



January 17, 2019

WITCHCRAFT BOOMING IN AMERICA, 'MORE WITCHES THAN PRESBYTERIANS'

Father we pray that our nation will turn from its wicked ways, and bring glory to Your name while there is yet time.

Do not turn to mediums or seek out spiritists, for you will be defiled by them. I am the LORD your God. (Lev 19:31)

The number of self-declared witches in the United States now exceeds the total number of Presbyterians, the Telegraph declared Friday.

Witchcraft is proliferating in the U.S., with some 1.5 million Americans now identifying as witches, while mainstream Christian denominations shrink in numbers each year, the report claimed.

In a major 2015 study, the Pew Research Center found that the United States had experienced an alarming dip in religiosity over the prior seven years, with Christianity suffering the biggest losses, especially mainline Christianity, which fell by 3.4 percent.

Though the United States is still a statistically "Christian nation," with some 70 percent of Americans identifying themselves as Christian, it is markedly less so than even a generation ago....

Over the course of three detailed religion surveys, Trinity College in Connecticut found that Wicca has grown tremendously, from an estimated 8,000 Wiccans in 1990 to some 340,000 practitioners in 2008.

In 2007, Americans were 78.4 percent Christian whereas in 2014 — just seven years later — the figure had dropped to 70.6 percent....

In a 2017 study, Pew found that religious affiliation and practice had dropped off dramatically during President Barack Obama's two terms in the White House.

“When it comes to the nation’s religious identity, the biggest trend during Obama’s presidency is the rise of those who claim no religion at all,” Pew noted in a report titled “How America Changed During Barack Obama’s Presidency.”

“As Christianity declines across the country, paganism has swung to the mainstream, with witchcraft paraphernalia for sale on every high street and practices normalized across popular culture,” Friday’s Telegraph article declared....

“We will be embracing witchcraft’s true roots as the magic of the poor, the downtrodden and disenfranchised,” a website advertising the October 20 event stated, “as often the only weapon, the only means of exacting justice available to those of us who have been wronged by men just like him.”

A quarter of the proceeds from the event were donated to abortion giant Planned Parenthood, organizers stated.... (Excerpts from Thomas D. Williams, PH.D. on [Breitbart](#))

REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS TO SPEAK AT 2019 MARCH FOR LIFE

Lord strengthen the bonds of those who stand firmly upon Your Word. Join us in praying! Go to iPRAYforLIFE.com

God “will repay each person according to what they have done.” ([Rom 2:6](#))

Four U.S. politicians, including two Democrats, will speak at the 2019 March for Life, joining an estimated 100,000 Americans who will gather on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. on Friday, January 18 to peacefully protest legal abortion.

In a bipartisan show of support for the pro-life movement, U.S. Rep. Dan Lipinski (D-Ill.) and State Rep. Katrina Jackson (D-La.), will join U.S. Sen. Steve Daines (R-Mont.) and Rep. Chris Smith (R-N.J.) onstage at the national march.

Pro-life politicians are rare in the Democratic Party, which generally maintains that a woman’s “right” to have a “safe” and legal abortion is non-negotiable, and ostracizes those who disagree.

Rep. Lipinski, who has attended the March for Life in previous years, skipped last year’s national march during a tough primary in which he ran against a pro-choice challenger and faced attacks from pro-abortion groups such as NARAL Pro-Choice America, Planned Parenthood Action Fund and EMILY’s List. Despite the pressure, Rep. Lipinski still attended last year’s Chicago March for Life.

March for Life President Jeanne Mancini said she was “delighted” that the four politicians would appear at the march, and added that the right to life “is a non-partisan issue.”

“We are delighted to have these four pro-life champions speak at the March for Life rally,” Mancini said. “The right to life is a non-partisan issue and, regardless of politics, we should all unite for life and stand against abortion, the greatest human rights abuse of our time.”

The theme of this year's March for Life is "Unique from Day One: Pro-life Is Pro-science," and will emphasize the ways in which modern science supports the pro-life movement....

Since Roe v. Wade, an estimated 60 million babies have been killed by legal abortion in the United States. (Excerpts from Emily Ward article on [CNS NEWS](#))

SECOND U.S. JUDGE BLOCKS TRUMP ADMINISTRATION BIRTH CONTROL RULES

Lord, Your ways are not the ways of men. Confound the wise and bring forth Your Laws and Your statutes for all men to behold. Pray with us during the March for Life—go to iPRAYforLIFE.com to find out how.

Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! (Is 49:15)

A federal judge in Pennsylvania on Monday blocked the Trump administration from enforcing new rules allowing employers to obtain exemptions from an Obamacare requirement that they provide health insurance that covers women's birth control.

U.S. District Judge Wendy Beetlestone in Philadelphia issued a nationwide injunction preventing the rules from taking effect, a day after another judge issued a more limited ruling blocking their enforcement in 13 states and the District of Columbia.

The rules would let businesses or nonprofits lodge religious or moral objections to obtain exemptions from the Obamacare mandate that employers provide contraceptive coverage in health insurance with no copayment.

"The negative effects of even a short period of decreased access to no-cost contraceptive services are irreversible," Beetlestone said....

The judge wrote that the rules exceeded the scope of 2010's Affordable Care Act, popularly known as Obamacare, which she said prohibits HHS from providing such exemptions.

She said a nationwide injunction blocking the rules' enforcement was necessary given the harm states would face if they went into effect. Beetlestone cited the costs the states would shoulder to provide contraceptive coverage to women themselves if the rules took effect.

About 70,500 women would lose coverage, putting them at risk of unintended pregnancies, Beetlestone wrote....

Beetlestone in December 2017 issued a preliminary injunction from blocking those interim rules from being enforced. The administration subsequently issued similar, final rules that supplanted the interim ones.

Beetlestone's decision on Monday came after U.S. District Judge Haywood Gilliam in Oakland, California, issued a preliminary injunction on Sunday to prevent the rules from taking effect.

But Gilliam limited his ruling's impact to the specific states pursuing the lawsuit before him.... (Excerpts from Nate Raymond article on [Reuters](#))

RULING BY PRAYER – SIX TEACHING SUMMARIES ON THE POWER OF INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Here is a sample of a wonderful daily devotional written by Derek Prince. It will encourage and challenge you in powerful intercession for the nation. Sign up for the complete series in [AUDIO](#) or [WRITTEN](#) format.

As I open to you some of the limitless possibilities of believing prayer, let me remind you of three great truths.

First, God has made believers a kingdom of priests, and as such, our responsibility is to rule by prayer. This world is not really ruled by kings, governors, and dictators; they only seem to rule. Those who rule are those who know how to pray.

Second, to be effective, our prayers must be both directed and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

And third, the Spirit of God and the Word of God always work together. The power of the Holy Spirit only works through our prayers insofar as they are in line with the Word of God. To pray effectively, we must know what the Bible says.

For an Old Testament example, let's look at Elijah. James 5:17-18 tells us that he was a man just like us. Yet he prayed, and it didn't rain for three years and six months. His secret was that he applied the truths of God's Word, and – as a result – he controlled the rainfall.

In Deuteronomy 11:16 and 17, God promised He would “shut the heavens so it will not rain” if Israel turned to idols. That happened in Elijah's day, and true to His promise, God withheld rain. But when the people repented of their idolatry, Elijah was able to reverse God's judgment, knowing that God would then “send rain on the land” (1 Kings 8:35,36). Prayers are effective when they're in line with God's promises in the Bible.

Psalm 33:6 speaks of the creation coming into being by the Word of God and the Spirit of God. That applies to our prayers. When God's Word and God's Spirit work together in our prayers, then the same power that brought the universe into being is flowing through us.

Now let's look at an example of prayer from the New Testament. Acts 12:1-11 records the acts of persecution by King Herod. First, he had James executed and Peter put in prison to await the same punishment right after Passover. But verse 5 says (and we will see just how important that little word “But” is), “But the church was earnestly praying to God for him.” While we often must pray alone, sometimes the need calls for corporate prayer. Here, many members of the young Church met together to pray.

What was the result? In this case, God sent an angel to deliver Peter. Hebrews 1:14 tells us that angels are “ministering spirits,” and sometimes it takes our prayers to bring angelic intervention.

Later in the chapter, when Herod received the praise that should have gone to God, “an angel of the Lord” struck him down with a horrible death. Everything that had been resisting the Word and the

purpose of God was overthrown. Herod sat on the throne, but the church ruled by prayer! There are several other examples in the Bible.

The problem with many Christians today is they're often too self-centered. Someone has characterized a typical prayer of the average church member as: "God bless me and my wife, my son John and his wife, us four – no more. Amen."

Let me issue a closing challenge for our consideration in this and our following studies. Will you let God enlarge your horizon as we study more about intercessory prayer?

Author Derek Prince (1915-2003) was an internationally known Bible teacher and a "founding father" of Intercessor for America. Born in India of British parents, he became an American citizen primarily due to his unwavering belief that our biblical heritage made America the strongest hope to ignite a revival for the restoration of godly government and a restoration of biblical standards before the return of Jesus Christ, Lord of the Church. His best known book among intercessors (Shaping History through Prayer and Fasting) portrayed his belief in prayer and fasting to receive God's highest blessings, both for individuals and for our nation. This series is a summary of the author's own words; however, some editorial adjustments are made for space and clarity.