



ARISE! MINISTRIES

Mount Up On Wings – Isaiah 40:31

Tom Stiles, Editor

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Easter at the White House

“Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.” -- Romans 1:32

On “Good Friday,” March 29, President Joe Biden issued an Executive Proclamation declaring Easter Sunday, March 31, as **“A Day of Transgender Visibility.”**

The proclamation reads in part, “On Transgender Day of Visibility, we honor the extraordinary courage and contributions of transgender Americans and reaffirm our Nation’s commitment to forming a more perfect Union — where all people are created equal and treated equally throughout their lives.”

After boasting of his accomplishments in defending the “LGBTQI+ communities,” including appointing transgender leaders to his administration, the President warned:

“But extremists are proposing hundreds of hateful laws that target and terrify transgender kids and their families — silencing teachers; banning books; and even threatening parents, doctors, and nurses with prison for helping parents get care for their children. These bills attack our most basic American values: the freedom to be yourself, the freedom to make your own health care decisions, and even the right to raise your own child.”

[A Proclamation on Transgender Day of Visibility | The White House](#)

Upon hearing about the declaration, Speaker Mike Johnson, who Biden apparently believes is “thoroughly uninformed,” said, “The Biden White House has betrayed the central tenet of Easter — which is the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”

“Banning sacred truth and tradition—while at the same time proclaiming Easter Sunday as ‘Transgender Day’—is outrageous and abhorrent. The American people are taking note.”

On Monday, when asked about the Proclamation, President Biden replied, “I didn’t do that.”



Since he clearly did, why would he say he didn’t? I can think of only two possibilities:

- 1. He forgot that he made the Proclamation.**
- 2. Someone else made the Proclamation for him.** If so, who did it and who is running the White House?

Some of the President’s defenders are offering another

explanation. “Transgender Visibility Day” is always March 31, so the President didn’t replace it for Easter. “It is a mere coincidence.”

Maybe – but that does not excuse the President’s erroneous beliefs expressed in the Proclamation.

God’s Word says in **Genesis 1:27**, “*So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*” That means that there are only two genders – male and female.

Gary Baurer correctly noted: “It is clear that the purpose of the proclamation is not to provide aid and comfort to individuals, and particularly children, who are suffering from gender dysphoria. Its purpose is to increase the number of children who experience gender dysphoria by literally encouraging it.” -- *The Patriot Post* (4/3/24)

We should also note what the President called “extremist laws:.” I would call them reasonable steps to protect our children:

“**Silencing teachers**” means telling teachers not to teach LGBT lessons to elementary students.

“**Banning books**” means keeping pornographic books out of children’s hands in public libraries;

“**Threatening parents, doctors, and nurses with prison for helping parents get care for their children**” refers to laws forbidding giving minors hormone blockers, mastectomies or castration.

“The freedom to be yourself” is actually the denial of yourself as God created you.

On Monday, the White House hosted the **Presidential Easter Egg Roll**, which drew 40,000 people. The rules for it and the Easter Art Contest included a ban on “religious symbols” and “overtly religious themes.”

After promoting a day to celebrate confusion about gender and keeping religion out of the White House’s Easter celebration, the President did offer a brief Easter greeting on March 31. Besides wishing Christians a happy Easter, the statement included “Easter reminds us of the power of hope and the promise of Christ’s Resurrection.”

That is the Gospel, the Good News, and it is the message of love and hope that children and adults that are confused about their gender identity need to hear.

EAGLE’S EYE ON THE NATION

“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee.” -- Psalm 122:6

USA’S SUPPORT OF ISRAEL

President Biden on Thursday urged Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu toward a cease-fire deal that would release the remaining hostages in Gaza while suggesting that U.S. policy on the war will depend on Israel’s ability to better protect civilians and humanitarian workers, after a deadly attack that killed a contingent of international aid workers last week.

Biden spoke with Netanyahu days after an Israeli strike killed several humanitarian aid workers with *World Central Kitchen*, a charity group that was distributing food to Palestinians in Gaza. The president told Netanyahu the incident was “unacceptable.”

—The Hill (4/4/24)

NO LABELS, NO CANDIDATE, NO SHOW

In a statement on Thursday, the No Labels Party contended that the American public was desperate for “unifying national leadership.” But they also noted that it had previously said it would only offer its ballot line to a candidate “with a credible path to winning the White House.”

“No such candidates emerged, so the responsible course of action is for us to stand down,” the group concluded.

LIBERAL LOGIC????

Dr. Richard Dawkins is an atheist and the author of “The God Delusion.” But he said in an interview on

Easter Sunday (March 31) that he considers himself “a cultural Christian.”

“I sort of feel at home in the Christian ethos,” Dawkins said, citing his affinity for Christian hymns and Christmas carols. “I feel that we are a Christian country in that sense.”

In other words, he enjoys the cultural impact of Christianity but denies the source of these benefits.

EAGLE’S EYE ON NEW YORK

“Can two walk together, except they be agreed?”

-- Amos 3:3

BUDGET BATTLE CONTINUES

The Legislature and Governor still have not agreed on the State Budget, so another extension bill was passed on Thursday. This time the extension is until April 8.

On April 8, which is Monday, much of the state will be occupied by the total solar eclipse. Many businesses and public offices will be closed that day. The state Senate plans to be in session, but the Assembly will not return until Tuesday.

Budget negotiations between Hochul and legislative leaders remain ongoing, with a housing plan one of the top sticking points. Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie said Thursday that they’re in the “same neighborhood” when it comes to an agreement on housing. Gov. Kathy Hochul told reporters the end is near when it comes to the budget process.

MINISTRY REPORT

Week of March 31 -April 6

My wife and I celebrated Easter at Friendship Baptist Church in Rome, NY. I taught the adult Sunday School class and preached in the AM service. Pastor Mike Ahern is on a leave of absence temporarily, so it was an honor to preach in his place.

My wife worked all day (5:00 AM to 9:30 PM) on Election Day as an election inspector. I took the opportunity to have breakfast with some friends in Buffalo and lunch with Pastor Paul Evander (Olcott Bible Church).

This week, my wife and I are in Michigan seeing our daughter, Wendy Patton, and her family. They will return to Peru on April 18.

TOM STILES SPEAKING SCHEDULE

- April 7** Friendship Baptist Church, Rome, NY
- April 14** First Baptist Church, Warsaw, NY (AM)
Trinity Baptist Church, Rochester, NY (PM)
- April 21** Faith Baptist Church, Warrensburg, NY