner said, “Here I am, willing to be a direct donor to her. It does not affect any other patient on the transplant list. How can I sit here and allow them to murder my friend when I’ve got a perfectly good kidney and can save her life?”

The current censorship in America is a startling reminder of the power of Big Tech over our lives. Censorship affects the news people hear and see, the education their kids receive, and censorship determines the outcome elections. Voters form their opinions of candidates based on what is fed them through the media. Media distortions and lies are currently

destroying America far more effectively than any invasion by a hostile nation. President Biden and his heavy-handed leadership will stop at nothing until America is a wasteland of boarded-up businesses and teenagers in need of psychiatric care.

The Real Dr. Fauci

After delivering a lecture via livestream at McGill University, Montreal, Canada, Dr. Fauci was asked a question: “How should we approach the value of individual freedom within the context of this global pandemic?” It’s significant how Fauci responded. First, he criticized Fox News and other conservative media outlets. Then he slammed the idea of individual freedom, framing vaccination as one’s highest moral responsibility toward our neighbor. Then Fauci revealed what he really thinks: “I think each of us, particularly in the context of a pandemic that’s killing millions of people, you have got to look at it and say, ‘There comes a time when you do have to give up what you consider your individual right of making your own decision for the greater good of society’” (theblaze.com)

What’s the bottom line in Fauci’s statement? Because we have a pandemic “that is killing millions of people.” Rahm Emanuel, White House Chief of Staff under the Obama Administration, gave Fauci’s dirty little secret away when Emanuel said, “Never pass up a good crisis. It’s your opportunity to do what you could not normally do.”

On May 18, 2020, when President Trump said, “I’m taking it, hydroxychloroquine. Right now, yeah, a couple of weeks ago I started taking it, because I think it’s good. I’ve heard a lot of good stories,” he was immediately attacked and maligned. Why? Because having a cheap, available medication that will prevent the death of millions of people is NOT what people need to be told. If people availed themselves of such medication the crisis would be over. All opportunities for the government to do what it could not normally do would suddenly evaporate.

Without a pandemic that’s killing millions of people no one will be willing to surrender their individual liberties. This is why there is the current censorship of materials that disagrees with Dr. Fauci. We can’t have people contradicting the claim that millions more will die. The testimony of credentialed

medical experts who support Life-saving meds such as HCQ and Ivermectin must be censored.

Censorship of Materials That Have Anti-Vax Content

On September 29, 2021 Drudge Report blazed the words, “YOUTUBE BANS ALL ‘ANTI-VAX CONTENT.’” This is censorship. The current crisis that the world is experiencing is not about the virus. It is about control. Is Dr. Fauci’s guiding principle “do no harm” or is it just the opposite? This is not ridiculous question. Why is the testimony of so many medical experts who are warning us about the vaccines, being censored, trampled and being ignored? Why are people being taken off a transplant list for not wanting to take a shot that could very well have harmful effects?

Dr. Peter McCullough, who has had many peer-reviewed publications published in top-tier medical journals, warns that the world is “in the middle of a major biological catastrophe.” At an address he gave at the annual fundraiser of the non-profit Michigan for Vaccine Choice, McCullough charged that fraudulent public health officials are pushing experimental “gene-transfer” COVID-19 vaccines that produce the “loaded weapon” of a toxic spike protein.

Emphasizing the importance of safety in medicine, McCullough said it’s “beyond astonishing” that “there has been an injection of a substance into half of Americans’ bodies and there’s yet to be a report to America on safety.” He pointed out that was not the case in 1976 when the government shut down the Swine Flu vaccination campaign after the emergence of 25 deaths and 550 cases of Guillain-Barre Syndrome. The debate over whether or not they were caused by the vaccine didn’t matter. What mattered was the unexplained deaths that occurred after vaccination. McCullough told his audience, “If you feel tension right now and you feel some emotional distress, and if you feel as if things aren’t going right...I think your perceptions are correct.”

McCullough accused Biden’s top coronavirus adviser, Dr. Anthony Fauci, of “committing fraud” by declaring there is “no evidence” to support the effectiveness of Ivermectin in treating COVID-19. “Ivermectin is supported by over 60 studies, over 30 clinical trials,” McCullough said. It may be the truth but Baylor University Medical Center fired McCullough in February. Texas A&M College of Medicine, Texas Christian University and University of North Texas Health And Science Center School of Medicine have cut ties with him, accusing him of spreading misinformation. (WND, 10/7/21).

In the continuing struggle between truth and falsehood, truth is persistent and rises from many quarters. The global-covidsummit.org reports that “Yale epidemiologist Harvey Risch continues to express dismay over the way hydroxychloroquine has been maligned for political reasons by a pliant

media establishment.” COVID-19 can be successfully treated. The Global Covid Summit reports, “Biochemist Martenson: You have nothing to lose with Ivermectin.” Martenson said, “Those who disparage Ivermectin as mere ‘horse dewormer’ probably aren’t doctors. Physicians worldwide have been using the Nobel-prize winning drug successfully in treating COVID-19.”

While more than 10,000 physicians and medical scientists have signed the “Rome Declaration” in protest, many of these individuals have experienced “career threats, character assassination, censorship of scientific papers and research, social media accounts blocked, online search results manipulated, clinical trials and patient observations banned, and their professional history and accomplishments minimized in both academic and mainstream media.” We must not ignore the fact that Dr. Robert Malone, architect of the mRNA vaccine participated in the “Rome Declaration” (globalcovidsummit.org).

This is just the beginning of the final epic struggle between good and evil. Jesus was very much to the point when he said, “Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar and the father of it” (John 8:44).

In the introduction to his book, *Hitler’s Cross*, Erwin Lutzer says he wanted to study how Hitler had captured the Christian church:

I knew that 95 percent of the people in Germany were either Protestant or Catholic. Now I wanted to know why the Christians in Germany did not condemn Hitler with one single unified and courageous voice. I wondered why millions willingly took Hitler’s *Hakenkreuz* (hooked or broken cross) and superimposed on it the cross of our crucified Redeemer. Only later would I understand the extent to which this confusion of crosses beguiled the German church and invited the judgment of God (p. 12).

At the end of the age it is vital that true Christ-followers stand for truth in the power of God. Yes, God inhabits the praises of His people (Ps. 22:3), and the words of the prophet Jeremiah are still true: “*For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you an expected end*” (Jer. 29:11).

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