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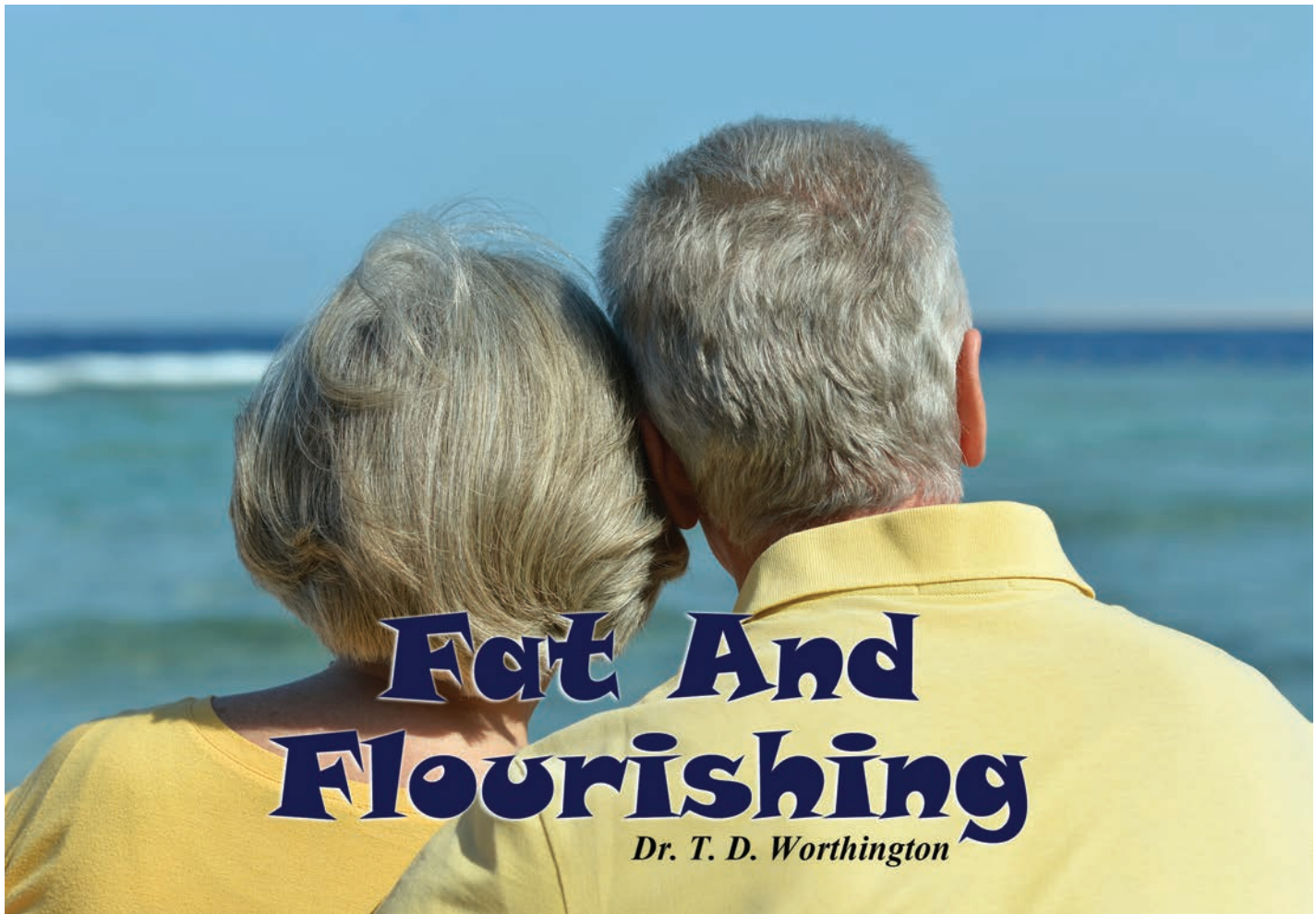
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“Those that be planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing;”
Psalm 92:13-14

Did you know that Mickey Mouse is enjoying his retirement years? You wouldn't know it, just by looking at him. He doesn't seem a day older than when he first appeared on the scene. Yet Mickey Mouse is 94 years old. Not bad when the average mouse only lives for 2 years. Although Mickey is much older than me, he seems to get around a lot better than I do.

To say we live in a youth-oriented culture is an understatement. Older people in our society are often looked upon as a burden to the

young. The market place gives little attention to the elderly, and when it does, it seems to perpetuate the myth that aging is always a bad thing. Let's face it, what do you see advertised for the elderly on TV; you would think all we ever need is Burial Insurance, Denture Cream, Ex-Lax, and Depends. Even church ministry and outreach are geared toward the young. That helps to explain two worship services in many churches.

I recently studied an interesting Scripture in **Numbers 8:23-26**, where the Lord said to Moses, *“And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, This is it that belongeth unto the Levites: from twenty and five years old and upward they shall go in to wait upon the service of the tabernacle*

of the congregation: And from the age of fifty years they shall cease waiting upon the service thereof, and shall serve no more: But shall minister with their brethren in the tabernacle of the congregation, to keep the charge, and shall do no service. Thus shalt thou do unto the Levites touching their charge.”

I was astounded when I first discovered this verse. The Levites were men officially set apart by God for various ministry functions in the service of the Lord's tabernacle and later in His temple. And God directed them to retire from their fulltime regular ministries at the age of 50!

As they got closer to their “senior” years, God had them turn their regular ministry duties over to

younger Levites. They could assist these younger ministers, but they themselves could not do the ministry work that they had formerly done. Essentially, this verse was saying to them: Do your “regular service” up until a certain age. For the Levites it was 50; for Aaron the priest it was considerably older. But the point is, at some point in our ministries there may come a time to turn our ministry roles over to the next generation. I am not referring to retiring from Christian service, but modifying your Christian service to something more adapted to your stamina and strength.

Moses led Israel until he died at the age of 120! Now that is certainly the exception, not the rule. The point here is that our natural strength, vigor, and health definitely matter and will help us determine the “when” for our transition into new, fruit-bearing activities, better suited with our age, energy, and health. Then we notice King David...

“Moreover the Philistines had yet war again with Israel; and David went down, and his servants with him, and fought against the Philistines: and David waxed faint. And Ishbubenob, which was of the sons of the giant, the weight of whose spear weighed three hundred shekels of brass in weight, he being girded with a new sword, thought to have slain David. But Abishai the son of Zeruiah succoured him, and smote the Philistine, and killed him. Then the men of David swore unto him, saying, Thou shalt go no more out with us to battle, that thou quench not the light of Israel.”

II Samuel 21:15-17

Here the aging King David desired to keep going out to battle with his men. But due to his age, he became exhausted. Others had to come to his rescue and save the once great soldier king from being killed by a Philistine. David’s men realized that they needed to step up and replace their elderly king on the battlefield, so they exhorted him to let them carry the burden of the battles from then on.

Next, we are reminded of the ministry of the older ladies in the church...

“The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.”

Titus 2:3-5

Older ladies, you have a great ministry opportunity to the younger ladies in your circle of family and friends. The best teachers of womanly virtues to the young women are the older women who

have learned important lessons over a lifetime. Our society is desperately short of godly role models. Sad to say, this is true even in many of our churches.

There is much fruit to be borne in your later years by being a good example of faithfulness, loyalty, honesty, integrity, prayerfulness, and other aspects of godly character. Even if in your later years you don’t hold some “official” role in your church, you can have a profound impact on others by the honorable example you set for them. Believe me, young people need to see such role models.

An important key to all this is found in our text verse: ***“...shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing.”*** It says they will flourish in the church. Stay devoted to the “house of God.” Be there when the doors are open. And go from there built up, energized spiritually, and flourishing in fruitful ministry opportunities even into your old age! I remind you...

Abraham and Sarah began their family when he was over 100 and she passed 90. They became a





blessing to all the nations of the earth.

Joseph was the leader of his family until a ripe old age, Moses became the leader of Israel when he was 80 and continued to lead them until his death at 120.

The apostle John wrote the Book of Revelation when he was well into his 90's.

At 65, Winston Churchill became British Prime Minister and while he was in his 70's wrote his multi-volume work History of the British People.

At 72, Golda Meir became Prime Minister of Israel.

At 75, Ed Delano of California bicycled 90 miles a day for a total of 3100 miles in 33 days to attend his 50th college reunion in Worcester, Massachusetts!

Colonel Harlan Sanders began Kentucky Fried Chicken when he was 66.

“Thou shalt rise up before the hoary (grey hair) head, and honour the face of the old man, and fear thy God: I am the LORD.”

Leviticus 19:32

The late General Douglas MacArthur wrote something very profound about aging on his 75th birthday: ***“In the central place of every heart there is a recording chamber; so long as it receives messages of beauty, hope, cheer, and courage, so long are you young. When the wires are all down and your heart is covered with the snows of pessimism and the ice of cynicism, then, and then only are you grown old.”***

In the secular world, when we reach retirement age, we can often afford to take life easy. We can enjoy life, travel around the world, take up new hobbies, or just sit on the porch. But where God is concerned, there's no retirement age. Christians are to run the race to the end. Anna and Caleb are two Biblical examples. Older believers have entered a new and wonderful phase of life with different opportunities. These years can be among the most fruitful of your life for Christ, if you will make them so for Him.

As you get older, you will arrive at the apex of life. You have arrived at the top of the mountain where you can breathe the rare atmosphere of a long life of experience, knowledge, honor, and you'll have an excellent view that none of those below you

have ever seen. You have crossed many bridges, passed many crossroads, but you are still here—*and you are here for a reason.* The wrinkles in your face are marks of distinction that show character traits, laugh lines, and worries. Your tomorrows may be in short supply, but you can dream dreams of yesteryear, and rejoice in the life you have lived, and in the days that remain. You came through the hard knocks of experience and can teach others a few things about life. Life has given you a wealth of knowledge that cannot be learned in books. You have seen more changes in a lifetime than any generation has seen.

Notice this promise given in Isaiah: ***“Hearken unto me, O house of Jacob, and all the remnant of the house of Israel, which are borne by me from the belly, which are carried from the womb: And even to your old age I am he; and even to hoar hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you.”***

Isaiah 46:3-4

My young friend, if God grants you long life, one day you will grow old. My elderly friend, one day you will make it home. Until then, live courageously for the One who died for you. Don't throw your life away on the American dream of retirement. Don't settle for anything less than the joy of magnifying Christ in your latter years. As for me, *I want to be a fat and flourishing old man.*



Dr. Worthington has been in the ministry for over forty five years and serves as President of Pathway Ministries and Christian Bible College.



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Almost There!

It is finished! What a wonderful thing to hear at the end of any project. As most of you know, we are very close to finishing our **Spring Share-A-Thon** with the help of our many friends and **Faith Partners**. Our last **Mini Spring Share-A-Thon** will begin on **April 13th**. What a joy it has been so far to have so many calls and letters of support for GoMix Christian Radio! We're not there yet, but we know we'll soon be able to say, "It is finished!" We hope we can count on you to help us cross that finish line and

reach our goal of \$250,000.00.

As Easter approaches, it's such a great time to reflect on the many ways our Lord has blessed us. From the manger to the resurrection, He's sacrificed so much for us. Even now, over 2000 years later, He still promises to be with us, provide for our needs, and one day return to call us home to be with Him. Oh, how much He loves His children! If we could truly grasp the understanding of His love for us, how different would our lives be?

Not only is Easter a great time to reflect on the ways He has blessed us, it's also a great time to reflect on the many ways we could be a blessing to Him in return. Do we need to spend more time in prayer and in His Word? Do we need to

take the time to reach out to someone in need? Do we need to show the love of God to those around us that might be a little harder to love? The possibilities are endless. There are so many ways we could be a blessing to Him. Be sure to take the time over this Resurrection Season to thank the Lord for all He's done and challenge yourself to do more for Him.



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Spring Fever

Over the next few weeks, we are going to experience a time of great change in our world. I am speaking of the change of seasons. People are going to begin coming out of their shell and be alive. They will be found taking their trips to the beach. Lawn mowers and weed eaters are beginning to fire up. Flowers are blooming. Butterflies will soon grace our gardens and the fireflies will make our evenings sparkle with their magic. This is the season we call spring.

For many, winter is just days of dark, dreary, miserable weather. Even Paul told Timothy he hoped he could make it before the winter. Jesus said about the tribulation, pray that your flight not be in the winter. Maybe that's you! You have been waiting several months for the return of warmer weather. You are getting a case of "*Spring Fever*."

Can you imagine the "*Spring Fever*" that Noah and his family must have had? They had been penned down in the dark dampness of the ark for over a year. You might enjoy visiting the zoo, but most of us would not want to camp out in a floating barn for a solid year!

Can you imagine the excitement when they finally stepped off the ark?

That is somewhat like the way we feel here at **GoMix**. Due to the Covid pandemic and the current financial crisis, we have had to put off a lot of projects that really needed to be done. We have the excitement of a "*Spring Fever*" as we might finally be able to replace some aging equipment that has hung on to life since 1998. Much of it has been repaired several times, but now parts are almost impossible to find.

That is one of the reasons we pray our **Spring Share-A-Thon** will be successful. Not only are we raising the funds to keep our 10 stations on the air, we are also replacing some aging equipment which is now prone to failure. ***Please, if you have not already given,*** won't you prayerfully consider supporting our spring fund drive? The final thrust to reach our \$250,000.00 goal will be on **April 13-15**.

Sincerely,
T. D. Worthington



Roller coasters are fun for many people. I used to enjoy them when I was a teenager and perhaps in my early twenties. The last time I rode a roller coaster I was jerked around so much I was sore for days. I never rode a roller coaster again.

There are several things in my life I have put aside because of the pain involved, the time involved, or honestly, the value I see in them now that I am older. We change as we get older. Hopefully, we have gotten wiser and closer to our Lord. But it doesn't always happen that way.

I see so many older people who do not seem any wiser than they were when they were young. They have aged, and they have the gray hair, but they still do the same stupid things they did when they were young. Many older people still only care about themselves. It makes it difficult to care for them in their old

age. I knew someone that was very selfish and nothing you did for him was good enough. He could not be pleased. His son tried to make him happy, and it was of no use. The son ended up having to place him in someone else's care to save his own family. How sad. The Dad did not have a physical limitation, nor was his mental capacity diminished. I think we all know that someone who has dementia or another disease has a reason for his change. That is understandable, but this man was just a mean, grouchy old man. His son was a Christian man and was willing to take care of him, but he could not. The father was too much of a negative force in his son's home.

I would like to think that it is only lost people who behave this way, but we all know people who claim to be Christians who are negative and selfish. It is not a joy to be around them. One would hope

that as we get older, we would get sweeter. As my husband has preached on many occasions, if you don't conquer your sins when you are young, it is much more difficult when you get old.

Why do we not conquer these things in our lives? We just ride a roller coaster and never truly surrender these areas to our Lord. I don't know about you, but there are some areas of my life that are just not a struggle anymore, but there are others that still give me trouble. I think sometimes Christians become grouchy old people because we realize how we have wasted the years that God gave us.

Perhaps we are like Saul in the Bible who filled his life with jealousy and pride. He wanted to be the best and the most praised, but David became the hero of Israel instead. He spent most of his time hating David and trying to kill him. He never reached his potential as king or with God. In fact, he met an early death because of his disobedience. Perhaps we are like Judas and we have another God in our life besides our Heavenly Father. We want riches and power. Judas betrayed our Lord for thirty pieces of silver. Do we betray Him because we want to have more material possessions? Is the almighty dollar causing problems in our families? Perhaps we spend too freely or maybe we hold on to it tightly. Our assurance is in our bank account instead of our Lord. Do we not tithe or give to the Lord's work because we feel we need it more?

And, of course there is Lot, the nephew of Abraham. He loved the world. When given the opportunity

to choose land, he chose what was best for him and not his uncle. This portrayed selfishness. He stayed in Sodom which was a sin-sick city. When he tried to get his future sons-in-law to come with him to safety, they laughed at him. He had no credibility. He apparently did not have a reputation as a Godly man. When he was in Sodom and the angels warned him to leave, he lingered. He did not want to leave. They had to grab hold of him. He obviously loved the world he had made his own.

What about us? Do we love this present world more than we love God? I believe we do not obey God's calling for so many reasons. In our ministry, I believe people do not come to serve because they want more money or they do not want to work the number of hours that is required. Ministry work is not a 9 to 5 job. They want the benefits a secular job has to offer. I realize that everyone is not called to full-time ministry service. We all should serve in the capacity God calls us to. My Dad was a great witness as a mailman, and he served as a lay person in the church. That was his full-time calling. But he would have been willing had God called him to full-time service in a ministry. Sadly, there must be many people who are called and refuse to serve.

The love of the world also pulls us in other directions. Perhaps we want to be popular and go places that we shouldn't. We want to dress like the world and go with their modern fashions. We want to listen to their music and watch their movies. Maybe other people are keeping us from serving. They

are too caught up in the world. Sometimes our spouses don't want us to serve because they just don't want to be inconvenienced. We know people who have not been able to surrender to the call to preach because their wives did not want to be married to preachers. We also know a lady who wanted to play the piano at church, but her husband did not want her to. He did not want her to be committed to being at church every service as well as choir practice. So the



spouses are put in a position to have to choose.

As you grow older, do not look back on your life with regrets. Serve our Lord today with vigor and dedication. Get off the roller coaster and surrender completely to His will. Maybe look ahead and defeat your besetting sin.

My daughter gave me this verse many years ago, and I put it on my refrigerator. I want it to be my prayer. As you grow older, perhaps you would like this to be your prayer, too.

“O God, thou hast taught me from my youth: and hitherto have I declared thy wondrous works. Now also when I am old and grey headed, O God, forsake me not; until I have shewed thy strength unto this generation, and thy power to everyone that is to come.”
Psalm 71:17-18.

Do you want to be a grumpy old person? If not, then conquer those besetting sins and live the life our heavenly Father would have you to live. Practice now and be a joyful Christian who is walking with God. Are we going to mess up? As long as we are residents of this earth, we will. Our hearts need to have a desire to please Jesus Christ. Stop wavering and surrender. It will give us the joy that will sustain us through our young days and our latter years. The best way not to be a miserable grumpy old person is to be a joyful young person.

May the joy of the Lord shine through in us from now until we are called home. I so want to be a sweet old person. I hope I grow sweeter each day of my life. Lord, help me to have your joy in me. May everyone I meet see your strength and power in me now and when I am old.

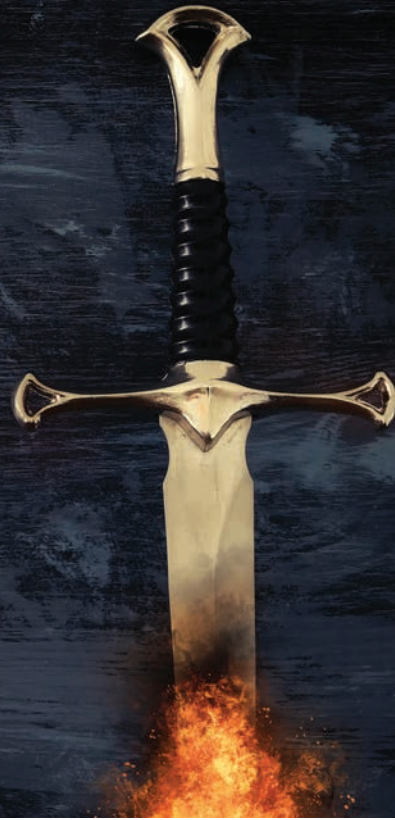
What about you? There is time to make a change. Get off the roller coaster of life and let His joy shine through you.



Mrs. Worthington has five children and twelve grandchildren. She serves as Principal of Pathway Christian Academy in Goldsboro.

The King of Fierce Countenance

Rev. Jason Sherman



Anytime we study in the Bible about the end times, it's not long before the subject of the antichrist comes up. Before going too much more in depth about this "king of fierce countenance" as Daniel calls him, let's chat for a moment about how he's able to rise to power. The prophet has much to say about the antichrist's ascension.

"And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences shall stand up."

Daniel 8:23

There is something of great significance found in this one prophecy of the antichrist. It says first of all that he will stand in the latter times of "their kingdom." This is actually a reference back to the "times of the gentiles" portion of Daniel's 70th week prophecy found in Daniel chapter nine. God refers to this season as one in which gentile world rulers will dominate the world (and Israel) until Christ Himself ends their rule by judging them harshly and setting up His own kingdom here on Earth.

Jesus alludes to this reference in **Luke 21:24** mentioning, *"...and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled."*

So we know that first of all, the closer we get to the "end times" biblically speaking, the closer we are to the antichrist stepping on the scene.

Secondly, our **Daniel 8:23** reference above mentions something else that needs to be brought to your attention. It states that this "king of fierce countenance" will not stand until *"...the transgressors are come to the full."* Why is this so important? Because one of the LARGEST tell-tale signs that show you are living in the last days is when you begin to see an abundance of ungodliness and wickedness surrounding you.

Think about it for a second... Why did God judge the whole earth with a flood? The Bible answers that in saying, *"...God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."* (**Genesis 6:5**)

Worldwide wickedness was the reason why God's judgment was needed and merited. Do you know that this is the exact same reason why God is going to judge this current world? You may, but one thing is for sure: this world doesn't realize their wicked deeds are literally speeding all unbelievers toward the wrath of Holy God.

So, thus far we have established that a massive **breaking away** from all things biblical and good is literally **paving the way** – one sinful, rebellious stone at a time – to the coming of the one called the antichrist.

Why won't people see his ascension and use that as a warning for their own souls? To answer that, I have to let you in on a longstanding biblical truth: when a society or nation becomes absolutely godless and antagonistic towards the things of God, they will begin to believe anything about anyone at any time. It doesn't matter if it's true or not, their sinful hearts and reprobate minds will be deceived into believing it (see *Romans 1:18-32* concerning a "reprobate mind").

The Bible talks about the reality of this deception in great lengths when discussing the end times.

"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;"

1 Timothy 4:1

"Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;"

2 Thessalonians 2:3

Jesus even references this startling truth when teaching about the current wicked generation. He states, *"I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive."* (**John 5:43**) – a direct reference to the coming antichrist.

Another reason why this wicked ruler who is to come will rise very quickly to great power is because Satan will be behind his ascension. You see a glaring reference to the dark one back in our original text of **Daniel 8:23**. Again, when describing the antichrist, the Scriptures teach us that he will "...understand dark sentences."

Satanists are now doing dastardly things – out in the open – like creating a large statue of the Baphomet (a winged, goat-headed symbol of Satan) as a means to formally challenge the Ten Commandments anywhere they are placed on public, government property.

When the evil curmudgeons decide they don't want the ten commandments displayed in their town, they threaten to bring the satanic statue over and place it next to the Christian monument (*under the equal rights clause*) until the local government leaders cave in and take away all of it, including the good, religious bedrocks of our society.

Most recently, in another sign pointing to the soon-coming antichrist, a statue commissioned by the United Nations and now featured prominently outside their headquarters in New York shows their "guardian for international peace and security." It looks like the three creatures John saw mingled together into one, representing the antichrist, in the Book of Revelation, chapter 13.

"And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon (Satan) gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority."

Revelation 13:2

When you group the horrific scenarios outlined above with current afterschool programs called "After School Satan" coming to a school near you, secret men's groups who look good and respectable on the outside but actually are a recruiting tool for satanism (*only sharing the news that they worship the devil with those who gain the rank high enough to be told*), and the ever-encroaching elitist mindset that is today telling the world that we know better how to run your life than you do – you can plainly see this world is literally on the doorstep of the antichrist being revealed.

Friends, only God is holding back this evil ruler from coming on the scene. Don't wait it out to see how things turn out. The Lord doesn't want you to be here for that...

"Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation (testing/judgment), which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth."

Revelation 3:10



Rev. Jason Sherman serves as an Administrative Assistant at Christian Bible College. He and his wife Amber have four children and reside in Snow Hill, N.C.

And Finally...



Pet Adoption...

I got Bennie from the pound. He is a full-blooded Husky with all of the spunk of one! We were told he was bought by someone from a breeder, and because they didn't realize how much work a husky can be, they decided to turn him in to the local dog shelter. He is definitely a troublemaker, but he's also the sweetest dog you could ever meet. When I first met him, he began tugging at my shoelaces and eventually curled up in my lap and went to sleep. I fell in love and adopted him that day. I'm so glad I did!

K. B.

Miss Fritzzy is a two year old, adopted cat. She has brought so much joy to my home. Her antics and vocalizations are just what I needed. She is curious and loving. She plays soccer throughout the house for an hour at a time with a small ball. She sleeps on the end of my bed every night and loves looking out of the windows. She loves watching me unload the dishwasher, sweep the floor, talk on the phone, watch TV, and 'do' my life. I needed her, and she needed me. Happy ending for both of us, for sure!

M. M.

I used to volunteer to walk dogs at my local Humane Society. One day I walked a small Jack Russell Terrier and absolutely fell in love. I wasn't looking to adopt a dog at that time, but Genie was apparently looking to adopt me. It wasn't long before she came home with me to stay. After Genie was settled in her new home, I took her to meet my 91 year old father in the nursing

home. He always loved animals, and she brought so many smiles to him. She would ride in his lap in the wheelchair as he introduced her to all of his friends, cuddle with him in the bed, and even sneak a few treats from his meal trays as he would share with her. She would spend hours with him, and he would talk to her like he was talking to a friend. Although his health declined, he always seemed like he was able to escape his troubles when she was around. Dad passed away last August. We miss him so much. I'm so glad I walked Genie that morning and she became such a special part of our family.

H. M.

“Kindness Remembered”

We'd like your help for an upcoming edition of “And Finally...”

Write to us in 150 words or less and tell us how someone has blessed you or showed kindness to you through the Covid Pandemic. The deadline for submission is April 30, 2022.

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