

A diverse crowd of people of various ages, ethnicities, and styles are shown from the chest up, all looking upwards with expressions of hope or awe. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue.

*if my
people*

**2 Chronicles 7:14
Report**

If My People

A
2 Chronicles 7:14
Report

By
Mike Kirkpatrick

“If My People”

“It was the best of times; it was the worst of times”

A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens

And of the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times –

1 Chronicles 12:32

In the mid-19th century, Karl Marx wrote that religion is “the opiate of the masses.” While I believe that religion is less like an opiate, but more like “comfort food,” necessary, but something we “grab” as in “grab a bite” in our busy life. It’s not always the best for us, but it quells a gnawing in our stomach and makes us feel “all better.”

So, with modern religion, like the convenience store on the corner, “Grab and Go!” We go, we sit, we listen, we support, but for some it’s a moment of quiet time, perhaps a “pop-up” on a screen, or a device that gives a thought about something other than our daily routine and then – GO! Back to the rat race! Start the car, look both ways, and back into the semi-civilized traffic!

This “comfort food” of religion is fine until something disrupts our routine and then we realize we need some “balance” in our diet. It’s not just about “feel better.” We need real answers. It’s the crisis that makes us stop and re-connect with our inner man, the gnawing need in our gut to really understand what’s going on in the world around us.

Sometimes in our “getting by,” “getting through,” “getting past,” or “getting over” the little bumps in our lives an event happens which leaves us empty. We don’t understand, we don’t know what to do. God uses these interruptions to get our attention, but in our busy, hectic lives, we don’t understand, because what we do understand, i.e., our daily routine has been challenged – we must do something! We can’t just “Grab and Go!” We must think through this situation. Until we do, our routines quit working! Distraction! We lose our train of thought. We miss our turn, we forget the routine, the appointment, the reason we are standing here staring off into space! We must mentally “get back on track,” “retrace our steps,” “jog our memory” just to function. We either “deal with it” or it just continues to “deal with us” until we do! Thus, the dilemma.

We live in a world, long on information, short on understanding. So much is happening around us, it's like an important phone call in the middle of rush hour traffic! Perplexing!

Jesus spoke of perplexity! And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring (Luke 21:25). So, we see the signs: Solar Flares, Craters on the Moon, The James Webb Telescope is sending us images of distant stars and galaxies which have the scientific community scratching their heads. Not to mention storms at sea, hurricanes, and now flooding and widespread destruction by rivers out of control! OK, we see the signs, but what do they mean? Simply put, they mean that God is trying to get our attention! AND He has a very special way of doing it! DISTRACTION! When our earthly lives don't make sense, we tend to look beyond this mortal existence to something beyond! Something more eternal!

I mentioned some recent occurrences. For perspective, we have just experienced an internet “glitch” which played havoc with airline flights around the world. We are scratching our heads over the recent assassination attempts on President Donald Trump, the disruption of the Democratic Party, and the end of the candidacy of President Biden. In both situations we are long on speculation and short on answers. Thus, this report.

I wanted to write the 2 Chronicles 7:14 Report: If My People. While this popular scripture is widely reported and often quoted, it is also possibly misunderstood! For many years now, people have been admonished, encouraged, and organized to pray 2 Chronicles 7:14, *If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.* While that prayer is being answered right before our very eyes, many people, particularly Christians, don’t understand because of distractions!

This political election cycle is unlike anything we've seen in our lifetime! The international situation is extremely tense and the uncertainty of American leadership in the world is under heavy suspicion. This is unnerving to the American people. Internally we are struggling with inflation, open borders, and now illegal immigration has had widespread implications. The major cities are becoming acutely aware that their "Sanctuary City" status has made them a target for crime, homelessness, unsafe and unsanitary streets, and international gang operations. Quickly, many businesses, both small and great are shuttering their stores and leaving town. Many prominent cities are suffering both population loss and real estate devaluation. Many are trapped in their own hometown, afraid and yet unable to recoup their life-long investments in their homes and businesses! They're stuck!

We suffer from an inherit inability to see what is "right under our noses." We see the problem, but the answer is, ironically, right there! Right there, under our noses! That's what we don't see.

Let me show you. If I told you that 2 Chronicles 7:13 came just before 2 Chronicles 7:14, would you believe me? Well, if you didn't believe me, would you, at least, read it? Here ya go:

*If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or
if I command the locusts to devour the land,
or if I send pestilence among my people.*

2 Chronicles 7:13

See, right under our nose! Now, if you are into “feel better religion,” you might have glanced over this little goodie, because it is not a part of “feel good” theology, but then again, if you are “perplexed” and don’t quite know what to do or how to think, then perhaps you will consider 2 Chronicles 7:13. It’s the trigger.

We have just undergone a national lesson on the effect of ballistics. It is an interesting science of distance, aim, and the split-second timing that occurs between the time a trigger is squeezed, and the round actually arrives at the target. In this split second of time with only millimeters of change, we have witnessed the difference between a miracle, whether providential or circumstantial, and a celebration or national (and international) chaos!

National crises are indelibly etched in our personal memory. I mention Pearl Harbor, because so very few can personally remember when time stopped that day! That generation is all but past. I do remember, however, where I was when JFK was shot. I remember I was in class; I was sitting at my desk. Many people can remember 9-11, but for some younger people it is only something they've heard about. While our present situation is critical, it will fade quickly from our thinking unless something more drastic happens. So, while this weighs heavily on our minds, what's the significance? It's the trigger!

In our present mental deliberation, what if the trigger had been squeezed in just a slightly different time frame? We're talking milliseconds here! Where would we be today? We would be in another day in which time stopped and things would never be the same after that! Fortunately, that is not the case. I have just a few days to "squeeze in" a brief explanation of what is happening in our country.

God is at Work in America

First to the believer, or at least to those who could believe if something got their attention: God has told us what the trigger would be:

If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people (2 Chronicles 7:13).

Let's look at three aspects of this verse:

- Drought
- Locust devouring the land
- Pestilence

Drought

I remember just a few months ago that we had a drought in our area. There was a three-mile-long line of cattle trailers at the local sale barn. Farmers and ranchers were “dumping” their cattle because hay had gotten so expensive! That caught my attention at that time, but that wasn’t the extent of it. There has been a slow, steady crisis on the Colorado River and Lake Mead. There was heavy snow that gave some relief when it melted, but the southwestern US is still critically low on water. The Mississippi River is having problems with low water levels which is affecting barge traffic and shipping costs. There has been some grounding of barges and reduced size of barge grouping as channels narrow.

Now, there is a shortage of water in the Panama Canal. First it affected the larger ships, which must sail greater distances, thus requiring more fuel and higher shipping costs. It is ironic after major renovations at the Panama Canal there is not enough rainfall for the logistical improvements to accommodate the larger ships for which it was designed. This is having an effect on international shipping.

Inflation

Inflation is devouring our land. Like locusts in an agricultural society; inflation is eating up the resources in our modern society. For seniors, it is eating up their retirement. For many their plans for travel and entertainment are slowly slipping away, not to mention the many tourist attractions both here and abroad suffering from a lack of tourists. For young families, inflation is devouring so many of the extras, like even a fast-food meal out. Many of these restaurant chains are cutting back or closing outright. Thus, these families are wrestling with basic things like food, rent, clothing, and medicine. Many businesses in high crime areas are just moving out, requiring the

poor to go further for basic necessities no longer available in their local neighborhoods. Real estate prices are dropping. Office buildings are experiencing more vacancies. People's investment in their homes is diminishing. Cities are losing revenue and thus basic services are suffering. Inflation is an indiscriminate devourer of our livelihoods.

Pestilence

Inflation has another ugly habit: homelessness. We have seen both homegrown homelessness brought on by inflation and degradation of the family coupled with drug abuse eating into our national pride and outlook for the future. When coupled with illegal immigration, the flooding of our cities with thousands more individuals with no place to live defies logic. It is hard to see people living like this without the feelings of compassion and disgust struggling within us. It's a pestilence. The cousins of homelessness have escaped through drug abuse and escaped through sexual perversion. Women turn to the streets as well as petty criminals and now international gangs are taking control of our neighborhoods!

Ok, We See the Problem

If you are focused on the problem, you may not be able to see the solution. That's why I'm writing this report! Let me review:

- The Problem: The Trigger: this is God's timing.
- The Solution: God is Healing our Land

The Conditions: If

- If you are called by My name
- If you humble yourself
- If you pray
- If you turn from your wicked ways

The Promise

- I will hear from heaven
- I will heal your land

God Has a Will and He Has a Time

We usually understand God's will better than His timing! The promise is His will. The

problem is His timing. People, particularly Christians, are concerned about what is going on—political unrest, anger, and animosity now spilling over into violence, crime, and unrest. International tensions, personal and religious freedoms under pressure, injustice on open display, elections once unquestioned now under suspicion, good citizens arrested and criminals turned loose on the streets, not to mention a news media we simply do not trust! That's the trigger, God is ready to heal our land.

The one aiming the shot must be very careful to be very calm when pulling the trigger, the slightest movement can ruin the shot. Try to remain quiet. God is at work. God is in control! Those who believe in God just saw a magnificent demonstration of God's divine providence and protection. Those who don't believe in God are in disarray right now! Their political plans and schemes are not working, and they are running out of options!

Here's the Tricky Part

Here's where we get the “peanut butter in the jelly jar.” Many Christians, even prominent well-meaning minister types are down on America. It is so sad, and I'll tell you why a little

later. Do we have problems in America? Yes, we do. Is there evil lurking in America? Yes, absolutely. Do good people do bad things occasionally? Yes. Are some people corrupted in moments of weakness? Yes.

Here's the real question – Are Americans inherently bad people? Are they wicked? Are they basically dishonest? Are they vicious and cruel? I think the answer would be a resounding NO! Americans are generally kind, but they don't like laziness. They are not vindictive, but they don't want criminals running loose. They generally don't like the death penalty but realize it may be necessary in some extreme cases. Otherwise, they are a pretty easy group to get along with.

Now, the problem, because America has her faults, some want to make her all bad and deserving of God's judgment. More on that a little later, but for now, one very prominent minister, and I won't name him, said: "If God doesn't judge America, He'll need to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah." How sad and dangerous, because of his great influence. Thus, our problem today, i.e., many American Christians believe America is on her way to "hell in a handbasket." Nothing could be further from the truth! America is a good and great nation that has been sold a "bill of goods."

Let's give America the Sodom and Gomorrah test. The test was provided by Abraham in the last part of Genesis 18. Here Abraham began negotiating with God for 50 good people in Sodom and Gomorrah. It was painfully obvious that Abraham started way too high and continued down until he got to ten righteous people. He stopped at ten. He probably had that many of his family there.

Now, let's apply that test to America. Do you know of a village or small town where there wouldn't be ten good people? What about a good-sized town or small city? Again, just ten good people? The question goes on, major city, county, or state that would have ten good people. Do you see the absurdity of the question? Of course, well then do you see the problem? We are a nation of good and good-hearted people with some real problems! Yes, some very wicked people in high places, who do some really bad things, and we have a responsibility as citizens to correct those problems. As a nation, we correct these problems by electing good people to positions of authority.

Sadly, many good people, including well-meaning Christians take elections and people in leadership for granted. They see spiritual things as paramount, but everyday things like education and local governmental issues as mundane and not

particularly important. Oh, sure, they vote in national elections, but in lesser issues, not so much. In this lack of diligence, evil and corruption can take root, and like weeds in a garden, quickly “take over.”

The Wickedness is in High Places

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Ephesians 6:12

Yes, there is the “everyday garden variety” sin. Yes, people do lie, cheat, steal, gossip, and are sinners by nature, however, most people try to live good lives, be good citizens, good neighbors, and good family members. How many Christians can quote the above verse but can’t apply it? It simply says wickedness in high places, not your everyday human weaknesses of flesh and blood, i.e., hitting your nail with a hammer and saying some bad words, maybe only slowing down for a stop sign, or failing to pay for something you dropped in a store. They have such shallow spiritual perception they are spiritually blind. Let me illustrate:

Most American Christians Do Not Believe that Satan or the Holy Spirit Exist

Research Released in Faith & Christianity
April 13, 2009

A new nationwide survey of adults' spiritual beliefs, conducted by The Barna Group, suggests that Americans who consider themselves to be Christian have a diverse set of beliefs--but many of those beliefs are contradictory or, at least, inconsistent. The survey explored beliefs about spiritual beings, the influence of faith on their life, views of the Bible, and reactions to faiths other than their own.

Why This “Old” Illustration?

Precisely to show where people were “coming from” some few fifteen years ago. People were going about their daily lives, mostly unaware of the spiritual forces at work in the background of our lives. There were a few preacher-types warning about spiritual decay, but most people were mostly concerned with life’s daily issues

Fast Forward to 2024

Fifteen Years is about 4 election cycles. Look what has changed.

- We've had eight plus four years of open borders.
- Crime now has full legal support in our major cities.
- Police have become a laughingstock in some cities, receiving little or no support from elected officials.
- The justice system has become a joke! Criminals are getting a “slap on the wrist” and turned back on the street to “crime” again.
- Murder and rape are up, drug use is rampant.
- Homelessness is overwhelming.
- Vital businesses are closing shop and “heading out.”
- International crime cartels are taking over our streets.
- Young people are giving up on the hope of a better future.

People are personally experiencing what “wickedness in high places” looks like when it hits street level. People are no longer safe. They can feel it. The “wickedness” is now a daily reality! See how things have changed?

Why This Report?

Our society is sick. We need a doctor who can heal us. That's God's promise! He wants to be that doctor. He will heal our land! If My (His; our; we) people pray and humble themselves – THEN He will hear.

In the illustration of the shooter, you have the target, the time, and the trigger. It's pretty simple—God wants to heal our land! If He is going to do it, it will be clearly His supernatural way of doing it! As long as we are trying to manufacture some human solution, He will simply wait! He will wait until we admit we do not have an answer except HIM! That's when HE WILL HEAL OUR LAND, but only when He gets the Glory! IN GOD WE TRUST will no longer be a slogan, or part of a pledge we recite mechanically, but as He said,

But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and

every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more. Jeremiah 31:33-34

Bottom Line

God wants His rightful place in America! God will have His rightful place—period. There were those who wanted to push Him out! Today, they are in disarray! Christians grieved over Roe v Wade, prayer in schools, the Ten Commandments, so they began to pray! God heard their prayer and has been moving in the physical arena for those who have not turned to Him! How does He deal with those who do not believe in Him? Like a sniper, He just waits until the time is right. He's not worried, He's not in a hurry! He is not going to miss! He is right on target!

My attention has been drawn of late to the problems in our “Blue” cities. A few months ago, they were touting their “Sanctuary City Status.” Now it seems that people from around the world have fled to these sanctuaries and are taking over. Some countries are taking advantage and opening their prisons and mental institutions. Some large city mayors are seeing a reversal, now that the

above-mentioned effects are “gripping” their beloved city. Some “Sanctuary Cities” are starting to arrest the very people they once welcomed! A proverb here might apply.

*There is a way which seemeth right unto a man,
but the end thereof are the ways of death.*

Proverbs 14:12

Show Up and Show Out

I have a dear friend from whom I have borrowed her favorite expression. I believe it summarizes our situation in America. America is not a church trying to do the will of God. It is a human institution with both good and evil working within its ranks. Like us humans, there is a constant battle between the flesh and the spirit! We have seen a long period of time in which the human, fleshly, carnal nature has prevailed, but Christians have prayed, and God is moving by His Spirit to bring about the healing we have so longed for.

It's Time to Rejoice

There was a time in ancient Israel in which a great military king by the name of Saul had failed in His leadership and God was replacing him. It

was hard for the prophet to accept the fall of the old order. At one time the king walked in God's favor, but his heart had strayed from God and now God had rejected him, but the Prophet Samuel was struggling, so God spoke to him directly:

How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? Fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons. 1 Samuel 16:1

Divine Intervention

This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. Psalm 118:23

We've seen a bit of divine intervention. I believe there is much more as we go forward. We need to embrace it! There will be doubters and nay-sayers, but we now have the momentum and can see God's blessings way into the future. Many laws and norms can be changed to affect our nation well into the next century. We prayed, God answered in His own special will and way, so we need to move forward in faith. This is just the beginning.

Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ: Philippians 1:6

Reprobation

And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Romans 1:28 KJV

And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; Romans 1:28 NKJV

I want to call attention to a spiritual concept which would not be considered appropriate in many modern Christian churches today, and yet the situation is evident all around, yet without recognition. In our recent news cycles we see things that are described as ridiculous, absurd, ludicrous, crazy or even insane. I want to add a spiritual dimension to these observations:

Supernaturally Inspired Insanity

The New Testament warns of wicked and evil times in the last days, yet somehow, we seem to be surprised or even shocked when we hear of such reports in the news. Here are some of the warnings

This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. 2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good. 2 Timothy 3:1-3

At the time of this writing we are in perilous times indeed. We are in the presidential election season. We have witnessed an assassination attempt. The director of the Secret Service has resigned after bi-partisan pressure from the House of Representatives who called for her resignation because of so many unanswered questions. We have witnessed the president “dropping out” of the campaign after months of declaring he would not “drop out.” Some suspect he was forced out. He has endorsed his vice president, but she has only a little more than one month before the convention which looks to be divided between the pro-Israeli and pro-Palestinian factions of their

party. The elections on November 5 are only a couple of months away, a very brief time for a major candidate change especially under difficult circumstances.

Recent References to God, Divine Providence, Intervention

- Newt Gingrich: You can't overstate the providential nature of Trump's survival
- Vivek Ramaswamy said this: "I personally believe that God intervened today, not just on behalf of President Trump but on behalf of our country."
- Texas Governor Greg Abbot "Trump is truly blessed by the hand of God -- being able to evade being assassinated."
- Sen. Tim Scott, "If you didn't believe in miracles before Saturday, you better be believing right now, Thank God Almighty that we live in a country that still believes in the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords, the Alpha and the Omega. Our God still saves. He still delivers and he still sets free."
- Pastor Robert Jeffress, First Baptist Dallas, "What happened yesterday is also a demonstration of the power of almighty God, I mean, what happened was inexplicable apart from God. God spared him for the purpose of calling our nation back to its Judeo-Christian foundation."

- President Trump, “I’m not supposed to be here tonight, I stand before you in this arena only by the grace of almighty God.”

It is in this brief moment of national realization that our country could have been thrust into chaos, or worse, civil war, except by divine intervention I present this observation.

Since the assassination attempt we have witnessed the very divided Democratic Party put on a very “Staged Unity” Convention, with lackluster attendance, with some absences by those in close races. Outside demonstrations of support for Hamas, burning the American flag and hoisting the Palestinian flag showing hatred for Israel and America. More recently we have witnessed the likes of Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and Tulsi Gabbert, frustrated Democrats crossing over to endorse President Trump, with others expected to follow.

One political commentator opens his program with a line, “Here to help you stay sane in these insane times.” While I agree these are insane times, I want to expand on the ordinary use of “insanity” to suggest “Supernaturally Inspired Insanity.” I don’t think we’re dealing with your “garden variety insanity” here, or these people

would not be able to function. Actually this insanity takes on a “spiritual dimension”

I mentioned the attempted assassination. In a split second of time the president turned his head slightly avowing a shot to the head to miss by a fraction of an inch, striking only his ear.

Realizing the extraordinary circumstances surrounding this awesome scenario, some described it as luck, or circumstance, but others saw divine providence, miracle, or just the grace of Almighty God. In a rare moment the normally divided Congress was united in asking questions and calling for the resignation/firing of the Secret Service Director. The solemn realization that the United States of America had just “dodged a bullet” by mere millimeters. Had the assassin’s bullet found it’s intended target the country would be in the shock of grief and the looming threat of all-out civil war! Like a near accident, or a life-threatening surgery, we pause to reflect about how fragile our life is, our purpose in life and survival, and the role Almighty God plays in our mortal existence. During this time of reflection I want to point out some examples of insanity and also some biblical examples of divinely induced insanity for comparison.

The Insanity of Open Borders

- The Criminal element

The insanity involves a three-pronged approach. 1. Relax prosecution of crime in the courts. 2. Open the border under the pretext of human suffering, knowing the criminal element will come seeking “greener pastures” in America. 3. Use taxpayer funded inducements to “control the impoverished” in their vulnerable condition via: food stamps, free medical, education, and other assistance.

- The Drug element

A drug addict is a totally dependent entity. You can pour countless resources into this “sinkhole” of humanity. Notice the “insanity” of living in the filth and squalor of the drug culture.

- The Cartel element

In the “old mafia days” things were closer, the crime bosses had closer contact with “losers” they controlled and used to carry out their orders. The cartels are more sophisticated, using technology and latest equipment, while funding their well-organized networks via drugs and prostitution to control their operatives. The drug dealers have greatly replaced the “pimp” by virtue of drug addiction of women. We see brilliance in science, business, technology, agriculture, automotive, medical and space exploration, but there is also a supernatural, demonically inspired brilliance in the cartels.

- The Homeless element

The insanity here is acceptance. The individual accepts this as his station in life. The local government accepts where the homeless are located, i.e., out of sight, until the problem grows until it

is too big to hide and then, just accept it. Once this element is “recognized,” then it encroaches onto the sidewalks, doorways, parks, street corners, not to mention abandoned houses. It is a ready-made “cause” for any political, social or religious group that needs invigorating.

- **The Business element**

This supernaturally induced insanity is a three-pronged attack on business. Business has a two-fold purpose, to provide products or services needed in the community and to make a profit. Inflation makes prices go up, so it is harder to make a profit. Crime increases costs by theft and destruction. If a business can't make a profit, then it cuts back on labor, thus fewer jobs, but if it closes then there are no jobs and no service in the local community. The poor have to travel further for their needs.

Supernaturally Inspired Lying

It has become more visible that people are lying with impunity, often when confronted with written, audio or video evidence. Jesus spoke of this phenomenon we are increasingly witnessing in *John 8:44* *Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He . . . abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.*

- The Drain on Public Resources

- The drain on Police

Cutting back on the police is a demon's dream! Some major cities actually bought into this delusion! A few short years later this has become a nightmare, crime increased, personal crime leaves vulnerable members of

society unprotected. Response times are longer, allowing the criminals a “window of opportunity” to complete their crime. Citizens lose. Their lives are in danger.

- The drain on financial resources
In the recent Covid crisis much activity was curtailed. In response, people were paid not to work. Many people worked from home. Many businesses closed and shop online came into prominence. Now that the smoke has cleared, we are now feeling the squeeze. Everything is more expensive. Inflation has set in. budgets are tighter. Opportunities are fewer. People are struggling to provide necessities.
- The drain on housing
Interest rates are up, discouraging the housing market. For lower income families, the influx of immigrants compete for the lower priced housing, effectively raising costs for the “American dream” of home ownership.

- The drain on education

Every state has become a border state, every city a border town and every school has become a multi-lingual learning and feeding center, in order to maintain established programs. School districts are stressed.

- The drain on hospitals

Similarly, new arrivals in our country are dramatically dependent on public health facilities. With no health insurance, hospitals, emergency rooms are the default choice rather than private doctors.

- The strain on sanitation

Public sanitation facilities are not designed to handle the sudden increase in demand. Portable facilities are far more expensive to maintain. People resort to relieving themselves on the sidewalk.

- The strain on public services

When you introduce masses of people into a city, county town etc., the basic

services still need to be provided even those extra people add no tax revenue to support services such as sewer, trash disposal, water and transportation. Since crossing the border illegally, they are dependent on public transportation, thus the strain.

- The re-emergence of third world diseases

Since there is no vetting of these people, not only do we have a criminal element, but we also have a medical issue creeping into our country. Many of the diseases which were wiped out decades ago are re-appearing in the migrant community. If these diseases are re-introduced in public arenas such as schools or buses and subways, the possibility of these almost forgotten diseases recurring.

- The threat to large and small business

Along with defunding the police came a softening on crime. Without proper police support, crime, particularly retail crime, only takes a few, regular,

robberies or shoplifting incidents and the store is no longer profitable. Once there is no profit incentive the owners or corporation have to close. Thus the thieves not only steal from the store but rob the neighborhood of a very needed service. Example: All coin-operated conveniences are particularly vulnerable. Once the machine has been disabled, the convenience has been stolen from the community. Sad

The Threat to our Election System

It took several months to raise the issue. First there was the denial, then came the insult: “How Dare You!” Then the reports and eyewitnesses came forward. Next was the charges and then the court hearings and now almost four years later, there was, indeed, voter fraud. Some lost their jobs, some lost their office, and some went to jail, but the integrity of our voting system is compromised. Many legislative attempts have been made to correct the problems, but many are still not confident. Lack of integrity nearly cost us a precious constitutional right and freedom.

The Threat to Retirement

You work, save and invest all your life to plan for your retirement, yet you can't foresee someone Just "giving away" your retirement just to "buy votes" and stay in power, but it has happened, and you are helpless to do anything about it. So many retirees are cutting back, less travel, fewer trips, more time at home, robbed of their lifelong dreams. For others, retirement means, get a part-time job.

The Threat to Social Security

It was a flawed system from the beginning, but you hoped it would be there for you when you were old enough to retire, so you retire only to find out your social security benefits are being offered to people who paid nothing into the system. So each political candidate promises his opponent will cancel your security and the uncertainty causes you to worry about your future. Social Insecurity!

The Threat of Inflation

Inflation gradually deteriorates the value of money, requiring more dollars to buy the same product in the future.

The Threat to the Future for Young People

Again, inflation affects young people in the sense that a formal education is so expensive that they can't afford to buy a house, because of student loan acts like a second house payment, thus a house payment without a house, therefore they are stuck in their parent's basement as adults. Discouraging, why plan for the future, the dreams of a fulfilling life have been stolen.

Biblical Examples of Divine Induced Insanity

Many times in ancient scriptures temporary insanity is a technique used by God to give strategic advantage to His chosen people.

- The Story of Gideon Judges 7:22
- The Story of King Saul 1 Samuel 16:14-23
- The Destruction of Pharaoh's Army Exodus 14:13-28

Bible Stories of Divine Intervention

- The Wilderness Wanderings Nehemiah 9:21
- The Blinding of the Syrian Army 2 Kings 6:14-23
- The Fire from Heaven 1 Kings 18:22-40
- The Death of Goliath 1 Samuel 17:41-51
- The Fiery Furnace Daniel 3:16-28

New Testament

- The Calming of the Sea Mark 4:36-39
- Feeding the Five Thousand Matthew 14:14-21
- Resurrections
 - Lazarus John 11:1-45
 - Jesus Matthew 28:1-10

Conclusion

As in ancient times, God is using insanity again. Many people do not walk “in faith.” They live in a very material world which makes less and less sense each day. In many situations the “insanity” is seeping into our personal world. As our every day lives are negatively affected, God uses this frustration to turn our thoughts to things beyond our mortal existence, i.e., to Him. As He collectively gets our attention, He is preparing to move sovereignly to correct the insanity. He has a infinite “bag of tricks” to use in correcting the present insanity, but He has to get our attention first.

I have included this excerpt from a Barna Report to show the lack of awareness of activity in the spiritual realm. Because of this lack of belief many Christians give no thought to spiritual input into our daily lives, simply seeing everything on a material, or human level. I wanted to offer a summary of the current events from a spiritual perspective. It is my hope that this report

will encourage you in these uncertain times.
God is at work, God is with us, trust Him.

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Ephesians 6:12

Most American Christians Do Not Believe that Satan or the Holy Spirit Exist

Research Released in Faith & Christianity
April 13, 2009

A new nationwide survey of adults' spiritual beliefs, conducted by The Barna Group, suggests that Americans who consider themselves to be Christian have a diverse set of beliefs –but many of those beliefs are contradictory or, at least, inconsistent. The survey explored beliefs about spiritual beings, the influence of faith on their life, views of the Bible, and reactions to faiths other than their own.

Views on Spiritual Beings

The Barna survey asked questions about God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, Satan, and demons.

All 1,871 self-described Christians were asked about their perception of God. In total, three-quarters (78%) said he is the “all-powerful, all-knowing Creator of the universe who rules the world today.” The remaining one-quarter chose other descriptions of God – depictions that are not consistent with biblical teaching (e.g., everyone is god, god refers to the realization of human potential, etc.).

For the other survey items a four-point opinion scale was used to measure people's reactions to statements about each spiritual entity.

Four out of ten Christians (40%) strongly agreed that Satan "is not a living being but is a symbol of evil." An additional two out of ten Christians (19%) said they "agree somewhat" with that perspective. A minority of Christians indicated that they believe Satan is real by disagreeing with the statement: one-quarter (26%) disagreed strongly and about one-tenth (9%) disagreed somewhat. The remaining 8% were not sure what they believe about the existence of Satan.

Although a core teaching of the Christian faith is the divinity and perfection of Jesus Christ, tens of millions of Christians do not accept that teaching. More than one-fifth (22%) strongly agreed that Jesus Christ sinned when He lived on earth, with an additional 17% agreeing somewhat. Holding the opposing view were 9% who disagreed somewhat and 46% who disagreed strongly. Six percent did not have an opinion on this matter.

Much like their perceptions of Satan, most Christians do not believe that the Holy Spirit is a living force, either. Overall, 38% strongly agreed and 20% agreed somewhat that the Holy Spirit is "a symbol of God's power or presence but is not a living entity." Just one-third of Christians disagreed that the Holy Spirit is not a living force (9%)

disagreed somewhat, 25% disagreed strongly) while 9% were not sure.

A majority of Christians believe that a person can be under the influence of spiritual forces, such as demons or evil spirits. Two out of three Christians agreed that such influence is real (39% agreed strongly, 25% agreed somewhat), while just three out of ten rejected the influence of supernatural forces (18% disagreed strongly, 10% disagreed somewhat). The remaining 8% were undecided on this matter.

Influence of Faith

Most self-described Christians contend that their religious faith has significantly impacted their life. Almost six out of ten adults (59%) said their faith had “greatly transformed” their life, while 29% said their faith “has been helpful but has not greatly transformed” their life and 9% stated that their religious faith “has not made much of a difference” in who they are and how they live.

Christians were asked if they believed that a person must either side with God or with the devil – that there is no in-between position. A large majority strongly agreed with the notion (61%) while an additional 15% agreed somewhat. Just one out of ten adults disagreed somewhat (10%) and a similar proportion (11%) disagreed strongly. Surprisingly few adults (3%) did not have an opinion on this matter.

A large majority of Christians also proclaimed that the most important purpose in their life is to “love God with all their heart, mind, strength and soul,” a notion drawn directly from the Bible (Mark 12:29-30). In total, three out of four self-described Christians (74%) strongly affirmed that idea, while 15% more agreed somewhat with the statement. Just 4% strongly disagreed and 7% somewhat disagreed with the statement. Three percent said they were not sure.

Views on the Bible

A slight majority of Christians (55%) strongly agree that the Bible is accurate in all of the principles it teaches, with another 18% agreeing somewhat. About one out of five either disagree strongly (9%) or somewhat (13%) with this statement, and 5% aren’t sure what to believe.

There is no similar clarity among self-defined Christians regarding how the Bible compares to other holy books. When faced with the statement that “the Bible, the Koran and the Book of Mormon are all different expressions of the same spiritual truths,” the group was evenly split between those who accepted the idea (19% agreed strongly, 22% agreed somewhat) and those who rejected it (28% disagreed strongly, 12% disagreed somewhat), while leaving a sizeable portion (20%) undecided.

Inconsistencies Noted

The study also identified a number of instances in which people's beliefs seemed inconsistent. Among those were the following:

- About half (47%) of the Christians who believed that Satan is merely a symbol of evil nevertheless agreed that a person can be under the influence of spiritual forces such as demons.
- About half (49%) of those who agreed that the Holy Spirit is only a symbol but not a living entity also agreed that the Bible is totally accurate in all of the principles it teaches, even though the Bible clearly describes the Holy Spirit as more than a symbolic reference to God's power or presence.
- About one-third (33%) of the self-defined Christians who agree that the Bible, Koran and Book of Mormon all teach the same truths simultaneously contend that the Bible is totally accurate in its principles, even though the three sacred books have very different ideas about truth, salvation, and the nature of God.

Americans Are Struggling to Make Sense of Their Faith

George Barna, the author of nearly four dozen books analyzing research concerning America's faith, suggested that Americans are constantly trying to figure out how to make sense of biblical teachings in light of their daily experiences.

“Most Americans, even those who say they are Christian, have doubts about the intrusion of the supernatural into the natural world. Hollywood has made evil accessible and tame, making Satan and demons less worrisome than the Bible suggests they really are. It's hard for achievement-driven, self-reliant, independent people to believe that their lives can be impacted by unseen forces. At the same time, through sheer force of repetition, many Americans intellectually accept some ideas – such as the fact that you either side with God or Satan, there's no in-between – that do not get translated into practice.”

Barna also noted that Christians tend to be open to co-existence with other faiths. “Most people understand that America's religious life is diverse,” explained the author of a forthcoming book about the nation's faith segments, *The Seven Faith Tribes*. “A majority of Christians are generally open to maintaining relationships with people of other faiths, and most are not predisposed to judging people of different faiths, such as Mormons or Wiccans. But that open-mindedness is sometimes due to their

limited knowledge about the principles of their own faith and ignorance about other faiths as it is to a purposeful acceptance of other faiths.”

About the Research

This report is based upon telephone interviews conducted by The Barna Group for two surveys among people who described themselves as “Christian.” A total of 1,871 adults were randomly selected from across the 48 continental states, with the first 873 interviews conducted in January and February 2008, and the remaining 998 interviews conducted in November 2008. The aggregate sample The range of sampling error associated with a sample of 1,871 people is between ± 1.0 and ± 2.2 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. The range of sampling error associated with the sub-sample of 873 adults is between ± 1.5 and ± 3.4 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. The range of sampling error associated with the sub-sample of 998 adults is between ± 1.4 and ± 3.2 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. Minimal statistical weighting was used to calibrate the aggregate sample to known population percentages in relation to several key demographic variables.

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