



TRUMPET SOUNDS

Zahar Publishing

Rebecca O'Connor

Editor: Dennis O'Connor

LAWS MADE IN DARKNESS

Using the Gregorian calendar, the arrest and trial of Jesus took place on April 6th, 32AD, during the ninth hour. The Jews put together a plan that was illegal, erroneous, unfair, and unwarranted. No man was ever more innocent, yet stood before six illegal judgments in an unlawful trial than Jesus. What they did, they did in the dark hours while all else in the towns slept. They did it secretly and with full intent for a fight as they came with weapons into the garden for the arrest. Here are some of the illegal things they did to get the outcome they wanted: According to the laws of the land, at that time, when a man was arrested for a capital crime, he could never be arrested at night. It had to be in broad daylight. Jesus' arrest took place between 1 and 2 o'clock in darkness. If a man was arrested for a capital crime, no one cooperating in the ar-

rest could be in any way connected to the one who is accused. No arrest for a capital crime could be made based upon information given by a follower or colleague of the accused. They felt if the accused was guilty so were his followers. But the entire plot revolved around Judas, one of the followers. This law was blatantly and openly ignored. No Jewish trial could ever be legally held at night. The law was very clear on the fact that it had to be held in the daytime. Here is the letter of the law taken from the Talmud: "The members of the court may not alertly and intelligently hear the testimony against the accused during the hours of darkness." However, in the record, both before Annas and before Caiaphas, these trials were held in darkness. The members of the Jewish court, in a capital case could not immediately act

and judge. They were to go home and remain alone and separate from one another for two days (at the least, one full day), thinking about the testimonies they had heard, and there had been no true witnesses for Jesus. Here is the letter of the law: "Eat like food, drink like wines, sleep well. And once again return and hear the testimony of the accused. Then, and only then, shall you render a vote." The Jewish court never left the presence of Caiaphas in the darkness of that same night! Not all members of the court were even present, but the selected ones in unity of killing Christ. They never took an "all in favor say I, all opposed say no" kind of vote. Their vote was supposed to be taken from the youngest to the oldest so that the youngest would not be intimidated or influenced by the older votes. It never happened.

We have come full circle to the days of illegally changing and disregard of our laws. That is how prayer was taken out of schools and abortion laws are changed recently in the blink of an eye without the knowledge of many until it is a done deal. Every freedom for Christianity is a quick trial in the same darkness as Jesus' trial, as we see from this headline of 7/1/16: "ABORTION LAWS TUMBLE ACROSS THE COUNTRY".

"If this is a sign of how religious liberty claims will be treated in the years ahead," Alito responded to the action like a man who foresees a bleak future for his side, "those who value religious freedom have cause for great concern."

Inside this issue:

Aftermath	2
Michael Row The Boat Ashore	2
Setting A Backfire	3
Patience Through Trials	3
Outreach	3
Big And Little Sin	4
Foolish Things	4
Independence Day	5
Nobody Like A Sister	5

INSIDE OUT

The enemy is clueless to what we are thinking, for only God knows our thoughts. Satan must see what is on the inside by turning us inside out. To do this the enemy must stalk and watch us to learn who we are inside.

We all have an outside and inside person, but as a Christian we must train the inside to be the same as we show the outside to be. That is when we find our true selves instead of believing our own pretenses.

Satan cuts through the pretense by setting up trials and tests to turn us inside out revealing our secret weaknesses to target.

Like any good prize fighter, once he finds the weakness he keeps punching the same

area until the victim buckles and falls.

God does not stoop to these same tactics because He **does** know our inside from our outside. He gave us His Word for our outside walk and shed His blood for our inside secrets in order for us to unite into one mighty being of love, power and authority! This way as the world presses in on us and the enemy chooses to sift us as wheat, we are able to stand knowing who we are and in whose Kingdom we stand.

The hypocrisies of the those being posers outwardly yet reacting from compromising hearts of biases and unforgiveness have been a witness the world wants in

no part. There are some shining examples that even the world cannot find fault. These are the servants that live inside out in unity of purpose without fear of reprisal. The enemy cannot blackmail the honest who have held God's Word in highest regard inwardly and outwardly.

We have all experienced living a "Jeckle and Hyde" in one body, yet knowing that a house/temple divided against itself cannot stand. One will have to die for the other to live. This is the hour to kill the pretenses because when we are squeezed what is inside comes out anyway. You cannot get orange juice from a squeezed lemon!!

AFTERMATH

The word aftermath carries a significant amount of negativity such as: the consequences or aftereffects of a substantially unpleasant event. It is like an earthquake that hits and the after shocks that follow.

I have lived 66 years of life and sown badly and sown well, and in both instances is an aftermath. I can tell you from experiencing both that the aftermath of doing well has such a great reward...so great that I have praised God for the quake that made me stronger!

We all suffer the quakes. We do not always see them coming nor do they come in our strongest hour. Trials come when we least expect them and on days when the finish line is not in view for the thick blanket of fog all around.

The reaction time is key to its aftermath. The fast reaction is the risky one usually leading to further disaster. For instance, if the enemy hits our children, everything in our being want to jump in and react! Been there, anyone? Every mother and father would wish the hit was shel-

tered by taking it for them, but that is not the way of things. Even though it was our child who received the blow, we suffer all.

God has sent us His Holy Spirit to change everything around, and he who waits upon the Lord and is slow to anger and hath an ear to hear what the Spirit is saying. I am not just talking about an incident change but something life changing affecting all future events.

Because we live in this world, we and our children are in harm's way. That

is not an exaggeration if you know that satan is not only the prince of darkness but the prince of this world as it says in John 12:31, 14:30 and 16:11.

We equip ourselves with the Word of God and put our feelings, that come instantly, on hold. Time is crucial and there is no time to waste on feelings brought by anger. We need to nip satan in the bud, which means stop it in its early development so it cannot open to a full bloom 30 times the size it started.

Clean up can be a whole lot easier.

MICHAEL ROW THE BOAT ASHORE.

The title is an old "Negro Spiritual" song dating back to the Civil War that was reformed and sung by Peter Paul and Mary in the 60s. It is not just another of the "hippie" songs but has meaning that has been retranslated by other composers, yet still remains spiritual.

The song's star is Michael, the archangel. ***Dan 12:1 And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.***

Whether Michael is the archangel or Jesus, we know He is sent of God for His children.

Some of the stanzas in Harry Belafonte's rendition used biblical characters:

*Old man Noah built an ark, Hallelujah
Worked from dawn 'til after dark, Hallelujah
When he left for foreign shores, Hallelujah
Had a big family but had no oars, Hallelujah
Michael row the boat ashore, Hallelujah!
Michael row the boat ashore, Hallelujah!*

All renditions get us to the promise land by allowing God to direct the boat.

If I could put the song's meaning in a nutshell for us today it would be: *"God used amateurs to build an ark; man used professionals to build the unsinkable Titanic".*

Life does not have to be as risky as a soapbox derby with remnants of material waste lying at the water's depths. So many seasoned sailors lie in the depths of the sea, yet every boat with Jesus reached its destination no matter the storms that came up. There was even one man, Jonah, who reached the shore of destination without a boat, but that's a fish story. Whether by boat of wood or fish if God is in it, you will reach the shore. God is greater than the sea and proved it by walking right on top with it under His feet.

The issue for us is trust. Who floats your boat? Will you be more likely to trust in the ark or buy a ticket on the Titanic?

Truth be told, most go for the Titanic simply because our eyes see a sturdy structure or sure plan and jump aboard. As the waves of life hit, we hang on and hope for calmer weather altogether missing sight of the iceberg dead ahead as we speed along in our

grand delusion that we can conquer the sea. The only way, Truth and life to conquer is in God's ark and purpose through Christ.

Going through life wearing a life jacket in place of the robe of righteousness is a display of the risk taken.

Noah, in his generation, was an oddball. He did not live a predictable life of status quo because a deluge was on its way. People were not unaware of this for he preached it continuously. Maybe some listened at first but then scoffed, *"You keep warning us, yet we see nothing to bear witness of its truth."* Jesus said that just as in the days of Noah people would be the same disbelievers of the warnings. *"Every generation keeps warning and nothing ever comes of it,"* they scoff.

Each generation has eroded society deeper into becoming more like Noah's day.

Genesis 6:5,11,12 And 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. The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And

God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth.

Jude 1:7 Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

2 Peter 3:3-4 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.

At least today they are not yet passing our children through the abortion fires of Molech...or are they? Men and woman are not going after strange flesh as Lot's day...or are they? Well, people are not being brutalized or beheaded as in the days of old...or are they? We have come to the place of mass confusion in gender identity...so much so that we do not know which restroom to go into. This has exceeded both Noah and Lot's day.

SETTING A BACKFIRE

While praying I saw a vast field. To the left was a raging inferno licking up all the beautiful terrain of growth and igniting more as it moved swiftly along. Then I saw a line of intercessors to the right as if firefighters fighting fire with fire. I watched them set a backfire of flames that quickly raced toward the fire to the left burning it out.



Afterward, in the field of blackened char, I saw new sprigs of growth taking over the field. The understand-

ing came that the enemy will burn through this nation with fires of destruction, whether literal or spiritual...I believe both. This Scripture rings true: **Ezek 22:30-31** *And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that it should not be destroyed: but I found none. 31 Therefore they are consumed with the fire of indignation: their own way have they recompensed upon their heads, saith the Lord GOD. RRV*

I do heed the call of intercessors setting a backfire in the spirit. If you are thinking, "Yah, you go intercessors!" my question is...what of you? Intercession is not a position. It is the

call for us all: **1 Tim 2:1-2** *I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; 2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.*

In Ezekiel's day God could not find one because no one was "CALLED", yet God clearly called everyone...anyone who would.

David Wilkerson had a vision and Word of the Lord: *"God is going to save you and your children and all His people by becoming a wall of fire about them. This wall of fire will grow higher, wider, more intense as evil increases.*

God is going to raise up a holier, more righteous, more dedicated, more devoted generation than in any time in history. Where sin abounds, grace will much more abound. God is going to secure Himself a holy people protected by a wall of fire-so intense the devil and his hordes will be thrown into chaos, unable to get to those behind God's wall of fire."

Are you one of His holy people or is this someone else's call? It has been asked, "Why do you take your religion so seriously?" That is both the joke and punch line rolled into one stupid question, but maybe not so stupid after all, if you do not hold the answer. Think about it.

PATIENCE THROUGH TRIALS

When the enemy has desired to sift us as wheat I have heard several different thoughts:

1. *You must have opened the door for satan to come in.*
2. *You must be doing something right for satan to be attacking you.*
3. *You live in a fallen world, so don't be surprised by the trials that come.*

In the end, it is not how you got into the trial but how you get out that matters. Trials that test our faith are potential opportunities. They are most often a lot of little lessons leading to

an even bigger outcome later.

James 1:2-4 *My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations (adversities); 3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. 4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.*

It is interesting to be encouraged to let or allow patience to have her perfect work in a trial. Most of us want it over NOW rather than allowing ourselves to learn with patience the lesson from this challenge to our faith.

It is like taking an antibiotic. You may feel better but you must continue to finish the course of antibiotics for the healing to be complete. We do not count the trial itself all joy, but the opportunity to grow and mature.

My family is in a trial at the moment. Even though it started with a bomb, we find ourselves at the point of allowing patience to have her perfect work. It is not over until patience has worked her work and the healing is complete no matter the healing that takes place.

Often in the face of trial I say, "I'm gonna make some popcorn. I want to

see how this movie plays out." There are usually some twists and turns until the villain is captured or converted in the end and you shed tears of joy because the ending was just right. It is always joy to see how God is going to get everything to the finish line. Yet, if we do not allow patience to have her perfect work, it is nothing but a B movie at best.

Of course this is prime time for intercessors to be in their war room navigating through the battle with the Sword of the Spirit to cut through the enemy's camp and take the kingdom back by force.

OUTREACH

Sometimes we limit outreach to a financial reach. When Denny was out of work it was difficult to reach others with financial blessings. Our outreach was to pray for everyone needing a job.

Outreach is simply reaching beyond one's own needs to intercede for

others in like situations. When facing family turmoil, we do not start and stop with I, me, my and mine. Whatever situation you are in you can feel it more to the heart than at any other time, so it only makes sense that your prayers will be more forceful not only for you but for those like you. Besides the fact that as a man sows that shall

he reap. If you are only sowing for yourself there is less gain than if you are sowing into the lives of others and reaping back bountifully. Denny and I do not sow into others to kick in the law of reciprocity; it just happens to work automatically. The next time your journey is rough in finances, health, worry or fear etc., start seeing the bigger

picture of satan striking a theme throughout. You are only one of many under fire. Just imagine what more coming together can do: **Lev 26:8** *And five of you shall chase an hundred, and an hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight*

Deut 32:30 *...one shall chase 1000 and two put 10,000 to flight...*

BIG AND LITTLE SIN

The church world has an unusual perspective on sin by mentally categorizing it into big or little, whether or not they admit it. We know that we all fall short and have sinned but we do not see ourselves as Adolf Hitler or Fidel Castro...right? We make comparable assumptions since we are just normal, small sized, sinning Christians compared to the terrorists.

If you have ever wondered about sin being big or little, the answer is found in Jesus' Words: **Matt 5:21-22** *Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and*

whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: 22 But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.

What about this one: **Matt 5:27-28** *Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: 28 But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a*

woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

We do not think of being angry at someone equal with murder but in both is the danger of judgment. If judgment goes both ways then so does forgiveness. Do you believe that if Adolf Hitler had dropped to his knees crying over the blood he spilled and asked Jesus to forgive him, that he would have been forgiven? I do not find it difficult to say that I do believe in that forgiveness.

In the end it is not how commendable our actions because we are saved by Grace and nothing by what we do.

So the next time you think about judging someone else remember the only person you can truly change is YOU.

Or you can look at it this way: If judging people and things is bad, we have a problem...because the only way we could find out if some judgment has happened...is to judge the situation. Therefore we must perpetuate the offense to find it!

FOOLISH THINGS

1 Cor 1:27-28 *But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; 28 And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:*

Give God ingredients like foolish, weak, base things and season with that which is despised and, voila, you have a mighty, miraculous force.

But look closer at these ingredients:

Foolish-moros: *dull or stupid, heedless, blockhead, and absurd*

Weak-asthenes: *strengthless, more feeble, impotent, sick, without strength, weak (-er, -ness, thing)*

Base-agenes: *without pedigree, that is of unknown descent, ignoble*

Despised-exoutheneo: *contemptible, least esteemed, set at naught.*

When God came to earth He did not choose the famous men of His day, He chose just as 1 Co 1:27-28 says. Take a look:

Peter-fisherman-impulsive and fearful

Andrew-fisherman-eager

John-fisherman-ambitious, judgmental

James the Greater-fisherman-short tempered

James the lesser-unknown i.e. ignoble

Matthew-tax collector-despised

Philip-fisherman-questioning attitude

Bartholomew-unknown-straight forward, rejected Jesus at first being from Nazareth

Thomas-unknown-doubted

Thaddaeus-unknown

Simon-zealot-fierce patriot

Judas-unknown-greedy

That is the nutshell version of the 12 disciples who became the 12 transformed apostles:

Peter-became embolden in his witness afraid of nothing

Andrew-became an amazing witness

John-became beloved of all

James-deeply committed and part of the inner core with Peter and John

James the Lesser- lay down his life

for the Gospel

Matthew-wrote the Gospel of Matthew

Philip-great evangelist who led many to Christ

Bartholomew-in whom was found no falsehood

Thomas-willing to die with Jesus at Bethany

Thaddaeus-crucified for his great faith

Simon-became a patriot of a new Kingdom

Judas-chose mammon over Jesus and in his remorse committed suicide

What God chooses He helps transform, but as we see in only one of the 12 Judas never changed.

God has a way of seeing what He intends us to be and Jesus is the author and finisher of who we become if we will yield to His Spirit.

Look at the inner core of Peter, James and John. Peter is called a Rock one moment and Satan the next. If he was a disciple in this day and age and was faced with ISIS he would have denied Christ out of fear for his life. Sure, he would have felt terrible just as he did

when he denied over 2,000 years ago. Just imagine all those who did not deny Christ and were beheaded. We read of the numbers in the news today. Yet Peter gave his life in the end.

James and John were called the Sons of Thunder because they thought nothing of calling lightning to strike and kill a whole town!! These three were the inner core not because they were perfect, but because they loved the Lord. They were real with God and He was real to them.

One thing I know about each of them; they had the potential for better things. Jesus saw it too. Jesus sees us each as He designed. We can fit into all the dull, stupid, heedless, blockhead, absurd, feeble impotent, least esteemed nothings that we feel about ourselves and still be disciples learning how to walk out our faith.

One fine day the worm turns into a butterfly, and we get lift off! But also remember those 12 did not transform as much in Jesus' first appearance but in His second after He had risen from death!! We too are getting ready for Jesus' second appearance. It is time to come out of the cocoon and straighten our wings for flight.

INDEPENDANCE DAY

Isa 9:6-7 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

What does it mean that the government was upon His shoulder? The shoulder is where the weight is put in

order to carry. In Hebrew shoulder is the word sh^lkem means place of burdens. Jesus has long shouldered Israel. Jesus even foretold of its fall and restoration in the end of times: *Luke 21:24 And they (Israel) shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations (AD 70): and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.* (Fulfilled 1967)

Israel is the place of burdens upon Jesus' shoulder. No one thought Israel could rise again, but prophecy declared it and Jesus' shoulder carried it.

Israel won its independence from a very long and hard captivity in 1948 and Jerusalem in 1967 in an amazing set of circumstances that one could only attribute to divine supernatural intervention.

WAKE UP! Read on from the fulfillment of that prophecy to where we are right now:

Luke 21:25-28 And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, (Tetrad 2014-2015) and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; 26 Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which

are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. 27 And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. 28 And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.

The time is not given for each event following, but we do see what is next on the hit parade.

There is always a battle for independence...for Israel...for America and for the Kingdom of God. I pray in hope for my nation, but have confidence in the Kingdom of God without a doubt!

NOBODY LIKE A SISTER

I just want to take a moment to be thankful for my sisters, not to exclude brothers. A brother tends to leave his mother and father and cleave to his wife and her family. Maybe because of this: *Mark 10:6-7 But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. 7 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife;*

At any rate, this is about sisters and I just love mine. I have natural siblings I adore and friends who have become sisters. It is my siblings who share all memories from my childhood and can relate to one another because we share parents, holidays and events whether major or minor. We shared in

disagreements, insensitive remarks, petty rivalries that we may still deny, but when a bomb hits we are linked arm in arm unity. My sisters and I have laughed together, cried together, gotten lost together and fought for one another if it came to that. Do not dare

say anything bad about my sister! I may...BUT DON'T YOU DARE!

Recently our mother was in the hospital and as always we sisters fell into our ranks of support, love and prayers, which is our default and where our heart can be found. Our

brother's heart was in close communication. We did not just fight for the health and safety of our mother but caught up with one another's battles and supported each cause.

I rediscovered how precious each and every family member is. Though we do not live in the same town or see each other as often as we would like, our hearts beat exactly the same. We share the same God and Savior, the same devotion to our parents and each other. We support our children and their children. We love our in laws and out laws, if that makes sense.

A word to the wise...NEVER GO AFTER A SISTER or you will have crossed a line you wished you had never crossed.

