

Grace Bible Church of Rolling Meadows
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What's Going on in the World Today?

Part 1

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What's going on in the world today? Have you asked yourself that question lately? And where are we headed? These are questions that many people are asking these days - especially after the latest mass shooting or terrorist attack wherever that might be.

You can't listen to talk radio, or the evening news, without seeing that the forces of evil are manifesting themselves at every level of human society - in every place from the world stage right on down to the cities and towns in which we live.

I live in the northwest suburb of Arlington Heights, just outside of Chicago, Ill. In the city of Chicago, not more than 50 miles from where I live, there are the largest number of gangs and gang related activity per capita, of any city in the nation. In the city of Chicago, there are more homicides and shootings per capita than in any city in the world - wherever such data is available.

As of early December of 2015, when I began putting this message together, there had been 475 total homicides in 2015 up to then, and for every person killed by gunfire in Chicago, another 4 people are shot and survive. Those numbers were up from the previous year.

The city of Chicago saw 107 mass shootings in 2014 - a mass shooting being defined as having three or more victims. As of July 25, 2015, there had been 192 mass shootings, according to the Chicago Tribune. In the first 2 months of 2016, all previous records for the number of shootings and murders / month have been broken. Most of the killing and violence are gang and drug related.

I began putting this message together on Dec.6, 2015. Ironically, that was the day before Spike Lee's controversial movie "Chiraq" was released. The title of that movie, of course (much to the objection and dismay of Chicago city officials) likening that which is going on in Chicago, to that which has been going on for years with the war in Iraq.

Most of these killings and violence in Chicago are gang and drug related, but many of the victims are often innocent citizens who just happen to be in the crossfire of rival gang members. Sometimes, the circumstances associated with the shootings are even more tragic and despicable. One of the killings in Chicago which made national news in 2015 occurred on Nov.2 when 9 y/o Tyshawn Lee, who was

playing basketball with some friends at a local playground, was lured by several men into a nearby alley, where he was shot to death.

It was learned shortly thereafter that this assassination of 9 y/o Tyshawn Lee was gang retaliation - gang retaliation to get back at the boy's father - who was a member of a rival gang.

In March of 2016, the three men who planned the assassination of Tyshawn Lee were finally identified, and one of them was taken into custody, at which time it was learned that the original intent of these assassins was to cut off the boys ears and fingers, before killing him.

The incident of Tyshawn Lee's murder demonstrated another bazaar and pathological aspect of all this evil going on in Chicago, and that is what has appropriately been referred to as a "code of silence" which exists among these rival gangs. Tyshawn Lee's father knew who was responsible for the murder of his son, yet his cooperation with the police in the case was virtually nil. And this is the norm with all these gang related killings. This "code of silence" or "honour among thieves", so to speak, was more important in the thinking of Tyshawn Lee's father, than bringing justice in the murder of his own son. And you have to ask the question - "What in the world is that?"

These are the things that make the news in Chicago, and sometimes even all across the nation, but that's not the half of it. My son-in-law is a Chicago police officer. He's worked nights in the Englewood district of Chicago for years. Englewood is currently considered to be one of the worst districts in the entire city, if not **the** worst, and I can tell you, that according to what he deals with on a routine basis, there's a whole lot more going on there than you ever even hear about in the news.

There are community activists who infiltrate these problem areas in Chicago, and who try do what they can to intervene in these situations - who attempt to resolve some of these problems - to prevent the gang retaliations - to stop the evil before it continues to escalate.

They try to do this underground, so to speak, infiltrating the gang activities without the intervention of the police - so as not to lose their street credibility among these gangs.

As they do this, they also try to get into the thinking, and the mindset of these gang members.

And these gang members describe how that all the violence and killing which goes on creates an atmosphere of constant fear, and an attitude which these community activists describe as an actual lack of self-respect within the gang members themselves - a lack of respect for themselves. The mentality among these gang members is, "If I don't like myself there's no way I'm gonna like you." It's actually an attitude of "self-hatred." Some of the younger gang members typically say things like, "Well, I don't like him because he lives on a different block - so I just don't like him." In the words of these community activists who are trying to intervene, "These gang members don't appreciate life because they feel like their life isn't worth anything. So they have no problem taking someone else's life." They have no purpose other than to foster whatever pathological camaraderie exists within the structure of their own individual gang.

So, what's the answer to all this?

Many folks clamour for increased gun control - and stricter gun laws. Many insist that we need more police on the streets. Others contend that the our judicial system just fosters the escalation of these evils by continually releasing lesser offenders back onto the streets. All these things are probably true.

But the problems just continue to escalate, and people in these areas of Chicago can't ever venture out of their homes safely at night.

There can be no denying the fact that the forces of evil, greed and self-interests are manifesting themselves every where you look in the city of Chicago. The spirit of greed and power have so permeated the political system and it's political leaders, that they have sold the economic future of the city of Chicago, and it's citizens, for the sole purpose of remaining in their own personal positions of power and authority - vehemently rejecting any suggestion of term limitations, or budget reform, or anything else which might truly reform the currently devastating economic problems of the city. The only solution in their minds is to continually raise taxes, so as to comfortably maintain their corrupted power base.

Although the city of Chicago may demonstrate the worst of all these evils, these problems are commonplace throughout the cities across America, and almost inevitably, the larger a city becomes, the greater the forces of evil become, manifesting themselves in all this corruption, lawlessness, violence and fear.

And there can be no denying the fact that these same forces of evil are manifesting themselves at every level of human society. On the national level, that same spirit of greed and power which drives the ongoing corruption in the city of Chicago permeates our political leaders in Washington as well, as they continue to sell out the interests and welfare of the American people to whatever lobbyists might give them the best chance of remaining in **their** positions of power and authority.

Political correctness is the order of the day, replacing true tolerance and common sense with nonsense. We live in a society today where our government is now unable to even define the institution of marriage, as the gay and lesbian agenda have been allowed to completely redefine what marriage is, and what rational morality is.

Marriage - a God ordained institution which has been unquestioned for over 4,000 years - unquestioned because it **is** one of the 4 God ordained institutions designed by God for the successful functioning of human society, and no longer content to simply co-exist in a society which has been tolerant of their lifestyle, by those who don't condone it, the gay and lesbian agenda has now turned to silencing anyone whose views are not the same as their's - silencing those with opposing views as perpetrators of hate crimes, punishable by fines or imprisonment, and the move is on to categorize the Bible no less (which clearly stands against homosexuality) - to categorize the Bible as hate literature.

In the colleges and universities throughout our nation, educators are now routinely terminated from their positions for expressing opinions contrary to the gay / lesbian agenda - or for even suggesting the possibility of intelligent design.

The issue of abortion continues to tear our nation apart. We live in a society today where it is very

likely that someone may spend time in jail for allowing dogs to kill one another, yet it is perfectly all-right to murder your unborn baby. In fact, the government is readily willing to pay you to do so.

The foundations of our Constitution, based on principles of absolute truth, are systematically and gradually being replaced by the evils of multiculturalism.

We see school children with absolutely no concept of what is right and what is wrong.

We see mobs of young girls - girls, no less, gathering together to beat some other girl to pulp, with no inhibition or sense of remorse. Physical and cyber bullying are commonplace in our elementary schools today. And we are seeing adolescents in our high schools walking into their classrooms with guns and randomly mowing down numbers of their classmates.

It wasn't like this when I was in school 50 years ago. And the question which everyone keeps asking is, "What is going on in the world today?"

On the world-wide stage:

As I said, I began putting this message together on Dec.6, 2015 - 4 days after (what was then) the most recent terrorist attack on a group Americans in San Bernardino, California - killing 14 people and wounding 17. That attack, in San Bernardino, took place just 19 days following the ISIS attack at several sites in Paris, France, on Nov.13 - killing 130 people and wounding hundreds of others, and that attack in Paris, France, was just a little less than 5 weeks after the bombing of a Russian passenger plane en route from the Egyptian resort city of Sharm el-Sheikh, to St. Petersburg, Russia - killing all 224 people on board on October 31 -

later to be determined that the bomb which took down that Russian airliner was also the work of terrorists - probably ISIS related. And the most recent terrorist attack occurred just a couple of weeks ago in Brussels, Belgium on March 22 killing 34 and wounding 212.

Those events have raised the fear of air travel to new levels for many people, and heightened the efforts of government surveillance, internet monitoring and intelligence gathering in virtually every country on the globe, as it has become increasingly obvious that the forces of evil against civilized members of the human community could strike anyone, anywhere, and at any time.

Unrest in the Middle East has reached unprecedented levels, as most of the countries surrounding Israel remain intent on wiping Israel off the face of the earth.

And the question is - "What is going on in the world today?"

Most of our aspiring political candidates, and those who are in office already, think they have the answer. They always think they have the answer. But they never do, and things just continue to get worse.

There are those who think like President Barach Obama thinks (or at least how he did think at one point) - that if only the right strings were to be pulled, the forces of evil in this world could be tamed, and all the world could sit around the campfire singing “Kumbaya.” I think he’s learning that these forces of evil which we see all around us have been greatly, greatly underestimated, and are far too great for that to ever happen.

So, is there an answer for all this?

There may be, but there is one thing that is **certain**, and that is that there is an **explanation** for all this. There can be no answer, if you’re unable to explain **why** all this is going on.

And the rest of this message, for those who may be interested, will hopefully dispel the commonly proclaimed notion that the Bible is nothing but an inaccurate, outdated piece of literature, written by men, which has absolutely no relevance to society or to the lives of people today. And I would challenge anyone who holds that notion, to listen to the remainder of this message, and **then** tell me that they are still of the same opinion, after hearing the things which the Bible has to say about these issues. At the very least, this is going to be a whole more interesting than anything you’ve heard from the politicians of our day, or in the news, or from the talking heads in the media.

I’ll get to the crux of the matter. Then I’ll elaborate on many specifics as I go on.

As I said a moment ago, there are those who contend that if only the right strings were to be pulled, the forces of evil in this world could be tamed, and we could all coexist in peace and harmony.

This next statement which I’m going to make, may not sit well with those of you who proclaim to be atheists out there, but then you just may give that a second thought if you will have the perseverance to make it through this entire message. You will often hear it said, by those who feel that we can tame the forces of evil in this world, and live in peace and harmony that, “After all, in the end, aren’t we really all serving the same God anyway?” I’ve heard President Obama say this - that in the end, we all serve the same God.

This is nonsense, and nothing could be further from the truth, and this is one of the most ignorant presumptions anyone could ever make.

The Bible describes the god who is responsible for the evil we see all around us in this world today, as the god **of** this world. That is not just some cute Biblical metaphor. The “god of this world” is so called because he **is** the driving force behind all the evil we see in this world today.

In 2 Corinthians 4:3-4, that god is described as the one who blinds the minds of people who have not been able to see the wonderful **good** news, which the one **true** God of the universe offers to mankind. The “god of this world” spoken of in 2 Corinthians 4:3-4 has many names in the Bible. In the gospel of John 8:44, Jesus identified “the god of this world” for who he really is - the devil - Satan.

Satan was the driving force behind the evil intentions of the religious leaders of Jesus' day - the religious leaders who were determined to murder their own Messiah. And they succeeded in doing just that.

The god of this world has many names in the Bible. Ephesians 2:2 refers to that "god of this world" as "the prince of the power of the air" and states how that Satan has charted a course of evil **for** this world, which is demonstrated by those who are functioning under the spirit of his influence and power. Then in verses 3-10 of Ephesians 2, "the god of this world" is contrasted with the one true God of the universe, along with a brief description of the course which **He** has charted for those who respond to His unparalleled love and goodness.

We see this spirit of evil which Satan has charted for this world in every facet of society.

It is that spirit which is the driving force behind all the evils which I've pointed out to you on the world stage, on the national level, in the cities in which we live, and in fact, in the lives of everyone of us individually - when we allow him to influence us to make poor choices in our lives.

And in like manner, there are those who contend that Christianity and Islam are serving and praying to the same God? Aren't there? I've heard president Obama make statements like this as well.

And in like manner, this is complete nonsense as well! Answer this question if you would.

Would you prefer to pray to, and serve a god who relegates women as 2nd class beings, basically to be regarded as possessions for the lusts of the flesh - a god who encourages his followers to exterminate Christians and Jews (referred to in the Quran as the infidels, pagans, unbelievers, hypocrites or people of the book) or any one else who is not willing to embrace Islamic ideology - and a god who condones and encourages lying and deceit on the part of his followers, if necessary, to achieve those ends?

Quran references: Suras 8:12; 9:5,29,123; 24:11; 47:4; 61:9; 66:9

Or would you prefer to pray to, and serve a God who did not really ever need you or me, but who so loved mankind that He (this is the one **true** God now) was willing to enter into humanity, demonstrate a perfectly sinless life, (which we could never do) and then suffer and die on a cross to pay the penalty for all of these evils which we see in this world - and that in the course of doing this, was also working out a plan whereby you and I could be given eternal life in heaven, with Him, and experience every good thing which He has prepared for those who are simply willing to believe that He has done this for us?

Are these the same gods? Which one do you prefer to pray to and to serve? - the god who is the driving force behind, and orchestrating all the evil associated with Islam, or the one true God of the Bible and Christianity?

It is of critical importance to understand the driving force behind the evil which we see all around us - which is really the epic battle of the universe - good vs evil - God the Creator vs Satan, the created - Satan, who is perfectly content to be relegated merely to the comedic antics of Dana Carby's church lady, or to Flip Wilson's "the devil made me do it mentality."

These things make us laugh. But there is no humor in the reality of the situation.

I know exactly what the critics of all this are saying right now - "If what you say is true, then why doesn't this one **true** God which you speak of, put an end to all this evil right now?"

The long answer to that question is far beyond the scope or intent of what I'm trying to explain to you today.

The short answer to that question, is that if today **were** the day of God's judgement, those of you out there who are not yet justified in the eyes of God, would forever lose their chance to become so, and would therefore be consigned to spending eternity in hell. God is giving **you** a chance to determine your eternal destiny **before** He begins pouring out his judgment.

That's the short answer.

I began this message with a description of the evils which abound in the city of Chicago, truly one of the great cities of the world. The doctrines pertaining to the city which are found in the Bible are quite interesting. In one simple phrase, the prophet Isaiah succinctly describes the inevitable problems which would be associated with the city, when he writes, "Woe to them that join house to house... Isaiah 5:8. As people begin to congregate, and as the population of a city increases, the greater will be the prevalence of evil - typically manifesting itself in increased violence and murder.

The very first city which was ever established was founded by Cain, and is described in Genesis 4. Having just committed the first murder in human history (the murder of his own brother Abel in Genesis 4:8), the Lord had consigned Cain over to the life of a fugitive and vagabond, but in direct rebellion to the word of God, Cain establishes the city of Enoch in Genesis 4:16-17. The verses which follow, then go on to describe the development of music, the arts, entertainment and commerce - all associated with any great city. Since that first city, there has consistently been a characteristic spirit associated with the city - a spirit which is an extension of Cain's rebellious attitude against God's word.

Several thousand years later, in the days of the apostle Paul, that same spirit was seen in the great city of Athens, Greece. In Acts 17:16, the account describes how that the great city of Athens had been completely given over to idolatry. In the verses which follow, the philosophies of Epicureanism and Stoicism are mentioned.

Athens was the place where the great philosophies and the thinking of men like Socrates (469-399 BC), Aristotle (4th century BC) and Plato (428-327 BC) originated - philosophies of human viewpoint, and human wisdom, which stand in direct contradiction to the things God has said - philosophies which continue to influence the thinking of people to this very day - the spirit of rebellion against the words of God. **That** is the spirit which permeates the cities wherever you go on this planet.

And that same spirit of rebellion against the word of God is no less prevalent on the national scene as well.

It was not always that way (or at least the way it is today) in America.

And if we want to understand **why** we are seeing our great nation deteriorate before our eyes, and in order to explain **why** all these evils are present in our nation today, we really need to understand the

thinking and the reasoning which was going on in the minds of our founding fathers when they framed our Constitution - and then we need to look at all the insidious changes which have taken place in our nation **since** they framed that Constitution.

I can see the critics stirring again, saying, “Here it comes - now he’s going to start claiming that the founding fathers established the United States as a Christian nation - here it comes!”
Well, no I’m not.

Our nation has **never** been a Christian nation - never has been - never will be. In fact, there has never **been** a Christian nation on planet earth. But what there **have** been are Christians **within** a nation - Christians within **any** nation - even in some of the most ungodly of nations that have ever been. (Consider Russia, China, Indonesia, for example.)

In Paul’s 1st letter to the Thessalonians in 1:1-8, Paul has nothing but praise for those he’s writing to, in the church at Thessalonica. Paul had no higher praise for **any** church which he had ever established or written to, than that which he had for this group of believers at Thessalonica.

This church in Thessalonica was the premier example of what the Christian church was meant to be - and how it was supposed to function. But in reality, all that really meant, was that this was merely a unique body of Christians **within** a nation - within a nation that was still as pagan and godless as any nation could possibly be.

In 1 Thessalonians 1:9, Paul writes how these Thessalonian Christians had “turned from idols to serve the living and true God...true Christians living in the midst of a totally pagan nation. (That’s where we are today, by the way, in the USA.)

The founding fathers would **never** have sought to establish a Christian nation, because by definition, that would imply that Christianity would have been the official religion of the state. And they would have **never** done that. Why? Because our founding fathers knew all too well, the evils and injustices that had taken place in England as a result of the amalgamation of the Roman Catholic church - the Roman Catholic church amalgamating itself with the politics of the state of England, before and during the days of the Reformation - how that the Roman Catholic church, having amalgamated itself with the government of England, then had the authority to persecute and execute anyone who refused to believe what the Roman Catholic church insisted you needed to believe. And they did just that. As a result of the amalgamation of the church and state, thousands of Christians - **true** Christians were murdered. And our founding fathers, having extensively studied the history of European governments for years before actually framing our Constitution, would **never** have made that mistake.

The thing that our founding fathers wanted to make sure would **never** happen in this country, was the establishing of an official state religion, with its particular tenets of beliefs and doctrines, with the authority of the state, then, to persecute those individuals who did not ascribe to those beliefs and

doctrines. **That** is the true meaning of the separation of church and state.

You might recognize, by the way, that things have taken quite a turn about, in that the move is underway, and gaining momentum every day, for the persecution of those who ascribe to the beliefs and doctrines of Christianity. Quite a turn about. The prophet Isaiah couldn't have said it any better than when he said, "Woe to them that call evil good and good evil: that put darkness for light, and light for darkness...Isaiah 5:20

We're there folks - we're there. The times, they are a changin' folks.

As we saw with Paul's letter to the Thessalonians, there is a great deal of difference between a Christian nation, and Christians within a nation. And just for the record, every single one of the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence had church affiliations. Every single one of the 48 men who signed the articles of the Constitution had church affiliations. Many of these men were preachers of the Bible. There was not a single atheist among them, although there were 3 Deists in the group. A Deist is someone who believes in a Creator, and who believes in universal absolute truth, as you will find it in the Bible, but who does not believe in things like prophecy or miracles. Those 3 deists were Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, and a lesser known man by the name of Cornelius Harnett, from North Carolina.

I haven't yet addressed the actual framing of our Constitution, and how our founding fathers went about that, but you cannot understand **why** our country has been in a steady state of decline until we examine the thinking, and the reasoning, which was going on in the minds of our founding fathers when they framed our Constitution - and how that their reasoning ties into what the Bible teaches about what is needed for **any** government to function successfully.

Well, there is no better place to begin that examination than with Thomas Jefferson's Preamble to the Declaration of Independence:

"When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which **the Laws of Nature** and of **Nature's God** entitles them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are **endowed by their Creator** with certain inalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Nature's God, the **Creator** of all men. Those phrases are pretty self-explanatory. As I've already pointed out to you, **none** of the founding fathers were atheists.

But this phrase referring to the **Laws of Nature** is an interesting phrase, and needs some clarification. Where and why did Jefferson come up with this phrase - the **Laws of Nature**?

And what does it mean?

Noted historical scholars **Donald S. Lutz** and **Charles Hyneman**, have examined 2,200 political books, pamphlets, newspaper articles and monographs, written by our founding fathers between 1760 and 1805. Why did they do this? They did this in order to examine exactly what our founding fathers were thinking, saying and writing about - and to find out which political philosophers were most frequently quoted by them, in a positive sense, in those writings - which political philosophers were quoted most often, and who were the most instrumental and influential to the thinking of our founding fathers as the Constitution was being written.

The **2nd most frequently quoted** political philosopher by our founding fathers was an English judge, professor and author by the name of **Sir William Blackstone**. Blackstone's Commentaries on the Laws of England (1765-1769) had become the standard for legal education in the new America. And this is what Blackstone wrote :

“Man, considered a creature, must necessarily be subject to the laws of his **Creator**, for he is entirely a dependent being....

And consequently, as man depends absolutely upon his Maker for everything, it is necessary that he should, in all points, conform to his Maker's will. This will of his Maker is called the **Laws of Nature.**”

The **Laws of Nature**: **This** is where Thomas Jefferson got the phrase “**Laws of Nature**” which he wrote into the preamble to the Declaration of Independence. These **Laws of Nature**, from the Creator, by the way, are the concept of absolute and infallible truth found in the Bible.

Quoting Blackstone further:

“This **law of nature**....dictated by God Himself, is of course, superior in obligation to any other.... No human laws are of any validity if contrary to this....

The revealed or divine law....found only in the holy scriptures....are found upon comparison to be really part of the original **Law of nature**.

Upon these two foundations, the **law of Nature**, and the law of revelation, depend all human laws; that is to say, no human law should be suffered to contradict these.”

The **3rd most frequently quoted** political philosopher by our founding fathers was **John Locke** - British philosopher and author of Two Commentaries of Government (1690). In his 1st treatise on government, John Locke cited the Bible 80 times. In his 2nd treatise - 22 times. John Locke was also a staunch proponent of Blackstone's **natural law** philosophy.

In fact, it was John Locke's influence, which prompted Jefferson to put that phrase into the Preamble.

Here is what John Locke believed and wrote:

“Thus the **Law of Nature** stands as an eternal rule to all men, legislators as well as others.

The rules that they make for other men's actions, must....be conformable to the **Law of Nature**, i.e., the will of God....no human sanction can be good, or valid against it.

Laws human must be made according to the general **laws of Nature**, and without contradiction to any

positive law of Scripture, otherwise they are ill made.”

John Locke is also responsible for what is known as **the theory of social impact**, which is the concept that when a society bands together in large numbers, they recognize that their rights will be more secure, if certain powers are given to the government, in order that those rights may be better protected - **the theory of social impact**. What that is, is the 4th divine institution established by God for the successful functioning of human society. Established by God in Genesis 9 and following, it is further elaborated upon by the apostle Paul in Romans 13:1 where it states that human government is something that has been ordained by God.

It has been ordained by God primarily for the protection of the 1st 3 divine institutions which God had established in Genesis 2-5 - and which I have not yet discussed.

As the passage goes on to explain in Romans 13:2-4, the powers given to the government include the authority to execute capitol punishment upon those who perpetuate evil within the society - and that **laws of Nature** established by God, are the **basis** upon which a man’s behavior is either approved or disapproved.

I don’t want to leave out the **1st most frequently quoted** political philosopher, influencing our founding fathers, and that was **Baron Charles Montesquieu** - a French university professor and author of The Spirit of Laws (1748). Many historians believe that it was Montesquieu who first proposed that government should be divided into 3 distinct branches, as a form of checks and balances, safeguarding the problems which could possibly arise if any one branch began to exceed it’s authority - and that Montesquieu derived that proposal from Isaiah 33:22, where the prophet describes the ideal, righteous ruling character of God, as the Judge, as the Lawgiver and as the King - in other words, the judicial, legislative and executive branches of our government system. In all fairness to truth, it may not be accurate that Montesquieu was the one who made that connection, but it is quite interesting nonetheless.

But what Montesquieu did most certainly say is just as interesting:

In his book, The Spirit of Laws, Montesquieu wrote how that certain **unchanging laws** form the foundation of all successful government - unchanging laws - that a society must depend on principles which **do not change**.

Montesquieu goes on to say:

“The Christian religion, which orders men to love one another, no doubt wants the best political laws, for each people, because those laws are, after (the Christian religion) the greatest good that men can give and receive.”

What we’re talking about here, are absolute, unchanging truths given by the Creator for the benefit of all men.

As historical scholars Lutz and Hyneman examined those 2,200 articles written by our founding fathers from 1760 to 1805, they found that 34% of the all the quotes from the founding fathers themselves, came from the Bible. Another 60% of all the quotes they made, came from other authors who

were **also** quoting from the Bible - for a **total** of 94% of all the quotes made by our founding fathers, in the things they wrote, coming from the Bible - that same Bible, which many of our day, are working tirelessly to categorize as nothing more than hate literature.

I briefly described to you the 4th divine institution which was established by God, in the Bible, in Genesis 9 and then elaborated on by the apostle Paul in Romans 13, for the successful functioning of human society. That institution is also known as nationalism - designed primarily for the protection of the first 3 institutions

But what are those first 3 institutions?

1) Human volition:

Human volition is the free will of anyone to make whatever choice they choose to make. This was established in Genesis 2:16-17 when God gave instructions to Adam as to what he could do, and what he should **not** do. This is the free will of man - the free will of men to make sound choices in life (or not) based on what God has said is right or wrong - that which is right, being exactly what Jefferson and our founding fathers referred to as the **Laws of Nature**. But free will also carries with it the responsibility of personal accountability to a higher authority. That authority is God.

When I introduced you to the “god of this world” who is called the “prince of the power of the air” in that passage in Ephesians 2:2, that verse went on to explain, how that it is the “**spirit**” of the god of this world that drives the behavior of men - men who the verse goes on to describe as “the children of disobedience” - those who are disobedient to the word of God.

Your spirit - the spirit of **any** person, is a part of the immaterial makeup of all of us. Psychology would call it the psyche. That’s what psychology deals with all the time. It is the thought process of every man, and as it explains in 1 Corinthians 2:11-14, you will be driven to make the choices you make, and to do what you do, either by the Spirit of God, or by the spirit of this world.

Your spirit - the spirit of any person, is a part of the immaterial makeup of all of us. You might not be able to explain it very well, but everyone knows it’s there. And it’s the spirit of the person, which drives the thoughts and behavior of that person.

And the Bible not only is going to give us an explanation for all the evil we see going on in the world today, but it is also able to dig down into the deepest depths of the spirit and soul of every man and reveal who they really are. **And men don’t like it!** And some men simply will not have it. **That’s** why there are those who want to categorize the Bible as hate literature - get rid of it! “We will have no Bible! - We will have no God! “- as Psalm 14:1 says the fool will say in his heart.

But make no mistake about it folks, although you or anyone else has the free will to make whatever choices they want to make, there will be consequences for those choices over which they will

have **no** control - consequences for the choices which are made, over which you're not going to have **any** control - within the institution of human volition, or within whichever of these 4 divine institutions of God you are considering.

2) The institution of marriage:

This was established in Genesis 2:22-24, when God made Eve, and the institution of marriage was established between the man and the women. Marriage becomes the most basic, elemental unit within society and social activity. Marriage facilitates stability, fulfillment and eliminates loneliness. The man and the woman essentially become **one** flesh, with **one** heart and purpose, serving the Lord. That is the ideal. And one of the most obvious purposes of the institution of marriage, is to carry on the human race.

3) The institution of family:

This was first established in Genesis 4:1, where a patriarchal system now exists whereby the head of the family has tremendous responsibility in providing protection, material needs, security, love and acceptance. Within the family unit, truth and culture are to be passed on to the next generation. The family is the basic building block of society.

4) The institution of human government, which is aka nationalism:

This was established with Noah in Genesis 9:1 and further elaborated on by the apostle Paul in Romans 13. Human government is designed to provide protection for the first three institutions - as it encourages the good and punishes the evil. Nationalism also promotes the establishing of diverse nations - just the opposite of a one world government which Satan sought to establish in Genesis 10-11, and which many would like to see today. The institution of individual nations all over the earth provides the best opportunity for families to be able to find God, and to pursue truth, without the evil influences and persecutions which are often associated with that pursuit.

These 4 divine institutions have been established by God for the optimal functioning and perpetuation of human society. **Anything** which negatively influences any of these 4 institutions, in **any** way, can only have a negative effect within that institution, and thus within the society as a whole. And within each institution, optimal function and success is dependent upon the amount of absolute truth which is found, and which is operational, within that institution. It begins with the individual with the choices he or she makes, and progresses up the ladder through the other three institutions.

And now, with all of these principles in mind, we're now able to examine when and why our nation began it's decline.