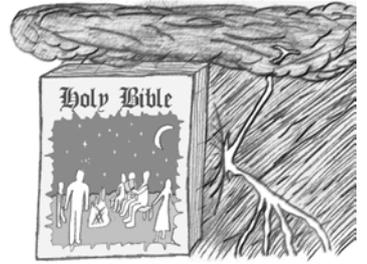


# Shelter in the Word

*He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. You are my refuge and shield: I have put my hope in your Word. —Psalm 91:1; 119:114*



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Helping you become self-sufficient in the Word—for a lasting relationship with the Almighty

Sept/Oct 2001

## Attack on America A Biblical Warning?

By Norman Edwards (Sept 14, 2001)

Amos 3:6 If a trumpet is blown in a city, will not the people be afraid? If there is calamity in a city, will not the LORD have done it?

7 Surely the Lord GOD does nothing, Unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.

Num 10:9 “When you go to war in your land against the enemy who oppresses you, then you shall sound an alarm with the trumpets, and you will be remembered before the LORD your God, and you will be saved from your enemies.

10 “Also in the day of your gladness, in your appointed feasts, and at the beginning of your months, you shall blow the trumpets over your burnt offerings and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings; and they shall be a memorial for you before your God: I *am* the LORD your God.”

Num 29:1 “On the first day of the seventh month [Hebrew lunar month] hold a sacred assembly and do no regular work. It is a day for you to sound the trumpets.

Many people will be assembling together for this Day of Trumpets (usually called “Rosh Hoshana” by Jewish people) this Tuesday, September the 18<sup>th</sup>. This day has been observed by some Christians for nearly 2000 years and some Jews for nearly 3500 years. It represents a **time of warning** for what is to come—a chance to repent and a chance to make a



2nd airplane to hit World Trade Center, 9/11/01. Photo Courtesy of CNN

different future. But most people in the U.S.A. have not read the Bible enough to learn about this day or to learn the secret He has revealed to His servants the prophets. This brief message will declare part of His message to you. God speaks to **individuals**, and he speaks to **nations**:

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said to them, “**Repent**, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

39 “For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”

2 Chronicles 7:14 “if My people who are called by My name will humble

### Also in this issue

11 Faith-based Initiatives; an Open Letter to George Bush

12 Free Literature List

themselves, and pray and seek My face, and **turn from their wicked ways**, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Many who claim to know God are not living God's way. They may believe that a little bit of sin is all right—or they are excusing their sin by saying it is not sin. They do not regularly seek God's strength to love their neighbor as themselves. Serving God and doing His work is not the main priority in their life.

Those who do not care about God must realize that God still judges nations—and that nations reap what they sow. An attack such as we experienced Tuesday has been possible for decades, but God has seen that it has not happened—until now. The people of Nineveh did not worship or obey the God of the Bible, but they knew that they were wrong for evil-treating each other. Their leader said:

Jonah 3:8 But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily to God; yes, let every one turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands.

9 Who can tell *if* God will turn and relent, and turn away from His fierce anger, so that we may not perish?

10 Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it.

There is no doubt that the people who attacked the U.S.A. are evil people and will be judged of God for what they have done. But the Bible shows that when one nation sins, God frequently allows another

evil nation to come against them as a punishment. We must remember that the U.S.A. suffered many casualties before finally being victorious in most of its previous wars.

Even if God does plan to let disaster come upon our nation, He will give us a chance to turn from our evil ways. The U.S.A. has had a long period of peace within its borders, but also has had a long decline in morality. The period of peace has now ended. If we are to regain peace, the decline in morals must end now, too. This attack has already brought some positive change. Many New York city dwellers have noted how everyone is talking to strangers in the city now—where the attitudes of “what you gonna’ do for me?” or “hurry up and getoutta’ my way” used to be prevalent.

### Victims not “Worse Sinners”

Nevertheless, no one should declare the Americans killed or injured in this attack as the *most evil* people in the U.S.A. and that God is judging them. Notice the teaching of Jesus:

Luke 13:4 “Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were **worse sinners** than all *other* men who dwelt in Jerusalem? 5 “I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.”

The people who died due to the September 11 attack were not worse than all other Americans. In many ways, those injured were victims of random violence. But unless we, as a nation repent, we will perish in some other way.

Americans should not be so foolish as to believe that this fight is over. The enemy has shown he is skilled at planning—he has certainly thought about

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his next move. For many years, many countries, including our own, have been selling the makings of weapons of mass destruction to other countries, which sometimes sold them to whoever had a lot of money. Citizens of the U.S.A. (including me) did not inundate Washington trying to stop this practice—because it was not affecting us at the moment and because our economy was good. But we are more interested now! If we have one incident of nuclear or biological terrorism, it will suddenly be the most important. We should be thankful that the attack was not as bad as it was intended, and begin doing what we can—both physically and spiritually—to make sure that it does not happen again.

We do not know what else might be planned against us, and which plans will succeed or fail. God declares that sinning nations can be defeated by a few enemies (Lev 26:36; Deut 32:30; Is 30:17), but a few people who honor God can defeat many (Lev 26:8). There are many things that we can do, both **as individuals** and **as a nation**. When a man asked Jesus about how he should live, Jesus started with a simple teaching. Let us read that teaching, and then think about how to implement it **in our personal lives** and **in our nation**.

Matt 19:18 ...“Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony,

19 ‘honor your father and mother,’ and ‘love your neighbor as yourself.’”

## Do Not Murder

In general, our nation hates murder—we are appalled that 5000 people or more died because a terrorist group, without the people’s consent, chose to end their lives for its own political objectives. But on every business day of the year, about 5000 babies die in our nation, because their mothers and their mother’s counselors and doctors chose to end their lives for their own personal objectives. No, we do not want a government agent in every home checking for pregnancies or abortions. But we do need to repent of this sin and teach our nation that murder is not an acceptable way to dispose of “inconvenient” people, no matter how defenseless they might be. We need to get our government out of the business of counseling and funding abortion, and enact legislation to protect the constitutional right to “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness” of pre-born citizens and to prosecute those who kill them. (If a woman’s life is being threatened by a crazy man with a gun, or by a baby

dangerously growing inside her, and there is no reasonable solution, then the law can decide to take the life of the unreasonable to preserve the reasonable—the Bible supports this principle in Exodus 22:2.)

Of the babies that are born, another 5000 each year—maybe many times that—are murdered by vaccines—which most states “require” babies to undergo. If the concept of vaccine deaths seems odd, please look at the detailed testimony of numerous doctors on these web sites:

[www.avn.org.au/toc.htm](http://www.avn.org.au/toc.htm)

[www.korenpublications.com/products/3.htm](http://www.korenpublications.com/products/3.htm)

[www.nexusmagazine.com/shakenbaby.html](http://www.nexusmagazine.com/shakenbaby.html)

[www.altcorp.com/autismvaccines.htm](http://www.altcorp.com/autismvaccines.htm)

Of the vaccine deaths that are reported (most apparently are not), the vaccines for some diseases, like pertussis, kill more people than the disease itself. Also, people vaccinated against a disease sometimes get it anyway. But more importantly, are we not fighting for individual freedom and liberty in the U.S.A.? Would not we expect only a dictatorship to make all of its subjects undergo a medical procedure against their will? Should not the government and media inform American parents of both sides of the issue and let them be free to determine what is best for their own children?

Also, Americans ought to think about their entertainment along with the words “do not murder”. Is it good that we watch many thousands of simulated murders each year? Yes, the stories are exciting, compelling and intriguing, but cannot we use our minds to just say, “no”. If no one watches them, Hollywood will not produce them.

Finally, other nations hear the U.S.A. talk about defending people’s freedom, but see us as very self-serving in which people we protect internationally. When Kuwait was invaded by Iraq, we rushed a huge army there to protect those people—and the oil we buy. Whereas, millions of people have been killed in Sudan over many years, and Congress is only now considering the Sudan Peace Act, which will only produce economic sanctions against Sudan. There are many more examples.

## Do Not Commit Adultery

Americans need to think about their entertainment and advertising again. It goes to nearly the entire world. Islamic nations see the U.S.A. as the “great Satan”—teaching sexual immorality to the world. While some of the accusations against us are false, and some Islamic leaders do not live by the moral standards they proclaim, some of their accusations are true. The U.S.A. is **the biggest exporter** of

sexually oriented entertainment—a significant part of which originates in New York City. This fall, the major networks were planning to lower the standards of broadcast TV even further—more nudity and vulgar words heretofore not used.

Many in the U.S.A would like to say that we have “sexual freedom”. But in reality, do we not have sexual chaos and anarchy? With nearly all entertainment media making casual sex relationships appear normal, what chance do young people have of building a monogamous, life-long, happy marriage? Yes, they are technically free to do that—but entertainment and advertising industries—and the government—are waging complete psychological warfare against those who do. “Sex education” classes and school condom distribution *presume* that individuals will have casual sex. Our Congress and constituents failed to remove a President who undisputedly did this with one of his employees.

The terrible irony is that when Hollywood wants to portray a happy child in a movie or advertisement, they most invariably show a child with two loving parents. They, as well as the government counselors distributing condoms, know that stable marriages are the most successful in raising well-adjusted children. Children of divorced or single parents always have more trouble, and children raised by institutions have the most trouble.

While the government trumpets “protected sex” as the solution, their own statistics freely acknowledge that couples, in the heat of passion, frequently forget the protection—and that protection occasionally fails. These two major points of failure do not affect those who abstain. Once a person is sexually active, it is often difficult to stop. People committed to abstinence are very slow to start. Statistics show that the sexually active are many times more likely to have venereal diseases, infertility and divorces than those who abstain until marriage.

Obviously, individuals need to repent of their sexual sins and seek the power of God to stop them.

What can governments do? We do not want to limit freedom of speech or put a government agent in every bedroom! But we can learn a lesson from the tobacco industry, a scourge for many years on our nation that was restricted over time and is now beginning to be defeated. Laws can be passed to require sexually oriented entertainment and advertising to use 30% or so of their audio and visual content to explain the known physiological and sociological problems with casual, unprotected sex—much like the warnings on cigarette ads. Laws can be passed making it easy for the models, actors and actresses who make sexually oriented entertainment to sue the

employers for physiological and psychological trauma caused by their job. Such legislation should have a long statute of limitations, apply to corporations, their officers and their managers.

This approach will not stop anyone’s freedom of speech—it would apply only to items for sale or carrying paid advertising. Even then, people can say what they want, but will simply have to include additional, interspersed, content telling the truth about the subject. Yes, such laws will destroy the money-making potential sex industry, and that is what we want. These laws will also protect an ever-growing oppressed segment of Americans—young people hired into the sex industry on the promise of becoming “big stars” without doing any “porn”—only to be gradually, but systematically pressured into more and more perverse acts, only to be dumped when they catch their first disease—usually broke and without any references to put on the next job application.

## Do Not Steal

Micah 2:1 Woe to those who devise iniquity, And work out evil on their beds! At morning light they practice it, Because it is in the power of their hand.

2 They covet fields and take *them* by violence, Also houses, and seize *them*. So they oppress a man and his house, A man and his inheritance.

3 Therefore thus says the LORD: “Behold, against this family I am devising disaster, From which you cannot remove your necks; Nor shall you walk haughtily, For this *is* an evil time.”

While the amount of reported theft is actually decreasing in parts of the U.S.A., it is not clear whether that is due to less stealing occurring or due to more theft going unreported because the police do little to help the victims. In New York City and many other major cities, a person who leaves something of value unattended in a public place for more than a few minutes can **expect** to have it stolen. By contrast, many Islamic countries diligently enforce anti-theft statues (some overly severe) and have virtually no reported theft. (This author knows people who accidentally left their luggage by the street in an Islamic nation for days and returned to find it intact.)

Stealing involves much more than walking up to something and taking it. Stealing can be *not giving* others what is rightfully theirs. Workers abound who want to get paid more and do as little as possible. Labor unions sometimes make such policies official.

The leaders of big business and government are frequently no better.

Anyone who has shopped very long has run into products that do not work as advertised and never should have been made—all they do is provide money for the corporation that sold them. Yet, return policies make it impractical for the buyer to get his or her money back. Indeed, the owners may transfer anything of value to other corporations, deliberately bankrupting the one that made the bad products, and leave the consumers and stockholders to suffer.

Wall Street investment bankers frequently borrow money to take over a corporation, then sell that corporation's assets to pay off the debt from the acquisition, then use a variety of methods to transfer any remaining wealth to their own interests, and then leave a once sound company terribly in debt, virtually unable to take care of its employees or customers. Most of what they do may be legal, but God probably calls it "stealing". They do nothing useful to anyone to earn their money. Some corporations in the World Trade Center did this very thing.

Governments may do more stealing than any other segment of our society. The government and media make no significant effort to explain how the Federal Reserve Bank works—how a private corporation collects many billions of dollars in interest from the People of the United States for nothing of value in return. The IRS and other taxing authorities regularly collect taxes based upon their own expediency, ignoring their own rules and the laws and court decisions regulating the collection of taxes. Audits of the IRS have shown Billions of dollars that are "missing". "Asset forfeiture" laws allow various governments to steal billions of dollars of private property without a trial. There have been documented cases where government employees have planted drugs in the homes or vehicles of people with no police record and then taken their property. Recovering the property is a long legal process frequently costing more than the seized items are worth.

Individuals need to repent of stealing—to do honest, useful work. They also need to stand up to do the best they can to make sure that other people, business and governments do not steal from them. Doing this is not only self-protection, but freedom and justice for everyone else who is being oppressed by the same thieves.

## Do Not Give False Testimony

American entertainment is full of lying. And so are most American people. Kids lie to get through school. Adults lie to get and keep their jobs. A man

lies to impress a woman; a woman lies to get a man, then they lie to each other to try to keep the marriage together, then they lie to their children and are shocked or befuddled when their children lie to them. Businesses lie to their employees and to their customers. Governments—even presidents lie to the people they serve, not for national security, but to protect themselves—and they still maintain a high "approval rating". People who do not lie to get out of trouble are frequently considered "losers". Yes, as time goes on, many people discover the lies of others and are disappointed, but most will continue to work with the lying person, business or government because it appears economically beneficial to do so at the moment. Also, they realize that they, themselves, lie.

All the movie and TV characters that lie set a bad enough example, but the worst lies of the entertainment and advertising industries are the false ideas that are made to seem true. What are these ideas? That happiness comes from having things (however acquired), having sex (of any sort) and having popularity. The Bible truth that desperately needs to be taught is that happiness comes from 1) doing what we know to be right—living with a clear conscience, 2) enjoying the fruit of what we have earned, 3) enjoying love and sex with a lifelong partner, 4) enjoying family relationships for generations.

Lying has also become a way of life in government. Most people seemingly accept politicians who do not keep their promises. We all know of criminal cases where the defense has lied to "get their client off". Most people have heard of civil cases where someone sues, tells a lot of lies and gets money because of it. But did you know that lying in court is also common among government prosecutors? Testimony before the hearing of the Committee on the Judiciary on *The Consequences Of Perjury And Related Crimes* (Serial No. 67 of December 1, 1998, 150th Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> session) stated that up to 95% of criminal prosecutions involved some lying on the part of the government—many prosecutions involved a lot of lying. Most courts have degenerated from institutions of truth and justice to battlefields of technicalities where money and political power win the wars.

Jer 5:31 the prophets prophesy falsely and the priests exploit the people. And my people love it! But when the end comes, what will you do? (NJB)

We as individuals need to repent of the lies we tell and learn to live by telling the truth—realizing

that God will bless us for it. When others we know lie to us, we should not ignore it, but, gently, in love, tell them that your relationship (business or social) would be better if they told you the truth (see Lev 19:17, Gal 6:1). On a national scale, we need to be more diligent to see if our leaders are telling the truth, and then reject leaders that are not. If we let lying be the way to power, cannot we expect leaders who are all liars? We need to change our laws to include this vital principle of justice from the Bible:

Deut 19:16 If a malicious witness takes the stand to accuse a man of a crime,

17 the two men involved in the dispute must stand in the presence of the LORD before the priests and the judges who are in office at the time.

18 The judges must make a thorough investigation, and if the witness proves to be a liar, giving false testimony against his brother,

19 then do to him as he intended to do to his brother. You must purge the evil from among you (NIV ).

Today, false witnesses in court are almost never prosecuted. If they are, it must be done as a separate trial at the request of a prosecuting attorney. If convicted, the maximum penalty is some fine or number of years in jail. But these verses show that if a witness falsely accuses a person of a murder, then he would receive the death penalty if proved false. Juries need to be given the option not only to ignore the testimony of a false witness, but to vote to demand that an apparently false witness (including government “expert witnesses”) be prosecuted for their false testimony. Yes, this will discourage people from being court witnesses, but it will discourage far more false witnesses than true witnesses, that have nothing to hide.

## Honor Your Father and Mother

We can all personally honor our own parents if they are still living. If they are sick, it may consume a lot of time and resources. We can teach our children, if we have them, to honor their parents. This does not mean that parents have the right to mistreat their children and the children have to take it (Gal 6:4). But it means that children should obey their parents, as long as they are working with them in a Godly manner.

Much of our entertainment and advertising does not reinforce family honor and unity. We need to choose some that does.

Government programs have done much to destroy the honoring of parents. Government agencies and schools in subtle or sometimes very blatant ways teach children to disrespect or disobey their parents. Child Protective Services frequently takes children from loving parents with charges of “abuse”, even though statistics show that a child is far more likely to be abused in the government foster system. The government taxes working people so heavily that they are not able to take care of their parents or children in the way they would like to, so the children turn to government scholarships and the elderly turn to government health care. The people give honor and respect to the state rather than their family—even though the family is really doing the work. Citizens of the U.S.A. have much work to do in reducing government social programs so families can again be strengthened.

## Love Your Neighbor as Yourself

Everyone wants to be treated this way. When you buy something, you want the seller to tell you everything that they would want to know if they were buying the product themselves. When someone works for you, you want them to work as hard and well as if they were doing the job for themselves. When you deal with the government, you wish they would be as compassionate with you as they would be with themselves. If some illness or disaster befalls us, we would want others to be as compassionate with us as if it happened to them. We should think about this issue from this perspective first.

Now that we know how we want to be treated, how do we treat others? We are obviously limited by are human capacity. We cannot help every victim of Tuesday’s attack. We cannot feed every hungry mouth in the world. But we can refrain from hurting others around us—and we can help care for at least some of those whom we know really need help.

We must also realize that other nations and ethnic groups have suffered attacks far worse than ours. Some have asked for our help and we have refused—sometimes wisely, but other times there was a lot we could have done. After our own experience this week, we should have more compassion on nations that experience regular terrorism.

As it is, the U.S.A. has done more to help other nations than any other country on earth. This is to our credit. But we have also sometimes exploited the resources and people of other nations, and left little in

return. We have aid programs for other nations, but investigations sometimes reveal that the money is not actually helping the people but support the some dishonest leaders political agenda. Other nations do not quickly forget the bad we have done. Americans need to know a lot more about what our government is doing, and to insist on honest leaders, not just politically astute leaders. We need to elect leaders who know what it means to “love their neighbor as themselves”, not just “love him when it is politically expedient”.

## **Stand Up to Our Sins, Stand up to Our Enemies**

We in the U.S.A. need the courage to stand up to our personal sins, and to stand up to our enemies that are attacking us. It is difficult to look at our own life and say, “there are the things that I am doing wrong”. But unless that step is taken, improvement is unlikely. Once we see the problem, we can see that we will be difficult to change long-time habits. But God promises He will make it possible if we seek Him.

Similarly, it is difficult to make ourselves look at our country and say, “here is where we are wrong” or “here is where we are militarily weak. But we must do those things if we are going to make it better. We must realize that it **can** get better.

The government of the U.S.A. must strengthen itself and defend its citizens. That is part of its constitutional purpose. God never faulted nations in the Bible for defending themselves, but He told them not to build large armies for attacking other nations. Once when God’s people were faced with a stronger foe, they marched into battle singing and God defeated their enemies for them (2Chr 20:15-29). But at other times, God allowed His people to suffer casualties defending themselves. Today, many Americans do not have the faith to face an armed enemy by singing, so we should defend ourselves militarily.

## **Church and State Separate**

Teaching national repentance and the use of biblical principles in government is not advocating some combination of Church and State. God taught the principles of running a nation (as running one’s life) in the Old Testament. Because Israel would not live by those laws, they went into captivity and were vassals to the Romans at the time of Christ. Christ and the Apostles taught a message of personal repentance, forgiveness of sin and salvation through the sacrifice of Christ. They never taught that the church should replace secular governments or try to use

secular governments to force Christianity on others. On the other hand, the Apostles taught that all will be judged for what they do and that secular rulers will do much better now and in the judgment if they would follow the ways of God to the best of their ability.

The First Amendment says: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.” This means that no “state church” can be established by the state, nor can any religious group be harassed by the state. It prevents the state from aligning with any religious organization—but **does not prevent the state from recognizing the Bible or God!** Indeed, the constitution was dated “in the year of our Lord” and refers to the Declaration of Independence, which acknowledges God as the source of our rights.

The writings of the founding fathers clearly show that they were nearly all Bible-believing, God-fearing men. They wanted to establish a nation based on the Bible, but wanted the church to be separate, influencing the state only by preaching to the people—not by direct political control. People should be free to observe whatever religion they desire, so long as they do not harm others.

God does not force people or nations to acknowledge or obey Him. But when they do not, He sends them warnings—frequently in the form of enemy attacks or natural disasters. We had one this week. But the nations that continue to ignore God suffer more and more, till they are destroyed. (Read Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28.) Even when God decrees destruction, repentance is still available:

Jer 18:7 “The instant I speak concerning a nation and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, to pull down, and to destroy *it*,

8 “if that nation against whom I have spoken turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I thought to bring upon it.”

## **Individual Responsibility**

For too many Americans, God has been replaced in their lives by the government. They rely on the government for protection and guidance in all areas of life, rather than developing their own abilities and praying to God for guidance and deliverance. This attack on America aptly illustrated the point.

After the aircraft hit the World Trade Center buildings, many of the people did whatever they could to get out—negotiating fires, smoke, debris and

pitch-dark passageways. That was not in their job description, but most of those people lived. Others sat and waited to be rescued. Nearly all of them died when the building collapsed. About 200 brave city workers lost their lives in the collapse, trying to rescue the people—they knew that many would simply wait to be rescued. May God bless these brave people in the judgment (Rom 14:10; 2Cor 5:10). May we as individuals learn to take better care of ourselves so that others do not have to die doing what most of us could do for ourselves.

The people on the plane that crashed in Pennsylvania were another great example of individual responsibility. Several reports indicate that unarmed men fought the hijackers and prevented them from crashing the plane into a densely populated area. This was a true heroic demonstration of the American spirit of freedom. May God remember it. Our government and its billions of dollars of spy agencies and airport security were not able to detect or resist this attack, but a few unarmed men successfully did.

Our government is foolishly trying to bring peace by disarming its citizens. The Columbine High School incident showed the foolishness of this. Guns are forbidden in schools, so when gunmen entered, they were assured of no armed resistance. And when armed authorities came to the scene to help, they took hours to assess the situation while more people were being shot or dying of their wounds. Had each teacher been issued a gun and trained to use it, only a few people would have died at Columbine.

Similarly, if pilots and flight attendants and plain-clothes air marshals were armed, every plane would be many times more difficult to attack. While a gun-fight on an airplane sounds dangerous, it sounds a whole lot better than allowing a plane to be used as a weapon to kill thousands of people. The nation of Israel, which has had problems with terrorists for many years, is very successful in stopping them. They have armed men on their airlines, and most civilians carry concealed weapons in public places.

When God's people were rebuilding Jerusalem and the temple, they had to both do their jobs and bear arms at the same time:

Neh 4:17 Those who built on the wall, and those who carried burdens, loaded themselves so that with one hand they worked at construction, and with the other held a weapon.

18 Every one of the builders had his sword girded at his side as he built. And the one who sounded the trumpet

was beside me.

Guns are not the only answer to making a strong nation. Most schools could and should offer basic courses in personal self-defense, first aid and disaster preparedness. Adults should cut out a little of their entertainment budget and learn some of these skills. If a terrorist attack cuts off power, gas or food shipments to your area, how long can you live and work with what you have in your home? For those who stored up "Y2K supplies", now is a good time to look at what you have and make sure that it is ready for the future. If you did not, start small.

## Government Responsibility

When problems occur, our government is far too accustomed to passing spending and regulatory bills to create an agency or program to "tackle the problem", and not very good at making the tough decision that will begin to solve the problem. We have spent trillions on welfare, education and the "war on drugs", and we still have large amounts of poverty, ignorance and drug-use. We have added millions of regulations and restrictions to working people. But simply giving more power and money to the government does not automatically solve problems. Governments must do only the things they can do, and empower people, but the strength of God, to do what they can do.

President Bush's declaration of a day of prayer and remembrance was a good start. He invited many people to pray and speak from a variety of religious backgrounds. But he did not go far enough. The message of repentance—turning from wrong ways to right ways is still desperately needed. Many of the sins of our government are exposed for all to see. We have already mentioned some, but there are more very relevant examples:

Ps 78:9 The children of Ephraim, *being* armed *and* carrying bows [strong military for that day], Turned back in the day of battle.

10 They did not keep the covenant of God; They refused to walk in His law,

The US was powerfully armed, but foolishly ended the Gulf war without destroying Saddam Hussein—the man who forced hundreds thousands of people into his army and who is responsible for a like number of deaths, both military and civilian. A righteous nation should clearly indicate that they are

fighting the evil, not just fighting those whom we could easily “waste”. The U.S.A. had the “bunker basher” bombs needed to destroy Saddam’s hiding places, but they were not used. Yes, the U.S.A. was concerned that Iran might conquer Iraq if Saddam was killed, but if we always stood up for what is right, Iran would fear to do it. Instead of making Iran stay home, we spent millions ineffectively trying to monitor Saddam’s weapons projects, and now there is some possibility that he may aided this attack on America—he has frequently threatened to attack us with suicide squads.

America has foolishly passed laws forbidding the plotting of assassinations against leaders of other countries. If we said that we won’t do it, but secretly plan to do it anyway, this is needless lying.—we already have too much of that. If we are to declaring a righteous war on a nation or a group of people, does not it make the most sense to target the persons most responsible for the war? If leaders (on either side) are not willing to risk their life for their cause, how can they ask their followers to do it for them? We must change our laws to allow the assassination of leaders of groups with which we are at war. When dealing with a terrorist army, there may **never** be a country upon which to declare war and fight—assassinating individuals responsible for warring with our nation may be the only way to ultimately stop the fight.

We must realize that our enemies are **not cowardly**. They are simply evil (God will judge them.) But they believe in their cause so strongly that they are willing to die for it. They want to defeat the USA any way the can and there is clear military value in their targets: vital economic centers, military headquarters, and the nation’s president. The U.S.A. has attacked similar targets in its previous wars—destroying a technological nation’s economy destroys its ability to make technological war. Their method of attacking by surprise, before superior U.S.A. military and police can arrive is wise for them.

Our government must realize that if it puts soldiers or police in every business and dwelling place, that we will cease to be a free people and become a police state. The founders of our country understood this well. A free people needs to be able to defend itself, not rely completely on a large professional, central military. Notice these quotes from Article 1 Section 8, and the second amendment of the Constitution:

[Congress shall have power] To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such. Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving

to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

Most of the groups calling themselves “Militia” today are not governed by the 50 states or by Congress. A few are not very “well-regulated.” Nevertheless, the Militia concept of the trained citizen-soldier was exactly what the Constitution’s framers had in mind. It won the Revolutionary War and protected many American families and business from hostile foreigners, Indians and criminal gangs. When trouble arrived, local citizen-soldiers were called to defend. There was simply not time to call state or national military. As the USA is subjected to more terrorist attacks, the citizen soldier concept will be the quickest line of defense. State and local governments need to organize it!

Will it be safe? Most adult Americans have been trained to operate complex automobiles in close proximity at dangerously high speeds—one wrong move, and many people die. Indeed, there are tens of thousands of deaths per year, but we accept them because the benefit of automobiles to our society is enormous and most careful people go through their entire lives without a major accident. Guns are much simpler to operate than cars, and their safety record is much better than automobiles. If terrorist attacks continue, the number of lives saved by local, government sponsored militia will far exceed those lost.

Militias should work with local police, but not replace them. Militias are for resisting armed aggression, not enforcing other laws. Being composed of citizens with another primary job, militias are not usually anxious for an unnecessary fight (compared to professional soldiers who are usually trained to do nothing but fight). A local militia would have deployed like lightning to save their own children in the Columbine High School, but would probably have left David Koresh and his group alone, since they never committed any crimes against their neighbors.

Our government should use its high-technology national military force to determine how to best hunt down and destroy our enemies wherever they are, with a minimum of casualties inflicted on other groups. We can do this, even if we have to cover a country with little marble-size “probe droids” that signal a satellite if they ever “see” our enemies face or “hear” his voice. If we kill people who are not our enemies, we are no better than are enemies, and we will make more enemies.

~~May our government have the wisdom to help~~ its people be better prepared to take responsibility for their own defense, and their own actions.

## Conclusion

The attack on the U.S.A. is a warning that we need to repent of sin, both individually and nationally. If we do not know our sins, we can read the Bible and ask God to show us. Close friends are also often happy to tell us if we ask. Our government, businesses and churches also need to repent of our collective sins. Individuals in positions of authority need to repent now, and *We the People* need to exercise our responsibility to replace those who will not. This will take some time. But there is no time like the present to start. If we are successful, we will retain the strength of our nation. Even if we personally sacrifice ourselves to do what is right, and much of the nation does not, we still have our reward from God:

Matt 16:25 "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

26 "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

27 "For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.

## Answers to Specific Questions:

### Was this Attack Predicted in Bible Prophecy?

This author has read a great many different ideas on prophecy. These prophecy teachers will take an event such this attack, and identify nations, beasts, numbers of years and other prophetic descriptions to show that it was prophesied and what will happen next. People flock to their teachings because they want to know the future and be with the man that "God is using". The prophecy teacher sells a lot of books or receives a lot of offerings, and keeps studying and writing. Yet nearly every time, the prophecy teacher's future predictions do not happen exactly as he said, so he makes adjustments with new scriptures and historical information and we have a new scenario based on "more perfect knowledge".

Studying prophecy is a good thing—God had it recorded so we could study it. New Testament teachers applied some Old Testament prophecies to their day. But these applications and indeed all of the prophecies given in the Bible came from direct inspiration of God, not from making complex prophecy charts. If God is revealing what will happen in the future, then we should listen to that person. If anyone knows of a prophecy teacher who's newsletter or tapes, more than a month ago, predicted a major terrorist attack on the U.S.A., I would be glad to hear about it.

### Is this Attack Part of a Conspiracy to Establish Government Control?

This is a reasonable question. Most Americans do not know how dictators get in power—they just sort of assume that other countries are bad and we are good. After World War I, Germany had a very fair, "democratic" government, similar to our own. Adolph Hitler was elected to office by promising and in many ways delivering economic prosperity to Germany. He did **not** promise voters he would conquer the world or destroy some races in concentration camps. Yes, there were stories of misuse of power on his part, but they did not bother Germans any more than stories of our government abuse of power bother Americans today. (Why make waves and get in trouble?) In 1933, after Hitler legitimately became chancellor, he had his henchmen burn down the Reichstag, their congress building, but blamed it on the Communists. He temporarily assumed all power while the legislature had no place to meet. He never gave the power back. When people demanded he give it back, he had them falsely accused of some kind of crime and then jailed—where their voice was no longer heard.

Could this happen in America? After the Oklahoma City Federal Building bombing, the Anti-Terrorist Bill was immediately introduced in Congress. The initial version of this bill gave the President (and any agency under him) the ability to jail people for up to 10 years without a trial or to hold secret trials. If Hitler had been given that kind of power as Chancellor, he would not have needed his Reichstag fire. To this day, important questions have not been answered: How did a single primitive ammonium nitrate bomb in the front center of the building pulverize two strong support columns at the far edges, but leave closer, weaker floors intact? Why did seismographs and eyewitnesses report two explosions?

The 1993 bombing of the world trade center also has strange US government connections. Two

articles in major papers revealed an FBI informant ~~actually supplied FBI explosives to be used in that bombing~~—but that plans to switch to fake explosives failed (“Tapes Depict Proposal to Thwart Bomb Used in Trade Center Blast,” New York Times, 10/28/93, “The Other Trial,” The Wall Street Journal, 9/22/93).

This author has a lot of unanswered questions about the above incidents and others. Some conspiracy theorists claim to know exactly who was behind them and why. This author does not claim to know, and knows that most of the conspiracy theories are false (because so many disagree with each other on critical points).

This week’s attacks seemed quite different from the above. City officials were first on the scene to help in this week’s attack—Federal agents took quite a while to arrive at New York. Whereas previous “terrorist attack” sites were filled with federal agents in only minutes (where did they come from?). The method whereby the terrorists struck was absolutely clear this time. A suicide mission is not something easy to “fake” and Americans won’t do them no matter how much they are paid. The building did not have bombs in it. This author contacted architects personally known to himself who had studied building collapses and was assured that the combination of uneven load, steel heated by fire and stories falling

one onto the next can produce the kind of catastrophic collapse witnessed in the New York buildings. Even though the danger was much greater, there was no fanatical effort to keep “unauthorized” people away from the buildings and hide all the wreckage as there had been with some other “terrorist” incidents. Finally, if there are people within our own government who want to take control of it by creating a false emergency, they would either be in the military or want the support of the military. Attacking the Pentagon with people inside is not the way to get it.

While this author believes that some conspiracies have injured the American people largely without their knowledge, I think the major lesson of this week’s events are turning back to God, not uncovering conspiracies. God gave good advise through the prophet Isaiah:

Isa 8:12 “Do not call conspiracy everything that these people call conspiracy; do not fear what they fear, and do not dread it.

13 The LORD Almighty is the one you are to regard as holy, he is the one you are to fear, he is the one you are to dread (NIV). 

## Faith-based Initiatives an Open Letter to George Bush

Aug 28, 2001

Dear Mr. President,

This is the first letter I have ever written to national government representatives, but I feel I must!

I appreciate your desire for promoting Christian values and morals. I am a very active Christian myself. However, I believe your present proposals are a step in the wrong direction.

True faith-based work is efficient because it is based on faith—it is based on people motivated to serve God and to teach others to do likewise. It does little good to give poor people a meal and a place to sleep, unless one can teach them that they are responsible to God, and can also have the power of God in their life to change it so that they can take care of themselves and help others. True faith-based efforts deal with the physical and the spiritual. People who

operate them are living examples that God’s ways work. The people they serve can see that.

The constitution forbids the creation of a state church. It is not the government’s job to figure out how to teach about God and the Bible; that is the job of the free and independent church groups. No group should ever have a monopoly on religion. Giving government money to churches along with regulations controlling what they can and cannot teach as they distribute the money is simply creating government-controlled churches.

The public schools are an excellent example of what happens when state and federal governments begin funding a local institution over a long period of time. Moral teaching drops to the lowest common denominator that is acceptable nation-wide (which is very low indeed). Today, the average public school is probably of less value to the average child than schools were 70 years ago (in teaching subjects relevant for their own day). This system has become so

ineffective in places that many parents pay for private schools and legislatures are considering reimbursing

## Free Literature List

**All Who Die Shall Live Again!** 2 pages. Comfort for people who have lost loved ones.

**Feast of Tabernacles: Bringing in the Sheaves of Your Year**, 10 pages. Guide to spiritual self-examination during the Feast of Tabernacles.

**God, I've Got a Problem**, 54 pages. Bible help for the depressed, tempted, guilty, worried, lonely, afraid, bored, disappointed, bitter, doubtful, proud and dying.

**How Can You Meet Other Singles?** 2 pages. Help for singles interested in marriage.

**The Mysterious 7-Day Cycle**, 24 pages. Plants, animals and man have biological 7-day cycles—the 7-day week is an organic function, not a man-made creation.

**Shelter in the Word Literature List**, 22 pages. Includes all back issues and Bible literature.

**What Does the Bible Say About Eternal Judgment?** 83 pages. An “under-taught” Bible topic.

**What Is Christian Religion?** 2 pages. It is living by the Bible & Holy Spirit, not joining a church.

private school costs rather than trying to fix the public school system.

Let us not make the same mistake with

## Share Your Shelter

Our Savior never argued or tried to force someone to believe in Him. We should not do that either. But if *Shelter in the Word* has helped you, you can share it with others who might be interested in it or helped by it. One of these methods might work for you.

1. Talk to them about what you have learned and encourage them to study the Bible themselves.
2. Copy your *Shelter* and give it to them (almost any office or copy store will do this for \$1 to \$2).
3. Give them your *Shelter* (we will send you a replacement issue if you write or call).
4. Copy just this page or write down the address or phone so they can request their own subscription.

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churches. Churches are lacking enough in sound Bible teaching and moral integrity as it is. If their outreach missions stop teaching from the Bible and replace it with some massive government manual, it will not be long until they are little different than our present welfare system. They will become staffed with bureaucrats, not faith-filled people. Then we will have to wait for a new group of churches that will start over with true faith-based initiatives that do not accept government money or regulation, but again trust in God.

I believe that the President and Congress can still be moral leaders in America and help the poor—without funding churches. I believe they can greatly reform the nation by passing fair and just laws and by setting a good example themselves. Some ideas:

1) Sharply, but justly discipline the members of their own ranks who break the law or who are openly immoral.

2) Eliminate the practice of placing unrelated riders on appropriations bills that has encouraged so much “pork barrel” spending.

3) Clean up the waste and fraud that is rampant in so many government agencies. Make sure that they are working to help the people of the nation, not the owners of the industries that they are regulating.

4) Clean up the IRS so that it collects money from those who really owe it, not simply from those from whom it is easiest to collect it.

5) Eliminate the loopholes that allow massive foundations, trusts and other entities to go virtually untaxed.

6) Let congress exercise its right to coin real money (including bills) rather than paying interest to the Federal Reserve. (Yes, this is a complex issue, but the way it works now benefits a few very wealthy people, **not** the average citizen.)

7) Reduce taxes so that the poor person will be able to keep everything that he or she earns. Make work an attractive and honorable proposition, and you will do more for American values than the government-funded church programs you seek to create.

Have faith! Have faith that doing the right thing will work!

May God bless your sincere efforts.

Heb 4:13 “Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.”

— Norman Edwards, Perry, Michigan 