

THE POWERS OF DARKNESS

A few days ago someone mentioned to me the armor of God, wanting to find where it is in the Bible. Of course it brought to my mind Ephesians 6, the classic, often-quoted scripture:

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. (Ephesians 6:10-17)

Reading this familiar passage again, for the first time, I was struck with the rele-



vance of vs. 12 to what we are witnessing in the world today. It's being fulfilled in spades, before our eyes! Yes, we are aware, and we talk about the tsunami of evil overtaking the whole world, or maybe I should say tsunamis – wave after wave of evil, all over the place. But do we believe it?

Do we realize how we are witnessing the spiritual forces of darkness come out of the closet in jaw-dropping ways? We've seen evil things happen all of our lives, but now, thanks to technology and the internet, our field of vision has been broadened to include not only our local situation, but the United States as a whole, and then even the whole world.

Those of us who have been planted on this earth during this time, from the 40s to the present, have seen the advance of unbelievable corruption of spirit, which began in earnest in the 60s and has developed with increasing speed from there.

From the age of six to sixteen, I lived and went to school in Edmonton, Alberta, and then Indianapolis, Indiana. My childhood was steeped in the mentality of the 50s, that things were great; the world was at relative peace; Eisenhower, a solidly good man, was president; and life would continue like this forever.

Then the sixties hit, when an early wave of the tsunami brutally shocked us with the assassination of President Kennedy, followed by the Viet Nam war, the rebellion of our generation, other significant assassinations, and the general feeling of despair that it all was falling apart. It was in this context that our family moved back to California and I entered college at Westmont College in Santa Barbara, just across town from UCSB's Isla Vista, a residence area, that had become a synonym for Haight Ashbury, the center of hippie-dom, in San Francisco.

Talk about an emergence from a cocoon of (false) security, followed by a plunge into a dark reality. This butterfly was deeply troubled.

Then the 70s, especially the Carter years, and another tsunami wave hit us -- gas rationing, the disastrous attempt to rescue the hostages in Iran, and the descent into weakness on the world stage. Most importantly the Supreme Court delivered the Roe v. Wade decision, which opened the door to abortion on demand. We also secularized the schools by removing prayer.

After an 8-year interlude of sorts, with Ronald Reagan at the helm, a series of waves hit us, and we began a steeper descent into darkness, as George Bush (Sr.) the marshmallow took over and squandered whatever turnaround Reagan had been able to achieve.

Next was Bill Clinton, the liar and sex fiend, in the White House! By that time the Democrats had lost their soul and the Republicans had lost their spine and their way. We had a couple of weak, even evil, presidents in George W. Bush and Barack Obama. Then in 2016

Donald Trump shocked the world with his unlikely election but he was interrupted by 4 years of unadulterated, nauseous, middle-finger-to-God "leadership" of the Biden/Obama people, the effects of which not even Trump can save us.

Now Trump is back, as the battle in the heavenlies proceeds like a seesaw.

And California. Sheesh. It's been utterly lost for years, if not decades.

We've seen baby murder encouraged and celebrated; homosexuality protected and promoted; transgenderism injected into the mainstream as it irreversibly mutilates the bodies of many too young to defend themselves or know the difference; the creeping takeover of Islamism and outright communism; the descent of our ancestral forbears, Europe, into utter nothingness; the invasion of alien peoples bringing their cultures into the U.S. instead of adapting; the sellout of many churches to biblical abominations; the absorption of human spirits into internet fantasy; and more. Lately we are discovering the phenomenon of UFOs and alien creatures, or at least the reality that these exist. Are we surprised?

Do we not see this as "the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms" in

action? Who ever thought, in 1960, that we would see all this happen? Who ever thought that western culture, based on the Judeo-Christian tradition of God's laws of morality, Right, Truth, and Justice would be discarded so thoroughly and so quickly? All within our lifetimes!!!

Thus the imperative of the armor of God:

- The belt of truth (provided by our Counselor, the Holy Spirit)
- The breastplate of righteousness (Developed with daily prayer)
- Feet fitted with readiness (to serve God in this battle)
- Shield of faith to quench Satan's darts
- Helmet of salvation (to keep temptation out and the Spirit in)
- Sword of the Spirit (to demolish the enemy)

The day of evil has arrived. We must be able to stand, so that in the end, our Father will welcome us into His kingdom. What a joyous time that will be!

Linda Gammel

The Lucerne Valley Fireworks Committee presents

FIREWORKS SHOW

AT PIONEER PARK

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29
3:30-8:30 P.M.

ENJOY A FUN DAY OF FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT!

- FOOD • VENDORS
- GAMES • BEER GARDEN

LVEDA Meeting

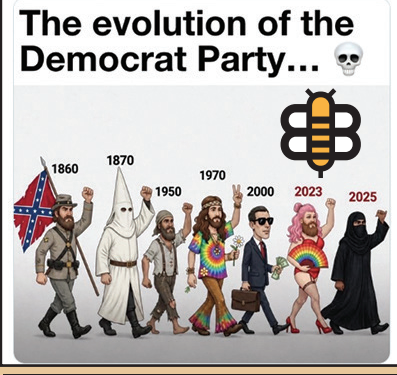
(Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association)

Monday, August 31st
5:00 pm at the Moose Lodge
on Foothill Road, just west of Tradepost Road.

- ✓ **Progress reports** from Caltrans/County road projects, Code Enforcement, Animal Control/Graffiti.
- ✓ "Disadvantaged Community" status.
- ✓ Sienna Solar Update & JV update/County's potential revision to our industrial solar prohibition.
- ✓ Presentation on our water situation
- ✓ Measure I tax.
- ✓ Invite Congressman Obernolte to a LVEDA meeting.
- ✓ Sen. Bogh's "Town Hall" at Oct. LVEDA

Is something bugging you?
COME TO THE NEXT MEETING TO EXPRESS YOUR OPINION!

On The Lighter Side of Serious Stuff . . . from the Web

 Angel Still Guarding Eden With Flaming Sword Wondering If He Can Move Yet	 Jesus Ignites Fierce Debate By Feeding 5,000 People For Under \$20	 Inspired By AOC, James Talarico Also Elects To Have His Eggs Frozen	 Man Unsure Whether Wife's Vanilla Honey Goat Butter Spread Is For Toast Or Face
 Cute: 5-Year-Old White Girl Dreams Of One Day Getting Beaten Up In The WNBA	 Scientists Hard At Work Making iPhone Weather App Even Less Accurate	 40-Year-Old Man Still Chasing High Of Seeing Cards Bounce Around Screen After Winning Solitaire	 'There Aren't Bad Pets, Only Bad Owners,' Explains Woman Out Walking Velociraptor
 The evolution of the Democrat Party... LVM Commentary - Aug 27-Sept 2, 2026	 Trump Solves Affordability Crisis By Opening Nation's Strategic Burrito Reserve	 Bigotry Rears Ugly Head As WNBA Refuses To Allow This Stunning, Beautiful Woman Into League	 Update: Moroccans Who Invaded Spain Now Registered To Vote In New Jersey