

**The Law of Money–
Part 5: Rebellion or Obedience**

Since We're Talking *Kingdom*, We're Talking *Law*

Because we're talking about a coming *Kingdom*, and because that coming *Kingdom* is that of our LORD, SAVIOR, HIGH PRIEST, KING and GOD, namely YHVH, THE EVER-LIVING, YAHSHUA HA' MESSIACH, it makes good sense to inaugurate this column, THE SILENT PULPIT, with a discussion on Money. Why? Because Money is a moral issue, and it's one of the simplest, most evident ways to show either our rebellion or our obedience.

Honest Weights and Measures is a moral issue

In Part 1, we studied into usury. In Part 2, we examined into the terms translated from Hebrew and Greek into *money*. In Part 3, we translated *silver*, the Scriptural term synonymous with *money*. In Part 4, we examined into *gold* and its meaning in Scripture.

Here, in Part 5, the final part of this inaugural study, we take the Money issue and put it in its broader moral context, even beyond that of Leviticus 19. This discussion addresses briefly how the "great" commonwealths in history destroyed themselves through doing exactly what we're doing in America. There may be as many causes for the decline of any world-class society as there are primary areas of interest. The military tactician sees the military strategy, in strength and weakness. The economist sees supply and demand

issues. The horticulturalist sees the land management issues. The ecologist sees abuse of land and natural resources issues, typical at the hand of those with a profit motive. It is hoped that the Believer will also see the moral issues, an angle the popular historians poo-poo. These same historians cite "lack of records" as a basis for concluding that a definite cause is "unknown." In stark contrast to that perspective, to know Scripture is to know that the causes for such decline and fall are *never* "unknown." The theme is the same in all cases: the EVER-LIVING judged the rebellion. While money issues constitute only one influence on the decline and fall, and a relatively recent influence, at that, what's interesting is how and when the money issue shows up, and how monstrous an issue it is.

Understanding the current monetary system.

It may be that the earliest forms of trade tokens were made of clay. <<http://www.coin-newbies.com/articles/clay.pdf>>; <<http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/dept/d10/asb/anthro2003/readings/money.html>>. Another study indicates that the currency also included clay checks. <http://www.coinbooks.org/club_nbs_esylum_v05n19.html>. The use of weighed silver and gold has been around since the time of Job (which may fit, chronologically, immediately after Genesis 10, thus sometime well before Genesis 12). And, the minting and use of coin has been around for many centuries. <<http://acct.tamu.edu/giroux/>

timeline.html>; <<http://www.labyrinth.net.au/~saul/history/money.html>>. The use of paper as representative of the coin is a relative new practice. *Id.* And, this concept that *debt*, now represented by paper the world over, could be traded just like money, has its origin in a time when the *debt* was represented by clay. <<http://viking.som.yale.edu/will/finciv/chapter1.htm#profits>>. Regardless of its form or nature, counterfeiting wealth has been around for a long time. (It may help one's understanding of certain prophetic teachings to know that the practice of using of *debt* as the basis for *currency* started in Babylon). <<http://www.true-wealth.com/content/nrb.html>>.

Many churches find that money is not a comfortable topic. <<http://www.hpuc.org/Newsletter/2002-11.htm>>. And, that's simply the stewardship angle. Just wait until the dishonest weights and measures angle starts up!

In his book, *MONEY, YE SHALL HAVE HONEST WEIGHTS AND MEASURES* (1998), <<http://www.principiapub.com/>>, Jim Ewart shows the progression away from paper that represents silver and gold and toward paper that documents nothing more than a promise, i.e., debt.

In his book, *THE COMING BATTLE* (1899), <<http://www.newswithviews.com/books/TheComingBattle.htm>>, <<http://www.apfn.org/apfn/comingbattle.htm>>, <<http://www.mega.nu:8080/ampp/comingbattle/cmgbtl.htm>>, M. W. Walbert details the very deliberate scheming by the bankers (the internationalist banking party) from the earliest times in America's development

to control the economic activity, one way or another.

In his book, *THE CREATURE FROM JEKYLL ISLAND* (4th ed. 2003), <<http://store.yahoo.com/realityzone/creatfromjek.html>>, <<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/0912986212/102-4328086-3194541?v=glance>>, <<http://www.wealth4freedom.com/creature.htm>>, G. Edward Griffin details the plans for the present world influence through the "federal reserve system," a private bank, and its fiat currency.

In his book, *THE SECRETS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM* (1983), <<http://www.federal-reserve.net/secrets.htm>>, <<http://aor.cat4.net/nwo/sfr/index.php>>, Eustice Mullins details the operation of the private, fractional share banking system, and how it affects and controls the economy in this country. *See also* <<http://www.reformation.org/secrets-of-the-bank-of-rome.html>>.

Of course, there are critiques of this book, complete with charges of error, exaggeration and speculation. To "take on" the Beast in its lair is to expect such.

In his book, *THE SECRETS OF THE TEMPLE, HOW THE FEDERAL RESERVE RUNS THE COUNTRY* (1989), <http://www.econbooks.com/Secrets_of_the_Temple_How_the_Federal_Reserve_Runs_the_Country_0671675567.html>, <<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/0671675567/002-5988927-4028834?v=glance>>, William Greider details the history of central banking, and how it has come to operate via the "fed," a private bank and banking system here in America.

In his book, *PIECES OF EIGHT* (2002), <<http://www.piecesofeight.us/PofE.html>>, <<http://www.kitco.com/ind/Turk/mar312003.html>>, Edwin Vieira details the history of coinage, currency and political influence of the banks in a way no one else has, with a 1600+ page work, that includes 6,600 footnotes.

What's fascinating to note is that where a fee is charged for these excellent works, the fee is measured in terms of the very same monetary system that these works so deftly expose and denounce. In contrast, the book (on CD) *WE, THE POSTERITY: VOLUNTARY BONDAGE*, which lauds the lessons taught by the foregoing works, among others, is priced in terms of troy ounces of silver.

Be the Political Manager—Place the Blame.

As we “see” the insidiously evil nature of the present monetary system and policies, we’ll place “blame” in one of two ways. How we place the “blame” tells the level of our understanding of Scripture and of history. If we place the “blame” on the international banking party, then we see only the “law of man” and “arm of the flesh” perspectives. This will tend to manifest itself in anger and hatred, as well as, for some, feelings of complete loss of control and utter helplessness, which tends toward justifying desperate thoughts and actions. To place the blame there is to conjure authority that doesn’t exist. To place the blame there is to suggest that such authority exists *ipso facto* and *a priori*, i.e., to recognize and concede a “divine right of kings,” where the legal

reality is that such authority exists only if and when those ideas and practices are agreed to, or assented to, or simply not objected to. That’s a vicious cycle of the self-made variety. Yet, if we place the “blame” on the person we see in the mirror, then we have at least a foundational understanding of Scripture, history and Law. Where we start with the person we see in the mirror, we are more likely to see that the international banking party is the “Beast” (of all Beasts) raised up by God to be the iron rod of correction in His hand that His people have bent over backwards (in rebellion) to “ask for.” This perspective will tend to manifest itself in reaffirmation in the Sovereignty of The EVER-LIVING, i.e., that He is in complete control in these matters, repentance, re-commitment to truth and mercy, and a desire to practice (once again, or all the more) the Moral Code written by God. Many still label that Moral Code as Scripture, or as the Bible.

In short, we can blame “the other guy,” or we can take responsibility. Where the responsibility for the cause is “out there,” then the authority for the solution is also “out there.” But, where the responsibility for the cause is “right here at home,” then the authority for the solution is also “right here at home.”

Where the pulpit is silent regarding God’s Laws, whether those specifically regarding honest systems of weights and measures or any other, then there exists from the leadership a “failure to object” to the system set up by those who so blatantly hate God. There exists an “agreement by silence” with the God-haters. There exists the forbidden

agreement with the Canaanites. And, where one group of bankers and “government” officials literally declare war on God and on His Law by confiscating first the gold (1933) and then the silver (1964), it’s rather difficult to miss the conflict between the ideas, economic policies and “laws” established by the international banking party, and the ideas, policies and Laws taught by The EVER-LIVING. The reality is that the vast majority of us who consider ourselves Believers are *so* distant from an understanding of God’s Laws that we have gone silent for more than 70 years on this one point alone. And, with this giant sequoia imbedded in our own eye, we seek to position the microscope so as to remove the fleck of a splinter from someone else’s eye.

“Church” and “State” are *impossible* to separate

Church.

What does the term *church* mean? At one level, it means and refers to the body politic that congregates around a given moral code. That moral code may be written by one who worships man, whether a nihilist, atheist, agnostic or whatever. No matter that author’s god, there exists the moral code, and a god that goes with it, and there exists a *church*, a body politic that congregates around that moral code.

Thus, at the next level, *church* means and refers to that particular moral code. So, whether the reference here is to the moral code itself, or to the body politic that congregates around that moral code, the term *church*

applies. In this context, *religion* is the conduct by which the moral code is taken from the classroom discussion and put into practice in the laboratory we call life. To make a direct connection, the Money we use is one way we tell the world which *church* we belong to, or at least, which *churches* we don’t belong to.

State.

What does the term *state* mean? At the practical level, the term *state* intends to convey the concept of an organized social and political structure that discerns and implements the will of the congregated body politic. A *state* is the institutionalized mechanism by which a body politic preserves and protects its moral code (it’s “way of life”).

Of course, at the theoretical level, *state* means and refers to at least one individual, *and his God* (or god). In the ancient legal writings, the concept of *state* stops with the individual; thus, an individual may comprise all elements of the *state* as an independently recognized body politic. This perspective, though, leaves out the critical element of how any proposed Law for such body politic is evaluated as admissible evidence of Law. And, making that evaluation is rendered impossible without the foundational moral code as a guide. For example, whether it’s murder or not to behead the queen because she’s barren, and because “divorce” is immoral, depends upon the moral code of that body politic. (Who controls the fruit of the body? God. Why is the fruit of the body withheld? Judgment of the body politic. *See* Deut. 27-28, in particular 28:4, 18).

Thus, a *state*, at its essence, is not merely the individual, but is the individual *and his God* (or god), for in that affiliation is the decision as to the applicable Moral Code, according to which the evidentiary value of all other Law may be evaluated.

To change the church is to change the state.

Those who seek to alter the morality of the body politic actually seek to alter the church, thus, the ultimate quest, to alter the state. But, where *change* of morality is competent to discuss, it's purely nuts even to suggest that it's even conceivable to *separate* the morality around which the body politic congregates from the mechanism by which that body politic practices and preserves its moral code (it's "way of life"). To advocate *separation* of church and state is to self-assert evidence of a clinically identifiable departure from reality. The mere notion that a body politic may be *separated* from the moral code around which it congregates so far exceeds the realm of ignorance and lack of awareness that it crosses well over into the area of psychosis.

One may certainly advocate to a Christian nation that it formally separate from God and His Law, thus formally depart from and abandon His Moral Code. One may certainly advocate to a body politic that it formally adopt any of a multitude of "by man, for man" moral codes. But, *all* that occurs there is a *change* in moral codes, away from God's and toward "man's." To be sure, there *is* a separation, a separation of the body

politic from God and His Law. Thus, there may exist a separation of *God* and *state*. (Do we not have the entirety of human history to prove the disaster of such separation?) But, to say that the *state* of such body politic is separated from its *church*, i.e., to label that *change* as a *separation* of *church* and *state*, is to confess nothing short of a complete flight of fancy.

To identify squarely the very heart of this ludicrous absurdity of *separation* of church and state is the reality that the entire purpose in *changing* the moral code, and thus the *church*, is to create a *state* that substitutes "man's" (pagan) moral code for God's Law, thus substituting "man" (actually, the "world government") as god the world over, without which substitution there is no way "man" can ever pretend to supplant The EVER-LIVING as the ultimate world authority.

One of these days, we, as a people, as a *church*, as a body politic that congregates around the Law of God, will see that God has perpetually proved, throughout all human history, the direct connection between immorality (paganism) and Curses, on the one hand, and morality (by God's definition) and Blessings, on the other. Of specific focus, one of the Blessings is Liberty, as is correctly identified in the language popularly called the Constitution. Yet, just as with the people who built Solomon's Temple (not *God's* Temple, but *Solomon's* Temple), the focus was on the "institution of man," rather than the "obedience to God." Thus, the "institution of man" *became* the god. One day, we'll come to terms with the

fact that there is nothing, whatsoever, about the institutionalization of a limited government that produces Liberty, for Liberty is not a man-made consequence. Liberty is a God-made consequence, and it's a consequence that has absolutely nothing to do with any particular form of government. In order "to secure the Blessing of Liberty," we do not "ordain Constitutions" of our own making. Rather, in order "to secure the Blessing of Liberty," we practice God's Law. Obedience is the long and the short of the entire matter.

Liberty does not follow from "building campaigns," whether of buildings for worship or of institutions of limited government. God is not impressed with "building campaigns." ("Lookie at all this cool stuff we did in Your Name! We built a Temple, and we built a bigger parking lot for our Sunday meetings, and a bigger gymnasium, and we formed a limited government." "Yes. I see what you did in My Name, and like I said, 'Scram!' ") Liberty is a Blessing, and Blessings follow from obedience. To what? God's Law. Thus, God *is* impressed with "obedience campaigns." ("When did we *ever* do this unto You?" "When you did it unto the least of Mine. So, I'm pleased to bid you Welcome to the Kingdom.") God blesses obedience, not the "institutions of man."

Getting Beyond Self

The Law is not something we put into practice in order to obtain self-righteousness, for such focus is selfish and misplaced. The Law is something we put into practice in order to benefit "the other guy." And, that "other guy" may just happen to be the spouse, or the kids, or the grandkids. For the Believer, that "other guy" who is benefitted will also be our (present or former) "enemy."

As from the beginning, we're "moral agents," meaning that in the eyes of the Law, we have a decision to make, a choice to exercise. We can do things "man's" way, and receive the Curses, or we can do things God's way, and receive the Blessings. In the eyes of the Law, whichever direction we go, it's purely voluntary. Bondage or Liberty—it's a choice we make everyday. And, it's not a choice that we make only for ourselves, but rather also for our children and grandchildren and neighbors.

The choice we make determines the nation of which we are a part. The body politic that congregates around the Moral Code written by GOD ALMIGHTY is a nation (a *state*) unto itself. See Matthew 21:43, Romans 2:14, Hebrews 7:12, and 1 Peter 2:9. The groups that congregate around any particular moral code created by man are also nations unto themselves. As we start to understand that there are agnostic *states*, atheist *states*, nihilist *states*, catholic *states*, muslim *states*, jewish *states* and protestant *states*, we'll *then* understand *why* the "great" nations (*states*) of history have all fallen. The

only nation that will never fall is the one comprised of the Priesthood of Believers. As we make the direct, and popularly poo-poo'ed, connection between the moral code used by a body politic and the fall of that nation, we understand *why* that nation experienced the War, Famine, Pestilence (Disease, Plagues), and Beasts (e.g., tyrannical rulers) that God, Himself, sent upon that nation.

So, we don't opt for God's Laws, e.g, use of honest weights and measures, simply because it's God's Law, or simply because it'll be beneficial to ourselves. We're not here to say, "Lookie what I can do!" There's nothing we *can* do that gets us where we want to be, which is "into the Kingdom." The Kingdom is open *solely* due to what MESSIAH already did. We opt for God's Laws because that's what brings the Blessings upon those we care most about.

To understand, on the one hand, Money, and monetary policy, and what The EVER-LIVING teaches us about it, and, on the other, how the present international effort is to encourage us to practice that the exact opposite of what God teaches (by which we make ourselves hideously repugnant in His sight), is to understand not only the voluntary nature of the (commercial) behavior, but also the voluntary nature of our own self-destruction, at both the personal and national levels.

War, Famine, Pestilence and Beasts

It's a study for another series, but to address the bottom-line lesson here, where The EVER-LIVING judges a people, He sends His Four Sore Judgments, e.g., Ezekiel 14:21, also known as the Four Horsemen (of the Apocalypse) (Revelation 6:1-8): War, Famine, Pestilence and Beasts. To see these four Judgments or Horsemen is to see the revelation of The EVER-LIVING in a less-than-desirable way. Thus, where we prefer and even encourage the immorality, the "rebellion campaign," we may continue to expect Him to judge that rebellion. And, He's very clear as to how He judges the rebellion, namely via His Four Horsemen. These have been, from time immemorial, God's "out of bounds" markers.

When we get sick and tired of War, Famine, Pestilence and Beasts, we'll start to look for the "solution," and then we'll see that the "solution" has been staring at us "for ever." It's called the Law of God, and it's called *repentance*. Where we rebel against His Law, whether knowingly or in ignorance, we're destined for the Curses. And, where we do our best to learn His Law, and to follow and apply it in all of our ways, we're destined for the Blessings.

Since we have an intuitive understanding of the first three, to address what is a "Beast," it is a king or government raised up by God to be an iron rod of correction in His hand. To study into the decline and fall of the "great" (in human terms) civilizations in history is to see War, Famine, Pestilence and Beasts, thus, to see the Judgment of

The EVER-LIVING. And, to be on the receiving end of His Judgment is first to have been found guilty of rebellion against His Law.

From another perspective, to find War, Famine, Pestilence and/or Beasts is to find His People, while they are still rebellious, thus, still in the condition that calls for judgment. Since the entire world is, in one way or another, subject to at least one of these Horsemen, that fairly well answers *where* The EVER-LIVING finds His People. As to the *who*, hopefully it suffices to say that Israel is called to set the example for the rest of the nations, peoples, races and languages, all of which are His. Matthew 12:46-50 (“For whoever does the will of My Father Who is in heaven, he is My brother, and sister, and mother!”) *Where* does His Law apply? Everywhere. *Who* is subject to learning it and obeying it? Everyone. Who is burdened with setting the example? Israel. How is Israel identified? Obedience.

Borrowing from the “watchman on the wall” lesson, talk is cheap. We can *tell* our family, friends and neighbors about the coming of the Lord until we are blue in the face, but where we’re not *acting* like we’re expecting His arrival, what, really, is it that we’re teaching? Is it not the practice of the idea, i.e., setting the example by doing, that accomplishes 90% of the teaching? Do we not already have thousands and thousands of years of examples of what *not* to do? Are we ready to *act* like the Priesthood of Believers we are called to be? If so, we need to start proving it, by setting the example. The time when

we’ll be ready to petition for a halting of the Curses (War, Famine, Pestilence and Beasts), will be sometime *after* we’ve adopted the behavior, and the thoughts and words that end up producing the behavior, that God said He would Bless. *See* Romans 1, 2.

Here’s one timeline that shows the major time periods and transitions. <<http://www.utexas.edu/courses/clubmed/timeline.html>>. Here’s another timeline. <<http://www.templestjanose.org/JudaismInfo/history/israeltimeline.pdf>>. Here’s yet another. <<http://www.mediamusicstudies.net/tagg/teaching/yearsall.html>>.

Here’s a general overview of the full time period of focus here. Note carefully the mention of War, Famine, Pestilence (Plague) and Beasts (cruel, unfair, unlawful rulers). <http://www.gold-eagle.com/editorials_01/mbutler121401.html>. Those who make *that* connection understand history rather instantly. To learn the history is to understand the present, and to understand the present is to see how inundated *we* are with War, Famine, Pestilence and Beasts.

The pulpit is silent to these points. The pulpit is silent to the reality that we’re four-square under God’s judgment in exactly the same way that every single major civilization in history has been. God’s judgment and destruction will find us, whether we’re presently in Western Europe, Australia, Canada or America. The “preachers” are preaching “Peace! Peace!” where there is no Peace! We have waged war against our God. And, where we continue to wage war against God, God will continue to

engage that battle and crush us, to the fullest extent necessary the motivates us never to travel the road of rebellion again. Eventually, the people will put the pieces together and will stop waging war on God. The *only* question is how many *more* world-class nations He has to crush before the people make the connection. God's ever-living Law of morality matters. Practice it, and live.

Decline and Fall of Sumer

Constant "civil war" and salination of the fields through improved irrigation are two major "worldly" influences of the decline of Sumer. Scripturally, we'd say War and Famine. The monetary issue wasn't much of a factor in the decline of this barter-based economy.

<<http://www.newgenevacenter.org/west/sumer.htm#akkad>>; <http://www.iun.edu/~hisdcl/h113_2001/ancientmesopotamia.htm> [military defeats].

<<http://buhler.usd313.k12.ks.us/prosperity/meso7.html>>; <<http://www.learner.org/exhibits/collapse/mesopotamia.html>> [headed toward famine, due to salt water, which diminished farming production].

<http://www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/schools/Central/Curriculum/ELEMENTARY/SOCIALSTUDIES/Mesopotamia/ancient_mesopotamia.htm> [barter and accounting].

Decline and Fall of Egypt

<<http://www.drshirley.org/hist/hist02.html>> [a time chart].

<<http://www.geocities.com/BourbonStreet/5809/discover/decline2.html>> [military defeats].

<<http://www.geocities.com/BourbonStreet/5809/discover/decline4.html>> [cultural changes].

<<http://www.white-history.com/hwr8d.htm>>; <http://members.fortunecity.com/arthur_kemp/hwr8.htm>; <<http://www.churchoftrueisrael.com/nsforum/ns3-30.html>> [race mixing].

<<http://nefertiti.iwebland.com/history18-20.htm>> [governmental corruption].

There was a time when money and silver (or gold) were so synonymous that it was possible to run out of money. That was another part of the problem Egypt ran into. <<http://www.geocities.com/BourbonStreet/5809/discover/decline3.html>> [money problems].

Ultimately, Egypt fell because The EVER-LIVING judged it. <<http://cgca.net/coglinks/wcglit/hoehcompendium/hhc1ch9.htm>>.

Decline and Fall of Canaan

Some still debate when Canaan got started. <http://www.biblicalstudies.org.uk/article_canaan_bimson.html>; <http://www.angelfire.com/nm/massimo_lorenzini/exodus.html>.

Canaan, the son of Ham, the son of Noah, was cursed from very early on. Gen. 9:25. Many generations later, Abraham sent his servant to his own people to find a wife for Isaac. Gen. 24:1-4. In turn, Isaac instructed Jacob

not to take a wife from the Canaanites. Gen. 28:1. It follows that the problems that survived the Deluge, through the agency of Canaan, promulgated through the generations, and that the family of Abraham found those ways and beliefs so incompatible as to prohibit intermarriage. Joshua is many generations later still, and the problems remained. God turned the land over to Israel, under the guidance of Joshua, who refused to yield to the Canaanite ways. Joshua 24:15.

Silver and gold are not really issues here, either, because it's the (only) monetary system the people knew. What is at issue is that the spiritual silver and gold didn't really exist, yet, for Israel was far from ready to claim its inheritance. They still doubted, rather than trusted, God <<http://www.gospelcom.net/eword/comments/numbers/mh/numbers13.htm>>; and no sooner had they physically defeated the Canaanites than they were found practicing the very "religious" practices that cost the Canaanites their ownership of the land. *See, e.g.,* Ezekiel 16 (God is judging Israel, but on the grounds that Israel is acting like the Canaanites). And, for this reason, the conquest took generations. It was the participation in the pagan (Canaanite) practices that perpetuated the Wars, which prompted the people to seek out a military leader, hence Saul. Having completely missed the point, the people only dug the hole wider and deeper. They saw only war at the "law of man" level, utterly bypassing the root of the problem—the War they were waging against God in the first place; hence, the wars with the Canaanites.

In terms of law and government, Canaan fell. But, in terms of "religion," Canaan has yet to fall. It is for this reason that we continue to suffer today the same Judgment rendered upon the Canaanites of old: War, Famine, Pestilence (Disease, Plague) and Beasts. *See* Num. 33:50-56.

Decline and Fall of Assyria

<<http://www.cresourcei.org/othistory.html>> [outline, sequence of events].

<http://nefertiti.iwebland.com/fall_of_assyria.htm> [military overview] [watch for pop-up window—substance is likely behind the pop-up].

<<http://www.biblestudy.org/prophecy/empire-history.html>> [interaction with Israel].

<http://ragz-international.com/assyria_part_seven.htm>; <http://ragz-international.com/Assyrian%20Fall.htm> [military losses, voluminous Aramean immigration, additional factors].

<<http://www.infoplease.com/ce6/history/A0856744.html>> [incessant military activity caused need to import food].

<<http://xenohistorian.faithweb.com/neareast/ne04.html>> [internal and external influences].

<<http://www.belteshazzar.com/article.php?id=26>> [more on military losses].

<http://philologos.org/_eb-bhot/vol_VII/ch16.htm> [internal and external conflicts].

<p><http://www.kent.net/Displaced Dynasties/Assyrian_Invasions.htm> [more on war and invasion].</p> <p><http://www.nbizz.com/losttentribes/> [suggestion that King David is the reason for the decline of Assyria].</p> <p><http://www.nalanda.nitc.ac.in/resources/english/etext-project/history/phoenicia/part-2chapter4.html> [more on the invasions and wars].</p> <p><http://www.gcfweb.org/institute/prophet/prophet.html> [weakness brought on by internal civil war].</p> <p>The environmentalists tell us that the decline coincides with “overstocking, over-cultivation and deforestation and, to a lesser degree, irrigation and urbanisation.” <http://archive.greenpeace.org/climate/kimpacts/fulldesert.html>. And, they, along with the popular historians, miss the point completely. Assyria came to prominence due to repentance and adhering to the Law of God. They became nothing due to abandoning that Law. <http://www.gracenotes.info/topics/assyria.html>.</p> <p>Why did Assyria fall? Because God judged them. <http://cba.cua.edu/200syl.htm>; <http://www.thywordistruth.com/Ezekiel/less17cn.htm>.</p> <p>Decline and Fall of Babylon</p> <p>Some people question whether Babylon has either declined or fallen. <http://www.bibleorigins.net/BabylonvsProphets.html>.</p>	<p><http://peacefountain.com/god/assyria.htm> [all kinds of information on Babylon and Assyria].</p> <p><http://www.cresourcei.org/othpersia.html> [religious division].</p> <p><http://ephemeris.com/history.html#alexandria>: <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/02179b.htm>; <http://www.portergaud.edu/cmcarver/baby.html>. [military losses, in particular to Persia].</p> <p>Ultimately, why did Babylon fall? Because God judged it. <http://www.calvarychapel.com/greenbay/isaiah/Is12_13.htm>. Why will Mystery Babylon fall? Because God has judged it. In the immediate present, we’re living the decline and fall of Mystery Babylon. And, if it’s still a mystery as to who and where Mystery Babylon is, one should start by looking at Western Europe, Australia, Canada and America.</p> <p>Decline and Fall of Medo-Persia</p> <p><http://www.biblestudy.org/prophecy/empire-history.html> [interaction with Israel].</p> <p><http://www.mithraism.erudition.net/rome/hellen.htm> [war and internal politics].</p> <p><http://www.mccallie.org/history/rodle/WH1/2002/Student%20Websites/burchfield,colpini/decline.htm> [war, famine].</p> <p>More recently, to make the note in this context, the change of religion is noted, and not as a favorable development. <http://www.h-net.org/</p>
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<p>reviews/showrev.cgi?path=139871084257386>; <http://defencejournal.com/jul99/shatt-al-arab.htm> [adoption of Islam as the religion].</p> <p>Why did the Medo-Persian empire fall? Because God judged it. <i>See</i> Daniel 11. <http://www.eldrbarry.net/vbs/2/king11.htm>.</p> <p>Decline and Fall of Greece</p> <p>“Due to the lack of written records, we don’t know what caused the decline.” <http://ex.susd.org/jtroutman/classical_greece_chapter_5.htm>. One wonders what these authors think the Bible is. The fact that the record preceded the event hardly means there’s no record, or that we’re absent an understanding of the cause. The Believer has both a sufficient record and an understanding of the cause of the decline and fall.</p> <p><http://www.atsweb.neu.edu/uc/s.cassavant/GrtoRom.html> [brief time-line].</p> <p><http://www.danbyrnes.com.au/lostworlds/timeline/lwstory15.htm> [extensive time-line].</p> <p><http://web.ics.purdue.edu/~rauhn/H102_20.doc>; http://web.ics.purdue.edu/~rauhn/hellenistic_world.htm>; http://www.usgennet.org/usa/topic/preservation/geo/europe/page11.htm>; <http://www.mainlesson.com/display.php?author=haaren&book=greece&story=fall> [internal self-destruction; external military losses].</p> <p><http://physics.usc.edu/~crathfel/athens2.htm> [luxury].</p>	<p><http://www.gospelmessage.net/t01-99-2.htm> [immorality, generally].</p> <p><http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/bmcr/2000/2000-11-09.html> [secondary use of monuments and offerings].</p> <p><http://radicalacademy.com/philosophicalrealism.htm> [change away from firm philosophical principals].</p> <p><http://www.worldhistory1b.homestead.com/ALEXANDER.html> [internal war, external war, form of government].</p> <p><http://www.marxists.org/archive/kautsky/1908/christ/ch05.htm> [slavery, usury, internal war among city-states].</p> <p><http://ccins.camosun.bc.ca/~pculture/mcluhan/mc_28.txt> [roads, which were a product of the written word, which is a change from the oral tradition].</p> <p><http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Acropolis/2216/clsctexts/hubbard_respectability3.htm> [division away from community toward internal splinter groups].</p> <p><http://theoccidentalquarterly.com/vol1no2/jr-contribution.html> [multiculturalism; ethnocultural dangers of empire building].</p> <p><same> [anomie, <i>see</i> <http://www.google.com/search?hl=en&lr=&ie=UTF-8&oi=defmore&q=define:Anomie> (“without law,” “lawlessness,” conflict arising from break down of social norms and moral consensus) (from the Greek an- “absence of” and nomos “name, law, order structure”) individual disorder,</p>
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<p>social disorder <http://www.wordiq.com/definition/Anomie>].</p> <p><http://www.spiritualarmory.org/interprs.doc> [overview notes of various influences, including Divine Sovereignty].</p> <p><http://www.escapefromwatchtower.com/nietzsche.beyond.good.and.evil.html> [Nietzsche, a nihilist (“God is dead.”) sees the problem with Greece as a purely political matter].</p> <p><http://www.prairieviewchristian.org/Acrobat%20files/Dispensations.pdf> [a dispensational view, Divine Sovereignty].</p> <p>Ultimately, why did Greece fall? Because God judged it. <http://biblicalstudies.qldwide.net.au/why_bible_can_be_trusted.html>.</p> <p>Decline and Fall of Rome</p> <p><http://www.juyayay.com/outline/rome/politics04.html> [focused chronology].</p> <p><http://www.petergh.f2s.com/coins/history.htm> [very detailed chronology includes first use of coinage in Rome].</p> <p><http://people.westminstercollege.edu/faculty/mmarkowski/311/fallrome.html> [links to several related web sites].</p> <p><http://www.mwsk12.org/library/Rome.ppt> [overview].</p> <p><http://www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m2185/is_7_14/ai_109668527> [military losses].</p>	<p><http://homepage.ntlworld.com/anthony.campbell1/bookreviews/r/cooke.html> [love of show and luxury, a widening gap between rich and poor, an obsession with sex, freakishness in the arts masquerading as originality].</p> <p><http://www.usgennet.org/usa/topic/preservation/geo/europe/page19.htm> [centralized national government, incompetent local government, wasteful economic practices, heavy tax burden, slavery, people (leaders) softened by luxury; marked decline in education, German (Teuton) (pagan Israelite) independence, revolt by the Goths (better known today as a segment of the Israelites), Attila the Hun (Goths joined Romans to defeat the Huns)].</p> <p><http://theoccidentalquarterly.com/vol1no2/jr-contribution.html> [immigration, in order to increase the tax base; heterogenization, which led to social, psychological and religious destabilization, which produced the appeal for cults and non-biological sense of community].</p> <p><http://www.historyguide.org/ancient/lecture14b.html> [internal pressures, corrupt political intrigue, external wars, change of social view (away from unity as a nation), schizophrenic leadership].</p> <p><http://www.dailycatholic.org/issue/archives/1999Apr/83apr28,vol.10,no.83txt/apr28bar.htm> [sacking of Jerusalem, moral malaise].</p> <p><http://cfcc.net/dutch/RomeOut2.htm> [luxury, too many economic controls, expensive army, too much internal leadership change, lead poisoning,</p>
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<p>change of religion (pagan society can't withstand transition to Christianity)].</p> <p><http://www.nku.edu/~longa/classes/mat115x/days/day24.html> [lead poisoning].</p> <p><http://mars.acnet.wnec.edu/~grempe/courses/wc1/lectures/14romefell.html> [middle class squeezed out of existence, farmers and laborers became serfs, governmental debt from governmental spending, always increasing tax rates, willingness among the people to trade independence for governmental control, enormous expansion of bureaucratic government, overspending on community entertainment (Colosseum), overspending for luxury for leadership and army, foreignization of the army].</p> <p><same> [plagues].</p> <p><http://www.gfawesome.org/mad_science/articles/History/Child's_bones_proof_of_ancient_malaria.html> [malaria].</p> <p><http://www2.hawaii.edu/~johnb/micro/m130/m130lect1.html> [small pox, measles, bubonic plague].</p> <p><http://www.roman-empire.net/articles/article-018.html> [economic problems derived from "welfare state" mentality, coin clipping (encouraged by Nero) ruined silver coin as the medium of exchange, minting of bad money].</p> <p><http://www.newcriterion.com/archive/15/jun97/gibbon.htm> [economic deterioration].</p>	<p><http://www.litencyc.com/php/speople.php?rec=true&UID=3163> [Rome outgrew its resources].</p> <p><http://faculty.oxy.edu/horowitz/courses/Hist221/rise_and_fall.ppt> [transition away from Republic and toward military dictatorship, the state exists to support the army (suggesting perpetual war)].</p> <p><http://yosemite.epa.gov/administrator/speeches.nsf/0/de541cc2dddfcfa585256ce5005bebca?OpenDocument> [failure to maintain aqueduct system].</p> <p><http://www.usd.edu/~clehmann/pir/how_lost.htm> [loss of Africa–Rome's primary source of food].</p> <p><http://www.wsu.edu/~dee/ROME/3RDCENT.HTM> [crisis in leadership, social crisis, both of which motivated philosophical and religious changes].</p> <p><http://hnn.us/readcomment.php?id=7365> [economic change and military overstretch].</p> <p><http://www.midweeknews.com/forum/articles/122502-war.html> [imperial overreach].</p> <p><http://courses.essex.ac.uk/ec/ec120/wk01lec.ppt>; <http://courses.essex.ac.uk/ec/ec120/wk01lec.pdf> [economic factors, which include taxation and slavery].</p> <p><http://www.visualstatistics.net/web%20Visual%20Statistics%20Illustrated/Visual%20Statistics%20Illustrated/oral%20history.htm> [the state became more important than the individual].</p>
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<<http://www.uwgb.edu/dutchs/WestTech/xromans.htm>> [lack of innovation, mysticism (cited as a cause but is more likely a result), failure to incorporate people of conquered lands as equal citizens].

<<http://www.lcsc.edu/ss150/u7s1p2.htm>> [dependence upon slavery, produced luxury, which produced lack of innovation and absence of economic specialization].

<http://www.historytoday.com/dt_main_allatonce.asp?gid=16535&g16535=x&g19126=x&g30028=x&g20991=x&g21010=x&g19965=x&g19963=x&amid=16535> [moral decay].

<<http://www.ucd.ie/classics/97/Erskine97.html>> [moral decay, inherited from the Greeks].

<<http://www.bic-church.org/susq/grantham/pages/sermons/2000serm/jerem50.html>> [moral decay].

Ultimately, why did Rome fall? Because God judged it. <http://biblicalstudies.qldwide.net.au/07_daniel.html>; <<http://www.post-boks.dk/rev-list/msg01324.html>>; <<http://www.tagnet.org/davenportsdanbeast.htm>>; <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/Daniel/Daniel_07.htm>; <<http://www.666man.net/GrandPanoramaView.html>>; <<http://www.bibleweb.org/TruthAbout/ta67a.htm>>; <<http://www.whyprophets.com/prophets/whore.htm>>.

The Inescapable Parallels

In all cases, the “great” societies and nations fell when the internal conflict so weakened the people that the external conflict polished them off. Are we not being torn apart internally? Women against men; old (social security) versus young; race against race; poor versus rich; sexual perversion against Biblical sexuality; public school versus home/church school; illegal immigrant versus native citizen; pagans versus Believers.

In all of the “great” nations of history, there is one common theme: the people were separated from The EVER-LIVING, and either a man or a government was substituted as the god or gods for the people to worship. The people worshiped “man” and depended on the “arm of the flesh” to obtain “success” and “prosperity.” And, for this reason, i.e., rebellion, The EVER-LIVING judged every single one of them. One need see only the consistency of War, Famine, Pestilence (Plague, Disease) and Beasts (kings or governments raised up by God to be an iron rod of correction in His hand) to make the connection.

Some additional parallels are discussed here: <<http://www.ovaloffice.org/e4destr.htm>>; <<http://www.rumor-millnews.com/cgi-bin/archive.cgi?read=26572>> [“99% of problem is economic,” which actually describes a symptom, not a cause, the cause being rebellion, one indicator of which rebellion is the refusal to use an honest system of weights and measures]; <<http://www.libertysoft.com/liberty/features/casey52.html>>; <<http://www1.minn.net/~nup/1dec96.htm>>; <<http://www.daveblack>

online.com/our_national_hubris.htm>; <http://www.chartist.org.uk/articles/intpol/jan02_lee.html> [“(a) Accelerating social and economic inequality. (b) Declining marginal returns with regard to investment in organizational solutions to social and economic problems. (c) Rapidly dropping levels of literacy, critical understanding, and general intellectual awareness. (d) Spiritual death ... the emptying out of cultural content and freezing (or repackaging) of it in formulas - kitsch in short.”]; <<http://www4.rightnowtech.com/petra/classical.pdf>>; <<http://www.eurozine.com/article/2003-06-17-ziyalan-en.html>>; <<http://www.worldandi.com/public/1993/may/mt4.cfm>>.

As we reflect on the concept of independence, we can see that declaring independence from King George was a good idea. However, declaring independence from the King of Kings is never a good idea. It’s always a bad idea. We have the entirety of recorded human history as proof.

The secular humanist historians and economists have certainly been well published, but they still miss the point completely. We’re not dealing simply with political and economic and (multi-) cultural and environmental influences, as the popular (“politically approved”) voices would have us believe. We’re dealing with moral issues, the very issues that The EVER-LIVING had His prophets and teachers document for the benefit of all at the time and for all who would come later.

Morality matters, and the standard by which morality is measured is the

word of The EVER-LIVING GOD. To read any of the prophets, major or minor, or to read the prophetic writings, or the historical writings, is to understand God’s commitment to His word and to those people who are also committed to His word. For this group, which is very much alive and well, this discussion intends to be a word of confirmation, and a word of hope, for God’s commitment to His word on the side of discipline (and destruction of rebellious nations) is dwarfed into microscopic insignificance when contrasted with His overflowing Blessings to the obedient. Those who are committed to His word know already that God protects His own, and that through their individual examples of repentance, He will eventually reach the entire world with the Good News of His Kingdom on earth.

We’re not going to see an instant change by practicing God’s Law in any one particular areas, whether of using honest weights and measures or any other. We see where money has played a role in the ultimate destruction of a few of these “great” nations in history, Rome (“roam,” as in traveling aimlessly without purpose, direction or plan) and Babylon (confusion, as in “babble on”), in particular, but it’s really been only “one more” part of the problem. We see in Leviticus 19, for example, a whole list of items that need our immediate attention. We can’t fix it all today. But, we can start, and by using the Money we’re supposed to be using, we put our repentance, our faith and His Law into practice.

Blessed be the reading of His word. ■

THE SILENT PULPIT

THE SILENT PULPIT is a column written for To Face West Ministries by Harmon L. Taylor with the purpose of addressing topics that are addressed seldom, if at all, in the popular “Christian” activity of our day.

For there is no distinction between [Judean] and Greek; for He Himself is Lord of all, enriching all who call upon Him; for WHOEVER CALLS ON THE LORD SHALL BE SAVED.

But how can they call upon [W]hom they have not believed? And how can they believe about what they have not heard? And how can they hear without a preacher? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written:

HOW BEAUTIFUL THE FEET WHO PROCLAIM PEACE,
WHO PREACH THE GOOD NEWS.

Yet all will not believe the good news. For Isaiah says:

LORD, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT?

Therefore, the faith comes from a report: but the report through the arrangement of God.

Romans 10:12-17 (Ferrar Fenton).

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Harmon L. Taylor, Chaplain