

# LEHIGH VALLEY-POCONO COMMON SENSE HERALD

THE PUBLIC VOICE ON THE CUTTING EDGE OF THE FUTURE

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## A JOURNAL OF PHILOSOPHICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

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Publisher and Managing Editor --- Dennis L. Pearson



An Observation Post for what is Happening

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### COMMON SENSE HERALD TECHNOLOGY REPORT

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SPACEX DOCKS DRAGON CREWED VEHICLE ENDEAVOR ON  
INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

BY DENNIS L PEARSON OF THE COMMONSENSE HERALD

Had the privilege to witness on NASA TV on May 30, 2020 the 1st launch in 9 years  
of an American produced Rocket (Falcon 9) capable of sending humans into orbit and

carry these humans to the International Space Station in combination with the Dragon Crewed Vehicle ... Congratulations to Elon Musk and the SpaceX company he started up for accomplishing this achievement . Congratulations to the Administration of George W. Bush for starting the COTS programs which encouraged private competitions to start a commercialized space business which paved the way to this ... Congratulations to Charles Bolton of the Obama Administration for adopting COTS and insisting to a reluctant Obama that SpaceX and other Companies be allowed to develop their own rockets and capsules to replace the shuttle as the American way to get to the ISS without solely using Russian Rockets ,, And finally, congratulation to Donald Trump for buying into this means of getting us back into the rocket market as soon as he took the oath of Office ... This whole process took longer than it should ... But now we are back ... But in reality, a plan should have been developed to create a new American means to get our astronauts to the ISS before the decision was made to abandon the Shuttle... But now we are back... Doug Hurley and Robert Behnken Enjoy your historic ride to the ISS in the Dragon Crewed vehicle named Endeavor ... Godspeed'

As reported by Popular Mechanics reporter David Grossman on November 17, 2017, when a SpaceX Dragon spacecraft connected with the International Space Station on May 25, 2012, it made history as the first privately-built spacecraft to reach the ISS. The Dragon was the result of a decision 6 years prior—in 2006, NASA made an "unprecedented" investment in SpaceX technology. And importantly for our future efforts in space, this investment has paid off, and the government found one of the true bargains of the 21st century when it invested in SpaceX.

Eric Berger in Ars Technica on June 3, 2020 gives us a look at an earlier pivotal point in SpaceX's history occurring June 4, 2010.

Winds howled across Florida's Space Coast on June 3, 2010, as classic summertime thunderstorms rolled inland off the Atlantic Ocean. The heavens opened up, and torrential rainfall doused some parts of Cape Canaveral with as much as three inches of rain in a single hour.

The storms seemed an ill portent for the very first Falcon 9 rocket, which the SpaceX launch team had moved to the company's new pad only a day before. After completing a succession of static fire and fueling tests during the spring of 2010, SpaceX finally received approval to launch from the Air Force, with the earliest possible date of June 4.

The stakes were high. In the previous four years, SpaceX had attempted five launches of its much smaller Falcon 1 rocket from a tropical island; three of those launches failed. Now the upstart company had been granted access to America's most storied spaceport, located on Florida's east coast. Carpeted with high-dollar launch pads and myriad rocket facilities, a failure at Cape Canaveral could damage more than SpaceX's reputation—it could destroy national security assets.

Four tall lightning towers protected the rocket from strikes during the rains, but post-storm checkouts revealed a weak telemetry signal coming from antennas on the Falcon

9 rocket's second stage. Water from the day's downpour must have gotten into the electronics. This was a potential showstopper for the next day's launch attempt; it *had* to be fixed. To do so, the launch director, Tim Buzza, drove out to the launch pad with the company's founder, Elon Musk, and a senior director of avionics, Bulent Altan.

They arrived at the launch pad well after dark, and the Falcon 9 rocket had already been lowered from its vertical launch position back into a horizontal configuration.

Meanwhile, on the ground, Musk and the others restlessly waited. SpaceX was barely eight years old at this point, and the company had survived a near-death experience two years earlier before being saved by NASA funding that had enabled this launch. The Falcon 9 rocket on the pad would fly this test flight, and if all went well, the company could soon begin flying cargo to the International Space Station for NASA. But there were a lot of doubters ready to pounce on SpaceX should it fail. They did not trust Musk or his company to deliver. Critics did not like what they viewed as a cowboy attitude toward spaceflight.

And in his Article Berger stressed the fact:” Here they were, cowboying the night before launch, taking a blow dryer to the rocket. After he finished, Altan closed the electronics compartment on the rocket and applied silicone sealant so that it would survive its ascent into space

So, as it happened, at 2:45pm local time on June 4, 2010, the first Falcon 9 rocket blasted off from the Florida coast.



*Matt Strohane/Getty Images*

Berger in the article emphasizing, the company's first goal for the test flight was simple—avoid damaging its launch pad or other valuable facilities at Cape Canaveral. Secondly, it hoped to reach orbit. It did all of that, and more. With an accuracy remarkable for a brand-new rocket, the second stage inserted itself into orbit at an inclination of 34.494 degrees—just short of its target of 35 degrees.

And so, ten years ago, the Falcon 9 era officially began.

In a research paper looking at SpaceX and NASA finances, Edward Zapata, who worked at Kennedy Space Center, observed “There were indications that commercial space transportation would be a viable option from as far back as the 1980’s.” Then he continued: When the first components of the ISS were sent into orbit 1998 (during the Clinton Administration -editor’s addition) NASA was focused on “ambitious,” large single stage-to-orbit launchers with large price tags to match.”

But as it happened, in 2003, the Space Shuttle Columbia which had made previous journeys into space exploded while making an entry killing all seven astronauts aboard. The inevitable consequences, of course, being the suspension of the space shuttle program and the halt to the planned expansion of the Space Station for the time being. So, in this period of pause, reflection and study, the Administration of George W. Bush developed a new plan which called for NASA to “acquire cargo transportation as soon as practical and affordable to support missions to and from the International Space Station.” This plan announced in 2004 was called “Vision of US Space Exploration. And importantly, the plan being the stimulus to the creation of the NASA Commercial Orbital Transportation Services (COTS). And, of historic value, this program led to investment in SpaceX

It being May 25, 2012, when this NASA investment in SpaceX began to be of value. Elon Musk and the people at SpaceX were rightly basking in the afterglow of finally landing the first stage of the Falcon 9 rocket on a drone barge in the Atlantic. The same flight delivered an expandable module built by Bigelow Aerospace to the International Space Station. But, as Ars Technica points out, the launch, landing, and arrival at the space station would not have taken place had it not been for the generosity of NASA

As stated, George W. Bush began the Commercial Orbital Transportation Services (COTS) program, which commercialized first cargo and then crew

flights to and from the ISS. Four years later, SpaceX, having endured a number of launch failures of its small Falcon 1 rocket, was running out of cash. They were teetering on the brink of financial ruin as they were trying to develop a much larger and more complex Falcon 9 that would compete with more established launch vehicles such as the Atlas 5 and the Delta 4. Then NASA announced the initial contracts for COTS cargo flights. SpaceX's share was \$1.6 billion. The NASA contract saved the company and allowed it to press on with building the Falcon 9 and the Dragon and then successfully compete for the Commercial Crew contracts

The SpaceX Dragon cargo ship which launched from Cape Canaveral on Friday, May 25, 2012 delivered the world's first inflatable room for astronauts. It arrived at the ISS on Sunday, May 27, 2012 after station astronauts used a robot arm to capture the Dragon, orbiting 250 miles above Earth. The compartment was capable of swelling to the size of a small bedroom once filled with air the next month. Historically, it was attached to the space station the following Saturday after it arrived. But will not be inflated until the next month. At the time, NASA itself envisioned inflatable habitats in a couple decades on Mars, while Bigelow Aerospace aimed to launch a pair of inflatable space stations in just four years for commercial lease. Bigelow Expandable Activity Module (BEAM) would be restricted from the six on-board astronauts while NASA tested the chamber to see how it performs. The rocket used to launch the cargo ship successfully landed on a floating drone ship for the first time ever. It was the second time SpaceX successfully landed one of its rockets post-launch; the first time was in December, when the company's Falcon 9 rocket touched down at a ground-based landing site at Cape Canaveral, Florida, after putting a satellite in to space



GETTY IMAGES

When a SpaceX Dragon spacecraft connected with the International Space Station on May 25, 2012, it made history as the first privately-built spacecraft to reach the ISS. The Dragon was the result of a decision 6 years prior—in 2006, NASA made an "unprecedented" investment in SpaceX technology. A new financial analysis shows that the investment has paid off, and the government found one of the true bargains of the 21st century when it invested in SpaceX.

Zapata estimated that SpaceX launches cost NASA around \$89,000 per kilogram of cargo delivered to the space station. There is no telling what precisely would have come from a cargo spacecraft developed by NASA, but Zapata estimates that it would be \$272,000 per kg.

For future commercial crew missions sending astronauts into space, Zapata estimated that it would cost \$405 million for a SpaceX Dragon crew deployment of 4 and \$654 million for a Boeing Starliner, which was scheduled for its first flight in 2019. That to many sounds like a lot, and it is, but Zapata estimated that its only 37 to 39 percent of what it would have cost the government.

With Grossman reporting the following Zapata analysis: "NASA's initial 2006 investment, as well as further investments in the company in 2011 and 2014, have had profound benefits beyond the ISS. They have allowed SpaceX to become a global company, working with nations across the globe. "Considering NASA invested only about \$140M attributable to the Falcon 9 portion of the COTS program, it is arguable that the US Treasury has already made that initial investment back and then some merely from the taxation of jobs at SpaceX and its suppliers only from non-government economic activity,"

All this positive financial ground could only be good news for SpaceX, which has set its bar extremely high as a company. Founder Elon Musk wanted to use the company to get to Mars, a vision he's detailed in a speech titled *Making Humans a Multiplanetary Species*. "Right now, we are estimating about \$140,000 per ton for the trips to Mars," Musk said in that speech. "If a person plus their luggage is less than that, taking into account food consumption and life support, the cost of moving to Mars could ultimately drop below \$100,000."

Only a couple hundred thousand per person to Mars is quite the ambitious estimate, but the company has proven it can significantly reduce the cost of spaceflight.

Berger in Ars technical reporting the following analysis concerning the current SpaceX mission to the ISS.

This past weekend, SpaceX's Crew Dragon spacecraft got all of the splashy headlines, and deservedly so for returning humans into space from Florida for the first time since the space shuttle's retirement nine years ago. But the real workhorse behind the rise of SpaceX over the last decade is undoubtedly the Falcon 9 rocket.

The booster has etched a number of superlative firsts, from vertical landing and subsequent reuse, to flying into orbit with a record nine first-stage engines. And then there is its cost. At the time of its debut a decade ago, SpaceX offered a basic launch on the Falcon 9 rocket for \$50 million. After a few incremental increases, since 2016, SpaceX has listed the base Falcon 9 price at \$62 million. This put tremendous pressure on competitors in the satellite launch industry.

Approximately two-thirds of the global launch market is effectively closed to competition because these are national payloads. For example, Russia and other space-faring countries will typically launch their military and science satellites on domestic rockets. Only about one-third of the overall launch market—consisting of satellite constellations, communications, and imaging satellites for nations without launch programs, and other payloads—is truly open to competition.

Decades ago, US launch companies ceded this commercial market as they began to focus on winning more lucrative contracts to launch payloads for the US military. By 2006, when Boeing and Lockheed Martin consolidated their rocket businesses into a single company, United Launch Alliance, America essentially captured zero percent of the competitive launch market. Customers in the United States and abroad turned to more economical launchers in Europe, Russia, and elsewhere to reach orbit. Meanwhile, with a monopoly on launching missions for NASA and the US Department of Defense, United Launch Alliance's prices steadily rose.

The success of the Falcon 9 rocket reversed this trend dramatically. Seeking lower cost delivery of supplies to the International Space Station, NASA invested \$396 million in SpaceX from 2006 to 2010 to develop its Cargo Dragon spacecraft, the Falcon 9 rocket, and a launch pad at the Cape. This investment, which precipitated the June 4, 2010 launch from Florida, delivered not just value for NASA, but for the country.

“Because of the investments that NASA has made into SpaceX we now have, the United States of America now has about 70 percent of the commercial launch market,” said the space agency's administrator, Jim Bridenstine. “That is a big change from 2012 when we had exactly zero percent.”





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## COMMON SENSE HERALD HISTORY REPORT

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### SPUTNIK'S LEGACY

by Jim Lovell

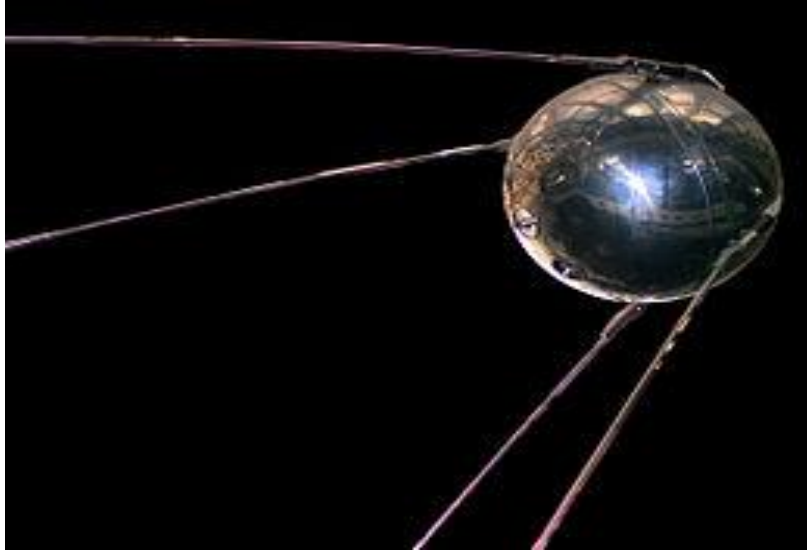
Editor's Note --- Reprinted from Space Notes, October / November 1997, publication of National Space Society

On October 4, 1957, the Soviet Union sent a basketball-sized object into orbit around the Earth. A small and crude satellite by today's standards, Sputnik I was later destroyed in the atmosphere as it fell back to Earth.

But that little ball of metal accomplished a lot: The fact that our then-rivals were first to reach space literally exploded our national perceptions of technological leadership and created a new sense of vulnerability from above. I was in the Navy at the time, I shared the sense of anger and alarm we all felt.

Forty years later, it is clear that - far from signaling our decline as a nation - Sputnik helped propel us into the Space Age and the greatest era of discovery and achievement we have ever known, Ironically, the achievements of a communist system helped give birth to the commercial use of space.





Even though the Cold War ended only a few years ago, for many people it is already hard to understand how the Sputnik launch affected our nation. Most students entering college this year were born in 1979; the first president they really remember is probably George Bush. For those of us who were there, however, it was a defining moment. We were unprepared for the news. In an instant our understanding of the Soviet Union shifted from thinking of it as a backward, struggling state to seeing it as a super-power perhaps more scientifically advanced than the U.S.

They had beaten us.

And we quickly decided that would not happen again.

Within months of Sputnik, we responded with our own space launch. Just 12 years later, we put a man on the surface of the Moon.

President (Dwight D.) Eisenhower took a political beating over Sputnik because of a perception that he did not respond effectively to a crisis. Documents are starting to emerge that may explain why: He did not perceive a crisis. According to these sources, Eisenhower wanted to let the Soviet Union set the precedent that space travel does not have to honor national boundaries.

He accomplished that goal, which in 1967 was codified in an international treaty signed by many nations. Among other things, the precedent the Soviets set allows us to fly space satellites over hostile lands and telecommunications satellites over anywhere on Earth.

As we head into the next century, however, the greater legacy of Sputnik might be that it sparked the American ascendancy in technology and space exploration. Sputnik cost Eisenhower politically at the time. But the benefits will continue to pay off for

generations to come. Space has been free for all to explore and exploit to the benefit of all here on Earth. Since that first launch, we have learned to use space for everything from medical research to weather forecasting.

This past August alone, 11 space missions were launched around the world with myriad tasks --- every-thing from sending a replacement crew for the Russian Space Station Mir .... to providing direct-to-home television service to Latin America ... to scanning the Earth for illegal nuclear tests.

The space that Sputnik pulled us into brings us discovery It brings us science. Looking forward at the next forty years, I predict space will be vital in bringing us new jobs and new industries. On the anniversary of the Sputnik launch perhaps we should send a thanks to our former adversaries because commercial space ventures are booming. Of the 1,800 satellites that may be launched in the next several years, the vast majority will be for commercial space enterprises.

Commercial space ventures are spurring technological development and helping to link the world. We can use space to help provide solutions to many challenges we face. One example: I read the other day that about two billion people around the world do not have regular access to telephones. Constellations of new satellites being launched are going to solve that problem with satellite telephone service.

Looking back, what did Sputnik really do? It pushed America into the Space Age and helped us solidify a leadership position that we have yet to relinquish. It led to improvements in education that made a great workforce even better.

Sputnik spurred us to prove what we could accomplish.

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## **COMMON SENSE HERALD NOVEL CORNAVIRUS GUIDELINES REPORT**

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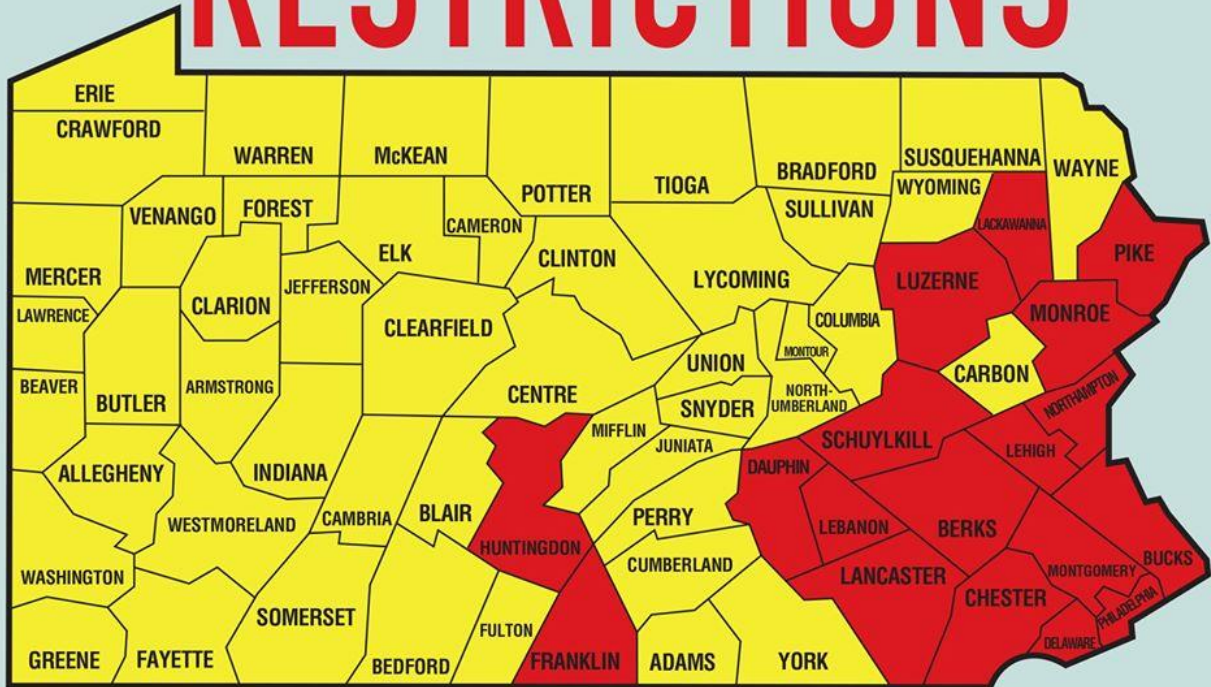
### A TIME OF PANADEMIC – A CURSED TIME PART 2

BY DENNIS L PEARSON OF THE COMMONSENSE HERALD  
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**Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf and Health Secretary Rachel Levine announced that some coronavirus shutdown restrictions would be lifted starting May 8 in 24 north-central and northwestern counties** And, later announced that **13 more Counties would receive some relief from restrictions on May 15, 2020** With twelve additional counties including Carbon County included in the movement toward reopening Pennsylvania's economy starting May 22.

**Red Counties Schuylkill and Monroe will become Yellow on May 29...  
And Northampton and Lehigh Counties expected to turn Yellow on  
June 5.**

# **GOVERNOR'S COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS**



**Generally, the plan lifts closure orders on businesses like manufacturing plants, retail stores and offices that were forced to close in mid-March to help stop the spread of coronavirus if they didn't make the administration's original list of life-sustaining businesses.**

**Retailers will be asked - as most groceries and pharmacies have already done - to limit customers to half of the store's traditional maximum occupancy, require customers to wear masks, and to provide specific hours at least weekly for people considered at high-**

**risk for COVID-19, like the elderly, to have exclusive use of the business.**

**The opener will also cover law offices, real estate firms, non-profit agencies and many other commercial offices, though each of those are strongly urged to continue to keep all employees who can work from home doing so for the foreseeable future and, where possible, deal with customers in-person on a by-appointment basis.**

**From the new guidance: “Businesses that have been operating remotely through individual telework of their employees must continue to telework to prevent the spreading of COVID-19 until the stay at home and business closure orders are fully lifted,” which means moving from yellow to green on the governor’s grid.**

**Of course, construction sites are now open statewide, too.**

**Carbon County Organization of Governments (CCOG) members join State Officials in asking Pennsylvanians and Carbon County residents in the yellow zone to remember this is just a stepping stone, and not a destination in the fight against COVID -19.**

**Since Mid-March, The CCOG has been meeting virtually with Carbon County Commissioners Wayne Nortstein, Chris Lukasevich, .and Rocky Ahner and Carbon County Emergency management Agency Coordinator Mark Nalesnik to review regularly the steps the County was taking during this declared emergency period to handle the pandemic and non-essential business shutdown. Residents were urged to stay home, practice social-distance, wear masks in public, wash their hands regularly and not touch their eyes...**

**As of May 22. 2020 Carbon County in the state phased program to open up the state economically as a yellow county was surrounded by a sea of red counties.**



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## COMMON SENSE HERALD REFLECTION REPORT

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### THE MOUNTAIN OF THE LORD

by Dennis L. Pearson of The Common Sense Herald

At the moment I have enough troubles and concerns to occupy my time, therefore it would be convenient for me to avoid dealing in printed word with the mess that has befallen Our nation at this time. However, I will make comment, but technically I will present the Lord's Words, not mine. This in a sense being a tale of two Presidents , Bill Clinton and Donald Trump, who met severe adversity in carrying out their duties of President partially because of their own actions and partially due to the political opposition seeking to undermine the power of the Presidency for political gain.

PSALM 24 verses 1 and 2 states:

The Earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world and those who dwell therein.

For it was he who founded it upon the seas and planted it firm upon the waters beneath.

As a traveler of sea, air, and land, I know this is so. For I have been fortunate to set foot on the great land masses of Europe, North America, South America, Africa, and Asia that the Lord caused to appear once he gathered up the waters. And on these great land masses, I have seen earth plants bear seed, fruit-trees bear fruit, each with seed according to its kind. When I look up into the vault of heaven, I enjoy the greater light that governs the day, our sun. and the lesser light that governs the night, the moon, which is accompanied in its great journey by a great multitude of Stars. The waters I have seen, teem with countless living creatures as does the land and sky.

God has dominion over all these things. We are only the caretakers.

PSALM 24 verses 3 and 6 states:

Who may go up the mountain of the Lord?  
And who may stand in his Holy place?  
He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not set his mind on falsehood and has not committed perjury.  
He shall receive a blessing from the Lord, and justice from God his savior.  
Such is the fortune of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

In Jewish history, King David in his northward drive for conquest, had adsorbed the Hittite city-states and not surprisingly a number of their soldiers, including Uriah, had entered his service. Uriah had adjusted his religious faith to that of David and took a

Hebrew name meaning "the Lord is light" Uriah was the husband of Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, King David had first seen Bathsheba bathing on the roof of her house; and David, was much taken by her appearance. David soon appropriated Uriah's wife and then sent him into battle against the Ammonites with instructions to Joab to arrange for Uriah's death. And of course. what the King ordered was done.

For this deed, David was blamed and denounced by Nathan, a religious leader of the time. The courage of Nathan's reproof and the manner which David accepted that reproof is one of the more moving passages in the Bible. The fact is, Issac Asimov in his guide to the Bible has stated the belief " that there are few enough occasions in history, both before and since , when an absolute monarch bowed before someone who clearly set forth the difference between good and evil " (1)

In Jerusalem, I have visited the site of the wailing wall, which is the western wall of the destroyed Jewish Temple built by King Solomon. King David had planned a Temple, but his reign had been too stormy to give him the required years of peace it would have taken to build it. Solomon had those years of peace. Today this is the site where religious Jews pray and leave notes to their God.

As indicated, it was the ambition of King David to build this temple as a legacy to his reign. However, through Nathan he was forbidden by God to do so because he had manipulated the certain death of a trusted commander in his army because of his misplaced romantic desire for the commander's wife. Consequently, David's dream was transferred to King Solomon, the son of his match with Bathsheba.

Because David had sinned, his fate was not to construct a holy edifice dedicated to the God of Abraham, Jacob, and the other Jewish prophets. Instead, his fate was to fend off continual threats to his reign.

By belated admission, Bill Clinton does not have clean hands and a pure heart either. He had strayed from the correct path by setting his heart on falsehood and perjury. Yet through God's mercy, all is not lost for Bill Clinton. That is because, our Lord and Savior, Jesus, once refused to criticize a woman for her past sins of either adultery or prostitution but asked her to go and not repeat them again. The message for Bill Clinton, of course being, seek repentance from the Lord for what you have done, and do not follow that incorrect path again. Indeed, the legacy that you sought as a monument to your rule will shine with less glitter, but that is better than having a legacy that is more fit for eternal death than eternal life.

A report in the Washington Monthly dated April 20, 2020 shared Michelle Obama's observations on what it meant to be President. She Said:

- Being president does not change who you are – it reveals who you are:

- . Issues that come across a president's desk are always the hard ones...the judgment calls where the stakes are so high, and there is no margin for error.
- As president, you can get all kinds of advice from all kinds of people.
- But at the end of the day, when it comes time to make that decision, as president, all you have to guide you are your values, and your vision, and the life experiences that make you who you are.

*Nancy Letourneau, is contributing writer for the Washington Monthly writes the following about Donald Trump's problems*

"What we know about this president's values is that nothing matters except his own self-interest. Throughout his entire presidency, and especially in the midst of this pandemic (and other issues), he has shown absolutely no capacity for empathy. So, the needs of others never enter his mind. Trump's vision has always been limited to winning by dominating anyone he views as a threat. That is what his life experiences [taught him](#).

Then adding, "Trump felt compelled to go to war with the world. It was a binary, zero-sum choice for him: You either dominated or you submitted. You either created and exploited fear, or you succumbed to it...Trump grew up fighting for his life and taking no prisoners. In countless conversations, he made clear to me that he treated every encounter as a contest he had to win, because the only other option from his perspective was to lose, and that was the equivalent of obliteration."

PSALM 24 verses 7 -10 states:

Lift up your heads, your gates lift yourselves up, you everlasting doors, that the King of glory may come in.

Who is the King of glory?

The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, you gates, lift them up, you everlasting doors, that the King of glory may come in.

Who is the King of glory?

The King of glory is the Lord of Hosts.

Let us hope that Bill Clinton and Donald trump have learned the lesson that " The earth always listens, and the sky always sees," and " Nature sees your thoughts and sees your deeds." Bill Clinton's reign was too stormy to build the "New Covenant " with the American people he sought. And, the same fate may be said of Donald Trump. Clinton

came closer than any other president before him to a peace deal between Israel and the Palestinians. Associates say he has long been haunted by his inability to finish a process that Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres helped to start in the early 1990s, one that led Clinton to pronounce himself “a failure.” Time will tell whether Donald Trump’s plan for an accord between the Israeli’s and the Palestinians would be more successful.



With former President Barrack Obama offering these words concerning the protests and violence occurring in Minnesota and nationwide after a St. Paul Minnesota Policeman apparently murdered George Floyd while being apprehended for suspicion of using forged documents while making a purchase or business deal in a local St. Paul, Minnesota Deli.

First, the waves of protests across the country represent a genuine and legitimate frustration over a decades-long failure to reform police practices and the broader criminal justice system in the United States. The overwhelming majority of participants have been peaceful, courageous, responsible, and inspiring. They deserve our respect and support, not condemnation — something that police in cities like Camden and Flint have commendably understood.

On the other hand, the small minority of folks who’ve resorted to violence in various forms, whether out of genuine anger or mere opportunism, are putting innocent people at risk, compounding the destruction of neighborhoods that are often already short on services and investment and detracting from the larger cause. I saw an elderly black woman being interviewed today in tears because the only grocery store in her neighborhood had been trashed. If history is any guide, that store may take years to come back. So, let us not excuse violence, or rationalize it, or participate in it. If we want our criminal justice system, and American society at large, to operate on a higher ethical code, then we have to model that code ourselves.



Meanwhile Former President George W. Bush has called for a national examination of “tragic failures” in the realm of racial injustice following a week of protests over the police killing of an unarmed black man in Minneapolis.

Stated Bush: “it remains a shocking failure that many African Americans, especially young African American men, are harassed and threatened in their own country,” Bush arguing that “the doctrine and habits of racial superiority, which once nearly split our country, still threaten our Union” today.

In his comments, Bush expressed support for the protests that have sprung up all over the world. At times, the events have descended into violence, with some protesters setting fire to and looting businesses, while clashing with law enforcement officers who are said to have fired tear gas and rubber bullets at demonstrators and members of the media covering the events.

Importantly, the former president denounced the violence, asserting that “looting is not liberation, and destruction is not progress,” and that “lasting justice will only come by peaceful means.”

Former President Jimmy Carter as a Southerner adding this comment in regard to crisis at hand:

Rosalynn and I are pained by the tragic racial injustices and consequent backlash across our nation in recent weeks. Our hearts are with the victims' families and all who feel hopeless in the face of pervasive racial discrimination and outright cruelty. We all must shine a spotlight on the immorality of racial discrimination. But violence, whether spontaneous or consciously incited, is not a solution.

As a white male of the South, I know all too well the impact of segregation and injustice to African Americans. As a politician, I felt a responsibility to bring equity to my state and our country. In my 1971 inaugural address as Georgia's governor, I said: 'The time for racial discrimination is over.' With great sorrow and disappointment, I repeat those words today, nearly five decades later. Dehumanizing people debases us all; humanity is beautifully and almost infinitely diverse. The bonds of our common humanity must overcome the divisiveness of our fears and prejudices.

Since leaving the White House in 1981, Rosalynn and I have strived to advance human rights in countries around the world. In this quest, we have seen that silence can be as deadly as violence. People of power, privilege and moral conscience must stand up and say 'no more' to a racially discriminatory police and justice system, immoral economic disparities between whites and blacks and government actions that undermine our unified democracy. We are responsible for creating a world of peace and equality for ourselves and future generations.

We need a government as good as its people, and we are better than this."

And lastly, Former President Bill Clinton adding these comments:

"In the days since George Floyd's death, it is impossible not to feel grief for his family -- and anger, revulsion and frustration that his death is the latest in a long line of tragedy and injustice and a painful reminder that a person's race still determines how they will be treated in nearly every aspect of American life.

No one deserves to die the way George Floyd did. And the truth is, if you are white in America, the chances are you will not. That truth is what underlies the pain and the anger that so many are feeling and expressing -- that the path of an entire life can be measured and devalued by the color of one's skin.

Fifty-seven years ago, Dr. [Martin Luther] King [Jr.] dreamed of a day when his 'four little children would be judged not by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.' Today, that dream seems even more out of reach, and we will never reach it if we keep treating people of color with the unspoken assumption that they are less human.

We need to see each other as equally deserving of life, liberty, respect, dignity, and the presumption of innocence. We need to ask ourselves and each other hard questions and listen carefully to the answers.

Here is where I would start.

If George Floyd had been white, handcuffed and lying on the ground, would he be alive today?

Why does this keep happening?

What can we do to ensure that every community has the police department it needs and deserves?

What can I do?

We cannot honestly answer these questions in the divide and conquer, us vs. them, shift the blame and shirk the responsibility world we are living in. People with power should go first -- answer the questions, expand who is 'us' and shrink who's 'them,' accept some blame and assume more responsibility. But the rest of us have to answer these questions, too.

It is the least we can do for George Floyd's family, and the families of all other Americans who have been judged by the color of their skin rather than by the content of their character. The future of the country depends on it."

And in conclusion, President Trump reacting to the crisis with these official words from the Rose Garden:



"My fellow Americans,

My first and highest duty as president is to defend our great country and the American people. I swore an oath to uphold the laws of our nation, and that is exactly what I will do.

All Americans were rightly sickened and revolted by the brutal death of George Floyd. My administration is fully committed that, for George and his family, justice will be served. He will not have died in vain. But we cannot allow the righteous cries and peaceful protesters to be drowned out by an angry mob. The biggest victims of the rioting are peace-loving citizens in our poorest communities, and as their president, I will fight to keep them safe. I will fight to protect you. I am your president of law and order, and an ally of all peaceful protesters.

But in recent days, our nation has been gripped by professional anarchists, violent mobs, arsonists, looters, criminals, rioters, Antifa, and others. A number of state and local governments have failed to take necessary action to safeguard their residents. Innocent people have been savagely beaten, like the young man in Dallas, Texas, who was left dying on the street, or the woman in upstate New York viciously attacked by dangerous thugs.

Small-business owners have seen their dreams utterly destroyed. New York's finest have been hit in the face with bricks. Brave nurses, who have battled the virus, are afraid to leave their homes. A police precinct station has been overrun. Here in the nation's capital, the Lincoln Memorial and the World War II Memorial have been vandalized. One of our most historic churches was set ablaze. A federal officer in California, an African American enforcement hero, was shot and killed.

These are not acts of peaceful protest. These are acts of domestic terror. The destruction of innocent life and the spilling of innocent blood is an offense to humanity and a crime against God.

America needs creation, not destruction; cooperation, not contempt; security, not anarchy; healing, not hatred; justice, not chaos. This is our mission, and we will succeed. One hundred percent, we will succeed. Our country always wins.

That is why I am taking immediate presidential action to stop the violence and restore security and safety in America. I am mobilizing all available federal resources -- civilian and military -- to stop the rioting and looting, to end the destruction and arson, and to protect the rights of law-abiding Americans, including your Second Amendment rights.

Therefore, the following measures are going into effect immediately:

First, we are ending the riots and lawlessness that has spread throughout our country. We will end it now. Today, I have strongly recommended to every governor to deploy the National Guard in sufficient numbers that we dominate the streets. Mayors and governors must establish an overwhelming law enforcement presence until the violence has been quelled.

If a city or a state refuses to take the actions that are necessary to defend the life and property of their residents, then I will deploy the United States military and quickly solve the problem for them.

I am also taking swift and decisive action to protect our great capital, Washington, D.C. What happened in this city last night was a total disgrace. As we speak, I am dispatching thousands and thousands of heavily armed soldiers, military personnel, and law enforcement officers to stop the rioting, looting, vandalism, assaults, and the wanton destruction of property.

We are putting everybody on warning: Our 7 o'clock curfew will be strictly enforced. Those who threaten innocent life and property will be arrested, detained, and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

I want the organizers of this terror to be on notice that you will face severe criminal penalties and lengthy sentences in jail. This includes Antifa and others who are leading instigators of this violence.

One law and order -- and that is what it is: one law. We have one beautiful law. And once that is restored and fully restored, we will help you, we will help your business, and we will help your family.

America is founded upon the rule of law. It is the foundation of our prosperity, our freedom, and our very way of life. But where there is no law, there is no opportunity. Where there is no justice, there is no liberty. Where there is no safety, there is no future.

We must never give in to anger or hatred. If malice or violence reigns, then none of us is free.

I take these actions today with firm resolve and with a true and passionate love for our country. By far, our greatest days lie ahead.

Thank you very much."

And what does the Lord God say about this

If my people who are called by my name humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. [2 Chronicles 7:14](#)

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, [Psalm 103:2-4](#)

Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, [Philippians 2:3-5](#)

"Come, let us return to the LORD; for he has torn us, that he may heal us; he has struck us down, and he will bind us up. [Hosea 6:1](#)

(1) Isaac Asimov, Asimov's Guide to the Bible - Old Testament, Volume 1, Equinox Books/Avon, 1968, p.310.

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