

# CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVES and other Controversial Subjects



## I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day—the Missing Verses

News & Commentary by  
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Christmas Day, 1863, and America's best-loved poet listened as church bells near his home in Cambridge, Massachusetts and across the Charles River in nearby Boston rang out the tunes of "old, familiar carols." Henry W. Longfellow took up his pen to write seven verses he titled Christmas Bells. Five of these stanzas appear today in most hymnbooks as I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day.

"In despair I bowed my head," Longfellow wrote. He might well have despaired. His second wife, Frances—his "star of love"—had died two years earlier from a fire that ignited her dress. Only months before this poet penned those sad words, his oldest son, Charles, had told him that "my first duty" is to fight in the Civil War, where he was severely wounded. Too, the Boston daily newspapers Longfellow read were aflame with editorials urging New England's young men to enlist in this terrible war between a divided America.

Like Longfellow, I was born in Maine. As a child I memorized his best-known poems; I later studied Longfellow under the chairman of the English department of the University of Maine, and I've taught Longfellow to two generations of American youth. As a boy of 12, I went with my grandfather to Portland, where we saw the home where Longfellow

spent his childhood. A bronze statue of Henry still peers like a Grecian god from its massive chair above the traffic of Congress Street.

The missing verses from Longfellow's "despair" carol/poem, however, are almost prophetic: "Then from each black, accursed mouth/ The cannon thundered in the South,/ And with the sound/ The carols drowned/ Of peace on earth good-will to men." This man, who lived his final two decades in despair—which he tried to alleviate with opiates—managed to end Christmas Bells on a positive note. "Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:/ 'God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;/ The Wrong shall fail,/ The Right prevail,/ With peace on earth, good-will to men.'"

How do these tentative words of cheer from a man, who in "despair" over the Civil War, a wounded son and a dead wife, stack up against history—or against the prophecies of the Word of God? Jesus, teaching his disciples while he sat on the Mount of Olives outside the Temple in Jerusalem, warned that we will "hear of wars and rumors of wars" (Matthew 24:6). Many readers, including me, lived through World War Two, Korea, Vietnam and the Gulf War. WW Two took 75 million lives, historians estimate—that's half the population of the United States at my birth. Fear of a war with China or Russia looms whenever we consider that our President could at any moment order the bombing of North Korea or Iran.

Iran once ruled the Persian Empire—127 nations—and the angry mullahs who rule her today haven't forgotten this. Iran/Persia is among the

evil panoply of nations that will one day surround Israel's capitol, Jerusalem (Longfellow didn't believe Israel would ever again be a nation, so he wrote: "dead nations never rise again"). Yet Christ will soon return with his redeemed church to that same Mount of Olives next to Jerusalem to restore Israel's glory—and destroy Iran, along with Israel's other enemies, in the Battle of Armageddon. The Old Testament prophets Ezekiel and Zechariah both promise this (see Ezekiel, chapters 38 & 39; Zechariah 14:3-13). This is the same Jesus who was born in a stable in Bethlehem, and who returned to heaven from the Mount of Olives in A.D. 33 (see Acts 1:9-12).

But what of Longfellow's "despair," which caused him to bow his head (stanza 3)? Jesus added words of cheer to his own warning in Matthew 24:6: "See that you are not alarmed."

Today we celebrate the season in which Jesus was born, a babe in Bethlehem, and celebrate we should. He lived 33 or more years on earth—most of it in Israel, the most fought-over nation on earth. He died there at the hands of religious and civil authorities, both. Then, risen from the grave, 40 days later Christ ascended from the Mount of Olives.

But that is all history.

Jesus Christ will return to that same Mount of Olives—to make war on those who've come to raid and raze Jerusalem, a war nearby Armageddon Valley, more awful than even World War Two.

Only then can there be "peace on earth to men of good will." So, "see that you are not alarmed" this Christmas season by the nightly Chicken Little reports from CNN and MSNBC. "God rest ye merry!"

## Assaults On Trump Explained

by George Rasley, CHQ Editor | 10/28/19  
from Richard Viguerie's ConservativeHQ.com

Americans outside the Beltway have been struggling for almost three years to figure out what's been going on in Washington, what to call it and how to explain it.

Have there really been dozens of small and large Trump scandals? Or is it all "fake news" and lies? Or is it all true and Donald Trump really is a Russian "asset" or puppet of Vladimir Putin? Or is he, as former Vice President Joe Biden claimed recently, "the most corrupt president in modern history?"

But how can there be a "scandal" if Trump has done nothing wrong, and the Mueller Report demonstrated that the charges of being corrupt and a Russian "asset" are demonstrably false?

The answer is that what we have been witnessing is not American politics as usual, but a sophisticated intelligence operation to destabilize and overthrow the legitimate government of the United States.

Each step along the path to impeachment is exactly what the CIA or the intelligence agency of a foreign power would do to use non-military means to destabilize and eventually replace the leader of an unfriendly government.

Consider for a moment that the "Resistance" to the Trump presidency and the questioning of its legitimacy began as soon as it was verified Hillary Clinton had been defeated.

As Jonathan Allen and Amie Parnes documented in their book *Shattered: Inside Hillary Clinton's Doomed Campaign*, within twenty-four hours of Hillary Clinton's concession speech Robby Mook and John Podesta assembled her communications team to engineer the case that the election wasn't entirely on the up-and-up. They met at Clinton's Brooklyn campaign headquarters to go over the script they would pitch to the press and the public to make the case that Trump's victory was not legitimate and that Putin had specifically targeted Hillary Clinton and worked to throw the election to Trump was at the center of their argument. (page 395)

And they've never stopped pitching that narrative to this day, just as our intelligence agencies develop narratives and promote them to raise questions about the legitimacy of foreign opposition politicians.

Note also that for the first time in modern American history the party in opposition to the President has completely refused to cooperate with him – even when he expressed a willingness to work with Democrats on their own agenda, as President Trump did on immigration and infrastructure.

Complete non-cooperation is precisely the same strategy Vladimir Lenin, Leon Trotsky and

the Bolshevik members of the Russian Parliament pursued with the Kerensky government in the lead-up to the Bolsheviks' October 1917 Communist Revolution – and it worked.

The masses of Russian people were so fed up with a government that couldn't get anything done that they were prepared to support, or at least acquiesce, to a government formed by a political party composed of a tiny fraction of the Russian people; no more than 200,000 out of a population of over 170 million.

Notice also the vast sums of dark money flowing to the Democrats and the Far-Left organizations opposing President Trump. George Soros alone accounts for tens of millions of dollars flowing to anti-Trump organizations to train agitators and political organizers to create opposition to the President.

This model was followed by the Communist International for many years, as hearings before the House Un-American Activities Committee proved.

As Jack D. Meeks, Doctor of Philosophy, observed in his dissertation, FROM THE BELLY OF THE HUAC: THE HUAC INVESTIGATIONS OF HOLLYWOOD, 1947-1952, "communists were superb at identifying a worthy cause [to gain] the support of the American people, such as advocating for civil rights and unemployment insurance or resisting Nazism" and then building front organizations around them.

Examples of communist front organizations from the period studied by Meeks include such innocent sounding organizations as the American Slav Congress; the Win-the-Peace Congress; the Civil Rights Congress; the Committee for a Democratic Far Eastern Policy; the Council of African Affairs; the Council for Pan American Democracy; the Political Action Committee; the Independent Citizens Committee of the Arts, Sciences and Professions; the Federation of Atomic Scientists; and the Southern Conference for Human Welfare.

Occasionally exposés of these organizations would hit the press, but most of the time, particularly after the House Un-American Activities Committee was shut down, little of the Russian Communist interference in American politics came to public attention.

Are our opponents in today's Russia, or China, or other members of the anti-American Axis using the same techniques today, particularly when presented with such a golden vehicle as the Clinton machine's post-election narrative?

Most people, and certainly those in the establishment media, have forgotten or ignored Fox News reports that the Russians indicted for meddling in the 2016 presidential contest were also behind anti-Trump rallies after the election, revealing another aspect of Russia's alleged interference as it worked to sow discord in the United States.

"After the election, the defendants allegedly staged rallies to support the president-elect while simultaneously staging rallies to protest his election," Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein said in a press conference.

"For example, the defendants organized one rally to support the president-elect and another rally to oppose him, both in New York on the same day," said Rosenstein.

Facebook advertising Vice President Rob Goldman\* said he was "very excited" to see the indictments outlining charges against 13 Russian nationals. However, Mr. Goldman's excitement was largely ignored by the media and the public because, in a series of tweets, Goldman said that the "Russians stole the 2016 election away from Hillary Clinton" narrative is bogus.

As the late Bre Payton reported for *The Federalist*, Goldman tweeted that the social network shared with Congress the ads from Russian nationals to "help the public understand how the Russians abused our system."

Tweeted Goldman:

*The majority of the Russian ad spend happened AFTER the election.* We shared that fact, but very few outlets have covered it because it doesn't align with the main media narrative of Trump and the election.

The main goal of the Russian propaganda and misinformation effort is to divide America by using our institutions, like free speech and social media, against us. It has stoked fear and hatred amongst Americans. It is working incredibly well. We are quite divided as a nation.

Mr. Goldman was right, but you won't see anything in the establishment media to help you identify and expose Russian intelligence activities we know have been going on for a century, or the intelligence operations of others interested in destabilizing our government, because, wittingly or unwittingly, the establishment media are part of the destabilization operation.

George Rasley is editor of Richard Viguerie's ConservativeHQ.com and is a veteran of over 300 political campaigns. A member of American MENSAs, he served on the staff of Vice President Dan Quayle, as Director of Policy and Communication for then-Congressman Adam Putnam (FL-12) then Vice Chairman of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee's Subcommittee on National Security and Foreign Affairs, and as spokesman for Rep. Mac Thornberry former Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee.

\*Mr. Goldman has just left Facebook (departure announced October 22, 2019), his comments posted after the Russian indictments were retweeted by President Trump, which caused outrage on the Left. For telling the truth, and thereby giving aid and comfort to President Trump, Goldman was apparently forced to apologize to his colleagues on Facebook's internal social network.