

The PROJECTOR

Dr. Dayton Hobbs, FOUNDED EDITOR

"Projecting the Light of the Word of God on the Issues of the Day"

Things I Have Learned From the Global Response to COVID-19...

Daniel 7: 1-27

Pastor Tod Brainard

Preached April 19, 2020

The timing of the dream of Daniel recorded in Chapter 7 took place during the period of Chapters 4 & 5 in the midst of a time of extreme political upheaval. The dream of Daniel reveals a chaotic world scene yet future with conditions producing the rise of ten kings and nations (could be a confederation of ten nations, not necessarily ten fully autonomous nations) and an 11th world leader with eyes and a mouth speaking boastful things. This 11th leader comes from obscurity to world dominance in a relatively short period of time. He becomes more powerful than the ten kings and absorbs three of the ten kingdoms into his own. This prophecy makes it noticeably clear to me that the world will be ruled by one chief executive who comes to power and prominence.

Chaotic world conditions always seem to produce game-changing events often equaling the rise of new and powerful nations and leaders.

This historically-supported fact was witnessed in the ensuing post-war chaos of World War I with the rise of tyrannical leaders in Japan, Germany, Italy, and Russia. Daniel 7 describes in detail the rise of Antichrist in a chaotic world leading to

the rise of ten kings of ten nations. The Antichrist is the ultimate human man of the future who will seek to rule the world apart from God.

Notice Daniel's response to the knowledge of the future events: Daniel 7:15 and 28 reads, *"As for me, Daniel, **my spirit was distressed within me, and the visions in my mind kept alarming me.** I approached one of those who were standing by and began to ask him the exact meaning of all this. So, he told me and made known to me the interpretation of these things... 28 Hitherto is the end of the matter. As for me, Daniel, **my cogitations much troubled me, and my countenance changed in me; but I kept the matter in my heart.**"* It troubled and distressed him and continued to alarm him over time even though these events had and have not yet happened. What we are witnessing in our time is troubling and alarming. This pandemic is being used to push a rogue, tyrannical narrative all in the name of security and the greater good of the global community.

There are **five things** that I wish to communicate that I have learned during this global event:

- 1. How quickly things can change in just a moment of time.** We all had heard about COVID-19, but were we prepared that it would be used as a pretext to shut down the entire world economy, close schools and colleges, shut down many businesses deemed "non-essential," grounding the fleets of most airlines, and creating an atmosphere of confusion?

Recently during a conversation in our front office, Brenda Whitney, our layout secretary, commented on the pandemic with a very astute observation. "If the Lord returns at the rapture during a "pandemic crisis" it will be almost unnoticed. Planes would not be falling out of the skies because most airlines would be grounded. Christians missing from the world would for the most part go unnoticed for folks would assume they died of the pandemic."

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What Does Following the Lord Really Look Like?

Proverbs 16:9

Pastor Tod Brainard

Editor's Desk

“A man’s heart deviseth his way; but the LORD directeth His steps.”

There has been a great deal of angst about this global contagion pause. There are many who feel this is all a hoax. Others feel that there is nefarious socialistic activity taking place to strip away liberties from the American people. Others see it as the judgment of God. I believe that when we emerge on the other side, politicians will feel empowered, and major changes will come to America. I certainly believe that these events all tie into the end-times and the eventual revelation of Antichrist. But there is something to this verse that is a great comfort to the believer during these times.

As we are reminded in Proverbs 16:1, man goes to great length to plan his career, his future retirement, and his bucket list of all the things he wants to do. However, the authoritative Word of God says that the Lord alone determines whether these plans will ever come to pass. Saul of Tarsus planned to persecute the Christians in Damascus but ended up becoming one of them. Onesimus planned to leave Philemon forever, and he ended up running into the Apostle Paul in Rome, and after repentance he returned to his former master. Haman planned to destroy the Jews and kill Mordecai, only to die on the very gallows he built for him. Balaam wanted to curse the people of Israel, but the words came out a blessing instead. Caiaphas the high priest in John 11:49-52 plotted with the other priests and scribes to kill Jesus, but the words that came out of his mouth were not from his own thinking, but rather from God Himself. Herod and Pilate conspired to put Jesus on the cross, but God had already appointed that very thing to happen according to His purposes.

What is this verse saying? A man or woman makes plans for his or her actions, but the LORD (tetragrammaton – JEHOVAH) determines or establishes how he or she will go

(his steps).

Early in March, I spent an entire week of late evenings and a full Saturday putting together season schedules for our community sports league outreach that our church operates. I sat back after I was all done and told the Lord “thank you” for helping me to get all that work done. What I did not know was that God had different plans. I proposed and God disposed. I now have a pile of papers on my desk of drafted teams of nearly 500 children, practice game schedules, picture schedules, and regular season schedules. While I was doing all that work during the first week of March, God knew that not one activity laid out in those schedules would take place. **“A man’s heart deviseth his way, but the LORD directeth His steps.”** This is such a great lesson. How foolish to be bitter if God overrules our plans. Are we not to be His disciples, followers of Him? How utterly useless it is to argue with God about matters that we cannot possibly control.

Yes, you and I have a sovereign will. But there is a will that is greater than ours—a perfect and all-knowing will. Now understand, that does not mean that God will always exercise His sovereign will over us in every circumstance. I can prove this to be true simply by looking at how God will not overrule a person who is determined to move away from truth to the everlasting judgment of the Lake of Fire. If a person refuses Jesus Christ, as Judas Iscariot did, then there is but the consequence of flames for the rebel. No doubt God put all types of barriers in Judas Iscariot’s way to draw him from his evil way, but in the end, Judas’ sovereign will to walk his own path ruled. Here is a simple list of things that you have no control over:

1. Where you were born – city, state, country all were predetermined without your consent.

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The PROJECTOR

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I have said to our church family on several occasions over the past months that I believe this pandemic is a dry run for something much bigger coming down from heaven. The pieces of the puzzle are coming together now, and it is amazingly easy to see how God could bring about the rapture and it go unnoticed by most of the world. Things can happen very quickly.

2. How easy it is to take down the economic and political stability of the world. It has now happened in our time with just one virus!

Daniel, in his recorded information about the rise of the little horn (Antichrist), states that his ascension to power happens quickly and with little pushback. Only three nations are overcome through force by the little horn, the rest capitulate to his power without violence. A chaotic world seeking someone who will lead powerfully to overcome a threat is the pretext for his ascension. Could it be that a contagion or a global pestilence be the pretext? There is some event or global pretext that precedes the rise of the little horn among the ten nations. His great speaking ability, his ability to communicate and draw people unto himself, causes him to emerge as a global answer to chaos. We have witnessed in our time such an event that could easily vault an obscure, yet persuasive leader to the forefront of the world scene.

3. How easy it is to take a narrative (our security and well-being), follow models rather than statistics (take a minor

contagion that can kill, but has not killed as many as drug addiction, for example) and jump to another narrative altogether (security requires the taking away of liberty). We witness in the book of Daniel how the Antichrist will take away the liberty of believers and Jews during the second half of the Tribulation. He will be able to gain the support of the world because it will be for *the benefit of the world* to target Christians and Jews for removal. Hitler indicated in his book, *Mein Kampf*, that the Jew and the African were genetically threats to the Aryan race, and that their very presence in the world was problematic. By the start of World War II in 1939, his book had sold 5.2 million copies and been translated into eleven languages. His views had an impact on the practice of science and medicine. Hitler's views on racial admixture, the superiority of the Aryan race and the creation of a superior society, was built in part on Charles Darwin's concept of "the survival of the fittest." Hitler used science and medicine as a narrative and created a model built upon the "good of society" in the eradication of Jews and Africans whom he saw as a threat. How easily Antichrist will use science and the good of society to do unspeakable things during the last three and a half years of the Tribulation.

4. How easy it is to manipulate the world's population and through deception and manipulation cause people to conform to a political expectation. Bill Gates, a huge supporter of the World Health Organization, has been talking and writing about a master contagion since 2015. He

has written that a contagion of global impact would force the world's governments to integrate a cooperative, internationalized database of information about every individual—medical records, banking records, global location tracking, etc.—to control the spread of a contagion. What does that mean? It means a method of constant knowledge of where people are and what they are doing—and specifically, what they are communicating.

A Wisconsin company is now offering to implant tiny radio-frequency chips in its employees—and it says employees are lining up for the technology. The idea is a controversial one, confronting issues at the intersection of ethics and technology by essentially turning bodies into bar codes. **Three Square Market**, also called **32M**, says it is the first U.S. company to provide the technology to its employees.

The company manufactures self-service "micro markets" for office break rooms. It said in a press release that obtaining a chip is optional but expects that about 50 employees will take part.

Employees who have the rice-grain sized RFID chip implanted between their thumb and forefinger can then use it *"to make purchases in their break room micro market, open doors, login to computers, use the copy machine,"* 32M said.

CEO Todd Westby said that the company believes the technology will soon be universally available: *"We foresee the use of RFID technology to drive everything from*

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Proverb Practicals

by Ludwig Opager

Proverbs 7: 1,2: My son, keep my words, and lay up my commandments with thee. Keep my commandments, and live; and my law as the apple of thine eye.

The father in this proverb says, “keep my words.” This word *keep*, *shawmar* in the Hebrew, means *to hedge about as with thorns*. It is not a boxwood hedge nor an azalea hedge, but a hedge with thorns. The father purposes to plant over time a hedge of thorns around his son. This “hedge of thorns” is none other than the father’s words and commandments. A hedge of thorns keeps one from trying to break the hedge. The father’s words, given to the son throughout his life, are to provide a barrier that only willful and vigorous rebellion will penetrate. When that happens, the hedge will bring hurt and pain. This hedge of words and commandments is designed to keep the son in the right way throughout life.

The father loves his son and intends to provide this hedge to keep the son within his love. Isn’t it interesting that the father’s love is expressed by placing a hedge of thorns around his son? The father’s words mean serious business, for lack of obedience to his words will bring eternal consequences.

Do you get the tone of the scriptural message here? Do you see that the father’s word is not given lightly or frivolously? Do you understand that when this father speaks, his desire is for his son to

listen and obey?

This father then goes on to say, “lay up my commandments with thee.” Now laying up something means *to put away for another time, to hide or to hoard, or to put in reserve*. An example of laying up is that of canning vegetables or fruits for future use. So, the father’s commandments are to be put up like canned goods. His words are to be on the shelf of the son’s life to be drawn out when the need arises. Father will not be on the shelf, but the father’s words will be there. Fathers need to store up for their children biblical instruction that will be available for them when they are no longer here. A father may be mortal, but his words can be eternal.

So, the father’s commandments are to become a part of the son. They are to be there to meet needs that will come to bear in the son’s life. They are to be as ammunition that can be hurled at the enemy.

My first duty station as a newly commissioned ensign was at the Naval Ammunition Depot in Hastings, Nebraska. We could not have been further from any ocean than we were in Nebraska. What was that depot for? It was for the laying up of ammunition for use in the two theatres of World War II, the Pacific, and the Atlantic. It was

placed midway in the country for two reasons: one, it was protected from the enemy by distance; and two, it was equidistant from both wars, and ammunition could be as easily shipped to one theatre as to the other. The ammunition was laid up, some of it for many years. My wife and I arrived there in 1961, and the mission at that time was to destroy much of the ammunition because of its age. It had served its purpose of being available. Though it was never used, it was laid up just in case.

This father is preparing his son for every possible enemy attack. *“Son lay up my commandments with thee! Be an ammunition bunker for my words and my commandments! Expect a sneak attack in your life and be ready with all the ammunition of my words and commandments at your disposal.”*

Keep my commandments, and live.

So here is the reason for the thorny hedge about the son: **LIFE!** *“Keep my commandments, and live!”* Where on this earth can you get this kind of wise instruction? Nowhere, of course! The father here chooses to give God’s words to his son to ensure life. The world’s multitude of words will never bring life, only loss and death. Ω



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 making purchases in our office break room market, opening doors, use of copy machines, logging into our office computers, unlocking phones, sharing business cards, storing medical/health information, and used as payment at other RFID terminals. Eventually, this technology will become standardized allowing you to use this as your passport, public transit, all purchasing opportunities, etc."

The employees themselves appear to be responding positively. For example, software engineer Sam Bengtson told *The New York Times* that **"it was pretty much 100 percent yes right from the get-go for me. ...In the next five to 10 years, this is going to be something that isn't scoffed at so much or is more normal. So, I like to jump on the bandwagon with these kinds of things early, just to say that I have it."**

For employees not prepared to implant a chip in their bodies, the company is offering two other options - the same technology, placed in a wristband or a ring. One bystander offered this observation: **"More than the crazy concept, it is people's willingness to accept it. That is why it's crazy to me. ...People are just willing to just line up and go, 'Yeah, stick that in me.'"**

This is not a futuristic concept; it is going on now in our country with little pushback all in the name of security and the good of the population!

5. How easily a strong personality could step forward among the international leaders and

take the reins of power and rule the world at the expense of believers for the common good.

In verse 8, we are told the little horn comes up from among the ten kings and nations. Daniel mentions two things about this horn with *eyes and a mouth speaking great things*: **1. The horn begins little in size and becomes larger than its associate horns. 2. This horn wages war against the saints and overpowers them.**

How many times in the past months have we heard of arrests of church leaders and threats made against churches who would dare meet during this virus? As I am writing this article, I just heard of a church pastor in Samford, Maine, who was told by a police officer that the town fathers would not tolerate the church holding services during the month of May. What is the reason for the threat? We are told "the greater good of the community." As one of our godly deacons pointed out in a recent testimony service, **"For the first time in my life, I have tasted tyranny."**

These are just a few of the things I have learned over the past few months. Even so, come, Lord Jesus! Ω

Information and quotations on the Three-Square Market chip implant were found on the websites of CNBC.COM, PRNEWSWIRE.COM, and The New York Times under the topic of Three-Square Market chip.

Please pray for and consider a gift to the ministry of The Projector.

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2. To whom you were born. Parents, grandparents, family tree, etc.
3. Your gender was predetermined.
4. Your genetic and hereditary physical traits: your height, hair color, eye color, voice, fingerprints. DNA was given to you without consent.
5. Your mental acumen was set by God, not by you.
6. The weather, viruses, acts of God such as earthquakes, volcanos, hurricanes, tornados, etc., are in God's sphere of control.

Knowing that God played the ultimate role in all the decisions of our arrival in this world and what we would be, should we not trust Him in the eternal nature of our souls?

Rahab did! She abandoned all and followed the spies to Joshua and a became a believer and a member of the genealogy that would produce a king. Her record of faith is recorded in Hebrews 11.

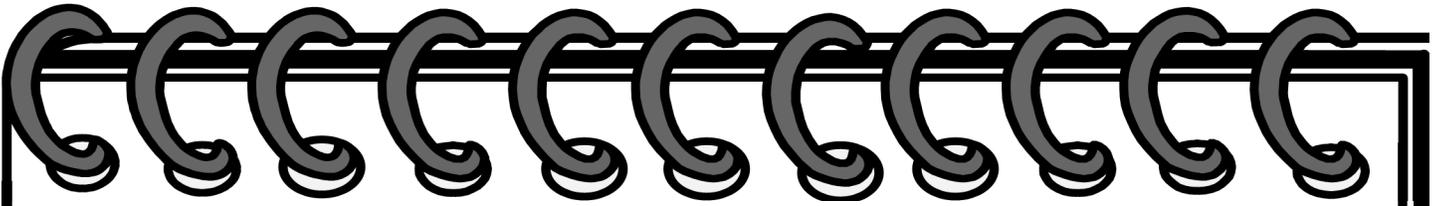
Andrew did! He left his nets on Galilee's shore and followed Jesus leaving his income and livelihood as well as his soul in the Savior's safe keeping.

Abraham did! He looked for a city whose builder and maker is God. His faith was counted unto him for righteousness.

Moses did! He esteemed the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect, we are told, unto the recompense of the reward.

Ruth did! She left her Moabite gods and followed Naomi into the land of promise. She received a husband and was placed in the godly line of Jesus Christ himself.

May we be found flexible in God's workings and sensitive to His directing as He brings this world to the culmination of the ages. Ω



Teaching Tips

by Doris Peppard

Types of Students in Christian Schools

Take a close look at the descriptions of three different groups of students found in our schools:

Group #1: Those having knowledge; having the power of discerning and judging correctly; discriminating between what is true and what is false.

Group #2: Those who act contrary to sound wisdom in their moral deportment; one who follows his own inclinations, who prefers trifling and temporary pleasures to the service of God and eternal happiness.

Group #3: Those who scoff at religion, its ordinances and teachers, and those who make a mockery of sin and the judgments and threats of God against sinners.

Most children (as well as adults) usually do not fit into one category only; students will often have a mixture of the qualities listed in the groupings at different times in their lives. These groupings describe three different types of students, and as Christian school teachers, we will often have some from each category in our classrooms.

Group #3

Many Christian schools try to weed out those belonging to group #3. Some students found in Group #3 hide their true feelings in order to “fit” into a Christian school. They come to Christian school for the wrong reasons. When these students come to school, they will usually soon find themselves in trouble with school policies. These students should withdraw because the possibility exists that they will be expelled or not allowed to re-register for the next school year. We cannot teach Biblical principles to this group; they will undermine your school and pollute the Christian school’s ministry as well as other students who are amenable to the teachings and trainings found in God’s Word. This type of student is self-minded and a lover of themselves. These students must come to the point at which they realize their sin and then they must repent and turn from their wicked ways.

Group #2

Christian schools that have both open and closed enrollment will register many students from group #2. They are certainly the largest group—especially in the elementary through middle school grades. They need (and many times crave) a teacher to help them learn to grow academically, emotionally, and spiritually. The Word of God describes them often as “babes.” They may be described as immature, lively, lazy, or childish. Yes, most of our students are definitely in this group! Teaching and training this group often can be challenging yet rewarding! They require a firm hand, lots of love, and consistent training.

Group #1

These students are the “unexpected treasures” God often puts into our classrooms. They are a joy to teach and have a hunger for God’s Word, set a high standard that they strive to attain, and possess a desire to “do right.” They are usually found at the high school level, and they are a blessing and an example for your whole student body. Teachers of this group need to continually challenge group #1 to look for opportunities to serve God.

Now that you have the definitions, let me give you the name of each of these groups being defined according to God’s Word:

Group #1 = Wise – The book of Proverbs is full of descriptions of the wise man/woman.

Group #2 = Fool – Yes, children enter the world foolish. The tools to remedy foolishness in the heart of a child are God’s Word, correction by parents and teachers, and as needed, discipline at home.

Group #3 = Scorners – Even though it can be difficult, we must rid these students from our Christian classrooms. They will drag down other students who are amenable to discipline and correction.

As we register students, it is important to keep in mind that each student has an eternal soul. We must remember God’s instruction to the Prophet Samuel: “Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart” (I Samuel 16: 7). We desire to train and to work with students so long as they do not become stumbling blocks to others. We truly want to have a heart for every student as long as he or she is willing to follow after wisdom.



Stars
of the Morning

A TREASURE IN PLAIN SIGHT
by "Aunt Carolyn"

At the supper table, someone may say, "Please pass the salt." Salt makes a big difference in the taste of the meat and potatoes! In Matt. 5: 13, Jesus said to those who believe in Him, "Ye are the salt of the earth."

Salt doesn't get much glory, but what would we do without it? Salt adds taste and flavor to our food. Ranchers put out salt blocks for their cattle. There are salt licks in the woods for wildlife. It de-ices highways in the winter, purifies city water systems, and is used in making PVC and other plastics. And if you run out of toothpaste, try a little salt and soda to brush your molars.

Salt is an *essential* mineral for humans and animals, but where will we get so much salt? Never fear! When God created all things, He gave us just what we needed, and He did not forget the salt. He put it in some places we would never suspect - in mines miles underground, in shallow marshes and lakes, and the ocean is about three percent salt. Another very salty place is the Dead Sea between Israel and Jordan. It is almost 34% salt - about ten times saltier than the ocean! If you go swimming there, you won't need a life jacket or water wings. The salt will hold you up. You will simply float! Don't go in though if you have a scratch or cut, for the salt will surely make it burn like fire!

And now, dear children, come with me to an *unexpected salty* place near "Aunt Carolyn's" childhood home. Grab your boots and hat and swing into the saddle as we join a day-long cattle drive. Finally, as dusk sets in and after seventeen long miles, we turn the herd south and soon reach the pasture where tall prairie sand hill grass promises great summer grazing.

If we had turned north, however, we would soon have come to a huge salt marsh in the middle of a vast open prairie. You might think nothing of it until you remember your history lessons about the Spanish Conquistador Coronado, who way back in 1541 led

an expedition searching for "Quivira," the fabled Native American "city of gold." He spent a long time with the Quiviran Indians but finally left *without* any gold. (Me thinks there is no gold in Kansas!) For generations, the land was ignored as "useless marsh," but at last some wise observers saw the seasonal stopovers of birds and wildlife and finally realized what a treasure and resource God had created right in the center of the Great Plains. With great care the refuge was carved out and in 1955 was named the *Quivira National Wildlife Refuge*, for the Quiviran Indians whose teepees and trappings once blanketed the wild prairie they claimed for their own. Now the refuge has over 22,135 acres of marsh, wetlands, and sand-hill grasslands preserved to protect over 344 species of birds and many species of animals.**

At over 1,750 feet above sea level in the middle of the vast Great Plains, it seems an impossible place for a salt marsh, but it was no problem to God! He just created a giant "Welcome Center" and "Rest Stop" on the Great Central Flyway, which He also created from above Canada all the way down to the Gulf Coast and on down to Central and South America. Millions of birds use that great route on their semi-annual migrations. When the seasons begin to change, the birds have an inner urge, a God-given instinct, to move to a better climate. Mrs. Crane might say to her neighbor, "All right, dearie, I think it's time to go. I'll meet you at the Marsh! Ta, Ta!" And with that, she and thousands of bird friends lift their beautiful wings and soar into the sky for the thousands of miles long journey. They will stop at the Quivira National Wildlife Refuge to rest their wings, restore their food, and renew their strength before finishing the exhausting journey. They will stay about six months at that end of the route and then stir themselves to head back over the same God-designed course that led them to that spot.

If you are careful and quiet, you can visit this fascinating place. You can walk the long extensions

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 ★ (Continued from page 7—Stars of the Morning)
 ★ of board walks over the watery, grassy marsh and
 ★ observe the “critters” in the water, or go into specially
 ★ built bird blinds (perfect for birders), or climb a big
 ★ observation tower to study thousands of wildlife –
 ★ mule and white-tailed deer, jack rabbits, coyotes,
 ★ raccoons, skunks, bobcats, foxes, beavers, prairie
 ★ dogs, muskrats, and more. As for the birds, you can
 ★ watch shorebirds, geese, ducks, pelicans, gulls,
 ★ plovers, terns, and whooping cranes. The eagles
 ★ always draw special attention, as both bald and golden
 ★ eagles spend their winters on the refuge!
 ★
 ★ So there you have it. From explorers, to Native
 ★ Americans, to a failed quest for gold, to a treasured
 ★ place called **QUIVIRA**, God has put on display a
 ★ classic example of His handiwork. To see seeming
 ★ endless flat central plains, the great salt marshes, the
 ★ tall prairie grasses, the thrilling animals and birds, and
 ★ to hear the deafening sounds of chirping, singing,
 ★ quacking, and honking when the enormous,
 ★ magnificent flocks of birds come flying in for their
 ★ “conventions” would be thrilling! Oh, you would
 ★ want to praise the Lord and burst out singing that
 ★ great hymn, “**The Wonder of It All!**”
 ★
 ★*****

There’s the wonder of sunset at evening,
 The wonder as sunrise I see,
 But the wonder of wonders that thrills my
 soul
 Is the wonder that God loves me.

O, the wonder of it all,
 The wonder of it all -
 Just to think that God loves me!
 (Repeat)*

By George Beverly Shea

* cc 1956 by Word Music, Inc. All rights reserved.
** *Encyclopedia of the Great Plains—* Quivira

