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Today, we continue with our 12<sup>th</sup> newsletter in our series on "Revival in America". We read: "And the king commanded Hilkiah the high priest, and the priests of the second order, and the keepers of the door, to bring forth out of the temple of the LORD all the vessels that were made for Baal, and for the grove, and for all the host of heaven: and he burned them without Jerusalem in the fields of Kidron, and carried the ashes of them unto Bethel. And he put down the idolatrous priests, whom the kings of Judah had ordained to burn incense in the high places in the cities of Judah, and in the places round about Jerusalem; them also that burned incense unto Baal, to the sun, and to the moon, and to the planets (referring to the 12 zodiac signs), and to all the host of heaven" (2 Kings 23:4-5).

What we witness in our Scripture text through Josiah's holy reformation was the immediate physical cleansing of the Temple. There were physical idols of both wood and stone in the house of Almighty God. These false idols were made in honor of and were a blasphemous representation and display of Baal.

Many churches in America today also have idols in their houses of worship. In these last days, we are witnessing more and more exaltation and promotion of the homosexual community as they continue to infiltrate Protestant churches. Even in some of the larger mega-churches in America, many are starting to play homosexual music in their worship services. This act of wickedness is a stench in the nostrils of Jehovah.

Suffer me to share what is known

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as the "Sparkle Creed", a liturgical service in a Lutheran church in Minnesota. Instead of the Apostles Creed they designed a new creed which states: "I believe in the nonbinary (neither male nor female) God whose pronouns are plural. I believe in Jesus Christ, their child, who wore a fabulous tunic and had two dads (portrays Jehovah and Joseph as sodomites) and saw everyone as a sibling-child of God. I believe in the rainbow (perversion) spirit, who shatters our image of one white light (God alone is light and cannot be shattered) and reflects it into a rainbow of gorgeous diversity." This is affirmed by the congregation, which appears to consist primarily of aging baby boomers.

This type of perversion is running rampant throughout America. I have no reservation or doubt that soon God Almighty will send a fiery holocaust to America for our unmitigated perversity. We are told "Little children, keep yourselves from idols" (1 John 5:21).

As saints of God, it is our grave responsibility and spiritual duty to keep ourselves from falling into such debasement. How in the name of a holy God can a so-called liturgical service and its congregants embrace such defilement, its vulgar creed, and soiled language? There seems to be no resisting the devil anymore!

These events are a vivid display of the apostasy that is now worldwide and running rampant throughout the church. Very few are willing to wield the blood-stained banner of Christ our Lord without compromise. If the children of

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Jehovah do not remain in the secret place of the Most High, we too will embrace and justify this sordidness if we are not careful. The cry throughout the world today is *political correctness*.

We are certainly in the throes of the apostasy the apostle Paul spoke of: "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come (the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together unto Him), except there come a falling away first (a departure from the faith), and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition (the Antichrist)" (2 Thessalonians 2:3).

Many people today are deceived by those who use different means, modes, and methods to accomplish their dastardly deeds in this evil hour. Paul makes it perfectly clear the church will witness the revelation of the Antichrist before Christ's Second Advent.

I can no longer remain silent and speechless about what I see taking place throughout the church world. I must cry aloud and spare not, lest I stand before a holy God with defiled hands, an unclean heart, all the while embracing a polluted compromised worldly message.

We often speak of Esther, concerning Mordecai's renowned quote: "for a time such as this" (Esther 4:14). Every minister alive right now was called for such a time as this to cry aloud against the many sins and evils that are bombarding our nation: but where are they?

The apostle Paul declared: "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly (outspokenly), that in the latter times some shall depart (be seduced) from

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the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits (like roving tramps), and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron" (1 Timothy **4:1-2**). Each passing day we witness a worldwide movement as many depart from faith in God.

The grove mentioned in our Scripture text speaks of an Asherah pillar. Asherah was a major Canaanite goddess associated with lust and the seas. These Asherah poles were nothing more than wooden idols.

Following this great reformation Josiah initiated, it would not be long until Israel would once again depart from the faith and return to the same idolatrous practices: "Saying to a stock (a piece of wood), Thou art my father; and to a stone (idol), Thou hast brought me forth: for they (the Israelites) have turned their back unto me (Jehovah), and not their face: but in the time of their trouble (judgment) they will say, Arise, and save us. But where are thy gods (idols) that thou hast made thee? let them (your idols) arise, if they can save thee in the time of thy trouble: for according to the number of thy cities are thy gods, O Judah" (Jeremiah 2:27-28). In the end, before Israel's judgment, their false gods were as numerous as their cities.

After the 9-11 terrorist attack, our evil, elected politicians stood on the steps of Capitol Hill and, with the utmost arrogance, disrespect, and sang: "God contempt bless America". What a public display of unmitigated hypocrisy from a host of wicked charlatans and betrayers.

Josiah purged the Temple of every idol, burning them outside the city of Jerusalem in the fields of Kidron. Afterwards, he took the ashes of those idols back to Bethel, the house of God.

It was prophesied Josiah would carry those ashes to Bethel and openly defile the altars of Jeroboam. The man of God prophesied the

name of Josiah some 300 years before he was even born. It would be about 340 years before this prophecy would come to fruition. Allow me to revisit that prophecy: "And, behold, there came a man of God out of Judah by the word of the LORD unto Bethel: and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense. And he (the man of God) cried against the altar in the word of the LORD, and said, O altar, altar, thus saith the LORD; Behold, a child shall be born unto the house of David, Josiah by name; and upon thee (that pagan altar) shall he offer the priests of the high places that burn incense upon thee, and men's bones shall be burnt upon thee" (1 Kings 13:1-

Josiah followed the prescribed method according to the Pentateuch: "The graven images of their gods shall ye burn with fire: thou shalt not desire the silver or gold that is on them, nor take it unto thee, lest thou be snared therein: for it is an abomination to the LORD thy God" (Deuteronomy 7:25).

Witness the holiness and righteousness of Jehovah as He forbade Israel to take the silver or gold that gilded those wooden and stone idols because that precious metal was corrupted by idolatry. When something is gilded, it means to be thinly covered with silver or gold. Oftentimes, you will see the edges of some Bibles as they are gilded with gold.

Josiah then put down the idolatrous priests whom the wicked kings of Judah had chosen and ordained to burn incense unto Baal. These pagan priests were known as the blackrobed priests because they were in essence ordained by Satan. These were not the white-robed priests the Law demanded in the priesthood.

Throughout history, religious leaders have profaned what Elohim ordained as righteous. True adherents of Scripture "are not as many, which corrupt (adulterate) the word of God" (2 Corinthians 2:17).

Sadly, hucksters twist, distort, and corrupt the Scriptures for their own personal gain and profit.

Paul warned of these evil false spiritual leaders: "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming (disguising) themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be (a just punishment) according to their works" (2 **Corinthians 11:13-15**).

Paul uses the word transforming, to describe a change so drastic it is like changing an Italian garden into a baseball field. It has become something totally different than intended. This is just another display of the many who are departing from the faith and becoming something other than what they should be.

These black-robed priests burned incense to the sun, moon, planets, and host of heaven (constellations like the zodiac). I admonish everyone, especially you reading this newsletter, to stay away from horoscopes, which are divination and not the work of the Holy Ghost. Our Christ is a holy God and His word must be loved and respected.

Prepared or not, change is coming to America. Be as prayerful as possible and dwell in the secret place of the Most High. Suffer me to remind you of the word the Lord gave me back in September: "America will soon become hamstrung".

We are so humbled by your faithful love, prayers, and support for this ministry. Be assured we will lift you up in prayer because we realize the needs of God's people are growing exponentially each day.

Serving faithfully with you,

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David W. Lankford

Pastor / Evangelist