

Responding to the
book of

Revelation

Responding

- Revelation reminds us of future events.
- The Supreme Court decision on same sex marriage has generated many responses:
 - Withdraw and retreat from conflict
 - Prepare of the Apocalypse
 - Continue cultural engagement

Withdraw and Retreat

Leave the Culture War

The Opinion Pages | OP-ED COLUMNIST

The Next Culture War

JUNE 30, 2015



David Brooks

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Christianity is in decline in the United States. The share of Americans who describe themselves as Christians and attend church is dropping. Evangelical voters make up a smaller share of the electorate. Members of the millennial generation are detaching themselves from religious institutions in droves.

Christianity's gravest setbacks are in the realm of values. American culture is shifting away from orthodox Christian positions on homosexuality, premarital sex, contraception, out-of-wedlock childbearing, divorce and a range of other social issues. More and more Christians feel estranged from mainstream culture. They fear they will soon be treated as social pariahs, the moral equivalent of segregationists because of their adherence to scriptural teaching on gay marriage. They fear their colleges will be decertified, their religious institutions will lose their tax-exempt status, their religious liberty will come under greater assault.

Leave the Culture War

- Robert Knight - “Right on cue following the Supreme Court’s demolition of marriage . . . conservative David Brooks said it’s time to move on and leave cultural political issues in the dust.”
- First, he does accurately diagnose the situation.

Leave the Culture War

- “More and more Christians feel estranged from mainstream culture. They fear they will soon be treated as social pariahs.”
- “They fear their colleges will be decertified, their religious institutions will lose their tax-exempt status, their religious liberty will come under greater assault.”

Leave the Culture War

- David Brooks says we should, “Consider putting aside, in the current climate, the culture war around the sexual revolution.”
- Robert Knight responds: “In other words, leave the public square to radicals who are creating a government and culture openly hostile to anyone with traditional values.”

Leave the Culture War

- They might believe that: “Maybe they won’t hit you if you keep your head down.”
- Robert Knight responds: “Taking leave as outsiders might have made sense in an authoritarian regime like ancient Rome but America was created as a self-governing republic where we are Caesar.”

Leave the Culture War

- Think of it this way:
- According to Romans 13:1-7, we are to obey the government and its laws.
- If we aren't involved in politics, then the secular politicians will make the laws that we Christians must obey.

Are We Really Losing?

NATION

And Here We Thought We'd Lost the War

Public opinion is swinging back, thanks to progressives' excesses.

By David French — July 22, 2015

I woke up yesterday morning deeply confused. If there is one thing that I thought I'd learned in life, pro-traditional-marriage — were yesterday's news. The rainbow White House, rainbow FBI, rainbow EPA. All that was left was the mop-up operation. I should hightail it back to my "house of worship" and let the last vestiges of bigotry and backward thinking. It was time to bankrupt the Christian bakers.

All of this was so crystal clear that imagine my confusion when I discovered that since the Supreme Court *declined*. Not only that, but almost six in ten Americans now support the right of religious business owners to refuse service to Planned Parenthood — the world's largest abortion provider and the social-justice Left's favorite for selling baby parts. After all, there are Lamborghinis to buy.

Can't Compromise



Column You can't compromise with culture warriors



Jonah Goldberg

LOS ANGELES TIMES

jgoldberg@latimescolumnists.com

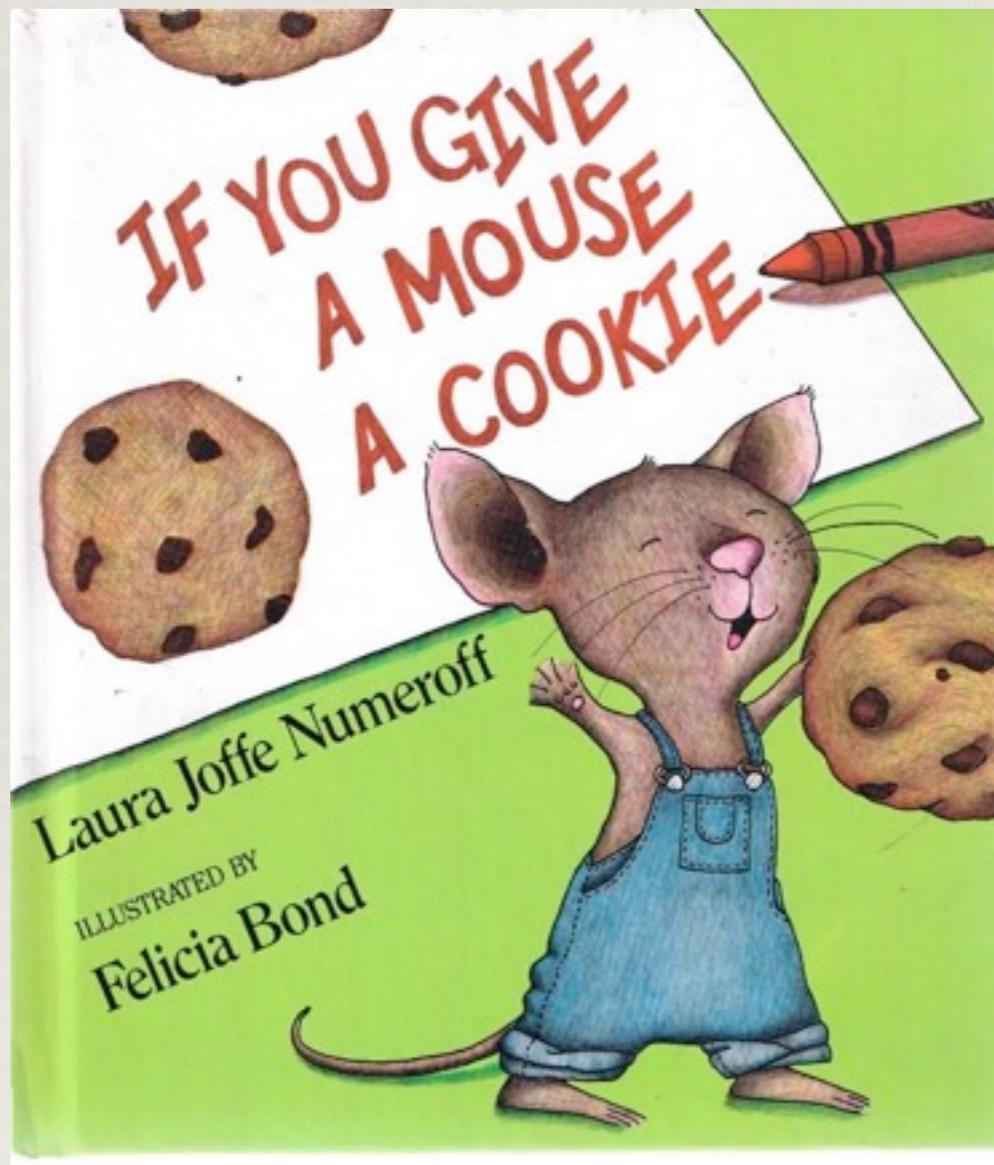
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@jonahnro RT @WSJPolitics: Of the \$1.4 mill spent in the second quarter, at least 40% went [http://...](#)

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Can't Compromise



- He reads this book to his daughter and sees a parallel.
- Give a mouse a cookie, then he wants a glass of milk, then a straw, etc.

Can't Compromise

Now's the Time To End Tax Exemptions for Religious Institutions

Mark Oppenheimer @markopp1 | June 28, 2015



IDEAS Mark Oppenheimer writes the biweekly "Beliefs" column for *The New York Times* and is editor-at-large for *Tablet*. He also reports for *The Atlantic*, *The Nation*, *This American Life*, and elsewhere.

The Supreme Court's ruling on gay marriage makes it clearer than ever that the government shouldn't be subsidizing religion and non-profits



Can't Compromise

POLITICS

It's Time to Legalize Polygamy

Why group marriage is the next horizon of social liberalism.

By FREDRIK DEBOER | June 26, 2015



Benedict Option

- Philosopher Alasdair MacIntyre and conservative writer Rod Dreher have been promoting the “Benedict Option.”
- We should carve out space that would allow Christians to live humbly according to their doctrines and pass those beliefs on to their children.

Benedict Option

IDEAS RELIGION

Orthodox Christians Must Now Learn To Live as Exiles in Our Own Country

Rod Dreher @roddreher | June 26, 2015



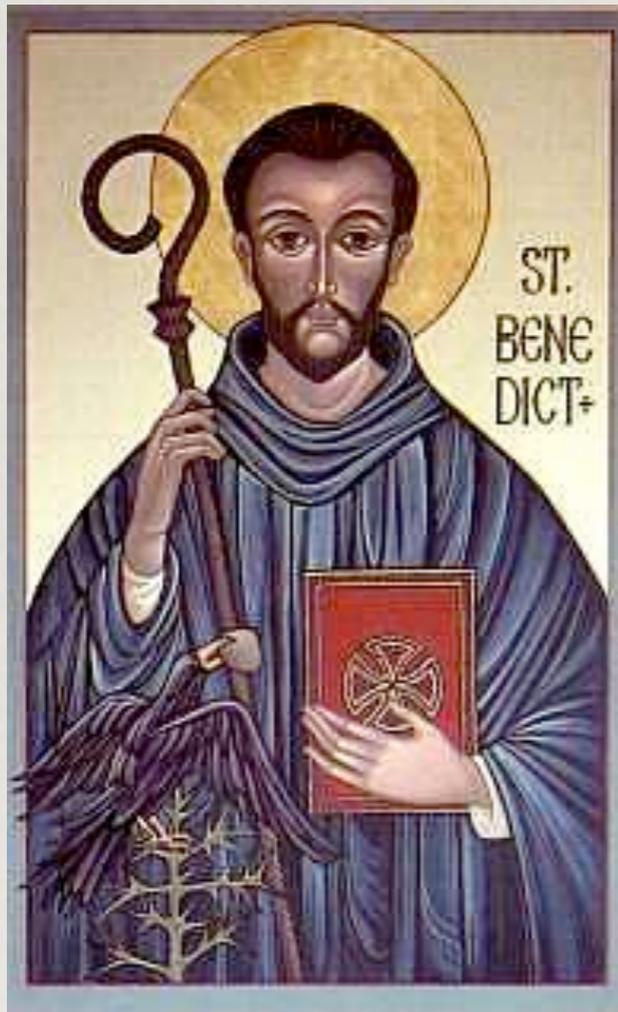
IDEAS Rod Dreher is a senior editor and blogger at *The American Conservative*.

Voting Republican and other failed culture war strategies are not going to save us now

No, the sky is not falling — not yet, anyway — but with the Supreme Court ruling constitutionalizing same-sex



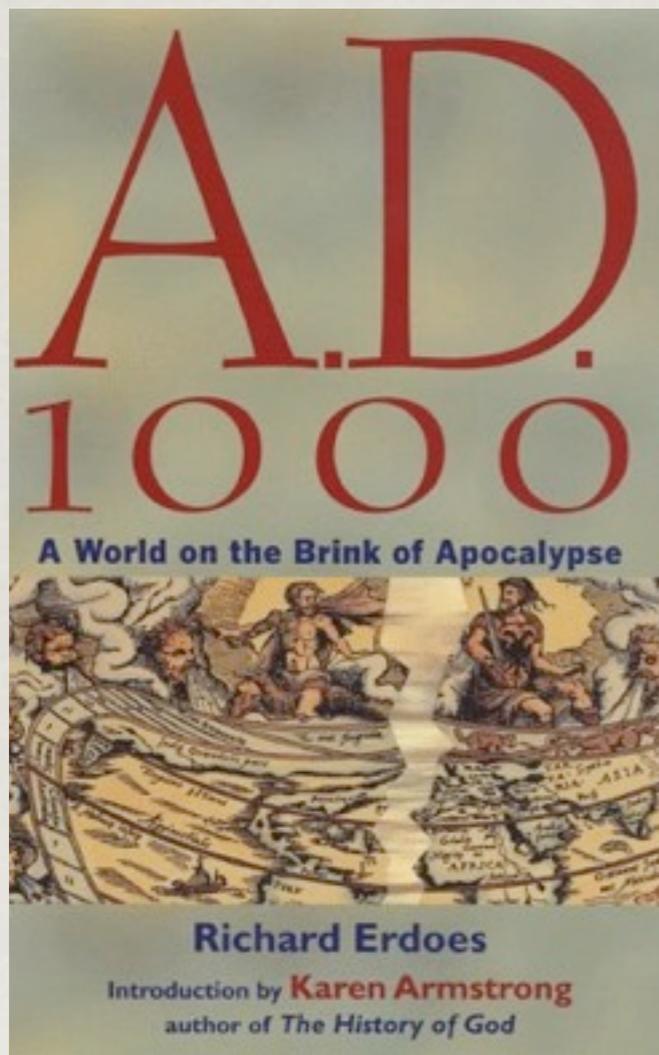
Benedict Option



- St. Benedict of Nursia founded monasteries that helped preserve the remnants of Western Civilization.
- This happened after the falls of the Roman Empire in the 4th century.

Prepare for the Apocalypse

Doomsday Prophets



- Since the Bible talks about a millennium, many believed the world was on the brink of apocalypse.
- This focus started in 1000 and continued until 1033.

Doomsday Prophets



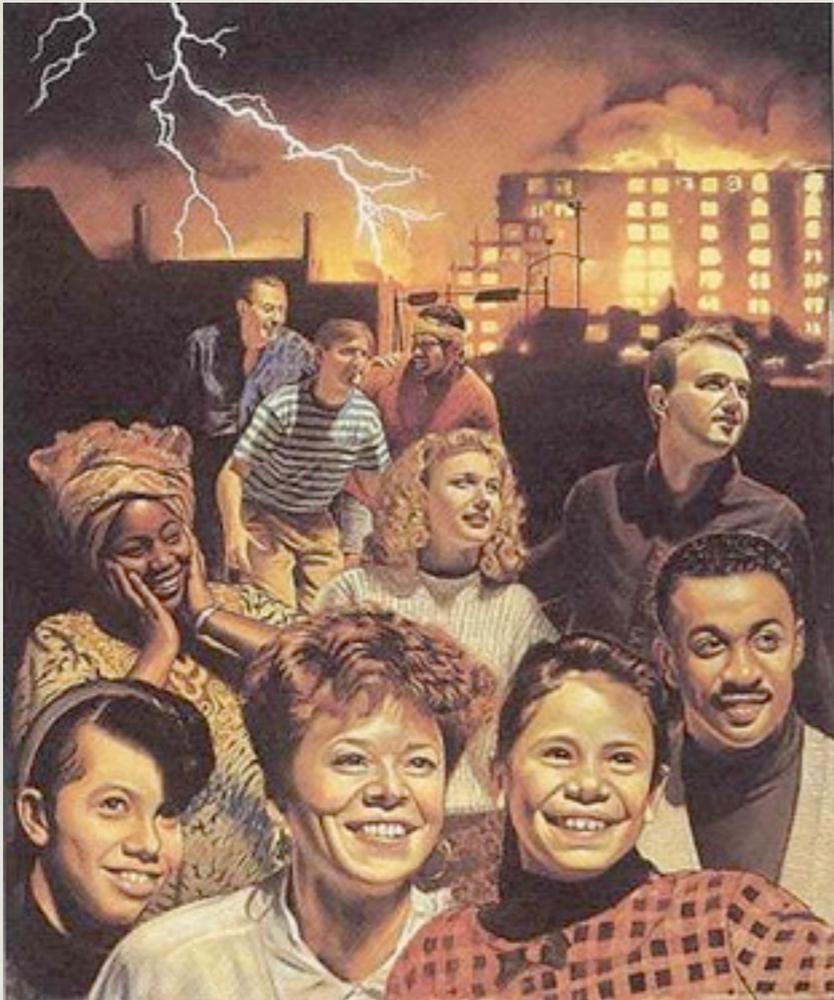
- The year 1666 was a time predicted for the apocalypse.
- It combined the 1000 year millennium with the mark of the beast (666).

Doomsday Prophets

- Williams Miller predicted that Christ would return in October 22, 1844.
- He did not, so he recalculated and predicted He would return in 1845.

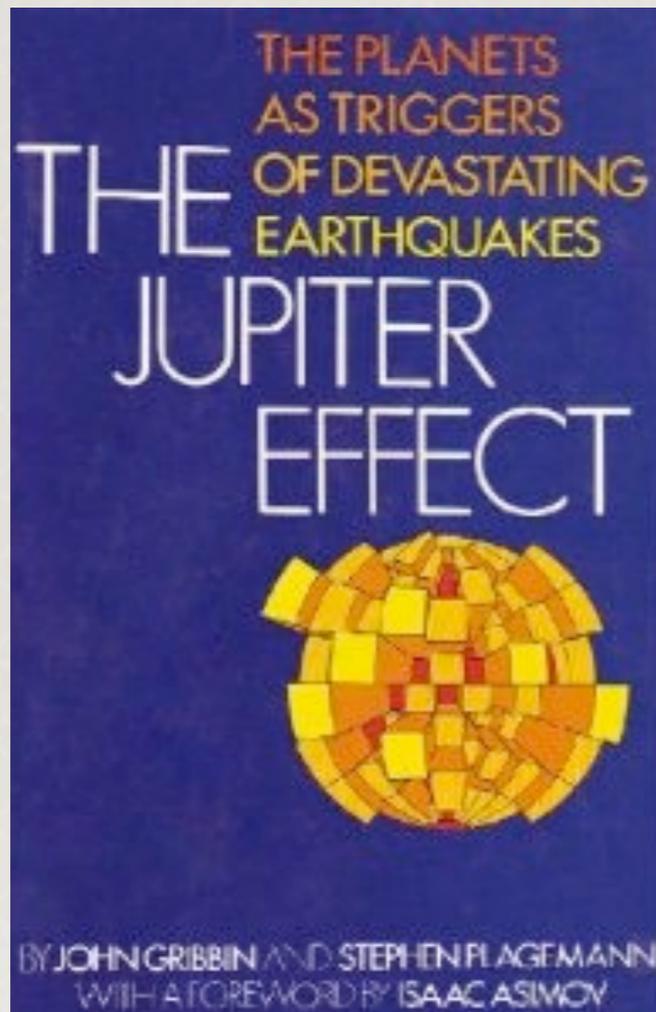


Doomsday Prophets



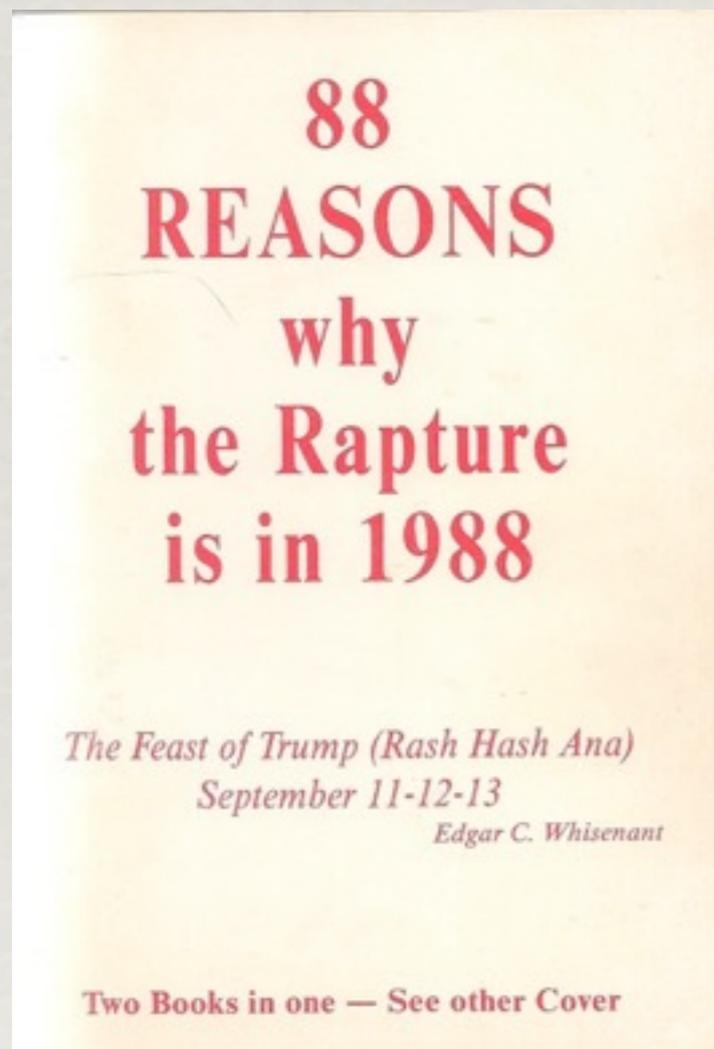
- A former Millerite, Charles Taze Russell started the Jehovah's Witness.
- Predicted: 1874, 1914, 1918, 1925, 1941, 1975.

Doomsday Prophets



- In 1982, two astrophysicists said the rare alignment of all nine planets would cause gravitational pull.
- They predicted killer earthquakes and other phenomenon.

Doomsday Prophets



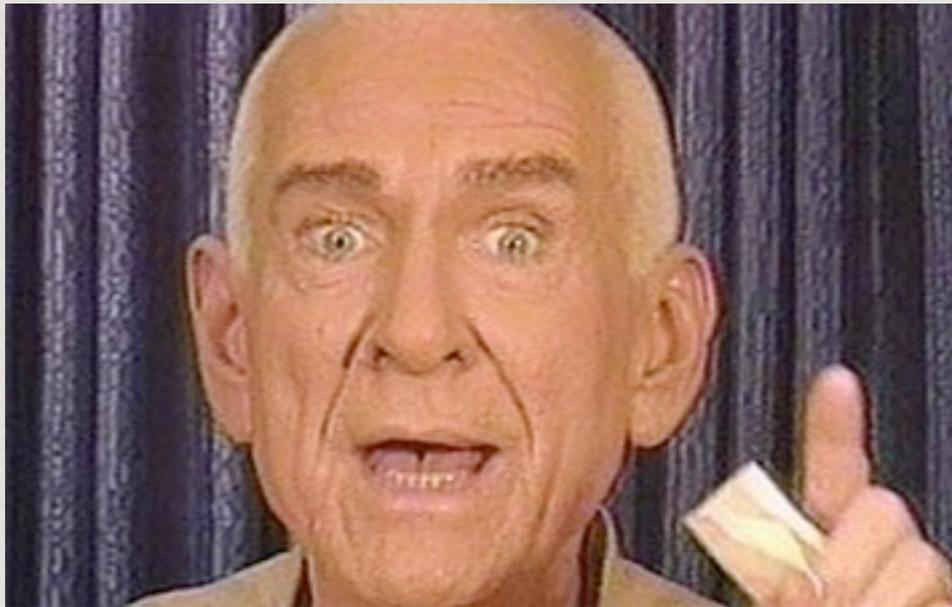
- Edgar Whisenaut published a book saying the rapture would occur in 1988.
- When it did not, he republished predicting the rapture in 1989.

Doomsday Prophets



- Elisabeth Clare Prophet predicted that a nuclear war would start on April 23, 1990.
- Many began to stockpile food and guns in Montana.

Doomsday Prophets



- Heaven's Gate cult predicted the Earth was about to be recycled.
- They committed mass suicide so their souls could ride the comet.

Doomsday Prophets



- Psychic Edgar Cayce predicted back in the 1930s that the Battle of Armageddon would take place in 1999.

Doomsday Prophets



- The Y2K bug was supposed to cause great harm.
- People stocked up on everything from food to toilet paper.

What is a Prepper?



What is a Prepper?

- The word obviously is derived from preparation and its variation preparedness.
- Typically preppers are preparing for severe times in the future.
- They may be preparing for a natural disaster even a major catastrophe.

What is a Prepper?



- They are probably storing some food, water, supplies, and sometimes firearms.
- This makes sense if you lose your power or are hit by a tornado or earthquake.

What is a Prepper?



FEMA Preparedness

The screenshot shows the FEMA Preparedness website. At the top left is the 'Ready' logo with the tagline 'Prepare. Plan. Stay Informed.'. To the right are navigation links for 'CONTACT US', 'MORE LANGUAGES', 'FAQS', and 'FEMA.GOV', along with a search bar. Below this is a horizontal menu with six categories: 'BE INFORMED', 'MAKE A PLAN', 'BUILD A KIT' (which is highlighted in green), 'GET INVOLVED', 'BUSINESS', and 'KIDS'. Each category has a brief description. Below the menu is a sidebar on the left with a list of links: 'Basic Disaster Supplies Kit', 'Maintaining Your Kit', 'Kit Storage Locations', 'Food', 'Car Safety', 'Managing Water', and 'Water'. The main content area is titled 'Build A Kit' and features a photograph of three people (two men and one woman) standing around a table filled with disaster supplies like food, water, and first aid kits. Below the photo is the heading 'BUILD A KIT' and several paragraphs of text explaining the purpose and importance of a disaster supplies kit.

Ready
Prepare. Plan. Stay Informed.

[CONTACT US](#) [MORE LANGUAGES](#) [FAQS](#) [FEMA.GOV](#)

BE INFORMED
Learn what protective measures to take before, during, and after an emergency.

MAKE A PLAN
Prepare, plan and stay informed for emergencies.

BUILD A KIT
Build a kit for disasters to be prepared.

GET INVOLVED
Find opportunities to support community preparedness.

BUSINESS
Plan for and protect your business.

KIDS
Fun and games for kids. Great tools for educators and parents too!

Basic Disaster Supplies Kit
Maintaining Your Kit
Kit Storage Locations
Food
Car Safety
Managing Water
Water

Build A Kit [Print](#)

BUILD A KIT

A disaster supplies kit is simply a collection of basic items your household may need in the event of an emergency.

Try to assemble your kit well in advance of an emergency. You may have to evacuate at a moment's notice and take essentials with you. You will probably not have time to search for the supplies you need or shop for them.

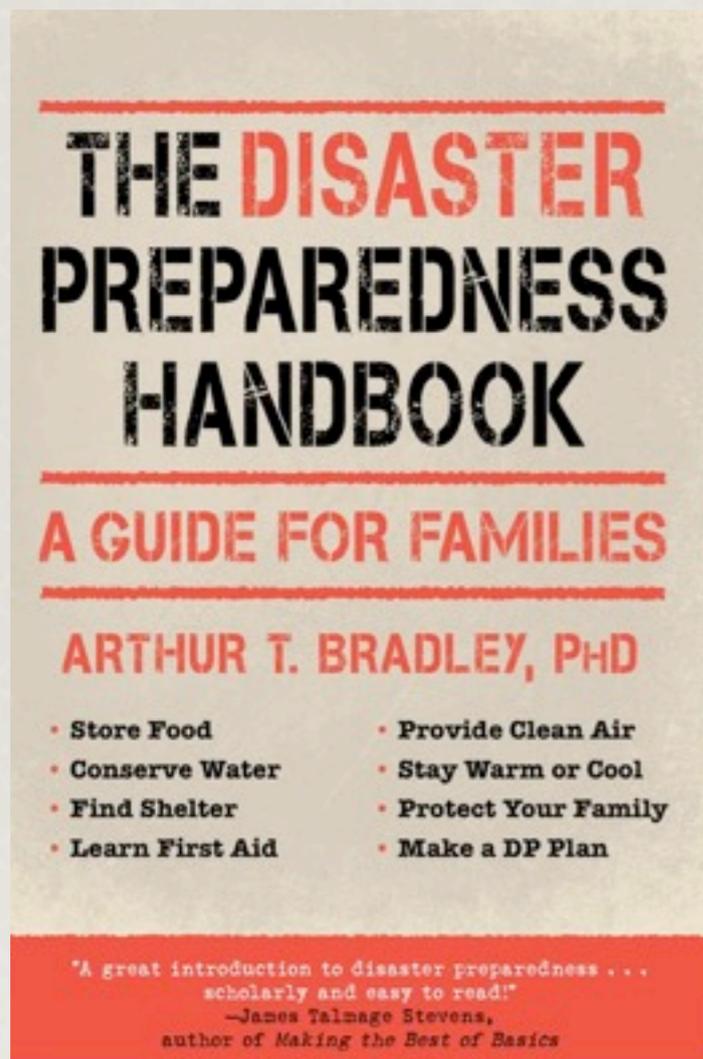
You may need to survive on your own after an emergency. This means having your own [food](#), [water](#) and other [supplies](#) in sufficient quantity to last for at least 72 hours. Local officials and relief workers will be on the scene after a disaster but they cannot reach everyone immediately. You could get help in hours or it might take days.

Additionally, basic services such as electricity, gas, water, sewage treatment and telephones may be cut off for days or even a week or longer. Your supplies kit should contain items to help you manage during these outages.

Red Cross Suggestions



Be Prepared



- My motto is “prepare for what makes sense.”
- Harsh weather, power outages, loss of income, stranded on the road.

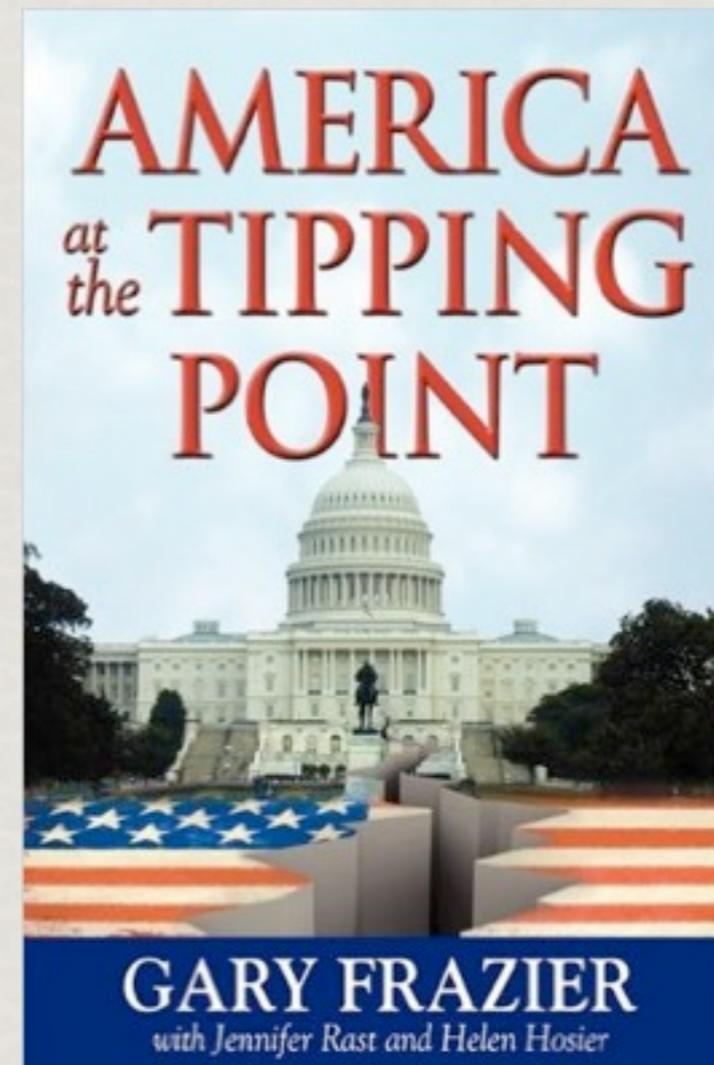
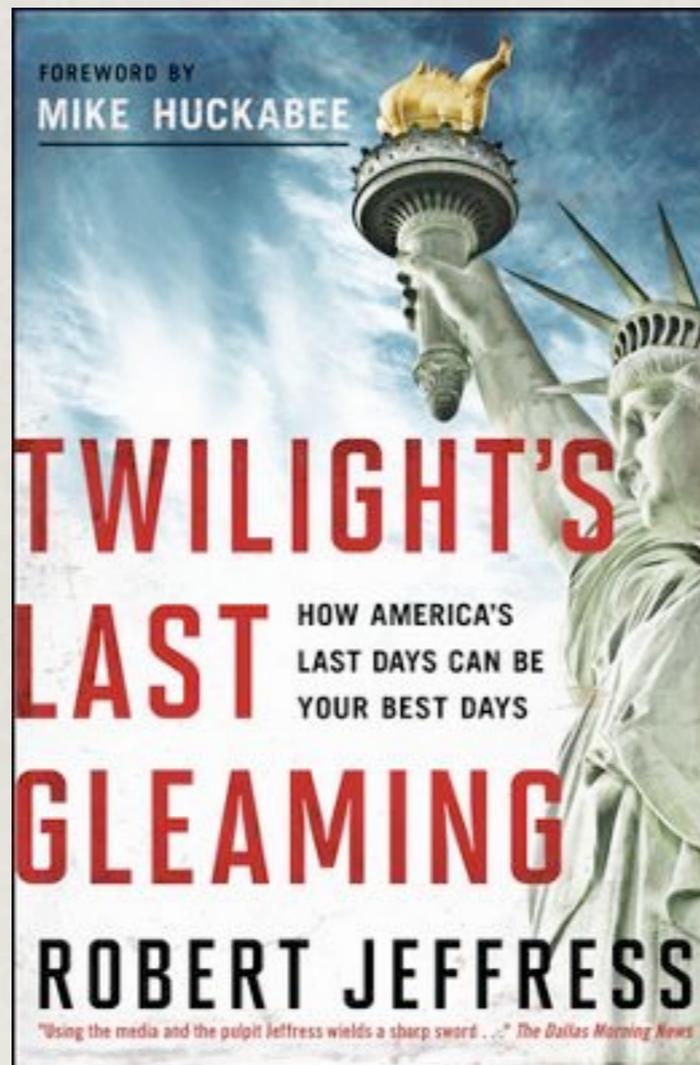
God's Providence

- Christians are to have a spirit of fear (2 Timothy 1:7) but a sound mind.
- We are to rely on God's providential guidance both individually and collectively.
- We are to set our minds on the things above not on earth (Colossians 3:3-4).

C.S. Lewis

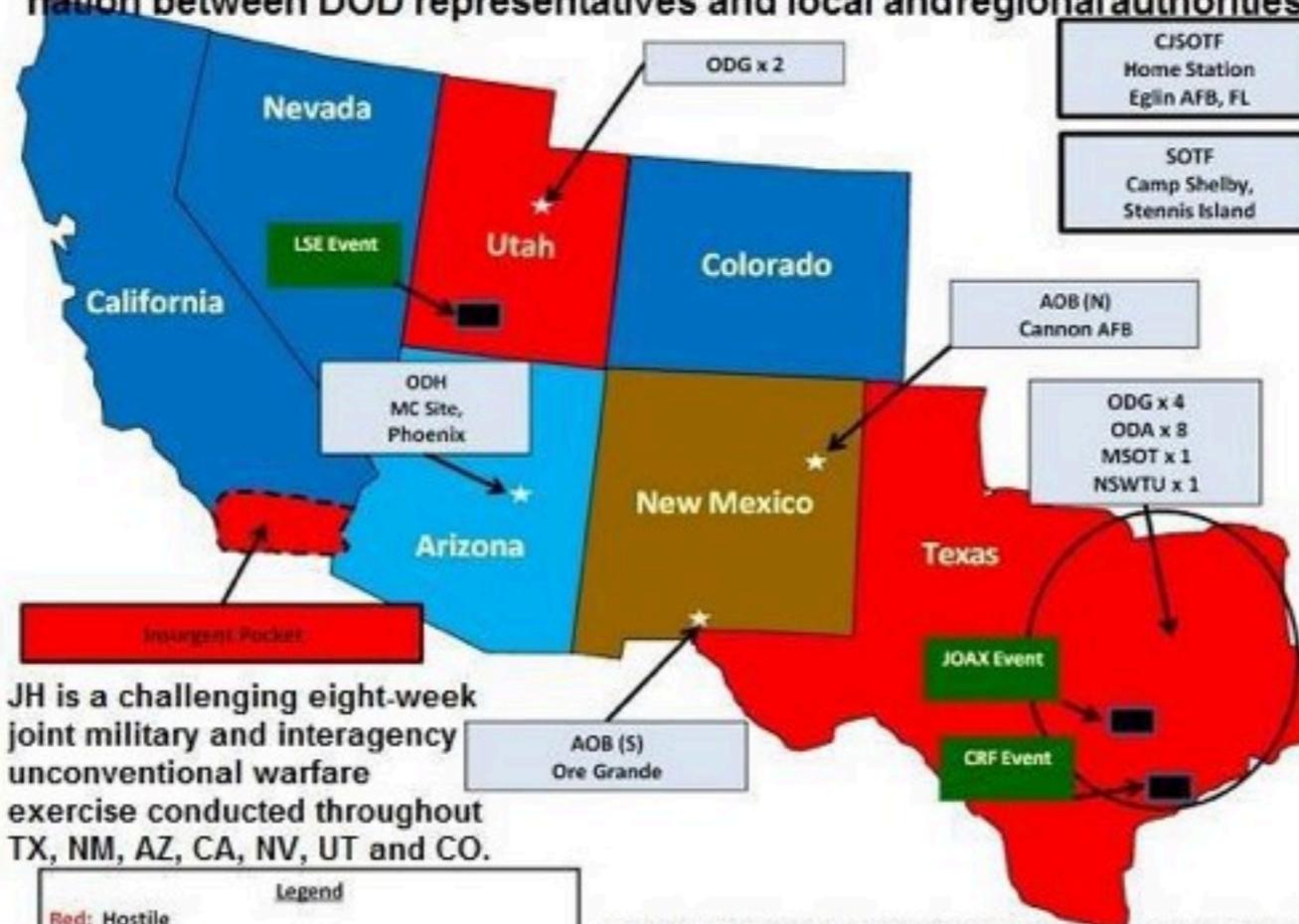
- “The curtain may be rung down at any moment: say before you have finished reading this paragraph. This seems to some people intolerably frustrating.”
- “We do not even know whether we are in Act I or Act V.”

America's Future?



Jade Helm 15

Operation Jade Helm 15: Realistic Military Training
Realistic Military Training (RMT) is training conducted outside of federally owned property. The RMT process is designed to ensure proper coordination between DOD representatives and local and regional authorities.



JH is a challenging eight-week joint military and interagency unconventional warfare exercise conducted throughout TX, NM, AZ, CA, NV, UT and CO.

JH is a US Special Operations Command sponsored exercise to improve the Special Operations Forces' UW capability as part of the National Security Strategy.

Political and Cultural Engagement

Civil Disobedience



JULY 24, 2015

Time for Civil Disobedience, Christians

Matt Barber

7/5/2015 12:01:00 AM - Matt Barber

“Remember what I told you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master. If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey you also.’”

– John 15:20

The push back has begun. Christian business owners, lawyers, parent organizations, universities, hospitals, adoption agencies and other institutions have been given an ultimatum by five unelected, unaccountable liberals in Washington: “Obey us and disobey God. You must pretend, with us, that sin-based s*** is a good thing.”

Civil Disobedience

- First, we have biblical examples:
 - Hebrew midwives (Exodus 1-2)
 - Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 3)
 - King Darius (Daniel 6)
 - Apostles (Acts 5:29)

Civil Disobedience

- Second, we have American examples:
 - Boston Tea Party
 - Henry David Thoreau
 - Underground Railroad
 - Martin Luther King, Jr.
 - Pro-life movement

Civil Disobedience

LETTER FROM BIRMINGHAM JAIL

MARTIN LUTHER KING



April 16th, 1963

Bishop C. C. J. Carpenter, Bishop Joseph A. Durick, Rabbi Milton L. Grafman, Bishop Nolan B. Harmon, The Rev. George H. Murray, The Rev. Edward V. Ramage, The Rev. Earl Stallings.

My dear Fellow Clergymen,

While confined here in the Birmingham City Jail, I came across your recent statement calling our present activities "unwise and untimely." Seldom, if ever, do I pause to answer criticism of my work and ideas. If I sought to answer all of the criticisms that cross my desk, my secretaries would be engaged in little else in the course of the day, and I would have no time for constructive work. But since I feel that you are men of genuine goodwill and your criticisms are sincerely set forth, I would like to answer your statement in what I hope will be patient and reasonable terms.

I think I should give the reason for my being in Birmingham, since you have been influenced by the argument of "outsiders coming in." I have the honor of serving as president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, an organization operating in every Southern state, with headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia. We have some eighty-five affiliate organizations all across the South—one being the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights. Whenever necessary and possible we share staff, educational and financial resources with our affiliates. Several months ago our local affiliate here in Birmingham invited us to be on call to engage in a nonviolent direct action program if such were deemed necessary. We readily consented and when the hour came we lived up to our promises. So I am here, along with several members of my staff,

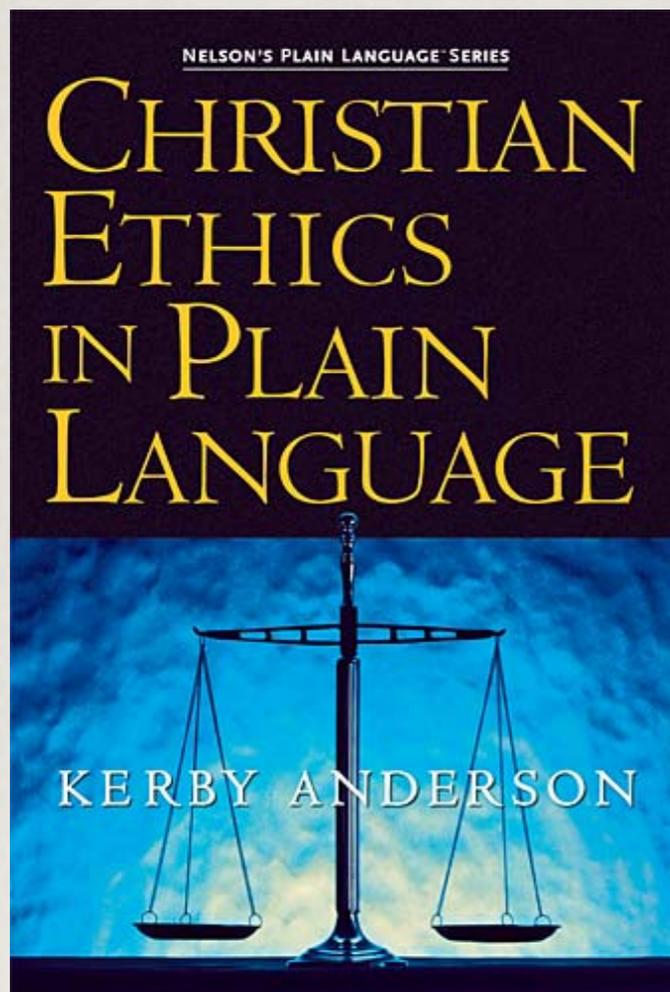
because we were invited here, I am here because I have basic organizational ties here.

Beyond this, I am in Birmingham because injustice is here. Just as the eighth century prophets left their little villages and carried their "thin with the Loaf" far beyond the boundaries of their home towns; and just as the Apostle Paul left his little village of Tarsus and carried the gospel of Jesus Christ to practically every hamlet and city of the Graeco-Roman world, I too am compelled to carry the gospel of freedom beyond my particular home town. Like Paul, I must constantly respond to the Macedonian call for aid.

Moreover, I am cognizant of the interrelatedness of all communities and states. I cannot sit idly by in Atlanta and not be concerned about what happens in Birmingham. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly. Never again can we afford to live with the narrow, provincial "outside agitator" idea. Anyone who lives inside the United States can never be considered an outsider anywhere in this country.

You deplore the demonstrations that are presently taking place in Birmingham. But I am sorry that your statement did not express a similar concern for the conditions that brought the demonstrations into being. I am sure that each of you would want to go beyond the superficial social analyst who looks merely at effects, and does not grapple with underlying causes. I would not hesitate to say that it is unfortunate that so-called demonstrations are taking place in Birmingham at this time, but I would say in more emphatic terms that it is even more unfortunate that the white power struc-

Civil Disobedience



- Five biblical principles for civil disobedience.
- We obey laws (Romans 13) unless there is a command which obeyed would cause us to disobey God (Acts 5:29).

Culture War

“Ultimately, our culture war is about one question: Is God dead, or is God king? For centuries, this issue has been crucial. If God is dead, as Nietzsche wrote, everything is permissible, and eventually, one will logically reach the conclusion of Paris’ student radicals of 1968: The only thing that is forbidden is to forbid.”

Culture War

Patrick Buchanan went on to add:

“But if God is king, men have a duty to try, as best they can, to conform their lives to his will and shape society in accordance with his law. Defection and indifferentism are not options open to us. We are commanded to fight.”

ALL THINGS NEW
THE REVELATION

