

INTERPRETING THE SIGNS OF OUR TIMES

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INTRODUCTION.**Background From My Work.**

For twenty-plus years I've been writing about one subject. It started with what the Church is and what God was going to do about it. Presently, it's what He is doing about it right now. This writing started when the Lord first got me to seriously reading the Bible. I long ago understood that I learn best by writing. There's something about having to explain something to someone else that turns on the learning juices. Besides, it is how a teacher operates. And, I am a Romans 12:6-8 teacher. So, I have twenty-plus years, and the Lord only knows how many man-hours, studying the Bible on one particular topic.

What I found is that the Bible is very specific about what is going to happen in the period just before Jesus' Second Coming. God's people will have, for at least the fourth time, turned His Church into an institution, rife with idolatry. And, for the fourth time, He will judge His Church on Earth for its corporate sins, before its individuals have all died and gone to heaven. By 'Church', I mean God's people, which includes the ancient Jews, as Steven so called them [Acts 7:38], and Paul took as 'type' for our Church [1 Cor. 10:6]. And, this judgment will follow the same pattern God has used in every instance.

The sin and judgment pattern is this: God's people sin corporately, turning His Church into an institution filled with idolatry. He allows His people to be taken into captivity by a 'foreign power', which results in the destruction of the House of God. He then brings judgment upon the captivating 'foreign power' by allowing it to be overthrown. This allows the escape from captivity of a remnant of a remnant of His people, to rebuild the House of God. This was the pattern for the First Temple, Second Temple, and the Holy Roman Empire. And, it may now be seen as the pattern for the post-Reformation Church.

This is not just a pattern, but it is a cycle, since the end of one occurrence of the pattern is connected to the beginning of the next. We are now in the fourth cycle, by my reckoning. Cycle-3 began with the creation of Christianity and the following destruction of the Second Temple in 70 A.D. That cycle ended with the Reformation and following demise of the Holy Roman Empire (Germany's First Reich). Our cycle began with the Reformation and the founding of America as an experiment in applied Christian living by Anglo-Saxon Protestants. Our cycle shall end with the Great Tribulation and the Second Coming of Jesus.

Christianity as we have known it shall be in captivity. That captivity has already begun. But, there shall again be a remnant of a remnant that shall restore Christianity before Jesus returns, physically. That has to happen, because it's in the Bible. And, that is the way a cycle of the pattern always terminates. That restoration is what my writings have all been leading up to, for the past twenty-plus years. That's what this paper is all about.

Why This Series of Synopses.

My writings form a Library, publically available upon request. It holds three book-length manuscripts, only one of which has been self-published. These manuscripts have not been widely published because it apparently hasn't been time, yet, in God's Plan for the end-times. And, that is part of my personal pattern, too. All

my publishing life, going back to 1965, my technical publications have shown a pattern of being ten years ahead of time. Ten years before their topics would be technically possible. So be it.

Up until January, 2009, all the writings have been about God's biblical Plan for the end-times. That is, the manuscripts and papers have been Bible-based. But, that January, the Lord set me on what appears to be a trail of reading certain secular books and synopsisizing them. There has developed a pattern here, too. And, that pattern is that these books all describe certain aspects of what may be called 'signs of the times' of our present day. Recall that it was for their inability to interpret the signs of the times of Jesus' First Coming that he berated the Pharisees and Sadducees of God's original Church. The present signs in the synopsisized books are in such of life's activities as Christianity and the churches, government, politics, economy, and finance. And, I will be interested in interpreting them in the context of Jesus' Second Coming.

It turns out that some of the results of these books (now nine in number) relate between each other. That is, the results of each book are views of the same events, from different vantage points. And, put together with the Bible, the different secular views of observed events contribute to a model for interpreting the signs of the times. So, in this paper, for the first time, I will pull the results of these books together, to create such a model and to get such an integrated view of the signs of our present times.

THE BOOKS – WHAT THEY SAY, INDIVIDUALLY.

Revolution – by George Barna.

We will start with the Church, as described by George Barna in his 2005 book, Revolution¹. We start with the Church because Peter says that judgment starts at the house of God [1 Pet. 4:17]. (He probably knew the biblical pattern.)

Barna, who is the premier statistician of American Christianity, shows that Christians are increasingly leaving the churches, in order to pursue a more fulfilling Christian experience. They are not losing their faith. They are losing their churches. They are rejecting the "one-size-fits-all" character of many of the churches in the traditional denominations. What they are seeking is a personal intimate relationship with God, first-hand, not through a pastoral or Sunday-school intermediary. They are seeking a venue that allows them to minister hands-on, rather than just sit and watch. They don't want to just go to church. They want to be the Church.

Barna interprets this Christian behavior as being revolutionary, comparable to the First and Second Great Awakenings that happened in America. He says that whereas the first two were revivals of the institutional churches, this present one is restorational of the Church. Barna estimates that of the 300-million U.S. population, 77-million are churched and an additional 20-million are these 'revolutionaries.' Additionally, he estimates that by 2025, the revolutionary numbers will equal the churched numbers, at 30%-35% of the population. It doesn't sound like the U.S. is post-Christian quite yet. (Compare with Steyn's² and Huntington's³ results, below.)

According to Barna, these ministries outside the organized churches are poorly structured, inadequately led, lacking a larger strategic framework, with no incremental plan ... humanly speaking. And, they are almost impossible to characterize or market.

Although they are each narrowly focused, they lack a focal point and are virtually invisible. This means two things to me. First, they are God-driven. Second, they are exactly what is needed in a time of persecution of Christians, as is the Great Tribulation.

Although Barna doesn't say so, we assume that this Revolutionary Christian Movement is predominantly an American movement, as were the Charismatic and Pentecostal movements just preceding it. If revolutionary membership grows to 100-Million, that is significant in a nation of perhaps 300-Million. However, it is not large in a world of 10-Billion. In fact, 100-Million out of 10-Billion is 1%. A remnant of a remnant. (Again, compare with Steyn's results.)

I count myself as a Revolutionary. And, I know quite a few Christians who are also revolutionaries. I know of quite a few ministry venues that qualify for that descriptor. But, I doubt that those revolutionaries think of themselves as such. And, I doubt that they have a global view of how they fit in God's Earthly Plan for the Second Day of the Lord. However, I believe that this revolutionary idea of Barna's may well open a path to that understanding. And, it is here that I will attempt to provide a model that will enable that understanding.

America Alone – by Mark Steyn.

From looking at the Church, we now leap to looking at much of the world. In particular, we look at what is called the post-Christian West and Islam. The two are related.

Mark Steyn is a newspaper writer on politics and culture. His 2006 book, America Alone: The End of the World as We Know it², is an eye-opening documented look at the politics of the civilized nations ... where they are now and where they are headed. Steyn holds that a new Dark Age awaits us in the intersection of three statistics. They are religion, demography, and terrorism. His treatment of demography also includes the political suicide of the post-Christian West that prompts the demographic results. Although he looks ahead, ten to twenty years, what he tells us about right now and how we got to 'right now' is extremely important to our interests, here.

The demographic results are that all of the nations that emerged from the Protestant Reformation now have a birth rate well below the replacement rate of 2.11 babies per woman. Thus, their populations are rapidly decreasing to the point that they will soon no longer be able to support their Democratic-Socialist Welfare States, which they all are. Thus, they are committing cultural and national suicide. All but one, that is. And, that's the United States.

Counter to the low Western birth rates are the high Muslim birth rates, ranging between 6.0 and 7.0. And, Muslims are now immigrating in massive numbers into European population centers. Some European cities are approaching 50% Muslim population. So, Islam is going to take over Western European politics, almost by default. Their strategy is to immigrate and procreate. It will be possible within ten years, according to Steyn. The suicide of the post-Christian West includes not only Western Europe, but Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, also. The only exception to this is the United States, whose birth rate is right at the replacement rate of 2.1. And, no American city has any major Muslim population component.

So, what is different about the United States? Huntington will answer that.

Who Are We ? – by Samuel P. Huntington.

Harvard Professor Samuel P. Huntington, in his 2004 book, Who Are We³, shows that not only was America Christian in its founding, but it remains Christian to this day.

America was created by 16th and 17th Century settlers, almost all of whom were from the British Isles. They were a people or society first, before becoming a nation. They held in common the identity elements of race, ethnicity, culture, and religion. The central elements of the Founding Culture included Christian religion, Protestant values and moralism, work ethic, English language, British traditions of law, justice, and the limits of government power, and a legacy of European art, literature, philosophy, and music.

However, facts like these have been suppressed in many elements of American life, such as the media, education, and government, since about 1965. Huntington shows that there is an ongoing, well-planned, well-organized, and well-funded war against the American identity being pursued from inside the country. It became publicly observable in the mid-1960s. It is not a civil war, but it is a cultural war. Its attacking groups are relatively hidden from public view, as is their coordination and leadership. One reason for this lack of public awareness of what's going on is that much of the nation's communication media are participating in the war, ... on the enemy side.

This war oppresses the citizenry through the agencies of its government, all three branches. It attempts to dis-unify the electorate, in order to better control them and to get them to pay for their own oppression through taxes. However, there are non-governmental agencies allied with the government. These include academia and the education establishment, and to a lesser extent, international business. Thus, the war is being conducted upon the country's citizens by a well-coordinated 'organism,' embedded in the nation's higher institutions.

What Huntington calls a "deconstructionist coalition" has previously operated slowly, in historic terms. That is another reason the public has not become aware of the nature of this war and the coordination of its attacking elements. The attacks appear well-planned, and they continued in a stealthy manner, over decades and generations. However these attacks accelerated, starting in January, 2009, and the strategy is now becoming crystal clear.

Huntington has analytically focused upon three of the tactical battle fields. These are the battles for the American Creed (beliefs), English Language (communication), and Core Culture (multiculturalism). Some of the enemy's table of organization has been revealed. But, its higher staff structure and top leadership has not. It remains that further intelligence is needed, to totally characterize this enemy.

Notwithstanding the cultural war being conducted, America remains a Christian nation. Repeated holdings of the Supreme Court verify that America was a Christian nation, well into the 20th Century. National surveys and polls (Gallup) statistically show that America remains a Christian nation, today. 80% to 85% of the American people regularly identify themselves as Christians. 84% to 88% did so in three national surveys between 1989 and 1996. So, the propaganda that the U.S. is becoming post-Christian is just that, ... propaganda. Dr. Goebbels would be proud of our propaganda mill.

Statistically, religiosity varies inversely with economic development in most countries. According to Huntington, America is a glaring exception to these statistics, ranking among the highest in both religiosity and economic development. Statistically speaking, America is and always has been an 'outlier.' Therefore, because of its continuing Christian Protestant foundation during its history of economic growth, America is exceptional, by the very definition of the word.

The Ultimate Depression Survival Guide – by Martin D. Weiss.

Martin Weiss, in his 2009 book, The Ultimate Depression Survival Guide⁴, extensively documents why and how, in his opinion, the nation entered a second Great Depression in 2007. Before Congress, he testified to this eventuality several times before its commencement, to no avail. At the time of the present writing, Dr. Weiss has precisely targeted in advance those events that have occurred in the development of the current financial and economic crisis. So far, his prognostication is right on.

The book's principal thesis was that we were heading into the second Great Depression, due to a buildup of inexorable financial forces that cannot be denied. The financial crisis of 2007-2009 was not just a cause of the Depression. It was also a symptom of it. The Depression, itself, is the predictable result of greed in the financial industry, coupled with incompetence and corruption in the government. Although the details of this Second Depression are different, it is following the general path of the Great Depression pretty well. Therefore, lessons learned from Dr. Weiss' father about the first may now be applied to the second.

What Dr. Weiss' book shows in the end-times context is a catastrophic event caused by avarice, greed, corruption, and government malfeasance. These causes are, of course, present in the Bible prophecies about the end-times. What Dr. Weiss' book does is flesh out in voluminous documented detail these causes. His work is, in a sense, a prophecy, itself, since it was presented before the catastrophic event started. So, as well as being a source of possible help to Christians, his book contributes to the interpretational model for judging where we are in terms of Christ's return.

BIAS – by Bernard Goldberg.

Bernard Goldberg, in his 2002 book, BIAS⁵, gives anecdotal testimony to the easily observable fact that TV-News reporting is terribly biased to the left in the three major networks. Based on his nearly 30 years with CBS-News, Goldberg reports on myriad conversations with all levels of news management and the TV-News 'stars'. The entire tenor of his book is reflected in a quote, ...

“And that’s why the media stars can so easily talk about “right-wing” Republicans and “right-wing” Christians and “right-wing” Miami Cubans and “right-wing” radio talk show hosts. But, the only time they utter the words “left-wing” is when they’re talking about an airplane.”

What that means is that TV-Commentators feel it necessary to tag conservative views as such, but not liberal views. That's because they think that liberal views are just the correct way to view the nation's cultural issues, and that those who don't agree are just not thinking properly and are out of the 'mainstream'.

Goldberg identifies these left-wing TV-News personnel as elitists in their thinking. They believe that they know what is best for ordinary folk and that it's their duty to set them straight. He also reports that these news reporters are completely out

of touch with the citizenry of the U.S., since they only talk with those who think like themselves.

Goldberg's book fills a key slot in forming a picture of the U.S.'s elitist structure that forms what Huntington called the 'deconstructionist coalition'.

The Real Lincoln – by Thomas J. DiLorenzo.

This book was suggested by a reviewer of the companion paper, The Battle for America. He it was who suggested that I find out what the Civil War was really about. DiLorenzo shows from diligent research what it was about. And, it gives us a picture of what our present culture war is all about.

Dr. Thomas J. DiLorenzo is a Professor of Economics at Loyola College of Maryland. He is the bane of those revisionist historians who have contributed to the myth of Lincoln. His 2003 book, The Real Lincoln⁶, is a block-buster in terms of showing the whole unvarnished truth about President Abraham Lincoln.

DiLorenzo shows that the Civil War was about Lincoln's desire to change the form of the Executive Branch of the federal government from the form created by the Founding Fathers. It was about denying the sovereignty of the states that voluntarily united to form the nation. It was about States Rights. And, the South would not let Lincoln ride roughshod over the Constitution in this way.

As far as Lincoln was personally concerned, the Civil War was not about freeing the slaves and granting them racial equality. Lincoln had an often stated position against the social or political equality of the races. He issued his Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, after the War was underway, just as a military measure, trying to foment a rebellion among the slaves. He hoped such a rebellion would draw Confederate troops off the front lines and back home to protect the women and old folks on the plantations. That tactic failed, militarily. But, since the North won the War, the slaves were freed.

The changed form of government, which came out of the Civil War, survived and was augmented for the next hundred years. It was the old British Mercantilist form, rejected by the Founding Fathers for its possibilities of political corruption. It's evolved form is the source of many of today's problems. So, this book contributes yet another key element to our model for interpreting our signs of the times.

Christianity's Dangerous Idea – by Alister McGrath.

Alister McGrath is a Professor of Historical Theology at England's Oxford University. His book is about the Christian Reformation, which birthed Protestantism in Europe. If that was all there was to the book, it would not be particularly interesting, here. However, McGrath follows Protestantism from its European birth to today. And important to our interests, it contains a whole lot about the 380-year development of American Protestantism.

McGrath's 2007 book is entitled Christianity's Dangerous Idea⁷. That idea was not Protestantism itself, but the core idea that lay behind it. And, that idea was that the individual Christian, not the institutional Church, had the right to interpret the Bible for himself. Luther's (and Calvin's) dangerous idea had implications for both Church and State. Where Protestantism was accepted, the relationship between believer and Church would be vitally changed. And, the relationship between believer

and State would also change. And, one of these changes would eventually be a key to the founding of the United States, some 250 years later. It would be the idea of getting the State out of Christianity, but not vice-versa.

Perhaps the reason that McGrath pays so much attention to American Protestantism, is that it continued developing, following its arrival in America. Also, cultural and political events in America have been greatly influenced by two extended happenings that a Christian would only describe as sovereign moves of God. These were the two so-called Great Awakenings (in Protestantism), which occurred only in America. One of them was a key to the Revolutionary War. The other was a key to the Civil War.

McGrath's book fills in much of the Christian detail previously described in prior books synopsized in this series. Since my interest is in Protestantism in the United States, I have not synopsized all of McGrath's book, just selected chapters. But, those chapters have considerably clarified my developing view of the history of these United States. It has completed a strong factual foundation of my view that the United States is today all about Christianity, and it always was.

Taken together, McGrath's and Huntington's³ books show that the last hope of Christianity is these United States, and the last hope of these United States is Christianity.

The Liberal Mind – by Lyle Rossiter, M.D.

Dr. Lyle Rossiter's 2006 book is entitled, The Liberal Mind, The Psychological Causes of Political Madness⁸. Dr. Rossiter has forty years experience as a forensic psychiatrist, specializing in personality disorders. His book explains why some of the laws promulgated by Congress since January, 2009 seem 'crazy' to politically conservative Christians. In Dr. Rossiter's medical opinion, the most radical of left-wing political liberals, who write such laws, are mentally defective. That is, they act out of twenty-six shared beliefs (and unbeliefs) that characterize a neurosis. And, it is a transference neurosis, in that they act out unconscious projections of early childhood psychodynamics into the political arenas of adult life.

On his way to modeling the liberal mind, Dr. Rossiter does a gigantic service for the reader. He teaches the relationship between human psychology and social process. His book has many of the characteristics of a textbook. Starting from the psychological characterization of human nature, he derives the rule-based model of a competent society and its government. It is this model that agrees with what our Founding Fathers set up in 1776-1787. Rossiter shows how the genius of the Founding Fathers provided a form of government compatible with the psychological nature of man.

Dr. Rossiter delves deeply into the psychology of those who are currently so politically active in ramming unread laws through Congress, without traditional due process and deliberation. He shows that their actions stem from five developmental deficits. These are in the areas of basic trust, autonomy, initiative, industry, and their identity. They essentially never developed a psychologically normal adult identity. Not knowing who they are, they cannot possibly know who the psychologically normal American citizen is. Therefore, the radical liberal is totally separated from the reality of normal American life. This agrees completely with one of the conclusions of Goldberg⁵, about the liberal elites.

Rossiter's book fills the last large gap in understanding the signs of our times. Taken together, the eight synopsised books give a picture of our American times that is very understandable and chilling.

Walking With God – by John Eldredge.

I must repeat that this series of books I'm synopsising have been brought to my attention in various ways. I did not seek them out. I am convinced that it is the Lord who is directing this sequence, and that He knows why these books are coming in the order they are. I think the order, itself, is informational.

This book by Eldredge⁹ is now the third Christian book in this series of synopses. And, it fits into the flow of these books, in terms of the story they, together, tell. The very first book, by Barna¹, was Christian, telling the story of how increasing numbers of Christians are leaving the organized churches. Instead of going to church, they want to be the Church. And, for a time of persecution of Christians, as these end-times are increasingly becoming, that may well be part of God's plan.

Following Barna, were five secular books, telling the story of how we American believers have come to the place we are, in the history of our country. And, those books showed the unmistakable developmental role of Christians in that history. The seventh book synopsised was another Christian one by McGrath⁷. It filled in the historical detail about how American Protestantism had played a continuing role in the development of America. And, McGrath predicted that the final American development of Protestantism, being Pentecostalism, was the future of world Christianity.

Next in the synopsised list was The Liberal Mind⁸, by M.D., Lyle Rossiter, a forensic psychiatrist of 40-years' experience. He modeled and described how political liberals think, characterizing it as a mental defect, a transference neurosis. Now, political liberals is one name for the type of people in government who have gotten our country in the troubles it is now in. So, Rossiter's book shifted the synopsis sequence from the country's historical development, and Christianity's role in it, to how its internal opponents, who are essentially anti-American and anti-Christian, think.

Now comes Eldredge, who shows how Christians who are pursuing their own individual spiritual development think. His book is a one-year journal of his personal dealings with Jesus Christ, as the Lord works on Eldredge to clean up the way he thinks. This could well be the way Barna's 'revolutionaries' may pursue being the Church, rather than just going to church.

What is so impressive to this reader about Eldredge's book are two things. First, he is the first Christian author this writer has seen, who matter-of-factly writes that he talks to Jesus and Jesus talks back. Eldredge terms that interaction as conversational intimacy with God. The second is that in having these conversations, and discovering what it is that Jesus wants to do in Eldredge's life, he runs into intense demonic interference. Therefore, Eldredge describes in detail the spiritual warfare processes he uses to combat this interference. This description of verbal spiritual communication and warfare is Eldredge's major contribution of the book, in this writer's opinion.

So, what we seem to have here, in this ninth book to be synopsised, is a look at how believers may well individually behave spiritually in the very end-times of Christian persecution. And, that behavior may well be outside the visible churches,

which by then shall be under attack. This book provides further insight into the signs of the time.

THE OBSERVED 'PLAYERS' IN THE SIGNS OF OUR TIMES.

Christianity.

In six of the nine books, Christianity is a key element. Barna's¹ book is all about Christians, whereas Huntington's³ book is about Americans who have mostly been Christians. And, Steyn's² book is about people who are the opposite of Christians in the post-Christian West. Except for America, of course, which is explicitly not post-Christian. DiLorenzo⁶ shows a key event in American Christianity, being the Christianization of the Negro slaves, just before the Civil War. McGrath⁷, of course, reinforces the view that in terms of the signs of our times, what we see is that Christianity is the key element, therein.

The role that Christians play today is that the world is trying to move past them or against them. And, that also includes Huntington's Deconstructionist Coalition, who are clearly un-American and anti-Christian. But, in America, Christians are opposing being moved past or against. And, yet American Christians have not been really focused on what has been going on in their country or in the world, concerning them. They know that something is going on, and they are uncomfortable about it, but they are not yet able to put it in a box, to articulate it.

The Churches.

The Church and the churches are not the same. Those in the churches are not all Christian and not all Christians are in the churches. By Jesus' definition, the Church is comprised of those individuals who are in Him and He in them [John 17:23], [2 Cor. 5:17]. This 'in-ness' is in the sense of a Christian being a branch in Jesus' vine [John 15:4-5], and via the Holy Spirit filling the Christian [Acts 13:52]. The churches are corporate assemblages of those who claim they are Christian, though some, who are very active, are not [Mat. 7:21-23].

What we see about the world churches of our times is that many have failed. They have failed to maintain the nations Christian, wherein the churches are found. All the Protestant churches in Western Europe have failed. They may still be operating, but they have failed in their original purpose, nevertheless. In the U.S., some are also failing to keep Christians within them who are looking for a richer Christian experience. According to Barna¹ this failure will continue to increase. It is not that Christianity shall fail in America, but the churches. And, that agrees with the Bible's Book of Revelation.

Modern Christian Prophets.

The Elijah Factor¹⁰ does not add to the interpretational frames. But, it does give more detail about what to look for in the churches and out of the churches, in terms of Christian activity. It is useful in terms of interpreting the prophesied end-times restoration of Christianity, at the hands of the modern prophets.

Government.

In five of the nine books, government plays a major role. Huntington³ shows that the U.S. government is a major player in the un-American, and therefore anti-Christian, movement to deconstruct the American identity since 1965. Steyn² shows that governments and politics are the cause of the national and cultural suicide of the post-Christian West. The same governmental and political pressures that drove Western Europe to national and cultural suicide are now at work in the U.S., and have been since 1965. Weiss⁴ shows that the U.S. government has greatly contributed to the current worldwide financial and economic crisis, by both its malfeasance and corruption. DiLorenzo⁶ shows how the U.S. government got into its present configuration, allowing such corruption. And, Rossiter⁸ provides a psychological foundation for understanding the actions of the current national government

Politics.

It is Steyn's² book that ties together politics, government, and Christianity. He shows that it is a particular brand of politics embodied in government that is the root cause of a formerly Christian state failing. That is the politics of the Democratic-Socialist Welfare State. It is Huntington³ who shows that the cause of the European West losing its Protestant Christianity is that it did not continue developing and maturing in Europe, as it did in America. And, so it was the loss of Christianity and the superseding politics of the Democratic-Socialist Welfare State that have jointly caused the national and cultural suicide of the states of Western Europe.

What we can put together here is that the national and cultural suicide of a Christian state, such as the U.S., is caused by the failure of the churches without Barna's revolutionary counter-movement, together with a Democratic-Socialist Welfare-State brand of politics. The other thing we can recognize is that it is later than we might have thought for the United States. Europe has already failed. All that can prevent the complete failure of the Christian West is the U.S. And, we already see forces assembling to complete that failure. One should ask why anyone should want to see complete failure. A Bible-literate Christian knows that answer [Rev. 13].

Communication Media.

It is Goldberg's⁵ book, that shows the role played by the TV-News media in Huntington's deconstruction of the American identity. This is yet another key element in interpreting our signs of the times.

Education.

Until the mid-20th Century the central institution for the Americanization of immigrants was the schools, according to Huntington³. However, in 1975 the Supreme Court interpreted Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to compensate deficiencies in results of non-English, rather than just deficiencies of opportunity. This changed the schools' role from Americanization of immigrants to catering to immigrants' group rights, rather than individual rights. This was the beginning of what are now the politically correct buzz-words of 'multiculturalism' and 'diversity', becoming the primary goal of American society, rather than national unity.

Huntington³ shows that the Deconstructionist Coalition attacked American core cultural values through the national institutions of the educational establishment and

academia. Many of Academia's Education and Social Science Departments became, in fact, a part of the Coalition.

In particular, it is the teaching of revisionist history concerning the original formation of the U.S. government and its modification in the Civil War that contributes so much to today's political ignorance of the citizenry. It is DiLorenzo⁶ who plugs that hole.

Finance.

Another player in the signs of the times, which has become especially noticeable since 2008, is Finance. We turn to Weiss⁴ for insight into what is going on here.

The basic problem is debt, personal, business, and government. All these agencies have become addicted to debt, incurred to fund daily operations. For people, it's mortgage and credit card debt. For businesses, it's operating cash. It is now common for businesses to borrow money for their daily operational expenses. For government, it's debt incurred by spending more than the taxes collected. The deficit is financed by selling government bonds to generate cash for the government. With the government, some spending is not just for essential services, but for legislators' pet projects, promoted to buy them votes.

Weiss⁴ holds that both the Great Depression and the present one were fed by private greed and by government corruption, fraud, and cover-ups. This includes government creation of privatized enterprises having monopolistic control of elements of the economy. Recent examples are Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, in the home mortgage market. Although federally regulated, regulators regularly deceived Congress on the state of their enterprises. And, even Senators and Members of Congress deceived the public in the same way, for political reasons. So, the government is just as much responsible for the country's financial and economic woes as private industry.

FRAMES FOR THE INTERPRETATIONAL MODEL.

The Biblical End-Times Christian Context.

There is a context for our very end-times. And, we need to grasp that context, as it provides a necessary frame for interpreting the signs we see and the ones we don't yet see. Not that I'm saying we're putting God in a box. God has already created a box, and it's what He has recorded in the Bible. He put that there so that we would not fall short in interpreting our signs of the times, as the Pharisees and Sadducees fell short in Jesus' (first) time.

The widest possible view of the context of the very end times is that it's all about Jesus. It has been all about Jesus since He ascended to sit beside the Father. And, even in the Old Testament it was all about Jesus before He came. And, to the extent that we are the presently operative Body of Christ on Earth, the very end times is about us. That is, the biblical story about the very end times is about us. Therefore, our lives and activities proceed in a framework that God has created and documented for us. And, as we attempt to relate to ourselves what we see going on in the world, we need to remember this context. We need to fit the observable data to the box that God has created. And, as we do that, we will probably see that box more clearly.

So, one Interpretational Frame is defined by the biblically documented Christian Context of the very end-times.

Judgment Begins in The Churches.

God's Pattern for Earthly Judgment.

God's pattern for judging His people here on Earth was set by Israel's captivities, following destruction of the First and Second Temples. It was repeated in the destruction of the Holy Roman Empire, following the Christian Reformation and creation of the United States of America. In each case, God's people had taken what he had created as a 'Church' and turned it into an institution, rife with idolatry. In each case, God sent the people into captivity, but permitted the escape of a 'remnant of a remnant' of His people, to reestablish His Church. This pattern is actually a cycle, since the end of one cycle coincides with the beginning of the next. Starting with the First Temple, we are now in the fourth cycle, by my count.

God's Christian West is now down to just one remaining sovereign state, the U.S. The rest are in captivity, both spiritual and physical. The nations of the former Christian West have lost the freedom and liberty they possessed in Christ [Gal. 5:1]. And, that freedom has been under attack in the U.S. since 1964. The U.S. now houses the remnant of a remnant that God will use to rebuild His earthly Church. According to the Bible, this will be a restoration of the earthly Church to its form when it was first created. The judgment that Peter said must begin in the house of God has just about run its course, therein. From now on, the judgment will be on the government that has taken the people captive. I believe we are seeing that, now.

So, another Interpretational Frame is the judgment upon churches and governments that is a part of God's Plan for the very end-times.

Anglo-Protestantism.

America's Christianity came out of British Protestantism, by and large. And, that was the product of the Reformation of King Henry the Eighth. Although it has been held that Henry broke with Rome (the Pope) so that he could divorce Catherine of Aragon and marry Anne Boleyn, such was not the case according to a recent book by G.W. Bernard¹¹, a Professor at the University of Southampton, England. After extensive research in the original documents of the 1500s, Bernard holds that Henry's disagreement with Rome was based on sincerely held religious scruples. Henry saw himself as " ... *God's lieutenant, whose divinely ordained mission was to purify the church,*" quoting Bernard.

However, according to Bernard, Henry's Reformation did not go so far as Luther's, embracing salvation by faith (only). Rather, Henry just wanted to get rid of the Roman 'superstitions' and 'cults' of relics and shrines, so prevalent at the time. So, Henry was by no means a Protestant. However, more reforms were made, following Henry.

In the late 1500s Puritanism developed, as a move to continue purifying the (Anglican) Church of England, which was the State religion. By 1600, Puritanism was essentially Protestantism as we know it today. However, Puritans were driven out of the Church of England, taking refuge in the Presbyterian Church, which had developed in Scotland, following the Reformation. So, the Puritans came to America, to set up an experiment in Protestant Christian living. Thus, Massachusetts' American

Puritans were more Congregational than Anglican, which latter took root in Southern Virginia. But, their basic beliefs about their faith was based on limitation of state power to regulate them, plus man's obedience to God's laws as documented in the Bible. This particular set of beliefs was known as a covenant or federalist theology, according to A History of Christianity¹² by Latourette.

Thus, another Interpretational Frame is the historical form and function of American Protestantism.

Today's American Churches - Individual and Corporate Viewpoints.

The Anglo-Protestant churches of America developed into many denominations, generally over slight differences in beliefs about church organization. But, all subscribed to the major Protestant beliefs of salvation by faith, etc. But, they had one major flaw, in this writer's opinion. They kept the Anglican priesthood, just renaming it pastorate or ministry. (Remember that there is only one priesthood lawful on the face of the Earth, and that is the Israelite priesthood [Heb. 8:4]. And, that priesthood has no Temple.) That is, the institutional churches still retained much of the shape and functionality of their Roman predecessor. They remained 'one-man shows,' centered on the 'priest.' Although an individual Bible-reading Christian had no one between them and their Lord, Jesus Christ, corporately there was something between the Church and its God. That corporate something was the churches as they were organized.

When God sent the First and Second Great Awakenings to America in the 1700s and 1800s, they were conducted mainly outside the established churches. This is because, being God-driven, they did not 'fit' the established order of 'church things.' Some individual pastors would permit George Whitefield or John Wesley to preach in the churches, but quite often they would preach in other public places, or in the fields (for which Whitefield had a powerful voice – being heard by 40,000). The Second Great Awakening was held in 'camp meetings,' rather than in churches. Because these 'awakenings' were obviously God-driven, the churches should have learned a lesson about how they were doing things, but they didn't.

According to Conner¹³, “ ... *the traditional one-man pastoral system is not to be found in the New Testament.*”

Because the American churches retain the 'priestly system' of the Roman church, our churches are also subject to the same problems that system always exhibited. And, that is idolatry, which is 'worshiping' things that are not God. For a detailed look at this, please see my book, The Church Visited¹⁴.

As detailed above, it is idolatry for which God judges his churches on Earth. And, in the modern Protestant churches that idolatry may be very subtle. An example is idolizing the pastor. For church-going Christians to realize that idolatry is behind the judgment the churches are now (and in the future) suffering, requires a biblical adjustment in the believer's view of the churches.

Another Interpretational Frame is the organizational shortcoming of American Protestantism.

The Biblical Importance of America.

God's Biblical View of America.

In Who We Are, the synopsis of Huntington's book, I identified America as linked to God's Plan for the very end-times, through interpretation of [Ezek. 17]. I had found that link in Chapter Three of the unpublished book-length manuscript, The Church in Transition, available on request. I'm not the only one who thinks that God has a plan for America. That's the thesis of the two whole books by Marshall and Manuel^{15,16}. All I've done is discover my own link to the Plan.

So, a basic Frame of Interpretation for the Signs of Our Times is that the U.S. is an integral part of God's Plan for the very end-times.

Societal Organization.

The United States was formed as a Republic. Originally, the right to vote was limited to men with property. That's because women were less educated or proactive about political matters and property holders had more to lose if the government became oppressive. There was also the concern that those with no property to protect might be more easily swayed by political promises, in order to garner votes. Although women were given the vote in the early 1900s and the property-holding restriction was dropped, the reasoning behind the property-holding restriction still remains true, in this writer's opinion.

Today, it is quite common to see the votes of those without property being 'bought' by political promises. And, the lack of education about political matters now applies to classes of the citizenry, rather than to the sexes. In fact, the lack of education about what this country originally was, governmentally, now contributes to some of the difficulties we see every day, in this writer's opinion. It is only with the research for these papers that I have discovered books that I really needed to read, in order to understand what is really going on with our government and economy.

The Social Organization of the U. S. and its change from the original at the time of the nation's founding is another Interpretational Frame.

Rights Versus Duty.

The first ten amendments to the Constitution are grouped under the label, The Bill of Rights. The first nine enumerate rights of individual citizens, while the tenth defines rights of individual citizens or states. Nowhere in the Bill of Rights are rights defined for groups or classes of citizens.

Whereas the original government of the United States enumerated ten individual rights for the people of the United States, God enumerated ten individual duties for His people. Government is concerned with individual citizens' rights because government may oppress the people. God is concerned with individual believers' duties because His people may sin. Were sovereign states 100% Christian, there would be no need for enumerated rights. Were Christians sinless there would be no need for enumerated duties.

In the beginning, the United States identified itself as a Christian nation, though not all citizens were Christian. But, they became more Christian as time went on, due to the two Great Awakenings. It has been held that the peak of Christianity in the U.S. was in the 1950s. When the Constitution and the Bill of Rights talked about its citizens, the descriptor used was "the people." And, that characterization was used

in the sense that it was a Christian people. Once that people was protected from the government, they thought more in terms of their Christian duties than their rights.

It is neither natural nor traditional for a Christian people to think in terms of rights, but rather in terms of duties. The peculiarly American work ethic flows from this sense of Christian duty, in this writer's opinion. And, that is one reason that the U.S. has been described as the nation with the soul of a church.

Therefore, another Interpretational Frame is individual rights versus individual duties.

Individual Rights Versus Group Rights.

As shown in Huntington³, since 1964 there have been laws passed at state and federal levels, defining rights for groups of citizens, such as Negroes or Hispanics. Now, we see efforts to make laws defining rights for a group known popularly as 'Gays,' which comprises those who practice homosexuality.

Huntington shows that it is this governmental shift in focus, from individual to group rights, that is attacking the American identity. And, the American people are resisting this shift instinctively, without perhaps thinking about its origin or motivation.

So, another Interpretational Frame is individual versus group rights.

The Suicide of the Post-Christian West.

The Democratic-Socialist Welfare State.

As shown in Steyn², the downfall of the Christian West has been its political adoption of the Democratic-Socialist Welfare State model, plus the failure of the Christian churches. A result of this has been the decrease in Post-Christian birth rates below the level of population sustainability. Thus, this decreasing population shall not be able to sustain the welfare promises of the Socialist governments. Added to this is Islamic immigration with the high Muslim birthrates. Thus, for Western Europe it is realistically suicide of the nations and cultures as they have been known since the 1500s.

All except the United States, that is, and the outcome here is not yet determined.

Thus, another Interpretational Frame is the cultural and national suicide of the Post-Christian West.

Seeing the U.S. as 'Last Man Standing'.

Because the U.S. is not yet Post-Christian, and because of how the U.S. fits into God's biblical Plan, we must factor in this U.S. role in interpreting our signs of the very end-times. We must look at the U.S. as essentially the last of the Protestant nations still standing in what heretofore was the Christian West. It is the source of the remnant of the remnant that shall play such an important role in restoring the Church, during the Great Tribulation, just before Jesus returns to pick up His surviving Earthly Church in the Rapture.

Therefore, another Interpretational Frame is the U.S. as 'Last Man Standing.'

Internal Attack on American Culture and Christianity.

Anti-American and Anti-Christian.

From Huntington³, it is obvious that there is an attack upon the historical and traditional American culture, which has continued since 1964. Regardless of the home base of the attacking elements, this attack is taking place within the U.S. It is using a number of the nation's higher institutions, such as government, media, and academia. The attacking force has the characteristics of an alien parasitic organism. It is behind the move to change the U.S. into a Democratic-Socialist Welfare State.

Although some churches and denominations may not have consciously joined in Huntington's Deconstructionist Coalition, neither have the churches resisted it, either intuitively or on a knowledgeable basis. It is this lack of understanding about what is going on in 'God's Country' that must be remedied. Perhaps the present writing may help.

Therefore, another Interpretational Frame is the organized internal attack against Christianity and its product, Americanism, that is continuing in the U.S.

Identifying Deconstructionist Activities.

Given the existence of Huntington's Deconstructionist Coalition, it is imperative that the American Voter start viewing differently every distinct new regulation and law that issues from Washington. The viewpoint must be whether these laws and regulations are anti-American and/or anti-Christian (or both). And, these laws need to be judged, as to whether or not they reflect thinking that is sane, within Rossiter's characterization of sane political thinking.

Armed with such judgments, the American voters must then become proactive in guiding their state's Senators and Representatives. Those who are identified as supporting such anti-American or anti-Christian regulation or insane legislation must be politically unseated. It is a matter of survival of our nation, and of us, individually.

This yields an Interpretational Frame of classifying new governmental laws and regulations by their objective and sanity.

External Attack on the Post-Christian West.

Islam Versus Christianity.

No widespread internal attack upon the U.S. has yet been noticeably mounted by Islam, as in Post-Christian states of Europe. Minor skirmishes have occurred here, but they do not attract widespread media attention, for obvious reasons. But, there is an external attack, associated with the wars in the Mid-East. This attack commenced with the September 11th attack on New York City and Washington, D.C. But, our previous President wisely moved the theater of war from the U.S. to the Mid-East. He 'hit 'em where they live.' He also tightened U.S. internal security, so that no subsequent attack within the country has been successful. That is not to say it will remain that way, depending upon the new Administration.

The war in Afghanistan and Iraq is a war between Islam and Christianity. That's not my opinion, but what the Muslim extremists say. Islam can not win it militarily, but it can win it economically. That is, it may just be too expensive to keep prosecuting the wars in the Mid-East, especially with the current spending binge in Washington. But, even if the U.S. withdraws from the Mid-East, Islam will still oppose

us. Islam has always opposed Christianity, and the U.S. is now the last Christian hope in the world.

So, another Interpretational Frame is that of Islam versus Christianity.

Interpreting Covert and Overt Islamic Actions.

Islam operates covertly, as in Europe. And, it acts overtly, as in September 11th, 2001. In Europe, Islam will win because of demographics. So, it needs no overt actions, there. In the U.S., Islam has already taken overt action, which it may well now be seeing as a strategic mistake. Because of the failed overt action, Americans will now be sensitive to any Islamic move within our country. But, more significant covert actions may be initiated.

Therefore, one more Interpretational frame is that of Islamic moves within the U.S.

The Interpretational Model Frames, Listed.

Major Frames and Sub-frames.

Upon compiling these frames, it becomes obvious that some are more important than others. And, some are hierarchically related to others. So, I have selected four of the frames as major, with the others tucked in below those they support. The most important interpretational frame is the Biblical context for the very end-times, which is what God's Plan is for those end-times. This context controls the times.

Next in importance is God's Plan for the end-times role of the U.S. This is probably the most important 'aha' this writer had in preparing this set of papers. Following that is the cultural and national suicides of all the nations of the Christian West, except the U.S. This was the most important new information this writer came across. Within this major frame we see a lot of things to look for, in terms of signs of the times.

Finally (for now), we have the frame of Islam versus Christianity. It is this writer's opinion that this is the least important of the major frames, compared to what has otherwise been going on in this country since 1964.

The Organized List of Frames and Sub-Frames.

- **The Biblical Controlling Context for the Very End-Times.**
 - **Church and Government Judgment as Part of God's Plan.**
 - **Restorational Activities of the Modern Christian Prophets.**
- **The U.S. as an Integral Part of God's Plan.**
 - **Historical Form and Function of American Protestantism.**
 - **Organizational Shortcomings of American Protestantism.**
- **The Cultural and National Suicide of the Post-Christian West.**
 - **Seeing the U.S. as The Last Man Standing.**
 - **Organized Internal Attack on Christianity and Americanism.**

- **Historical Evolution of the American Form of Government.**
- **Classifying Governmental Laws and Regulations by Sane Objective.**
- **Changes in U.S. Social Organization.**
- **Individual Rights Versus Individual Duties.**
- **Individual Rights Versus Group Rights.**
- **Islam Versus Christianity.**
 - **Islamic Moves Within the U.S.**

CONCLUSION.

Thus concludes the current updating of this paper.

What has been shown here, using a number of external sources, is a framework for interpreting the signs of our times, which I believe to be the very end-times, those identified by Jesus as "... *the beginning of sorrows*". The interpretation is in the overall Christian context, which is the controlling context for these times, according to the Bible. These frames are just different ways to look at what's happening in our country and in the world, and different things to look for.

Thinking about this framework like an engineer, these frames should not be thought of as a set of boxes within a super-box. Rather, they should be thought of as axes defining the space within which all the events reside. With this view, we have here a multi-axis space, within which to do our interpretation. And, an interpretation is just a subset within that space. But, enough of that. It's just for my own musing.

My hope is that this writing and the ones related to it will get into the proper hands to be of use in affecting events. The proper hands will be in the Church, and probably in some of the churches. And, that is because it is the end-times 'remnant of the remnant' that restores the Church so that it can effectively minister when things get really bad.

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