

FREEDOM'S RING...

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COC

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I. IT IS THE PRESCIENT MIND WHO DISCERNS THE DESIGN OF SATAN IN THESE "LAST DAY" TIMES —

- A. To see *the lords of hate* working to separate; the *demons of division* working to *spoil your tongue of thanksgiving* with the *insolence of bitterness* —
- B. In the **91st Psalm**, the *Psalter* rightly declared,
"1 *Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.* 2 *I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge & my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."* 3 *Surely He will save you from the fowler's snare & from the deadly pestilence.* 4 *He will cover you with His feathers, & under His wings you will find refuge; His faithfulness will be your shield & rampart.* 5 *You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day,* 6 *nor the pestilence*

that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday. 7 *A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you.* 8 *You will only observe with your eyes & see the punishment of the wicked.* 9 *If you say, "The Lord is my refuge," & you make the Most High your dwelling,* 10 *no harm will overtake you, no disaster will come near your tent.* 11 *For He will command His angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways;* 12 *they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.* 13 *You will tread on the lion & the cobra; you will trample the great lion & the serpent.* 14 *"Because he loves me," says the Lord, "I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges My Name.* 15 *He will call on Me, & I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him & honor him.* 16 *With long life I will satisfy him & show him My salvation."*

C. Our **Creator God**, in **His** infinite Wisdom & Omnipotent Power, in His Divine Love & Unending Mercies, has given to each of us these wonderful bodies — bodies of which **God** names **His** own attributes after different parts of them —

1. His *Omniscience* - it is **God's Eye** —
2. His *Omnipresence* - it is **God's Ear** —
3. His *Omnipotence* - it is **God's Arm** —
4. The *Heavens* - **the work of God's fingers** —
5. His *Life-Giving power* - **the breath of God Almighty** —
6. His **Dominion** - the **government shall be upon His shoulder** —
 - a. A **body** so divinely honored & so divinely constructed that we are instructed to be careful not to abuse it —

D. **Sin Steals....Sin Kills....Sin Destroys!**

1. **Lord Byron** died at 36 yrs of age, his unbridled passions the horse upon which he rode into Desert Fever —

2. **Edgar Allen Poe** died in Baltimore at 38 yrs of age, the black raven that descended on the bust above his bedroom door was none other than "delirium tremens" [**withdrawals from alcohol that is characterized by anxiety & insomnia**]

3. **Napoleon Bonaparte** met an early death in St. Helena from stomach cancer believed to be induced by excessive dipping of Snuff —

E. The Mightiest among us, the Noble before us have proven to us that it is not the labor of life that kills a person, **it is the worry** —

1. It is not the work of living life; it is the **anxiety** that comes with our self-appointed command of our lives —

F. For that man or woman who's learned to lean into the Salvation of the **Lord Jesus**, that **Christian** who's made **Jesus** their **Lord** —

1. has found the **place** where they may bring their **affections**, **desires**, **family**, **business**, **reputation**, **body**, **mind** & **soul** —

a. their **everything** — to the **Lord Jesus!**

- b. When we know **God** manages our affairs, truly we find refuge in ***"All things work together for good to them that love God & are called according to His purpose."***
- i. There is sweet rest in that!
 - ii. There is longevity in that!
 - iii. There is peace in that!
 - iv. There is a love in that which removes the corroding care for future existence —

II. **NO WONDER, THE MIGHTY PSALTER WOULD CONTINUE TO PEN A PSALM FOR THE SABBATH DAY** —

- A. 1 ***It is good to praise the Lord & make music to Your name, O Most High,*** 2 ***proclaiming Your love in the morning & Your faithfulness at night,*** 3 ***to the music of the ten-stringed lyre & the melody of the harp.*** 4 ***For You make me glad by Your deeds, Lord; I sing for joy at what your hands have done.*** 5 ***How great are Your works, Lord, how profound Your***

thoughts! 6 Senseless people do not know, fools do not understand, 7 that though the wicked spring up like grass & all evildoers flourish, they will be destroyed forever. 8 But You, Lord, are forever exalted. 9 For surely Your enemies, Lord, surely Your enemies will perish; all evildoers will be scattered. 10 You have exalted my horn like that of a wild ox; fine oils have been poured on me. 11 My eyes have seen the defeat of my adversaries; my ears have heard the rout of my wicked foes. 12 The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; 13 planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God. 14 They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh & green, 15 proclaiming, “The Lord is upright; He is my Rock, & there is no wickedness in Him.” **Psalm 92:1-15**

B. In a world filled with the chaotic sounds of ingratitude —

1. Where streets burn with the bonfires of anarchy; a generation whose heart is calloused with the offenses of the dragon & whose soul is poisoned with the venom of the viper —

C. Our days are filled with the Commentary of Communist Anarchists fueling a National Convulsion of Violence & Lawlessness —

1. America has watched as Cities have yielded to these Occupiers who've declared open war on our Christian values & have laid siege on our Civil Liberties —

D. These Anarchists are glaringly reminiscent of the June Rebellion immortalized in **Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables*** —

1. Anarchists have turned once thriving streets into a lawless wasteland of insurrection —

2. Rather than a Utopian Summer of Love as advertised, this Experiment of Rage quickly turned Violent as the Actors of Menace & Vice condescended into Chaos & Strife —

3. Whatever else we learn in this prophetic moment, we must be truth-loving enough to acknowledge again that Ungratefulness is the language of Unforgiveness —

a. To be Ungrateful is to willfully choose to exhibit ingratitude; to be unappreciative, unthankful, inhospitable, a person who shows no gratitude —

b. When Resentment is unleashed in Bitterness, it always demonstrates its Rage —

i. Rage drinks the blood of socially constructed enemies that are often construed to distract from the real design of Death & Hell —

III. TWO HUNDRED & FORTY-FOUR YEARS AGO —

A. The *founders* of our nation gathered & agreed to a document that began with these immortal words: "When in the course of human events"

B. And thus, the grand American experiment in **liberty** formally began.

C. This bold *Declaration* was rooted IN:

1. our understanding of **God**-given rights,
2. a firm rejection of man-driven tyranny, and
3. a profound confession of mutual reliance on **God** & our fellow man.

D. This was an Experiment that would put everything at risk & cost many their lives, their fortunes & even their families —

1. Yet at the heart of this *Declaration* & the very essence of this land we call America is a constant recognition that **the future of our nation is perpetually in the balance** —
2. America's future is determined by each generation's willingness to stand & sacrifice —
3. This tension between a nation's greatness & its inherent vulnerability can be seen in our **National Anthem, "The Star-Spangled Banner."**

E. A quick survey of most anthems finds much bravado & national pride.

1. The **English** sing *"God Save The Queen,"*
2. The **Australians** sing *"Advance Australian
Fair the much-praised land, Home to great
daughters & sons."*
3. The **Brazilians** sing, *"Beloved land amongst
a thousand others,"*
4. The **Canadians** sing, *"True patriot love in all
thy sons command."*
5. Even the world's smallest country, **Monaco**, states in its anthem: *"Forever, in our land,
one flag has flown in the wind."*
6. And yet, in the most powerful & free land in the history of the world, a different anthem is offered —
 - a. After a night of intense fighting, *Francis Scott Key* peered into the *"dawn's early light"* to see if the American troops had maintained control of **Fort McHenry**.

b. The first stanza of his poem, which later became our anthem, **posed an enduring question**: "*Oh say does that Star-Spangled Banner yet wave, over the land of the free & the home of the brave?*"

F. Instead of an Anthem full of pride & inflated language about our greatness, *Americans sing forth a national... question.*

1. Every time we sing our National Anthem, we sing a **question** that goes forth: **Will we survive the battles of the night? Will our flag of liberty under God still be raised at the dawn's early light?**

G. **America** is Unique in that we are people who acknowledge that the Future Destiny of our Nation is always in Question —

1. Our future is dependent upon the **faithfulness, determination & dedication** of its citizens who are **willing to answer the call, to stand & boldly sing forth our national question**, knowing that the **answer depends on our**

commitment to liberty & our firm reliance
on God our Creator & one another —

IV. THE PSALMIST SAID...

A. "12 *The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar in Lebanon;*
13 *planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God.* 14 *They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh & green.*" **Psa. 92:12-14**

B. It is consequential that **God's** Word toward the *righteous* is woven into the fabric of their frailty —

C. Too often we forget that while *Abraham*, *Isaac*, & *Jacob* are men of renown, known as the Great Patriarchs of the faith, they are also men who were flawed —

1. **Abraham** — as godly as he was, suffered serious lapses of faith —
2. **Isaac** was biased & did not listen to the **Lord** -
3. **Jacob's** mistakes are legendary.

D. So when **God** spoke to *Moses* from the *burning bush* & said, **“I am the God of your father — the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, & the God of Jacob”** Ex. 3:6 NLT

E. **God** was telling *Moses* that **He** was the **God** of **the second chance** —

1. Was **God** saying, **“Moses, I am the **God** of men who have failed & who need second chances. I am the **God** of ordinary men & women who have accomplished extraordinary things. That means **I** can use you.”**

F. *Moses* was 80 years of age —

1. In **God's Purpose & Will**, **He** shows us that **He** has a plan for every stage of our lives —

2. **God** wants to use us when we're **young**.

3. **God** wants to use us when we're **middle-aged**.

4. **God** wants to use us when we're **old**.

G. As **God's** children, our lives are filled with holy purpose, & **God** uses what we go through

to help shape us & mold us, to make through us a more perfect future together —

H. **God** is so in love with us, **His** people, that we find **Him** saying, **"Those who bless you shall be blessed."** **Numbers 24:9**

I. **Balaam**, the heathen prophet & leading figure of the text had been summoned by **Balak, King of Moab**, to attempt to curse the Israelite nation with a majestic prophecy concerning the end of days —

1. When we look at the historic return of the *children of Israel* to the land of Israel, & the seventy plus years which have followed, *Balaam's* words seem more relevant now —
2. But could even **Balaam**, with all his prophetic proclivities, envision that he himself was the progenitor of what would become a burgeoning world-wide kingdom of demons who spend their time & fortunes trying to curse the *people of Israel*?

3. It's safe to say that *Balaam* knew from the start that *Balak's* agenda of trying to place a curse upon *Israel* was doomed to failure, because this is precisely what **God** told him: **"You shall not go with them! You shall not curse the people [Israel] because they are blessed."** **Numbers 22:12**

J. Knowing that he would fail, why did *Balaam* agree to go?

1. Was it the money?
2. Was it the irresistible challenge of cursing God's children in spite of God's warning?
3. Was it political correctness which compelled him to act against his better judgement?

K. Just as *Balaam* saw the *Angel of the Lord* stationed on **"the road with his sword drawn in his hand."** **Numbers 22:23**

L. The question remains just as pertinent today, concerning the myriad would-be Balaams who spend their days & nights, armed with their edicts & executive orders, with their Social

Media platforms — **things which have become altars of idolatrous falsehoods** —

1. from which they launch their missiles of **slander & hate** toward the people of **God!**
2. **But, what is their purpose?**
 - a. **To what end do they speak?**
3. **Today's *Balaams*, like their spiritual father, clutch at false claims to *curse* the American Church** —
 - a. Ex.: Charging America's Christian Churches as **a preeminent danger to Societal Life & Public Health in America** —
 - b. Thursday of this past week, **Gavin Newsom, Governor of California**, issued a ban "*forbidding Singing or Chanting in houses of worship.*" —
 - c. The **United States Navy** recently, "*prohibits all service members & chaplains from attending off-base, indoor religious services.*"

- i. This order came despite the fact that "*the Navy is allowing non-christian social gathering of any size.*" (WesternJournal.com)
- d. On July 1st, **NYC Mayor Bill DeBlasio** defended his Marxist decision to **ban religious gatherings** while allowing militant protestors & domestic terrorists to do so —
- M. Ladies & Gentlemen, the hypocrisy of these decisions is only eclipsed by the **gross darkness of perilous evil** that has been waging war against **God's Chosen People** since Eden —
- N. The **People of God** are **Unique** — Just as the *Children of Israel* crossed the *Jordan River* into **God's** Sacred Promise-land — today's *Balaam's*, when confronted with truth, facts & historical record, retort with fictional histories, distortions, lies, & deceit —
- 1. It's time for Christians in America to rise up against the *Balaam's* of this world — who wish to enchant us with lies, hoping that we will succumb to their deceit —

2. *Balaam* knew when to call it quits, but his motives & evil intent have spawned a generation of sorcerers who are intent on bringing about their Antichrist/Antichurch government — until the atmosphere of faith is poisoned with their lies —

O. *Balaam* knew that Israel was to be blessed & not cursed — he said, *"How can I curse whom God has not cursed, & how can I invoke wrath if God has not been angered? For from their beginning, I see them as mountain peaks, & I behold them as hills; it is a nation that will dwell alone & will not be reckoned among the nations. Who counted the dust of Jacob or the number of a fourth of the seed of Israel? May my soul die the death of the upright & let my end be like his."*

Numbers 23:8-11

P. Today's Vilifiers of God's people are not asking for God's permission to curse the Church —

1. Today's *Balaams* have created their own gods, fashioned out of the falsehoods of their own Antichrist Agendas & have forged with the gold that underwrites & drives their open hatred for the ***People of God*** —
2. As long as the donors rolls in, whether from evil people, or simply naïve people,
 - a. or, the angry people bent on inciting chaos, anarchy and destruction, the trend followers & go along with the crowd people —
3. The **Church** has entered a season where the **Anointing of Elijah** will be released against the Groves in High Places — "*every high place that is exalted against Jesus must come down*"
4. Who are today's *Balaam's* really trying to curse? **The Church**? Or the **God of Israel** & **Jesus**, the *Head of the Church*?
 - a. **God**, who created the world & tasked man with the responsibility for perfecting **His** creation?

b. **He** who blessed mankind with the *Word of God*?

i. Are they trying to exterminate Christianity or, are they trying to eliminate the **God of Israel**?

Q. While *Balaam* is the **arch enemy of Israel**, compared to his contemporary practitioners, he was a saint —

1. he knew when to stop & acknowledge that for every attempted curse & false accusation he brought against **God's people**, there is a blessing that exist & a truth that must be revealed: "*How goodly are your tents, O Jacob, your dwelling places, O Israel! They extend like streams, like gardens by the river, like aloes which God planted, like cedars by the water... Those who bless you shall be blessed, & those who curse you shall be cursed.*" **Numbers 24:5-6, 9**

R. No wonder the **Psalmist** would say with certitude, "*these that be planted in the house*

of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God." **Psalm 92:13**

- S. Remember, the Israelites built houses with a quadrangle designs - Courtyards in the middle.
1. These small gardens were built for the *Olive*, or *Palm* which were *planted* there —
 2. There is something significant about this — we grow in the middle of the place where **God**, with **His** people, **determine to dwell** —
 3. We are planted in God's house two ways:
 - a. Regeneration — publicly brought into **God's** house & planted into **His** likeness (new birth)
 - b. *Planting* implies, first, that there has been something done for us that we cannot do for ourselves. A tree cannot plant itself.
 - c. As of necessity, there has been a **work of grace** that has been done for us so that we might be moved into a new position, to be *planted* into a "*new*" place by **God** —
 - d. **We change positions**. A tree that has been planted indicates that it had been growing in

another place in different conditions — but it is brought in and planted in the **"house of God."**

4. A **"tree that is planted shall flourish."**

Because of the goodness of the soil in this house, we should expect grace to abound to the blessing of our lives.

5. As a Christian, your life has been planted with **Holy Purpose** — **God** has allowed you to go through all that you've gone through to mold you into the man or woman that **He** wants you to be. No enemy can pluck you out of His hand or uproot you from ***His house*** —

a. **God still wants to use you.**