

# Appointed Time Ministries

Yea, the stork in heaven knoweth

her appointed times .. Jer. 8:7



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## God's Government

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- In the reign of Jesus upon the earth there will not be even a trace of deception or the influence from the government to do evil.
- Global pressure is mounting to force Israel to reduce its borders in order to form a Palestinian State.
- It is not enough just to know the truth, you must continue in it to have a breakthrough.

Some have attempted to make the Lord's Prayer an Old Testament prayer because of the phrase "lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil." The reason being is that since Jesus' death and resurrection, we have already been delivered in Him (Col. 1:13). Over 2000 years ago, Jesus told us to pray this way: "Thy will be done, Thy kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven" (Matt. 6:10), and He has never told us to stop! When you understand that Jesus' prayer was about the kingdom of God, or the government of God, coming to earth, the phrase makes perfect sense in light of thousands of years of failed governments.

I would even dare to say that Jesus does not agree with the argument that you should not legislate morality. Jesus deals with the argument from the reverse direction showing that government officials can in fact lead constituents into temptation. I really hope no one would be so naïve to think that with the legalization of abortion

and government funding of Planned Parenthood that none would be emboldened to take abortion as a way out of an unexpected pregnancy. Oh yes, government officials have much influence over people for evil, but in the reign of Jesus upon the earth there will not be even a trace of deception or the influence from government to do evil. Morality will be legislated, for God's law will be the law of the land (Is. 2:3). True, that does not mean that everyone will be moral just because it is the law of the land whether in the millennial or today. The scripture is clear that during this time, just as always, God gives man freedom to choose and there will be those who reject Christ, even in the millennial age.

*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this. Is. 9:6-7KJV*

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## Redefining Democracy

With all that has transpired since New Year's, sorting out the uprisings in the Middle East has become a difficult task. After much prayer and researching many news reports, I have come to the conclusion, for the Christian, we must keep our eyes on how all of these events affect Israel. This however, is not the focus of the world system, and perhaps the most disturbing part of all this is that the powers that be, especially our government, are praising the shifting of power in the Middle East as a triumph for "democracy." I am not in favor of the oppressive regimes, but the question

that no one seems to be able to answer is who will replace these leaders?

The United States' top diplomat, Hillary Clinton, says the uprisings are a "great reminder of the power of the human spirit and the universal desire for freedom and human rights and democracy." To the Iranians she praised the "courage" and "aspirations" of the anti-government protest and called for that government to be more open in its political process. Iran criticized her remarks and squashed the protests that were in support of Libya and Egypt in its own country. The foreign minister of Iran, observing our gov-

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## God's Government (cont.)

Christians clearly identify this beautiful passage with Jesus Christ, the Son of God, but the Jews in Jesus' day, familiar with this and other prophecies, did not. By forcing an interpretation that was entirely physical, it is not so hard to see how the Jews could have missed what Messiah was all about. It is interesting that Jesus told us that the kingdom of God did not come by observation and that it was within or in the heart of man (Luke 17:20-21). At the same time, He also told us to pray for it to come to earth, He spoke of people sitting down with Him in the kingdom (Luke 22:29-30), and He also told of a day that He would invite those at His right-hand to "come" and "inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world" (Matt. 25:34). So the kingdom is both here, and it is to come. The kingdom is both spiritual (within), and it is to come (physically) one day in the future.

What type of government will be upon this King seated on the eternal throne of David? Will it be another like the ruthless empires of the past, or will it be like the oppressive bureaucracies of today? No, it will be the government of God, and of "the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end." In His government there will be no more nuclear arms races, no more military academies, and no more taxing the people to pay for a defense budget and to pay off war debts, for the Word declares "they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more" (Is. 2:4). To amplify this time of peace even more, Isaiah foretells that when earth's true King comes to reign, "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb," "the lion shall eat straw like the ox," and parents won't even have to fear a child playing "on the hole of the asp" or even sticking their hand on the snakes den (Is. 11:6-8).

This glorious time of God's true government on earth reveals much about the will of God for the nations, or putting it differently, it reveals just how unscriptural the present trend of sacrificing one's national sovereignty and defenses in the name of a devilish one world government with its false promises of "peace

and safety" really is. First of all, King Jesus does not campaign on the one world government ticket calling for all to give up their sovereign rights to govern and join the one world coalition with the Antichrist. Nations will keep their identities and sovereignty in His kingdom although going against Christ will be futile. It appears that nations will keep their God-given borders as well.

Another deception that the millennial reign clarifies for us is that strong government, not some weak socialist government or even democracy for that matter, will be a key ingredient for the peaceful reign of Christ, for He will rule with a rod of iron (Ps. 2:9). From the days of Israel's first king Saul, God through the prophet tells them that they have rejected Him as king (1 Sam. 10:19). In the millennial reign again we see that God's form of government is theocracy. Only this time it won't be God as the invisible King of Israel, it will be God's Son as the King of the earth, and His law will flow from Jerusalem throughout the whole earth (Is. 2:3). At this time the forced one world religion of the Beast, False Prophet, and the Antichrist during the Tribulation has vanished at the appearing of the true Christ (Rev. 17), and Christ worship will be mandatory. During the millennial reign, there is no mention of false religions, for the devil, the source of the false religion and false prophets, will be bound and will not be able to deceive the nations again until he is released at the end of the 1000 years. Only the unregenerate heart of man that refuses to accept Christ can be blamed for the evil in that day.

At this point, another deception about judgment and punishment is dispelled. Some have made a poor attempt to explain away passages in the Bible where we see that God judged, destroyed, or smote someone for sin. They would say, "God would not destroy or smite anyone, for He would simply lift His hand of protection and the devil would do the dirty work." Well, that theology falls apart in the millennial reign, for the devil and his imps are nowhere to be found. First of all before His reign begins, Jesus will smite the ones that fought against Jerusalem with a plague whereby their flesh is consumed while still standing on their feet (Zech. 14:12). Secondly, we see that every nation that refuses

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## God's Government (cont.)

to come and worship Jesus in the world's capital will be cursed with "no rain" (Zech. 14:17). If a Jesus that curses still offends your theology just take a look at the fig tree that Jesus cursed (Mark 11:21). There are other scriptures as well that warn us of the dangers of drinking in the blessings of God and not producing fruit if you just look for them. We can avoid the curse, operate in the kingdom of God now, and inherit the kingdom of God in the future (1 Cor. 6:9-10) by simply submitting to the government of God. We must hear His voice and harden not our hearts "while it is called today" (Heb. 3:13, 15).



## Redefining Democracy (cont.)

ernment's lack of clarity on these sudden shifts in the region, responded: the "regional developments have made the U. S. officials confused these days."

Since the change of power in Egypt, the Muslim Brotherhood's political party has been declared legal by Cairo on June 1<sup>st</sup> according to the state news agency MENA. Until the recent changes in power the Muslim Brotherhood was officially illegal although tolerated under President Hosni Mubarak. The group was set up in 1928 and banned in 1954 due to questions about its involvement in a series of political assassinations in the 1950s. Not that President Obama has gone to congress on the "conflict" in Libya that our troops are involved in, but that was the very concern that members of his own party voiced against his move, that of not knowing who the opposition really is. Now it is clear that those concerns were valid with the ban being lifted off of the Muslim Brotherhood for Egypt at least.

While the White House is heralding the pro-democracy protests and the use of the social media by the younger generation, Israel is mourning the loss of the only good neighbor they had. Reuter's reports that the daily Maariv, an Israeli newspaper, questioned who was advising the White House "to fuel the mob raging in the streets of Egypt and to demand the head of the person who five minutes ago was the bold ally of the president ... an almost lone voice of sanity in

a Middle East? The politically correct diplomacy of American presidents throughout the generations ... is painfully naive."

Joel Rosenberg identifies Mubarak (former Egyptian leader), Gadhafi (Libya's leader on the run), and Assad (the Syrian leader under fire) as "classic resisters" in a much bigger picture that he calls a "revolution" in the Middle East. In his book, *Inside the Revolution*, he uncovers the 1979 beginning of the first Islamic republic, Iran, as the thrust behind this revolution. He is not alone in his assessment. In the recent uprisings on the streets, many have questioned Iran's involvement. Since Mubarak has stepped down, Iran's warships were permitted by Egypt for the first time to pass through the Suez Canal into the Mediterranean Sea to a Syrian port. On February 23<sup>rd</sup> in an article entitled *Iran's celebrating Mubarak downfall with Suez crossing*, Haaretz reported that in the past Israel had been permitted to go in the opposite direction to the Persian Gulf to deter Iran. Analysts say, this "could show the direction that the military caretakers intend to take the Arab world's most populous nation." In the case of Egypt, it is clear why Iran would support such uprisings (and may even be sponsoring them) in order to remove the "resisters" and advance their revolutionary to cause to usher in the Mahdi and establish a caliphate (Muslim state ruled by a single caliph).

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## Redefining Democracy (cont.)

In a move against the only true democratic state and our closest ally in the Middle East, President Obama goes on record as being the first U.S. president to endorse the pre-1967 borders of Israel in order to place the Palestinian-Israeli peace talks back on track that have been stalled for some time now. This startling change in Washington's stance on Israeli relations came near the end of the president's speech heralding the protests for "democracy" heard throughout the Middle East since the beginning 2011. Etinger's comments, an Israeli Analyst, shows how Obama and Netanyahu's definition of democracy clash: "The gap won't be spanned as long as the President assumes that the ethnic, religious, tribal and ideological violent power struggles on the Arab street constitute 'a story of self-determination' and 'the vanguard of democracy.'" Etinger goes on to say that while Mr. Obama continues to receive advice from his pro-Arab advisors and assume that the Israel-PLO issue is the "root cause of Middle East turbulence, the core cause of anti-U.S. Islamic terrorism, and the crown jewel of Arab policy-making" the gap between the two heads will remain. Etinger claims that the focus should rather be on the "hate-education in Abu Mazen's schools, media and mosques."

The White House is obviously not seeing these events from the Israeli perspective. Mr. Netanyahu came to the U.S. just days after Mr. Obama's bombshell speech to sit down and discuss how to resume the peace talks with the PLO. Mr. Netanyahu addressed our congress afterwards by saying that these pre-1967 borders for his small nation amongst so many hostile neighbors were "indefensible." Although Mr. Obama continues to vow to stand with Israel and protect her, it does not seem that Israel's security and wellbeing is the priority here.

I certainly hope that Etinger is wrong, but it does appear that he is on to something when he asserts that with the pro-Arab counsel that this administration is adhering to, they think that Israeli-PLO conflict is the "root cause" of the Middle East turbulence and "the crown jewel of Arab policy-making." Just days after this change in direction for Washington,

the E. U. chimed in to throw their support for the president's endorsement. This will surely serve to strengthen this demonic plot to pressure Israel to capitulate under global pressure all in the name of "peace."

Although it is impossible to determine what the president's ambitions truly are, we do know that the key event to usher in the period known as the Tribulation will be the signing of a seven-year peace contract with Israel (Dan. 9:27), and that the Antichrist will have accomplished the greatest political feat ever when he brings Israel and her neighbors to the table to sign the covenant of peace. Israel is certainly not in agreement with the president's endorsement at this time, but the direction of the world leaders is clear. It is expected that the U.N. General Assembly will vote this September on granting statehood to Palestine if the Palestinian Authority drums up enough support with or without a peace agreement. Pressure from the global community is certainly mounting from all sides. With these startling turn of events, the most pressing question is: if Jesus comes back today, will you be ready to meet Him?

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*The Anti-christ will have accomplished the greatest political feat ever when he brings Israel and her neighbors to the table to sign the covenant of peace.*

## Appointed Times



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The birds and the turtles know what God commanded them to do, and they obey Him. It is God's people that seem to have the problem! The Bible tells us in Jer. 5:22, "The waves may toss and roar, but they can never pass the boundaries I set," but in these last days, many of God's people are pushing the limits! Jesus, referring to the time before His return prophesied, "because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold" (Matt. 24:12).

In Jer. 5:1, God challenged someone to search throughout the streets of Jerusalem and see "if ye can find a man, if there be any that executeth judgment, that seeketh the truth; and I will pardon it." God was willing to spare that holy city if He could just find a single man with judgment and that sought the truth. Sadly enough, God did not find that person. They refused God's warning and suffered greatly under God's hand of judgment.

It is my prayer that we would be the people that God was looking for and know the judgment of God. Not in the way that the people of God in Jeremiah's time came to know it, but that we would know God's judgments as taught in His Word and correct ourselves accordingly, so "that we should not be condemned with the world" (1 Cor. 11:31-32).

*Pastor Kent Evans*

## Prophetic Watch:

### How do we Know it is the Last Days?

*Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us. 1 John 2:18-19*

Last issue, we looked at a group in First John that left the church and how this is still a major problem in the church today. John said that this group left because "they were not of us." Of is defined as a prepositional phrase denoting origin. 1 John 4:4 gives us a better understanding of this term, "Ye are of God little children." The NIV translates this as "they did not belong to us." Hence we said those that left had a belonging problem.

Next John said, "if they had been of us, they no doubt would have continued with us." It is tempting to try and place this group in the "lost" category. Although that maybe true in some cases, a closer look at the continuing problem yields another distinction. John records Jesus' requirements for true disciples: "If you continue in my word, then are you my disciples indeed" (Jn. 8:31). They may have named the name of Christ, but one thing for certain is that they had not yet answered the call to discipleship. A disciple is both a learner and a follower of Jesus. Each time Jesus called someone to discipleship they were required to give up something and make a commitment. Commitment is an ingredient hard to find in the modern church and is another contributing

factor to the church hopping epidemic that John identifies with the wave of antichrist spirits released in the last days.

Recently Dr. Creflo Dollar corrected a common misconception in the Church concerning truth. He said, "It is not the truth that you know that will set you free; rather, it is the truth that you continue in that will set you free." John further explains the importance of continuing this way: "If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye shall continue in the Son, and in the Father" (2:24). If you want more light you must walk in that which you presently have. If you want a breakthrough you must consistently put into practice the teachings that you have received "from the beginning."

The Church would do well to heed the advice of the old adage "don't change oars in the middle of the stream." Loyalty was a characteristic of generations past, but today "choice" and "change" would best describe the prevailing mindset. Today, sad to say, many are more concerned with the celebrity-factor or the size more so than the doctrinal soundness of a church. Many today would rather "sit under the Word" than to plug in and serve in the church. Still others, change churches like telephone companies when things don't go their way. Although people in this category today may have named the name of Christ, they aren't disciples because they have no staying power. While they exercise their right of "choice," they fail to understand their God-assignment in the local body. This group will never prosper in the things of God, for they have never been planted in the house of God (Ps. 92:13).