

Hartford Bible Students

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The Ultimate Transition of Power



The astounding events in the U.S. Capital surrounding the not so peaceful "transition of power" have truly shaken the hearts of people on both sides of the political spectrum. Selfishness abounds in our world today, and Christian values seem to have vanished. But this is what the Bible tells us to expect. Prophecies indicate that the conflict at the Capitol Building is just a precursor to additional incidents of social unrest still to come. So long as mankind is in the present fallen condition and under Satan's deceptions, selfishness is certain to result in conflict. It will take a government ruled by divine principles to govern with a perfect balance of love, wisdom, and equitable justice. A righteous Kingdom under the "the Prince of Peace" will finally put a stop to all of the chaos and confusion.

The Prophet Daniel Spoke of this Time

We are now living in "the time of the end" when the prophet Daniel foretold that selfishness, combined with the instinct of self-preservation will eventuate in a momentous struggle: "And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation...." (Daniel 12:1)

Not until the Prince of Peace has written the law of God in restored human hearts will humanity be capable of using full liberty without injury or danger.

This day of trouble will end in due time, when the Prince of Peace shall "stand up" in authority, and then a great calm will be the result. All raging and clashing elements will recognize the authority of God's Anointed Son when "*the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.*" Only then, under the righteous government of Christ, shall "*all the nations of the earth be blessed.*" (Isaiah 40:5; Genesis 22:18) The ultimate "*transition of power*" will be from Satan's reign of sin and selfishness to that of the Prince of Peace and blessing.

Christians Should Not Be Adding to the Conflict

"Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be... Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein... the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." (2 Peter 3:11-13)

Until that time comes, if we are God's, then we should be developing noble Christian characters built upon principles which are unselfish and which exemplify the commandments given to us by Jesus: "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven...." (Mark 12:31; Matthew 5:43-48)

We as Christians should learn to know what God loves and what He hates. The Scriptural equation is simple:

WHAT GOD LOVES:

"...giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity." (2 Peter 1:5-7)

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law." (Galatians 5:22, 23)

WHAT GOD HATES:

"These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, an heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, a false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren." (Proverbs 6:16-19)

"Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings... they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.... Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another." (Galatians 5:19-21, 26)

The Weapons of Christian Warfare Not Carnal

"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds..." (2 Corinthians 10:4) Carnal weapons are not merely swords, spears and guns, but anger, malice, hatred, strife, and a contesting, combative spirit. This is the spirit of the world under the "god of this world." (2 Corinthians 4:4) We are to take up the banner of truth and to learn just what that truth is. (2 Timothy 2:15) But while holding this banner high, we are to exemplify the character of whose banner that is — Jehovah and His honored Son Jesus.

Jesus said, "I am the way, THE TRUTH, and the life." In dramatic contrast, Satan is identified as "the father of LIES." (John 14:6 and John 8:44) Therefore, any conflict we have with others or the heated issues of our day should be met with the weapon of truth and especially with the spirit of it — this is what God loves. Let us ever remember what God hates — lies, evil speaking and sowing discord.

A Kingdom on Earth as it is in Heaven

Close your eyes for a moment to the scenes of misery and woe, degradation and sorrow that yet prevail on account of sin and selfishness, and picture before your

mental vision the glory of a perfect earth under the Prince of Peace. Not a stain of sin mars the harmony and peace of a perfect society — one world, under God, with gracious liberty and justice for ALL. There will be no bitter thoughts — not an unkind look or word — love, welling up from every heart will meet a kindred response in every other heart, and benevolence will mark every act. Such will earth's society be when thus they realize the transforming work of God's glorious Kingdom complete. (Matthew 5:10; Zephaniah 3:8-9; Micah 4:3-4; Psalm 46:9)

Today, the world is exposed to more negative news in one week than our ancient forefathers heard in a lifetime. It is time for us all to refresh our minds as to the promises of God for the better day about to dawn — "the restitution of all things... spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began." This will mean the recovery of life to ALL once lost by father Adam. (Acts 3:21)

This is the REAL Good News!

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