Volume 4 March 2009 Issue 002

The Coop Report...

History repeats itself...

Long ago in a land far, far away, the Israelites were led out of their oppression in Egypt by God, through a faithful fellow named Moses. The people complained to both God and Moses for the their weary surroundings for over 40 years before entering the land God promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Another righteous man, by the name of Joshua led the people into the Promised Land after allocating a portion to each of the twelve tribes except for the Levites who were scattered among the tribes to assist the priests in maintaining their knowledge and ordinances of God.

Well, as time went on, the old folks who came out of Egypt and initially settled the Promised Land rested with their forefathers and succeeding generations did not get a complete accounting of God and how they came to be where they were. As a result, they mingled with the sons and daughters of the natives who previously occupied the land and took a liking to their gods, customs, and other nasty habits.

Since God is always faithful to His promises and His people and seeks to have a relationship with us, He then sent judges to His people to bring them back to Him. For the next 300 years, the people under the guidance of the judges had good moments and bad moments. They generally followed a cyclical pattern consisting of disobedience to God; followed by their oppression; followed by their calling upon God for deliverance; followed by God providing a deliverer; followed by God's deliverance; followed by a period of obedience and peace.

Eventually, the people decided that they needed a king so they could be like the other nations around them. Yep, they thought, that would solve all of their problems…put them on the map, so to speak. Perhaps, they thought, one singular person to offer them a change of venue…something different would make them into a great nation.

So, they complained to Samuel and said they wanted a king! Since they had forgotten they already had the most superior king in the universe (God), they pressed on for a man-king. Now God did tell Samuel to warn them about how a king of their own would bring on a host of other issues for them, including taxes, rights of ownership of land, etc. Samuel, speaking for God, told the Israelites what a king will do:

> *"He will take a tenth of your flocks and you yourselves will become his slaves. When that day comes, you will cry out for relief from the king you have chosen, and the Lord will not answer you in that day."*
>
> *1 Samuel 17-18 (NIV)*

Nonetheless, the people said they wanted a king anyway and God finally told Samuel to give them one since they had rejected Him as their one and only King.

Over the next 450 years, God gave them not just one king, but *42* kings in all, including Saul, David, and Solomon. Unfortunately, since these man-kings were just that…(men)….they were subject to all sorts of temptations from the principalities of the world including boastfulness (arrogance), a lust for the power to implement personal agendas, and a yearning for all things of temporal gain. These worldly human traits accounted for the miserable failure of the majority of these 42 kings of ancient times. *(Did you know that of the 39 kings that followed Solomon, only 6 are considered to have been "good" kings that led God's people according to God's Word? While a few more had good moments, they were not consistent in their obedience to God.)*

Yep, for over 450 years, God's people were permitted to be ruled by those who led them straight into idolatrous practices. God ended this, of course, by allowing the Northern Kingdom (Israel) to be conquered by the Assyrians in 722 B.C. and the Babylonians to conquer the Southern Kingdom in 586 B.C. *(Note that God choose to put an end to the failed human kingship of His people by destroying their city walls and sending them into exile by His enemies!)*

So why the history lesson?

I think our country has followed a path similar to the Israelites. We too, originated from an oppressed group of people who traversed the ocean to honor and worship God in a more personal manner than they were able to do under the strict authority of the Anglican

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Volume 4 March 2009 Issue 002

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Church. So, they were led to a "promised land" – a land of milk and honey (America).

Over the course of several centuries, many of our citizens were tempted to follow other gods (money, pornography, homosexuality, and other nasty things) that prompted them to rebel against the establishment. *(Now, when people start running towards sin rather than away from it, they usually try to justify their actions...you know, get others to accept their lifestyles in an attempt sometimes, to overcome their guilty feeling.)* These folks began to get the courts to back them up by re-interpreting the 1st Amendment so God could be removed from our schools and other public places and anything profane would be protected as "free speech."

Like the Israelites, over time our older generations went to sleep with their forefathers and our identity with Jesus Christ has been compromised. Many fathers, distracted from their spiritual duties by all sorts of worldly things have also failed to nurture their children at home concerning the things of God and Jesus Christ.

Having surrounded ourselves in the material pleasures of this world amidst sheltered borders, many have replaced their reliance (their need for God) with the worship of "things" and now we are faced with a troublesome economic crisis. With a focus on the accumulation of *things*, many have failed to "…store up for [themselves] treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal." (Matt 6:20 NIV) America's heart has hardened itself against the pursuit of God.

With the inauguration of Barack Hussein Obama (a/k/a Barry Soetoro, a/k/a Barry Obama, a/k/a Barack Dunham, a/k/a Barry Dunhami) I believe America asked for and got its "king"…its change of venue… someone different. Yep, as did the Israelites, an American majority has clamored for someone different.

With our new administration and its Democratic majority in Congress, I believe we will see God's hand of protection move quickly away from America, as the new administration seeks the approval of men, rather than God. I believe Obama will continue to open the floodgates of tolerance for all sorts of personal agendas that will wage a spiritual warfare within our own borders that will have a devastating effect on our nation.

Our new President boldly states that he believes in the *separation* between church and state, but from my observation, not in the way our forefathers intended. He wants government to have nothing to do with God (religion is one thing and business is another.) Why do I feel this way? Let's look at the fruits of his actions:

1. President Obama attended a church (Trinity United Church of Christ) for 20 years that has specific ministries supporting and endorsing gay, transsexual, and transgender lifestyles. Obama has said he was very close friends with this church's pastor, a person who has preached sermons of racial hatred.

2. Unwilling to offend anyone, Obama demonstrated his support for the *universal church* during his inauguration through the prayers of a gay Bishop (Gene Robinson), a Muslim cleric, a Hindu, and Reverend Lowery. I'm surprised he didn't have the Dalai' Lama drop by as well.

3. In an interview with Tom Joyce, "Obama Talks about York," (York Daily Record, Local Section, March 30, 2008), Obama was asked a question about intelligent design. His response:

> "I'm a Christian and I believe in parents being able to provide children religious instruction without interference from the state. But, I also believe our schools are there to teach worldly knowledge and science. I believe in evolution and I believe there's a difference between science and faith. That doesn't make faith any less important than science. It just means they're two different things. I think it is a mistake to try to cloud the teaching of science with the theories that frankly don't hold up to scientific inquiry."

4. Obama has authorized federal funding of stem cell research…can you imagine a marketplace for abor-

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tions to fulfill the need for research is just around the corner?

5. Obama is seeking to create a global stimulus package (which will likely lead to a global economy) further diluting our Christian identity in a secular world.

6. Obama is also courting (or soon will be courting) Syria, Iran, and Russia as he furthers his own goals (whatever they may be)

7. The Obama administration will strain our relationship with our friend and ally in the Middle East – Israel. In an effort to establish his legacy as a great president (and out of his ignorance of God's promise of land to Abraham's descendants) Obama will attempt to negotiate a peace settlement between Israel and the Palestinians that will require the division of the Holy City of Jerusalem.

The last point it pivotal. Jerusalem is also known as the City of David. Having been set apart as the city from which the Messiah would come, it would be a huge mistake for anyone…for any nation…to relinquish any part of it to any nation apart from Israel. Nehemiah (see Neh:2:20) refused to allow anyone but the Israelites to rebuild the city's walls. God Himself, says, in Zechariah 8:20:

> *3 This is what the Lord says: "I will return to Zion and dwell in Jerusalem. Then Jerusalem will be called the City of Truth, and the mountain of the Lord Almighty will be called the Holy Mountain."*

Do you think America should be a part in dividing Jerusalem? I am reminded of a quote from Winston Churchill:

> *"As nations do to God, God does to nations."*

Our new Vice President is also a different kind of leader for a has-been Christian nation. When Joe Biden was asked about intelligent design by Bill Maher (Real Time with Bill Maher, episode 74, April 7, 2006). Here is how he responded:

> "I refuse to believe the majority of people believe this malarkey!"

Jesus has told us in advance about these things:

> *"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life and only a few find it."*
>
> *Matthew 7:13-14 (NIV)*

Obama's personal desire to be seen as another Abraham Lincoln or Franklin Roosevelt (to receive praises from men) will be at the forefront of his agendas.

There is Still Hope…

Just as in ancient times, when God removed His hand of protection from His people, he often turned them over to their enemies. God did this so they would ultimately see the error of their ways and call upon Him for their restoration, upon which He would restore them to Himself. We can see this in the historical accounts of the Bible. The Babylonian invasions of the Southern Kingdom (Jerusalem), the destruction of the temple and the city, along with the captivity of thousands of its citizens resulted from years of idolatrous worship… disobedience towards God. I think that is precisely where America sits today…on the precipice of failure, about to take a great fall.

> *9 If you ever forget the Lord your God and follow other gods and worship and bow down to them, I testify against you today that you will surely be destroyed. 20 Like the nations the Lord destroyed before you, so you will be destroyed for not obeying the Lord your God.*
>
> *Deuteronomy 8:19-20*

As the old saying goes…

"*Those who fail to understand their history are doomed to repeat it.*"

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Although God may remove His hand from His people in order to bring them to bring them back to Him we must remember that God will never abandon us. As believers, we must remember that God's unconditional Covenants (i.e., the Abrahamic, the Davidic, and the Palestinian) are just as unconditional today as they were when God made them, because we have a truly Holy God.

God will fulfill His Covenants with His people at His appointed time. Although we may suffer the consequences of our individual and corporate actions (or *inactions*), God remains faithful to His own.

Continue to confess our sinfulness (individually and as a nation); repent; ask God for forgiveness for our iniquities, and pray for our nation to return to our Christian roots.

Pray for our President, Vice President, and our elected representatives...pray they will seek a fulfillment of hope in their lives that can only come from above. Pray their eyes will be opened and become the Christian leaders we need to restore our country to God's favor.

We are together in Christ,

Brian

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