



# The Bible Banner

May 2020



## “Whoso Readeth let Him Understand”

A former park ranger at Yellowstone National Park tells the story of a ranger leading a group of hikers to a fire lookout. The ranger was so intent on telling the hikers about the flowers and animals that he considered the messages on his two-way radio distracting, so he switched it off. Nearing the tower, the ranger was met by a nearly breathless lookout, who asked why he hadn't responded to the messages on his radio. A grizzly bear had been seen stalking the group, and the authorities were trying to warn them of the danger.

Any time we tune out the messages God has sent us, we put at peril not only ourselves, but also those around us. How important it is that we never turn off God's saving communication!

### **Oaty Bites Cereal** (Make Ahead)

- 2 cups oat flour  
(I just blend quick oats in the food processor)
- 2 Tbsp organic sugar
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 cup water



Mix together and pipe onto a cookie sheet (one by one) through the cake decorator bag with a large tip. Add more water as necessary for easy squeezing. Bake at 350°F until crunchy. Dehydrate more if necessary. Yields about 3 cups of cereal. Serve as dry cereal with milk. (These are a labor of love, but surprisingly, they are the favorite homemade cereal for several of my kids)

### PROFITABLE TRADITIONS

**Cultivate Preparedness** - *“Prepare thy work without, and make it fit for thyself in the field...”* Prov. 24:27

Plant something non-traditional or biblical in your garden this year.

Try a dry storage food—Barley, oats, buckwheat, wheat, flax, lentils, or dried beans. You might be surprised how much growing and threshing things like wheat and flax will help you better understand portions of the Bible.

### Quotable Quotes



**“Scripture is the key that unlocks all mysteries and solves all difficulties.”**

{Southern Watchman, April 4, 1905 par. 10}

**“Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.” Daniel 12:10**



## UNDER SIEGE

"Daddy, quick, there's another snake!" our youngest daughter hollered, yet again. Several years ago, we had a little nest of birds on the ground close to the foundation of our home. Our daughter was doing an official "bird watching" project and so was recording all the details of the babies in the nest. However, this spot turned out to be a terrible place for a nest. Time after time, we caught garter snakes that were trying to eat the helpless, baby birds. The mother and father bird would see the danger and sound the alarm, at the same time flying to safety themselves. But alas, the babies could not fly yet, and despite our best efforts at relocating the snakes and protecting the baby birds, there were just too many snakes. Sadly, in the matter of a few days, all the baby birds had been killed.

Because of the location of the nest, the abomination of the snakes, and the desolation they caused, this story always reminds me of Christ's words to His disciples recorded in Matt. 24:15,16 *"When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:"* Mark phrases this admonition a little differently, *"But when ye shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not, (let him that readeth understand,) then let them that be in Judaea flee to the mountains:"* (Mark 13:14) And Luke 21:20 is even more specific, *"And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh."* *"This warning was given to be heeded forty years after, at the destruction of Jerusalem. The Christians obeyed the warning, and not a Christian perished in the fall of the city."* {Desire of Ages, pg. 630}

Sadly, despite Jesus' admonition for those who **read to understand**, today, these references are often neglected or misunderstood.

This is perhaps, in part, because the words included a dual meaning—one for the disciples at the destruction of Jerusalem, and another for God's people at the end of the world. Thankfully, because we can now see the historic fulfillment of these words for the disciples, it can help us to understand their import for us. *"In verse 15 [of Matthew 24] the Saviour ..." was "making evident allusion to the prophecy of Dan.9:26, 27, in which Rome in its pagan form is called an 'abomination.'" {Synopsis of the Present Truth, Smith, p.183}* In fact, in the 1549 Matthews Bible, the middle of Daniel 9:27 is actually translated as *"... there shalbe an abominable desolacion, till it haue destroyed all."*

Christ's warning meant, *"When the idolatrous standards of the Romans should be set up in the holy ground, which extended some furlongs outside the city walls, then the followers of Christ were to find safety in flight."* {Great Controversy, pg. 26}

In other words, there was a zone that extended around Jerusalem -- where if enemies entered, it would be considered an attack, much as we have "no fly zones" around critical areas today.

*"It may be a fact worth mentioning that during the second, third, fourth, and fifth centuries of the Christian era, next to the eagle, the dragon was the principal standard of the Rome legions; and that dragon was painted red."* {The Marvel of Nations, U.Smith, 1887, pg. 98} Perhaps, the standard of the eagle is why Jesus followed His admonition concerning the destruction of Jerusalem with that recorded in Matt. 24:28 *"For wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together."* (See Lam. 4:19; Deut. 28:26) In Revelation 12:3, we are also told of a "red dragon".



In the history of the destruction of Jerusalem, we find a first siege, commenced by Cestius in A.D. 66. Then there is an unexplainable withdrawal of the Roman troops. At this time, without delay, the Christians fled the city and Judea, before the Roman troops came back and surrounded the city in 70 A.D. under Titus as general.

*"When Cestius Gallus, in October, A.D. 66, drew his legions up around Jerusalem, and commenced the siege of the devoted city, the disciples recognized the sign; and when, without any visible cause, he suddenly withdrew it, they saw their opportunity, and fled in haste, as the Lord had instructed them. Safe sheltered in the little village of Pella, they escaped the horrors of Jerusalem's overthrow."* {Synopsis of the Present Truth, Smith, p.183}

*"It [the second siege and destruction of Jerusalem] was in the year 70, and at the Passover (13th April), when multitudes of Jews from all parts of the world were gathered into Jerusalem for the feast, and precisely three and one half Jewish years from the Feast of Tabernacles [October] at which Cestius came up, that Titus and the Roman armies arrived before Jerusalem."*—"Chronology of the Holy Scriptures," Henry Browne, p. 387, 388 {1922, HBS 291.2}

Terrible were the calamities recorded that fell upon Jerusalem when the siege was resumed by Titus. By stubborn rejection of divine love and mercy, the Jews had caused the protection of God to be withdrawn from them, and Satan was permitted to rule them according to his will. Because of the selfishness and contention of the Jews inside the city, the horrors of starvation were experienced.

A measure of wheat was sold for a talent. So fierce were the pangs of hunger that men would gnaw the leather of their belts and sandals and the covering of their shields. Thousands perished from famine and pestilence. Natural affection seemed to have been destroyed. Husbands robbed their wives, and wives their husbands. Children would be seen snatching the food from the mouths of

their aged parents. Again was fulfilled the warning prophecy given over fourteen centuries before: *"The tender and delicate woman among you, which would not adventure to set the sole of her foot upon the ground for delicateness and tenderness, her eye shall be evil toward the husband of her bosom, and toward her son, and toward her daughter, . . . and toward her children which she shall bear: for she shall eat them for want of all things secretly in the siege and straitness..."* Deuteronomy 28:56, 57

In the fate of Jerusalem, we may behold the doom of a world that has rejected God's mercy and trampled upon His law. *"The ruin of Jerusalem was a symbol of the final ruin that shall overwhelm the world. The prophecies that received a partial fulfillment in the overthrow of Jerusalem have a more direct application to the last days."* {Mount of Blessing, pg. 120-121}

As we behold commotion in the world and hear again the alarm of war from contending factions, we begin to recognize the terrors of that day when the restraining Spirit of God shall be wholly withdrawn from the wicked, no longer to hold in check the outburst of human passion and satanic wrath! The world will then behold, as never before, the resulting horrors of Satan's rule.

The lessons for us today, are too numerous to here expound, so we will cover just two. Luke 19:42-44 records why this happened *"If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes. For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, and shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation."* Today, the world is involved in a deception similar to that which caused the destruction of Jerusalem. The great sin of the Jews was their rejection of Christ; the great sin of the world today will be their rejection of the law of God, the foundation of His government in heaven and earth. We see the precepts of Jehovah despised and set at naught. Millions are refusing to listen to the words of truth in their day of visitation.

Lesson #1—When Christ/Truth knocks at your heart's door, recognize the time of your visitation and don't reject Him.

Lesson #2 --Discern the signs of the times and with no delay, heed the warning. Flee to the *"Mountain of the LORD"*, commit to *"walk in His paths"* (Micah 4:1,2) and accept the gift of His *"righteousness"* which *"is like the great mountains."* (Psalm 36:6)

For all the other lessons contained in this history we leave you with the words of Christ, *"Whoso readeth, let him understand..."*



## The Chase

*Several years ago an eastern paper reported this story: One evening a woman was driving home when she noticed a huge truck behind her that was driving uncomfortably close. She stepped on the gas to gain some distance from the truck, but when she sped up, the truck did too. The faster she drove, the faster the truck did.*

*Now scared, she exited the freeway. But the truck stayed with her. The woman then turned up a main street, hoping to lose her pursuer in traffic. But the truck ran a red light and continued the chase. Reaching the point of panic, the woman whipped her car into a service station and bolted out of her auto screaming for help.*

*The truck driver sprang from his truck and ran toward her car. Yanking the back door open, the driver pulled out a man hidden in the back seat. The woman was running from the wrong person.*

*From his high vantage point, the truck driver had spotted a would-be rapist in the woman's car. The chase was not his effort to harm her but to save her even at the cost of his own safety.*

*Likewise, many people run from God, fearing what He might do to them. But His plans are "thoughts of peace, and not of evil" Jeremiah 29:11*

*When mankind sinned, the throne of Satan was set in this world. He was on our track. But for the joy of seeing souls rescued from the hand of the destroyer, Christ endured the cross, letting nothing deter Him from His rescue mission.*

*In fact, it is written, "For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil." (1 John 3:8b) Instead of running, why not thank Jesus for His rescue mission today?*



## Prophetic News Notes – Old News of a New Age

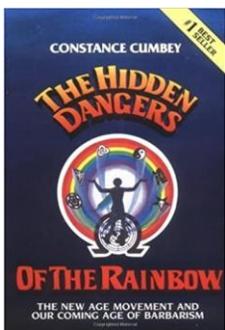
In the wake of the coronavirus “panic-demic”, there has been an unprecedented amount of conspiracy theories, misinformation, and propaganda to sift through in order to get the facts. Frankly, I believe Jesus’ warning in Matthew 24:6 *“And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars..”* is the most accurate news of the day. In other words, there will be real news and fake news. Everything we read and hear must be sifted by the Truth—the Word of God. Having said that, I believe one reason there are so many conspiracy theories is that we are “chasing” Revelation’s seven-headed dragon. If you succeed in exposing one of his heads, he has six other heads you haven’t discovered yet. Plus, the biblical description alludes to the fact that this “beast” is elusive almost like a secret society. It *“was and is not, and yet is.”* And then there is the woman [a church] riding the dragon/beast. I believe some are so focused on what the woman is doing, that they are completely missing the actions of the beast upon which she is riding.



*“And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns. The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.”* Revelation 17:7, 8

Strangely, besides the Bible, one of the most “on target” sources I have read recently is old news-- a 1983 book called “The Hidden Dangers of the Rainbow”. It is the thorough work of Constance Cumbey, a Christian attorney, who spent years researching/exposing the New Age Agenda (reading “hundreds of books on the subject”). Although Constance doesn’t always line up her findings with Bible prophecy in exactly the way I would, the concepts she shares from her research mesh perfectly with what is predicted in the Sure Word of Prophecy. For example, although the low level New Ager may not recognize it, “The New Age” of which she speaks is simply the worship of Lucifer/Satan coming as *“an angel of light”*. (2 Cor. 11:14) Indeed, this often takes place in *“the secret chambers.”* (Matt. 24:26) And I believe the New Age is one aspect that has grown out of the secret societies (like the Jacobins) represented by *“the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit”* that made war on God’s Word at the time period of the French Revolution. (Rev. 11:7). What must be understood is that *“Spiritualism is now changing its form and, veiling some of its more objectionable features, is assuming a Christian guise...Pleasing, bewitching fables captivate the senses and lead men to reject the Bible as the foundation of their faith. Christ is as verily denied as before; but Satan has so blinded the eyes of the people that the deception is not discerned.”* {GC 557, 558}

**So what is the New Age agenda set forth by the higher level New Agers and revealed in “Hidden Dangers of the Rainbow”?**



**And how does it compare to Bible prophecy [our bracketed notes]?** The book states, *“The Great Invocation\* [a New Age prayer—1 Tim. 4:1] refers to the Plan. It says, ‘Let Light and Love and Power restore The Plan on Earth.’ What is the Plan? It includes the installation of a New World ‘Messiah’, the implementation of a new world government [Rev. 17:13--these have one mind] and a new world religion under Maitreya. [a false Christ—Mark 13:22] They have numerous political, social and economic goals, including the following:*

- A universal credit card system [Rev. 18:3,23 merchants]
- A world food authority which would control the world’s food supply [Rev. 13:17—no buy, no sell]
- A universal tax. [James 5:4--the hire of the labourers...is of you kept back by fraud]
- A universal draft.[ Rev. 18:13 --slaves, and souls of men]

*But there is more to The Plan---they intend to utterly root out people who believe the Bible and worship God and to completely stamp out Christianity.”* (Pg. 20) [Rev. 12:17—dragon wrath with commandment keepers]

On page 41, a few more details are added, *“The political goals of the Movement include a mandatory New World Religion... establishment of a World Food Authority, World Health Authority [Rev. 18:23— “by thy sorceries were all nations deceived.” — Greek word for sorceries is “pharmakeia” meaning medication], World Water Authority [Lam. 5:2,4], etc... (pg. 41)*

**How likely is it that this socialistic sounding Agenda will play out if God allows?**

The good news is, ultimately, God is in control. Daniel 2:21 says, *“He removeth kings, and setteth up kings.”* However, sometimes God allows things that are not His first choice to play out. This is evidenced in Hosea 8:4, *“They have set up kings, but not by me...”* It appears that unless God stops things, everything is in place for the New Age Agenda. *“According to Marilyn Ferguson and other New Age sources, they [the New Age conspirators] are in every city and institution in the world. Their people are in the United Nations, prominent scientific, legal and medical circles and even at the congressional and cabinet levels of the United States government... ‘They are in corporations, universities, and hospitals, on the faculties of public schools, in factories...in state and federal agencies...in volunteer organizations, in virtually all arenas of policy-making in the country.’”* (pg. 24, 25, 30) And that was before 1983.

As Christians, our duty is not to fear but to heed Romans 13:11 *“And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.”*

\* A prayer for the worship of Lucifer said to be “A Mantram for the New Age--The Great Invocation is a world prayer translated into over 80 languages and dialects. It was given to Alice Bailey in April 1945 in a message for all people of goodwill.” [https://www.lucistrust.org/the\\_great\\_invocation](https://www.lucistrust.org/the_great_invocation)



## A Food Conspiracy?

Recently, someone forwarded a YouTube video link to us, but before we got to watch the video it had been removed. We found another location that it had been re-uploaded and forwarded it on, but before some of the people we forwarded it to had gotten a chance to watch it, it had again been removed again. You would have to be blind to think there is not a conspiracy to suppress “unapproved” information going on, but how deep is the conspiracy and does it affect our food? Some of the theories I have heard have included the food system and how food will be rationed; some have even stated that our food would be chemically created in a lab instead of grown on farms.

One doesn't have to theorize today—the facts already sit on the store shelves in many places. Recently, I read that *“General Mills has been hit with a second putative class action lawsuit alleging that shoppers are being misled by ‘natural’ claims on Annie’s salad dressings containing xanthan gum....”*<sup>1</sup>

Xanthan gum is used as an alternative to gluten and is used in many gluten-free products. Its use has recently risen steeply as a binding agent in baking and as a thickener in many other common food and personal care products from cheese substitutes and salad dressings to toothpaste and shampoos—even those marked vegan and organic.

Its clean looking white powder doesn't really raise the suspicions of most people to its shocking origins. The following description still leaves out a bit of the truth. *“Xanthan gum is made from a bacteria found on the leaf surfaces of green vegetables, including broccoli, brussels sprouts, cauliflower, cabbage, kale, rutabaga and turnip. The bacteria is fermented (much like cheese or wine), then dried and ground into powder.”*<sup>2</sup>

But let's dig a little deeper. *“Xanthan gum (/ˈzænθən/) is a polysaccharide .... and derives its name from the species of bacteria used, Xanthomonas campestris.....”*<sup>3</sup> OK, now the connect point—*“Xanthan gum derives its name from the species of bacteria used during the fermentation process, Xanthomonas campestris. This is the same bacterium responsible for causing black rot to form on broccoli, cauliflower, and other leafy vegetables.”*<sup>3</sup> Here perhaps a picture is worth a thousand words. How about this for a Headline, *“Mothers now urge Children to eat Rotten Broccoli since Bacterial ‘Miracle’ turns Plant Disease into New Best-selling ‘Health’ Food”*

Berkeley
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

PlantDiseases.org  
World Encyclopedia of Plant Bacterial Diseases

### BLACK ROT | Broccoli



**DISEASE:** Black rot

**HOST:** Broccoli (*Brassica oleracea* var. *italica*)

Blight and rot of flower buds.

**PATHOGEN:** *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *campestris*

SOURCE: M. Shurtieff

*“Actually the way that xanthan gum is manufactured is quite fascinating:*

1. *First, it is produced when glucose, sucrose or lactose is fermented by the bacteria, which infects many cruciferous plants (like cauliflower and cabbage) and causes diseases, such as bacterial wilt and black rot.*
2. *Then, it is precipitated (made into a solid) by isopropyl alcohol.*
3. *After being dried, it is ground into fine powder so it can be added to liquid to form gum.”*<sup>4</sup>

So how does this bacteria affect plants? *“After gaining access to a plant’s vascular tissues, the bacteria use the glucose transported in those tissues to produce a sticky, gumlike substance [xanthan]. This substance builds up to form gumlike masses, which eventually block the plants transport of nutrients.”*<sup>5</sup>

However, most sources state that xanthan is safe for human consumption with only minor side effects. Notwithstanding, The Journal of Pediatrics for August 2012 reported *“Late Onset Necrotizing Enterocolitis in Infants following Use of a Xanthan Gum-Containing Thickening Agent”*<sup>6</sup> *“Necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC) is the death of tissue in the intestine. It occurs most often in premature or sick babies. NEC occurs when the lining of the intestinal wall dies.”*<sup>7</sup>

So now we have black rot bacteria, meshed with rubbing alcohol, creating xanthan, which has been shown to cause tissue death in babies. Why not add a little more biotechnology? *“The average American consumes more than 30 pounds of cheese annually, and every pound of cheese creates 9 pounds of the liquid by-product called whey. When researchers at the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) wanted to find some useful product that could be made out of whey, they thought of turning it into xanthan. However, because whey is mostly water and lactose, researchers had to figure out how to get X. campestris to produce xanthan using lactose rather than glucose...[fast-forward]...The final result was a process in which 40g/L of whey powder is converted into 30 g/L of xanthan gum. A quick survey of labels in your neighborhood supermarket will demonstrate just how successful this product was.”*<sup>8</sup>

A few questions come to mind--- #1—Is xanthan natural? Do you naturally eat rotten broccoli?

#2—Is xanthan always vegan? Apparently not.

#3--Is xanthan food? According to Webster's 1828 dictionary, food is *“In a general sense, whatever is eaten by animals for nourishment, and whatever supplies nutriment to plants.”* Does black rot supply nutriment to plants?

#4—Should we be eating xanthan gum? That is for you to decide for yourself. I'll be replacing it with real foods that grow on plants instead of killing plants. Some foods that have similar characteristics include the gel from chia and flaxseed, or guar gum (from a bean similar to green beans) and locust bean gum (carob), or even psyllium husk. Consider the words of Proverbs 30:8, "Remove far from me vanity and lies... feed me with food convenient [ordinary, regular\*] for me:"

1- <https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2017/08/31/General-Mills-hit-with-new-natural-lawsuit-over-xanthan-gum>  
 2- <https://www.foodingredientfacts.org/facts-on-food-ingredients/sources-of-food-ingredients/xanthan-gum/>  
 3- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xanthan\\_gum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xanthan_gum) 4- <https://draxe.com/nutrition/what-is-xanthan-gum/> 5. Microbiology, An Introduction—11th Edition, Tortora, Funke, Case, p. 808  
 6-- The Journal of Pediatrics Volume 161, Issue 2, August 2012, Pages 354-356 <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22575248>  
 7-- <https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001148>. \* 1744 French Martin Bible renders the word convenient as "ordinaire" meaning ordinary or regular.

# Kids' Corner GOD'S AMAZING HUMANS

Your Body is like a castle.  
The Immune system is like the soldiers and walls that protect it.

Jesus made your immune system to protect you against germs that would make you sick.

Jesus made your Skin to help protect you against germs. The outside layer of your skin, called the epidermis, has special cells that warn the body about incoming germs.

Glands in the skin also make substances that can kill some germs called bacteria (anti-bacterial chemicals). This means you don't usually get infections on your skin unless your skin is damaged, such as by a cut.

Sometimes germs try to get in through your mouth, eyes or nose. Jesus made the nose and mouth with little walls called mucous membranes to protect you. Saliva (spit) in the mouth, and the tears which wash your eyes, have special enzymes (chemicals) in them which help kill germs.

The mucous that is made in your nose, throat and lungs traps bacteria, viruses and dust.

Sometimes you get a cut and bleed. Your blood has red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets in it. Jesus made the white blood cells to help protect you from germs. If you have ever had a pimple, the white stuff you see is white blood cells that came to help get rid of the infection.

Different kinds of white blood cells have different jobs, just like people have different jobs.

Neutrophils are like "first responders" or ambulance drivers. They move around and find things that don't belong in your body especially bacteria.

Macrophages are the biggest blood cells. They help clean wounds and call for more white blood cells to help.

Jesus made them so they "eat" germs and worn-out cells, so we can be healthy.

Have you ever had the tonsils in your neck swell? Bacteria or viruses that have entered the body are collected by a clear fluid called lymph and passed on to the lymph nodes (like your tonsils) where they are filtered out and destroyed.

Lymphocytes are a type of white blood cell. Jesus helps the lymphocytes to remember the germs that they have seen before so they can get rid of the germs that make us sick.

The Bible tells us David praised God saying, "I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well." Psalm 139:14

I'm thankful Jesus made our immune system so amazing that it can help us not to get sick. Aren't You?

## STUDY TO SHOW THYSELF APPROVED—What saith the Scriptures?



Last month, we learned the third definition for corona in the Latin dictionary was “a military technical term, ‘the besiegers of a city’”

(Cassell's Latin Dictionary (Latin-English), ©1968 by Wiley Publishing)

and certainly, some of us feel as if we are under siege as several of our basic human rights are being taken away. Many are wondering what should be the Christian's response—should we wear the mask, stay at home, follow the rules-- even when they are ridiculous? What about forced vaccination? Where is the line? What saith the Scriptures?



In Bible times, the Jews were oppressed under Roman rule. **Interestingly, Paul did much of his work under “house arrest”** (Acts 28:16,30; Phm. 9,10). However, the Zealots were those who rebelled against Roman rule and fought for Jewish independence. According to Josephus they resorted to violence in their hatred of the foreigners. Let's take a look at Jesus' advice in situations where Roman leaders were overstepping their rightful bounds.

**Consider this scene during the Sermon on the Mount,** “A detachment of the Roman troops was encamped nearby... and Jesus is now interrupted by the loud blast of the trumpet which is the signal for the soldiers to assemble on the plain below. They form in the regular order, bowing in homage to the Roman standard which is uplifted before them.... Presently messengers are dispatched from the army, with orders to various distant posts. As they toil up the abrupt bank that borders the shore, they are brought near to the listening crowd that surrounds Jesus, and they force some of the Jewish peasants to carry their burdens for them up the steep ascent. The peasants resist this act of oppression, and address their persecutors with violent language; but they are finally compelled to obey the soldiers, and perform the menial task required of them. This exhibition of Roman authority stirs the people with indignation, and they turn eagerly to hear what the great Teacher will say of this cruel act of oppression.....” {2SP 222, 223}

**Thankfully, the Bible gives us a record of Jesus' response and counsel:**

*Matt 5:38-48 -- Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloke also. **And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain.** Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away.*

*Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and **pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;** That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same... Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.*

**Some Balancing Statements to be considered from Scripture**

Calling, appealing and remonstrating for Justice is appropriate— Isaiah 1:17; Luke 18:1-8; Isaiah 59:4; Acts 25:10,11; Acts 28:18,19

**On another occasion, Jesus defined and contrasted exactly where to draw the line.**

*Mark 12:13-17 -- And they send unto him certain of the Pharisees and of the Herodians, to catch him in his words.*

*And when they were come, they say unto him, Master, we know that thou art true, and carest for no man: for thou regardest not the person of men, but teachest the way of God in truth: Is it lawful to give tribute to Caesar, or not?*

*Shall we give, or shall we not give? But he, knowing their hypocrisy, said unto them, Why tempt ye me? bring me a penny, that I may see it. And they brought it. And he saith unto them, **Whose is this image and superscription?** And they said unto him, Caesar's.*

*And Jesus answering said unto them, **Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.** And they marvelled at him. (For what “is God's,” and appropriate responses, consider --Gen.1:26,27; 1 Cor. 3:16,17; Matt. 4:5,10)*

**Biblical examples of what to do when the laws of man conflict with the Law of God.**

*Daniel 3:16,18 -- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, **we are not careful to answer thee in this matter.** ..But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that **we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.** (Read Daniel. 3)*

*Daniel 6:4,5-- Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him. Then said these men, **We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God.** (Read Daniel. 6)*

*Acts 5:29 -- Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, **We ought to obey God rather than men.***

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