

DEC 2008

# STRAIGHT TALK

*"Americans live in unfathomable states of ignorance. We have been robbed blind, yet we still can't acknowledge the theft of our money, our livelihoods, our children, our nation, and our future."* (Nancy Levant)

## WHERE THERE IS NO VISION

### "IF YOU WILL NOT HARKEN ..."

What would you call someone who gets punished but doesn't realize he is being punished? A dunce? A numbskull? A dullard? A dimwit?

How about calling him "blind" and "lawless"? How about calling him an American citizen? Would that work?

Let's see ... what can we find in Scripture about people who receive God's chastisement but don't have enough sense to realize that God is trying to tell them something?

**14. But if you will not hearken to me, and will not do all these commandments;**

**15. And if you shall despise my statutes, or if your soul abhor my judgments, so that you will not do all my commandments, but that you break my covenant:**

**16. I also will do this to you; I will even appoint over you terror, consumption, and the burning fever, that shall consume the eyes, and cause sorrow of heart: and you shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it.**

**17. And I will set my face against you, and you shall be slain before your enemies: they that hate you shall reign over you; and you shall flee when none pursue you.**

**18. And if you will not yet for all this hearken to me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins.**

**... 23. And if you will not be reformed by me by these things, but will walk contrary to me;**

**24. Then will I also walk contrary to you, and will punish you yet seven times for your sins.**

**... 27. And if you will not for all this hearken to me, but walk contrary to me;**

**28. Then I will walk contrary to you also in fury; and I, even I, will chastise you seven times for your sins.**

**... 32. And I will bring the land into desolation: and your enemies which dwell therein shall be astonished at it.**

**33. And I will scatter you among the heathen, and will draw out a sword after you: and your land shall be desolate, and your cities waste.**

Lev. 26:14-33

You should read the entire chapter of Leviticus 26. It

explains in painful detail how God deals with his people when they become insensitive to corrective punishment.

### THE ANSWER

*"Where there is no vision the people are loosed (i.e., undisciplined): but he that keeps the law, happy is he."*

Proverbs 29:18

In the above scripture the KJV translators inserted "perish" instead of "loosed." The Hebrew word (**para'**) literally means "loosed" (i.e., without self-restraint). In other instances where this Hebrew word (**para'**) appears the KJV translated it "naked," "uncover," "avoid," "refuse," "bare," "let" (i.e., loose). Obviously, "perish" is not the best translation.

Consider the implications. "Vision" is the ability to discern and analyze in depth, to thoughtfully and honestly evaluate. Vision is a gift, a blessing from God. People with "vision" are able to make sense of the world around them ... because they trust God to guide their thinking.

In contrast, the lack of "vision" indicates being "loosed" or disconnected from God. This is lawlessness: lack of self-discipline. It is a state of mind that leaves men mentally-crippled, resulting in people who won't learn. These people devolve into ignorance and darkness.

Such people do not prefer God's word because it compels them to examine themselves. The lack of "vision" leads to a debilitating dull-mindedness, unhappiness and disconnection from God.

To the dull mind of the ungodly, punishment is ineffective. Those who are ungodly receive punishment but they do not learn from it or benefit by it.

*"A slave will not be corrected by words: for though he perceives, he will not answer."*

Proverbs 29:19

Willing slaves are not interested in improving themselves. They pay no attention to words or to punishment.

They are without “vision” and are reduced to conscienceless dullards; followers of their bellies. They will not learn wisdom nor will they improve their lives by embracing truth.

## THE QUESTION

Now that I have given you the answer, allow me to give you the question. It is this: **WHY IS IT THAT REPEATED PUNISHMENTS HAVE HAD NO CORRECTIVE EFFECT UPON AMERICANS?**

How many spankings do Americans require before they will admit something is wrong? Why do they continue to take beating after beating – punishment after punishment – and never realize that someone is trying to tell them something? Why would any people continue living in slavery and shame and never question the reason for their degraded and diminishing existence?

Why can't Americans acknowledge that they are under punishment, and admit that they support and enable a criminal government system? Why can't Americans see that their lives are losing value? Why can't they see the need to seek higher spiritual ground instead of continually sliding further down, down into the sewage and stench of politics, church, debt and slavery?

Why do slavish people accept and believe the lies of their captors? **It is a pitiful state of affairs when the ones responsible for a nation's troubles are believed to be its saviors.**

The answer is Proverbs 29:18-19. Americans in general have no “vision.” They are “naked” and “loosed” ... separated from God. They view Him as a myth ... like Santa Claus.

## BABYLON DOESN'T KNOW SHE IS BABYLON

*“Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.”*

Rev. 18:2

You undoubtedly recognize the above quote from the Book of Revelation. It depicts a fallen nation ... not the Babylon of ancient history, but the fallen woman of contemporary America.

The term “Babylon” is used in Scripture to symbolize nations that are wealthy, powerful, corrupt, profligate and wicked ... as was the ancient Babylon in Mesopotamia (the land “between two rivers” – i.e., the Tigris and Euphrates – the land now called Iraq).

Babylon of old ruled her world. By worldly standards, she was the shining city ... the most advanced and admired empire of the day. But by godly standards, she was a fallen woman – a whore, corrupt and foul. Why, then, was she so admired and worshipped? The answer is not so difficult. Corrupt and foul people admire corrupt and foul rulers and their empires.

The most ruthless and talented murderers and con men gravitate to the center of corruption. They seek the centers and climates that accommodate their own proclivities. Today that center is Washington DC.

The best thieves gravitate to Wall Street and London.

The degenerates, worshippers of flesh, and those who have no self-worth gravitate to Hollywood.

These degenerate souls are not intentionally seeking their own demise. They are not knowingly wanting to destroy themselves. They actually think they are improving their chances of success and happiness. The problem is, they are driven by their godless bellies; their lower nature (the “belly” - Gen. 3:14).

Their lower nature has no capacity to understand the ways of God, thus it drives them to pursue cheap illusions and lies. In their diminished, depraved capacity they think they are improving their lives by seeking the lower things of life ... the things that appeal to their lust and greed. Indeed, the devils that rule them have programmed them to think this way ... and they have swallowed the poison because they have no “vision.” They have accepted the lies of Babylon. They run happily into Pinocchio's Pleasure Island ... thinking they will find happiness and fulfillment.

This scenario is a composite picture of Babylon ... **and of America!** This is the sad truth of our current dilemma. America merely reflects the moral depravity and intellectual emptiness of her citizens who emulate her liars, corrupters, destroyers, murderers, thieves, and spoilers. This is the obvious answer to how we got where we are today. How else can it be explained that the most vile and corrupt (politicians, bankers, athletes, movie stars) are the highest paid and most revered among us?

Americans have lost their “vision.” They are “loosed” from God. They seek Babylonian government, Babylonian entertainment, Babylonian economics, Babylonian ideals, and over the years they have turned America into Babylon.

Visionless Americans, alienated from God, do not know when they are being punished or blessed. God punishes them, over and over, and they can't even recognize it. They are dull of mind and spirit. This is most obviously demonstrated in their politics and religions.

## WAR & “PROTECTION”

The government and the churches tell Americans that war is necessary to protect us and maintain the “American way of life.” Government tells us that war is caused by outsiders (terrorists) threatening to hurt Americans. We are told that government is our protection from these bad guys. And Americans believe this! They believe it in spite of the fact that 100% of the evidence shows just the opposite ... that the so-called “terrorists” are always agents of the government, trained and programmed to be “terrorists” for the purpose of threatening citizens and making us think we need government to protect us.

In America's short history her government has killed approximately two million of her own young men in wars (nearly a million in the “Civil War,” a hundred-thousand in World War I, a half-million in World War II, sixty thousand in Vietnam, and we don't know yet how many dead will result from Iraq and Afghanistan – not to mention the many who have died in undeclared and undisclosed military operations over the past century.). God only knows how many millions

more of America's sons have had their lives wrecked by the trauma and effects of being forced into unjust wars.

Government, for its own purposes and profits, has not only killed and destroyed these young Americans, it has also turned millions of them into murderers and criminals. God only knows how many victims (mostly civilians) in the invaded countries have been slain unnecessarily ... estimates show over sixteen million in World War II alone.

On top of all that, the government has created an abortion industry and encourages Americans to murder their own babies by the millions.

How much punishment will it take to get the attention of Americans? Americans continue to believe and support the government in spite of the fact that all evidence shows that government itself is the greatest, and often the ONLY, enemy of the people.

What causes Americans to fall for this unconscionable lie? It is because Americans have lost their "vision."

### **WHO DO WE TRUST?**

How can we each know for sure whether or not we fall into the category of the visionless? It is important to ask ... because the visionless NEVER think they are visionless.

So how can we know? Well, perhaps the one best test is to ask yourself WHO DO YOU TRUST. Ask yourself this question, and answer it honestly.

When you look at America today do you see things as "normal"? Are you unalarmed? Is it merely "business as usual"? Are you content to sit back and let your children grow up in this society? Does it bother you if your children think this society as normal and OK?

These are tough questions to answer. Don't take this for granted. Who do you really trust? People tend to quickly state that they don't trust the government. But these same people, without thinking about it, rely upon government and banks for nearly everything in daily life.

Who do YOU turn to FIRST when you feel threatened or in need? Who do you fear when you break a law? WHO DO YOU TRUST to keep you safe and secure? Who do you trust to keep you informed; to define what is acceptable and what is not acceptable; to protect your assets; to protect your freedom; to protect your children; to protect your health; to protect your way of life; to insure your future?

Who do you trust to educate you? Who do you trust to decide the values and morals that are being programmed into your family? Who do you trust to take care of you in your old age? Who do you trust to provide access to food, electricity, and the roads? Who do you rely upon for physical protection and security? Whose LAWS do you trust? Who do you trust to enforce those laws? Who do you trust to keep and protect your money?

Aren't you nearly 100% dependant upon government and banks? Aren't you nearly 100% Babylonian? Where does God fit into your daily life? In what part of your daily existence do you look to God's laws?

Do you begin to see the pit into which Americans have fallen? Are you able to admit that YOU are in that pit?

### **"WE HAVE MET THE ENEMY, AND THEY IS US!"**

The above quote from the old Pogo comic strip of the '50's is exactly right. We Americans have met the enemy ... and they is US! We have done it to ourselves. Our fathers and grandfathers began migrating away from God, and toward Babylon ... and our present generation is continuing the tradition. The further we separate ourselves from God, the more lawless and blind and pitiful we become as a society ... and we are increasingly dependant upon the criminals and charlatans who run our governments, our banks, and our churches.

It is said that you can't cheat an honest man. Likewise Babylon could not have prospered among honest people. Dishonest citizens are prey for politicians who know how to manipulate them. The typical American sees government as a tool with which to better himself at the expense of his neighbor. He is willing to take advantage of his neighbor as long as it is "legal" ... and a slick lawyer can make it legal.

Americans, like the Jews of 1st-century Jerusalem, have "*no king but Caesar*" (Jn. 19:15) ... but few will admit it.

### **IS CAESAR THE "AUTHORITY"**

People today who call themselves "Christians" usually site "the government" as their authority. Churches have taught Americans that God wants them to respect government. They claim, "*The Bible says so in Romans 13.*"

The churches have programmed American churchgoers with this idiotic lie. And visionless Americans lack the mental clarity or curiosity to analyze it. It doesn't take a lot of brain power ... but it does take a measure of honesty and decency. And, alas, these are rare attributes in America these days.

No Bible student with half a brain could think that God wants his people to obey government.

Did God want Moses and his people to obey government in Egypt? Did God want the three "Hebrew children" to obey Nebuchadnezzar (Dan. 3:18)? Did God want Jesus to obey the Sanhedrin in Jerusalem? Did Jesus want his ecclesia to obey Roman government while Nero was tossing them to the lions? Did God want colonial Americans to obey the King of England? At the time of the "Civil War" in America, which government did God want his people to obey – the North or the South? Did God want his people in the USSR to obey Lenin and Stalin? Did God want German christians to obey Hitler? When the US Government commands its military to kill innocent families in other countries, does God want them to obey without question?

Does God want you to honor and obey a government that lies and covers up truth, and has given you one economic crash after another, plunging the country into depressions and recessions; steals your wealth through wars, taxes and usury ... creating billions for themselves and debts and slavery for us ... then lies about the cause of the wars and why we must support them? Each time a "national emergency" occurs, the government tells us that only government can fix the problem and that we must sacrifice to government so they can fix it. And each time they take more freedom and wealth away from us while amassing



more and more wealth and power to themselves.

How many American boys need to be sacrificed in wars before their parents ask who benefits from wars? Americans have lost sons, daughters, homes, freedom, and hope because politicians and preachers demanded that they sacrifice them to government. When will Americans realize that politicians and preachers are jackals? They are PUNISHMENTS from God upon his wayward people.

Do you see? This series of questions could go on and on, page after page. The astounding absurdity of the theory that God wants his people to obey wicked government is beyond stupidity! Who could ever come up with such an astounding, contemptible lie? Worse yet, who could be so empty-headed as to believe the lie?

Answer: government-sanctioned churches came up with it ... and the churchgoers believed it.

I do not write these things merely to belittle Americans. Rather, I write my critical analysis in hopes that some Americans might read them and decide to ask the questions ... and begin to find answers. I admit, however, that in a time of distress nothing is more contemptible to me than complacent sycophants who won't question government.

## ROMANS 13

OK. Here we go. It is time again for me to explain Romans 13. I covered it at length in my series: LETTER TO THE ROMANS, available from ACM (\$10), or free for study on my website <[www.benwilliamslibrary.com](http://www.benwilliamslibrary.com)>. You need to know how to stand against the lies of the churches. The answer is simple, logical, and understandable ... but you'll never hear the truth from the churches or from churchgoers.

Romans 13 is usually cited by churchgoers against anyone who criticizes government. They'll tell you, "God commands us in Romans 13 to obey government."

So, what exactly does Romans 13 say about obeying government? Well, it doesn't say what the churches claim it says ... that's for sure.

Let's start by looking at the King James Version rendition since that is the one most people read. Admittedly, the KJV rendition DOES indeed tell us to obey government. But the KJV is only a VERSION ... and it is wrong.

Romans 13: (KJV)

1. *"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God."*

2. *"Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation."*

As you can see, King James certainly wanted people to obey government (the power). But remember ... King James WAS THE GOVERNMENT in 1611 when he published his VERSION. Lets see now ... would you expect the OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT VERSION of the Bible to tell people to obey government? I would think so.

The KJV is rife with mistranslations ... some by error, and many by design. I suspect Romans 13 was by design.

Starting in Romans 13:1 in the KJV, the first critical mistranslation is the word "**powers**." The correct translation is "**authorities**." When you get this one word correct, and understand its meaning, the following verses fall into logical order and make perfect sense.

The correct translation is:

1. *"Let every soul subject himself to the higher authorities, for there is no authority except of God: the authorities that exist have been ordained of God."*

2. *"Therefore anyone who opposes the authority is standing against the order of God: and they that oppose (God's order) shall receive judgment to themselves."*

The crux of this teaching is the word "**authority**." "Authority" cannot exist except of God. The KJV wrongly inserted "**powers**." What's the difference? The difference is HUGE, and you need to know.

The Greek word Paul used was "**exousia**." "Exousia" is "authority," not "power." If Paul had meant "power" he would have used the Greek word "**dynamis**."

"**Dynamis**" is intrinsic strength; inherent power or ability. "**Exousia**," on the other hand, is delegated authority.

Power is not authority. Authority is NEVER intrinsic or inherent. Authorization always comes from up the chain of authority. Authority must be delegated. An authority cannot authorize itself. It must be handed down from a higher source. Authority always flows down the chain of authority ... never upwards.

Paul explains that every soul should subject himself to **the higher authorities**. He also says that there are NO authorities except of God. In other words, **TRUE AUTHORITIES CANNOT EXIST EXCEPT IN GOD'S SYSTEM**.

Who, then, are "the authorities" to whom we are to subject ourselves? Answer: "**ALL AUTHORITY is given to Me (Jesus) in heaven and in earth**" (Mtt. 28:18). Yahweh delegated **ALL AUTHORITY TO AND THROUGH JESUS**. That means there are **NO** authorities except through Jesus.

Therefore, anyone who claims to be an "authority" by any delegation other than through Jesus is a **FALSE AUTHORITY** ... and therefore no authority at all. A "power" can exist on its own, but an "authority" cannot. A "power" can be anyone with muscle. Any thug or dictator can be a "power," but only those delegated by Jesus are "authorities."

What then are politicians and governments of men? **They are mere "powers" ... with muscle. They are not authorized through Jesus. They have NO AUTHORITY!**

There is only one chain of authority, and that is under Jesus. The "higher authorities" to whom Paul refers in Rom. 13:1 are elders and leaders authorized by Jesus. **THEY ARE NOT POLITICIANS. THEY ARE NOT BANKERS. THEY ARE NOT CHURCH LEADERS.**

Go to <[www.benwilliamslibrary.com](http://www.benwilliamslibrary.com)> and read my study on Romans 13 with over a dozen pages explaining the point. **GOD DOES NOT COMMAND US TO OBEY DEVILS!**

Pray for repentance in America!

