## THE TRUMP REPRIEVE AND CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM

I am revealing no secret when I say that those of us with any sort of sanity have noticed how the United States has suffered under the dictatorship of Barack Hussein Obama. In just eight years we have seen almost everything that Americans have held dear come to utter destruction. Though it was just eight short years, it seems like we have lived under the Obama regime for decades. Now his rule is coming to an end (hopefully) and come January 20, 2017, we will have a respite from evil and hopefully, we will enjoy prosperity and liberty again.

Just yesterday I read a very hateful letter on Facebook which told of how that author wished that the US would be utterly destroyed because of its disregard of Yahweh and the wanton Laodicean attitude of, as they put it, the "church at large." I wrote back to this person, knowing already that my words would fall on deaf ears and that I would be ridiculed. I explained that the "church at large" was not the "Remnant" that Yahweh always reserves unto Himself. The Remnant consists of true believers who refuse to compromise with this world and who are resolute toward being a holy and righteous people. Yes, many of us have cried out to Yahweh for Him to break the chains that have been placed upon us and the shackles that have been made tighter and tighter as the years have progressed. The "Church at large" had continued to play "Churchianity," refusing to pay any sort of attention to its own deterioration or the deterioration of the world around it.

We may never know why Yahweh worked it so that Donald Trump was elected. Personally, I believe that it is a reprieve. I am reminded of the revival that occurred during the time of King Josiah. The kings that preceded Josiah were evil, promoting idol worship. Josiah found favor in Yahweh's eyes because he sought righteousness. Josiah destroyed the idols and temples of foreign gods and reinstituted adherence to Torah and the reestablishment of the Sacrifice in Yahweh's Temple. During his reign, there was peace in the land and Israel prospered. Is Trump our King Josiah? It is quite possible. If he is, and events follow the biblical model then we have a lot to consider. I say that because after Josiah died his son Jehoahaz became king. He despised the reforms of his father. He reigned for only three months and was deposed by Pharoah Neco. After Jehoahaz the nation spiraled downward until it was finally sacked by the Babylonians and Judah was carried into exile.

My concern is that although Trump may be allowed to work wonders in reestablishing justice in our land, as well as prosperity, will the people truly repent and turn from their evil

ways? That is something that remains to be seen. Yeshua's believers during the time of Roman rule saw the same thing as the people of Josiah's day and perhaps our day. There would be malefactors that hated Christians followed by benevolent leaders that tolerated Believers in Yeshua. However, it seems that when the benefactors would die, often murdered by aspiring leaders, those aspiring leaders would again persecute true believers in Yahweh Yeshua.

What I am hearing from shallow believers is a sigh of relief that Yahweh has heard our prayers and has relented from the purification of believers. People such as those in the NAR movement actually believe that their prayers have manipulated Yahweh to remove the evil from our land. I am afraid that Christians will not remember history nor will they remember that the reprieve that we might have through a Trump administration is conditional on what the People of Yahweh do with that reprieve. Will the Church at Large seek holiness and righteousness in a time of respite or will they fall back into their old pattern of living recklessly and falling into even deeper sin?

I remembering reading years ago about an account that was related by an early Church Father, although I cannot remember where I read it. In the account, it became "fashionable" to become a Christian. People were flocking to churches and it became customary to wear a cross around one's neck. The people were quite happy that a benefactor emperor was tolerating the Christian religion. As time progressed the emperor died or was murdered and replaced by an emperor that hated Christians. The new emperor posted an edict that outlawed Christianity and that Christians would be tortured and killed. The Church Father who wrote the account said that it wasn't the edict that bothered him, but what bothered him most was the sound made by the crosses as people removed them from their necks and cast them to the ground.

So many questions will be answered over the next four or more years. Will some come back to the faith during a time of perceived freedom and liberty? If so, is their faith based on external conditions and if so, is it really faith? Will the knuckleheads in the NAR try to seize the day and grasp for power outside of Yahweh's will? Will Christians be black lights instead of bright lights? In their renewed freedom will Christians fall farther away from faith than they are already? Will the "Name it Claim it" crowd become even more hostile toward those who hold a simple and transparent faith in Yeshua? These things concern me because Christians that walk in "tradition" and those who walk in hyper-Charisma tend to ruin what Yahweh has planned for his people. If history repeats itself, the common, every day Believer in Yeshua will become targets for the hyper-religious and hyper-Charismatic Christians. Will the length of our current respite be long or short?

I do believe that the length of this reprieve will be determined on how people choose to act. Seek Yahweh continually each and every day and perhaps this respite will continue for an indeterminate amount of years. If Yahweh's people fall back into their old ways then our Josiah will die and another will take his place that will make Obama look like a good choir boy. So I exhort everyone that is celebrating what appears to be a coming new found freedom, that they live cautiously, always acting circumspectly and seeking Yahweh continually. If we do this and we ask Yahweh to heal our land then perhaps the greatest revival that the world has ever seen will start here in America and spread through the rest of the world.