

Freedom's View

A Commentary on Government from Atop the Capitol

www.FreedomsView.org

Vol. 1 "All the other alternative facts you need to know" No. 28



HOW LONG, O LORD?

August 17, 2017

WASHINGTON, DC ~ *Armed Freedom*

Apparently, I was not the first to ask that question and its follow-up, "Give us a sign!" After the assault on freedom by the Alt-Right, Nazis, and the KKK in Charlottesville, and Trump's morally vacuous equating of those hate groups with those who came out to protest their message, I needed to consult with my go-to theologian, Father Newel Post. Newel leaned back in his chair and smiled ruefully. "Freedom, I don't blame you for wondering how long it will be before enough people in Congress find their conscience and remove Trump from office: either by impeachment or by exercising the 25th amendment.



PHOTO: Alt-Right, KKK, Neo-Nationalists and their supporters march in Charlottesville, VA

"About 2700 years ago, King Uzziah, of the Kingdom of Judah, died. This provoked the usual 'What next?' political anxieties. Isaiah, the prophet, seeking clarity and courage,

went to the temple - much like your visit today at the National Cathedral.

While there, he had a powerful spiritual experience. Believing God wanted him to do something, and without reading the fine print, he signed a blank check and said, 'Yes.' What God wanted him to do was to go and tell the people of Judah this:

'Listen hard, but you aren't going to get it; look hard, but you won't catch on. Make these people blockheads, with fingers in their ears and blindfolds on their eyes, so they won't see a thing, won't hear a word, so they won't have a clue about what's going on and, yes, so they won't turn around and be made whole.'

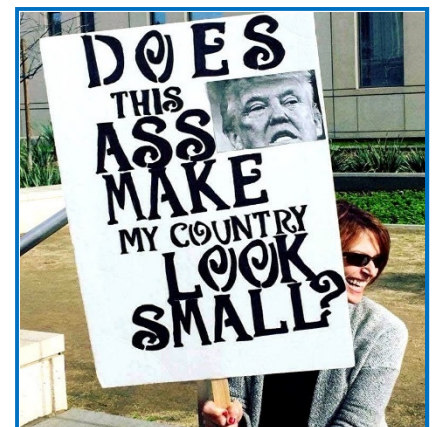
"Well, Isaiah was distressed and astonished. That's when he asked your question, Freedom: 'How long is this to go on?' God's reply was anything but easy:

'Until the cities are emptied out, not a soul left in the cities—houses empty of people, countryside empty of people. Until I, God, get rid of everyone, sending them off, the land totally empty. And even if some should survive, say a tenth, the devastation will start up again. The country will look like pine and oak forest with every tree cut down — every tree a stump, a huge

field of stumps. But there's a holy seed in those stumps.'"

"Yikes, Newel! That's the most depressing thing I've ever heard out of your mouth! I thought I might get some reassurance coming up here to see you, old friend."

"I hear you, Freedom. But I also know you: if you'd needed 'smooth words,' you'd have gone instead to Trump's Robert Jeffress, Pat Robertson or one of the other 'evangelical' preachers who've lost any sense of the Christian faith. Our times need the social and political realism of the prophets. Nobody knows how long it's going to take to remove the immoral Mr. Trump from office. But one thing is sure: *the American public needs to raise holy hell with their representatives and senators, take to the streets, flood newspapers with letters demanding his removal. He's a clear and present danger to the Republic.*"





SIGNS OF THE TIMES



"I agree, Newel, but geez that's still a depressing thing Isaiah said." "Yes it is, Freedom, but look at his last line. It paints a picture of a society whose institutions are cut down, leveled. And yet . . . and yet . . . stumps remain. Anyone who's ever cut down a tree knows that new growth sprouts from the stump.



PHOTO: Young woman confronts KKK sympathizer amidst demonstrations.

We're both seeing people – lay, clergy, church and unchurched – protesting courageously against Trump, the Alt-Right, and everything they stand for. Trump is cutting down the forest of useful regulations and trying to dismantle many of our institutions. So take heart, Freedom, though it may take a long time, new growth *will* happen."



"Now as for your wanting a sign, Freedom, get in line! Way back when that scruffy Jew named Jesus was getting himself in trouble with the dominating authorities of his day, people asked him for a sign about when God was going to deliver them from the haters in high places: both in the temple and in Rome. Jesus told them that the only sign they'd get was 'the sign of Jonah.'

"Yeah, I know: what the heck does *that* mean? Maybe many things, but I like the notion that, just as Jonah took a deep dive for three days in the belly of a whale, so too must all of us descend - down below the surface of our everyday consciousness. There, we must have the courage to examine the darkness of our own hearts and histories. We need to confront it and own it. When we take that "fearless moral inventory" (as they call it in 12-step programs), *then* maybe we'll be readied, as was Jonah, to be barfed back up onto the beach. Only this time, we'll be pointed once more in the direction of our soul's calling: our life's work.

So 'the sign of Jonah' might be saying we've got to do our own soul work. I think Mr. Trump is too far gone to do his. But the rest of us, one way or another, are awakening to the darkness around us. If we'll do the deep dive inside, maybe we won't succumb to it, but courageously rebuild *even better* what Trump and his sympathizers have destroyed."

I wish Father Newel's duties at the Cathedral involved him more in preaching. He agrees and says it would force him to be less long-winded. I say he has a good way of interpreting things, and that more folks need to hear his take on Christianity and its relevance to our lives.

Of course, I might not be a good judge in such matters. In spite of Father Newel's instructive take on "the sign of Jonah," and paying no heed to Jesus' criticizing those who seek for such signs, I want to believe (against all evidence to the contrary) that I just can't help myself.

Therefore, I offer the following prayer:

Dear God,

**If you want us to
impeach Trump, give
us a sign: maybe
blot out the sun
anytime next week
. . . like, how about
Monday?**

**Thanks,
Fed-up Americans**