

December 2016

### The government will be on his shoulders

“For to us a child is born” we hear every year at Christmas. But Isaiah prophesied not only the birth of the child, but also spoke of his everlasting government. (Isaiah 9:1-7). The government is already *now* on his shoulders - and we in the Call of the Watchmen need to keep this firmly in view. No matter what changes in government take place in this world - Christ rules over them. The kingdom of God is always growing. “Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end.” (v.6). Daniel saw in a vision how a rock struck a great statue on its feet and broke it to pieces. The statue symbolised the kingdoms of this world. Then the rock, which stands for the kingdom of God, became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth. (Daniel 2:31-45).

Let us pray this December with this vision in our minds. -RS-

### Trump’s election victory

The election victory of Donald Trump was completely unexpected – like an earthquake. The shock went and still is going around the entire world. And we do not know how many after-shocks are yet to come. Whenever something so unexpected like this suddenly happens, we have to ask ourselves: “What is exactly going on here? What are YOU doing here, Lord?” Throughout history in general, but especially in such world-shaking upheavals, God is revealing his will and therefore these times and events require prophetic interpretation. Prophetic interpretation is however subject to error and must therefore be tested: against God’s Word; against how the situation actually evolves; with the help of other prophets and spiritual leaders; against the lives of those who make the prophetic interpretations, etc.

What is God now doing through Trump’s victory? Is it a blessing or a judgment on the USA and the world? 81% of “evangelicals” in America voted for Trump. Moreover, well-known leaders and many prophets spoke out in support of Trump. They were expecting a spiritual turnaround in America through Trump. How can this be, where in charismatic circles the causes of downfall in leaders have been known and taught for years: sex, money and power? Trump has been involved in all three. Everyone knows this. Therefore Trump has come under much hate and unrestrained anger. Above all for his overpowering self-confidence. Are all these biblical standards immaterial and not worth mentioning?

Despite this, Trump can be “God’s instrument” because God once used a Cyrus who had similar character traits: he knew no limits, with endless energy, overestimating his abilities. Cyrus also shocked the entire world at the time. But God used him to bring Israel out of exile. (Isaiah 44:24-45:7).

It is clear that God is installing Trump to shake the foundations of world politics: in Europe by questioning NATO; in the Pacific Rim with regard to the protection of Japan, Korea, Philippines and Taiwan against China; in relation to current USA policies towards Russia; in the renegotiation of the nuclear agreement with Iran which

would benefit Israel. We clearly stand before changing times and a new phase in world history. Are we approaching the home straight towards the end times? Is Trump God’s instrument for this? Pay attention to Israel, the hour and minute hands on God’s world-time-clock!

**Prayer:**

- **Worship God for his eternal plans for the completion of all things in this world. (Isaiah 55:8-9)**
- **Pray for Trump’s journey from a “populist” to a “president”. (Proclaim Matthew 5:3-12 over him.)**
- **Wisdom in appointments to the top positions in the White House and the 4000 support staff – spiritual protection for him and the USA during the transitional period until he takes office on January 20, 2017. -OS-**

### Deception in German business and finance

Paul urged the church to pray especially for those in authority (1 Timothy 2:1-4) – and this does not only mean for politicians. The management and financial controllers of large companies also need prayer. Bad decisions, corruption and even deception often have enormous consequences for the employees. At this moment in particular, deception has been uncovered in the global concern Volkswagen (VW) and the Deutsche Bank. In September 2015, under pressure from the US Environmental Protection Agency, VW admitted to installing illegal software in diesel cars which recognised when the car engine was under test and only then limited the exhaust emissions to the legal limits. It has yet to be determined in the USA how far the supplier Bosch was involved in this deliberate manipulation. The glaring fact of the matter is that deception within German companies was uncovered in the USA and not here in Germany. US agencies also uncovered serious cases of financial mishandling in the Deutsche Bank. Around 6,000 lawsuits with claims amounting to millions gave rise to the possibility that the Deutsche Bank for the first time ever would be in serious financial difficulties.

The employees in both of these large companies are now affected by cost-cutting measures. Dramatic restructuring is now underway. These companies, the names of which are directly associated with Germany world-wide, have damaged the reputation of Germany along with their trade marks (Made in Germany). Let us pray for true repentance.

**Prayer**

- **For the transparent handling of the consequences of deception and a humble approach by managers. (Psalm 119:67)**
- **That whatever is still hidden will come to light – also through the active participation of German authorities. (Mark 4:22)**
- **Pray for company managers: for recognition of the ways that lead to honest and sustainable business results and security of employment for the staff. -RS-**

### Year of commemoration of the Reformation

This year, Reformation Day, October 31<sup>st</sup> 2016, marked the launch of the year of commemoration of the Reformation

and its 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Reformation was a turning point in the history of the Christian Western World. It influenced not only the church but also government and education, state and society, music, art and language.

Sola Fide, Sola Scriptura, Solus Christus, Sola Gratia – faith, the Word of God, Christ and grace *alone* – were at that time newly established in our nation with an impact all over Europe and the entire world. This rich spiritual inheritance should now once again be unveiled, cleansed, and made to bear fruit to restore the Reformation calling of Germany. This is also God's "Kairos" time for the restoration of his church and our land. The challenge for the Church of the Reformation is not to recreate Luther for the present day or to dismiss him, but rather to take his legacy seriously and to repent from secularisation, the merging and blending of religious beliefs and political correctness. Pope Francis recently made a call on Reformation Day at the Lutheran World Federation Reformation Commemoration Ceremony in Lund, Sweden, for the overcoming of the divisions and the healing of Christendom.

**Prayer:**

- **We call Germany once again to faith in the living God. (John 11:40-43)**
- **Repentance for lack of trust in the Word of God and a theology that questions Bible truth. (Hebrews 4:12)**
- **Return of the Church of the Reformation to its original calling to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ to the world. (1 Corinthians 3:11)**
- **Repentance for anti-Judaism, replacement theology and rejection of Jewish Christians. (Romans 11:11-21)**
- **Repentance for the persecution of Anabaptists and the early Charismatics (pejoratively called "dreamers") who were considered as heretics in Luther's day of Reformation. (cf. Acts 7:54-60).**
- **Reconciliation and growing unity in the world-wide church for a more effective witness to Christ. (John 17:20-23)** -KH-

**The call to mission and "keeping the peace in society"**

The Protestant Church in Rhineland spoke out decisively against mission to Muslims, as this "threatens the peace within society and contradicts the instruction and spirit of Jesus Christ"; so Matthew 28:19 is not to be taken as a "call to mission". And it is "not so much about making everyone disciples (followers) of Jesus as treating them as students in the classroom". This is such a twisting of the words in the Bible in the anniversary year of the Reformation when, as a matter of fact, "Christ alone", to which "scripture alone" bears witness, was so important! Before his ascension Jesus gave a clear *command*: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." The apostles "caused trouble all over the world" (Acts 17:6) in their call to mission. For them it was not about "keeping the peace in society", but about eternal salvation for everyone! The gospel is "the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile".

(Romans 1:16). Negative experiences in the history of missions (forced conversions...), in our history (Holocaust...) and church resolutions against mission to the Jews (as at the Protestant Church Synod on November 9<sup>th</sup> 2016) should not stop Christians from witnessing to the gospel to everyone, Jews and Gentiles (including Muslims).

**Prayer:**

- **Repentance that clear words in the Bible are being twisted such that believers are being confused. (Galatians 1:6)**
- **Repentance for wherever "mission" has become a "stumbling-block in anyone's path" and thus the message has been discredited. (2 Corinthians 6:3).**
- **For Christians to be once again motivated for mission. (John 4:34-36).** -JB-

**The battle for Jerusalem**

At the end of October UNESCO adopted a resolution presented by the Palestinian Authority (PA) that described the Temple Mount in Jerusalem as the most holy place for Islam and denied the many-thousand-year-old connection of the Jews to their temple which stood on this site. This is a deliberate distortion of history given that the historic references and archaeological evidence for the Jews and their Temple Mount are indisputable. The hidden purpose behind this resolution is to deprive Jerusalem of its Jewish (and Christian) identity. In another step the PA is challenging the legitimacy of the Balfour Declaration in 1917, in which Great Britain assured the Zionist Movement of its support for the establishment of a national home for the Jewish people in Palestine. The recognition of the Balfour Declaration in international law came in 1922 through the League of Nations (now the United Nations) which created the precondition for the declaration of the State of Israel in 1948. A rejection of the validity of the Balfour Declaration would certainly put the right of existence for Israel today in question. Without a doubt, the PA is seeking support from the nations for its principal goal.

**Prayer:**

- **We stand against the plans of the enemy to delegitimise the State of Israel. (Ephesians 6:12-13)**
- **We proclaim the truth over Israel, Jerusalem and the Temple Mount. (1 Kings 8:14-20; Deuteronomy 30:1-5; Zechariah 8:1-3; 12:1-3)** -AS-

**A request**

The Call of the Watchmen continues to grow. Our website has a new look and we are planning another prayer conference for September 2017. Your annual contribution of 10€ (or more!) to our work will be much appreciated and we thank you for your faithfulness in prayer for this land!

- **Let us thank God for his blessings on the work of the Call of the Watchmen and on all our intercessors.**
- **Please pray for the wise and effective use of all financial gifts and resources. (1 Peter 4:10)** -RS-

*We wish you God's blessings for the Christmas season and for the New Year*  
*Rosemarie Stresemann and Ortwin Schweitzer and Team*