

March 7th, 1945 marks the day, 55 years ago when the United States Army crossed the Rhine into Germany. The Rhine was crossed in several places, but none of more symbolic importance than the crossing of the Remagen Bridge; a bridge left intact, and heavily guarded, by the Germans to supply troops and supplies to the western front.

Thanks to the men of the 27th Armored Infantry Battalion the bridge was taken and held under great stress. The book *A Bridge Too Far* by Cornelius Ryan, and later made into a movie by the same name, tells the story of those valiant men. Our special this morning, "Can America Survive" is in part dedicated to those wonderful warriors while also serving as a warning to our country.

To say that the world, and particularly the United States, is in trouble is to any objective analyst without question. Let's see if we can substantiate this supposition.

From the *Patriot Post*: "Recommendation 16 of the Iraq Study Group calls upon Syria to agree to a peace deal with Israel in return for the Golan Heights. It further suggests that Syria be persuaded to end its interference in Lebanon, cease aiding Hezbollah, convince Hamas to recognize Israel's right to exist, and intervene to obtain the release of two captured Israeli soldiers ... Iran should stem the flow of arms and training to Iraq, respect Iraq's sovereignty and use its influence over Iraqi Shia to encourage national reconciliation. The authors of the study group are supposed to be the foreign policy realists? ... No wonder it is being so rapturously received by the media ... It is chasing a shadow to imagine that settling an Arab/Israeli dispute will pacify the region."

Much of the Iraq Study Group's report seems to ignore the history of the Muslim and his propensity to fight, maim and kill; not only is his violence directed at Jews and Christians, as demonstrated during the "heyday" of the Ottoman Empire, but clearly such has been seen as early as A.D. 650 when Mohammed forced his brand of religion upon his fellow Arabs. Such a proclivity toward violence against one another, i.e. Arab against Arab, can be seen in modernity. For example, there was the eight-year war between Iraq and Iran; the genocide in Iraq when Saddam used poison gas against his fellow Arabs, the Kurds; the attack on Kuwait; and today we see in Iraq Shiites killing Sunnis and Sunnis killing Shiites.

What insouciance on the part of our experts to get involved in solving another nation's problems. Perhaps "If you're one of those dummies who goofs off in school you wind up in Iraq." But if you really are that stupid, and really goof off, you might wind up a political appointee on a commission about Iraq."

No wonder Christ said "I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes," and not to the glitterati and intelligentsia who are preoccupied with their own self-importance. Just maybe God was right when he told Moses to write a prophecy about the first Arab.

Gen 16:11 And the angel of the LORD said unto her, Behold, thou art with child and shalt bear a son, and shalt call his name Ishmael; because the LORD hath heard thy affliction.

Gen 16:12 And he will be a wild man; his hand will be against every man, and every man's hand against him; and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren.

From an editorial by Cal Thomas: ... "Has everyone forgotten what the world looked like when America (and Israel) was feared? Have the foreign policy castrati taken over? Does no one sing baritone anymore? The terrorists in Iraq ... use fear as a primary tactic. We, on the other hand, form study groups and issue statements saying we must 'act wisely.' Iran's dictator ... vows to obliterate Israel and U. S. diplomats recommend we talk to him. Whatever happened to if you touch us, it will be the last thing you touch? Ah but that was before political correctness and sensitivity training ..."

From an editorial by Michael Reagan: "Robert Gates comes from a group of people I know well. They think that they are the be-all and end-all, and the media fawn over them and feed their insatiable egos. Their new way of dealing with Iraq is to figure out ways to leave. My way is more straightforward and simple: forget about pandering to the left's pacifist instincts and just go ahead and kill the enemy, every single one of them."

This concept of winning a war by killing the enemy is found in the Bible, but has clearly been rejected by religious and irreligious people. Time and again, God instructed Israel to annihilate the enemy, "This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'I will punish the Amalekites for what they did to Israel when they waylaid them as they came up from Egypt. Now go, attack the Amalekites and totally destroy everything that belongs to them. Do not spare them; put to death men and women, children and infants, cattle and sheep, camels and donkeys.'"

Our failure to follow God's protocol is no doubt the reason we have not won a war since 1945, when we destroyed, Italy, Germany and Japan. Kofi Annan finally said something right. In Independence, Missouri, in a tribute to Harry Truman, he said, "What the U. S. needs is a statesman like Harry S. Truman." Recall, this statesman, when faced with saving U. S. lives versus Japanese lives, elected to conventionally bomb Tokyo with napalm until it was completely burned down, drop an atomic bomb on Hiroshima and then drop a second on Nagasaki. Now there is the kind of statesman we need today!

From an editorial by Ben Shapiro: "America has not won a major 'hot' war since World War II. The Gulf war cannot be considered a full fledged victory; it returned the situation in the Middle East to the status quo ... The Viet Nam War was surely a devastating loss. The Korean War ended in a stalemate; North Korea ... remains militant and dangerous fifty years later. It has been six decades since we emerged fully victorious from a major 'hot' war. This is because the very definition of war has changed. Each modern war is more of a battle than a war. Tearing out the enemy's motivating ideology by the roots is no longer a nation-centric task."

Ben Shapiro rightfully questions why the most powerful and well trained military cannot

win any wars? Why, since we have the military power, do we not use it? As a minister of God, I must ask the question, could God's hand be in all of this? According to Scripture the answer is clear!

Pro 21:1 The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.

The most devout Christian filled with Bible doctrine, might say, "But King Jesus these Muslims want to kill your people." There is no doubt this is true, but it is not just Jews the Muslims want to kill. Let me quote in part what Caroline Glick of the *Jerusalem Post* wrote in an editorial "Jews Wake Up!"

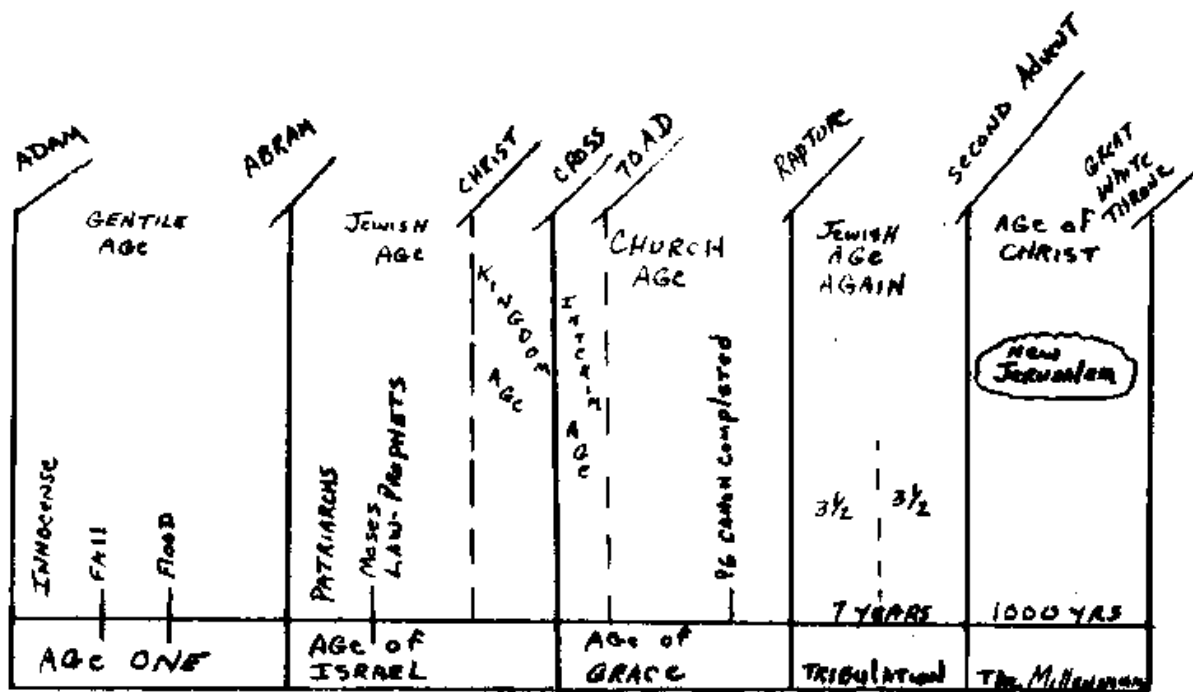
"When the history of our times is written, this week will be remembered as the week (the week being that of December 10, 2006) that Washington decided to let the Islamic Republic of Iran go nuclear ... With the publication of the ... Iraq Study Group ... the debate about the war in Iraq has changed. Baker and his associates claim that the U. S. cannot win the war in Iraq and so the U. S. must negotiate with its primary enemies ... Iran and Syria--in hopes they will hold their fire long enough to facilitate an 'honorable' American retreat from the country ... Gates, Baker and Lee Hamilton go on to write ... 'Iran and Syria share America's interest in avoiding chaos in Iraq. The main incentive Baker advocates offering is Israel ... Worse than that ... Gates admitted Tuesday that he cannot guarantee that Iran will not attack Israel with nuclear weapons ... He ignored the fact that Iran--whose President ... daily calls for the destruction of the U. S.--may also attack the U. S. with nuclear weapons. Gates admitted ... that Iran is producing many bombs--not just one ... Since it is possible to destroy Israel with just one bomb, Americans should be asking themselves what Iran needs all those other bombs for? ... What must Israel do? ... It must plan an attack against Iran's nuclear facilities and their command and control centers ... They must neutralize second-order threats like the Palestinian rocket squads and the Syrian ballistic missile arsenals in order to limit the public's exposure to attack during the course of or in the aftermath of an Israeli attack on Iran ... and they must topple the Iranian regime."

Ms. Glick goes on to write: "Tragically, in these perilous times, we are being led by the worst, most incompetent government we have ever had ... In a few months, Iran may well be in possession of nuclear weapons which it will use to destroy the Jewish state. With the U. S. withdrawing from the war and Israel in the hands of incompetents, the time has come for the Jewish people to rise up."

Well, Caroline, that's a tall order! If by now your blood is not boiling, then one of us is not thinking! Can things get any worse you might ask? The answer is, they sure can, just as the Jews found out in 586 B.C. and A.D. 70. If God twice destroyed His priest nation because of negative volition to His Word, He certainly might just destroy client nation U. S. of A.

Hos 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest *nation* to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

Before we look at what the Bible teaches about divine guidance, we need to establish a baseline, and that baseline is the dispensation chart. There is absolutely nothing that can change God's outline of human history.



Keep in mind our job is not to conform to the thoughts and ideas of the world but to be transformed. We as the pivot support our nation and by association we support Israel.

Rom 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

The Doctrine of Divine Guidance

1. Introduction: A cardinal principle of divine guidance is stated in Joh 3:23. This verse reduces the will of God to utmost simplicity.

1Jo 3:23 And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love (**Agape**) one another as he commanded us.

1.1 The verse is divided into two parts. First, God's will for the unbeliever is to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. Second, His will for the believer is to love in the manner proscribed by the Scripture.

2. Let me give you ten things declared to be the general will of God:

2.1 **Salvation**--It is the will of God that every member of the human race be born again. We know from 2Pe 3:9 that God is not willing for any to perish.

2Pe 3:9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

Joh 6:40 For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."

2.1.1 God made this possible by sending His only begotten Son to accomplish the work of salvation.

Rom 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

2.1.2 It is impossible to do the will of God until one has been to the foot of the cross. Jesus said to a very religious man, "You must be born again," and to others He carefully outlined His grace plan.

Joh 3:7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

2.1.3 After salvation God provides other general directives which define the spiritual life of every believer.

2.2 **Sanctification**--It is the will of God that all believers be sanctified.

2.2.1 There are three types of sanctification in the Bible.

- Positional Sanctification is a product of faith alone in Christ alone.

1Co 1:2 Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:

- Temporal Sanctification is the consistent use of the two power options.

2Ti 2:21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honor, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.

1Th 4:3 For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:

1Th 4:4 That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honor;

- Ultimate Sanctification occurs when the believer transfers from time to eternity.

1Jo 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as

he is.

2.3 Spirituality-- It is the will of God that we are to be filled with the Spirit.

Eph 5:18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit.

2.3.1 We are filled with the Spirit when we use 1Jo 1:9. God the Holy Spirit is responsible for showing us sin, and we are responsible for naming it to God.

1Jo 1:9 If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

2.3.2 The filling excludes human good. If we are not filled with the Spirit, our production is human good. It is not the will of God that we operate in carnality; all human good is repugnant to the Lord.

Jer 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked, who can know it.

Rom 8:8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

2.3.3 Divine good will be rewarded at the **Bema** and human good will be burned.

1Co 3:12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

1Co 3:13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

1Co 3:14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

1Co 3:15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

2.4 Thanksgiving--It is the will of God that we give thanks in everything. Thanksgiving is an expression of worship toward God. We are to be thankful no matter what happens.

1Th 5:18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you

2.4.1 Thanksgiving is a mental attitude, a product of doctrine in the soul.

Eph 5:20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

Phi 4:6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

2.5 Suffering--It is often the will of God that we suffer.

1Pe 4:12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

1Pe 4:13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

1Pe 4:14 If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.

2.5.1 This is a difficult concept, but when you understand that the purpose of suffering is blessing, then you begin to realize that God has a reason for it all.

1Pe 4:19 Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.

2.5.2 God is always faithful to us even through suffering. Undeserved suffering is one way of directing our attention to the things that are important in life-- fellowship with God, learning the Word, growing in grace.

2.5.3 Suffering honors Christ by proving the reality of our faith.

1Pe 1:7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor at the rapture of the church.

2.6 Trusting--It is the will of God for every believer to trust the Lord.

Pro 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

Pro 3:6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

2.6.1 If we think divine viewpoint He will direct our paths and guide us even in times of great stress.

2.7 Production--It is the will of God for every believer to produce divine good.

2.7.1 In 1Pe 2:15 we see that "well doing," or producing divine good, is the will of God. Believers are left on this earth to represent and glorify the Lord Jesus Christ. Part of representing Him is to be effective in the realm of production, the natural by-product of spiritual maturity.

1Pe 2:15 For it is the will of God, that with well doing you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men:

2.7.2 God has already provided the divine good which He wants manifested in time, and it is our job to take in the Word and produce or walk in those works.

Eph 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

2.8 Existence of Nations-- It is God's will that nations exist and prosper. Internationalism is evil and never will be an effective tool. Nations are designed to protect the freedom of its constituents. God has ordained the existence of nations and Satan is His declared adversary.

Isa 14:12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, you who did weaken the nations!

Deu 32:8 When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance, when he divided all mankind, he set up boundaries for the peoples according to the number of the sons of Israel.

Act 17:26 From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live.

Act 17:27 God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us.

2.8.1 God judged the first attempt at internationalism. It was at the tower of Babel (an idolatrous platform); there internationalism was outlawed and nations were established. Gen 11:1-9

Gen 11:1 Now the whole world had one language and a common speech ...

Gen 11:6 The LORD said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them.

Gen 11:7 Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other."

Gen 11:8 So the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city.

2.9 Avoid War--Nations are to avoid war by maintaining a strong military.

Psa 68:30 ... Scatter the nations who delight in war.

Psa 120:6 Too long have I lived among those who hate peace.

Psa 120:7 I am a man of peace; but when I speak, they are for war.

Jos 11:23 So Joshua took the entire land, just as the LORD had directed Moses, and he gave it as an inheritance to Israel according to their tribal divisions. Then the land had rest from war.

2.10 Populate The Earth--It is God's will that people replenish the earth.

Gen 1:28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

Gen 9:1 And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.

2.10.1 Who knows? will the next new-born become the believer who solves the angelic conflict? Col. R. B. Thieme once said, "Is it possible there is some number of believers in God's timing needed for resolution of the appeal phase of the angelic conflict?"

I want to close our lesson by reading in part an editorial by Diana West.

"Funny thing about a recent op-ed piece ... in the *Washington Post* outlining likely Saudi actions if the United States withdraws from Iraq: namely that Saudis would both support Sunnis in Iraq (versus Shiites supported by Iran) and manipulate the oil market to 'strangle the Iranian economy.' I think it sounds peachy, this let-them-devour-each-other strategy--which I'm guessing many Americans mutter to one another in frankness, if not also in confidence ... after all it just isn't politically correct to speak about such ... Saudi money is already supporting Sunni forces in Iraq according to the Associated Press ... this private funding could easily become official Saudi policy ... Meanwhile, we already know Iran is backing, if not guiding, Iraqi Shiites. So what should we do? I propose two options ... The first is military, but it carries a seemingly insurmountable cultural override. The fact is, the United States has an arsenal that could obliterate any jihad threat in the region once and for all ... In other words, it's a disgrace for military brass to talk about the 21st century struggle with Islam as necessarily being a fifty to one-hundred year war.

Ridiculous. It could be over in two weeks if we cared enough to blast our way off the list of endangered civilizations. As culture, however, the West is paralyzed by the specter of civilian casualties ... The second and best of the two options ... is simply to get out of the way and let the Sunnis and Shiites kill each other. With the two main sects of Islam preoccupied with an internecine battle of epic proportions, the non-Muslim world gets some breathing room ... And we sure could use it--to plan for the next round."

4. So what are we to do?

2Ch 7:14 If my people, who are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

