

**POLITICS and  
RELIGION**

Page 1

**SOLOMON'S PORCH**

**THE MISSION**

To sound the Eternal Word of God, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to the Body of Christ. Keeping the duty of a "Watchman" for the expectant arrival of Jesus Christ – The Alpha and Omega – Lord of Lords – King of Kings'

\*\*\*\*\*

**THE DUTY OF THE WATCHMAN**

*Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound the alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand."*

*Joel 2:1*

*It has been eighteen months since the last PORCH newsletter. Nearly a full year of that time was emmersed with the U.S. political campaigns for the national offices as enumerated in the Constitution of this great nation.*

The peaceful transition of power that occurred prior to the death of King David is reported in 1 Kings 1:1-53 but the actions of Adonijah in this power struggle make for interesting reading. Adonijah, a brother of Solomon, nearly succeeded in wresting the throne of Israel from Solomon by exalting himself king before the weak and frail David was to sleep with his fathers. Adonijah conferred with Joab and another priest who joined in alliance with the aspiring king while Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet were faithful to God and David. The Word says, 'they were mighty men and belonged to David'.

In the meantime, Adonijah throws himself a huge 'victory' celebration but does not invite the 'mighty' men of David nor Solomon. Nathan the prophet then appeals to Bathsheba, the mother of Solomon, the matter should be brought to the attention of King David which results in David reaffirming the Godly decree that 'Solomon thy son shall reign after

me, and he shall sit upon my throne in my stead;'. Then Zadok, the priest, and Nathan the prophet did anoint Solomon to be king over all of Israel. Verse 40 then says that the people came up to meet Solomon with great celebration and the 'earth rent with the sound of them'.

Adonijah of course, hears the sound of the trumpet and celebration and before he can summon someone to investigate, word comes that David had made Solomon king. It was finished.

It is striking that this biblical account of power transition parallels the political history of our own country and the most recent election process was no exception. Not to suggest that Donald Trump had a 'blood line' to the presidency but that our political process creates a 'struggle' between the power bases seeking to control governing of the country. The irony of the situation rests in the fact that in America we have nurtured the idea that the 'two things we *are never* encouraged to discuss with family and friends [church] are politics and religion'. Yet a great volume of writing in the Bible deals directly with a characteristic of human behavior that is vigorously applied to politics, namely the pursuit and acquisition of power to govern people.

The scripture has clearly instructed that 'God has ordained the government of the world'. Hebrew scholars and messianic Jews have accounted for us writings about the social and political conditions that prevailed in Israel at the time Jesus lived and began his ministry. Strong evidence points to the fact the Pharisees and Sadducees were more aptly typical of 'political parties' rather than religious sects. The record clearly reveals that the Jews were more intent on nurturing the favor of Rome than in leading Israel in obedience to the Law of Moses and the word of the prophets.

1 John 2:15-16 reminds us that the heart of man turns toward the

world. All sin exists as lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. Modern day interpretation of 'the pride of life' is the unwillingness of people to subordinate themselves to a higher authority, self-achieving, while seeking the materialism of lust of the eyes and the self-gratification of lust of the flesh.

The Law of Christ speaks directly to the heart of man by-passing the temple that Solomon built to bring the temple of God to within as taught by Paul in 1 Cor 6:19. Politics and religion ran hand-in-hand in Jesus day and has never been more evident in America today, even the world. The political and media narrative being told Americans today is that we have reached a degree of divisiveness that is unique in America's history. Really, given the Revolutionary War, Civil War, Great Depression, World Wars, and you can finish the list.

**Divisiveness demands the victory of unity.**

The unity of the spirit, Eph 4:3 is clearly the message of the New Testament. Jesus told Nicodemus in John 3:3 'except a man be born again, he cannot enter the kingdom of God'. Peter preached in Acts 4:12 'there is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved'.

What can be more pointed than that statement? To be a believer or not. To choose life over death, the same choice God put before Moses in Deut 30:15. A few days before the 2016 presidential election the Rev. Franklin Graham completed a 50 state tour on the steps of his own state capital in Raleigh, NC. Rev. Graham told America exactly where the issues were divided. Progressive democrats and secularist are godless, they do not believe the Holy Bible and they do not manifest the fruit of the Spirit. The fruit of their policy is evident. Rev. Graham then led the nation in prayer of repentance. The same type of prayer we observe as prayed by the Hebrews time and

## SHARING THE TRUTH AND WISDOM OF GOD'S WORD

again over the history of Israel. When Israel walked with God, Israel was blessed and when the church [body of Christ] walks in the Spirit with King Jesus, believers are blessed.

Yet, the aftermath of the U.S. election suggests that divisiveness is taking its toll. The secularist/atheist 'snowflake', as described by the conservative media, are melting at the prospect their government will no longer give them money, abortions and free educations. Many churches are likewise in an uproar over the election of Donald Trump. While the prospect of ending federal funding for abortions strikes a favorable chord of approval for Christians, the wall on our southern border and ban on immigration of people from predominantly Muslim countries is distressing church authorities. "This is not the way of Christ" seeming to forget that Jesus said, 'except a man be born again...'. When Islam decrees 'death to the infidels Israel and America' can you expect a conversion among immigrants entering our nation, our culture? But then conversion is not the role of the government is it. Where is the church?

Is it really effective to bring non-believers [Muslims included] into the fellowship hall or coffee tables of our churches without taking these same people to the foot of the cross? Jesus said, 'except a man be born again...'. The church says, 'extending the hand of fellowship is the way' but Jesus said, "I am the way...". Ultimately, each person is given the choice, the same choice presented to Moses and the Israelites, choose life or choose death. Choose blessing or curse.

How long can a person consider the opportunity to make a choice? The Bible says, 'sooner the better' but the world says 'it's never too late'. Yet Matt 25 tells us a time is approaching that will 'close the door' to the invitation to join the marriage supper of the Lamb.

The prophet Isaiah spoke the Word of God in 9:6 "for unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder:" and the angel told Mary, the mother of our Lord, in Luke 1:31-32 'and shall call his name Jesus' ...and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David'. Then one night over Israel, a star appeared in the heavens and an infant came into this world and **his name is Jesus**. He lived as a Jew, died as a Jew and above his head on the cross was the sign 'King of the Jews'. On the third day he rose from the grave, proving victory over death and now sits at the right hand of the Father. Fifty days after his resurrection the Holy Spirit fell upon believers in the upper room and the power to overcome was given to those who call upon the name...Jesus. There is a day coming as reported by Paul in 1 Thes 4:17, in the same way the star appeared over Bethlehem, that Christ shall come to receive His Church and the presence of the Holy Spirit as it has dwelt with the Church will be removed from this world.

God has a timetable of events, considering He doesn't need time, but He has provided a timetable for *our benefit*. This time line holds the tick mark of Eden, Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses and David and now the time of the new covenant Jesus is being completed. There is one event next to occur that is told in I Thes 4:17, the rapture of the Church. Christ is coming to meet in the air, His bride, The Church. As accounted in Matt 25, only those with a trimmed lamp *expecting* the arrival of the Bridegroom will enter into the marriage celebration. Of the ten virgins tending the bride, only five entered in, the other five found the door closed when they returned from buying oil at the last minute.

To the followers of Christ, the commission has been stated very clearly, Matt 28:18-20. The true Church will take a stand to witness Jesus to a lost world. Jesus, the

Word made flesh to dwell within us, the Word taken to all the nations, not waiting for the nations to come to America.

There is no in-between in religion, a person is either in or out. We **receive by faith**, the promise of God the Father that the blood of His son sacrificed for our sin cleanses us as white as snow. God chose to restore the right standing of fallen man through His Son Jesus. God has taken the politics out of religion by allowing Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ, The Anointed One, to bring sin to God for justice.

We need to bring people to Jesus.