

Great Controversy Series
Standing for Present Truth
Chapter 11 - Protest of the Princes
Bible Sermon Study Notes: Cary Rodgers, Jr, pastor

Are you established in PRESENT TRUTH?

2Pe 1:12 Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the **present truth**.

Remember in order to fight a spiritual battle you must have spiritual weapons.

As we get closer to the end of time the opposition get more fierce and intense. Remember our real enemy is not flesh and blood, but Satan and demonic spirits. They cannot be defeated by guns and weapons. They can only be defeated through the power of Jesus Christ, His Word, and prayer.

Are you on the battlefield? What does Jesus say to all true reformers on the battlefield standing up for present truth?

Matthew 10:28-39

- 28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.
- 29 Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father.
- 30 But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.
- 31 Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.
- 32 Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.
- 33 But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.
- 34 Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.
- 35 For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.
- 36 And a man's foes shall be they of his own household.
- 37 He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.
- 38 And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.
- 39 He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.

Matthew 10:16-22

- 16 Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.
- 17 But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues [churches];
- 18 And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles.
- 19 But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak.
- 20 For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.
- 21 And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death.
- 22 And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

Always remember while in battle with the enemy your ARMY is much larger than Satan and his demons.

When the prophet Elisha and his servant were surrounded by the enemy, the Syrian army, when it looked like they were outnumbered and defeated who was with them.

2 Kings 6:15-17

15 And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do?

16 And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.

17 And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.

This is the attitude of true protestant reformers in the last days and those who stood up against the tyranny of Papal Rome during the protestant reformation.

Review protestant reformation map....

Luther's Fate (review)

Satan had all out war against the reformation.

A false reformation of fanaticism was sweeping through Germany.

Blood shed and civil war was the result.

Luther and the true reformation was being blamed for the bloodshed and civil war.

For many years Luther was wanted by Papal Rome. They wanted him dead!

In 1529 it appeared the Luther's fate of a martyr's death was certain.

Princes of Germany convert to true Reformation

As a result of the Holy Spirit power of the reformation during the time of Martin, many princes of Germany were converted to the reformation.

The reformed princes taught the Reformation in their local states within Germany in which they had jurisdiction

In 1526 to avoid a crisis among some of the princes, King Charles V granted the new reformed protestant princes freedom to worship according to the dictates of their conscience. They also were given legal right to share the truth of the reformation to those in their jurisdiction.

The states that believed in the Reformation were not required to be under the power of the papacy nor did they have to do the Catholic mass.

Of course the papacy was not happy about this arrangement and conspired to get rid of the right to liberty of conscience and religious freedom.

Charles V's Diet of Spires in 1529

Papal Roman King Charles V of Germany calls for all princes, dignitaries and officials of the papacy to a grand assembly, a diet, in Spires, Germany in 1529. He was not physically present, but sent messages during the several day assembly.

Charles V along with the papacy at the diet main objective was to crush the reformation, once and for all.

Luther was not allowed to attend, but many reformer of Germany was in attendance

A major show down between the reformed princes and the diet was a great threat

Charles V wanted to be peaceable with the reformed princes. He wanted them to be induced to go against the Reformation but if they had to be killed to stop the reformation, he was prepared to do that.

“An imperial message announced to the Diet that as the resolution granting liberty of conscience had given rise to great disorders, the emperor required that it be annulled. This arbitrary act excited the indignation and alarm of the evangelical Christians. Said one: "Christ has again fallen into the hands of Caiaphas and Pilate." The Romanists became more violent.” GC - 198

The Proposed Deal at Spire

Papal Roman demanded that all the states that accepted the Reformation submit back to the jurisdiction of papal Rome.

The Reformers and the reformed princes claimed the legal liberty from the king that was granted in 1526.

To avoid a major crisis with the reformed princes of Germany a deal was proposed during the meetings at Spire.

The proposed deal:

The reformed princes will be allowed to continue Reformation state with their jurisdiction

BUT, the Reformation would not be allowed to expand to other states under papal jurisdiction who have not accepted the reformation or have not been introduced to it.

Main result of proposed deal would stop the expansion of the Reformation throughout Germany and go against the main principles of sharing the good news to others who were in darkness, regardless of region. Plus this proposed deal would re-establish strength of the papacy in Germany!

“As the evangelical party met for consultation, one looked to another in blank dismay. From one to another passed the inquiry: "What is to be done?" Mighty issues for the world were at stake. "Shall the chiefs of the Reformation submit, and accept the edict? How easily might the Reformers at this crisis, which was truly a tremendous one, have argued themselves into a wrong course! How many plausible pretexts and fair reasons might they have found for submission!" GC - 200

What were the princes response to the proposed deal? Did they compromise and accept? They knew that they were literally putting their lives at risk if they reject the proposed deal. It appeared that Rome was giving them peace treaty.

The princes rejects compromise

"Let us reject this decree," said the princes. "In matters of conscience the majority has no power." The deputies declared: "It is to the decree of 1526 that we are indebted for the peace that the empire enjoys: its abolition would fill Germany with troubles and divisions. The Diet is incompetent to do more than preserve religious liberty until the council meets." GC - 201

Representatives who were reformers from states under the princes who had religious liberty were summoned to the Diet.

Half succumbed to the pressure and agreed with the compromise. The other half knew that they risked a martyr's death.

Said one of the delegates: "We must either deny the word of God, or --be burnt."- GC 201

Ferdinand, Kings Charles V's representative at the diet and brother tried the art of persuasion with the princes and begged them to accept the proposed deal to please the king and for peace.

The princes refused still!

"But these faithful men acknowledged an authority above that of earthly rulers, and they answered calmly: "We will obey the emperor in everything that may contribute to maintain peace and the honor of God." GC-201

Charles V Imperial Command

Frustrated about the princes refusal to accept the compromise the king personally came to the diet in Spire and told the assembly that he was about to decree an imperial command that the princes and other reformers in Germany "**only remaining course was to submit to the majority.**"

The king then leaves the assembly. Princes were not able nor allow to respond.

The Princes PROTEST & Declaration

What were the princes to do now? Submit or stand firm to PRESENT TRUTH. They choose to stand for the PRESENT TRUTH

The princes meet and bravely presented their PROTEST to the Diet.

Princes Declaration

"We protest by these presents, before God, our only Creator, Preserver, Redeemer, and Saviour, and who will one day be our Judge, as well as before all men and all creatures, that we, for us and for our people, **neither consent nor adhere in any manner whatsoever to the proposed decree, in anything that is contrary to God, to His holy word, to our right conscience, to the salvation of our souls.**" {GC 202.4}

"What! we ratify this edict! We assert that when Almighty God calls a man to His knowledge, this man nevertheless cannot receive the knowledge of God!" "There is no sure doctrine but such as is conformable to the word of God. . . . The Lord forbids the teaching of any other doctrine. . . . The Holy Scriptures ought to be explained by other and clearer texts; . . . this Holy Book is, in all things necessary for the Christian, easy of understanding, and calculated to scatter the darkness. **We are resolved, with the grace of God, to maintain the pure and exclusive preaching of His only word, such as it is contained in the biblical books of the Old and New Testaments, without adding anything thereto that may be contrary to it.** This word is the only truth; it is the sure rule of all doctrine and of all life, and can never fail or deceive us. He who builds on this foundation shall stand against all the powers of hell, while all the human vanities that are set up against it shall fall before the face of God." {GC 203.1}

"**For this reason we reject the yoke that is imposed on us.**" "At the same time we are in expectation that his imperial majesty will behave toward us like a Christian prince who loves God above all things; and we declare ourselves ready to pay unto him, as well as unto you, gracious lords, all the affection and obedience that are our just and legitimate duty."- GC 203

The dignitaries at the Diet of Spire were convicted and shocked at the princes boldness and firmness. No action was taken against them at that time nor the reformation.

King Summons Princes to the Diet in Augsburg 1530

One year later after the protest at the diet of Spires the King Charles V summons protestant princes to Augsburg in 1530

Luther encourage the elector of Saxony (one of princes) to attend in boldness for the truth

The Confession

Before the princes made their journey to Augsburg, Luther, Melanchthon, and their associates wrote the beliefs of the Protestant Reformation based the Bible only. It was know as the Confession. They believe that the Bible should be their ONLY guide to their faith.

Though it was expected that the ministers of the reformation sign the Confession, the princes also wanted to sign.

“As the Christian princes advanced to sign the Confession, Melanchthon interposed, saying: "It is for the theologians and ministers to propose these things; let us reserve for other matters the authority of the mighty ones of the earth." "God forbid," replied John of Saxony, "that you should exclude me. I am resolved to do what is right, without troubling myself about my crown. I desire to confess the Lord. My electoral hat and my ermine are not so precious to me as the cross of Jesus Christ." Having thus spoken, he wrote down his name. Said another of the princes as he took the pen: "If the honor of my Lord Jesus Christ requires it, I am ready . . . to leave my goods and life behind." "I would rather renounce my subjects and my states, rather quit the country of my fathers staff in hand," he continued, "than receive any other doctrine than that which is contained in this Confession." Such was the faith and daring of those men of God.” - GC 206

A Mighty Forest Is Our God!

Luther was able to travel with the prince part of way to Augsburg. He was forbidden to appear before the diet in Augsburg.

While traveling Luther sung his now famous hymn, a Mighty Forest Is Our God as words of encouragement and inspiration to the elector of Saxony and the group traveling to Augsburg

David’s song in Psalm 46 is the inspiration of Luther’s “A Mighty Forest Is Our God”

Psa 46:1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Psa 46:2 Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;

Psa 46:7 The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.

Psa 46:10 Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.

Psa 46:11 The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah

A Mighty Forest Is Our God... a couple of verses of song

<p>1 - A mighty Fortress is our God, A Bulwark never failing; Our Helper He amid the flood Of mortal ills prevailing: For still our ancient foe Doth seek to work us woe; His craft and power are great, And, armed with cruel hate,</p>	<p>3-And though this world, with devils filled, Should threaten to undo us, We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us: The Prince of Darkness grim, We tremble not for him; His rage we can endure, For lo! his doom is sure,</p>
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On earth is not his equal.	One little word shall fell him.
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A Mighty Forest Is Our God was the Protestant Reformation's "fight song"

Diet of Augsburg 1530

The princes arrive at Augsburg and were allowed to present their case before King Charles V

The princes read their confession of their protestant faith and also exposed the errors of the papacy.

The gospel was clearly given to the dignitaries of the diet of Augsburg. God's Word shined brightly through noblest and most powerful princes of the empire!

Even though not present Luther, he wrote "I am overjoyed that I have lived until this hour, in which Christ has been publicly exalted by such illustrious confessors, and in so glorious an assembly." - GC 207

"During the struggle at Augsburg, Luther "did not pass a day without devoting three hours at least to prayer, and they were hours selected from those the most favorable to study." - GC 210

What was the response of the dignitaries at the Diet of Augsburg after the princes gave words of truth from the Confession?

"All that the Lutherans have said is true; we cannot deny it," declared a papist bishop. "Can you refute by sound reasons the Confession made by the elector and his allies?" asked another of Dr. Eck. "With the writings of the apostles and prophets--no!" was the reply; "but with those of the Fathers and of the councils--yes!" "I understand," responded the questioner. "The Lutherans, according to you, are in Scripture, and we are outside." - GC 208

Other princes of Germany were converted to the protestant reformation as a result

King Charles V confused that the protestant confession was TRUTH!

The Confession of the protestant reformation was translated in many languages and spread throughout Europe!

"God did listen to the cries of His servants. He gave to princes and ministers grace and courage to maintain the truth against the rulers of the darkness of this world. Saith the Lord: "Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on Him shall not be confounded." 1 Peter 2:6. The Protestant Reformers had built on Christ, and the gates of hell could not prevail against them." GC - 210

Protestant Reformation was defined by the Prince's who stood for Present TRUTH

"One of the noblest testimonies ever uttered for the Reformation was the Protest offered by the Christian princes of Germany at the Diet of Spire in 1529. The courage, faith, and firmness of those men of God gained for succeeding ages liberty of thought and of conscience. Their Protest gave to the reformed church the name of Protestant; its principles are "the very essence of Protestantism." GC - 197

Are you a true protestant reformer who will stand for Present TRUTH in the last day?

The mark of the beast crisis is around the corner. The fulfillment of the formation of the image of the beast is happening right before your eyes.

Only those who study the truths of God's Word and live it by faith will see the storm coming! They are not blind by the mastery of deceptions of Satan.

Prophetic updates of the formation of the Image of the BEAST

Who is the image of the beast? Remember the image of the beast is a reflection of the original beast in Revelation 13 – Papal Rome – a religious power with governmental authority!

The image of the beast are apostate corrupted protestant churches (evangelical)

Revelation 13:11 - 14

Rev 13:11 And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. (USA)

12 And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

13 And he doeth **great wonders**, so that he maketh fire (lightening) come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,

14 And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth **by the means of those miracles** which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

Who is “he” in verse 12 and 13? Yes, the USA in general, but who is the legal representative of the US that was elected “for the people by the people”? The president of the USA.

The US President is elected by the people and is supposed to be the “voice” of the people of the United States. As we get closer to the end of time that literal head that speaks as a dragon and doeth great wonders becomes clearer and clearer.

Verse 13- Great wonders are supernatural miracles that are NOT humanly possible. Who do you think is behind these “miracles” the dragon, Satan.

The purpose of these great wonders that are being done by the president of the US is for the purpose to deceive the world to worship the beast and establish the image of the beast. One of great miracles to proof his divine authority and approval is that he will cause lightening to come down from heaven!

Is it TRUMP / PENCE? This is only a question not a statement nor an answer, but let’s look at some facts.

Now who has positions itself with the church both evangelicals and catholic more than any president in modern history? Donald Trump / Mike PENCE (vp). They won over 80% of the evangelical vote! The majority of Catholics voted for Trump. (Both the beast and the image of the beast overwhelming support)

Remember, the evangelicals have claimed that the protestant reformation is over! Most of the mainstream protestants have made amends with Papal Rome. They have met with the beast face to face and declared unity and brotherhood. Do you think this is happened stance?

Remember, Trump has surrounded himself with many Catholic and evangelical advisers to assist in his political agenda.

Remember, The union of church and state to given to the image of the beast! On May 4, 2017 on the National Day of Prayer surrounded by beast and the image of the beast Trump signs and executive order to give churches more political power by undermining the Johnson Amendment.

What do most of the majority main evangelicals think of Trump?

Remember, the president of the largest Christian University, Liberty University Jerry Falwell, Jr call President the “dream” president for the evangelical church.

Popular evangelical - Lance Wallnau. **“Wallnau’s best-selling book, “God’s Chaos Candidate” is credited as being the catalyst that mobilized thousands of Christians to vote for Donald Trump and contributed to Trump’s unprecedented election victory.”** - <https://lancewallnau.com/about/>

Is Lance Wallnau's Prophecy True? Is Trump God's Anointed Man to Lead the Free World?

6:00AM EDT 10/7/2016 [Steve Strang http://www.charismanews.com/opinion/60395-why-christians-aren-t-laughing-at-lance-wallnau-saying-god-is-raising-up-donald-trump-like-cyrus-in-isaiah-45](http://www.charismanews.com/opinion/60395-why-christians-aren-t-laughing-at-lance-wallnau-saying-god-is-raising-up-donald-trump-like-cyrus-in-isaiah-45)

“Lance Wallnau believes God is raising up Donald Trump like he did King Cyrus in Isaiah 45. When the charismatic speaker/business consultant first said this long before the billionaire businessman received the Republican nomination, nearly everyone thought he was nuts.”

Wallnau told me he had an impression when he first met Donald Trump early this year that there was an anointing on him. He didn't understand the impression since he preferred Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio and Carly Fiorina. Then he saw a meme on Facebook showing Trump as the nation's 45th president. About the same time, he felt the Lord tell him to read Isaiah 45, which says King Cyrus who is called the Lord's "anointed" and later in the chapter says, "I have even called you by your name ... though you have not known Me."

Lance Wallnau: Why Trump Is 'God's Chaos Candidate' and 'Wrecking Ball'

3-21-17 CBN News <http://www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/us/2017/march/lance-wallnau-weighs-in-on-gods-chaos-candidate-now-americas-president>

“Wallnau says God revealed to him that candidate Trump was like the Persian King Cyrus cited in the Bible. Cyrus decreed that the Jews living in captivity in ancient Babylon could return to Israel and rebuild their temple.

“Wallnau says he believes Trump is a "secular reformer" who is going to establish an environment where Christians can bring about a "spiritual reformation."

Interestingly, Wallnau points out that this year marks the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation led by Martin Luther.

"I think this is the time when God is going to do something that is going to create a space for a reformational surge of Christian activity in America that's going to retake institutional high places and occupy places that we virtually surrendered to secular culture," Wallnau tells CBN News.”

Video interview with Pat Robertson on CBN

Wallnau: “I believed God’s people prayed in a miracle.... I think the next thing will happen will be Biblical. I think Donald Trump is going to make a proclamation...Cyrus made a proclamation that authorized the Jews to do something. I think this president is going to put a demand on people of faith to make a difference in America....We have to reclaim institutional presence... He (Trump) believes in the power of the church”

Kim Clement a famous evangelical preacher and self proclaimed “prophet” predicted on 2007 the Trump will be president. Many evangelicals including Wallnau believe that Trump was a clear fulfillment of Clement’s prophecy.

“Trump shall become a trumpet, says the Lord,” the South African Clement bellowed in a recording reportedly made April 4, 2007, in Redding, California.

“Trump shall become a trumpet. I will raise up the Trump to become a trumpet. I will raise up the Trump to become a trumpet and Bill Gates to open up the gate of a financial realm for the church, says the Lord.”

“It shall come to pass that the man I place in the highest office shall go in whispering my name. But God said, when he enters into office, he will be shouting out by the power of the spirit. For I shall fill him with my spirit when he goes into office and there will be a praying man in the highest seat in your land.”

Read more at <http://www.wnd.com/2017/01/did-this-man-predict-trump-presidency-in-2007/#C84Jcar1wwgK8SKS.99>

Kim Clement died a few days after the election from a sudden illness in November 2016.. by the way all his “prophecies” have not been accurate, but many many evangelicals have embraced whole heartily the prophecy about Donald Trump

Prophetic TRUMP is in position to be the one Satan will use do miracles to deceive the world and establish the image of the beast with both political and religious power.

Beware of TRUMP keep your prophetic eyes open and don't be mesmerize by his “reality” TV of distractions

Appeal

“When the testing time shall come, those who have made God's word their rule of life will be revealed. In summer there is no noticeable difference between evergreens and other trees; but when the blasts of winter come, the evergreens remain unchanged, while other trees are stripped of their foliage. So the falsehearted professor may not now be distinguished from the real Christian, but the time is just upon us when the difference will be apparent. Let opposition arise, let bigotry and intolerance again bear sway, let persecution be kindled, and the halfhearted and hypocritical will waver and yield the faith; but the true Christian will stand firm as a rock, his faith stronger, his hope brighter, than in days of prosperity.” GC - 602