

THE ZION LETTER

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The Man of Lawlessness?

Donald Trump once said, "If you are the man, be the man." In other words if you know who you are, then be that person! Moses knew who he was when he stood before Pharaoh and said "Let my people go!" Elijah the prophet knew who he was when he called down fire on Mount Carmel. Jesus knew who He was when He said to His Father "not My will, but Thy will be done" before He gave His life for the sins of the world. Unfortunately, most people are walking around without a clue who they are. Arnold Schwarzenegger is definitely not one of them. According to USA Today (Sept 25, 2003, p. 11A) "Arnold Schwarzenegger once told a friend more than 20 years ago that he intended to be the Golden State's governor someday." Schwarzenegger is a man with a mission, a man with a sense of destiny. As I watched him debate the other recall election candidates recently, I noticed that while the others were giving specifics about policy and how they would deal with illegal immigration, Schwarzenegger kept blurting out that he was going to be the next governor of the state of California. To my recollection nobody else made such a bold remark that night but Arnold. He was being the man.

Before I continue, let me just say that this is not an article about politics although it involves someone in the political arena. Nor is this an endorsement of any candidate running for office. My purpose is to expose the truth behind the hype as a warning to the saints to be on your guard.

The Timing

When Arnold Schwarzenegger exploded onto the political scene back in mid-August I felt a tremendous check in my spirit about the whole thing. Schwarzenegger immediately made the covers of both Time Magazine and Newsweek and was being sought after for interviews with every major interviewer and network. I could tell that this recall election was much bigger than just a governor's race. This was going to impact the whole world! Secondly, the timing of his announcement came within a week of the scandal over legalizing gay bishops in the Episcopal Church. What is the connection you ask? Well the Episcopal Church happens to be the mother Church here in the United States. It's roots go back to the

Anglican community at Jamestown, VA. Thousands of Christians in America today can probably trace their spiritual roots back to the Episcopal Church. The Jamestown church, which would later become the Episcopal Church, was established in a small tent meeting in 1607 on the shores of Jamestown. By legitimizing and legalizing gay bishops into their ranks, Episcopal leadership has loosed its moorings from Biblical orthodoxy. See *Romans 1:18-26*, and *1 Timothy 3:1-2* for a clear Pauline position on the matter. I mean no affront to my God-fearing Episcopal friends locally, but what the church hierarchy achieved in early August was no less than apostasy. I couldn't help but notice the timing of the apostasy followed by Arnold's meteoric rise to major political player status. There were even pictures of Arnold surrounded by his advisors, billionaire Warren Buffet and former Secretary of State George Schultz, an indication that this was no grass-roots effort on the part of the Schwarzenegger team...

The Apostasy must come first

Back in *1 Thessalonians 2*, Paul tells us that **The Day of the Lord** will not come unless *The Apostasy* comes first and *The Man of Lawlessness* is revealed. I find it interesting that the timing of Arnold's meteoric rise to world political recognition; I say world because the whole world is watching this one, immediately followed the apostasy of America's mother church...

So what am I saying? I'm saying be on your guard. Be alert about this situation and be prayerful about it. It may not be "the apostasy" Paul was prophesying, but then again it might be. Mr. Schwarzenegger may not be "the man of lawlessness," but then again he might be. Read on and decide for yourself.

The Civilized Beast or the People's Barbarian?

It seems that the lines between civility and barbarism have crossed once again. With the likes of Jesse "the body" Ventura attaining to the Governor's office in Minnesota and now Arnold Schwarzenegger "a.k.a. Conan the Barbarian, Destroyer" appears to be headed for the same office in California. The question that I find myself asking is: "What sort of monster have we created? The answer is "the civilized beast." Interestingly, the Bible refers to the Anti-Christ and his false prophet as beasts. In Tim LaHaye's *Left Behind* series, he portrays the Anti-Christ as a sophisticated, wealthy and worldly

man of charm and charisma who is, in reality, nothing more than a murderous thug. This reminds me of the henchmen in Hitler's Third Reich such as Heidrich, Himmler and Hess these men led seemingly normal family lives. They appreciated the arts and classical music, yet they were in reality little more than butchers and mass murderers.

Of course Arnold and Jesse are not mass murderers, but they have both built their fame on a foundation of violence. Arnold through his movies and Jesse through his professional wrestling career. We must ask ourselves whether violence in any form that leads to fame should be an acceptable platform for launching political careers? My suggestion is that we, and in this case, Californians get what they deserve if they make Arnold their governor. But will he stop there? Listen to these chilling words spoken by Arnold himself about his movie *The Running Man*: *"The Running Man is a fantastic warning to all of us... that if we indulge too much in entertainment, we are ultimately left completely in the hands of the people who are creating the entertainment and the messages that we see. We lose our identity."* *"The Running Man tells the prophetic story of a falsely accused man who is forced to survive a public execution staged as a TV game show. Arnold was fascinated by the idea, especially with how it brought back the days of gladiators and set it in the near future. It may have seemed far fetched then, but it's almost prophetic now!"* These are direct quotes taken from Schwarzenegger's web site Schwarzenegger.com – actor- filmography.

Are Californians about to lose their identity to the man who brought us *Conan the Barbarian*, *Conan the Destroyer*, *Predator*, *Terminator*, *T2 Judgement Day*, *True Lies* and *Total Recall* to name a few? My question is, where will Arnold go from California? Will he attempt to run for President of the United States? He can't you say; Arnold was not born here in the United States. According to U.S. Law, Arnold can't be President of the United States because he was born in Austria and is a naturalized U.S. Citizen. It wouldn't surprise me to see Arnold's team attempt to change that law so that Arnold can one day be President. In *Daniel 7:25* it is written, *"He will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time."* This passage is commonly understood to be about Anti-Christ. The scripture only says that Anti-Christ will intend to make alterations in law. It does not say that he will succeed. But even if he can't be President, there's nothing to stop him from being President of the European Union. After all, Arnold is a European! Will Governor Schwarzenegger one day attempt to make a change in laws and times according to Daniel 7? Time will tell. Meanwhile, be vigilant and prayerful.

Who is Arnold Schwarzenegger?

So just who is the real Arnold? My wife Dawn tells a story about Arnold that shows his humorous side. Several years ago when Dawn flew for a regional airline on Cape Cod, Arnold was scheduled for a flight from Hyannis to Nantucket. When Arnold approached the gate for check-in, he was told that his flight was delayed. So Arnold looked sternly at the check-in person and said *"I'll be back."* He seems to have a real sense of humor so is he serious or not? According to Time Magazine (August 18, 2003, p.30-31) Arnold once told Britains *Loaded* magazine, *"I was born to be a leader. I love the fact that millions of people look up to me."* According to George Butler, a co-director of *Pumping Iron*, *"Arnold has been interested in power and authority – political power, financial power—forever."* The son of a member of the Nazi party from Austria, Arnold's life typifies the classic immigrant American success story. But is everything really, as it seems concerning Arnold? According to Time *"Arnold describes himself as an environmentalist, but no one did more to popularize the gas-guzzling Humvee as a car for ordinary civilians."* (*ibid*, p.30) He calls himself a Republican, but according to Time magazine, *"Whatever kind of Republican Schwarzenegger may be, it's probably not the kind to give much comfort to a cultural conservative like Pat Robertson. The actor has said he's pro-choice... He's loud and clear about his support for gay rights, including adoption rights. He once told Cosmopolitan magazine, "I have no sexual standards in my head that say this is good or this is bad. Homosexual—that only means to me that he enjoys sex with a man and I enjoy sex with a woman. It's all legitimate to me."* (*ibid*, p. 30). So is Schwarzenegger really a Republican? It sounds to me like he'd be a good candidate for an Episcopal bishop... What we really know about him is that he's always had a burning desire to succeed at whatever he does. *Newsweek* magazine quotes Joe Weider, Arnold's weight-lifting mentor as saying, *"Anyone who knew Schwarzenegger in those years (late 60's, early 70's) pays awestruck tribute to his will to succeed. He was a great competitor, Weider recalls. "He used every trick psychologically, emotionally, everything. He just can't stand taking second place." "Pumping Iron" depicts the 28-year-old Schwarzenegger, in quest of his seventh Mr. Olympia title, bullying and manipulating his less experienced rival, the American Lou Ferrigno. Some of that byplay was staged for the cameras, Ferrigno told Newsweek, but it was true to Schwarzenegger's nature: "He was an arrogant man, a shrewd manipulator. He's very good at mind games... He would do anything he could to win." Doing anything to win, Ferrigno says, included steroids, which Schwarzenegger has admitted taking under a doctor's supervision."* (*Newsweek*, Aug 18, 2003, p. 27). From his own mouth and these testimonials, it sounds like Arnold is more interested in his life-long agenda to lead, to be powerful physically, financially and politically. Is

his campaign for the people just an act? Even Schwarzenegger himself admits to living a lie:

Speaking of His movie "*True Lies*," Arnold is quoted on his web site as saying, "*True Lies was attractive because it reminded me of Maria and I. No we're not spies obviously, but you do feel like you're living a double life, being an actor or a newscaster. There's the side everyone sees and then the side that only your wife, your kids and your best friends see – you have to make sure that you do not become engulfed by this other self.*"

Here Arnold is talking about living a double-life. One for public view and the other for private consumption. They can't both be true. Either one is, or both are truly a lie. This brings to mind the argument made from the Clinton camp during the Monica Lewinsky scandal. The argument goes like this: *what a person does in their private life has no bearing on their public life*. If you are a follower of the Messiah Jesus then you know that God sees everything we do whether in public or in private and He judges us accordingly. To God there is no distinction between public and private life. Discerning people should beware of any candidate for public office who admits to leading a double life. Such a person is living a lie and probably has an ungodly agenda.

In *1 Thessalonians 2* Paul admonishes us that

The Day of the Lord will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed; the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God. Tim LaHaye's *Left Behind* series paints a picture of the Anti-Christ being a man of great charisma who is handsome, charming and able to move mountains with his dogmatic personality and popularity. Tim LaHaye's Anti-Christ is the type of man whom people will blindly follow without stopping to ask who he really is? Where does this man come from? What are his beliefs, his values? And what is he ultimately after?

When I first read about Arnold Schwarzenegger's instant political career in Newsweek, I couldn't help but notice the poll figures in that circus of a political race taking place because of Governor Gray Davis' *recall*. Arnold was in the lead with a fifty-nine percent margin of popular support. He isn't even threatened by any of the other so-called candidates...

But if I were a Californian I'd be asking myself "who is this Arnold Schwarzenegger?" What does he really want? He has money, fame, and success. He has made himself like a god in body building, (*Mr. World, Mr. Universe, Mr. Olympia*), you name it... He has made himself a movie idol, but nonetheless an idol to the American public with his movies such as *Terminator* which is about a man/machine who can't seem to be killed. Every time he receives a mortal wound he rises from the dead. Yet

Californians seem to have cast off restraint and are super enthralled with Arnold's charisma and charm. I think the whole United States and possibly the world is just as enthralled with him as California. He just hasn't had a chance to enter the U.S. or the World political arena yet. I said yet...

I'm not saying that Arnold is the Anti-Christ. I'm just saying we should watch and see. Do I sound far-fetched? Do you think I'm crazy? No crazier than anyone who would have predicted twenty years ago that Jesse "The Body" Ventura would be governor of the "almost perfect" state of Minnesota. I remember going to my first and last professional wrestling match twenty years ago when I was seventeen years old. It was at the old Boston Garden. There was Hulk Hogan, Sergeant Slaughter, Some Goliath Indian Chief guy and yes, Jesse "The Body" Ventura... The closest thing I could liken that experience to would be a contest in the Roman Coliseum. There was something about that wrestling match that brought out the most primal, uncivilized nature in the crowd of ten thousand wrestling fans. Yet Jesse made it to the governor's mansion where he stood in the pulpit and called just about everything and everyone who stands for good or for God a fool... How did Jesse get elected? He rallied the young 18 -20 year old wrestling fans and convinced them to vote. According to Newsweek, Arnold's core fan base is young Hispanic men in the same age category. Such a group could be very influential in the upcoming election if Arnold can get them out to vote.

We've done this to ourselves folks. We've made these vendors of violence the successes they are, and now we are making them governor, congressman, senator and maybe even President some day?

Total Recall:

The California recall election is a new phenomenon on the political landscape, but is it a sign of things to come? Are we headed for Total Recall of the system of law and order? Will we see Presidents of the United States recalled in our day? What about our system of Constitutional Government? Will it be replaced in a **Total Recall** one day soon?

Newsweek magazine quotes Arnold Schwarzenegger as saying, "*I was always dreaming about very powerful people,' he recalled, 'dictators and things like that.'*(*Newsweek, August 18,2003, p.26*) Will Arnold's prophecy about the entertainment addicted masses falling into the control of the very creators of that entertainment become a self-fulfilling prophecy? Will the former Mr. Universe, Mr. Olympia and Mr. World of bodybuilding become the Mr. World of politics and tyrannical power? Will He become the very *Predator* of his movies and the *Terminator* of all who would oppose him? And lastly, will Arnold have a role to play in the real *Judgment Day*? Paul wrote: "*And you know what restrains him now, so*

that in his time he will be revealed. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way. Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved." 1Th 2:6-10.

Perhaps it's too early to tell. But as believers in Y'shua (Jesus) the true Mr. Universe, we are called to watch and pray.

Ministry Update

Dear friends,

As I write this newsletter we are smack in between the Biblical feast of Trumpets (Yom Teruah, or Rosh Hashanah) and the Day of Atonement. Trumpets is about sounding the alarm and warning the people of imminent danger and judgment, while the Day of Atonement is a picture of the actual Day of Judgement itself. The prophet Joel wrote *"Blow a trumpet in Zion, and sound the alarm in my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; for the day of the Lord is coming."* Joel 2:1 The sound of the trumpet is a metaphor for the prophetic voice. This month's message *"The Man of Lawlessness?"* has been on my heart for over a month. I have given it much prayer, meditation and study.

I believe that God would have me blow a trumpet during this Appointed Time of trumpets to warn you, His beloved bride, of things to come. They say the apple doesn't fall far from the tree; well this son of a Nazi could end up ruling the world. I have never seen such a meteoric rise to political prominence by a person of such discipline, vision for power and the will to succeed as Mr. Schwarzenegger. If you take anything from this newsletter, don't ever underestimate the man.

Dawn and I will be going to Israel from October 15 – November 3. It will be her third trip and my second in 24 years! I have longed to go to the land of my fathers for many years. Finally the Lord is permitting us to go together. Please keep us in your prayers. Our group will be leading worship as we travel throughout the land. We will be ministering to unsaved Jewish people in Kibbutzes and in settlements in the "so-called occupied territories." This is an extraordinary opportunity for our group is led by Jean and Jerry Mabry of Olives of the Field Ministries.

Thank you to our faithful sponsors and a warm welcome to those of you who joined us as *Zion Letter Sponsors* last month! All sponsors will receive a set of tapes this month entitled *"The Prophetic Fall Feasts of the Lord,"* and will receive an anointed tape from pastor Joe every month! When you support *For Zion's Sake Ministries*, you are directly blessing Israel and the Jewish people.

Shalom!

Joe and Dawn Bell

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