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## January 2024 "When the Righteous Rule"

Dear Friend,

Wow, it's 2024! How amazing to think we are nearly one-fourth of the way through this century. So much has changed in so many areas; advancements in technology, health care, transportation and more have been astounding. We have also witnessed a mind-boggling increase in the way pure evil has risen throughout the world. At the same time, there is a growing number of end-time remnant Believers turning from the distractions of the world to press deeper into God; the result is that He is pouring out of His Spirit for a final harvest of millions of souls. Yes, this revival is happening right now as reports from many nations come forth detailing how thousands are crying out to Jesus to be born again.

In November of this year, the United States will hold another election for president, as well as other political offices. One of the greatest lies Satan has ever convinced Christians to accept is that people who are born again should not be involved in politics. Coupled with that lie is another which says that God is the one who puts people in office. Let's take a few moments to examine both of those deceptions.

Is God the One who puts people in office, regardless of how people vote? Some Christians believe as much and may try to support that belief by saying the proof is how God is the one who chose Saul to be the first king of Israel. That may sound like a good argument, but a closer study of that incident gives us greater insight as to what actually took place. In First Samuel chapter eight we read the account of that story.

1) And it came to pass, when Samuel was old, that he made his sons judges over Israel. 2) Now the name of his firstborn was Joel; and the name of his second, Abiah: they were judges in Beersheba. 3) And his sons walked not in his ways, but turned aside after lucre, and took bribes, and perverted judgment.

4) Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah, 5) And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations. 6) But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed unto the Lord.

7) And the Lord said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them. 8) According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt even unto this day, wherewith they have forsaken me, and served other gods, so do they also unto thee. 9) Now therefore hearken unto their voice: howbeit yet protest solemnly unto them, and shew them the manner of the king that shall reign over them.

10) And Samuel told all the words of the Lord unto the people that asked of him a king. 11) And he said, This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you: He will take your sons, and appoint them for himself, for his chariots, and to be his horsemen; and some shall run before his chariots. 12) And he will appoint him

captains over thousands, and captains over fifties; and will set them to ear his ground, and to reap his harvest, and to make his instruments of war, and instruments of his chariots. 13) And he will take your daughters to be confectionaries, and to be cooks, and to be bakers. 14) And he will take your fields, and your vineyards, and your oliveyards, even the best of them, and give them to his servants. 15) And he will take the tenth of your seed, and of your vineyards, and give to his officers, and to his servants. 16) And he will take your menservants, and your maidservants, and your goodliest young men, and your asses, and put them to his work. 17) He will take the tenth of your sheep: and ye shall be his servants. 18) And ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye shall have chosen you; and the Lord will not hear you in that day.

19) Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay; but we will have a king over us; 20) That we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles.
21) And Samuel heard all the words of the people, and he rehearsed them in the ears of the LORD. 22) And the Lord said to Samuel, Hearken unto their voice, and make them a king. And Samuel said unto the men of Israel, Go ye every man unto his city.

God did **NOT** want the people to have a king, it was their idea. They wanted to be like other nations. The problem with that desire is that no other nation had a covenant with God, a covenant which stated that if they lived according to His Word, they would have His abundant blessings, protection, and He would go before them and fight their battles. They were actually telling Samuel they didn't want God ruling over them, that they wanted to follow the ways of pagan nations. God even said as much in verse seven when He told Samuel that the people were rejecting Him. God even warned the people of the dire results of having a king, but they completely ignored Him, essentially saying they were choosing oppression, increased taxes, economic upheaval, and preferred mortal man, not God, to go before them and fight their battles.

In other words, the people "voted" to have an earthly king reign over them instead of God. It was a decision made by their own will. It was not God's will for them to have a king, He wanted them to follow His leadership. How would God reign over them? Through the righteous men He would establish as their leaders. However, though He disagreed with their decision, He honored it because He has given humanity free will to make their own choices.

God then told Samuel to appoint Saul as their king. Did He choose someone who was horribly evil, corrupted, and had no good intentions or concerns for anyone but himself? Emphatically, no! God chose the best person for that position. How do I know? Because He would then be able to say, "You wanted a king, I gave you one. I chose the best candidate in all of Israel. Though he started out well, he ended up doing exactly what I told you he would do. You rejected me, choosing the ways of the world, and now you're in a huge mess."

The decision to reject God and live under the rule of an earthly king set off a chain of events which led to centuries of upheaval as Israel saw both good kings and evil kings rise to power. There was civil war as the nation of Israel became divided into two kingdoms. The evil kings led the nation to reject God's Word, resulting in all forms of sexual perversions, idol worship, child sacrifice, corruption, assassinations, social rebellion, and much more.

The critical key in all this is that the people made their voices heard – they "voted" – and God honored their choice. If God had imposed His will over the will of the people, righteous leaders would have been appointed by Him to lead the people in honoring His covenant with them and upholding His Word.

Beyond this example of Saul, God has given additional warnings about leadership.

10) When it goeth well with the righteous, the city rejoiceth: and when the wicked perish, there is shouting. 11) By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted: but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked. (Proverbs 11:10-11)

When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn. (Proverbs 29:2)

Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people. (Proverbs 14:34)

These verses present a cause-and-effect principle, meaning there are variables involved. "When it goes well with the righteous" implies it is very possible that it could not go well with the righteous. "When the righteous are in authority" indicates it is possible that the righteous could not be in authority. "When the wicked bear rule" means it is very possible that wicked leaders could be in authority over the people. If God were truly in control of appointing leaders as some Christians think, then these verses would read something like this: "It will go well with the righteous and the city will rejoice," and "The righteous will be in authority and the people will rejoice, and the wicked will not bear rule."

The question then becomes, "If God wants the righteous to be in authority, what could happen to prevent that from taking place?" The answer? When people use their will to reject God's desire for a nation.

The founders of the United States of America did not want the nation to exist as a monarchy with a king as the ruling authority. Instead, they implemented a form of government defined by the following:

While often categorized as a democracy, the United States is more accurately defined as a constitutional federal republic. What does this mean? "Constitutional" refers to the fact that government in the United States is based on a Constitution which is the supreme law of the United States. The Constitution not only provides the framework for how the federal and state governments are structured, but also places significant limits on their powers. "Federal" means that there is both a national government and governments of the 50 states. A "republic" is a form of government in which the people hold power, but elect representatives to exercise that power.

(https://ar.usembassy.gov)

What this means is that the citizens of the United States have the power to dictate the course of the nation by electing leaders to both establish law and enact the enforcement of that law. In other words, the people vote, and the nation walks the path of that vote. People use their free will to vote how they want, and God is bound by His Word to honor their willful choices. This, then,

is the cause-and-effect principle relative to leadership that impacts the United States and every other nation wherein the people elect leaders.

Do you really believe that God would put people in leadership who would support same-sex marriage, abortion, transgenderism, gender reassignment surgery, elimination of prayer and Bible reading in schools, prohibiting preaching the gospel in public, anti-Israel rhetoric, and the general abandoning of biblical principles? None of this would be happening if Christians voted according to God's Word and elected people who would uphold His righteous standards. God wants the righteous in authority, and it will only happen if the righteous run for office and are elected by the will of the people.

I am closing my letter this month with an outstanding article by Mario Murillo concerning the 2024 elections. Please seek God for direction concerning which candidates to vote for at all levels of national, state and local elections. Remember this: In the midst of all the political and social upheaval, Jesus is still Lord, and He is returning soon!

In His Grace,

Jim

## THE BEST ADVICE I CAN GIVE YOU ABOUT 2024 IS THIS by <u>Mario Murillo</u> | Nov 28, 2023

The best advice I can give you about 2024 is this: do not go after predictions about what will happen—go after God and make something happen.

Never have I been more solemn about anything I have ever written. Never have I felt the need to risk whatever credibility I may have with you. I am going against the grain of making predictions.

Many predictors are driven by the desperate need to console the weary American Church. They are talking the way they did before the pandemic and before the Biden debacle. They are telling you that we are about to be relieved and no longer on a war-footing. They are saying that we can now return to a peacetime church culture.

Not only are they horribly wrong—their message will leave you open to the attack of the enemy. Their words may be sweet to the taste, but in the end, they will be bitter in your stomach. (Rev. 10:9) Do not let them distract you from contending for a national miracle to chasing predictions.

We as American Christians and Patriots must become a united army in a desperate battle. The most important thing to impress upon an army is the reality of the threat. There is no way around it. Army of God! You must have it drilled into you that we are facing a long and hard road ahead.

We as the American church no longer need to have our ego stroked. We need someone to raise our morale as we prepare for war. Winston Churchill faced this very task. On May 10th, 1940, Germany invaded France and the Netherlands. That same day in England, Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain stepped down from his post, and King George VI tapped Winston Churchill to replace him.

World War II was on, and Britain needed the right leader to guide the nation into the gathering storm which had begun to rage across Europe. Unlike Chamberlain and Lord Halifax, politicians who sought peace treaties and truces with Germany, Churchill recognized the necessity of war. **Peace, he thought, meant submission—and submission meant death.** 

On May 13th, Churchill gathered his war cabinet and went to address Parliament. The speech he delivered that afternoon—"Blood, Toil, Tears, and Sweat"—has become known as one of the most rousing speeches in British history. Churchill's message was simple but powerful: Britain must fight—and Britain must win. Churchill said these immortal words:

"I say to the House as I said to ministers who have joined this government, I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears, and sweat. We have before us an ordeal of the most grievous kind. We have before us many, many months of struggle and suffering.

"You ask, what is our policy? I say it is to wage war by land, sea, and air. War with all our might and with all the strength God has given us, and to wage war against a monstrous tyranny never surpassed in the dark and lamentable catalogue of human crime. That is our policy.

"You ask, what is our aim? I can answer in one word. It is victory. Victory at all costs – Victory in spite of all terrors – Victory, however long and hard the road may be, for without victory there is no survival."

China, Facebook, YouTube, CNN, Hollywood, and the Democrat Party have woven the most insidious and vile web of deceit in American history. For all real Americans, it is our version of "a monstrous tyranny never surpassed in the dark and lamentable catalogue of human crime."

Thousands of pulpits, at this hour, believe the message of consolation is the message of the hour. No! It is not! We do not need comfort. We need outrage. We need the white hot rage of a people who will not go gentle into that dark night of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris. Do not hesitate or surrender. Instead of watching things happen-make something happen.

Our final answer to them is, 'No! We do not accept the bitter bread of surrender and capitulation! No! You will not educate our children by wading them into a godless swamp. No! You will not steal our small businesses and our churches. No! You will not offer us as a living sacrifice to Communist China. We will not bow. We will not surrender. Not ever!'

This is not a time for soothing lambs, but of igniting lions. It is time to say to Satan, "We have not even begun to fight." Beyond January 6—beyond January 20—beyond whatever human deadline has been declared. We are not going to stop. We are not going to slow down. Our ranks are closing. Our numbers are growing. Our fortitude and resolve is intensifying.

Our struggle for America is not ending...it is just beginning. The enemy needs to know we are never going away.

Again, to quote Churchill, "This is the lesson: **never give** in, **never give** in, **never**, **never**, **never**, **never**, **never**, in nothing, great or small, large or petty...Never yield to force; never yield to the apparently overwhelming might of the enemy."

I know I have been given this mandate: Forget predictions about what will happen. Instead, go after God and *make* something happen!

\_\_\_\_\_ Please send a CD of the sermon, *Elections and the Elect.*Name\_\_\_\_\_\_

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