

FAITH & FREEDOM

MN State Rep. Eric Lucero

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My Background

- ▣ Eric Lucero
- ▣ Fourth-term serving as State Representative
- ▣ Academic Background
 - BS in Law Enforcement
 - BAS in Computer Forensics
 - ▣ Minors in Psychology and Mathematics
 - MBA from Carlson School of Management
- ▣ Professional Background
 - Cyber Security Consultant
 - Licensed Real Estate Agent
 - Licensed General Contractor
 - Small Business Owner
 - Husband / Wife Real Estate Team
 - ▣ Erum is a Broker with her own Real Estate Company
 - Bible Teacher

Presupposition

- ▣ The struggle we see occurring around us day-to-day right now in the physical realm is the result of cosmic war waging in the spiritual realm with eternal consequences impacting each of our destinies.

Observation

- ▣ World History of Humanity
 - Oppression
 - Violation of Rights
 - Religious Persecution

United States

- ▣ We are an aberration in Human History
 - Natural Law
 - Acknowledgement Liberty flows from the Creator and is bestowed to each Individual
 - Recognition of Unalienable Rights

Observation

History Repeats Itself

- ▣ Examination of Patterns
 - German philosopher Friedrich Hegel
 - ▣ “The only thing we learn from history is that we learn nothing from history.”
 - Spanish philosopher George Santayana
 - ▣ “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”
 - Ecclesiastes 1:9
 - ▣ “That which has been is what will be, That which is done is what will be done, And there is nothing new under the sun.”

Lifecycle of Nations

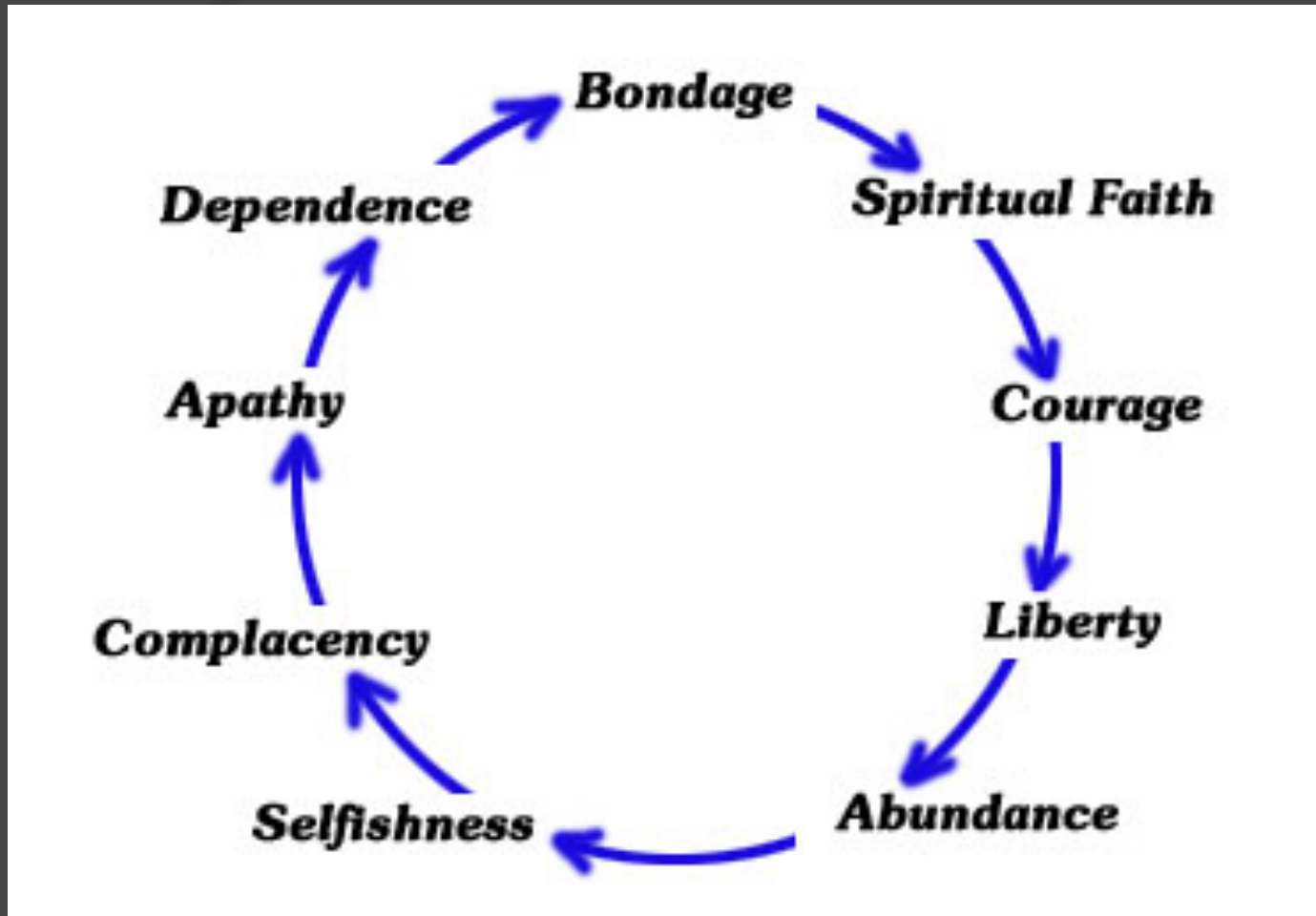
- ▣ How old is the United States?
 - 1787 – Constitutional Convention
 - 1788 – Ninth of 13 states ratified it (2/3)
 - 1789 – New Constitutional Government began
 - 2021-1788 = 233 years old

- ▣ Alexander Tytler (October 15, 1747 - January 5, 1813)

- ▣ Scottish lawyer, historian, and professor at the University of Edinburgh in Britain

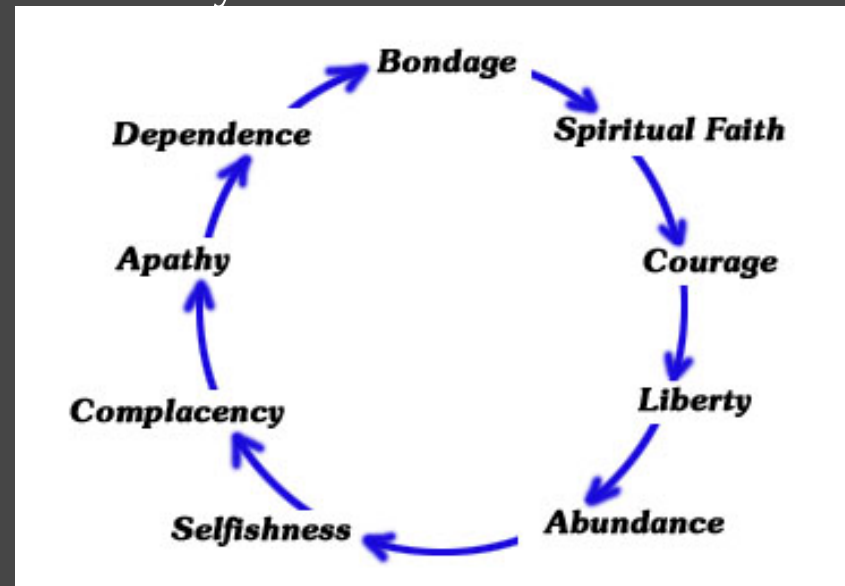
- ▣ Observed:
 - “The average age of the world’s greatest civilizations from the beginning of history, has been about 200 years. During those 200 years, these nations always progressed through the following sequence:”

Lifecycle of Nations continued...



Curse of Success / Blessings

- ▣ United States has been blessed beyond measure
- ▣ ~50 years of uninterrupted prosperity
- ▣ Where is the U.S. on the map of human history?



Ancient Israel

Time of the Judges

- ▣ Post-Joshua, Pre-Kings
- ▣ Observation: Cycle of Sin
 - Supplication
 - Salvation
 - Silence
 - Sin
 - Servitude

Ancient Israel

Time of the Kings

- ▣ Began Unified as a Single Nation
- ▣ Split in two after King Solomon
 - King Rehoboam
- ▣ Kings then go from bad to worse
- ▣ Further turning from God as years past by (Curse of Blessings)
 - Assyrians conquer Israel
 - Babylonians conquer Judah

God's Expectation

- ▣ Responsibility of Receiving Blessings
- ▣ Luke 12:48
 - For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.

Universal Truth

- ▣ Unity = Strength
- ▣ Division = Weakness
- ▣ Matthew 12:22-30
 - ²⁵ And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, **Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand**
 -
 - ³⁰ **He that is not with me is against me;** and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.

Spiritual Realm

▣ Devices of our Adversary : Satan

■ 1 Peter 5:8-9

- ▣ ⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. ⁹ Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

■ 2 Corinthians 2:11

- ▣ lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.

Spiritual Realm : Isaiah 14:12-17

▣ 12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, **which didst weaken the nations!**

.....

▣ 16 They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, **Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms;**

▣ 17 **That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof;** that opened not the house of his prisoners?

▣ Division = One of the Devices of Satan

Spiritual Realm : Satanic Influence

- ▣ 1 Kings 22:19-22
 - ¹⁹ Then *Micaiah* said, “Therefore hear the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing by, on His right hand and on His left.
 - ²⁰ And the LORD said, ‘Who will persuade Ahab to go up, that he may fall at Ramoth Gilead?’ So one spoke in this manner, and another spoke in that manner.
 - ²¹ Then a **spirit came forward** and stood before the LORD, and said, ‘I will persuade him.’
 - ²² The LORD said to him, ‘In what way?’ So he said, ‘**I will go out and be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.**’ And the LORD said, ‘You shall persuade *him*, and also prevail. Go out and do so.’

Spiritual Realm: Satanic Influence continued...

- ▣ Ephesians 6:12
 - For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against **principalities, against powers**, against the rulers of [a]the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Rejection of Good & Truth

- ▣ Isaiah 5:20-21
 - ²⁰ What sorrow for those who say that evil is good and good is evil, that dark is light and light is dark, that bitter is sweet and sweet is bitter.
 - ²¹ What sorrow for those who are wise in their own eyes and think themselves so clever.

- ▣ 2 Timothy 4:3-4
 - ³ For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear.
 - ⁴ They will reject the truth and chase after myths.

- ▣ Leaders influencing People to Sin
 - 1 Kings 21:22
 - ▣ I will make your house like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah, because of the provocation with which you have provoked Me to anger, and made Israel sin.'

- ▣ ...Standard Operating Procedure at the Capitol

24-hour News Cycle Headlines

- ▣ Strife
 - ▣ Chaos
 - ▣ Division
 - ▣ Greed
 - ▣ Hatred
 - ▣ Bitterness
 - ▣ Confusion
- ▣ Proverbs 10:12
 - ▣ Ecclesiastes 5:10
 - ▣ Isaiah 38:17
 - ▣ Jeremiah 17:9
 - ▣ Luke 12:15
 - ▣ John 8:44-45
 - ▣ Romans 16:17-18
- ▣ 1 Corinthians 3:3
 - ▣ 2 Corinthians 4:4
 - ▣ 2 Corinthians 11:13-15
 - ▣ Ephesians 4:31-32
 - ▣ James 3:4-18
 - ▣ 1 John 2:16

Under Attack

Christian & Family Values

- ▣ Sin Celebrated
- ▣ Lasciviousness on Parade
- ▣ Deceit Dismissed
- ▣ Truth Hated
- ▣ Moral Relativism Touted
- ▣ God Mocked
- ▣ Sceptics & Scoffers Elevated
- ▣ Children Targeted
- ▣ Pervasive Perversion Promoted

Recent Headlines

- ▣ Religious Liberty
 - Churches not essential
 - Leaving Planned Parenthood and liquor stores essential
- ▣ Trump supporter → Conservatives → Christians
 - Forbes magazine's Chief Content Officer
 - Winning not good enough ... must pulverize
- ▣ Freedom on Speech
 - De-platforming
 - Suppression of Information
- ▣ Children's Education
 - Gender Confusion
 - Sexual Perversion
- ▣ Cannot buy or sell without pledging allegiance signified with the mark
 - Technology Statement

Be BOLD for TRUTH

- ▣ Matthew 5:13
 - Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

- ▣ Revelation 3:16
 - So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

- ▣ Are we prepared to endure affliction to stand for Truth?
 - Matthew 10:22
 - ▣ And you will be hated by all for My name's sake

Time's Up!!!



Who does the Lord choose to stand for Him?

- ▣ Rich?
- ▣ Powerful?
- ▣ Famous?
- ▣ Meek?
- ▣ Humble?
- ▣ Dirty canvas?

- ▣ 2 Corinthians 12:9
 - And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: **for my strength is made perfect in weakness.** Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Be Bold for Truth

- ▣ Esther 4:14
 - For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?

- ▣ Our responsibility?
 - Recognize
 - Respond

- ▣ Exodus 32:26
 - Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, Who is on the Lord's side? let him come unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him.

Is there a cost to stand for Truth and the Lord?

- ▣ John 15:18-19
 - [18] If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.
 - [19] If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

- ▣ Jeremiah 12:1
 - Lord, you always give me justice when I bring a case before you. So let me bring you this complaint: Why are the wicked so prosperous? Why are evil people so happy?

- ▣ Job 21:7
 - Why do the wicked prosper, growing old and powerful?



Prescription to Heal a Nation

- ▣ 2 Chronicles 7:14

Christ = Truth

- ▣ John 18:36
 - Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.

**God's Truth
vs.
Satan's Deception**

- ▣ Does God author confusion?
 - 1 Corinthians 14:33

Truth = Forgiveness

- ▣ Matthew 18: 21-22
- ▣ Luke 17: 3-4
- ▣ Romans 12:17-21
- ▣ 1 Corinthians 13:4-6

Remnant

- ▣ Matthew 7:13-14
 - [13] Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:
 - [14] Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

If it could only be said of us!

- ▣ Acts 17:2-6
 - [2] And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures,
 - [3] Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ.
 - [4] And some of them believed, and consorted with Paul and Silas; and of the devout Greeks a great multitude, and of the chief women not a few.
 - [5] But the Jews which believed not, moved with envy, took unto them certain lewd fellows of the baser sort, and gathered a company, and set all the city on an uproar, and assaulted the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people.
 - [6] And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also;