

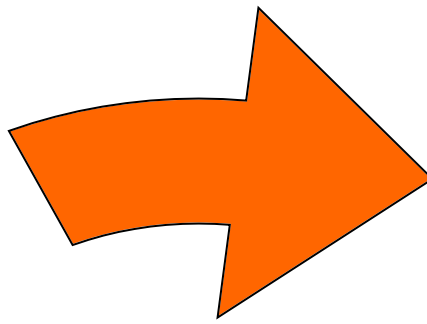
The News Is Painful to Watch

- Our freedom as Christians is under assault.
- Been established by the Supreme Court government can forbid us to meet for worship
- An attempt to erase portions of our heritage as based on Scripture is well under way.
- A “*cancel culture*” has arisen destroying lives if they don’t comply with their thinking.
- Our convictions as Christians are not compatible with this new culture.
- We must accept what they believe about abortion, gay rights, rule of law, morality.

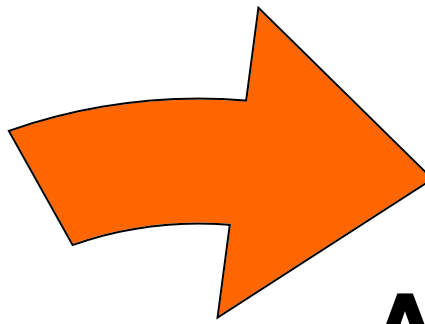
Persecution Just Over the Horizon

- Depending upon who takes power in the next election, drastic changes are possible.
- Tolerance for different views is vanishing.
- If those in power decide to crush free speech on scriptural truth, we will have no choice but to violate it.
- Current events seem to indicate we may be moving to the third phase in the cycle of the Judges.

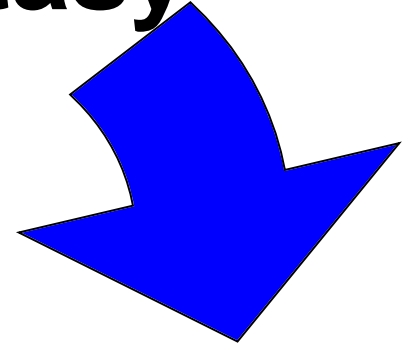
Peace



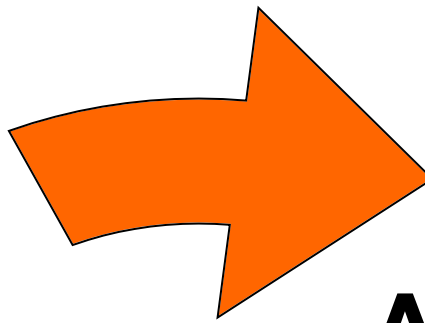
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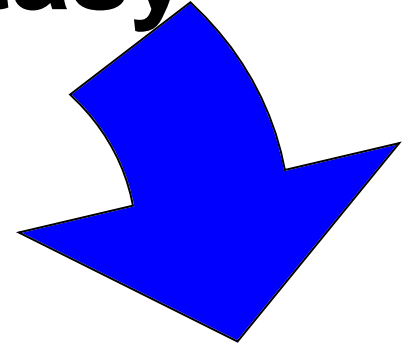
Apostasy



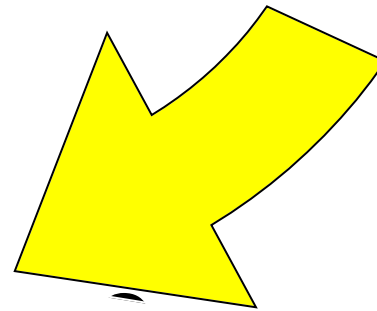
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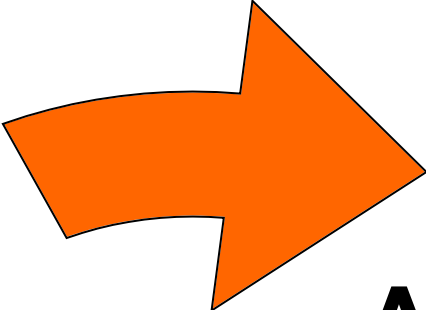
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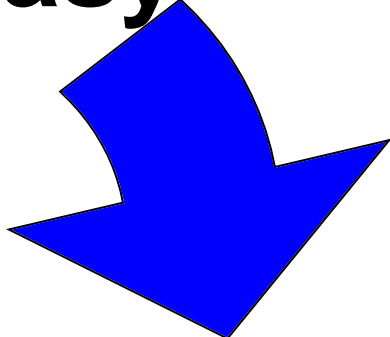
Affliction



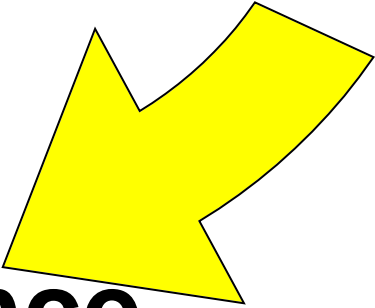
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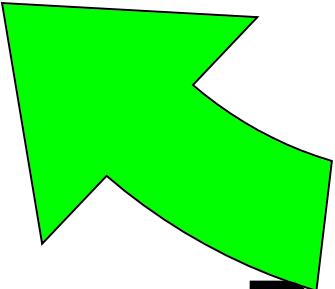
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Affliction



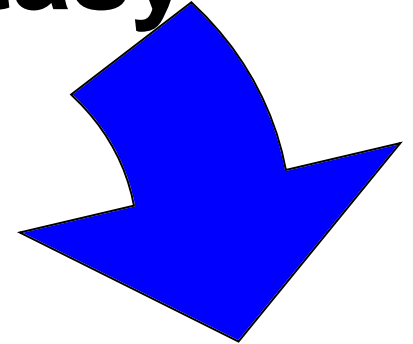
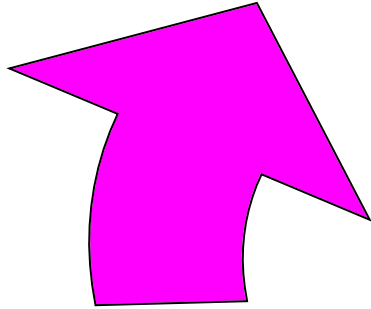
Repentance



Cycle of Judges

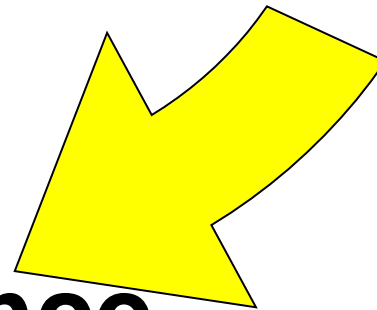
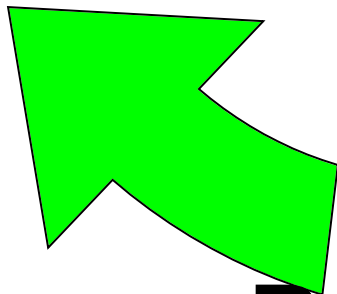
Peace

Apostasy



Deliverance

Affliction



Repentance

This Applies to All Nations

- God made it clear to Jeremiah that this is not limited to Israel, but applies to all nations.
- *Then I went down to the potter's house, and there he was, making something at the wheel. ⁴ And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter; so he made it again into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to make. ⁵ Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying: ⁶ "O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter?" says the Lord "Look, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel! Jer 18:3-10*

This Applies to All Nations

- *7 The instant I speak concerning a nation and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, to pull down, and to destroy it, 8 if that nation against whom I have spoken turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I thought to bring upon it. 9 And the instant I speak concerning a nation and concerning a kingdom, to build and to plant it, 10 if it does evil in My sight so that it does not obey My voice, then I will relent concerning the good with which I said I would benefit it.*

What Can We Do in Such Times?

- *3 If the foundations are destroyed, What can the righteous do? 4 The Lord is in His holy temple, The Lord's throne is in heaven; His eyes behold, His eyelids test the sons of men. 5 The Lord tests the righteous, But the wicked and the one who loves violence His soul hates. 6 Upon the wicked He will rain coals; Fire and brimstone and a burning wind Shall be the portion of their cup. 7 For the Lord is righteous, He loves righteousness; His countenance beholds the upright. Ps. 11*

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The most important thing, Remain righteous and not allow the culture to harm our faith.

Habakkuk Gives Insight

- *The burden which the prophet Habakkuk saw. 2 O Lord, how long shall I cry, And You will not hear? Even cry out to You, “Violence! “And You will not save. 3 Why do You show me iniquity, And cause me to see trouble? For plundering and violence are before me; There is strife, and contention arises. 4 Therefore the law is powerless, And justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous; Therefore perverse judgment proceeds. Hab 1:*
- Israel was in a period of history much further than ours. We need to pray and do all to avert this.

God's Answer

- *5 "Look among the nations and watch — Be utterly astounded! For I will work a work in your days Which you would not believe, though it were told you. 6 For indeed I am raising up the Chaldeans, A bitter and hasty nation Which marches through the breadth of the earth, To possess dwelling places that are not theirs.*

Habakkuk's Response:

- *12 Are You not from everlasting, O Lord my God, my Holy One? We shall not die. O Lord, You have appointed them for judgment; O Rock, You have marked them for correction. 13 You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, And cannot look on wickedness. Why do You look on those who deal treacherously, And hold Your tongue when the wicked devours A person more righteous than he? 14 Why do You make men like fish of the sea, Like creeping things that have no ruler over them?*
- He doesn't understand why God would allow things to get to this extreme.

Habakkuk hopes to Pray Futher

- *2:1 I will stand my watch And set myself on the rampart, And watch to see what He will say to me, And what I will answer when I am corrected.*
- **God's Final Decree:**
- *2 Then the Lord answered me and said: "Write the vision And make it plain on tablets, That he may run who reads it. 3 For the vision is yet for an appointed time; But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; Because it will surely come, It will not tarry. 4 "Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; But the just shall live by his faith.*

Warning to the Hebrews

- Jesus in 33 ad had prophesied Jerusalem's Destruction in their lifetime (Mt. 24:34).
- Hebrews was written some time in the 60's probably 63-66 ad and was destroyed in 70 ad.
- *For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: 37 "For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry. 38 Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him." 39 But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul. Heb. 10:36-39*

Our Obligations Are Clear

- 1. **We must remain righteous.** There can be no compromise. Our faith in God is key at such times. We have to trust Him.
- 2. **We cannot Compromise Truth** Scripture is absolute, we must hold fast
- 3. **Our Faith cannot waver.** No matter what stand we must take, we must trust God.
- **We May be the most important part in the outcome.**
- Remember Abraham's prayer to God about Sodom. We are the salt and the light.