



# Our kingdom is not here

“My kingdom is not of this world.” —*John 18:36*



I'm sorry I just took off on you without so much as a peep. I did this last week with the newsletter, and on the Revelation Series. In addition to being fed up, like you, with some of the dissension within the teaching ranks, I felt the compulsion to spend time with my sons. This eon is winding to a close and no one will say at

the end of it, “I spent too much time with my family.” So I went away. When I was with my beautiful sons, I forgot about this difficult, discouraging work. What a relief. But I am back now to serve you and to finish this race.

When you get discouraged and want to walk away from your duties or from life itself, none of you should feel that some strange thing is happening to you. We all get like this at times. Notice the times of repose that God built into the Israelite worship and agricultural system. God provided for His people to rest one day out of the week, and to stop toiling one year out of seven. Then there is the longed-for thousand-year repose when God will bring His government to earth through His Son, Jesus Christ.

God has blessed me with three wonderful boys who are grown now with lives of their own. I could not be happier with them. I always remind myself that they are God's, not mine. They are on loan to me from the Almighty. It is the same with your family, as I have been telling you. For good or for evil, God has made our families what they are. For good or for evil, God raised us in the families in which we were raised. Do not let anyone talk you out of the fact that God creates evil (Isaiah 45:7). Only He knows how much good and how much evil we need to humble us and prepare us for our “work” ahead, which will not seem like work at all, but a blessed rest from our wearying trials here on earth.

The Revelation Series resumes Monday with my usual revelatory antics, staged from my revolutionary studio here in Canton, Ohio where I was born and from whence I hope to depart heavenward—yes, that's right—five minutes from now.

## CLEANING THE WRONG HOUSE

My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My deputies, also, would have contended, lest I should be given up to the Jews. Yet now is My kingdom not hence (John 18:36).



The Lord's kingdom was not of this world then, and neither is it now. When Peter picked up the sword in Gethsemane, Jesus rebuked him. Jesus would have rebuked any man then who would have fought to rescue Him. Such fighters would have sadly mistaken this present world system as the field of His reign.

In spite of overwhelming Scriptural testimony, many today still think that His kingdom is of this world. Instead of trying to rescue Him from the Jews, they are trying to rescue Him from errant political forces. They are striving to make sure He has a clean world system in which to establish His government. But He is not going to use this world system to establish His government. Again, His government is not of this world. Political Christianity is doubly ignorant. Not only are they like the housewife who hurries to clean the house before the maid comes (why does she think the maid is coming?), but they are cleaning the wrong house.

#### THE GOSPEL OF AMERICA

I speak of America now because that's where I am, but the following could be said of any other nation: the world derives no joy simply by the good news that God

has made peace for us through the blood of Christ. Most do not even know this news. The "gospel" of America promotes personal freedom and a constitutionally guaranteed right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Don't get me wrong. I am all for personal freedom and a constitutionally guaranteed right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. I love the country I was born in, and I do not apologize for that. I am only against these fleshly advantages exalting themselves above the transcendent peace of Christ available to all, irrespective of national allegiance.

The gospel of America insists on acquiring, improving, and then maintaining material wealth. The "high calling" of this gospel is financial independence. Borrowing a text from the book of Philippians, a passage from America's Holy Book would read this way:

I am deeming all to be refuse, that I should be gaining further material advantage over my peers in this world, and my be found, in America, living in a large house with a two-car garage; and eventually delivered from my crippling mortgage; and to have faith, not in myself, but in the banking systems of this world and the interest rates which are from the Fed, which is all of faith; and to know



my President and State Representative, and the power of their influence, and the fellowship of their service to me, conforming myself to their decisions but far from happy with most of them—if somehow I should be attaining to the FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE that is out from among the dead. Not that I have already attained it, or have already perfected my portfolio. Yet I am pursuing, if I may be grasping also that for which I was grasped also by *Success* magazine. Brethren, not as yet am I reckoning myself to have grasped true success (that is, FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE), yet one thing—forgetting, indeed the peaceful and quiet things which are behind, yet stretching forward to the stress-inducing financial goals in front of me—toward the goal am I pursuing for the prize of the high calling of FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE. Whoever, then, are bent upon ulcers, heart attacks and startlingly high blood pressure numbers, may be disposed to this, and if in anything you are differently disposed—I ENVY YOU.

—*Philippians 3:8-15, USA Version*

It is easy for all of us to forget the superior blessings we have in Christ. These blessings are not life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, as fine as these may be. They are spiritual freedom, contentment, and the possession of joy. Against these, nothing wrought by earthly armies can stand. America herself will not stand. My flesh wishes she could, but she won't. The stock market giveth, and the stock market taketh away. The electorate giveth, and the electorate taketh away.

The things of Christ, alone, will endure.

A slave of the Lord must not be fighting  
— *2 Timothy 2:24*

Now this know, that in the last days perilous periods will be present, for men will be selfish, fond of money, ostentatious, proud, calumniators, stubborn to parents, ungrateful, malign, without natural affection, implacable, adversaries, uncontrollable, fierce, averse to the good, traitors, rash, conceited, fond of their own gratification rather than fond of God; having a form of devoutness yet denying its power.

—*2 Timothy 3:1-5*

In the last days, perilous periods will be present, and nothing is going to stop them, not even Republicans. Anyone supposing that in the last days mankind will perfect itself is thinking his or her own pleasant thoughts and is not in tune with the mind of God. Our Lord Jesus Christ is not returning to Earth to congratulate us on a job well done. He is coming to sweep away the perilous periods



and establish something we have never seen before: righteous government. And so—

Cease striving and know that I am God...I will be exalted in the earth.

—*Psalms 46:10*

God's indignation is being revealed from heaven on all the irreverence and injustice of men

—*Romans 1:18*

God has promised to take care of the irreverent and unjust in *His* time, not ours. Jesus chided Peter for taking up the sword in Gethsemane, saying, "Are you supposing that I am not able to entreat My Father, and at present He will station by My side more than twelve legions of messengers? How, then, may the Scriptures be fulfilled, seeing that thus it must occur?" (Matthew 26:53-54). It's the same situation today. Few understand today that God is able, at any time, to reveal His indignation on irreverence and injustice. I have to remind myself of this constantly. The fact that God has not yet moved to impress Earth's inhabitants with His power means only one thing: it's not yet time for it. When the hour does arrive, God will turn the sun black, make the stars fall, roll up the heavens, move islands, burn up thirty-three percent of the Earth, and turn a third of the sea into blood (Revelation 6:12-14, 8:7-8).



I guess that will be impressive enough.

#### GOVERNMENT VS. CONTENTMENT

Having said all this, it is fine to want as good a government as can be humanly attained in this current wicked eon, as long as one does not lose one's peace striving or fighting for it.

I think that if we had to choose between Communism and a free enterprise system, we would choose the free enterprise system. Free enterprise—that is, people doing what God's spirit inspires them to do without interference—aligns with the human spirit. People simply do not want to live in gulags and eat white bread. They don't want to pay high taxes. Our souls cherish free enterprise and bread with significant amounts of fiber. It is God Himself who implanted this longing. Freedom to speak and to worship and to choose what kinds of carbohydrates we consume is be desired above iron-fisted rule and, say, government-mandated Twinkies.

Above all this, however, is contentment in Christ. Contentment in Christ trumps all. Peace of mind and a tranquil spirit are the transcendent gifts of God. One of the best things about these gifts is that they do not depend on our efforts for either their existence or maintenance. They are based on something God has wrought in spite of us.

I contend that bread—even grain bread with flax in it—cannot make people ultimately happy or peaceful. It helps, but you can't count on it. You can have very dense and fibrous bread, which is available in this wonderful country in which I write, and still feel storm-tossed and depressed. But if you have tapped into God-wrought peace, then not even Wonder bread can screw that up. God is calm because Christ satisfied Him concerning all humanity. Because God is calm, now you be calm. All humanity is righteous before God because of what Christ did at Calvary. Now you can tap into that righteousness.

#### ALREADY FREE

Jesus Christ represented all humanity before God, and so the old humanity is now considered dead to God because of Christ. Not even multi-grain bread can produce that. All things are made new. Tap into the newness in the midst of the old. The spirit of tranquility that now lives in us through Christ (because God made peace through Christ) is like an internal river that flows constantly into the cracks and crevices cut into the mind and body by this world. It hydrates and soothes every torn, dry furrow.

Its supply is endless, and it's already free. —MZ

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