Conservative or Liberal Tyranny

Though this mailing is a little late for the 4th of July, we still think of the month of July as a month to celebrate freedom and liberty. Therefore, let us examine freedom a little.

We are confronted on every side with conservative politics vs liberal politics. Which will provide freedom? Which will protect from tyranny? Modern thinking equates freedom and liberty with conservatism, but will "conservatism" prevent tyranny?

Consider the following facts about the modern conservative movement:

Conservatives have a standard:

I (& probably millions of others) received a 1993 NATIONAL ISSUES SURVEY from Sen Bob Dole (for the American Conservative Union. Actually, it was a fund-raising letter). The theme of the letter, of course, was liberal vs. conservative, and, according to this letter, with my help of a donation of $10, $25, $50, $100 or more to the ACU, "the ACU will be able to help me take the battle to the liberals... With your help, the ACU will... reunite the political coalition that resulted in three consecutive conservative Presidential landslides."

Dole’s appeal closed:

"Together, we can move forward with confidence and courage. We can prove that we stand united and ready to fight the liberals and take back control of the Congress and the White House. Please join me and the ACU in our struggle to keep America strong, free and proud." (Ed. Free from tyranny?)

And thus, Dole upheld the Reagan years as the conservative standard. But consider:

"U.S. retains title as biggest debtor nation." (Crawfordsville Journal Review, July 1, 1993.) Washington (AP). To paraphrase a line form the old

Good News!

Religious Freedom in Russia?

"League of Prayer is one of 3 ministries from the States registered in Russia! Unregistered ministries, and there are hundreds, are illegal. The Ministry of Justice has announced it will begin closing these in 1993. Until registration is approved, a ministry can't legally rent, lease, buy secure a phone or FAX." From League of Prayer newsletter, PO Box 4038, Montgomery, Alabama 36103

ED-Don't let the "hype" fool you. According to this short statement, things continue as they were in the East. "Religious Freedom" exists only for those willing to register with the state and abide by public policy. (Where does this leave the ministries which are invited into Russia by the government?)

The West also is seeing the same thing: those who refuse to "register" with the state and proclaim public

ACUC

annual national meeting will be at Indianapolis Baptist Temple, Oct 4-6. □

song, the United States is another year older and deeper in debt.

America’s net debtor position — the difference between what Americans own overseas and what foreigners own in this country - deteriorated sharply in 1992, strengthening the United States’ hold on the title as the world’s biggest debtor nation, the Commerce Department said Wednesday.

As recently as 1983, America was the world’s largest creditor, with U.S. funds financing projects around the globe. But the flow of funds reversed as Americans developed an insatiable appetite for foreign goods and their government began to run large budget deficits. (Note: on a whole, the ’80s saw foreign goods of higher quality.)

Another “conservative” legacy is recorded in THE FREEMAN (Apl 93):

"In 1992, for the first time in U.S. history, the number of civilian government employees exceeded the number of workers in manufacturing industries. [This] stems from law and regulation and rests on the backs of the former. It depends on legislators, tax collectors, policemen, judges and jailers."

1983! Reagan was elected in 1980, and thus
began the Reagan Miracle” and the standard for conservative politics. Reagan's conservative policies sold America into slavery: Pr 22:7 The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower [is] servant to the lender.

Conservatives have a goal:

Bill Bennett prepared a report for The Heritage Foundation, and it was promoted over the Rush Limbaugh program. The report (& evidently Bennett) is as humanistic as any report that any flaming liberal could produce. Bennett proposed three legislation centered answers to America's ills which amounts to more laws and bigger government:

First, government should heed the old injunction, Do no harm. ...(Ed. True enough.) Second, political leaders can help shape social attitudes through public discourse and through social legislation. Perhaps the best recent example of how laws can give voice to our moral beliefs is the civil rights legislation of the 1950s and 1960s. Here was statecraft as soulcraft. We should do more of it. Third, a reform-minded and thoughtful legislative social agenda should include (Ed. some of his points): * A more effective and thorough criminal justice system, including more prisons... * A radical reform of education through national standards... a core curriculum... * Identification of the father of every child, by having states ensure that a document exists at birth to identify the name and social security number of both parents (Ed. this is the Childhood Immunization Bill)... This legislative agenda would have a positive impact.... (Emph added. “The Index of Leading Cultural Indicators,” The Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave., N.E. Washington, D.C. 20002-4999, pp. i-iii.)

Bennett is clearly calling for increased centralized civil government. Bennett, evidently desiring to carry the conservative flag, says that it is possible to obtain salvation by law: ie, political salvation, “statecraft as soulcraft.”

Certainly, we must agree that it is better to live under conservative policies, but we must also agree that the only difference between a conservative and liberal is his brand of socialism. Conservatives have a goal (which, by the way, is the same goal as the liberals): salvation through the right combination of laws.

And thus it is obvious! Both the conservative and the liberal agenda are two paths leading to the same goal - TYRANNY.

Conservative vs. Christian

Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ has made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage, Gal 5:1 (Gen 1:27, 28; 1 Cor 7:22, 23; Ja 1:25; 2:12.) Know you not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? Rom 6:16. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed, John 8:36.

- Observe:

1) liberty was bought by Christ on the cross. Christ is freedom, and there is no freedom apart from Him.

2) “unalienable rights” are a gift from God and make it possible for us to be free (at liberty) from the bondage of sin and earthly tyranny. “...in proportion as the minds of individuals are made free from sin, the virtues of the Gospel are practiced; oppression and tyranny must cease, and liberty revive and prevail...” Gad Hitchcock, Plymouth, MA, Dec 22, 1774.

3) the soul purpose of liberty must be for God’s service and glory.

4) when liberty is used to pursue man’s desires rather than to bring glory to God with whatsoever he does, tyranny must develop; nothing can stop it.

5) world-wide tyranny increases because individuals have departed from God. As the Christian culture dissolves, tyranny will take its place.

6) the only answer to tyranny is Christian liberty studied (#1 above) and applied; therefore, Samuel Adams, in 1772, said, “...The right to freedom being the gift of God Almighty... ‘the Rights of the Colonists as Christians’... may be best understood by reading and carefully studying the institutes of the Great Lawgiver... which are to be found clearly written and promulgated in the New Testament.”

There is no short cut, and every other effort to secure liberty and freedom other than studying and applying the law of Liberty has God’s curse against it, Ps 119:45; Pro 8:36.
• The Christian agenda

Both the conservative and the liberal agenda are leading to bondage. Nothing but tyranny is possible apart from the Christian culture. Therefore, Christians have only one agenda they can pursue: the world-wide cause of Christ, Matthew 28:18-20, And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, [even] unto the end of the world. Amen.

A Great Shaking
He 12:27, 28

While in the Post Office some time ago, I overheard a woman complaining about her ill health. When someone asked her what was wrong, she said she was suffering from burnout. She said she was terribly depressed, and the doctors told her she was still exhausted from Christmas. The application is obvious: Christianity is absent from society and the result is the lack of grace, or God’s power, to live from day to day. As a result of what I overheard, I wrote the little tract, "Peace does not come in Capsules" and put this message together.

We are living in some tremendous and exciting days as we see God’s hand at work against evil. Man continues to develop and build in areas without considering the laws of God, let alone abiding by them. We now have a president openly opposing all that Christianity has stood for.

In every area, economic, education, political, national, family, vocational, religious, judicial, whatever we can name, rebellious man has sought to build apart from God. All we need do is look around us to see all these areas coming apart. The godless answers that appeared to work in the past are failing as these areas crumble. As Christians, this crumbling should excite us because we know from Scripture that the falling of these man-made areas is a sure sign of God’s sovereignty and justice. He is shaking to their very foundation all areas built without Him. (Isa 26:9, pray for the anti god areas to fall.)

This law of God’s shaking against sin is found in many places in His word, but the one we want to consider is Isaiah 13:10-13. Shaking, a common figure of speech in Scripture, refers to the Lord’s movement against sin. Isaiah shows that God’s shaking is both unavoidable and representative of His judgment against the sins of the world’s inhabitants.

• Shake – OT

First, let us establish the OT meaning of the word shake.

Isa 13:13, shake... Its primary meaning is to quake or shake, from which we get the idea of shaking in anger, fear or anticipation. From its range of usages, it is clear that the term quake or shake refers to the agitation itself, and the underlying emotion causing the quaking or shaking can only be recognized from the context of the word.

Shake or quake can describe the literal quaking of the earth (eg.1 Sam 14:15), but more often, “quaking” is a poetic expression such as the quaking of the mountains before the thunderstorm which marks the Lord’s coming; the heavens and earth are shaken to the foundations because of His wrath, Ps 18:7. Shake or quake expresses the trembling of the world’s inhabitants before God’s appearance in judgment, Isa 64:2; Joel 2:1. Furthermore, shaking may express the idea of disturbing or giving unrest, Jer 50:34. Often the term shake or quake is used as a symbol of God’s movement against sin in His wrath. Shake and tremble speak of some kind of violent activity, but not necessarily a literal shaking.

In Isa 5:25 and 13:13, tremble and shake speak of the overthrow of all systems against King Jesus and His law-word. This overthrow does not have to be a physical shaking. In fact, the overwhelming evidence is that this overthrow is not the result of a physical shaking; rather, the trembling and shaking describe God’s action which causes the crumbling of all systems in rebellion against Him and His law.

Isa 5:25, the hills did tremble identifies the movement of the Lord in judgment against HIS sinful people as they reap what they have sown contrary to the word of God (1 John 3:4). Isa 5:25b, describes His hope of their repentance, Rom 2:4-11.
Isa 13:13, shaking of the heavens and earth describes the action of God against the wicked of the whole world, v. 11. When we compare Isa 5:25 and Isa 13:13, we see that God’s movement against the ungodly world is more violent than His movement against His people. (In 5:25, the hills did tremble; whereas, in 13:13, I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place…) In Joel 2:10, we see that the more violent God’s movement against sin, the more violence in nature it is likened to.

Isaiah 14:16, the king of Babylon, called by the Lord Lucifer, son of the morning, overthrew the nations of the world. He didn’t cause earthquakes as such; rather, he overthrow all people, kingdoms and societies in his attempt to overthrow God Himself (we can read an outline of his efforts in Ps 2). This pagan king’s action against God is identified as causing the earth to tremble and kingdoms to shake. When this wicked king of Babylon is laid to rest in death, the whole earth is considered at rest, vs. 7, 8. Thus we see that God describes the overthrow of one order by another as a shaking or trembling, whether it is the ungodly overthrowing the godly or the godly overthrowing the ungodly. The overthrow can be either violent or non-violent.

The president and Mr. Clinton are causing the earth to tremble in their vain attempt to overthrow all remaining godly order in America.

But even though the kings and rulers of this world are causing the world to shake and tremble, the Lord of Hosts is in control; King Jesus is the great SHAKER of the world as He works all things according to the predetermined counsel of His own will, Acts 4:28.

The next word in Isa 13:13 is remove. Though it is remove in v. 13, the overwhelming usage elsewhere is shake or tremble – quaking, rattling. The word remove of Isa 13:13 is used extensively in contexts describing God’s sovereignty over the physical world. The passages using Isaiah’s word for remove (13:13) speak primarily of God’s movement, in His wrath and sovereignty, in judgment against sin, 2 Sam 22:8.

Many varieties of subjects are used with the word remove: Hag 2:6, 7, heaven, earth and the Gentile nations are to be shaken by God; in other passages, such as Joel 2:10, the earth shall quake. the heavens shall tremble... Jer 8:16 & Ez 26:10, identifies the movement of God’s rod of chastisement against His sinful people as a trembling. Furthermore, the Lord’s rod of chastisement which He used against His people was the pagan, God-hating nations (army).

Jer 4:24, tells us that a result of God’s judgment was the trembling of the hills. Jer 49:21 uses the term the earth is moved & Ez 26:15, uses the isles shake to describe the fall of the nations. Therefore, the greater the nation in military, political and economic strength, the greater the fall, and the greater the shaking that is required to bring it down.

All things are shaken in terms of hearing and doing the words of our Lord as given on both mounts, Sinai and the one of Mat 5. Therefore, those who have heard and are doing the word of the Lord are kept safe in this great shaking of all the powers of heaven and earth, 1 Chr 17:9. (moved no more... refers to the safety which is in Christ.)

We have seen that an army on the move is compared to a shaking, and the fall of nations is also compared with a shaking, so we are brought to a thought in Ez 37:7: the word Hebraic shaking is derived from the Hebraic word remove of Isa 13:13. Thus the implication is that the judgement (or shaking, moving, trembling) of God against sin both inside and outside the church will unite His people as a mighty army for the cause of Christ.

Joel 1 (vs. 6, 15), clearly speaks of the heathen nations doing the will of their Commander and Chief, the Lord Jesus Christ. When Joel 3:15, 16, 17 (shake is the same word as remove in Isa 13:13, quaking, rattling) is compared with Heb 12:22, the implication is of the wicked falling before the power of the Gospel which goes out from the New Mount Zion, the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ. Furthermore, it implies that as the law-word of God is proclaimed from the NT Church under the mighty power of the Spirit of God, the ungodly nations are overthrown (cf. 1 Cor 1:18; 2:5); that overthrowing of the nations by the word of God is compared to a great shaking.
Now note the order of the context: before Joel 3:16, 17, takes place, Joel 2:28 takes place. In Acts 2:16, 17, Peter plainly tells the Israelites that what they are seeing and experiencing at the first preaching of the gospel was the fulfillment of Joel 2:28. If we stay with the context, the events predicted after Joel 2 (Joel 3), therefore, are events which take place after the time Peter spoke. Thus, we are living in the last days as described by Joel, Paul and Christ! It is a time for warfare against wickedness and ungodliness, and that warfare must be carried on by preaching the Gospel of Christ (Acts 2:17; 2 Tim 3:1; He 1:2).

Our last OT reference is Hag 2:6, 7, 21. I will shake... speaks of God shaking everything which opposes His Kingdom. As a result of God's shaking, all will be subdued to the King of kings and to the Kingdom of God.

Now to make an important connection: Heaven, earth and the Gentile nations are to be shaken by God, Haggai 2:6, 7 (which is the same word as Isaiah uses in 13:13 - remove). The author of Hebrews quotes this passage from Hag 2 in Heb 12:25, 26. Therefore, we must consider it as it is tied to Isaiah 13:13. The shaking of Heb 12 describes Jehovah God's movement in history against sin as He overthrows all opposition to the Lord and His Christ.

- **Shake – OT Overview**

  The word **shake** in the NT means: of the motion produced by winds, storms, waves, etc. **to agitate or shake...; to cause to totter...** The present order of things subject to vicissitude and decay... **to shake thoroughly... b. to shake down, overthrow...**

  1) **shake** speaks of the firmness of individuals in their call by God and in His word, Mat 11:7. Firmness (not shaken) includes not being swayed by circumstances, 2 Thes 2:2. This is interesting because a large portion of modern theology is formulated according to world events. Paul here forbids God's people to be influenced by their circumstances of the day when they interpret Scriptures. Interpretation must be formulated only by comparing Scripture with Scripture, and then apply Scripture to circumstances.

  2) **shake** speaks of God's tremendous judgement against sin and unbelief, Mr 13:25 (cf.Mat 24:29). These passages clearly speak of God's wrath being poured out without measure or dilution against His Son's murders, ie. Rome, 70 A.D.

  3. **shake** speaks of the falling of all things which are not built on the solid foundation of hearing and doing the words of Christ, the Great I AM of the wilderness Who met Moses, Luke 6:48; this falling of all man-made institutions and authorities creates fear in the hearts of men, Lk 21:26.


  5. This last usage of the word **shake** is the one that brings forward the OT meaning of **shake**, Heb 12:26, 27. As the author of Hebrews quotes Hag 2:6, he brings the meaning of the word as used in the OT forward to the NT.

    The shaking of Heb 12:26, 27, speaks of God's removal of all things contrary to His word; it refers to the overthrow of all powers and authorities in opposition to the Kingdom of God, resulting in the exaltation of His Kingdom and its King.

    Paul clearly tells us in Romans 1:18, that God's wrath from heaven is against all men who are against His revealed truth (cf. Rom 2 & Ps 2). **Shaking** refers to the falling of all things which are built upon anything other than God's truth, Luke 6:47, 48. God's wrath in action as judgment against the transgression of the law (1 John 3:4), which causes these works of men to crumble, is identified as **shaking**. It includes a physical shaking, such as earthquakes and volcanoes, but speaks primarily of the falling of governments, nations, societies, powers and authorities opposed to the Lord and His Christ, Eph 1:21. In deed, history shows a correlation between literal earthquakes and the collapse of worldly powers in rebellion against God, 1 Sam 14:15.

- **Hebrews 12**

  God gave His first revelation in the form of His covenant-law through a man (Moses, the mediator of God of the Old Covenant) from the mount. This was imperfect and sealed with the sprinkling of the blood of bulls and goats. When God spoke from the mount through imperfect Moses, the mountain shook, causing even Moses to fear exceedingly.

  The second revelation of God was/is given from
heaven in and through His Son, the Mediator of the New Covenant, v. 24. This revelation is perfect, sealed with the blood of Christ. (If the shed blood of imperfect Abe called for Divine vengeance [Genesis 4:10], how much more does the shed blood of the Son of God call for Divine vengeance against those who trod under foot the law of the covenant, Heb 10:29? See past Examiner, CHRIST, THE LAW OF GOD. Also, Ps 119:42, 151; Isa 42:4-6; 49:8.)

God is calling attention to the exalted nature of the New Covenant, or new revelation of the Father, that is now given in the Son. God warns His people not to reject this perfect revelation of Himself in Christ. To do so would expose themselves to a more severe punishment than befell those blessed with the imperfect revelation of God in the OT under the Old Covenant from the mount, v. 20, 21 (cf. Heb 10:26-31).

- **Two Shakings**

  God refers to two shakings in v.26; the first was in comparison to the second, a small shaking that took place at the giving of the law. (The shaking of the mount shows the dominion of God over all creation in terms of His law.) The second shaking under the Perfect Revelation of God, Christ, is infinitely greater than under the imperfect revelation of God through Moses. The second shaking will not only shake the earth, but will shake the heavens also, and it represents the overthrow of all individuals and world systems that ignore His requirement of Holiness, Lk 6:48.

- **Shaken Loose**

  Some things are included in this shaking: first, it shakes loose every ounce of pride and excuse of the sinner that would keep him from coming to Christ; second, it shakes lose every false god which the child of God clings to other than obedience to the words of the great I AM, Christ (it would also include all mankind, i.e. man sees through this shaking that all his man-centered answers are useless), and third, the individual level is only a small part of this shaking. God shakes the whole heaven and earth so violently that it breaks up the foundations of everything opposed to His Kingdom.

  As in Haggai, we must look past the apparent depressed condition of the Kingdom of God as we serve the King of kings. The battle is the Lord’s and the future holds His victory, Zec 4:6. Everything opposed to His Kingdom must be laid in ruins at His feet, 1 Cor 15:24-28. And the firm hand of God directs all nations to this end, Ps 72:8, 11. Everything not built in accord with the word of God will be shaken until it collapses. History is a record of God’s shaking in action, and we are in the midst of such a collapse.

  The Lord in Heb 12:27 gives the reason for this shaking: that only what is built according to His law-word may be left standing. In saying this, the author urges these Christians who are in the Kingdom of God to live and build according to its laws.

  Furthermore, the author points out here that as the revealed grace of God in Christ Jesus is greater than was in the O.T., so is the consuming fire of God’s judgment against those unfaithful to His New Covenant confirmed in Christ. The same Divine power that shakes the kingdoms of this world, for the good of the Kingdom of God, will shake the individual who disregards the grace of God (to live and work according to) His word and refuses to faithfully and consistently run the race that is set before him, Heb 12:1.

  Isa (13:13) warned God’s people of impending judgment and destruction at the hands of Babylon. Then he foretold of the coming fall of Babylon (ch 14) which would amaze all who would see and hear of it. Babylon’s fall, resulting from the wrath of God, would be so extensive that he compared it to a literal overthrow of heavens and earth.

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**Babylon Lives On**

But in the midst of the destruction, Isaiah assures God’s people that their God is in total control and is working His plan and purpose; He is overthrowing all opposition to Him so His King and Kingdom might be established. Isaiah describes God’s terrible wrath against sin as He casts down the mighty Babylon. But although Babylon’s power was broken (on the cross, Col 2:15), it did not die; the spirit of man’s pride and rebellion against the King is alive and well. Even though the spirit of Babylon has faced and felt the wrath of God many times, the Lord has allowed it to live on for His purpose.
Though Isaiah spoke of the overthrow of the ancient Babylon as a great shaking, the prophets use shaking to describe God’s continuing judgment against sin that His kingdom might be exalted. Their likeness is carried over into the NT by the author of Hebrews.

Isa 13:14: obviously the previous verses have been fulfilled. All one has to do is look less than 50 miles South of Baghdad today and see the ruins of this once mighty city. But the shaking of heaven and earth by the Lord will continue until Babylon’s spirit is placed completely under the feet of our Lord, 1 Cor 15:24-28.

Who’s in Charge?

While we are looking at some things from Isaiah, let us peruse a similar thought which should greatly encourage us.

As we continue on in Isa 13, we see the description of the fall of Babylon of the Chaldees. Isaiah’s description is strikingly similar to the description of the fall of the Babylon of Revelation, where the merchants and inhabitants flee out of fear and the evil place is totally overturned. (Cf Rev chps 14, 16, 17, 18.)

In Isa 13:17, the Great King, King Jesus, sends one of His armies (the Medes) against another of His armies (the Chaldeans) to judge the second for their evil actions. The Chaldeans, the first army, had overstepped their God-established limits, and now they will pay the price for their rebellion against their King; the army of the Medes extracted the price. We read further of the Lord’s command over the heathen armies in Ps 47:2, For the LORD most high is terrible; he is a great King over all the earth. V. 7, 8, For God is the King of all the earth: sing ye praises with understanding. God reigneth over the heathen: God sitteth upon the throne of his holiness.

Though unknown to them, the Medes moved at the command of their Captain, the Lord most high, the great King over all the earth. Several times in the inspired word, we read of armies moving against an enemy for the spoil involved (the spoil was their pay), but moving for the spoil also allowed them to be bought off. However, this was not the case when the Medes moved against Babylon, for the Medes regarded neither silver nor gold, Isa 13:17. They were moving against Babylon because their Commander and Chief, the Lord most high, told them to; therefore, Babylon could not buy them off. (See Rev 17:17.)

Again we see that the king’s heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will, Pro 21:1. Obviously, the hearts of all men are controlled by the hand of the Lord. Here in Isaiah’s prophecy, we see that the spirit of the Medes was in His hand, and He turned it against Babylon. (Cf. Jer 51:11)

Isaiah (13:18) continues with the description of horrors of the forthcoming overthrow of Babylon of the Chaldees by the Medes (the parallel with the destruction of Babylon in Revelation is amazing, 11:8). Babylon the Great was the splendor of the whole earth; therefore, Isaiah’s warning of Babylon’s impending doom appeared at the time impossible to fulfill, but in spite of the apparent impossibility, he is so specific that those who believed him would be able to flee for their lives when they saw these things approaching many years later.

Our Lord warned of the impending doom of the Babylon of the Jews. Those who believed His warning could easily see the judgment coming upon their Babylon, and they could flee. The ones who did flee were spared in the terrible fall that came a few years later in 70 A.D. Is it any wonder that our Lord referred to Isaiah so many times?

Money Won’t Help

Another interesting point in Babylon’s overthrow: the overthrowers, the invading army, would not regard silver or gold. In other words, money would not prevent God’s overthrow of the system that was in rebellion against Him. The parallel of our day is astounding. As God moves to overthrow the systems that are in rebellion against Him, all the money in the world will not stop their decay; they are under the judgement of God and their only hope is repentance. Money will not stop the decay of science (tax funded research on aborted babies!!!), education, economics, families, religion, or nations; their decay is the result of God’s judgment against their rebellion. In other words, AIDS (disease of all kinds) will not be stopped with
money; only repentance and the return to Godly purity will stop God’s heavy hand of shaking against them.

Isa 13:19, all areas which are in rebellion against the Lord and His Christ will be overthrown just as surely and as totally as was Sodom and Gomorrah, never to rise again, v. 20. Therefore, all the money being “invested in” areas violating God’s word is wasted money. It is a shame because that immense amount of funds could be used for something worth while.

We are living in tremendous days of opportunity. We are seeing every area of life not built upon hearing and doing the words of the Great I AM being shaken until it crumbles at the feet of King Jesus. Will we and our works be left standing?

NEW WORLD ORDER?

Based upon the inspired word of God, we can say that God is shaking the nations that are in rebellion against Him and walking in the way that seems right in their own eyes, Pro 14:12.

We are seeing a great shaking of God take place. He very easily could shake out the ones who are in rebellion against Him, and we would indeed see a NEW WORLD ORDER, but this order would not be the one that Bush and Gorb worked so hard to plan.

• Grace for victory

The world today is being shaken to its very foundation everywhere we turn. But by the sprinkled blood of Christ upon the heart, we have the grace to see us through anything and everything that comes our way. It is ours to claim.

Heb 12:24, 27, 28 speaks of the sprinkling of the blood of Christ upon the heart, which provides the grace of God to stand for Him: Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire. It is important to note where verse 28 is placed in Heb 12: it is attached to the end of God’s warning of approaching great shaking that will shake the whole earth. This shaking is so terrible that everything not built upon hearing and doing the word of God will be thrown down and consumed by our God, v. 29. Thus, the grace of God is supplied to the hearts of believers that they may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear in the days of terrible shaking.

Godly fear.. the location of this statement is important. The godly fear is in the days of the terrible shaking of v. 27. Thus the elect should not fear the surrounding “terrors” as all of man made society collapse in ruin. They have the grace to remain true to, and fearful of, God and not man.

Certainly, the blood of Christ provides redemption and eternal life (a secondary benefit), but primarily His blood is for empowered service to the KING. Note the context of Heb 12:27, 28: Hebrews 12 states that if one ignores or does not live up to what is expected of a servant of God, he can expect the chastening hand of God, v. 7. Why is God so harsh against His people who fail to endure the suffering and shame which the ungodly can place upon them? Because they have been provided with sufficient grace through the blood of Christ to stand, v. 28.

Eph 6:13, Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Pastor Need