

Sunday, January 3, 2021—Nationalism, Globalism, & An American Election: What’s Really Going On?

### Introduction

- As most of you know, I do not like talking about politics from the pulpit. I am first and foremost a pastor and teacher of the word of God not a political pundit.
  - II Corinthians 1:24—I endeavor to be a helper of your joy. The sad reality is that there is no joy in politics. All it does is stress people out over things they have no control over.
- I am also a professionally trained historian. I have read voluminously in the last nine months on the Fourth Turning and the cycles of history as well as on the religious climate of the colonies at the time of the American Revolution.
- Thirdly, I am an American citizen who is deeply concerned about the future of our nation and the protection of our religious liberties.
- Putting all three of things together, historically preaching has endeavored to apply God’s word to current events to offer people God’s perspective on what is transpiring in a given culture/society. This has not always been helpful since much of the guidance offered along these lines has not been from God’s word rightly divided.
- On Sunday, July 5, I preached a message titled *The Present Distress & The Fourth Turning*. One of my points in that message was that based upon the cycles of history our nation was due for a Fourth Turning crisis that would fundamentally reshape the civic order. Strauss and Howe in their book the *Fourth Turning: What the Cycles of History Tell Us About America’s Next Rendezvous with Destiny* (1997) forecasted that at some point between 2005 and 2025 American would experience a Fourth Turning Crisis. This entrance into a “Winter” season would be precipitated by a “spark” would ignite a Fourth Turning Crisis:
  - “A spark will ignite a new mood. Today [1997], the same spark would flame briefly but then extinguish itself, its last flicker merely confirming and deepening the Unraveling-era mindset. This time, though, it will catalyze a Criss.” (272)
- Written in 1997, here is one of the scenarios given by Strauss and Howe regarding what could spark a Fourth Turning Crisis between 2005 and 2025:
  - “The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announce the spread of a new communicable virus. The disease reaches densely populated areas, killing some. Congress enacts mandatory quarantine measures. The president orders that National Guard to throw prophylactic cordon around unsafe neighborhoods. Mayors resist. Urban gangs batted suburban militias. Calls mount for the president to declare martial law.” (273)

- Strause and Howe stated the following about the impact of this “spark.”
  - “It’s highly unlikely that any one of these scenarios will actually happen [But one essentially has.]. What is likely, however, is that the catalyst will unfold according to a basic Crisis dynamic that underlies all of these scenarios: An initial spark will trigger a chain reaction of unyielding responses and further emergencies. The core elements of these scenarios (debt, civic decay, global disorder) will mater more than the details, which the catalyst will juxtapose and connect in some unknowable way. If foreign societies are also entering a Fourth Turning, this could accelerate a chain reaction.

At home and abroad, these events will reflect the tearing of the civic fabric at pints of extreme vulnerability—problem areas where, during the Unraveling, America will have neglected, denied, or delayed needed action. Anger at “mistakes we made” will translate into call for action, regardless of the heightened public risk.” (273)

- On Sunday, November 1, two days before the election I preached a sermon titled *Scripture, The Kings of Old, & A Modern American Election*. In this message, among other things, I stated that regardless of who won, I though the outcome would be “catastrophe.” Here we are in the beginning of 2021, more than two months later, staring down arguably the most contested election in our nation’s history.
- What is going? How can we make any sense out of this as believers? Does the word of God offer us any insight into what is happening in our nation? I believe that it does.
  - I Chronicles 12:32
- This morning I want to approach this topic from the vantage point of scripture.
- I believe the core scriptural issue that is playing out in front of us is the struggle between globalism and nationalism.

### **Nationalism: God’s Answer to Globalism**

- Genesis 6:1, 5-7—before the flood all that existed was humanity in general. Because of the wickedness of man God decides to destroy the earth through a flood and start over with Noah and his family.
  - Genesis 6:8-9
- Genesis 9:1—after the flood God instructed Noah and his sons to “replenish” or fill the earth.
- Genesis 9:2-3—to facilitate this filling of the earth, God put a fear of man into the animal kingdom.

- Genesis 9:4-6—God instituted human government into the equation, something that did not exist prior to the flood. Mankind was given to right to punish evil doers within their midst.
- Genesis 9:7—reiterates that statement made in verse 1.
- Genesis 11:1—the whole earth was of one language and one speech.
- Genesis 11:4—their actions in building “a city and a tower” were done in rebellion to God’s post-flood commands to “replenish the earth.” They did not want to “be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.”
  - The adversary’s response to God’s post-flood commands was to encourage globalism as an act of rebellion to God.
- Genesis 11:5-9—God’s response to the globalism of Babel was two-fold: 1) “confound their language” and 2) scatter “them abroad upon the face of all the earth.”
- In the scattering of men “abroad upon the face of all the earth” by instituted nationalism as his response to the globalism of Babel.
  - Genesis 10:1, 5—notice that God divided the Gentiles in the earth according to their: lands, tongues, families, and nations.
  - Genesis 10:20
  - Genesis 10:31
  - Genesis 10:32—this dividing of humanity according to lands, tongues, families, and nations took place after Babel where God “confounded their language.”
  - Acts 17:26—the dividing of men in the earth into nations with set boundaries was God’s idea. Nationalism was God’s answer to the globalism of Babel.
- Genesis 12:1-3—therefore God formed the “nation” of Israel. God was choosing to work in the earth through the mechanism of nationalism.
  - Deuteronomy 4:6-8
  - Isaiah 9:6-7
  - Daniel 7:14
  - Psalms 2

- Revelation 19:15—in the ages to come, Jesus Christ is going to rule the “nations” with “a rod of iron.”

### **Globalism: The Goal of the Course of this World**

- Isaiah 14:12—ever since God instituted nationalism Satan has been bent on weakening the nations i.e., undoing what God established.
- How do you weaken a nation? You attack it according to the terms of its founding i.e., lands (national boundaries), tongues, and families.
- Ephesians 2:2—the “course of this world” is charted by “the prince the power of the air.”
- II Thessalonians 2:7-10—the “course of this world” and “the mystery of iniquity” will culminate in the globalist one world system of the anti-Christ.
  - Revelation 13:7-17
- II Thessalonians 2:1-2—we need to take comfort from the fact that the body of Christ will not endure the full onset of “the mystery of iniquity” because we are “not appointed to wrath” (I Thess. 5:1-9) because we will be caught away to “meet the Lord in the air” (I Thess. 4:13-18) before the onset of Daniel’s 70<sup>th</sup> week.

### **The Night is Far Spent**

- Romans 13:12—the night was already far spent in Paul’s day. How much more so now that the dispensation of grace has lasted nearly 2,000 years?
- Ephesians 6:12—I believe that what we are witnessing with our current election is a spiritual/scriptural contest between two competing ideologies: nationalism and globalism.
- II Corinthians 5:17-20—regardless of how it all shakes out our job is the same, to be ambassadors for Jesus Christ and preach the word of reconciliation.