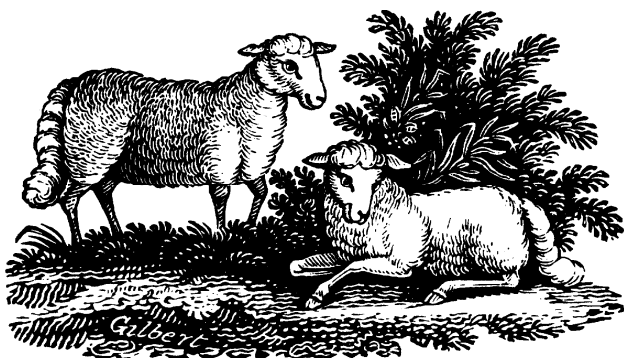




FEED MY SHEEP

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Should Christians Come Out of Babylon Now?

After our one month hiatus and visit with Congressman Davy Crockett, we rejoin our study of the life of our overcomer role model, David. Recall that God sent a famine on all Israel because King Saul had sought to perform “ethnic cleansing” on the Gibeonites. In order to expiate those murders and stave the nationwide famine, seven sons of Saul were given up to the Gibeonites for them to execute.

2 Samuel 21:9 And he [David] delivered them into the hands of the Gibeonites, and they hanged them in the hill before the LORD: and they fell *all* seven together, and were put to death in the days of harvest, in the first days, in the beginning of barley harvest.

These hangings may have been crucifixions, but they were not the cruel type of crucifixions practiced by the Romans. Here, the victims were killed first (not tortured), and then their corpses were impaled or otherwise hung up for public display. The idea was that there was nothing more shameful than that a person’s body be exposed to the vultures and wild beasts to tear apart. It was utterly disgraceful. You will notice that the text for some reason points out that these men were executed in the beginning of barley harvest. Why mention that detail? We will return to that shortly.

10 And Rizpah the daughter of Aiah took sackcloth, and spread it for her upon the rock, from the beginning of harvest until water dropped upon them out of heaven, and suffered neither the birds of the air to rest on them by day, nor the beasts of the field by night.

This was a most noble, brave and heart-wrenching thing to do. This concubine of Saul took the sackcloth, the traditional mourning cloth, and I would surmise she made a makeshift tent out of it upon a rock near the place where the seven corpses were hung up in public disgrace. She not only braved the wild beasts at night (can you imagine how exhausted this woman must have been after only a few days of this?), but it says she did it from barley harvest which is in late April-early May until water dropped upon them out of heaven.

Remember there was a famine in Israel, caused by drought. Even in a normal, non-drought season, there is virtually no rain until October. Frankly, I cannot imagine this woman doing this for that long, but she must have done it for a considerable period of time because it made a deep and moving impression upon King David.

11 And it was told David what Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, the concubine of Saul, had done.

12 And David went and took the bones of Saul and the bones of Jonathan his son from the men of Jabeshgilead, which had stolen them from the street of Bethshan, where the Philistines had hanged them, when the Philistines had slain Saul in Gilboa:

13 And he brought up from thence the bones of Saul and the bones of Jonathan his son; and they gathered the bones of them that were hanged.

14 And the bones of Saul and Jonathan his son buried they in the country of Benjamin in Zelah, in the sepulchre of Kish his father: and they performed all that the king commanded. And af-

ter that God was intreated for the land.

One possible scenario here is that Rizpah stood vigil over the corpses of her sons for many, many days, but at some point before the summer was over, it must have rained a bit. At that point, she knew that Yahweh had cleansed the land of its defilement and so now she could go home in peace.

Another scenario is that after many days of Rizpah's dedicated vigil over the corpses, that it came to David's attention and he then brought back the bones of Saul and Jonathan and buried them. And then God was entreated for the land and He brought rain, and at that point Rizpah allowed the remaining flesh on the corpses to be burned so they could then bury their bones with their father, and she went home in peace knowing the curse had been lifted. Either way, it was a truly pitiful scene!

As we come to a close on this incident in the life of David, I want to propose a modern application from this story. This goes back to the topic of Christian patriots. For those readers who do not know me personally, I can tell I have "been there, done that, bought the souvenirs."

There was a time in my life when I was involved in the so-called "Christian patriot movement." I have known many of the speakers on the circuit, as it were. But do not make any assumptions based on that admission. Do not paint me with a broad brush and accuse me of all sorts of illegal activities, along with "white supremacy, hate group," etc., such as Morris Dees and his Southern Poverty Law Center have done to me and this ministry. I will tell you here of my involvement and the lessons I learned.

God opened my eyes in 1976 to the wickedness of our government—I speak in generalities, of course, not that every single person in government is wicked; there are many fine Christians at various levels—but I came to understand a great deal about the people and organizations *behind the scenes* who control the levers of power, be that in banking and finance, in politics, in education, in the legal system, in the medical system, in the media, etc. And like many others who discover these truths, I got angry. Of course, I believed that my anger was justified. It was biblical: *righteous indignation*. In short order, I learned all about the constitution and common law and admiralty jurisdiction, and real money vs. "Fed notes" and republics vs. de-

mocracies and contracts like social security and the UCC (the Uniform Commercial Code), and all about licensure, like the drivers' license and marriage license, and the insurance fraud, and the unconstitutionality of the IRS and the 16th amendment, not to mention the 12th and 13th and 14th amendments, and on and on... All this information about "coming out of Babylon," about being "out of the system." As I said, been there, done that, bought the souvenirs. Now if some of you readers have no idea what I am talking about, then truly, in this case, your ignorance is bliss. Don't worry about it. Don't go down that road.

At one time, I rejected paying federal income taxes—and perhaps because I was somewhat of a visible figure in what is called the Christian patriot movement—I got targeted quickly and after several years of going 'round and 'round with the IRS, I was facing some serious consequences. My intent was to pay only "just" taxes, not the unjust taxes which had been fraudulently laid upon the American people.

But God was merciful to me in my ignorance and zeal. He began to show me that although I *thought* I was doing right, I was in fact in *rebellion* against Him. This spiritual realization allowed me in good conscience to make peace with the IRS and to submit to them in all humility and with the godly understanding of their role in His Plan. As I said, God was merciful, because although I paid the back taxes with penalties and interest, it could have been much worse. I am sharing these personal experiences with my readers because I know that some in my audience have also gone down that same road, or perhaps are pondering going in that direction—"to come out of Babylon."

One day I was doing some spring cleaning at my office and in my library I ran across whole boxes of material such as I just mentioned above: including all about contracts and how when we signed up to get a social security card, we were being deceived into becoming second class citizens. I do not question the truth of that assertion. It is a fact. But in my former days, that made me angry since the Social Security contract was based upon fraud. Therefore, I and thousands of other patriots have believed that the contract is null and void and we need to rescind our social security numbers and our drivers' license and marriage license and so forth.

But as I was studying the text for this lecture, something leaped off the page at me. You see, Joshua

and the elders of Israel were deceived by the Gibeonites into signing a contract with them to spare their lives. But a few days later, when Joshua and the men of Israel discovered that the Gibeonites had tricked them and had perpetrated a fraudulent contract, what was Joshua's response?

Did he say "Hey, we got tricked! This is fraud. This contract is null and void?" Did he? No! He adhered to the contract anyhow, and so did subsequent generations of Israelites. Then, even *hundreds of years later*, when old King Saul decided to declare the contract null and void, God caused a three year famine and He was not requited until the seven sons of Saul were executed.

Are we today living under a government which has tricked and deceived its citizens into signing away some of our liberties? Absolutely. Are we living under a system that the Bible calls Mystery, Babylon? Absolutely. And years ago, I would answer: "Yes, but in Revelation 18:4 God tells His people to *come out* of the system."

But wait a minute! Isn't our captivity to this Mystery Babylon a parallel to the 70 year captivity of the Judahites in the Old Testament? Yes, it is. Who placed the Judahites under that Babylonian bondage? God did. Why? As punishment for their national sins.

Who put *us* under this modern Babylonian captivity? God did. Why? As punishment for our national sins. The difference is that today our captivity is a *mystery* to most of our people. In other words, most Americans have no idea that we are even *in* bondage. That's why it's called a mystery. I now praise God because I have come to see that they (the majority of our blinded American people) are blest to **not** know what we know about the fraudulent contracts with government, IRS, Federal Reserve, Social Security, etc.

Think about this: if most Americans really don't even know that they are *in bondage*, then the bondage is *relatively* light, isn't it? I mean it would be obvious if it were a lot worse and we had a completely totalitarian state like the old Leninist and Stalinist Soviet Union. Now, that would be harsh bondage, wouldn't it? And everyone would know that we are in captivity.

So, it is amazing how God has been so merciful to us. He has not deported us like our ancient forefathers, the Judahites. We have remained in our land and

we have a relatively light sentence. But some of our Christian patriot brethren still wonder about where God tells His people to come out of Mystery Babylon? Doesn't God command us to "come out?" Fair question. Here's the answer:

How long did God decree for the old Babylonian captivity to last? Seventy years. Were they going to be set free after 20 years? After 50 years? After 69 years? No, only *after* 70 years. How long are we going to remain in captivity to the modern Babylonian system? Perhaps 70 years.

Now, you see, the problem with that from our perspective—but I will bet that **God** knew all about this—the problem is: when did the clock start? When did this captivity begin? 1913 or 1914 with the Federal Reserve System? Or did the countdown start in 1933, when FDR took us off the gold standard? Or at some even later date?

There are *numerous* possibilities. And when our 70 years is up, whenever that is, does that mean we are to rebel against the system to try to tear it down? To use violence? No, not at all! Look at the pattern. What did the ancient Judahites do in Babylon? They *waited* until Cyrus issued an emancipation proclamation. That's in Ezra, chapter 1.

They *waited* until they were set free by the chief of state. Trust in God, my brothers and sisters, it is coming. Meanwhile, we are to submit to Babylon. I did not see that years ago, but it is now clear as glass to me. When I was rebelling against "the system," I was in reality, *in rebellion against God*. Remember, David was not in rebellion against the wicked Saul government. Overcomer-candidates submit!

Over the past couple of decades, I have seen many a man who has gone down this path of trying to "get out of the system," and thereby becoming a "free" man again, in bondage to no one. All the while, he is *thinking* he is doing the right thing. He tries hard to support his family, while being "out of the system," but he has a very difficult time finding work because he has no social security number. That's really being free, isn't it? I have not seen many blessings being poured out on the Christian patriot community. In fact, I have observed just the opposite.

The one who is out of the system is always looking over his shoulder because he has no drivers' li-

cense, hoping he won't get pulled over, because it is almost impossible to "educate" the highway patrolman while he is writing out a ticket or hauling you off to the pokey. And if, God forbid, the "out of the system" patriot should die and leave a wife and children, he has no insurance and they will have no social security benefits to help them survive.

Oh, I know the church is supposed to jump in and fill the gap in those cases, but you see, that's one of the reasons why we're in captivity, *the church has not done its job*. But do you suppose that also was part of God's Plan? After all, the past 2,000 years has been the age of Pentecost, the age of the *Saul* church.

Speaking of the church brings us to our final point, which is that the seven sons of Saul represent the seven churches in the book of Revelation. (There are other valid meanings; but this is just one.) That means they are symbolic of the church system all throughout the age of Pentecost.

The seven sons are put to death at barley harvest. My long-time readers now know that the barley harvest symbolizes the first resurrection, which is the resurrection of the overcomers only, to rule and reign with Christ on the earth. You see, the Saul church system *dies* at the first resurrection, at the beginning of barley harvest. Then we will have the David-Christ church to minister to the people in the age of Tabernacles, ministering in perfect righteousness!

And if the Mystery Babylonian system has not fallen before the barley harvest, it will surely do so at that time. So when do we come out of that system? Should we be coming out *now* (in the sense described in this issue?) No! Revelation 18:2 describes the fall of the system and it is only *after* that, *after its collapse* in verse 4, that we are told to come out.

So, my dear readers, like Joshua and the Israelites of old, even though you and I may have been deceived into signing contracts by applying for, or filling out various government forms, and we discover later that these have proven harmful to our liberties and have put us in bondage; my studied advice is for us to submit to the system. It follows the biblical pattern. This is essentially what God told Jeremiah to tell the Judahites as they went into the 70 years bondage. He told them to build houses, plant gardens, raise children and so forth. Did you know that ancient Babylon had a usury banking system? I would guess that many

Judahites had 30-year mortgages on their homes. In other words, we are to live at peace with our captors. Jeremiah said that if we attempt to rebel against our captivity, then we will die by the famine, the sword and the pestilence.

I have seen this fulfilled numerous times in the Christian patriot movement. They have not been blest! Men who have rescinded everything now find themselves paupers, hardly able to survive without charity from their neighbors. The attitude of fighting Babylon and getting out of the system has also destroyed many, many marriages and stressed others to the extreme. There have also been a few—and I did not know any of them personally, and would not want to—who have actually taken up the sword against the system, and as Jeremiah foretold, they have perished by the sword... of SWAT teams.

God is not calling us to violence in this captivity. God calls us to submit. For many of us that is hard to do. And I have to ask this, as I have asked myself. Was it all righteous indignation, or was there perhaps some of my pride involved also? ...as though, "I am one of the few who really knows what's going on. They may have the dumb masses fooled, but *I* know what they're doing...and I'm not going to take it anymore. I'll show them. I'll get out of their cursed Babylonian system."

But in reality, if we would swallow our pride, humble ourselves and submit to our God-ordained captivity, we would find, as the ancient Judahites did, that in reality, we're much better off submitting. It is a light bondage! Now for those readers who have been out of the system a long time, you have a most difficult decision to make. But there are groups who are set up to help people in exactly that situation, to be go-betweeners between you and Uncle Sam.

May God speed the day of our release, but meanwhile may He give us the grace to live peaceably with *all* men. And amen.

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