



## God Bless America

### I. God Knows the Ending

Genesis 1:1 (NIV<sup>®</sup>)

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Revelation 22:7 (NIV<sup>®</sup>)

<sup>7</sup> "Behold, I am coming soon! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book."

#### A. God Knows

Isaiah 46:9-11 (NIV<sup>®</sup>)

<sup>9</sup> Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. <sup>10</sup> I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please. <sup>11</sup> From the east I summon a bird of prey; from a far-off land, a man to fulfill my purpose. What I have said, that will I bring about; what I have planned, that will I do.

#### B. God's Thoughts

Isaiah 55:7-9 (NIV<sup>®</sup>)

<sup>7</sup> Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. <sup>8</sup> "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. <sup>9</sup> "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Romans 8:6-8 (NASB<sup>®</sup>)

<sup>6</sup> For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, <sup>7</sup> because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able *to do so*, <sup>8</sup> and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

### II. Jesus and Prophecy

#### A. Aware of God's Purpose

Matthew 20:17-19 (NIV<sup>®</sup>)

<sup>17</sup> Now as Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside and said to them, <sup>18</sup> "We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death <sup>19</sup> and will turn him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to life!"

#### B. Yielded to God's Purpose

Matthew 26:42 (NASB<sup>®</sup>)

<sup>42</sup> He went away again a second time and prayed, saying, "My Father, if this cannot pass away unless I drink it, Your will be done."

#### C. Obedience

Matthew 1:22-25 (NIV<sup>®</sup>)

<sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"--which means, "God with us." <sup>24</sup> **When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.** <sup>25</sup> But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

## D. Sovereignty of God

Isaiah 7:14-16 (NIV®)

<sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. <sup>15</sup> He will eat curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right. <sup>16</sup> But before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste.

## III. Sins of America

Jeremiah 5:30-31 (NIV®)

<sup>30</sup> "A horrible and shocking thing has happened in the land: <sup>31</sup> The prophets prophesy lies, the priests rule by their own authority, and my people love it this way. But what will you do in the end?

Isaiah 59:13-14 (NASB®)

<sup>13</sup> Transgressing and denying the LORD, And turning away from our God, Speaking oppression and revolt, Conceiving *in* and uttering from the heart lying words. <sup>14</sup> Justice is turned back, And righteousness stands far away; **For truth has stumbled in the street**, And uprightness cannot enter.

2 Thessalonians 2:3 (NASB®)

<sup>3</sup> Let no one in any way deceive you, for *it (the return of the Lord) will not come* unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction...

1 Timothy 4:1 (NIV®)

<sup>1</sup> The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.

James 3:14-17 (NASB®)

<sup>14</sup> But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and *so* lie against the truth. <sup>15</sup> This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. <sup>16</sup> For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.

## IV. A Response What can we do?

James 1:21-22 (NIV®)

<sup>21</sup> Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. <sup>22</sup> Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

Revelation 3:15-20 (NIV®)

<sup>15</sup> I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! <sup>16</sup> So, because you are lukewarm--neither hot nor cold--I am about to spit you out of my mouth. <sup>17</sup> You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. <sup>18</sup> I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see. <sup>19</sup> Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent. <sup>20</sup> Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.

### Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You in humility. We have wandered from Your truth. We have become comfortable with deception and darkness. Our attention has been turned to our own ambition. We have valued convenience more than obedience. Forgive us our sins. Soften our hearts once again. Open our ears to hear Your direction. Bring a spirit of conviction to our lives. We lift our voices to You, for only You can bring salvation to our lives. You are a faithful God, a God of mercy and truth. We choose to yield to You, in Jesus name, amen.

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