

Foreword by **ERIC METAXAS**



GOD, TRUMP, — *and the* — 2020 ELECTION

Why He Must Win and What's at Stake for Christians if He Loses

STEPHEN E. STRANG

Best-selling author of *God and Donald Trump*

What's at stake in this election?

EVERYTHING.

In 2016 God raised up Donald Trump to lead America at a pivotal time. Evangelicals who recognized this backed him more than any other presidential candidate in history. Heading into 2020, the stakes in his reelection are even higher. The election of November 3, 2020, is a new fight for the soul of America. Stephen E. Strang makes the case that God wants America to be great because God has raised up America—beginning with our Founding Fathers—to be a beacon of light and hope for the world. We've been the nation with religious liberty that has supported those who have spread the gospel around the world.

In this book Strang looks at the election, Trump, and America from a spiritual perspective and helps Christians (and others) see God's hand at work. This book is as much about God and His purposes as about Donald Trump. But it is also an articulate, impassioned apologetic about why all Christians must support this controversial president, because he has God's blessing and because the destiny of America is riding on his reelection. This book also explores why Trump might lose—if his base is overconfident and doesn't vote or if his opponents are dishonest enough to steal the election.

God, Trump, and the 2020 Election is an inside look at how the political climate is affected by spiritual warfare—an important subject for Bible-believing Christians. The satanic schemes are so brazen on key issues that the book was written to explain what's at stake. Strang believes that the intersection of faith and politics must be part of the national discussion about the division in our country.

GOD,
TRUMP,
— *and the* —
2020
ELECTION

STEPHEN E. STRANG



EARLY PRAISE FOR *GOD, TRUMP, AND THE 2020 ELECTION*

Stephen Strang is a keen reporter whose prose cuts like a laser into the troubled soul of America and exposes a condition where the elites of our nation have actually turned against it. He lays bare the delusion of the so-called progressives who have steadfastly stood in opposition to our president and refuse to acknowledge any of the good work he has accomplished. *God, Trump, and the 2020 Election* is a must-read for Evangelicals as they go to the polls in the 2020 election.

—PAT ROBERTSON

FOUNDER AND CHAIRMAN, THE CHRISTIAN BROADCASTING NETWORK

Stephen Strang is right: If Evangelicals don't turn out in 2020, Donald Trump will lose and the Left will win—and continue its work of destroying each of the three pillars of the American trinity: liberty, e pluribus unum (out of many, one), and In God We Trust. Why all Christians do not see this is a puzzle. But if enough read this book, it could serve as a wake-up call to the only community standing between our beloved America and her demise.

—DENNIS PRAGER

NATIONALLY SYNDICATED RADIO TALK SHOW HOST
COFOUNDER, PRAGERU

In *God, Trump, and the 2020 Election*, Stephen Strang flawlessly captures the spiritual significance of Donald Trump's presidency in this critical hour. As fewer and fewer Americans value belief in God, Strang's airtight case for reelecting Trump is both timely and urgent. It's a must-read for anyone concerned about the future of our nation.

—GOV. MIKE HUCKABEE

NEW YORK TIMES BEST-SELLING AUTHOR
HOST, *HUCKABEE*, TRINITY BROADCASTING NETWORK

I'm grateful for voices in the media like Stephen Strang who understand the very real spiritual battle behind the 2020 race for the White House. In his insightful new book, *God, Trump, and the 2020 Election*, Stephen looks at our nation, seeing past the political power struggles and shedding light on what's really at stake for our country in the next election. I highly recommend you read this book!

—PAULA WHITE CAIN

SPIRITUAL ADVISER TO PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP
HOST, *PAULA TODAY*; LIFE COACH; AUTHOR

Without hesitation I can say that *God, Trump, and the 2020 Election* may be the most significant book released this year. All Americans—regardless of party affiliation—should read this meticulously researched work, which spells out the implications regarding the outcome of our next election. Stephen Strang is an insightful thinker, a careful researcher, and a consistently accurate commentator. It is absolutely accurate to say that America's identity and future hang in the balance. Nobody explains this better than Stephen Strang.

—ALEX MCFARLAND

PRESIDENT, TRUTH FOR A NEW GENERATION

Stephen Strang is one of the nation's most brilliant political minds. This book blends research on twentieth-century cultural and racial history with an understanding of cutting-edge, twenty-first-century political strategies. Not only that, Strang helps Christians discern how to evaluate which candidate and party policy agendas will invite the blessings of heaven. This a must-read for a pivotal election. And for all its gravitas, it's also a compelling page-turner. Enjoy the read!

—BISHOP HARRY R. JACKSON JR.

SENIOR PASTOR, HOPE CHRISTIAN CHURCH, BELTSVILLE, MARYLAND

This book, *God, Trump, and the 2020 Election*, may well be the most important book Stephen Strang has ever written! Read why Trump must win and why if he does not, it could mean the end of religious freedom in the United States. As America's leading Christian journalist, Stephen quotes Christian leaders on what God is saying through them and the warnings He is giving this generation! Pray that on the day after this coming election we do not wake up in a socialistic, antichrist country. This book will give you the answers to keep this from happening.

—JIM BAKKER

HOST, *THE JIM BAKKER SHOW*

Do you know why Donald Trump must be reelected and what's at stake if he loses? Like me, you may think you know, but in Stephen Strang's new book, *God, Trump, and the 2020 Election*, you'll find the answers to these and other questions that are vital to the health and future of our nation. I intend for it to become a vital part of my daily intercessory prayer life for our country. I believe with all my heart that we will win this election! Our time has come for a mighty and great awakening. However, our God will hold you and me responsible if we sit by and lose it.

—KENNETH COPELAND

HOST, *BELIEVER'S VOICE OF VICTORY*

I encourage you to read Stephen Strang's eye-opening new book about the spiritual forces at work behind Donald Trump's presidency. Incisive and informative, *God, Trump, and the 2020 Election* explains why Christians should vote to reelect Trump based on the facts of what he's done in his first term, what he will do in his second term, and what's at stake for believers if he doesn't win.

—DAVID BARTON
CHRISTIAN POLITICAL ACTIVIST AND AUTHOR

Stephen Strang has been engaged in observing contemporary Christendom for four decades. From his place of prominence his latest book, *God, Trump, and the 2020 Election*, puts in plain English why President Donald J. Trump must win reelection on November 3, 2020. What's at stake is religious liberty. Hint: if Trump loses, Kentucky clerk Kim Davis was just the warm-up act for what's going to happen to your children and mine.

—DAVID LANE
FOUNDER, AMERICAN RENEWAL PROJECT

In *God, Trump, and the 2020 Election*, Stephen Strang skillfully captures the urgency of this moment. In this era of fake news Stephen is a trusted journalist who writes with clarity about the very real struggle in the spiritual realm concerning the presidency of Donald Trump and how important the 2020 election is to the future of our country. I know Donald Trump personally, and he is a godly man who has been leading this nation on a path of blessing. The stakes are high in 2020—perhaps higher than they've ever been. Every Christian should read this book to know how to pray!

—HON. MICHELE BACHMANN
FORMER MEMBER, US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

God, Trump, and the 2020 Election is a remarkable book. Journalist Stephen Strang sounds an alarm, explaining why Donald Trump's reelection is critical to the future of this nation. Evangelicals supported Trump in 2016 not because he is perfect but because he is a strong leader. He is the most pro-life, pro-religious liberty, pro-Israel president we have ever had. And if the Left regains control, they're going to undo everything this president has done. Stephen understands that although God's hand is on Donald Trump, the church also must arise. We must pray, and we must vote. I encourage you to read this book!

—DR. ROBERT JEFFRESS
SENIOR PASTOR, FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, DALLAS

Most Charisma House Book Group products are available at special quantity discounts for bulk purchase for sales promotions, premiums, fund-raising, and educational needs. For details, call us at (407) 333-0600 or visit our website at www.charismahouse.com.

GOD, TRUMP, AND THE 2020 ELECTION by Stephen E. Strang

Published by FrontLine

Charisma Media/Charisma House Book Group

600 Rinehart Road, Lake Mary, Florida 32746

Copyright © 2020 by Stephen E. Strang

All rights reserved

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data:

An application to register this book for cataloging has been submitted to the Library of Congress.

International Standard Book Number: 978-1-62999-665-3

E-book ISBN: 978-1-62999-733-9

This book or parts thereof may not be reproduced in any form, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or otherwise—without prior written permission of the publisher, except as provided by United States of America copyright law.

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are taken from the Modern English Version. Copyright © 2014 by Military Bible Association. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked KJV are from the King James Version of the Bible.

Scripture quotations marked NIV are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. www.zondervan.com. The “NIV” and “New International Version” are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.®

Scripture quotations marked NKJV are taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

While the author has made every effort to provide accurate internet addresses at the time of publication, neither the publisher nor the author assumes any responsibility for errors or for changes that occur after publication. Further, the publisher does not have any control over and does not assume any responsibility for author or third-party websites or their content.

20 21 22 23 24 — 987654321

Printed in the United States of America

To my wonderful wife, Joy, who loved
me even when I was still a Democrat

CONTENTS

Foreword by Eric Metaxas. xi

Introduction: The Battle for the Soul of America xv

Part I: Understanding What's at Stake in 2020

Chapter 1 Why Trump Must Win 1

Chapter 2 Why Trump Could Lose 12

Chapter 3 Black Americans, Democrats, and Trump. 29

Chapter 4 God Loves Borders 45

Chapter 5 Washington and Evangelicals Before Trump 59

Part II: Understanding Donald Trump

Chapter 6 God Uses Imperfect Leaders. 79

Chapter 7 Promises Made, Promises Kept 94

Chapter 8 What Is Donald Trump Really Like? 109

Chapter 9 Donald Trump in His Own Words. 121

Part III: Understanding the Spiritual Dimension

Chapter 10 Is Donald Trump Foreshadowed in the Bible? . . . 135

Chapter 11 Prophecies and Signs in the Heavens 147

Chapter 12 Spiritual Warfare and Donald Trump 157

Chapter 13 Compromise in the Church 170

Chapter 14 What's at Stake if Christians Don't Vote
for Trump. 182

Conclusion: A Call to Prayer and Action. 196

Epilogue. 200

Appendix A Remarks by President Trump at the
United Nations Event on Religious Freedom. 204

Appendix B Remarks by President Trump to the 74th Session
of the United Nations General Assembly 208
Acknowledgments. 218

About the Author226

Endnotes228

Index247

More Praise for *God, Trump,*
and the 2020 Election257

FOREWORD

WHEN DONALD TRUMP was elected in 2016, many Americans weren't sure whether he would deliver on his campaign promises. I was one of them. But as much as I was unsure of that, I was sure that Hillary Clinton, if elected, would deliver on hers, thereby eroding and destroying many of the God-given liberties some of us take for granted. I am decidedly glad the American people did not give her an opportunity to do this, and even gladder we gave Donald Trump an opportunity to carry out his promises. But I am even happier to think that he actually has delivered on them. When a politician does that, not only is it refreshing; it is almost shocking.

But the facts are before us. He has appointed justices of an originalist bent and has therefore defended the lives of the unborn and advocated for religious liberty. He has moved to protect our borders and our citizens, and he has fulsomely supported Israel, most dramatically by doing what many presidents promised to do and never did: move our embassy to Jerusalem. And of course he has created jobs and a booming economy. Finally he has labored like Hercules to drain the so-called swamp and has allowed what were once cynically termed “deplorables”—but are actually just freedom-loving Americans—to begin to reclaim our government from the career bureaucrats who had captured it. This is something no less important in our own time than winning independence from the tyrannous British was 244 years ago or preserving the Union from proslavery secessionists was 155 years ago. These are breathtaking achievements.

So approaching the 2020 election, the stakes are just as high as they were in 2016, and in some ways even higher, because when the forces of socialist gloom know their end is nigh, as they certainly now do, they will shriek and fight all the more ferociously. Despite some of the vilest histrionics of those opposed to this president—which should make things clear enough about whom we might best side with if we

love our country—many Christians are still grappling with whether to vote for him. This is something they find as unpleasant and difficult to swallow as they likely find his harshest tweets. But many of these people are friends of mine, whom I love. So although I disagree with their stance and find it destructive, I nonetheless hope and pray they might see things differently, and soon. And perhaps this book will help them toward that end.

In this book my friend Stephen E. Strang has masterfully laid out the reasons we should support this president. In *God, Trump, and the 2020 Election* he makes the case that God has raised up Donald Trump to fulfill His purposes for the nation, much as He raised up the biblical king Cyrus to accomplish His purposes during a critical hour in Israel's history. In using Cyrus, God was hardly goading us to applaud Cyrus' paganism, but who can fail to see He was hoping we could nonetheless see and rejoice in the vital role Cyrus played in God's purposes in history?

Stephen challenges us to look beyond the polarizing news stories to see Donald Trump through a spiritual lens. He asks us to consider the possibility that the fierce opposition to Trump is partly a matter of spiritual warfare, something anyone familiar with the events of the last three years must at least have suspected. And he fastens our attention on the fact that Trump's outsized—and even perhaps sometimes bellicose—personality is being used to do something quite wonderful: preserve America's sovereignty and prosperity.

So we are again choosing between two futures for this nation. One is marked by the loss of ordered liberty, by a descent from “the better angels of our nature” and toward a cowardly accommodation with the bullying forces of the bureaucratic elites. The other is marked by the courage of the Founders and their ideological descendants, and it strengthens and inspires us to continue standing to God's glory, in Lincoln's famous words, as “the last best hope of earth.”¹

Though I've said it elsewhere, as we approach the 2020 election, it bears repeating: not voting cannot be an option. Or let's put it another way: not to vote *is* to vote. You may dislike much about a candidate, but God calls us to make the hard choice and pull a lever for one or the other—even if it means voting less *for* a candidate than *against* another. But we have a responsibility to history and to our children and their children, and chose we must.

In this book Stephen makes the case that Donald Trump is the best

hope of keeping America from sliding into oblivion. I agree wholeheartedly, and I hope you will join me in praying for our president and our nation, that we might live up to our destiny to be a “shining city on a hill” for the whole world, to the glory of God.

—ERIC METAXAS

NEW YORK TIMES BEST-SELLING AUTHOR, *MARTIN LUTHER, BONHOEFFER*, AND *MIRACLES*; HOST, *THE ERIC METAXAS RADIO SHOW*

INTRODUCTION

THE BATTLE FOR THE SOUL OF AMERICA

The choice in this election will not just be a choice between two candidates; it will be a choice between two futures.¹

—VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE, AT PRESIDENT TRUMP'S
2020 CANDIDACY ANNOUNCEMENT RALLY
ORLANDO, JUNE 18, 2019

THE 2016 PRESIDENTIAL election was many things, but it was certainly not politics as usual. The election of Donald J. Trump as our forty-fifth president was a defining moment in American history. It was a chance for proud patriots to rally with a newfound voice, reclaim our country, and change its trajectory. The earthquake at the voting booths on Election Day 2016 signaled a seismic power shift—not only from one political party to another but from the Washington dealmakers to the American people. It was a message to the special interest groups and left-wing career politicians who had attempted to undermine our country during eight years of the Obama administration that we had had enough.

It was such a significant event that I wrote *God and Donald Trump* a year after Trump's historic election. I made the case that Trump is a unique man with a unique calling who appeared on the American political stage at a critical time in our history. It's as if God raised up this brusque billionaire in the same way He raised up the pagan king Cyrus in the Bible, who allowed the captive Israelites to return to Jerusalem.

Cyrus fulfilled God's purposes in that hour, and now, twenty-five hundred years later, Trump seems to be the man made for this hour. His unique personality and alpha male character traits are now being used to battle our enemies and to defend the country, making him the ideal man to lead the charge in the battle for America's soul.

As a result, Bible-believing Evangelicals who ordinarily condemn

the lifestyle Trump lived for many years rallied behind him in unprecedented numbers. They understood that somehow God's hand was upon this man, who may have been the only person in America who could have beaten Hillary Clinton and her corrupt political machine.

In my subsequent book, *Trump Aftershock*, I made the case that despite the attacks and \$31.7 million spent on Special Counsel Robert Mueller's deep state witch hunt (which turned up no "dirt"), God has his hand on Donald Trump. After all, how else could he survive the daily attacks and the Mueller investigation and still fulfill so many campaign promises in such a short time?

So how does this relate to you and to America? I'm writing this book nearly a year before the next election because I believe that Donald Trump *must* win and *will* win. Every presidential cycle is a new fight, a new cause, and a new opportunity for the people to decide who should lead the nation. This book explains why Evangelicals should support Trump for a second term based on the facts of what he has done for our base in the first term, what he *will do* in his second term, and what is at stake for Christians if the opposing side wins.

In a word, this book is about God and His purposes as it relates to Donald Trump and his second term. It's about Trump's vision to reverse the loss of American sovereignty and prosperity—a vision I believe he received from God. I believe God wants America to be great because God has raised up this nation, going back to our Founding Fathers, to be a beacon of light and hope for the world. Because of our religious liberty Christianity has flourished, allowing the gospel to be spread across the globe.

As a Christian journalist I will expound on the Christian concept of grace and how it relates to the presidency and upcoming reelection of the first man with no governmental or military background to hold the office. Ultimately I am looking at the election, Trump, and America from what I believe is God's perspective in order to help Christians (and others) see God's hand at work. Yes, I believe Donald Trump *will* be reelected, but I also devote an entire chapter to the serious considerations of those who say he might lose and why.

If you are a Christian, I hope this book gives you a biblical understanding of what God is doing. I also hope it is an articulate, impassioned treatise on why all Christians must support President Trump. My ultimate goal is that by the end of this book you will be convinced, as I am, that the destiny of America is riding on Trump's reelection.

Of course America's future is much more significant than any president's years in office—even Donald Trump's. Yet I hope to demonstrate that a second term for President Trump is vital to America's well-being so he can finish the job he has started and fulfill his unique calling as America's political reformer.

If you are not a Christian, I hope reading this book will give you spiritual insight you won't get anywhere else. The media and politicians see things as Republicans versus Democrats or maybe between conservatives and liberals. They analyze issues and events based on the personalities and agendas of the political protagonists. As the nation becomes more divided, Americans may see it as conflicts between the Far Left and the Right.

However, Christians see things as spiritual in nature. We sense that there is more going on than what we can see with our physical eyes. God is sovereign and has a will that is described in the Bible. Of course man has been debating and analyzing what the Scriptures say about God's will almost since Moses brought down the Law from Mount Sinai around thirty-five hundred years ago. The debate continues today.

I believe there are spiritual forces at work that the Bible calls spiritual warfare. Most Christians realize that the people who oppose our point of view or espouse views that are leading our culture and nation toward more decadence are merely being influenced by forces they probably don't understand. The Bible calls these evil forces "principalities" and "powers" (Eph. 6:12).

I realize that some Christian readers may not agree with me, but for these few pages I ask that you suspend your normal biases and paradigms long enough to consider what I have to say. If we can at least agree that the radical Left is leading our nation into a future disaster from which there will be no turning back, then it's possible to see that Donald Trump is turning the tide.

This book is not all doom and gloom, however. I believe good things are happening as a result of Donald Trump's presidency. I will reveal trends that are not acknowledged by most on the Left but are real nonetheless. The book ends on a positive note because I believe that with Trump's reelection we *can* reverse the loss of America's sovereignty, prosperity, and Christian influence.

Why should this book matter to you? Because you need to understand what we face in the next election and how God's hand is involved

in the current presidency. Every voter must understand what Trump will do in his second term to further conservative, biblical principles and establish an outlook for a bright future. Every voter must also understand this will only happen if Christians act now and if we support Trump and vote.

I love America, and I want God's blessing for all Americans. I am passionate about seeing America pivot and return to more traditional values based on the Bible. So come with me on a journey to discover what is happening in our country and what is at stake in the 2020 election and beyond. Find out why I believe Donald Trump must be reelected and what's in jeopardy if he loses.

—STEPHEN E. STRANG
ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA
JULY 13, 2019

PART I

UNDERSTANDING
WHAT'S AT
STAKE IN 2020

CHAPTER 1

WHY TRUMP MUST WIN

Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.¹

—GEORGE SANTAYANA

SPANISH-BORN PHILOSOPHER (1863–1952)

AMERICA HAS HAD some difficult periods in its history, and I lived through one of the worst. I came of age during the radical anti-Vietnam War era in the late sixties. I remember the riots at the 1968 Democratic convention when radicals tried to take over the party. We saw the same sort of street violence over the Vietnam War that we see today against President Trump in what is almost a repeat of that era.

As a student journalist I covered the riots of radicals at the University of Florida. I reported on the protests after the shooting deaths of four students at Kent State University in May 1970 for the student newspaper. The following year I called in a story to the Associated Press from a pay phone inside the UF administration building after it had been seized by students. I remember the rhetoric and the inflamed passions of the radicals. (The only time I've experienced tear gas was that day, when the police fired it on the students to make them give up the administration building.)

It was an eye-opener for me to see the student newspaper firmly on the side of the radicals, a foreshadowing of today's leftist, "fake news" media. One of the other newspaper staffers even claimed to be a communist. The radical societal changes I saw surfacing when I was a student came as a shock for most traditional Americans; they refused to believe what was happening until it was almost too late. Fortunately, after years of turmoil during the Nixon, Ford, and Carter administrations, some normalcy seemed to return when Ronald Reagan was elected president in 1980.

America has a long history of lively and often extreme political

discord going back to the time of John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, whose acrimonious political fight must have seemed extreme after our first president, George Washington, was elected without opposition. But the acrimony then was nothing like what we have seen the last sixty years.

With the Left becoming more and more extreme, it was as if the people said, “Enough is enough.” When Donald Trump was elected in 2016, the American people sent a message to Washington that they wanted change. It was a message the political and media elites missed, so they were shocked by Trump’s decisive win in the electoral college. Even though Trump lost the popular vote to Hillary Clinton, our Constitution set up a system in the electoral college that protects the small states from being overpowered by the more populous states. Trump won because he took three states the Democrats thought were in their pocket: Michigan, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania. But he only won by roughly eighty thousand votes spread over all three states—less than 1 percent in each state. “This was not a blowout,” said Ralph Reed, a respected conservative political strategist.²

Trump’s campaign in 2020 is entirely different because while he has been fighting since 2016 to make life better for all Americans, the Left has grown more extreme in its radicalism. It’s become more dangerous than it’s ever been in the history of our country. Meanwhile Trump has become the unlikely hero of most conservatives, including Evangelicals. They see his courage and his stand for the truth. They see his unprecedented presidential support of religious liberty, life of the unborn, and Israel.

While the country has lurched left over the past few decades, Trump has at least slowed the momentum. Christians have sensed this reprieve, and it has emboldened them to take a stand like they hadn’t recently. Conservative news sites—and even Christian ones—are more prominent. Some Christian movies, such as *Unplanned* and *Breakthrough*, have been big hits, whereas before, few Christian-friendly movies even got a slot in a theater. Leaders who may have been intimidated into silence are again taking courage from how Trump speaks the truth and survives the onslaught from the politically correct crowd.

Let’s face it, the same people who oppose Trump almost uniformly oppose Bible-believing Christians. If Trump loses, not only do we lose the benefits we have gained from some of his executive orders, but we lose a champion and a real American leader.

TRUMP DERANGEMENT SYNDROME

Leftists have taken over the Democratic Party, and their frightening vision for America is fueling their radical agenda. In my previous books I documented how they seemed to go crazy when Trump became president, rioting in the streets after the election and the inauguration. They started fires, broke windows, and battled with police. In some places it was total anarchy, often funded by billionaire radicals such as George Soros. While the electorate made it clear at the polls that they wanted America moving more toward the center, the Left has become emboldened and more radical, espousing an agenda that from a conservative Christian perspective is downright evil.

Historian and philosopher David Barton points out that this polarization shows up in the polls. Fifteen years ago 29 percent of the nation was considered swing voters. Now it's down to 19 percent because so many identify with one side or the other.³

To understand the new intensity on the Left, take the gubernatorial race in Georgia in 2018 as an example. Democrat Stacey Abrams lost to Republican Brian Kemp by 55,000 votes. Even so, she received more votes in 2018 than Hillary Clinton did in 2016, partly because she increased black voter turnout in Fulton County (metro Atlanta) by 48.5 percent over 2014. But despite her decisive loss (even after charges of voter fraud and recounts), she still maintains she won and that the election was stolen from her.⁴

Nationally there is also a trend toward higher voter turnout. Before the 2016 election the most votes ever cast for president were in 2008 when Barack Obama won—132 million voters went to the polls. The 2016 election broke that record, with more than 136 million votes cast,⁵ and Ralph Reed says voter turnout projections for 2020 may be as high as 155 million to 160 million due to the level of passion for and against the president.⁶ Midterm election turnouts are on the rise as well, with 118 million votes cast in 2018 (50.3 percent of eligible voters), up from 83 million in 2014, which was only 36.7 percent of the electorate.⁷

The Left's loathing of Trump has been given a name: Trump Derangement Syndrome. But the Left also loathes conservatives who favor traditional values because we don't go along with their radical agendas of socialistic government control, abortion on demand for any reason leading up to the day of birth, and the belief that sexually anything goes, with anyone, at any time.

It has gone beyond homosexuality becoming acceptable under the law. (Homosexual acts were still outlawed in many states as recently as two decades ago.) Now marriage has been redefined by the 2015 *Obergefell v. Hodges* Supreme Court decision. It even seems we can no longer assume there are only two genders and that everyone is either one or the other, male or female—a concept that is now called “gender binarism.” Instead we are told there is a wide range of gender expressions. As David Barton told me, “No longer is gender defined by what’s between your legs but by what’s between your ears—by whatever you feel you are at that point in time.”

In 2019 when the nice-sounding Equality Act was proposed in Congress, almost every Democrat backed it, even though it reached far beyond equality for alternative lifestyles that until recently were considered perverted (and that Christians believe are against God’s Word). The law would have forced these new definitions of sexual preference on all Americans, including churches, with penalties and jail sentences for those who opposed it. Thank God it failed to pass.

According to the Heritage Foundation, sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) laws such as the Equality Act could harm the following groups of people if that legislation is passed: employers and workers, medical professionals, parents and children, women, and non-profits and volunteers.⁸ In an article published in *Decision* magazine Franklin Graham painted an even more vivid picture of the dangers of the legislation, stating that it “will have catastrophic consequences for...churches and faith-based nonprofits who would lose all protections to hire people who adhere to their Biblical statements of faith. Christians will be persecuted for their sincerely held beliefs as never before. The clear teachings of the Bible on the sins of homosexuality and abortion will no doubt be considered ‘hate speech.’ It will be a nightmare from which this nation may never recover.”⁹

Not surprisingly the Equality Act received the backing of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi as well as former vice president Joe Biden, who said on June 1, 2019, during his campaign for president that the Equality Act would be “the first thing [he asks] to be done.”¹⁰ The Democrats failed to pass the bill this time, but what happens if they regain power? That’s what is at stake with the 2020 election, like it or not.

Ralph Reed sees the situation as being even more serious. “For the Christian community pretty much everything is on the line. Whether it’s religious freedom or support for Israel or America withdrawing

from the Iran nuclear deal, the life issue, or the future of the courts—if there is a Democrat elected president in 2020, they’re going to reverse everything President Trump has done.”

On top of that, he believes Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who will be eighty-seven when the 2020 presidential election takes place, will wait to resign until after the election, hoping a new Democratic president will nominate a liberal, proabortion, anti-religious-freedom justice to the Supreme Court. If that happens, “that justice will sit on that court for thirty to forty years and make it very difficult for us to have the kind of true conservative majority we’d like to have,” Reed told me in a recent podcast interview. “They hate Trump. They loathe his agenda. Frankly they disdain us and our biblical values, and they’re opposed to our socially conservative—issues agenda.”

In Reed’s opinion the 2020 presidential election will be a “close, hard-fought, and very competitive contest.” He believes President Trump is well positioned for reelection by historic terms. He has no war or foreign policy crisis. He is an incumbent. He has a united party. He will have no significant primary opposition. He also has one of the strongest economies in the post–World War II history of our country, with 3.7 percent unemployment, 2.6 percent GDP growth, and gross domestic income growing at about 4 percent a year.¹¹ Plus, the stock market is up overall. “These are all good things, so he’ll be a very strong and formidable candidate as an incumbent,” Reed said.

A year ahead of the election, it’s hard to predict what will happen, so we must look at trends. There is an intensity on the Left, especially from newly elected members of Congress. They espouse socialism in America, the world’s greatest free market nation, oblivious to the historical fact (evidenced most recently in Venezuela) that socialism never works. In the name of extremist environmentalism Democratic candidates are proposing policies such as the Green New Deal, which goes much further than urging cleaner air and conservation of natural resources—objectives on which most Americans agree.

It’s one thing for government to impose environmental rules on industry in terms of what companies can and can’t do. Those kinds of moves affect the public through higher prices. The Green New Deal,¹² however, would eliminate carbon fuels and airplanes and, in the end, impoverish the entire country. Is America ready for extreme policies that would outlaw beef or eliminate all air travel? If we can’t fly, must we go by ship to Hawaii? And must the ship use solar power since the

Green New Deal would outlaw fossil fuels? It's crazy to imagine, and you'd think such a deal would be roundly rejected by Americans (and it mostly is, although the media and the extreme Left try to make it seem like the latest inevitable trend).

Nancy Pelosi has been doing a balancing act that will continue up to the election. On one side are the darlings of the far Left, Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez and three other very left-wing House members elected in 2018 from deep-blue districts. They could say anything crazy and still get reelected. On the other side is about an equal number of Democrats from districts that Trump carried who barely won their seats. They want to stay away from all that craziness. However, these Democrats don't get much press, so we forget the dilemma they face: how not to make their Trump-loving constituents mad and to still go along with the Democratic agenda, which is becoming more and more radical every day.

"I think the center of gravity in the Democratic Party has shifted to the extreme Left," Reed said. "The energy, the activism, the excitement and intensity are over there now, and I think Pelosi is going to have a hard time containing the swamp fevers of this radicalism and impeachment agenda, and I firmly think the Democratic nominee, whoever they are, is going to have a hard time staying in the center. I think they've kind of lost their bearings a bit. It remains to be seen how that will impact 2020."

THE SILVER LINING

There is a silver lining to all of the negative energy on the Left. Remember how Georgia Democrat Stacey Abrams lost even though she increased the number of voters in Fulton County? That happened because groups such as Ralph Reed's helped get out the vote in even bigger numbers.

The conservative Christian share of the national electorate increased from 33 percent in 2016 to 35 percent in 2018.¹³ In Florida the white evangelical share of the electorate increased from 21 percent in 2016 to 29 percent in 2018,¹⁴ and the raw number of white evangelical voters nationwide increased by around 9.5 million between 2014 and 2018.¹⁵ As a result, Republicans Josh Hawley of Missouri, Rick Scott of Florida, and Mike Braun of Indiana won US Senate seats, and Republican Ron DeSantis was elected governor of Florida. "That's how Republicans gained two seats in the US Senate, and in spite of losing both Arizona

and Nevada, I think that's why Donald Trump has a real chance to be reelected," Reed said.

In 2018 Reed's organization, Faith and Freedom Coalition, distributed thirty million voter guides to more than one hundred thousand churches and mailed out about 13.4 million pieces of voter education material. The group also sent out thirty-two million digital advertisements on Facebook and other social media platforms and knocked on two million doors, including three hundred thousand doors in Florida alone. The group hopes to double that in 2020. The plan is to knock on the doors of four million evangelical and Christian voters and hand them voter literature that doesn't tell them whom to vote for but lays out the issues.

"I'm not a prophet," Reed continued, "but I think what you saw in 2018 is what we'll likely see in 2020—a very high turnout by historic standards. And I think our people are coming too. Certainly if I have anything to say about it, they will. We're certainly going to do our job."

THE KEY ISSUES AT A GLANCE

So what are the issues that will bring out voters on the Right? I'm not a policy expert, so this is not an exhaustive list of issues. I'm a Christian journalist focusing on the things I know matter most to evangelical voters. To that end here's a quick overview of some key issues:

Abortion: A huge concern is stopping late-term abortion and being certain we have a president who will nominate conservative US Supreme Court justices who will rule favorably on the various heart-beat bills that several states passed in 2019. The bills ban abortion once a fetal heartbeat can be detected, which can be as early as six weeks, and were passed partly to bring the issue before the Supreme Court.

Israel and the Middle East: There's also concern over the Iran nuclear deal and whether the United States continues to give strong support to Israel. For many Christians, including those involved in groups such as Christians United for Israel, this is the top policy issue. Many Christian Zionists even believe our support of Israel is what guarantees God's blessing on America.

Religious freedom: Many Evangelicals believe religious liberty, protected by the First Amendment, is under severe attack—especially by the courts—and that will motivate hundreds of thousands to turn up to the polls to stop these trends. The government power brokers on

the left seem to want to replace individual rights with the rights of groups, which would undercut our very Constitution.

Supreme Court justices: The battle over justice appointments is typically viewed through the lens of whether the nominee is an originalist or a postmodernist. Originalists believe the Constitution's meaning is fixed and Supreme Court rulings should be based on what the authors meant when they wrote the documents. Non-originalists and postmodernists believe the Supreme Court should base its decisions on what the text of the Constitution means to modern readers. Because these views can have a significant impact on the justices' interpretations of the Constitution, which affects every aspect of American life, including religious liberties, the Supreme Court nomination process has become a fistfight.

Reed said only time will tell if the Democrats actually "go off a cliff in their extreme leftist agenda." Often at election time they try to seem much more middle-of-the-road and let unelected left-leaning judges accomplish their goals, such as finding "rights" in the Constitution that are not there on issues of same-sex marriage and abortion, for instance.

Immigration: This is an issue so important I devote chapter 4 to a discussion of what the Bible says about borders. Old Testament laws associated with "foreigners" make the case for assimilation, as said "foreigners" living in the Israelite community had to adhere to its covenantal structure. Modern immigration policy, with its emphasis on multiculturalism, is a looming Tower of Babel disaster. Unfortunately some liberal Christians try to frame the immigration debate only as whether Christians should have compassion for the immigrants who are poor (which we should). But Christianity doesn't endorse a suicidal immigration system that gives the country no right to define and defend its borders.

Justice: This is one area where Evangelicals often find commonality with the Left because justice is important in the Bible. Christians see it in moral terms, and I've had black pastors who are passionate about criminal justice tell me that issue is why they stick with the Democratic Party, a topic I discuss in chapter 3. Meanwhile Trump has provided valuable leadership to this important issue of reforming our criminal justice system to give nonviolent offenders a second chance at life. Even though Democrats act as if they have owned this

issue for decades, they never accomplished what the Trump administration has accomplished.

Interestingly the concept of prison reform is based on the biblical principles of paying restitution to victims, repenting of past wrongs, working, getting educated, and developing the skills to succeed. As a result, a bipartisan coalition of liberals in the Democratic Party and conservatives and Christians in the Republican Party was built to pass needed prison reform in 2018. But sadly those instances of bipartisan consensus and compromise are few and far between.

Because the Democrats have held the House of Representatives since the midterms, not much is happening legislatively. Therefore the focus of conservative activists such as Ralph Reed is on court appointments in the Senate and working with the administration on executive action such as the Department of Health and Human Services' latest conscience protection. The Faith and Freedom Coalition has a full team of lobbyists in Washington who work on these issues every day. Reed told me he and others are meanwhile building infrastructure and getting ready for 2020. "I want to turn out the biggest Christian vote in US history in 2020," he said.

WHY THE CHRISTIAN VOTE MATTERS

Why is the Christian vote more important than ever? The attacks that have left Christians in a defensive mode are only getting worse. Even respected thinker and author David Horowitz warns that the rising attacks on Christians and their beliefs threaten all Americans—including Jews such as himself. His book *Dark Agenda: The War to Destroy Christian America* should be required reading for anyone wanting to understand objectively what is going on in our mixed-up culture.

First, he lays down how radicalism began in the 1960s as activists started implementing the principles in Saul Alinsky's *Rules for Radicals*. Horowitz explains that was when Democrats began showing their hatred for their political opponents, a departure from traditional American dissent. They began dehumanizing and delegitimizing anyone—including Bible-believing Christians—who disagreed with their left-wing, socialist agenda. Horowitz wrote:

Stigmatizing one's opponent is a classic radical tactic. It is the thirteenth rule of Saul Alinsky's *Rules for Radicals*: "Pick the

target, freeze it, personalize it, and polarize it.” Attack your opponents personally and cut them off from any possibility of sympathy. That is why radicals paint their political opponents as homophobes, xenophobes, and Islamophobes. They’re not just good-but-misguided people whose religious convictions have led them to a contrasting viewpoint. They are *bad* people possessed by irrational fears of “the others” because they are different.¹⁶

These dehumanizing terms became cultural norms by the 1990s when political correctness came on the scene—and it applied to everything, not just politics. Today political correctness has gotten so out of control it borders on the ridiculous. For instance, as I write this, Berkeley, California, has just banned the use of gender-specific words such as “manhole” and “manpower” from its municipal code and requires the terms to be replaced with “maintenance hole” and “human effort.”¹⁷ And I recently heard on the radio that in San Francisco, the homeless must now be called “urban campers.” I couldn’t confirm that later, so it’s possible someone made it up. But it shows how ridiculous things have become.

When I interviewed him for this book, conservative radio talk show host Dennis Prager shared a sentiment about political correctness similar to Horowitz’s. “The Left are Orwell’s friends,” he said. “They won’t say ‘illegal immigrant’—you can’t even use the title ‘illegal alien.’ Rather, it’s ‘undocumented immigrant.’ They might as well call bank robberies ‘undocumented withdrawals.’”

Donald Trump might not be the first politician to claim to stand up to political correctness, but he definitely took the fight to a whole new level. He wasn’t an ideological conservative as much as he was just a street fighter for common sense. Trump’s only ideology seems to be patriotism, as Horowitz points out.

During his campaign this was manifest in his concern about not only the state of the country but also the short shrift America had been given in global trade deals, the trillions wasted in foreign wars for which there was no gain, and what Horowitz calls the “porous state of its borders and the precarious condition of its security. [Indeed] his campaign themes made his patriotism clear: *Make America prosperous again, make America safe again, make America strong again, make America great again.*”

He goes on to say that the “haters on the left, in the Democratic

Party and the media generally, have twisted Trump's patriotism and condemned it as jingoistic and bigoted bravado." They've done the same by extension to his supporters, many of whom are evangelical Christians. I've observed that even though Jewish people often don't understand the evangelical subculture, Horowitz is a clear thinker who accurately wrote: "Anyone sympathetic to the unapologetic patriotism of religious people could understand why they were solidly for Trump, despite his flaws."

Horowitz wraps up his book by explaining that Trump seemed to empathize with this community of Christians under attack because he seemed to understand that the same attacks imperiled America's social contract. And Bible-believing Christians in turn continue to support Trump through thick and thin going into the 2020 election because they know that with his election in 2016, what Horowitz calls "the long night of weak Republican leadership and inadequate defense of the Republic was over."¹⁸

Since Trump's election the crazy extremes of the Left make you wonder if it is shooting itself in the head. And if it is, in a way, that's a good thing. It's like the maxim that paraphrases Napoleon: "Never interfere with an enemy while he's in the process of destroying himself." But if the Left is destroying itself with no vision other than socialism or opposition to Trump, our side must still never become complacent.

"We can't be like a head football coach who gets up in the locker room before the big game and tells the team, 'Hey, don't worry. We're going to win by four touchdowns,'" Reed opined. "No, you should tell them that this game may easily be decided by a field goal with a second left on the clock. Play like that. Play like every single snap could determine the difference between victory and defeat. I don't want anybody going into 2020 thinking we've got it in the bag. I think that was one of the big mistakes Hillary Clinton and the Democrats made in 2016. They were overconfident. They underestimated their opposition, and they paid for it."

The Democrats will definitely bring their A game to the 2020 election, and as I discuss in the next chapter, that's why Christians need to be aware of all the reasons Trump could lose.

CHAPTER 2

WHY TRUMP COULD LOSE

When bad men combine, the good must associate; else they will fall, one by one, an unpitied sacrifice in a contemptible struggle.¹

—EDMUND BURKE

ANGLO-IRISH POLITICIAN (1729–1797)

THE FUTURE OF our country is at stake in the 2020 election, and we cannot afford to stand by and do nothing. Albert Einstein once wrote that “the world is in greater peril from those who tolerate or encourage evil than from those who actually commit it.”² The Democrats will unite and throw everything they have at the next election, and if Christians decide not to rally together and vote according to biblical values, we could see our spiritual enemy win some major battles—in our policies, our leadership, and our rights. If we are to preserve our freedoms, we can’t be overconfident. We need to recognize our vulnerabilities, which means we must take a hard look at the reasons President Trump could actually lose.

Not long after Trump’s Orlando rally in June 2019 announcing his 2020 candidacy, polls were released saying nearly any Democratic opponent would beat the president.³ To me that’s hard to believe (most polls aren’t very accurate sixteen months before an election). After all, under Trump’s leadership, the US economy has been booming, the unemployment rate is down, the military is being rebuilt, and our problems with illegal immigration are on the road to being fixed. If Trump is reelected, it’s very likely these good trends will only get better.

Although many at the kickoff rally believe Trump will win the upcoming election, others voiced a concern that if Christians don’t turn out to vote in record numbers, the Left could win and reverse all the good Trump has accomplished. Yes, Trump’s supporters are enthusiastic, but so are the Democrats—and with greater numbers.

Less than two weeks after Trump announced his plans to seek

a second term, *The Hill* reported on a prediction model that accurately forecast four months before the 2018 midterms that Democrats would gain seats in the House. That same model now says President Trump will lose his reelection bid. The Negative Partisanship model, created by Rachel Bitecofer of the Wason Center for Public Policy at Christopher Newport University, predicts Trump will win 197 electoral college votes, while the Democratic candidate will earn 278.⁴

“The complacent electorate of 2016, who were convinced Trump would never be president, has been replaced with the terrified electorate of 2020, who are convinced he’s the Terminator and can’t be stopped,” Bitecofer said. “Under my model, that distinction is not only important, it is everything.”⁵

She added: “The Democrats are not complacent like they were in 2016 and I doubt there is any amount of polling or favorable forecasts that will make them so. That fear will play a crucial role in their 2020 victory. We will not see a divided Democratic Party in 2020.”⁶

If the Democrats are not complacent, then Trump supporters must not be overconfident. Good approval numbers and a robust economy are no match for an empowered and newly engaged Democratic Party that, along with the Washington establishment, will do anything to stop Donald Trump.

Tom Ertl, whom I got to know in 2016 when he was the national media director of Christians for Donald Trump, wrote an insightful article for NewsWithViews.com, giving the political reality of the “Seven Reasons Why Trump Could Lose in 2020.”⁷

Of all the possible roadblocks, Ertl listed overconfidence as the number one obstacle to Trump’s reelection. “Overconfidence has been the demise of many a movement, business, individual, and political campaign,” he wrote. “It has become a serious problem because there is a real sense within the Trump camp and support base that the 2020 election is in the bag; the very opposite is true.”

Ertl believes the ruling establishment and their deep state, which the Trump presidency has exposed, will not rest until Donald Trump is defeated. “America will see an unprecedented amount of Democratic funding and tireless efforts going toward their presidential candidate,” he said. “In fact it may not matter who becomes the Democratic nominee because their [electoral numbers], massive fundraising and energies will be at unforeseen levels” for whomever they nominate.

About the same time Ertl published his article, Lara Trump, the

president's daughter-in-law, stated on Fox News' *Hannity* show that she believes Trump will be "nearly impossible to beat."⁸ On the day the president announced his 2020 candidacy, Trump's campaign manager, Brad Parscale, declared, "I think we win in an electoral landslide."⁹ Ertl opined, "This kind of rhetoric has gone from wishful thinking to being absurd to being extremely dangerous."

Even Roger Stone, the author of *The Making of the President 2016* and a longtime Trump confidant, who got caught up in the Mueller investigation, told Alex Jones in mid-2019 he believes the president is in a strong position for reelection. "He has a strong economy, and he has the wind at his back. He is fighting for American interests around the globe. He is fighting to seal our borders," Stone told the controversial broadcaster.¹⁰

Then he added a note of caution: "But we as conservatives, we as Republicans, we as Trump supporters cannot take victory for granted. We should not assume that this is going to be some kind of landslide, because it's not. Why? Well, because of the mainstream media's torrent of anti-Trump rhetoric by their distortion and their lies and their attacks on this president."

Meanwhile a small group of conservatives was huddling in Washington, DC, to map out a strategy to prevent a Democratic victory. Ray Moore, a prayer leader and Christian educator from South Carolina, was there. In 2016 he played a pivotal role in encouraging then lieutenant governor Henry McMaster to become the first sitting statewide elected official in the nation to support then candidate Trump. Ray's "inside baseball" commentary on that fascinating turn of events was one of the best parts of my book *God and Donald Trump*.

I talked to Ray after the Washington meeting, and he told me that Trump's reelection is not looking certain. He said the consensus at the meeting was that Democrats will do anything and everything to defeat Trump, and they have major billionaire donors lined up to supply them with unlimited funds. Ray predicted we will see voter fraud and ballot harvesting at unprecedented levels such as what took place in Orange County, California, during the 2018 election. Furthermore, the Democrats believe if they can win seven key states, they will easily defeat Trump no matter who is running on the Democratic ticket.

"The key to Trump's victory is for our side to find *new voters*, register them, and get them to the polls," Ray said. "It doesn't matter what the economy is like when the Democrats start vote harvesting. This

election will be more difficult than 2016. Right now our side is very complacent; they feel a Trump victory is certain. The opposite could be true. The experts are worried, and we must get out the word on this. All the happy talk of it being easy due to a good economy, his stand for Israel, pro-life judges, and so forth is not good, as it puts our people in a complacent state of mind.”

John Graves is president of Vision America, founded by my good friend Pastor Rick Scarborough. He describes himself as data driven, and he was happy to help provide the statistics showing the advantage the Democrats have in the next election. He is a unique leader, a lawyer who also volunteers at Gateway Church near Dallas. His mission is to rally Christians to register to vote and then actually go to the polls.

Graves echoed what others have said: the turnout in the 2020 election will be higher than ever on both sides—possibly approaching 70 percent of eligible voters. Through Vision America—a national association of churches that seeks to mobilize pastors and people of faith to bring spiritual awakening in the culture and government—John is playing an active role in getting Evangelicals to the polls by distributing voter guides showing where the candidates stand on key issues.

“To me, one of the top reasons President Trump could lose would be voter and donor apathy,” John told me. “The church must move forward in *humility, diligence, and restraint*. This applies to the 2020 election and all areas. If believers will do those things, this could be a landslide election.”

John has an insight he shares when he ministers in churches on the real sin of Sodom and Gomorrah. “Many Christians ignore God’s definition of Sodom’s sins,” he said. “They assume the symptoms of non-biblical sex are the reasons [God destroyed the city] and ignore the roots. Ezekiel 16:49 says, ‘Now this was the sin of your sister Sodom: She and her daughters were *arrogant, overfed and unconcerned*; they did not help the poor and needy’ [NIV, emphasis added]. Gluttony, pride, and laziness are what lead to the other symptoms we see in our culture.”

Through Vision America’s outreach to pastors, called Acts 20:28 Pastors, churches large and small are proving that pastors can help reverse our nation’s moral decline. Using cutting-edge technology, the organization is able to determine county by county how many pro-life conservatives are registered to vote but unlikely to go to the polls. It

then equips pastors and people of faith to educate those disengaged voters and encourage them to vote.

The results of their efforts have been nothing short of amazing. The website for Acts 20:28 Pastors reports that pastors who use their resources see an average voter turnout in their church that is 55 percent higher than the average turnout in their local community.¹¹ “More and more, pastors and people of faith are seeing that [voting] is a spiritual act and not a political act,” John said.

EIGHT REASONS TRUMP COULD LOSE

I applaud Vision America and other ministries that are trying to wake up the church, because the simple fact is that there are political realities that could cause Trump to lose in 2020, including the following that Tom Ertl outlined in the article I mentioned previously.

1. Overconfidence

As Tom noted, overconfidence breeds complacency and laziness because it lulls people into thinking success is automatic. This is a serious threat to Trump’s reelection effort. The president’s faithful supporters have a sense that his reelection is inevitable and they can just sit back and enjoy the political ride.

This is so similar to what Hillary Clinton’s campaign and supporters did in 2016 that I can’t help but wonder if Trump’s opponents are feeding this kind of presumptive confidence to disengage his base. I hope this book wakes up conservatives to the fact that if the present attitude within the Trump camp continues through 2020, a Democrat will be inaugurated in 2021.

Jay Sekulow, who served as counsel for the president during the Mueller “witch hunt,” believes Trump will win by a bigger margin than last time because, as he put it, “the Democratic party has decided to run as the socialist party.” But he quickly added: “However, you never take anything for granted, and you’ve got to run as if you’re behind, and that’s what he does.”

Trump supporters must realize his 2020 reelection effort will be much harder than his surprise victory in 2016. The president is not invincible. The Democrats will not be overconfident this time, and there will be no surprises.

2. Social media censorship

One of the major contributors to Trump's 2016 victory was his ability to use social media to connect with American voters, coupled with alternative media efforts to counter the constant onslaught of anti-Trump rhetoric in the corporate media. But Ertl noted that since 2016 "the radical Silicon Valley establishment has moved on the pro-Trump, conservative and Christian alternative media in a massive de-platforming campaign." The fruits of their success were the Democratic House victories in the 2018 midterms. As Ertl said, "they haven't stopped in their efforts to censor all political opinions that are alien to their neo-Marxist, globalist agenda."

For pro-Trump conservatives the most critical challenge posed by this leftist social media censorship is that it prevents them from communicating with current and potential supporters. The silver lining is that Trump has initiated antitrust legal actions against the social media establishment. Trump's moves to break up Big Tech must be swift and determined. Otherwise, his ability to engage his base and win over new voters will be greatly hindered.

Trump's campaign and supporters "must make an end run around social media censorship and go directly to new voters," Ertl pointed out. Also, Republican lawmakers must join Trump in his efforts to break up Big Tech, and conservatives must create social media platforms that are not under establishment control. Trump will not win if social media censorship continues.

3. Voter fraud

Tom Ertl had this insight about the election: "The one single thing the Democratic Party, at all levels, is best at is voter fraud, and they are very proud of their refinement of creating illegal votes. Joseph Stalin's comment 'The people who cast the votes decide nothing; the people who count the votes decide everything' has been the inspiration of big-city Democrat operatives for decades. In fact voter fraud is so prevalent in large Democratic urban areas that the art of stealing votes is part of every Democratic candidate's election strategy and considered normal behavior.

"The 2020 Democratic voter fraud effort will be concentrated in key swing state cities of Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Detroit, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Miami, Orlando, Las Vegas, and Cleveland. I am sure the planning has already begun," he wrote.

The Trump campaign is aware that the states that propelled Trump

to a 2016 electoral victory were won by the thinnest of margins. Had Democratic operatives added a few more votes in their large cities, Trump would not have won. Consider these 2016 election statistics:

- In Pennsylvania, Trump won the twenty electoral votes by only 44,292 votes, or 0.7 percent of the votes cast.
- In Michigan, only 10,704 votes gave Trump a 0.2 percent margin to get the state's crucial sixteen electoral votes.
- In Wisconsin, which Hillary Clinton did not consider in play, Trump won by only 22,748 votes, or 0.8 percent.
- In my home state of Florida, where both houses in the Legislature, the governorship, and a majority of those we send to Congress are Republican, Trump won by a razor-thin 1.2 percent, or 112,911 votes, to give him twenty-nine electoral votes. (On election night as I watched the returns from the New York Hilton with other Trump supporters in what turned out to be a victory party, when the count from Florida came in, I knew Donald Trump would win.)

If the vote tallies of those four states had been reversed, Hillary Clinton would have had an electoral victory of 307–231. Compare that with the 306-to-232 margin Trump won by. If even 38,875 votes in Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and Michigan had been reversed, Clinton would have earned a 278–260 electoral college victory. Trump's win in 2016 was razor-thin.

For the Trump campaign to overcome Democratic voter fraud, the campaign must work with state and federal officials—both federal agencies overseeing the election process and Republican-controlled state houses and legislatures—to investigate and prosecute election fraud. This cannot wait until December 2020; that will be too late. The question Ertl posed in his insightful op-ed is, “Do the Republicans have the fight and the will to stop Democratic voter fraud? So far they haven't.”

For what it's worth, I think my eighty-eight-year-old mother was the victim of voter fraud in 2016. A lifelong Republican, she now lives in an assisted-living facility not far from me. She no longer drives, so I took her to her precinct in a predominantly Democratic part of Sanford, Florida. When we showed up with her voter card and ID, we were told she had already voted and were turned away.

Since my mother is forgetful, I knew there was a possibility she sent in an absentee ballot, forgot about it, and hadn't told me. But at this stage in life, I don't think she's sophisticated enough to fill out the ballot and find a stamp to mail it on her own. But I couldn't prove my suspicions, and the election workers could provide no proof other than a record in their computer, so we left. Since then I've taken her to early voting locations, where we both vote, and as her power of attorney I can help her fill out her ballot, something I think she can no longer do on her own. But voting early comes with its own risk of fraud, leading to the next way Trump could lose.

4. Ballot harvesting

Because absentee voting has increased nationwide over the last decade, ballot harvesting has become a growing concern. This political term refers to the process of paper votes such as absentee ballots being collected and delivered to polling locations by third parties. As you can imagine, this process is rife with opportunities for fraud and deception.

The extent of Democratic mischief in this area is not fully known, but many point to ballot harvesting as the reason Democrats gained four congressional seats during the 2018 midterms in a Republican stronghold like Orange County, California. Statewide, Democrats claimed all but seven of California's fifty-three House seats. It is likely no coincidence a massive number of Democratic ballots appeared there on Election Day. It was estimated that more than 250,000 ballots were dropped off in Orange County alone.¹²

If no one is prosecuted or jailed for illegal ballot harvesting, the Democrats will continue to engage in these activities. Again, federal agencies that oversee elections and the state houses of government must help bring an end to these practices. It is laughable that while the mainstream media obsess over fake news reports of Russian election meddling, they practically ignore the real election meddling the Democrats have carried out in every modern federal election.

I like the way Ertl put it in his op-ed: "While Republicans hold rallies in huge stadiums for Trump, Democrats strategically work to flood America with illegal immigrants [who will become] Democrat voters. We have great enthusiasm, but they have a strategy to win. Our side has great rallies; their side wins elections."

5. Economic collapse

One of Trump's greatest accomplishments in his first two and a half years in office has been turning on the US economic engine. The growing economy is clearly an area of strength for Trump as he faces reelection. His "America first" economic policies that are helping to revive flagging industries, increase wages, and bring a stock market boom will go a long way in attracting working-class voters from the Midwest, who have a history of supporting Democrats because they claim to be prolabor.

It should also be noted that the nation's economic condition is especially significant for incumbent candidates. Only two presidential incumbents in the last fifty years have failed to cinch a second term (Jimmy Carter in 1980 and George H. W. Bush in 1992). Since history shows that incumbents do well even when their first elections and terms were contentious, many believe these two exceptions were caused by the tough economic times the country was facing during their campaigns. (We could add Gerald Ford, except he was never elected and only became president when Richard Nixon resigned. Although not considered an incumbent, Ford did not win his bid for reelection in 1976 due in large part to the tough economy.)

Trump's current campaign dependency on his economic successes and the rise in the stock market is a perfect setup for the central bankers and international financiers to stage an economic collapse just before the election in 2020. A similar economic downturn in September and October of 2008 propelled Barack Obama to victory in his first presidential run.

"Considering the immense debt of the US Treasury and the tenuous condition of the American dollar, presently held as the world reserve currency, it may not take much for our global financial masters to contrive an orchestrated economic collapse and to turn Trump into a one-term president," Ertl observed. "Bad economic news always hurts the party in the White House. The hope here is that if this is attempted by the global financiers, Trump would move against the private Federal Reserve and nationalize it."

6. More war in the Middle East

President Trump is known for his often threatening rhetoric against Iran, and this puts him in a troubling political situation made worse by the way Western media and the Washington establishment seem to be constantly pushing the United States toward a war with Iran.

If Trump initiates a war with Iran, his chances of being reelected will be destroyed. A war with Iran cannot be won. Iran is not like Serbia, Libya, or Iraq—nations that don't have strong militaries. Not only is Iran a formidable military power; it has over eighty million citizens, many of whom could be recruited as soldiers. A war against Iran would be long and expensive, and it would create an international public opinion nightmare for the president.

On top of that, Trump campaigned against the senseless and expensive Middle Eastern wars that marked the presidencies of both Bushes, so he must avoid one—even if he must continue to punish Iran for bad behavior. Remember, all they respect is strength, not weakness, as the Obama administration demonstrated when it actually gave Iran billions of dollars and the most poorly negotiated deal in US history.

7. Evangelical Never Trumper

I believe the term Never Trumper represents a very dangerous strain both in the Republican Party and among self-described Evangelicals who still hold to the feeling that they should vote for anyone but Trump (even if the Democratic challenger is the most extreme leftist in the Democratic Party). They should have an epiphany as Dr. Richard Land, the respected president of Southern Evangelical Seminary in Charlotte, North Carolina, did.

Land disliked Donald Trump so much in 2016 that he favored any of the other seventeen candidates for the Republican nomination. But “when it [came] to a binary choice between Hillary Clinton and President Trump, it took me about one nanosecond to determine that at the very worst, the president was the lesser evil versus Hillary Clinton,” he said. “And frankly, he’s done far better than I thought he would.”

Land believes some Evangelicals were so offended by some of the comments Trump has made and his past behavior that they just decided to vote for neither Hillary Clinton nor Donald Trump. “I call that the ‘Pontius Pilate syndrome,’ where you ask for a basin of water, and you wash your hands and say, ‘I’m not going to get involved in anything as contaminated as politics,’” Land told host Fred Jackson on American Family Radio. “Well, my theology tells me that when I’m confronted with a choice between a bad choice and a worse choice, if I don’t help support the bad choice, then I become morally culpable for helping the worse choice prevail. So I think it’s a combination of a lack

of understanding of how the real world works and sort of a desire to be above the fray.”¹³

When Trump won 81 percent of the white evangelical vote in 2016, he faced the constant demonization and public opposition of the evangelical Never Trump leaders. When *Christianity Today* did polls on whom evangelical leaders were backing in 2016, only one or two said they backed Trump.¹⁴ Robert Jeffress, the pastor of Dallas First Baptist Church and an early Trump supporter, told me, “They missed it, and I think a lot of those [Never Trump] Christian leaders were miffed that they had so little influence over rank-and-file Evangelicals who didn’t listen to them and voted for Trump anyway.”

In previous elections there were Evangelicals who voted for Democrats. Usually those Christians are much more liberal, not just concerning politics but also in social and theological issues. I discussed this with Doug Wead, a longtime friend who was instrumental in helping Evangelicals get access to the White House during the Reagan and George H. W. Bush administrations. He told me that Barack Obama actually got a much higher evangelical vote than Hillary Clinton did. To explain the reason, he pointed to a *Washington Post* op-ed by Michael Wear, director of religious outreach for Obama’s 2012 campaign, called “Why Did Obama Win More White Evangelical Votes Than Clinton? He Asked for Them.”¹⁵

There are a certain number of Evangelicals who favor gun control and think protecting the environment is important, so they are predisposed to vote for Democrats if the Democratic Party will give them a chance. Wead explained that many of these Evangelicals didn’t vote for Hillary Clinton because they felt unwanted. For example, the week of the election a group of celebrities went into a soundstage and recorded a song, which ended with the lyrics “Jesus f***ing Christ, please vote.” If you look it up on YouTube, you’ll see there were a half-million hits on this video of celebrities using Jesus’ name as profanity to get out the vote for Hillary Clinton. Wead believes many Democratic-leaning Evangelicals were probably alienated by this, which is why Clinton garnered fewer evangelical votes than Obama. (She got only 16 percent in 2016, compared with 26 percent for Obama in 2008 and 21 percent in 2012.)

Still, these liberal Evangelicals are a factor that can’t be ignored. Franklin Graham recently criticized these members of the “Christian Left” in *Decision* magazine.

“Using new terms like *Progressive Christianity* and the *Christian left* may sound appealing to some,” Graham wrote, “but God’s laws and standards do not change... (Malachi 3:6). Progressive Christianity is simply another name for theological liberalism and its accompanying permissive lifestyle that ignores God’s call to holiness and obedience. There is really nothing progressive about it, other than an increasing slide into sin and disobedience.”¹⁶

Pastor Jeffress agrees. He loves quoting Ronald Reagan as saying, “*Status quo*... is a Latin phrase for ‘the mess we’re in.’”¹⁷ And that may be the crux of the divide between the 80 percent of what I call “red Evangelicals” and the 20 percent who tend to be “blue Evangelicals.” One has to wonder if the status quo will be good enough as the country moves further left. Or is a disrupter what we really need to bring a much-needed course correction?

As in 2016 forecasters have presumed that Evangelicals who voted for Trump will remain the president’s most reliable voting bloc. His economic policies that put America first, Supreme Court nominees, and very public pro-life stance have endeared him to much of Protestant Christianity. However, the 2016 Never Trumpers, Ertl noted, along with “advocates of the modern social justice movement that has adopted cultural Marxism, are leading a large number of Evangelical millennials into the Far-Left Democratic camp.”

Many of the Evangelicals who were skeptical of Trump but ultimately voted for him in 2016 no longer doubt his ability to lead. By all standards it seems Trump could win upwards of 80 percent or even 90 percent of the evangelical vote in 2020.

Die-hard Never Trumpers could become an obstacle to reaching these levels if they make a concerted effort to suppress evangelical voters for Trump. If the president’s evangelical support falls to the low 70 percentiles, he will have a hard time winning in some of the swing states.

8. Division fatigue syndrome

While there is Trump Derangement Syndrome, there is also “division fatigue syndrome” on the part of some conservatives, partly because of the steady drumbeat of negative press coverage but also because of the president’s combative tweets, which critics blame for causing division in this country. I don’t believe Trump caused the divisions. But his willingness to be a disrupter of the status quo is bringing the divisions to the surface. Many have observed that Trump doesn’t

start fights, but he won't back away from one. It was his willingness to stand up to bullies on the Left that made millions of Americans vote him into office. But if he wants to win a second term, he can't continue to alienate so many groups—including those who support his policies.

Someone told me she turns off the TV because she's so tired of hearing about Trump's latest tweet that made someone else upset. It may surprise you coming from someone like me, who is so supportive of the president, but I've come to the conclusion that a segment of the electorate may think a sleepy Joe Biden is preferable to a constantly combative Trump. I voted for Mitt Romney in 2012 even though he alienated Evangelicals. But several million Christians stayed home rather than voting for a candidate whose policies were better than Obama's but whom they didn't like. I hope the same doesn't happen in 2020 with Donald Trump.

THE “NEW AMERICAN MAJORITY”

Trevor Loudon, a New Zealander who now lives in Florida, has studied the Left and communism for years. He believes the Left, and specifically Jon Liss and his organization called the Freedom Road Socialist Organization (FRSO), is trying to do a repeat of Jesse Jackson's Rainbow Coalition from the 1980s. Liss has been operating under the radar for decades, building political influence as he leads the FRSO, which Loudon says “grew out of the Maoist New Communist Movement of the 1970s and has maintained ties to the People's Republic of China.” The FRSO works in partnership with the Communist Party USA and the Democratic Socialists of America in an alliance called the Left Inside/Outside Project, and Loudon reports that this unholy alliance has “infiltrated the Democratic Party in every state in the union.”¹⁸

When Jesse Jackson started the Rainbow Coalition in the eighties, its goal was to mobilize millions of Democratic-leaning people of color to become voters, thus defeating Ronald Reagan and giving the Democratic Party's Far Left permanent control over this country. Back in 1980 minority voters made up 12 percent of the electorate in America, and most of those minority voters were black.¹⁹ Today minority voters are around 28 percent of the electorate and include Hispanics and other groups.²⁰

According to Loudon, San Francisco lawyer Steve Phillips has played a key role in the Democrats' new strategy. The Rainbow Coalition

inspired Phillips' approach, and his fortuitous marriage into the Sandler family fortune has given him the influence and resources to make it a reality. Phillips, a self-confessed student of Marx and Lenin and graduate of Stanford University, was Jesse Jackson's California student coordinator in 1988. With Sandler money and his Rainbow Coalition background, Phillips has become a major player in the Democratic Party and a leader of the Democracy Alliance, an unsavory coalition of around one hundred leftist millionaires and billionaires, including George Soros, Tom Steyer, and Norman Lear of People for the American Way.

With Steve Phillips' guidance and his connections to networks of grassroots communist activists mainly in the South and Southwest, the Democracy Alliance has seen Democrats in California gain a four million voter edge over Republicans in voter registrations. Virginia, once a reliable Republican state, has turned almost blue because of this program, and several more Southern states are on the same trajectory.

Loudon told me that with Democracy Alliance money these leftists have consolidated twenty voter registration organizations from fifteen states into the State Power Caucus for the purpose of registering ten times as many voters in 2020. That's right, forty million new anti-Trump voters. If they reach only 20 percent of that goal, they will flip North Carolina, Arizona, Georgia, Florida, and possibly even Texas from Republican to Democratic control. That will give them a "new American majority," a concept Phillips touted in his 2016 *New York Times* best-selling book, *Brown Is the New White*.

Endorsed by Senators Kamala Harris and Cory Booker as well as John Podesta, former chief of staff to Bill Clinton and counselor to Barack Obama, *Brown Is the New White* is the guidebook for the Democratic/communist revolution now unfolding ever so slightly under the radar. In a way, by writing *Brown Is the New White*, Steve Phillips has become the new Saul Alinsky. The way Phillips calculates, 23 percent of the electorate are "progressive people of color." Add that to the 28 percent of the electorate who are reliable white Democratic voters, and you have 51 percent—what Phillips calls the "New American Majority."²¹

"The only thing stopping permanent Democrat power is that some of the 23 percent of 'progressives' of color don't vote regularly," Loudon told me. "So instead of spending billions of dollars to shift

1 or 2 percent of centrist voters into the Democrat column, the new strategy is to sign up tens of millions of new black and Hispanic voters in the South and Southwest in mass voter registration drives. Then you inspire them to go to the polls by running leftist ‘candidates of color.’”

Recent examples are Stacey Abrams and Andrew Gillum, both black, who almost won the Georgia and Florida governorships in 2018. Loudon labels them as hard-core leftists, and both were longtime Steve Phillips/Democracy Alliance protégés.

Phillips and his money were also behind Democrat Doug Jones, who defeated Republican Roy Moore in a 2017 Alabama special election to fill the US Senate seat Jeff Sessions vacated when he became US attorney general. At a rally targeting black voters, the leader of the Vote or Die campaign said, “Too many working class and poor people will die if Roy Moore wins,” because health care, housing, and other social programs would be rolled back.²² During the subsequent midterm elections, the group distributed pamphlets all over Alabama depicting President Trump as a white supremacist and an ally of the Klan.

“Florida, Georgia, and Alabama were merely trial runs for the real deal in 2020,” Loudon said. The State Power Caucus is now applying what it has learned in these states on a national scale to oust Donald Trump. But according to Loudon, defeating Trump is merely a means to an end. Loudon said Liss’ real goal “is to build a new mass socialist party that will eventually be able to challenge for state power.”

Time will tell who among the many 2020 Democratic presidential hopefuls gets the nomination. But it’s significant that four of those who declared early were leftist candidates of color: Tulsi Gabbard, Kamala Harris, Julián Castro, and Cory Booker. Loudon says all of them are connected to Steve Phillips in some way, and it’s almost certain that at least one of them will be on the Democratic presidential ticket, if not this election cycle, then later.

Loudon agrees with Donald Trump Jr., who recently told Fox News the 2020 election “is about communism versus freedom.”²³

Laments Loudon: “The Democrats and their communist allies plan to use minority voters to create a majority that can never be overturned. If they win in 2020, they will then legalize 22 million overwhelmingly pro-Democrat illegal immigrant voters (as Hillary Clinton

promised to do within one hundred days of taking office), and conservative Christians and Republicans will become a permanent (and very much persecuted) minority in their own country—forever.”

AMERICA’S FUTURE IS ON THE LINE

In Trump’s current term in office Americans have witnessed the exposure of three powerful enemies of the United States: the corporate media, the deep state, and the Democratic Party.

It is hard to believe how radical the Democrats have become. They are now a party whose passion and vision are to destroy anything that is virtuous. They despise the Christian faith, glory in killing babies, and promote any form of human debauchery. They enthusiastically support the invasion of the southern border and give aid and comfort to the invaders. The Democratic Party has become a political institution of evil and is hell-bent on pulling down what remains of America’s Christian heritage and culture. We cannot allow such people to run our government.

The 2020 election will be critical and historic. What Trump offers the country is a chance to hold back these Democratic forces of evil, the ability to change the Supreme Court and the federal judiciary for a generation, and the additional time needed to further expose and battle the Washington establishment and deep state.

The global establishment will hit Trump with everything in its vast financial and political arsenal. Trump, who has empowered and inspired an increased worldwide awareness of the importance of national sovereignty, will be singled out for its vengeance.

This is the very reason Trump’s reelection is so important. He is a historic political reformer who has totally changed the geopolitical narrative to the real issue of our time: nationalism versus globalism. The global establishment has seen, in two years, its one-hundred-year plan for a total consolidation of its financial, political, and institutional power into a world government implode before its very eyes.

The global elite, social media, corporate press, and Democratic Party will join forces to defeat Trump in 2020. The American people will witness the most political, corrupt, well-financed election battle in presidential history.

Engagement in the fight for a Trump reelection and a conservative House and Senate is a worthy pursuit—just the thought of a radical Democrat or socialist president should be enough to compel any sane

American to action. It will take a heroic effort by the Trump campaign leadership and his individual supporters to bring millions of new Trump voters to the polls to have any hope of victory.

I hope this chapter was a reality check to the tenuous situation conservatives face. Trump supporters must out-plan and out-work our formidable opposition if Trump is to be reelected.

If Donald Trump is going to win, we must also reach out to those in the black community who often vote Democratic despite their shared values with many evangelical Republicans, and I'll discuss this in the next chapter.



STEPHEN E. STRANG is the best-selling author of *God and Donald Trump*, which was brandished by the president at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, in 2018. The founder and CEO of Charisma Media, Strang was voted by *Time* magazine as one of the twenty-five most influential Evangelicals in America. He has interviewed four US presidents and has been featured on Fox News, CNN, MSNBC, CBN, *Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk*, and the Daily Caller, and in many Christian outlets.



An imprint of Charisma House
Cover Design: Justin Evans
Photograph by: Tim Kelly

"Stephen Strang is right: If Evangelicals don't turn out in 2020, Donald Trump will lose and the Left will win—and continue its work of destroying each of the three pillars of the American trinity: liberty, e pluribus unum (out of many, one), and In God We Trust. Why all Christians do not see this is a puzzle. But if enough read this book, it could serve as a wake-up call to the only community standing between our beloved America and her demise."

—DENNIS PRAGER

Cofounder of PragerU

"Without hesitation I can say that *God, Trump, and the 2020 Election* may be the most significant book released this year. All Americans—regardless of party affiliation—should read this meticulously researched work, which spells out the implications regarding the outcome of our next election. Stephen Strang is an insightful thinker, a careful researcher, and a consistently accurate commentator. It is absolutely accurate to say that America's identity and future hang in the balance. Nobody explains this better than Stephen Strang."

—ALEX MCFARLAND

Founder and President of Truth for a New Generation

"Stephen Strang flawlessly captures the spiritual significance of Donald Trump's presidency in this critical hour. As fewer and fewer Americans value belief in God, Strang's airtight case for reelecting Trump is both timely and urgent."

—GOV. MIKE HUCKABEE

New York Times Best-Selling Author, Host of *Huckabee* on Trinity Broadcasting Network

"I'm grateful for voices in the media like Stephen Strang who understand the very real spiritual battle behind the 2020 race for the White House."

—PAULA WHITE CAIN

Spiritual Adviser to President Donald J. Trump

"Stephen Strang is a keen reporter whose prose cuts like a laser into the troubled soul of America and exposes a condition where the elites of our nation have actually turned against it."

—PAT ROBERTSON

Founder and Chairman of The Christian Broadcasting Network