

THE SECRET OF HIS PURPOSE .... THE PLAN FOR THE FULLNESS OF THE TIMES  
**TO HEAD UP ALL THINGS IN THE KING,**  
EVERYTHING IN THE HEAVENS AND ON THE EARTH,  
**IN JESUS....**

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#68

***In God We Trust!***

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The motto for the United States of America is "*In God We Trust*," and politicians and presidents often close their speeches with the phrase "*God bless America*." Obviously, the connection between these two phrases is God. But what does the word mean in the public life and conversation (on the street) of the nation and in the governance of the nation (in the capitals)? We know what it should mean to Christians, so I won't focus on us per se, except to the degree we are citizens of the USA.

These two phrases speak to what could be called the soul or heart of the nation. As a nation, do we truly trust God? Do we want God to bless us unconditionally, regardless of our spiritual condition? Do we expect blessing even though, since the 1960's, there has been an assault on the acknowledgment of God, even on the word *god*, in the public affairs and governance of the United States? This is especially acute when anything to do with the Christian God, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus the Messiah, is injected into public and political discourse. There is no need to list examples; the discerning knows what they are.

To some, the use of the word *god* is very spiritual or religious; to others, it is an offense; and to others, especially the courts, its use is what is referred to as "ceremonial deism," which means the word *god* is simply ceremonial in its use and has no real religious meaning. However, a religious extension of this acknowledges the existence of God, even as the Creator, but does not acknowledge His active engagement in human affairs; we are on our own to figure things out. Unfortunately, this can and does lead to *humanism*, where man is the center of his own universe. This makes our Creator an impersonal god, sort of a generic one, with reference to Him seemingly more perfunctory and disingenuous. This is manifested in how frequently the generic god shows up in a variety of ways in normal conversation. One wonders; how many gods are there in the world today?

As I watch people while I am out in public, much of what I see is a self-absorbed people (whether they are rushing to and fro or sitting in a restaurant or in any public place) with their heads attached to their cell phones. A recent survey of millennials asked them something like—"what would upset you the most?" The top concern was a broken cell phone. Has the cell phone become the god of this age? Is this bordering on idolatry? Another topic unto itself!

But, most of all: Where is Jesus, the Son of God, the Savior of the world, the King, and the ruler of the kings of the earth, in the conversation? It is fair to say that there seems to be a concerted effort to keep Jesus out of our national trust and conversation.

Putting all this aside, we shouldn't really care about any controversy over the word *God* from man's perspective. We need to be more interested in God's perspective. Regardless of what anyone thinks to the contrary, there is only one God who rules over the realm of mankind (Daniel

4:25, 32) (just ask Nebuchadnezzar what he thinks of the matter), and only one Son and Messiah who has rescued and will yet rescue all mankind and the nations from sin and death.

We have only one God, and he is the Father. He created everything, and we live for him. Jesus Christ is our only Lord. Everything was made by him, and by him life was given to us. (1 Corinthians 8:6 CEV)

All of this (and much more) leads to a question: How does God look upon a nation with the motto "*In God We Trust*"? What does He expect of such a nation? What does God expect of a nation that, according to a 2006 study, has 68 references to "God" in its legislation? Of the 68, 46 are references to "acts of God"; however, the other 22 are more explicit affirmations of the positive role of God in the country.

What does God expect of a nation that, by legislation in 1954, added the words "Under God" to its Pledge of Allegiance? The congressional house committee that recommended passage of the legislation found: "Our American Government is founded on the concept of the individuality and the dignity of the human being. Underlying this concept is the belief that the human person is important because he was created by God and endowed by Him with certain inalienable rights which no civil authority may usurp. The inclusion of God in our Pledge therefore would further acknowledge the dependence of our people and our Government upon the moral directions of the Creator." This doesn't sound like deism.

What does God expect of a nation that has the phrase "In God We Trust" in the Star-Spangled Banner, which was written in 1814 by Francis Scott Key and later became the National Anthem?

What does God expect of a nation that, based on appeals by Christians during the American Civil War, legislated that the phrase "*In God We Trust*" be printed on some of its coins, and then 91 years later, on July 11, 1956, required the phrase to be printed on all its coins and paper currency? Personally, I could do without the motto being on our money, especially in this day of materialism and consumerism and a day in which there is much love of money. Money rules the day!

As an interesting side note, in presenting the original bill to Congress, Representative Charles Bennett of Florida stated: "In these days when imperialistic and materialistic communism seeks to attack and destroy freedom, we should continuously look for ways to strengthen the foundations of our freedom. At the base of our freedom is our faith in God and the desire of Americans to live by His will and His guidance. As long as this country trusts in God, it will prevail."

What does God expect of a nation whose president, Dwight D. Eisenhower, on July 30, 1956, signed the law making "In God We Trust" the official national motto of the United States? 36 USC Sec 302 simply reads: "In God We Trust" is the National Motto. More light is given on the genesis of the national motto in a statement by the Judiciary Committee that recommended passage of H.J. Res. 396 as recorded in the 1956 Congressional Record.

"At the present time, the United States has no national motto. The committee deems it most appropriate that "In God we trust" be so designated as our national motto. The phrase "In God we trust" has received official recognition for many years. It was authorized to be

placed on certain coins by the act of March 3, 1865 (13 Stat. 518). Further permissive authorization for inscribing "In God we trust" on coins was given in the Coinage Act of February 12, 1873 (17 Stat. 427). The first mandatory requirement for the use of this motto on certain coins was in the act of May 18, 1908 (35 Stat. 164). Last year, Public Law 140 was enacted by the Congress making the use of "In God we trust" mandatory on all currency and coins of the United States. Further official recognition of this motto was given by the adoption of the Star-Spangled Banner as our national anthem. One stanza of our national anthem is as follows:

"O, thus be it ever when free men shall stand  
Between their lov'd home and the war's desolation!  
Blest with vic'try and peace may the heav'n rescued land  
Praise the power that hath made and preserved us a nation!  
Then conquer we must when our cause it is just,  
And this be our motto-'In God is our trust.'  
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave."

In view of these words in our national anthem, it is clear that "In God we trust" has a strong claim as our national motto. It will be of great spiritual and psychological value to our country to have a clearly designated national motto of inspirational quality in plain, popular accepted English. ... The committee considers "In God we trust" a superior and more acceptable motto for the United States."

### **God Bless America**

Whether atheists, the ACLU, socialists or, even perhaps, some religionists, do not want any acknowledgement of God in the governance (rule) of the United States, it is quite apparent that there is a preponderance of support and historical evidence that, in fact, God does rule and is even expected to rule in some measure, even if it is to save us from disasters and the like, or to bless us, as in "*God Bless America*," which means something other than what most people think. Normally, the phrase is used by our political leaders more like a closing benediction. Generally, it is said as if the nation is on good footing; we're okay, we acknowledge God, so we can ask Him to bless us. But scripturally there is a much more profound meaning that has to do with repentance.

There is precedence for asking God to bless us, but it is not quite what people think. God requires a response to His blessings. Blessing from God is so that the people (nation) will turn away from their sins or wickedness. Consider what Peter said to the sons of Israel that demanded Jesus be crucified, even though He came as the King of Israel.

God sent his chosen Son to you first, because God wanted to bless you and make each one of you turn away from your sins. (Acts 3:26 CEV)

I doubt that when any of our political leaders ask God to bless America, they even think there is anything for us to turn from. Nevertheless, when they do ask for blessing, whether it is perfunctory or not, God is looking for a national response.

So, whether we mean it or not, or whether we expect it or not, as Americans, we are imploring God every day to be part of our lives in some measure and are declaring that we trust Him. We are declaring that we are in His kingdom and we submit to His sovereignty over our nation! Are we to think that this goes unnoticed by God? Are we to think that He shakes His head and says that we do not mean it, so He will ignore it?

And He said to them, "Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: 'THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME. 'BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN.' "Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men." (Mark 7:6-8 NASB)

They speak falsehood to one another; with flattering lips and with a double heart they speak. May the LORD cut off all flattering lips, the tongue that speaks great things; who have said, "With our tongue we will prevail; our lips are our own; who is lord over us?" "Because of the devastation of the afflicted, because of the groaning of the needy, now I will arise," says the LORD; "I will set him in the safety for which he longs." (Psalm 12:2-5 NASB)

How close are we to this type of indictment?

Well, even a cursory read of the Bible reveals that God is not an absent landlord and that He takes the word of people very seriously. He listens to our words, knowing the true condition of our hearts. More times than not, the two are in opposition. Are we to expect God to ignore this disparity? Do we think that, as a nation, we can fool God? Do our leaders think they can get away with hypocrisy and pretense and lies and flattering lips to keep themselves in office; that God is going to ignore this forever? It is time to wake up and turn back to God and His Son!

All of this should remind us of Paul's great speech on Mars Hill in Athens, Greece. He had seen an altar with the inscription "*To an unknown God*," and he responded accordingly. Read his entire sermon as recorded in Acts 17:22-31. However, consider some excerpts.

(24a) The God who made the world and all things in it .... (26) and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, (27) that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; (28) for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His children.' ... (30) Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, (31) because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead." (Acts 17:24a, 26-28, 30-31 NASB)

Herein is the answer for all nations and all peoples.

As for the United States, which has a large Christian population, we do not have an unknown god. It is time to match our hearts with our words. It is time to be one nation under one God, a nation that puts its trust in God, a nation that turns from man's ways to God's ways, from man's law to God's Law, and a nation that declares that Jesus is Lord and King. God has installed His King upon the throne of His kingdom.

### **The Hammer Judgment**

On February 10, 2009, the Lord spoke a word to me; I heard: *"Thus saith the Lord, 'I have lifted up a hammer over the United States, and I am about to strike at the heart of the nation.'"*

As I saw it then and still do, the heart of a nation is the seat of government. Back in 2009, I wrote this in my journal.

The heart of a nation generally refers to the seat of government. We see scriptural examples of this with the two capitals of ancient Israel and Judah, Shiloh and Jerusalem, the two places where the Lord placed His name, only to remove it when His people turned from Him to other gods. He spoke His word of judgment over these two capitals and then proceeded to literally destroy them by raising up foreign nations to conquer them.

We don't have to guess the meaning of the hammer, for the word of God defines it for us.

"Is not My word like fire?" declares the LORD, "and like a hammer which shatters a rock?" (Jeremiah 23:29 NASB)

The hammer of the Lord is His word, which is also likened to fire, which, in turn, is likened to His law, the fiery law of God (Deuteronomy 33:2; Psalm 29:7; Isaiah 4:4; Romans 7:14). His word is also the sharp two-edged sword that divides soul and spirit and judges (Hebrews 4:12).

The Hebrew word *pattiysh* is translated as the word *hammer*, which means "to pound," and refers to a hammer that is used to smooth metal, which could be likened to something precious (Isaiah 41:7).

The Hebrew word *puts* is translated as the word *shatters* or *breaks*, which means "to dash in pieces, literally or figuratively, especially to *disperse* – break, dash, shake into pieces, cast abroad."

The Hebrew word *sela* is translated as the word *rock* or *stone*, which means "to be *lofty*; a craggy *rock*, literally or figuratively a *fortress*."

From these definitions, we could say that *the word of the Lord goes forth and pounds the fortresses of man until they are shattered and reworked until something precious is produced.*

So, as a hammer, the word of the Lord serves two purposes—to destroy that which stands against Him (i.e., fortresses) and to build up or create something of value for Him or, we could say, something that reflects His Son.

Thus, as His word of judgment goes forth to strike the heart of the US, it goes forth to destroy fortresses, which in this case is every system and law of man that is in opposition to God and every spirit that drives these systems. Paul makes it very clear.

For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ, and we are ready to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete. (2 Corinthians 10:4-6 NASB)

We could say that the US political system is in for a pounding. The good news is that when God's judgment is completed, we will once again sing *America the Beautiful*, for she will be precious in God's sight.

Anyone paying the least amount of attention to what is transpiring in Washington DC these days cannot fail to see that the political system is under a pounding, and this pounding is leading to a form of political insanity. This is the Lord's doing. It is His judgment on the heart of America. Only the Lord knows the specific trials that are ahead for us as a nation, and the final outcome of these trials. However, a day is coming when our obedience will be complete and, as a nation, we will turn to God and His Son.

Until then, as individuals and citizens of a nation founded by God ...

Let us—*Walk in a manner worthy of the God who invites (calls) us into His own kingdom and glory* (1 Thessalonians 2:12).

Let us pray daily—*Our Father in heaven, help us to honor your name. Come and set up your kingdom, so that everyone on earth will obey you, as you are obeyed in heaven* (Matthew 6:9-10 CEV).

In judgment, let us declare: *In God We Trust!* His judgments are true, for in judgment we learn righteousness.

The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether. (Psalm 19:9 NASB)

For when the earth experiences Your judgments the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness. (Isaiah 26:9 NASB)

See *Wake Up America!* — <http://www.kingdomandglory.com/art/art67.pdf>