

God Rules in the Kingdoms of Men

Fred R. Coulter—July 23, 2011

Speaking of what happened with those 7,000 people dying because of Harold Camping, someone is going to ask: Where do they fit in the scheme of things? And people like that? There have been a lot of people who have died for the name of Christ, but really did not understand much more than the name of Christ. Where do they fit in?

Now how many have read parts of the book *Foxe's Book of Martyrs*? Some of you have. I have duplicates, what do they call them, facsimiles of the original three volumes of *Foxe's Book of Martyrs*. The books are about 18 inches long, 10 inches wide, and the stack of the three books stand about 15 inches high. The print in it is very, very fine. How many have ever seen that? Oh, none of you have.

Let me give me give you a note here. If you travel west and you're going to Southern California and you go through Phoenix, just west of Phoenix there is a small town called Goodyear, Arizona. And Goodyear, Arizona, has the Bible Museum. Now they sell a lot of old, old Bibles, facsimiles of them. That's where I bought them. That's where I also bought the *Stephens Text of 1550*. I have an original one, rebound cover, of course. If you have a Bible box, the Greek lettering right here on the bottom part of it is a duplication of part of the first page of the Gospel of John.

In going through it, you know what I discovered? *They knew 95% of the variant readings in the Stephens Text of 1550*, which was Erasmus' fifth edition. So history becomes important in this. Not only did they know just about all of the variant readings at that time—isn't it interesting that all of the professors and all of the theologians down through the centuries have been doing what? *Rehashing and going over, rehashing and going over the variant readings!*

When I got that set of the *Foxe's Book of Martyrs* I began reading it. There is one part in there that is particularly touching. A 16-year-old girl was brought up before the inquisitor, and, of course, she was condemned to death. When asked for a request she said, 'I have one request.' She said, 'Can I go home and put on my best dress, because I don't want to meet Jesus in these clothes.' So sure enough she went home, put her best dress on, came back, and was burned at the stake. There are a lot of people like that.

Let's read Revelation 17:6 very carefully here: "And I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints..."

- Who are the saints?

- What is a saint?
- What makes a person a saint?
- Where does the word 'saint' come from?

It comes from the Greek *to be made Holy*, or *sanctified*.

- Who then are the saints?
- What makes you Holy
- What makes you sanctified?
 - ✓ *the Spirit of God*
 - ✓ *the love of God*
 - ✓ *the obedience to God*

—because you are keeping His commandments. And God has called all the saints that are going to be in the first resurrection—which includes us here—called all of them to assist Jesus in running the Kingdom of God on earth. It was hard to watch the news this morning, all the stupidity going on in Washington, D.C., and that's why you're here, so all of that can be corrected.

Look at another category of martyrs, v 6: "...and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus..." So, there are two classes of those who are killed for Christ.

1. *The saints*, those who are converted
2. *The martyrs for Jesus*, those who believe in Jesus, but were not called for salvation

Are there a lot of people in that category? And how does Jesus look at them? Let's see what Jesus said. What's going to happen on August 6? *Governor Perry is going to have a day of fasting and prayer for this nation!* How does God look at that?

We know that Perry's a died-in-the-wool, hard-shelled Baptist—right? Isn't that true? How does God look at that? Who is he turning to? Who is he naming? *Christ!* Let's come back here to Jeremiah 5 and we'll get our answer. Someone asked if would it be okay if they also fasted on that day? *Of course it would!* We live here in America—don't we? Is he intending good? *Yes, he is!* Is he perfect? *No, he's not!* Is he called to salvation? *No, he's not!* But he is doing what is right to do for a politician.

Remember the prophet Jonah? Where was he sent to? *He was sent to Nineveh!* Were the Assyrians the people of God? *No!* But what did he do? *He preached, 'You repent or God's judgment is coming upon you!'* And word got to the king. Of course, the city was really spread out; it was a three-day's journey to walk through it. So I suppose walking and preaching, it must have been pretty close to 20-miles wide.

When he came to the king what did he do? *He repented and commanded everyone to fast, put on sackcloth!* They all fasted, even made all the animals fast. What did God do? *He turned back the hand of correction—did He not? Yes, He did!*

We don't know what's going to happen. We don't know how much time we have left, but we do know one thing: ***God always honors repentance and turning to Him!*** And if you read on Perry's website, he quoted Joel 2, that when troubles were coming upon Israel, they called a fast.

Let's see what God told Jeremiah here in Jeremiah 5:1: "Run to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem, and see now, and know, and seek in her open places, if you can find **a man...** [This is not conversion, this is just a man, probably a man of some stature and somewhat in the government of the king.] ...if there is one who does justice, who seeks the truth; and **I will pardon her.**" And the 'her' is Jerusalem.

For *one man* God held back His hand. But what happened? *Couldn't find it!* Notice how this goes on here in v 2: "And though they say, 'As the LORD lives;' surely they swear falsely. O LORD, *are* not Your eyes on the Truth? You have stricken them, but they have not grieved; You have destroyed them, but they have refused to receive correction; they have made their faces harder than rock; they have refused to return" (vs 2-3).

Maybe there will be enough repentance. I don't know what's going to happen on August 6. I'm sure of one thing, that's when he's going to announce he's going to run for the presidency. If you line up all of the ones who have declared for the Republicans, he's certainly head and shoulders above them. So who knows what's going to happen. But we do all know this—don't we? If Obama gets re-elected, the punishment of the hand of God continues to come upon us very, *very*, **very** hard. So we need to understand that God will recognize it.

Verse 4: "Therefore I said, 'Surely these *are* poor; they are foolish; for they do not know the way of the LORD, *nor* the judgment of their God. I will go up for myself to the great men, and will speak to them; for they have known the way of the LORD *and* the judgment of their God.' But these had altogether broken the yoke and had torn off the bonds!" (vs 4-5). Sound like Washington, D.C.? *Yes, indeed!* Sounds like a lot of governors of states? *Yes, indeed!*

So then, He says He's going to continue on with His correction and with His punishment. Here in the book of Daniel we have something very unusual and we also have a great lesson in politics, a great lesson about the rulers of this world. And it is actually not written by Daniel, but written by King

Nebuchadnezzar, the first king of the empire, which began in Babylon. Then you know the dream and the image that he had and it comes right down to the setting up of the Kingdom of God on earth.

God deals with the leaders of the world. If they will respond to Him—and it's not a matter of conversion, it's a matter that God cares for the people also—there are always two levels of judgment going on by God:

1. the leaders
2. the people

The leaders are the ones who either help the people do better, or lead them into sin. Now we have it today so lawless; we have lawlessness as part of the laws. When you have that kind of lawlessness, it's awfully hard to get people to change. So therefore, the rulers have to change. The rulers have to bring about the change. If they don't bring about the change, then everything continues to deteriorate.

Nebuchadnezzar is the prime example. Not only is this the account of what he went through, but this is also an enduring prophecy down through time. Daniel 4:1: "Nebuchadnezzar the king, to all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth..."

That didn't get out to everyone on all the earth at his time. When is it going out to all the earth? Just like the disciples, the apostles were told, 'You begin in Jerusalem and preach repentance of sin, and you go to the ends of the earth.' So that was a prophecy yet to be fulfilled. That is happening in our day; likewise, this is a prophecy.

"... 'Peace be multiplied to you. It seemed good to me to declare the signs and wonders that the Most High God has done for me. How great *are* His signs! And how mighty *are* His wonders! His kingdom *is* an everlasting kingdom, and His dominion *is* from generation to generation'" (vs 1-3). You have to tie this in with the ending of it.

God showed him what is actually going on in the governments of this world, the kingdoms of this world. They are run by the angelic realm. You go through the book of Daniel and you find the angel Gabriel, the angel Michael and you know, they were fighting demons, things like this.

Behind the scenes there is a spiritual war with the angels who have been given control of this world. And Satan the devil and his demons have power. God's angels—Michael and Gabriel—intervene for those people who are trying to do righteous, those nations who are trying to do good. Because, remember, God is constantly judging all the nations (Jer. 18). There are times when God is going to raise up a nation and bless it. There are times when God is going to take down a nation

because of their sins and curse it. So, He says two things:

1. The nation that I'm raising up, if it sin against Me, I'll repent of the good that I sought to do to it.
2. The nation or kingdom against whom I pronounced evil, if they turn from their evil, I will repent of the evil I intended to do to them.

This is going on all the time in history. Someone sent me a current map of the nations threatening of war and the nations who are at war or revolution. How many are you looking at? *The majority of nations in the world; too many today!* They all need to read Dan. 4.

Here's Nebuchadnezzar. God always does something when you least expect, v 4: "I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at rest in my house and flourishing in my palace. I saw a dream and it terrified me, and my thoughts upon my bed and the visions of my head alarmed me" (vs 4-5). He should have remembered the one of Dan. 2—right? What was the key thing with that? *He told all the wise men and astrologers who said, 'Oh, king, tell us the dream.'* And he said, 'No, you tell me what my dream was.' *Oh, king, we can't do that.*

So, finally Daniel came and told him the dream and told him the interpretation. Had he remembered that here in Dan. 4, maybe things would have been a little different. Here's another dream, v 6: "Therefore, I made a decree to bring in all the wise men of Babylon before me, that they might make known to me the meaning of the dream. Then the magicians, the enchanters, the Chaldeans, and the astrologers came in...." (vs 6-7).

Where are we headed today as a nation? *Right down the 'occult tube'*—isn't that true? *Yes!* Look at the movies. You go online at Church at Home and you look up *Satan the Devil, Part 8*. We have a young lady who has a SmartPhone here and she dialed it right in. But that is so well edited with so many things you can see. Every movie today is occult, destruction, witchcraft, killing, vampires—right? God looks down and sees that—does He not? *Yes, He does!* Those things are terribly evil. We are going in the way of Babylon.

That's why Revelation calls it *Babylon, the Great*. And if you look at every city in the world, it's patterned after what? *The same thing that Babylon had!* You go anywhere in the world and the cities look for the most part, almost the same. If you've seen any specials on China, what does it look like, other than the difference in the signs and language? It looks like the Western world—does it not? *Yes!* That's Babylon the Great.

Now, then, I know someone is going to ask: How do you know then that we are Israel? I'll answer it this way: During the height of King Solomon's reign, did he not embrace greater Babylon with all the gods and all the practices and all the occult and all of those things, so much so that God had to punish him by taking ten tribes, after his death, and giving it to his general Jeroboam. So Israel, though they are God's people, the physical descendants of the twelve tribes, and we are living in greater Israel today. It's not the little nation back in the Middle East. And we are doing the same thing—are we not? *Yes!*

So, they all came in, v 8: "But at last Daniel came in before me, whose name was Belteshazzar, according go the name of my god.... [rather than the true God] ...and in whom *is* the spirit of the holy gods. And I told the dream before him, *saying...*" He gave the dream. He explained about it. Here's a tree that grew. Then it was cut down. Then on the stump there was a band put around it

Then it was told him, v 15: "Nevertheless, leave the stump of its roots in the earth, even with a band of iron and bronze, in the tender grass of the field. And let it be wet with the dew of heaven, and let his portion *be* with the animals in the grass of the earth. Let his heart be changed from a man's and a beast's heart be given to him. And let seven times pass over him" (vs 15-16). We know that that is seven years. There are also other prophetic interpretations which carry it to the last time and also come in and affect what we call the last beast.

Let's see how this came to him, v 17: "This matter is by the decree of the watchers... [Who are the watchers? Ever heard of the seven eyes of God, which are the seven Spirits of God going to and fro in all the earth to find who is seeking after Him? *Yes, those are the watchers!*] ...and the demand by the word of the Holy ones... [Who are the Holy ones? *The angels!*] ...so that the living may know that **the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He will, and sets up over it the basest of men.**"

Remember v 17 and as you watch the news and as you look at things in the world, ask yourself: Is this true? Look at the different nations, are they the basest of men? *Yes!* Why does that happen? *Because of the sins of the people!* Are we experiencing that today? *Yes, indeed!* Let's look at a couple Proverbs; let's see some things. As you're watching the news, survey the different news channels, so that you get a variety of the news.

Proverbs 28:15: "*Like* a roaring lion and ranging bear, *so is* a wicked ruler over the helpless people.... [Are we seeing that in the news today?] ...A ruler lacking understanding *is* also a great

oppressor...” (vs 15-16). Are we experiencing that today? Do we have a President of that kind who has no understanding and blames everybody else for all of his mistakes? *Yes, we do!*

Let’s come to Daniel 4:24. Let’s see the interpretation of the dream: “This *is* the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the Most High, which has come upon my lord the king: That you shall be driven from men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and you shall be made to eat grass like oxen. And you shall be wet with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over you until you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men and gives it to whomever He will” (vs 24-25). That’s how all the nations of the earth are run. Let’s project forward again to August 6.

- Will that be enough to turn back the hand of oppression for a while?
- Will that be enough of repentance to do so?
- Will there be enough people, not only there in the huge stadium—who obviously will be supportive and obviously be participating—how far will that reach out?
- And if it does, does that signal that there’s going to be a reprieve?
- And does that signal to us that there is going to be a change of a leader in America that can turn the hand of the clock back somewhat?

Just like happened with Nineveh and the Assyrians. After they repented, God held back His correction for 120 years. Now, I’m not saying God is going to do 120-year holdback for us. But **God always honors repentance**. I’m going to be very keen to see what’s going to be happening, and I thought since coming to Houston this might be a good place to bring a sermon on it.

Daniel continues and he explains to him, v 26: “And whereas they commanded to leave the stump of the tree roots, your kingdom *shall be* sure to you after you shall have known that the heavens do rule.” Here’s the advice. Here’s the choice.

I don’t know what’s before President Obama and his counselors, but they do have choices. And here is the advice that God gives to every ruler, because it’s to *all people, nations, languages, that dwell on the earth*. This is for all people for all time, all rulers for all time, and especially us in America. What did we do? *We invited God into our Constitution*—did we not? Go online, look up the state constitutions, and see how many begin by declaring that the rights that the states have and the peace and the liberty that the states have **come from Almighty God**. Know this: *Whenever you bring God into something and make Him a partner of it, He’s*

going to hold you accountable for what you have said. So, I hope that this will take place.

Verse 27: “Therefore, O king, let my advice be pleasing to you, and break off your sins by righteousness... [Isn’t that interesting? Doesn’t that agree with what Jesus told the man who was healed? He said, ‘Go and sin no more’—right? How do you stop sinning? *By doing righteousness!*] ...and your iniquities by showing mercy to the poor, so that there may be lengthening of your prosperity.”

Well, he didn’t quite listen. Verse 29: “At the end of twelve months he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of the kingdom of Babylon.... [up there looking out seeing the whole city] ...The king spoke and said, ‘*Is this not great Babylon that I have built for a royal residence by the might of my power and for the glory of my majesty?*’” (vs 29-30). A little ‘Job-ism’ in there—right? You want interesting reading, read the book of Job in the *Faithful Version*. It’s easier to understand.

Job was righteous. Most people misunderstand. He was righteous, but could his righteousness absolve his son’s sins? *No!* God said he was blameless, but what was his sin? He did not attribute the righteousness that he was doing, that it was God’s righteousness and not his own. He attributed his own righteousness as coming from his own goodness, **rather than coming from God**. So, people can live good lives, but there comes a point that they don’t acknowledge that it comes from God. Because the truth is, everything we do, we live and move and breathe **because of God**.

Verse 31: “While the word was yet in the king’s mouth, a voice fell from heaven, saying, ‘O King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoke. The kingdom has departed from you.’” Then it was fulfilled. Imagine what he looked like after seven years—no haircut, no nail trims, no nothing, just out there eating grass, seven years.

At the end of seven years let’s see what happened to him. This is a lesson for *all rulers*, everyone in power every place, whether it be the city, the town the village; whether it be the county, the state, the province; whether it be a nation or groups of nations. The same standard applies to all rulers in the world.

Here it is, v 34: “And at the end of the days, I Nebuchadnezzar, lifted up my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and I praised and honored Him Who lives forever, for His dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom is from generation to generation.”

Notice what he did not say. He did not say, ‘Lord, why did You do this to me?’ *No! He learned*

the lesson! He received the correction! Then they brought him back and he was re-established and so forth. Notice the humility here:

Verse 35: “And all the inhabitants of the earth are counted as nothing... [Remember what God says there in Isa. 40? *‘All the nations of the world are counted a drop in the bucket’*—right? *Yes!*] ...and He does according to His will in the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth....” (v 35). Who are the ‘host of heaven’? *The angels and the demons*—right? *Yes!*

“...and among the inhabitants of the earth. And none can stay His hand, or say to Him, ‘What are You doing?’ ... [This shows you that God honors humility and repentance]: ...At that time my reason returned to me. And the glory of my kingdom, my majesty and splendor returned to me. And my advisers and my lords sought me out... [‘Oh, king, so happy that you got through.’ Kiss the ring. ‘Ooh, I’ve been waiting seven years for you to come out of all of this.’ Really! You can just see them all doing obeisance.] ...and I was established in my kingdom, and surpassing greatness was added to me. Now I, Nebuchadnezzar... [This whole epistle was written by Nebuchadnezzar.] ...praise and exalt and honor the King of heaven, for all His works are Truth and His ways justice. And those who walk in pride He is able to abase” (vs 35-37).

(go to the next track)

Let’s see some other things about rulers. Let’s come to Psalm 11. This tells us a lot about what happens when things go awry in any nation, and especially when you’re confronted with almost everything you see around you is so ungodly or evil or wicked that you get very frustrated and you don’t know what to do. When things really get worse, then what you do, you take the parallel Psalm 91, and that’s the Psalm of protection in desperate times.

But here Psalm 11:1: “In the LORD I have taken refuge; how *then* can you say to me, ‘Flee like a bird to your mountain?’” In today’s world there’s no place you’re going to get away from it—right? *Yes, indeed!* And as they get their tracking devices more perfected, they’re going to know where everybody is all the time—what they’re doing, what they’re eating, everything else.

Verse 2: “For lo, the wicked bend their bow; they make ready their arrow on the string, so that they may secretly shoot at the upright in heart... [sometimes it feels like that] ...If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?” (vs 2-3). Think about that for a minute. What is one thing that Satan the Devil is after to do, but to destroy the real foundation that the Churches of God should have. And I put ‘should have’ because he’s been successful in some cases in getting rid of it.

Now, when you have the foundation, as we’re going to see is ***the only foundation is Jesus Christ***. This is why they like to bring in a different Jesus, a different way to Christ, so you can be derailed. Always remember this: ***The foundation is Christ!***

- The foundation is *not* sacred names.
- The foundation is *not* Judaism.
- The foundation is *not* calendar problems.

That’s why God gave the calculated Hebrew calendar.

- The foundation is *not rigid* commandment-keeping.

The foundation is

- ***love***
- ***hope***
- ***faith***

Based on Christ!

Let’s see how Paul writes of it here, 1-Corinthians 3:11: “For no one is able to lay any other foundation besides that which has been laid, which is Jesus Christ.” Notice, once we have the foundation of Jesus Christ, that we are responsible and we have to be active. We can’t just say, ‘Oh, well, everything’s all done. Hurray! Everything is fine. Now it’s a roller coaster downslide and when you get to the bottom you go right up and you end up in the Kingdom of God.’ *No way!*

“Now, if anyone builds upon this foundation...” (v 12). You have to build, you have to work, and it has to be work that it is of quality. Too many times people like to say, ‘This is good enough.’ When good enough is not what God wants. I want you to think about it today. Think about all that we have, all the means of understanding the Bible, having the whole Bible. They didn’t have the whole Bible back there in the days of Paul. They had the Law, the Prophets, and the Writings. They had some epistles, but not like us.

The congregation couldn’t sit there and do like we do—say, ‘Turn here, turn there, turn to the other place.’ Plus we have the understanding of the Holy Days. You could add many other things on to it. Because God has given all of this to us, what does God say to whom much is given? *Requires much!* We have opportunities today that have never been available to the people of God or even to the world to know about God.

He says be careful how you build, v 12: “Now if anyone builds upon this foundation gold... [Gold is the most precious thing in the world: doesn’t corrupt, doesn’t fade, doesn’t rust, and it outlasts all Federal Reserve notes.] ...silver, precious stones...” (v 12). Notice with these, they can all stand heat, and heat being the fire of trial they all become better. They all become higher quality. So,

as we look at our lives, God has given us all great responsibility.

On the other hand, if you just do what is good enough, then you build: "...wood, hay *or* stubble, **the work of each one shall be manifested...**" (vs 12-13). *God knows it!* You compare this then with the seven churches in Rev. 2 and 3.

Look at the difficulties they got themselves in because they didn't follow Christ the way that they should. Look at the problems that they had. Look at the problems that the Churches of God have today. Look at the problems and difficulties that we have even in our own lives, and we live in world where problems can just come in at lightning speed. That's just the nature of what it is today. This is why we've got to be strong in the Lord. This is why we've got to be building gold, silver, and precious stones.

Verse 14: "If the work that anyone has built endures, he shall receive a reward. If the work of anyone is burned up, he shall suffer loss; but *he* himself shall be saved, yet as through fire" (vs 14-15). Then he makes a real astounding statement and this is important for us to understand. This is what they forgot when they decided to build a house of God in Pasadena. How did that turn out?

Verse 16: "Don't you understand that you are God's temple, and that the Spirit of God is dwelling in you?" That's what's important so that you can have a relationship with God the Father and Jesus Christ; that's what it's all about. And we have all the tools today to do it. And all those who are teachers are to constantly point you to Christ. The ministry is not to rule over the brethren. The ministry is to teach the brethren as well as the minister who should also teach himself, to become as Christ. That's the whole goal.

Let me just say one thing concerning the government of God. It's very simple. If Christ in you cannot govern you through your own choices and the Holy Spirit, then the rulership of men over you is never going to impart righteousness to you. Do you understand that? That's an important thing.

Verse 17: "If anyone defiles the temple of God, God shall destroy him because the temple of God is Holy, which temple you are." Never let the foundations be destroyed. If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do? Have you seen brethren in circumstances like that where they trusted so much in men and the ministry, that when things went awry, they just gave up. *No!* Whenever there's a trial, whenever there's a difficulty, that's a time to really buckle down. That's a time to really draw close to God. Here's why:

Psalm 11:4: "The LORD is in His Holy temple... [Do we have access to God the Father and Jesus Christ through prayer? *Yes!* Through His Word? *Yes!*] ...the LORD'S throne is in heaven. His eyes behold; His searching gaze tests the children of men. The LORD tries the righteous..." (vs 4-5). Remember this: A righteous man shall fall how many times? *Seven times, but get up*—right?—and go on. What do you do when you have a real bad day? What do you do?

- you pray before you go to bed
- you put it all in God's hands
- and you go to bed and sleep

Don't take the problem to bed and have it as a pillow partner all night. Lay it all before God

- ask Him to help you
- ask Him to give you sleep
- ask Him to help you find a solution to the problem

And perhaps when you wake up in the morning, you are going to find that the solution becomes evident. That's what to do.

"...tries the righteous, but His soul hates the wicked and the one who loves violence.... [That's why there's judgment upon us, I mean this nation.] ...Upon the wicked He shall rain snares, fire and brimstone... [That's the end result of the *Lake of Fire*—right? As you go through the Bible, think of how much New Testament is in the Old Testament and how much Old Testament is in the New Testament, because there's a unity of Scripture and it all fits together.] ...and a scorching wind shall be the portion of their cup. For the LORD is righteous, He loves righteousness; the upright will behold His face" (vs 5-7). What Scripture ties right in with this: 'the upright shall behold His face.'? *Rev. 22*, where his children shall see Him *face-to-face!*

If you want an interesting study some time, maybe kind of do a detailed study and see how many things of the Old Testament you can find are mentioned in the New Testament, and the things in the New Testament that are mentioned in the Old Testament. I think that will make a fantastic study. The reason is: ***the mind of God is what has inspired the original words.*** And when we have a proper translation, that inspiration carries through, too. This means that since it's inspired by the mind of God, *there are multiple understandings within many verses.* The long and short of it is, Bible study should never get stale, it should never get boring, and it's continually expanding.

Here's another condition of today, Psalm 12:1: "Help, O LORD, for the godly man ceases; for the faithful disappear from among the children of men. They speak falsehood each one with his

neighbor; with flattering lips and a double heart they speak” (vs 1-2).

How many saw the special that they ran on Fox News asking students about cheating? Oh, it’s perfectly all right. The goal is to win; to win at all cost, even cheating, even lying. And since they don’t teach God’s Word in the classroom, they have no concept of right and wrong, good and evil. So to them, that’s a way to get ahead. To them, that’s the way to beat out the competition.

Even the teachers cheat. They even take the test that the kids did so they can get the money back on—what is this thing, the federal thing—‘No Child Left Behind.’ They have to do so well on their tests, but when the children don’t do well, the teachers all gather together in a big klatch and they redo the tests and change the results of the test so they can get the money—and they’re not teaching them. Everybody lies! They also ran another survey and found that the average person lies three times in ten minutes. Think of that—three times in ten minutes!

Verse 3: “The LORD shall cut off all flattering lips, *and* the tongue that speaks proud things... [Mr. Obama, *beware!*] ...who have said, ‘With our tongue we shall prevail; our lips are our own; who is lord over us?... [Remember, we saw God is watching, by the decree of the ‘watchers and the holy ones’—right?] ...For the oppression of the poor, for the sighing of the needy, I will now arise,’ says the LORD. ‘I will set him in safety from him *who puffs at him*’” (vs 3-5).

This is why we are to always take all these matters to God. The older you get, the more you’re going to understand how pitiful human beings are, how carnal human beings are, and how that we need to constantly repent every day, because God is forming His Holy righteous character in us.

Verse 6: “The words of the LORD are pure words, like silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. You shall keep them, O LORD; You shall preserve them from this generation forever” (vs 6-7). Don’t worry about it. ***God will preserve you! God will watch over you!*** Whatever trial you’re going through, ***God will see you through it!*** He will give you an answer to it if you’re seeking Him.

Here’s the society we live in, v 8: “The wicked walk on every side when vileness is exalted among the sons of men.” Take that verse and just do some channel surfing through your 300 channels on your television and you’re going to see that’s what’s happening.

Let’s come to Proverbs 30:21: “For three *things* the earth is disquieted, and for four it is not able to bear up: For a slave when he reigns; and a fool when he is filled with food; For a hateful

woman when she is married; and a servant girl that is heir to her mistress” (vs 21-23). A lot of these things we see going on in the society, so I bring these up so that we can properly understand what is taking place.

Come back here now to Proverbs 29:2, because this is going to lead us in where we’re going next. “**When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice...** [That’s a tremendous Proverb— isn’t it? How are people reacting to the governments today? *They’re mourning!*] **...but when the wicked rule, the people mourn.**”

Remember what happened when Rehoboam—son of Solomon—wanted to add more taxes to the people when they couldn’t handle it. His father’s counselors said, ‘Well, now, be kind to the people, don’t add on the tax.’ So then he talked to the young ones and they said, ‘Get ’em! Tax ’em!’ So, Rehoboam came back and he said, ‘If you think my father’s thigh was heavy upon you, my little finger will be worse.’ What happened? *God severed off the ten tribes of Israel*—right? *Yes!* “**...when the wicked rule, the people mourn.**” Do we have something parallel to that today? *Yes, indeed!*

Let’s see how the righteous are to rule. Let’s come back here to Luke 19; here’s the parable of the pounds. The pound is still the British coin of the realm, and what happened was he gave the pounds to his servants. Now it’s much like us, because whenever we receive the Holy Spirit, is that not greater than money? *Yes, indeed!* We’re supposed to use it—grow in grace and knowledge and overcome. We are to be led by the Holy Spirit. And if we do that, we’re going to be productive, and we will develop the fruits of the Spirit. This is what is necessary so that we will be able to be the righteous who are in authority when Christ sets up the Kingdom of God.

Luke 19:11: “Now, as they were listening to these things, He went on to speak a parable, because He was near Jerusalem, and they thought that the kingdom of God was going to appear immediately.” Just think of the surprise they’re going to have at the resurrection. Wait until they find out on the Sea of Glass, they’ll say, ‘How long was it till the Kingdom of God?’ *Over two thousand years!* Think about Abel who was murdered in year-135 from creation.

Verse 12: “Therefore, He said, ‘A certain nobleman set out to a distant country to receive a kingdom for himself, and to return.... [Obviously He’s referring to Himself.] ...And after calling ten of his servants, he gave to them ten pounds, and said to them, “Trade until I come *back*”’” (vs 12-13). There’s another parable that says that if you are not faithful in the little things, who is going to give you

the true riches. ‘He who is faithful in much is also faithful in little.’ So keep that in mind.

This also tells us that God—in giving us His Spirit—He knows what we’re doing, He knows what we’re thinking, and the Holy Spirit also works with us, as I’ve covered in the sermon, *The Washing of the Water by the Word*, to cleanse our minds from all the evil and sin that’s registered there; because everything you’ve ever done, is registered somewhere in your mind, and the Spirit of God can erase that. Especially you need the traumatic things erased from your mind and you need to have God resolve them. You cannot go along and in your mind hold something in the back of your mind and expect then God to give you forgiveness and eternal life. You can’t say, ‘God, I love you,’ but you turn around and hate this person over here.

Verse 14—there are two parts to this: his servants and the citizens: “But his citizens hated him and sent an ambassador after him, saying, ‘We are not willing to have this man reign over us.’ And it came to pass that when he returned after receiving the kingdom, he directed that those servants to whom he had given the money be called to him, in order that he might know what each one had gained by trading” (vs 14-15).

Think of this; tie this in with the parable which says, ‘And the seed fell on the good ground and brought forth *thirty-fold, sixty-fold, a hundredfold*—right? That’s how much it had gained, how much it had multiplied. The thing is this: Today we are able through what we can do to have it multiplied, rather than just gained.

I think of this many, many times. She had her SmartPhone and she called up Church at Home. I think about what we do when we go around and we have a small group. Now this is a small group—right? This is pretty big, we’re happy this is a good size group. However, on our websites we are reaching nearly 60,000 people a month. So we are multiplying what we have. I try and use that in the things that we do. Tithes and offerings that come in, we use them for what they should be used for.

Yes, we have to have payroll and pay people. I don’t have to have a large salary. I’m past 17, so I don’t need much money. We try and put it in things which will produce—the websites, books. And when we send out a book, the only book we ask any money for is the Bible, a \$50 donation, but those who attend church get it at no cost.

This goes out and it will multiply. Everything we want to do today is to multiply as much as we can do. If all the Churches of God would do the same thing, then think how it would be the impact of preaching the Gospel. It would be something. Therefore, all those churches that try and

garner brethren for their tithes and offerings so they can retire on the tithes and offerings are going to be very disappointed because God is not going to let that happen, because we are to constantly go forward and do what we need to do. How much is gained? *That’s it!* Can we multiply it?

Let’s see what happened here, v 16: “And the first one came up, saying, ‘Lord, your pound has produced ten pounds.’” That’s tenfold. Think about this for minute. If you take a penny and double it every day, you’re going to end up with millions at the end of thirty days.

Think of it likewise with what we have to do. If we can get it out there and God will bless it and multiply it, this is what God wants us to do, likewise in our lives in growing and overcoming. How much of the Holy Spirit have you grown in, producing the fruits of the Holy Spirit, and so forth? Can you please God? *Of course you can!* You *can* please God!

Verse 17: “Then he said to him, ‘Well done, good servant... [he was happy with that] ...because you were faithful in a very little, you shall have authority over ten cities.’” To bring *righteousness, Truth*. ‘When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice.’ Think of that as you look across the world. Think of that as you look at all of these nations in turmoil, in trouble, in war, in famine and starvation. God has called you to grow so you can bring joy to these people when the Kingdom of God comes on the earth.

Verse 18: “And the second one came, saying, ‘Lord, your pound has made five pounds.’ Then he also said to this one, ‘And you be over five cities.’.... [Here’s the one that did just good enough.] ...But another came, saying, ‘Lord, behold your pound, which I kept laid up in a handkerchief. For I was afraid of you, because you are a harsh man.... [If you love God, you receive love back—right? If you don’t do what God wants, you have judgment. That’s harshness—correct? Well, he didn’t do it.] ...You take up what you did not lay down, and you reap what you did not sow.’” Then he said to him, ‘Out of your *own* mouth I will judge you, *you wicked servant!*....’” (vs 18-22). That’s why be careful what you say. You don’t want the judgment of God. If you say something that’s not right, repent.

“...You knew that I am a harsh man, taking up what I did not lay down and reaping what I did not sow. Then why didn’t you deposit my money in the bank... [at the temple that was the wealthiest bank in the world] ...so that at my coming I might have received it with interest?’.... [notice God’s judgment] ...And he said to those who were standing by, ‘Take the pound from him, and give *it* to the one

who has ten pounds” (vs 22-24). This would not set well with any union today—would it?

Verse 25: “(And they said to him, ‘Lord, he has ten pounds’)... [Well, if he took one and gained ten, you give him one more, what’s he going to do? Gain another ten.] ...For I tell you that to everyone who has, more shall be given; but the one who does not have, even what he has shall be taken from him. Moreover, bring my enemies, those who were not willing for me to reign over them, and slay them here before me” (vs 25-27). That’s quite a parable— isn’t it? *Yes, indeed!*

Let’s see how we can overcome and what we are to do and how we can build the character of gold and silver and precious stones, so that we can take what God gives us and multiply it. What we are going to cover, are the absolute guaranteed steps of growing and overcoming so that you can produce in your life and you can multiply the fruits of the Spirit and the growth that you need so that when Christ returns He’s going to say, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant.’

2-Peter 1:1: “Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have obtained *the* same precious faith as ours by *the* righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied to you... [there’s the Word ‘multiplied.’] ...in *the* knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord” (vs 1-2).

Now we have that as never before— isn’t that correct? *Yes, indeed!* Keep this in mind: Whenever you read a success book of someone in the world, they always end up using the very things that are contained in the Bible that guarantee success. I’ve been reading a book by Frank Luntz called *Win*. And he said the most important thing is for you to *keep focus*. Well, that comes right out of the Bible. He didn’t invent it, but it’s something that people learn.

Verse 3—you will see that: “According as His Divine power... [God’s Spirit] ...has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and Godliness... [That’s why we pray, that’s why we study, that’s why we search through the Word of God.] ...through the knowledge of Him Who called us by *His own* glory and virtue.”

Think of your calling, brethren. It’s not like the world has it: Find a church you’re comfortable with and make that your church home. Isn’t that lovely. The Southern Baptists are now having great difficulty because there was a man who snuck in 27 years ago and now he’s brought out all kinds of terrible things and they’re wondering how did he get in. No, God has called us *by His own glory and virtue!*

Here’s the focus, right here, v 4: “Through which He has given to us the greatest... [Not great— *the greatest*. Not good enough—*the greatest*, because God’s purpose is to perfect us.] ...**the greatest and most precious promises**... [You can’t get this anywhere else except from God, comes from God, direct to you. Keep focused on that.] ...that through these you may become partakers of *the* Divine nature...”

- Do you hate human nature?
- Do you hate the evil that runs around in your mind?
- Do you hate the thoughts and temptations that come?

God’s promise is that you’re going to have His nature, the Divine nature. Paul calls it the *mind of Christ*, Christ in you. But he’s talking now about the resurrection.

“...partakers of *the* divine nature... [That means not only of the mind, but also of the body.] ...having escaped the corruption *that is* in *the* world through lust” (v 4). Yes, you’ve been baptized, received the Holy Spirit, love God and keep His commandments. You have escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Verse 5: “And for this very reason also, having applied all diligence... [We are to work. God is working in us and we are to work.] ...add to your faith, virtue... [virtue is the *character of righteousness*] ...and to virtue, knowledge.” That’s why we

- study the Word of God
- grow in grace and knowledge
- understand the Word of God

If you come to your Bible study with faith and virtue, then you’re going to have more understand and more knowledge—right? *Yes!*

Verse 6: “And to knowledge, self-control... [through the Spirit of God] ...and to self-control, endurance...” We’re right there at that point right now—*endurance!* There are a lot of things that we’re going to have to go through. A lot of things are going to take place in the world.

I was thinking about that the other day where Jesus said, ‘These are the beginning of sorrows, the end is not immediately.’ Remember where He said that, Matt. 24? And I was thinking ‘the beginning of sorrows.’ And I was thinking of all the people that have had so many difficulties and trials—heavy ones, even within the Church—very sorrowful. People in the world losing their jobs, losing their homes, losing their lives, finding that everything they’ve ever learned is just a big lie and mirage by the government, by the churches, by the economists.

Their children on drugs, on sex, hooked on occult things—*sorrows!* You ever tried to work with those who are being rehabilitated from drugs and alcohol? The world’s full of them, pitiful indeed. Some of them are so hooked on what they are doing they are virtually helpless. They are slaves of Satan the devil.

I was reading an account of a young man who got hooked on heroin and not only do they shoot up, but they also burn it, and they inhale the smoke and get an immediate high. You know what they call that smoke? *The dragon’s tail!* I thought, what a name for that, straight out of the cauldron of Satan the devil’s worst thing that he could bring upon a person. Look how this country is. Brethren, pray for this country, pray for the people in the Church.

“...and to endurance, Godliness... [that shows you the value of *God’s way*, that you develop the Godliness that God wants you to have] ...and to Godliness, brotherly love... [these are all the characteristics of the Spirit of God to develop in us the Divine character, the Divine nature.] ...brotherly love... [Jesus said, ‘By this shall all men know that you’re my disciples if you love one another’—right?] (Then you add to that): ...and to brotherly love, the love of *God*” (vs 6-7).

Look at that and what you have here is a perfect guaranteed formula that you will be in the first resurrection, and that you will receive the Divine nature.

Verse 8: “For *if* these things exist and abound in you... [becomes part of your very being, part of your mind, part of the way that you think and act] ...they *will* cause you to be neither lacking effort... [you’ll always be focused] ...nor lacking fruit... [you’ll be growing and overcoming and multiplying] ...nor lacking fruit in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Then he gives a little warning, v 9: “But in the one in whom these things are not present is *spiritually* blind—so shortsighted *that* he has forgotten that he was purified from his old sins. For this reason, brethren, be even more diligent to make your calling and election sure; because *if* you are doing these things, you will never fall... [fall away from God] ...at any time. For in this way, you will be richly granted an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ” (vs 9-11).

So this is what we need to do. ‘**When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice.**’ *So we need to prepare for that time right now and here are the steps to do it.*

Scriptural References:

- 1) Revelation 17:6
- 2) Jeremiah 5:1-5
- 3) Daniel 4:1-8, 15-17
- 4) Proverbs 28:15-16
- 5) Daniel 4:24-27, 29-31, 34-37
- 6) Psalm 11:1-3
- 7) 1-Corinthians 3:11-17
- 8) Psalm 11:4-7
- 9) Psalm 12:1-8
- 10) Proverbs 30:21-23
- 11) Proverbs 29:2
- 12) Luke 19:11-27
- 13) 2-Peter 1:1-11

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Joel 2
- Jeremiah 18
- Isaiah 40
- Daniel 2
- Psalm 91
- Revelation 2; 3; 22
- Matthew 24

Also referenced:

Sermon Series:

- *The Washing of the Water by the Word*
- *Satan the Devil* (churchathome.com)

Books:

- *Foxe’s Book of Martyrs* by John Foxe
- *Stephens Text of 1550*
- *Win: The Key Principles to Take Your Business from Ordinary to Extraordinary* by Frank I. Luntz

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