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## The Separation of State from Church

The close relationship between God and government in the Christian era was prophesied in advance (Jer. 52:31-34). It was not a serendipitous occurrence, but one orchestrated by God for strategic purpose. Central to this relationship was Satan's incarceration in the Abyss. Without that arrest, Christianity could not have gained governmental favor in Satan's kingdom. For almost 2000 years Jesus has enjoyed governmental support in this world.

Today, that patronage has been withdrawn.

When Jesus was crucified, Pontius Pilate ordered a sign nailed to His cross saying that He was the king of the Jews. As the official arbiter of Caesar and the Roman Empire in this vassal state, Pilate had full legal authority to impose such a proclamation. Jesus had already dissolved all Jewish legal authority when He wielded His whip in the Temple, driving the wicked stewards out, the day before.

Thus Pilate made Jesus, "King of the Jews".

Scripture's recognition of Jesus' coronation, the shortest monarchical reign in Judah's history can be found in the prophecies of Jeremiah in relation to Jehoiachin, the king of Israel taken prisoner to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar. Jehoiachin reigned for only 3 months before he and his mother were exiled to Babylon in 598 B.C.

"Say to the king and to the queen mother,  
"Come down from your thrones, for your  
glorious crowns will fall from your heads." (Jer  
13:18).

Locked in Nebuchadnezzar's jail, Jehoiachin, king of Judah, was later pardoned when another king (Evil-Merodach) came to power in Babylon. In

setting him free, Merodach elevated Jehoiachin's status, giving him a place above all other kings in Babylon.

"But in the thirty-seventh year of the exile of Jehoiachin king of Judah, in the twelfth month, on the twenty-fifth day of the month, Evil-merodach king of Babylon, in the year he came to the throne (562 B.C.), pardoned Jehoiachin king of Judah and released him from prison... " (Jer.52:31-).

"...He treated him kindly and allotted him a seat above those of the other kings who were with him in Babylon. So Jehoiachin laid aside his prisoner's garb, and for the rest of his life always ate at the king's table. And his upkeep was permanently ensured by the king for the rest of his life - day after day until his dying day." (Jer.52:-34).

The Babylonian pardon of Jehoiachin, the imprisoned Jewish king, relates to Constantine's "Edict of Milan" in 313 A.D. which gave Jesus and Christianity sole spiritual rule of the western world. It should be pointed out that in the Christian calendar the day of Jehoiachin's pardon (the 25th day of the 12th month) is Christmas day - a code specific to the Davidic mystery.

In his incarceration and subsequent rise to prominence in the land of his captivity, the king of Judah is shown to replicate the sale of Joseph to Egypt by his brothers. And both of those exiles point, as they were meant to, to the foundation circumstance of Christianity:

Jesus, too, was sold by His brothers - for 30 pieces of silver to the Roman authorities. Proof that Christ and the Jews were taken to Rome, just as Joseph was taken to Egypt, can be found in the fact of the Diaspora. That exile has lasted now for almost 2000 years and is still in progress.

"Writhe, cry out daughter of Zion, for now you have to leave the city and live in the open country. To Babylon you must go and there you will be rescued; There God will ransom you out of the power of your enemies." (Micah 4:10).

Just as Joseph rose out of his captivity to power in Egypt and was put in charge of Pharaoh's food stores and given sole authority to distribute those stores throughout the world of that time, Jesus, as King of the Jews was put in charge of the distribution of God's Bread of Life from Babylon to the people of our world - the food of the kingdom of heaven.

In such a manner, one after another, these step by step duplications of the metaphoric Hebrew prophecies that heralded the Christian experience offer convincing proof of its ultimate truth. Each one was made for the other by divine construct, guidance and direction.

Together, they show convincingly why Christ and world government had to be locked together during the Christian era.

Christ's authority to be soul distributor of God's message of salvation is the essential meaning behind the rule of Christianity on this earth over the last 2000 years. It is the reason for Satan's imprisonment so that this distribution could take place unimpeded, and that there be no other major competing food offered during that period.

The current eviction of God from government underscores a new reality in world Christian history. It proves the rejection by this world of Christ's offer of pardon.

Prophecy not only announced in advance the alliance between God and world government during the Day of Atonement, it also specified its end as well. Just as the governmental embrace 2000 years ago was pre-announced in the scriptures, so, too, was its cessation in the last days.

It cannot happen until the Great Revolt has  
taken place and the Rebel, the Lost One, has  
appeared." (2 Thes. 2:1)

The "Great Revolt" referenced by Paul is the withdrawel of Christian support by the nations. Paul shows that the revolt is crucial to the last day sequence, presaging it; and, in its arrival, offering convincing proof of the hour. The recent appearance of earth of that rebellion shows that we have entered the last days - the final moments of history.

Those final moments will appear shrouded in revolt and rejection - in the way God has announced the day of God must come to earth - for it is a day of darkness and gloom. It is a day Jesus called "the night"...the night when no

one can work.

"Sound the trumpet in Zion, give the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the country tremble, for the day of God is coming, yes, it is near. Day of darkness and gloom, day of cloud and blackness." (Joel 2:1-2).

"Priests, put on sackcloth and lament,. Ministers of the altar, wail. Come, pass the night in sackcloth, you ministers of my God. For the house of our God has been deprived of oblation and libation." (Joel 1:13).

Now, as further proof of that returning darkness, all the other foods in Babylon, all those that lead to death, are reappearing on the table. Neocolotian ministers are heralding their coming with calls for religious pluralism.

Salvation is based on baptism into the faith of Jesus Christ and holy behavior thereafter. That is true whether God sits in the seat of government or not. The mechanism of salvation is not altered either way. What is altered is the government's sanction of faith. When that affirmation is missing, the credibility of Christ's offer is decreased among the people with the result that fewer are encouraged even to investigate His offer of pardon.

We are not watching a slow process here. Scripture shows, not just a drop in the Light of God at the end, but one of precipitous proportions. Sunset comes at noon. The Day of Atonement is scheduled to fade suddenly. As the world plunges into Satan's darkness, the flow of those who follow will narrow to just a trickle.

"That day - it is the Lord who speaks - I will make the sun go down at noon, and darken the earth in broad daylight. I am going to turn your feasts into funerals, all your singing into lamentation." (Amos 8:9-10, Ez.32:7-8).

It is astonishing, looking at this country in relation to others in the western world to see how dramatic the revolt's exclusion of God from civic processes has been here yet how slowly the transition has progressed from belief to agnosticism and atheism. That shows a very deep and lingering faith here,

despite the intensity of those bent on destroying it. That, too, was prophesied.

"...and so it will be on earth, among the peoples...when the grape harvest is over. They lift up their voices, singing for joy; they acclaim the majesty of God from the sea. Therefore in the islands they give glory to the Lord, in the islands of the sea, to the name of the Lord, the God of Israel. From remotest earth we hear songs, 'Honor to the upright one'."

"But 'Enough, enough!' I say. 'Woe to the traitors who betray, to the traitors who treacherously betray!' Terror, the pit, the snare for you, inhabitants of the earth..." (Is.24:13-18).

There are numerous prophecies in scripture depicting the world's sudden rejection of faith in the last days at its mounting attack on the people of God. Watching that progression is like watching the hands of the clock turn inexorably toward a zero hour.

"Know this and understand: from the time this message went out: "Return and rebuild Jerusalem" to the coming of an anointed Prince, seven weeks and sixty-two weeks, with squares and ramparts restored and rebuilt, but in a time of trouble. And after the sixty-two weeks an anointed one will be cut off -- and the city and the sanctuary will be destroyed by a prince who will come." (Dan.9:25-26).

"Forces of his will come and profane the sanctuary citadel, they will abolish the perpetual sacrifice and instal the disastrous abomination there. Those who break the covenant he will corrupt by his flatteries, but the people who know their God will stand firm and take action." (Dan. 11:30).

"...they will hand you over to be tortured and

put to death; and you will be hated by all the nations on account of my name . And then many will fall away; men will betray one another and hate one another...and with the increase of lawlessness, love in most men will grow cold; but the man who stands firm to the end will be saved. " (Mt.24:10-13).

Absolutely key to all this is the imprisonment of Satan in the earliest days of the faith and in his subsequent release from prison at the end. At the start of the Christian era the Book of Revelation reveals that Michael the Archangel, together with the angels of heaven locked Satan in the Abyss for a thousand years so that the kingdom of heaven could be effectively preached on earth.

"Then I saw an angel come down from heaven with the key of the Abyss in his hand and an enormous chain. He overpowered the dragon...Satan, and chained him up for a thousand years. The angel threw Satan into the Abyss, and shut the entrance and sealed it over him to make sure he would not deceive the nations again until the thousand years had passed. At the end of that time he must be released, but only for a short while." (Rev. 20:1-3).

We have shown in other writings how God stretched that thousand-years into almost two-thousand years in fulfillment of the prophecy of Joshua so that the "Son" could shine long enough to make God's Day of Atonement into two. The same God who asked us to go two miles when asked to go one, has done likewise for us in relation to salvation.

"Is this not written in the Book of the Just? The sun stood still in the middle of the sky and delayed its setting for almost a whole day (making one day into two). There was never a day like that before or since, when God obeyed the voice of a man, for God was fighting for Israel." (Joshua 10:12-14).

At the end of the thousand-years, Satan must be released for a short time from God's imprisonment, a circumstance the world has already witnessed.

"When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison and will come out to deceive all the nations in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, and mobilise them for war." (Rv.20:7-8).

The developing attack on the church by its enemies and the eviction of Christ's guidance from governmental decision making, not just in America, but all across the western world, proves Satan is in the process of returning the world to his own control now. His mobilization of all the nations of the world for war has proved the blueprint of the 20th century.

The Book of Revelation reveals that tied to Satan's release is the liberation of the four angels chained up at the Euphrates river. All are to be set free to work their mayhem in relation to one another. The current stand of the western world at the Euphrates, battling there against the kings of the East, gives firm evidence of the impending unchaining of those angelic destroyers.

"...I heard a voice come out of the four horns...it said 'Release the four angels that are chained up at the great river Euphrates'. These four angels had been put there ready for this hour of this day of this month of this year, and now they were released to destroy a third of the human race." (Rev.9:13-15).

"The sixth angel emptied his bowl over the great river Euphrates; all the water dried up so that a way was made for the kings of the East to come in. Then from the jaws of dragon and beast and false prophet I saw three foul spirits come...demon spirits, able to work miracles, going out to all the kings of the world to call them together for the war of the Great Day of God the Almighty...they called the kings together at the place called, in Hebrew, Armageddon." (Rev.16:12-16).

These prophecies show there can be no real end to the Iraq war. The western world is locked there, frozen at a line long ago predicted, along a river steeped in prophecy, and unable to extricate itself until the invasion of the "Ten Nations" occurs. Given the confluence of all these prophecies, there

can be almost no doubt now that Satan is back on earth, or that he has joined his spiritual forces and is mobilizing them for the finality called 'Armageddon'.

That means temptation to sin will increase dramatically, as will chaos. Holiness will be harder to achieve and fewer will attempt to follow in the footsteps of Christ. But all who do will be given eternal life. All who reject Jesus will perish. The rules are the same as before. They have not changed, nor will they during the chaos that lies ahead.

Only in the holiness of Christ's Gospel is there salvation.

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Whoever Keeps My Word Will Never See Death"**

*John 8:51*