

# God Overrules Supreme Court

Rod Reynolds

**In the pledge of allegiance to the American flag is the statement that we are “one nation, under God.” But we have become a people, from the highest officials on down, who defy God. Our leaders, including the Supreme Court of the United States, have enacted laws which encourage and facilitate rebellion against God and his laws.**

**As a result we witness before us today an unraveling of civilized society that has been compared by some commentators with the collapse of the ancient Roman Empire (e.g., “Rome and America,” Kerby Anderson, [www.probe.org](http://www.probe.org); “Will America soon fall, just as Rome did?,” [www.foxnews.com](http://www.foxnews.com)). The western world — especially the United States, Great Britain and most of Europe — is plunging into an abyss of moral decay and lawless indulgence which has truly frightening portents for the future.**

But there is a Supreme Court in heaven which has the power to overrule any and all courts, legislatures, presidents, kings or any and all rulers among men.

The psalmist inquired of God, “Shall the throne of iniquity, which devises evil by law, Have fellowship with You?” (Psalm 94:20). The prophet Isaiah warned of a day such as this: “Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, And prudent in their own sight!” (Isaiah 5:20-21).

Nearly 3,500 years ago the Eternal God who created the heavens and the earth set his hand to liberate an oppressed people who had been enslaved by a powerful government. In liberating the enslaved Israelites God executed judgment on the ruler of Egypt, and its gods and its people. God prophesied to Moses, “But Pharaoh will not heed you, so that I may lay My hand on Egypt and bring My armies and My people, the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great judgments” (Exodus 7: 4).

God sent a series of ten devastating plagues on Egypt, as Pharaoh stubbornly refused to release the Hebrew slaves. A papyrus document preserved in a museum in Holland provides a possible extra-biblical eyewitness account of the consequences:

“... Plague stalks through the land and blood is everywhere ... Nay, but the river is blood. Does a man drink from it? As a human he rejects it. He thirsts for water ... Nay,

but gates, columns and walls are consumed with fire...Nay but the son of the highborn man is no longer to be recognized ... The stranger people from outside are come into Egypt ... Nay, but corn has perished everywhere...Everyone says 'there is no more' " (cited in "Egyptian history and the biblical record: a perfect match?" Daniel Anderson, creation.com).

In slaying the firstborn of Egypt (the last of the ten plagues) God told Moses, "...against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the Lord " (Exodus 12:12). Finally, after agreeing to let the Israelites go, Pharaoh sent his army after them. But God, "...overthrew [Hebrew: nâ'ar, shake (off)] Pharaoh and his army in the Red Sea..." (Psalm 136:15), where his army was destroyed.

Pharaoh, the officials of his government, and the Egyptian people had defied the God of Israel, the God of creation.

The Israelites were freed from slavery and given an inheritance in the land of Canaan. But they were warned to faithfully observe the laws of the God who freed them, lest they be stricken with calamities, including terror attacks, and eventually be overrun by their enemies.

"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that you should not be their slaves; I have broken the bands of your yoke and made you walk upright. `But if you do not obey Me, and do not observe all these commandments, and if you despise My statutes, or if your soul abhors My judgments, so that you do not perform all My commandments, but break My covenant, I also will do this to you: I will even appoint terror over you, wasting disease and fever which shall consume the eyes and cause sorrow of heart. And you shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it.

.....

I will lay your cities waste and bring your sanctuaries to desolation, and I will not smell the fragrance of your sweet aromas. I will bring the land to desolation, and your enemies who dwell in it shall be astonished at it. I will scatter you among the nations and draw out a sword after you; your land shall be desolate and your cities waste" (Leviticus 26:13-16, 31-33).

These are warnings for our peoples today, not only for the people of ancient Israel. It's no mere coincidence that terror attacks of one kind or another have now become an almost weekly, if not daily, occurrence.

As it turned out, the Israelites of old did forget God in their prosperity and plenty and

turned their backs on him, rejected his laws and persecuted and killed God's prophets and those Israelites who sought to be faithful to God's commandments.

In the ninth century B.C. Ahab and Jezebel reigned over Israel. God's prophet Elijah said in a prayer to God, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life" (1 Kings 19:10). Although God told Elijah that there were yet 7000 in Israel faithful to him, the rulers of Israel and most of the people had, as Elijah said, forsaken the covenant.

Yet God continued to be patient with Israel and Judah, as they continued to provoke him with their rebellion and sins. Finally, in the eighth century B.C., the nation of Israel was invaded by the Assyrians, who killed many of them, destroyed their cities, and carried the remnant into captivity.

An Assyrian inscription records the boast of the Assyrian king Tiglath-Pileser III, "The land of Bit-Humria [house of Omri, Israel] ... all of its people, together with their goods I carried off to Assyria. Pakaha [Pekah], their king they deposed and I placed Ausi' [Hoshea] over them as king" (Ancient Records of Assyria and Babylonia, vol. 1, p. 293; cf. 2 Kings 15:29-30). Among other Assyrian kings who subjugated Israel, Sargon II boasted that he plundered and devastated Samaria and the whole land of Israel, and carried Gentile peoples in to settle their land (Ancient Records of Assyria and Babylonia, Daniel David Luckenbill, vol. 2, pp. 2,7,26,40,46,51,61; 2 Kings 17:6,18,24; 1 Chronicles 5:26; Josephus, Antiquities, 9.14.1; for evidence indicating Sargon II and Sennacherib are two names for the same king, see "A Revised History of the Era of King Hezekiah of Judah and its Background," Damien Mackey, pp. 132 ff., 166; "Damien F. Mackey Assesses his Thesis on 'Revised Era of King Hezekiah of Judah'").

The nation of Judah followed the example of the northern kingdom of Israel in defying God, casting his law aside, and persecuting and killing the prophets and those faithful to God.

God sent the prophet Jeremiah to them in the late seventh century B.C. to make the following announcement:

"Behold, I will bring a nation against you from afar, O house of Israel,' says the Lord. 'It is a mighty nation, It is an ancient nation, A nation whose language you do not know, Nor can you understand what they say. Their quiver is like an open tomb; They are all mighty men. And they shall eat up your harvest and your bread, Which your sons and daughters should eat. They shall eat up your flocks and your herds; They shall eat up

your vines and your fig trees; They shall destroy your fortified cities, In which you trust, with the sword.” (Jeremiah 5:15-17).

Moreover, Jeremiah prophesied:

“Hear the word of the Lord, O kings of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem. Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: ‘Behold, I will bring such a catastrophe on this place, that whoever hears of it, his ears will tingle. Because they have forsaken Me and made this an alien place, because they have burned incense in it to other gods whom neither they, their fathers, nor the kings of Judah have known, and have filled this place with the blood of the innocents ( they have also built the high places of Baal, to burn their sons with fire [ for ] burnt offerings to Baal, which I did not command or speak, nor did it come into My mind ), therefore behold, the days are coming,’ says the Lord, ‘that this place shall no more be called Tophet or the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, but the Valley of Slaughter. And I will make void the counsel of Judah and Jerusalem in this place, and I will cause them to fall by the sword before their enemies and by the hands of those who seek their lives; their corpses I will give as meat for the birds of the heaven and for the beasts of the earth. I will make this city desolate and a hissing; everyone who passes by it will be astonished and hiss because of all its plagues’” (Jeremiah 19:3-8).

In the late seventh century the Chaldean Empire under Nebuchadnezzar began a series of invasions into Judah and laid siege to Jerusalem, taking captive the king of Judah and carrying away articles from the Temple and some of the people as captives. Finally in 586 B.C. Nebuchadnezzar’s army destroyed the Temple, burnt the city of Jerusalem, and broke down its walls. All but a few of the inhabitants of Judah who were left alive were taken into captivity.

Centuries later, Jesus stood among a crowd of Jews in the Temple, which had been rebuilt, and said, “But now you seek to kill Me, a Man who has told you the truth...” (John 8:40).

Jesus said to Jewish leaders, “Therefore the wisdom of God also said, ‘I will send them prophets and apostles, and some of them they will kill and persecute,’ that the blood of all the prophets which was shed from the foundation of the world may be required of this generation, from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah who perished between the altar and the temple. Yes, I say to you, it shall be required of this generation’” (Luke 11:49-51).

The Jewish nation rejected the Messiah which had been sent to them, and its leaders

instigated his crucifixion. The “Supreme Court” of the Jewish nation had condemned Jesus to death on false charges.

Later the Sanhedrin – the supreme court of the Jewish nation – ordered Jesus’ apostles not to preach in his name. The apostles answer was: “We ought to obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29).

The Supreme Court of Heaven – Almighty God – had overruled the Supreme Court of the Jewish nation, and the religious leaders, and the political leaders, and commanded his Church to preach the gospel (Mark 16:15). Nevertheless, they persecuted the Church and its leaders, many being cast into prison or killed.

In 70 A.D. the Temple and the city of Jerusalem were destroyed, and many thousands of Jews were slain or taken into slavery. Subsequent to the destruction of their capital and the temple, Jews in Palestine again revolted against Rome, and following the Bar Kokhba revolt (132-136 A.D.), most of the remaining Jews in Judea were killed, exiled or sold into slavery. Judea was renamed Syria Palestina. The Romans plowed Jerusalem with a yoke of oxen, and renamed it Aelia Capitolina. Jews were forbidden to live there. For all practical purposes the Jewish people had become a stateless nation, dispersed among many other nations.

The Roman government had also participated in the murder of Jesus Christ, and subsequently persecuted Christians, putting to death untold thousands. In 476 A.D., after a series of disasters affecting the Empire, the last emperor of the Roman Empire in the west was deposed by the “barbarian” king, Odoacer. The idea of the Roman Empire would live on in a series of “revivals,” of which the last is yet to come (Revelation 17:9-10).

Lest any of us condemn in our hearts the Jewish leaders of the time of Jesus’ sojourn, the Jewish people, or for that matter the Romans who participated in Jesus’ crucifixion, we should keep in mind that Jesus died for the sins of the whole world, including everyone of us (John 3:16-19; 1 John 2:2). Our sins, the sins of mankind, made it necessary in God’s plan of salvation for Jesus Christ to die. Jesus, as he was dying, said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do” (Luke 23:34).

In the fourth century the Catholic Church became the official religion of the Roman Empire. The Roman Church proceeded to persecute and kill believers who rejected its pretensions, doctrines and practices in favor of those found in the Bible. The Church of God fled into the wilderness, and there it continued, often persecuted.

Jesus had said, "I will build My church, and the gates of Hades [the grave] shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18). Though scattered and persecuted, it would not be destroyed no matter how hard Satan and his minions tried to destroy it.

In 1789 the United States adopted its current Constitution. Article 4, Section 2 of the Constitution required that fugitive slaves be returned to their owners. Congress passed a Fugitive Slave Act in 1793 to enforce the fugitive slave clause of the U.S. Constitution. Court decisions and resistance in certain areas of the country weakened the law, and in 1850 Congress passed another Fugitive Slave Law to require the return of slaves under threat of penalty and made it illegal to provide aid to a runaway slave.

In 1857 the Supreme Court of the United States made a ruling in the Dred Scott v. Sandford case, holding that Dred Scott must remain a slave even though his owner had taken him to live for a period of time in Illinois where slavery was prohibited by the state's constitution. Later Scott was taken to Wisconsin Territory, where slavery had been prohibited by an act of Congress. While in Wisconsin Territory Scott was hired out as a slave by his owner, in violation of Federal law.

Eventually Scott wound up in Missouri, and after unsuccessfully attempting to purchase freedom for himself and his family, he sued in state court for his freedom. Legal precedents had required the freeing of slaves who had been illegally held as slaves in territories that were free.

However, the state courts ruled against Scott, and eventually the case was appealed to the United States Supreme Court. The Supreme Court ruled against Scott, and also overturned the law passed by Congress that prohibited slavery in Wisconsin Territory. The Court further ruled that no person of African descent whether slave or free could be a citizen of a state, nor of the United States, even though free people of African descent had long had the privileges of citizenship, including the right to vote, in several of the United States.

But the Supreme Court of Heaven - Almighty God - had long-since overruled the rulers who had kept men and women oppressed in chattel slavery. "You shall not give back to his master the slave who has escaped from his master to you. He may dwell with you in your midst, in the place which he chooses within one of your gates, where it seems best to him; you shall not oppress him" (Deuteronomy 23:15-16). See our article: "Proclaim Liberty."

It took a bloody civil war, costing the lives of more Americans than any war in our history, to correct the evils of slavery and reverse the laws that permitted and

encouraged such oppression. Abraham Lincoln saw the war as Divine retribution on the nation for the sins of slavery.

In 1973 the Supreme Court of the United States nullified many state and federal laws restricting or prohibiting abortion by ruling that the Constitution grants women the right to have an abortion (though the Constitution, in reality, says nothing whatsoever about the subject). This ruling followed years of pressure by organizations like the National Association for the Repeal of Abortion Laws.

Dr. Bernard Nathanson was a founder of the organization. He wrote later of the tactics his organization used to pressure the Court into making its decision.

“We persuaded the media that the cause of permissive abortion was a liberal enlightened, sophisticated one. Knowing that if a true poll were taken, we would be soundly defeated, we simply fabricated the results of fictional polls. We announced to the media that we had taken polls and that 60% of Americans were in favour of permissive abortion. This is the tactic of the self-fulfilling lie. Few people care to be in the minority. We aroused enough sympathy to sell our program of permissive abortion by fabricating the number of illegal abortions done annually in the U.S. The actual figure was approaching 100,000 but the figure we gave to the media repeatedly was 1,000,000. Repeating the big lie often enough convinces the public. The number of women dying from illegal abortions was around 200-250 annually. The figure we constantly fed to the media was 10,000. These false figures took root in the consciousness of Americans convincing many that we needed to crack the abortion law. Another myth we fed to the public through the media was that legalising abortion would only mean that the abortions taking place illegally would then be done legally. In fact, of course, abortion is now being used as a primary method of birth control in the U.S. and the annual number of abortions has increased by 1500% since legalisation” (“Confession of An Ex-Abortioneer,” *Hand of God: A Journey from Death to Life by The Abortion Doctor Who Changed His Mind*, Bernard Nathanson).

Nearly sixty million babies have been murdered through abortion in the United States since the Supreme Court decision. Not only is abortion a highly profitable business of itself for doctors and clinics in the abortion business, but a lucrative trade in the body parts of aborted babies is being carried on around the country. See our article “Murder is Murder.”

One of the reasons the peoples of ancient Israel and Judah were punished by having their countries overrun by their enemies and being carried into slavery was because

they were engaged in the murder of infant children.

“So they left all the commandments of the Lord their God, made for themselves a molded image and two calves, made a wooden image and worshiped all the host of heaven, and served Baal. And they caused their sons and daughters to pass through the fire, practiced witchcraft and soothsaying, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the Lord, to provoke Him to anger. Therefore the Lord was very angry with Israel, and removed them from His sight; there was none left but the tribe of Judah alone. Also Judah did not keep the commandments of the Lord their God, but walked in the statutes of Israel which they made. And the Lord rejected all the descendants of Israel, afflicted them, and delivered them into the hand of plunderers, until He had cast them from His sight” (2 Kings 17:16-20).

“Ahaz was twenty years old when he became king, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem; and he did not do what was right in the sight of the Lord, as his father David had done. For he walked in the ways of the kings of Israel, and made molded images for the Baals. He burned incense in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, and burned his children in the fire, according to the abominations of the nations whom the Lord had cast out before the children of Israel. And he sacrificed and burned incense on the high places, on the hills, and under every green tree. Therefore the Lord his God delivered him into the hand of the king of Syria. They defeated him, and carried away a great multitude of them as captives, and brought them to Damascus. Then he was also delivered into the hand of the king of Israel, who defeated him with a great slaughter. For Pekah the son of Remaliah killed one hundred and twenty thousand in Judah in one day, all valiant men, because they had forsaken the Lord God of their fathers” (2 Chronicles 28:1-6).

A day of judgment is coming likewise for our God-defying nations, and in their hour of calamity they will cry out to God, but he will not hear them. “And I said: ‘Hear now, O heads of Jacob, And you rulers of the house of Israel: Is it not for you to know justice? You who hate good and love evil; Who strip the skin from My people, And the flesh from their bones; Who also eat the flesh of My people, Flay their skin from them, Break their bones, And chop them in pieces Like meat for the pot, Like flesh in the caldron.’ Then they will cry to the Lord, But He will not hear them; He will even hide His face from them at that time, Because they have been evil in their deeds” (Micah 3:1-4).

Recently the Supreme Court ruled that the Constitution requires states to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples. Courts have ruled that it is illegal for a business



catering to marriage ceremonies to refuse to participate in a same-sex “marriage” ceremony, even if it violates the religious convictions of a small business owner to participate in such a ceremony.

A county clerk who refused to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples based on her religious beliefs was recently jailed for several days by a Federal judge. Owners of bakeries who have refused to make wedding cakes for same-sex couples have faced death threats and heavy fines. Owners of a bakery in Oregon were required to pay \$135,000 in damages for refusing to make a cake for a lesbian couple. (“Oregon bakery owners pay more than \$135G in damages over refusal to make cake for gay wedding,” foxnews.com, 12-29-2015). A business in Vermont was forced to pay \$30,000 as a result of refusing to rent a facility to host a reception for a homosexual couple (“Vermont Christian Business Owners Forced to Pay \$30,000 in Fines for Expressing Their Religious Beliefs to Lesbian Couple,” www.thegatewaypundit.com, 7-10-2013).

Our nation and other nations, especially Western nations, are openly embracing sexual license, including fornication, adultery and homosexuality. It’s not just the courts, but a large segment of the population, if not the majority, embraces such conduct. But we are warned that such conduct will bring God’s judgment, and the land itself will vomit us out (Leviticus 18:1-6, 20-30).

Our nations, our courts, our people are defying the God of heaven with our lawless and immoral behavior. Many churches also embrace and encourage the lawless behavior running rampant in our society.

There is another court, the Supreme Court of Heaven, which has the power to overrule the Supreme Court of the United States, or any court, president, king, chancellor, legislature, premier or dictator. And also that court will judge every priest, minister, or religious leader, and every human being. The warnings God gave to Israel 3500 years ago and in subsequent periods since, recorded in God’s word, the Bible, were not just for ancient times. They apply to our nations today, including especially those peoples descended from the ancient Israelites such as not only the Jewish people, but what had heretofore been the majority of Americans, British descended nations, and several of the nations of western and north-western Europe. But God will ultimately hold every nation and people accountable, “For there is no partiality with God” (Romans 2:11).

God is watching, and he is the judge of every person, and every court, judge, ruler and nation. Already we are experiencing terror attacks and other symptoms of our decline.

“He who planted the ear, shall He not hear? He who formed the eye, shall He not see?”

(Psalm 94:9).

We must not hate others, and we do not condone bullying, violence toward or mistreatment of other people, including homosexuals, abortionists, nor anyone else who does not believe as we do. No one should take matters into his own hands to execute judgment.

“Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, ‘Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,’ says the Lord. Therefore ‘If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.’ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good” (Romans 12:17-21).

But it is our duty, out of love for sinners, and none of us is without sin, to warn those willing to listen about what lies in store for us, according to the Word of God, if we as individuals or as a people continue to despise God’s laws.

God does not desire to punish the wicked. He wants us to repent, so we can receive his blessings even more abundantly than we have heretofore. “‘These are the things you shall do: Speak each man the truth to his neighbor; Give judgment in your gates for truth, justice, and peace; Let none of you think evil in your heart against your neighbor; And do not love a false oath. For all these are things that I hate,’ Says the Lord. “(Zechariah 9:16-18).

But if we continue down the path we are going, for the innocent blood we have shed and our other sins, God’s word tells us he will punish us as he did Israel and Judah in times past, by scattering us among the nations.

“Moreover the word of the Lord came to me, saying, ‘Now, son of man, will you judge, will you judge the bloody city? Yes, show her all her abominations! Then say, “Thus says the Lord God: ‘The city sheds blood in her own midst, that her time may come; and she makes idols within herself to defile herself. You have become guilty by the blood which you have shed, and have defiled yourself with the idols which you have made. You have caused your days to draw near, and have come to the end of your years; therefore I have made you a reproach to the nations, and a mockery to all countries. Those near and those far from you will mock you as infamous and full of tumult. Look, the princes of Israel: each one has used his power to shed blood in you. In you they have made light of father and mother; in your midst they have oppressed the stranger; in you they have mistreated the fatherless and the widow. You have despised My holy things and

profaned My Sabbaths. In you are men who slander to cause bloodshed; in you are those who eat on the mountains; in your midst they commit lewdness. In you men uncover their fathers' nakedness; in you they violate women who are set apart during their impurity. One commits abomination with his neighbor's wife; another lewdly defiles his daughter-in-law; and another in you violates his sister, his father's daughter. In you they take bribes to shed blood; you take usury and increase; you have made profit from your neighbors by extortion, and have forgotten Me,' says the Lord God. 'Behold, therefore, I beat My fists at the dishonest profit which you have made, and at the bloodshed which has been in your midst. Can your heart endure, or can your hands remain strong, in the days when I shall deal with you? I, the Lord, have spoken, and will do it. I will scatter you among the nations, disperse you throughout the countries, and remove your filthiness completely from you. You shall defile yourself in the sight of the nations; then you shall know that I am the Lord. "' (Ezekiel 22:1-16).

The Bible foretells of a time when: "Justice is turned back, And righteousness stands afar off; For truth is fallen in the street, And equity cannot enter. So truth fails, And he who departs from evil makes himself a prey. Then the Lord saw it, and it displeased Him That there was no justice" (Isaiah 59:14-15)

We are told in Scripture, "...to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men. For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another" (Titus 3:1-3).

Nevertheless, where there is a conflict with man's laws and the laws of God, we must obey God's commandments, judgments and instructions before that of any Church, national or local government, or any court or ruler of any description or jurisdiction whatsoever (Acts 5:29). One day, each of us will stand before the Supreme Court of Heaven, and give account to Jesus Christ.

"For it is written: 'As I live, says the Lord, Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God.' So then each of us shall give account of himself to God" (Romans 14:11-12).

"And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account" (Hebrews 4:13).

Even if others choose to continue down the path of destruction, you don't have to. And if you choose to repent, you may be hated, you may be persecuted, but God requires

that we stand firm, and resist evil.

Peter wrote to the Church, “For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles – when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you. They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead” (1 Peter 4:3-5).

For us who are a part of the Church of God, it is our duty as a Church to do the work of warning our peoples of what is in store for us if we as a people continue to defy God, not out of spite or hate, but out of love and a desire to see them spared from the disasters prophesied to come upon us should we as a people fail to repent.

Each of us must be willing to stand for the truth, and support the preaching of the true gospel, and if necessary give our lives in service to God. Only then will we be worthy to bear the name of Jesus Christ, only then will we be truly worthy to be called “Christians” (Matthew 10:38-39).

God will hold us individually and as entire nations accountable for our sins, our rebellion and hostility to his word. But God is also a merciful and forgiving God, and ultimately Jesus Christ will intervene to save the world from the total annihilation that otherwise would result from man’s reckless disregard for God’s laws (Matthew 24:21-22). When Christ’s direct rule is established, the whole world will be at rest, and finally peace, justice and truth will prevail (Isaiah 42:1-4; Zechariah 9:10).

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