**Stars, Scars & Stripes: The Nation in Perspective – Part 2 (Nov 6, 2016)**

*He is still Lord no matter what*

**The World we live in today:**

* There appears to be a ‘raging’ against the Lord in the world today:

**Psalm 2:1-3** *Why do the nations rage,
And the people plot a vain thing?
2The kings of the earth set themselves,
And the rulers take counsel together,
Against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying,
3“Let us break Their bonds in pieces
And cast away Their cords from us.”*

 -Legislation that sidelines God in schools, morals & marriage etc.

* Conservative Christianity in America today is now seen to be ‘dangerous’ more so than the dangers of Islam & Sharia to our culture and way of life.

-A sampling of books on the shelves:

American Fascists: The Christian Right and the War on America

The End of Faith: Religion, Terror, and the Future of Reason

Piety & Politics: The Right-wing Assault on Religious Freedom

Atheist Universe: The Thinking Person's Answer to Christian Fundamentalism

Thy Kingdom Come: How Religious Right Distorts the Faith & Threatens America

Religion Gone Bad: The Hidden Dangers of the Christian Right

* We live in a time of **sophisticated rebellion & selfishness**:

**2 Timothy 3:1-5** *But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!*

-Some of this even manifests in the streets.

**America and the big picture at this pivotal time**

*Perspectives that we need God’s wisdom on*

* **America fits into a** **global picture** where a **new world order mindset** of globalism, (think European Union) finds expression in:

-Global **elitist** control through UN influence, world economics, trade agreements & a push for open borders: all minimizes national exceptionalism.

-EG. USA Control over the **internet** is now being given away to a consortium under UN oversight called ICAN: China, Iraq, Iran, Turkey.

-Want to stamp out income inequality worldwide through ‘sustainable development’: newspeak for “socialism”!

-Grant refugees ‘international rights’ no matter where they go: de facto - no borders & no national rule of law, only international control through UN & other agencies like EU.

-USA is now welcoming largely ‘unvetted’ refugees from Islam controlled countries who do not accept USA rule of law as supreme.

* **The Middle East:** is always in the big picture.

-CIA involvement in destabilizing regime change in Egypt, Libya, & now Syria / international refugee crisis influencing Europe / Backing so called ‘rebels’ that morph into Isis / Moslem Caliphate / Russia standing with it’s ally Syria & now even talk of Nuclear threats!

* **Internally, America** has been under attack from **‘secular humanism’** trying to bleed the nation from a ‘1000 cuts’: (clash of world views).

-God’s plan for America is being ‘hi jacked’ by the **few** over **the many**.

**What to consider in casting your vote:**

*God expects His church to play it’s part in His plan*

Politically, not passively sit back & say: ‘God will take care of it’ as was the case in Nazi Germany under Hitler’s rise & Communist Russia under Stalin & In Muslim controlled nations persecuting Christians today.

**Reality check 1:** God can use (and **has** used) people that are less than perfect!

* Think Mel Gibson and the “Passion” movie / King Cyrus of Babylon in 500’s BC:

**Isaiah 45:1,4,-5**

*1a “Thus says the Lord to His anointed,
To Cyrus, whose right hand I have held—…*

*4 For Jacob My servant’s sake,
And Israel My elect,
I have even called you by your name;
I have named you, though you have not known Me.*

*4 I am the Lord, and there is no other;
There is no God besides Me.
I will gird you, though you have not known Me,*

* Two very flawed candidates…what’s so new?

-Historically, God has used flawed people like **Abraham Lincoln**, (unpopular to start with), **Winston Churchill & Jack Kennedy, even** Nelson Mandela to lead nations in dire straits.

**Reality check 2: Evangelical voter turnout is vital.**

* Of the 100 million born again voters, only 50 million are registered to vote.

-Then, only 25 million usually turn up to vote, and many of these are confused about which candidate to vote for!.

-We must factor in **grace** & God’s **current dealings** with any leader.

**Reality check 3**: **Key issues facing the nation**. (2 quite different approaches)

 -**National debt:** In 8 years, we have doubled the debt to $20 trillion.

-**Supreme court justices** to be appointed: **uphold** *not* **reinterpret** constitution.

-**Family values & culture**: Education & LGTBQ agenda. God given responsibility of **parents** not the **‘global village’** to raise kids.

 (Pattern: Tolerance / Acceptance / Affirmation / Celebration / Subjugation)

-**Abortion:** late term / partial birth / body parts harvesting: need to walk this back.

-**Open borders:** being used to redefine demographics for voting and thus agenda purposes…all in the name of fairness, justice and opportunity: still illegal.

-Why do people have walls to their apartments / houses and shut the door to folk they don’t want coming in?

-No border, no nation: despite Germany’s recent antics, borders are everywhere. Vetting is necessary. Legal immigration too.

-**Free speech amendment** under subtle attack: Narrowing down of expression into ‘politically correct’ – that is controllable narrative. “New speak’ – Eg.

-**Arms carrying Second** **amendment** under attack: promises of more gun control in the name of supposed safety which Chicago gun control laws & Australian gun confiscation examples show otherwise.

 (Not what’s in your **hand** that is the issue, but what’s in your **heart**).

-**Health Care:** Putting central govt. in change is no solution to private greed.

 -You cannot legislate morality / righteousness / fairness …God is needed!

 -Righteousness exalts a nation: that’s where the church fits in!

**Final Take Away**

*God gives us a Prophetic Long View to posture ourselves:*

* 3000 years ago the prophet Daniel interprets Nebuchadnezzar’s dream about the ‘Big Image’ and gives us a prophetic picture of world history.

**Daniel 2:44-45** *And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. 45Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold—the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure.”*

* Christ’s kingdom **(the rock)** is seen to finally to topple ‘all kingdoms’ before it.

-Jesus will build His church & nothing will stop it. (Matt 16:18)

-We are receiving an ‘unshakeable’ kingdom that will stand. (Heb 12)

-Jesus’ government is increasing and will not end. (Isaiah 9:6-7)

* So we stand like **watchmen on the wall** to warn: **(Ezekiel 33:1-3)**

-Prophetic voices call out situations that some see as ‘dark & ‘dystopian’.

* Yet we are not toothless:

**-Get out & vote**.

**-Tell others** to get out & vote.

**-Pray** that God’s will be done in this election … and beyond.

**-Engage with the community** as led to be ‘salt & light’ where it’s needed.

**-Know** that Jesus will be with us no matter what…!