

In conclusion, God bless our troops who successfully protected America for 20 years. It is sadly clear there will be more 9/11s across America imminent as the FBI has finally, last week, revealed.

DON'T LEAVE THE GREAT LAKES REGION OUT

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the Biden administration to launch the Great Lakes Authority as passed by Congress last year. Don't leave our region out.

For decades, the Great Lakes watershed, the largest body of freshwater on Earth, has endured atypical economic stress, job loss due to disastrous trade policies, underinvestment, and major deindustrialization.

Now, with Democratic economic recovery initiatives that passed in the last 3 years, our region is beginning to see major reinvestment, starting with the long-delayed Soo Locks modernization so vital to our ports and maritime trade.

For decades and decades, the Great Lakes region lacked authorization for a regional development instrumentality that might begin to emulate the success of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Now, coupling the Great Lakes authority with the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act, our region stands poised for new investment in good-paying jobs and economic opportunity to turbocharge revitalization.

Our need is no different than the TVA, which for nearly 100 years has uplifted that formerly neglected region. All our Great Lakes region asks the Biden administration for is equal footing. Don't leave us out.

WE NEED HIGHWAYS, NOT HIGH-SPEED RAIL

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, the United States' debt has grown by \$2.5 trillion over the last year. Over the last 20 months, thanks to Biden-led policies, \$4.8 trillion. This is a massive driver of inflation and lack of credit on the market out there for regular people.

On top of the omnibus bill done a year ago and many other big spending ideas that were gotten through in the previous Congress, now the President wants to add \$6 billion more for high-speed rail in California, \$3 billion for the project, that is already 15 years late and four times its budget price, and \$3 billion more now for what was going to be a private concern from LA to Las Vegas, the gambler special.

We need highways to be rebuilt. We need less debt causing people to not be able to make ends meet. Why are we putting it on these boondoggles in southern California? It is crazy. Put it toward highways that people can use or something else.

THE THREAT CROSSING THE SOUTHERN BORDER

(Mr. GROTHMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to remind the American public and my colleagues one more time of the biggest threat we face today, and that is the huge volume of people crossing our southern border.

Again, in the most recent month available, we made an all-time record of the number of people coming here, about 11 times the number of people crossing the border as were crossing the border just 3 years ago.

Don't let anybody tell you we have got to work on some solution. The solution was there. Just a little bit of will, and you could cut it by 91 percent.

Above that, don't forget, over a million people are sworn in legally. Don't let anybody ever tell you that we have a problem, and we have got to get more people here. A million people per year come here legally.

Don't forget that during the Trump administration, when Trump was criticized for not deporting enough criminals from this country, we were deporting about four times the number of people here today.

The American public has to wake up and tell this body to get in gear and do something about this illegal immigration.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAWLER) laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 11, 2023.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER JOHNSON: I hereby resign from the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology.

Sincerely,

TED W. LIEU,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) is recognized for 60

minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the topic of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, for over 80 years, our country has recognized the week of Thanksgiving to be National Bible Week. This week was first established by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1941 to create an annual event where Christians could celebrate the Bible.

The very first Psalm of David expresses the importance of the Bible: Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly nor stands in the path of sinners nor sits in the seat of the scornful, but his delight is in the law of the Lord and in His law, he mediates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water that brings forth its fruit in its season whose leave also shall not wither and whatever he does shall prosper.

King David found that his greatest counsel was not found in human philosophy but rather in the words of God.

America is a Nation that from its beginning has respected the Bible. The evidence is all around us here in Washington, D.C. Numerous memorials that quote the Bible, the buildings that house our executive, judicial, and legislative branches have Bible verses etched in stone. More importantly, the values and principles that have made us a secure, free, and prosperous Nation come from the holy Word of God.

In this hour, we will hear from Members of Congress from various faith traditions and denominations speak about what the Bible means to them. We are here in keeping with that 80-year tradition to recognize National Bible Week.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG).

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I have had the privilege to speak in each of those years talking about the Bible and its importance in my life.

The Psalmist in Psalm 119:105, the longest Psalm in the Bible, the longest chapter in the Bible, is written entirely about the Word of God and the impact on the Psalmist's life. He says: Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

That has been my experience. Over the years, my friend and colleague, as he has led that, he has heard me talk about my experience from the Word of God.

Tonight, I will let the Bible, God's Word, speak for itself. We know in Genesis 1:1, it says: In the beginning, God.

In John 1:1, it says: In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. That speaks to the foundational truth that

God makes up the word, the truth. The revealed Word is His Son, Jesus Christ. As a Christian, I accept that, but the Bible, the written Word of God, is powerful.

Every Word of God is tested. We have a lot of books that are out there today, self-help books, but not all is tested. Every Word of God is tested, according to Proverbs 30. He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him.

It talks about the impact of the Word of God in our challenges of life. In Ephesians 6:17, the Apostle Paul says: Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.

In Luke, the writer says: On the contrary, blessed are those who hear the Word of God and observe it.

Oftentimes, when we speak about the Bible, we speak about the principles, but it doesn't work until we use it and we observe it and the impact of scripture that goes through the entire life of an individual.

Paul, writing to his son in the faith, Timothy, says: And that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

The power of the Bible continues. It doesn't go away. It says in Isaiah the prophet: The grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of God stands forever.

What else can we say that lasts forever?

Peter said in I Peter 1:25: But the Word of the Lord endures forever, and this is the Word which was preached to you.

Finally, for our impact in our daily life that can go on, in II Peter 1:20–21 it says: But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

That is the power of the Bible. It is God's truth revealed to us to be used in our lives.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN).

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to stand here in this Chamber and commemorate National Bible Week along with my colleagues here tonight.

Tonight, I want to talk about what the Bible has meant to me and its impact on our Nation's history, the divisions we see across our country, including in this Chamber, and highlight the challenges we are facing.

I am currently reading the Bible, with a prayer group here in Congress, in its entirety for the third time. I am constantly reminded of the answers this book provides to the current issues we are facing in our Nation.

Unfortunately and regrettably, we are a Bible-illiterate society. Just above our flag here in this Chamber is "In God We Trust." How do you put your faith and trust in God if you don't know Him and understand His Word?

I was baptized in a small, rural church at the age of 9 in Georgia, and, of course, I began to go my own way in high school and college. After marrying my wife, we found another church home. For some 30 years, that meant so much to our family, raising our children in that church, but it became more of a ritual and somewhat meaningless to me. I had my priorities out of order.

A friend asked me to join him in a Bible study. Some 6 months later, I realized that God didn't want my rituals; He wanted my heart. I have had this urge to know God since then and study His Word intently and try my best to understand His will for me. What I have learned is that God created the church through Jesus Christ to evangelize, and God created government to moralize and restrain evil.

Today, both the church and the government are divided on these issues. We have Moses, his full face looking down on the entire Chamber, who gave us the first five books of the Bible, the moral law. It should be pretty plain to us what God expects.

As I said earlier, "In God We Trust" is above the flag, and it is on our money, yet in this body we are without excess.

Joshua 1:8 says: This book of the law, the Bible, shall not depart from your lips, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do what it says and what is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.

God's Word is full of great promises. So where are we today?

My fellow Americans, Billy Graham offered a prayer on inauguration in 1969, and I would like to read it.

□ 1945

I will read just part of it: Our Father and our God, Thou hast said, "Blessed is that nation whose God is the Lord." We recognize on this historic occasion that we are "one Nation under God."

As the prayer goes on, Reverend Graham describes the current situation in 1969. Today, we are struggling with the same issues. Emotional health has become an epidemic because so many do not have hope and understanding.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to seek God's Word, pray, and meet with others and your colleagues and seek understanding.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. ALLEN for sharing from his personal story.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from the great State of Washington (Mrs. RODGERS), who is the chair of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. LAMBORN for bringing us all together tonight.

The Bible is a book that has endured for generations. Around the world, it is the number one bestseller. For 6,000 years of history, it is the Bible that has shaped who we are, how we govern, and our laws, morality, education, and family values.

The Bible has influenced the greatest philosophers, scholars, artists, musicians, and scientific work and discoveries.

The Bible answers questions like: Who am I? What makes me human? What is the purpose of life?

At a time when we are divided, angry, and fearful—the Surgeon General says we have a public health crisis of loneliness and isolation driving record suicides, deaths of despair, divorce, substance abuse, depression, and anxiety—perhaps more of us should read the Bible.

In 1863, Abraham Lincoln proclaimed: "We have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own."

In 2023, have we forgotten God? How about doing something new in 2024? How about reading the Bible, all 435 Members of the House of Representatives? With our family and friends, it is only 15 minutes a day. We can read through the old book together for wisdom, like in Proverbs to "trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding."

God is with us in everything that we do. May we discover the truth and freedom of His ways as revealed in the sacred Scripture.

Together, with His abundant grace, we can bring hope and healing to our land.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the great State of Alabama (Mr. ADERHOLT).

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Bible Week. I thank Mr. LAMBORN, who is not only a colleague but a good friend and someone that I look up to in so many ways, for organizing this important Special Order.

As we come to the end of our first session of this Congress, to say that it has not been a tumultuous year would not be putting it clearly. Right now, we are at the beginning of our Advent season, and there is no time better to pause and reflect on the Founding Fathers' intentions. That is simply to protect Americans' right to worship and practice their faith freely.

2 Timothy 3:16–17 says that the Holy Bible is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

To be honest, when I came to Washington, I was actually shocked to learn how much the Founding Fathers

looked to Scripture for guidance as they drafted our founding documents. Unfortunately, today, in schools, they don't really explain this. They really hardly even mention it.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues and every American citizen to simply look at what the Founding Fathers had to say about the Holy Bible and just how much the Founding Fathers relied on it on a day-by-day basis, especially as they put together the documents that founded this very Nation that we live in.

During the days following the inception of this Nation, most people would be surprised to learn that this body, the U.S. Congress, authorized the publication of Bibles.

The Holy Bible is a firm foundation on which we can build our lives, filter decisions through, be encouraged by, and seek guidance from.

Let me say, from my personal standpoint, as an individual who is imperfect but who made a decision to trust Christ Jesus at a young age, and as someone who tries to look at Scripture on a daily basis, we need to continue to lean into God's Word as we seek to do the good work for the American people, grow in our faith, and contribute to a culture of renewed light in this Nation.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, as the gentleman from California comes forward, I am going to give my own story. My own story shows a life that was changed by the Bible.

When I went to college, I thought I knew what the Bible was all about. In reality, I never read any of it for myself. When I was urged to do so, I realized that it was different than what I had assumed.

I read the Gospel of John, and I realized I was separated from God and that the way for me to find Him was through Jesus, who said He is the way, the truth, and the life, and that no one comes to the Father but through Him.

When I accepted Him as my Lord and Savior, my life changed dramatically. I can attest to the reality of the Bible.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA).

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Colorado with almost the same name as me. I appreciate him leading this important time for us here tonight, especially as we encroach upon Christmas, which a lot of times can be made into something else besides the celebration of our Savior.

The Bible serves as a compass, guiding us through life's journey, illuminating the path of its teachings, parables, and wisdom. It is indeed more than a collection of words. It is a living testament to the grace, power, and unwavering love of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Its narratives reveal the depth of God's faithfulness, His miraculous interventions, and His promise of salvation—if we would just ask for it.

The Bible has played, of course, an integral role in shaping the values, principles, and visions of the early pioneers who sought freedom in this coun-

try, who did not want to be dictated by a monarch as to what religion they would follow.

We have that freedom in this country. We don't have a state-sponsored religion. We don't have a preferred one, even though many based the founding of this country on Christian and Biblical values, the Judeo-Christian ideal. They don't force it on anyone in this country.

We hear a lot of fuss about the separation of church and state. That is really a misnomer. It is not in the Constitution, and it is not what everybody is about. No one has to prescribe to any particular type, but we encourage it because there is salvation in it.

As we celebrate the week of the Bible here, it is the inerrant Word of God, inspired. The teachings in it are positive values for anybody. They stand the test of time. They stand above the whims of Congress, of people, or of governing. If we embrace that, it is indeed better for all of us and for all of our families.

The Pilgrims sought that religious freedom 300-plus years ago, and many have been seeking it since. As we see more and more persecution of people's religious beliefs, we have to put a stop to that and, indeed, honor what is so formative in this country and its basic freedoms.

As we honor National Bible Week, we do recognize the impact extends far beyond individual faith practices. It is indeed part of our Nation's story. It serves as an anchor, offering solace, hope, and guidance in the world—indeed, inspired by God, given to mankind.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this time and opportunity to put the spotlight on this because it is a very selfless thing. We hope you will take time to read it. It will inspire.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, Representative ADERHOLT made passing reference to an early action of our Congress in authorizing publication of a Bible in the 1700s. I am going to amplify on that just a little bit here.

Many of the early American settlers who came to the New World wanted to live out their faith in God and His Word, according to the convictions of their own consciences. It is true that one of Congress' first acts in the infancy of our Nation was the authorization of an American-published Bible. The Revolutionary War with the British had cut off all shipments of Bibles from England. Our Founding Fathers understood how important it was for the American people to have access to Bibles.

Robert Aitken, a private citizen, brought this need to the attention of Congress. He said, in a letter, "This work is an object worthy of the attention of the Congress of the United States of America, who will not negligent spiritual security, while they are virtuously contending for temporal blessings."

In 1782, Congress reviewed, approved, and authorized the first known English

language Bible to be printed in America, and the congressional resolution for that read:

"Resolved: That the United States in Congress assembled highly approve the pious and laudable undertaking of Mr. Aitken, as subservient to the interest of religion as well as an instance of progress of arts in this country, and being satisfied from the above report of his care and accuracy in the execution of the work, they recommend this edition of the Bible to the inhabitants of the United States, and hereby authorize him to publish this recommendation in the manner he shall think proper."

Mr. Speaker, can you imagine doing that today, authorizing a Bible and recommending it to the people of the United States?

Our country has changed over the years and not always for the better, I am afraid.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROSE).

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Colorado for yielding and for claiming the time this evening to acknowledge and honor our Nation's 82nd National Bible Week.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to join those Members here tonight on the House floor to share the Lord's Word, its meaning, and the lessons I have learned from reading and studying it throughout my life.

There are many lessons we learn throughout our lives, whether in school or our careers, as parents, or throughout the countless challenges life provides. However, there are no better lessons than those revealed in God's Word in the Bible.

For example, in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, we learn about the importance of gratitude when the Apostle Paul writes: "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Jesus Christ."

Mr. Speaker, I know many of us tend to voice our displeasure with many of the world's current affairs on the House floor, but thankfully there is so much for which to be thankful.

We also learn about forgiveness when Jesus dies for our sins on the cross. Ephesians 4:32 says: "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." There is nothing more powerful than the message of forgiveness.

Each and every lesson found in the Bible of forgiveness, compassion, gratitude, generosity, faith, humility, wisdom, perseverance, patience, and respect, among many others, are powerful lessons on their own.

Each lesson has had a tremendous impact on my life and the lives of those around me. I couldn't be more grateful to have them impact me the way they have so that I can go forth and spread them in my community and in my family, including with my two sons, Guy and Sam.

□ 2000

Of course, as Christmas quickly approaches, there is no Biblical story more significant than that of the miracle of the birth of Jesus Christ. As always, it is important to remind ourselves what we are celebrating this time of year: the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Of course, there are no better reminders than those that exist in the Bible, which is why we are here today to honor the Bible during our country's 82nd National Bible Week.

So, Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, Mr. LAMBORN, for taking the time today to recognize the importance of the Bible in our Nation and its history. As a Christian, I am proud to recognize National Bible Week, and I pray that by doing so I will be able to encourage more souls to know the teachings of the Lord through His written word, the Bible.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN).

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, today we celebrate National Bible Week, and it is right that we do so. Our forefathers felt very strongly that America was fit for a moral and religious people and totally unfit for anyone else, and our forefathers frequently quoted the Bible and made reference to the Bible. I think if we are going to continue with our oaths of office to uphold our Constitution, inevitably that means familiarizing ourselves with the Bible and guiding ourselves in this institution by the Bible.

George Washington, the father of our Nation, said that it is impossible to rightly govern a nation without God and the Bible.

I just mentioned John Adams. I should mention Benjamin Rush who was a signer of the Declaration of Independence and a Representative of Pennsylvania at the beginning of our Nation.

The Bible contains more truth than any other book in the world. John Jay was our first Supreme Court Justice. For some who think there is a separation of church and state, John Jay, our first Supreme Court Justice said: "Let us therefore persevere steadfastly in distributing the Scriptures far and near, and without note or comment. We are assured that they are profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."

John Quincy Adams, the son of John Adams, said: "The Bible is of all books in the world that which contributes most to make men good, wise, and happy."

Of all the books in the Old Testament other than, of course, Psalms, which is a very long book, the book quoted most by our forefathers was Deuteronomy. It is kind of interesting because normally, Mr. Speaker, when you hear somebody quote something in the Bible, you never hear Deuteronomy. Nevertheless, what I take it to mean is that Deuteronomy was kind of the book laying out the type of govern-

ment that our Lord expected the Jewish people to have when they left Egypt and established their land even before they had a king.

Therefore, if you look at it that way, Mr. Speaker, it is not surprising at all. In any event, I do think it is time for the American public—there are some churches that do it more than others—to read some of the Bible, to try to live by its precepts, and insofar as we raise our younger people in this country, familiarize them with the Bible and have them live by its precepts.

I thank Congressman LAMBORN for yielding to me to talk about the Bible. I hope Members of Congress, when they return after this week to their districts, make a special point of reading parts of the Bible.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments. It is that time of year when we as Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Of course, His story is found in the Bible that we are talking about tonight. So it all ties together very well at this time of year especially.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the great State of Georgia (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and hosting this Special Order tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Bible Week. As the Christmas season approaches and with all the conflict going on in our world right now, I can't think of a better time to discuss the good news that is our Bible.

For many Americans, the Christmas season is a time of giving, a time of joy, and a time for family. For many Christians across the world, this season looks a lot different, conflict rages in Eastern Europe and Israel. Many lives have been lost. Here at home fentanyl plagues our country with Americans being poisoned daily.

Sometimes it is easy for us to get lost in the bad, and we forget who is really in control. I am certainly guilty of this, and I am sure you are too, Mr. Speaker. Fortunately, we can turn to the Word of the Lord for comfort in these troubling times.

The Book of Romans 8:38–39 remind me that no matter what we go through as individuals or as a nation or as a planet, it cannot separate us from Christ's love.

The verse says, For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This Christmas season, pray for our world, pray for our country, pray for our leaders, and pray for our military. Remember that God loved us all so much He sent His one and only Son to die for our sins so that we may be forgiven. It is for that reason that we celebrate this Christmas season.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Colorado for inviting me to speak today and for hosting this.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman so much for his comments.

Mr. Speaker, I will mention something about archaeology. There are many archeological discoveries which have validated biblical accounts giving trustworthiness to the Bible that we are acknowledging now during the recent National Bible Week.

Archeology has, time and time again, shown that the Biblical personalities, locations, and events actually existed in time and space. Claims by critics that a Biblical statement was simply made up have been later debunked by archeological discoveries more times than we can say.

For instance, the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls in the late forties and fifties proved the credibility and authority of Scripture. The discovery of these scrolls shined light on the oldest records of the worldwide flood and the longstanding authority and accuracy of the Bible.

Jewish archaeologist Nelson Glueck has stated: It may be stated categorically that no archeological discovery has ever controverted or contradicted a Biblical reference.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the great State of Texas (Mr. WEBER).

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the reason we study the Bible is because it is the history of God's creation of Earth starting in the Book of Genesis and in the creation of man and his fall in Genesis chapter 3.

Mr. Speaker, if you study the Bible, you will note that in Genesis 3:15, God promises to Adam and Eve that He will send someone to atone for their sin. You might further note that God promises that the one whom He will send will be wounded in the heel but that the atonement or what I call the "at one ment," which is to be one with God which is Jesus, will crush the serpent or Satan's head.

Also note, Mr. Speaker, that He promises that the woman, or Eve's, seed, will crush the head of Satan. This is the only time I know of in God's Holy Word that the woman's offspring is referred to as the seed because the term is usually for the offspring of men and not for women.

Understand the virgin birth: there was no man's seed involved with the woman's pregnancy. It was the Holy Spirit of the living God. In this way God was stating way back in the first book of the Bible that Jesus was coming to atone for our sin.

Thousands of years later, Jesus shows up as prophesied by Isaiah in Isaiah chapter 7 where under the influence of the Holy Spirit Isaiah writes: Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, a virgin will conceive and bear a son and shall call His name Immanuel, which is being interpreted as God with us.

This is the one in the New Testament whom John the Baptist pointed to and said: Yes, this is the one.

Jesus did live a sinless life, and He did go to the cross to pay for our sins. For me, he saved me on July 2, 1973, at 5:30 in the afternoon in Pearland, Texas.

Jesus is the Holy One of Israel and the anointed one whom God uses to save people from their sins.

That is why we study the Bible, Mr. Speaker. We pray for the peace of Jerusalem. It is important to study the Bible. Merry Christmas.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his words.

It has been an honor and a pleasure to commemorate National Bible Week this evening. I am grateful to my colleagues who joined me to honor the Word of God.

Mr. Speaker, I simply restate my gratitude for the Words of Jesus about the Bible:

Therefore whoever hears these sayings of mine and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was its fall.

So I am thankful for the Word of God that we have to live by. I thank God for the stability and foundation the Bible has given in my life, for the lives of those who have spoken here today, and for the life of our great Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP MATTERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON) for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give special recognition to the members of the Democratic Caucus who have been able to accomplish many things in spite of the sound and fury of the dysfunctional politics in a small and vocal part of the House Republican Conference. As I stand here in the people's House I am struck by how much congressional leadership matters and how divided the 118th Congress has been.

We have been here, without question, living in perilous times. In times like these what we do in this Chamber matters in the lives of American people.

The people of our district did not send us here to perform theatrical acts. They did not send us here to posture for the cameras. None of us were elected here so that we could increase the status and the stature of our personal media profiles. Yet that seems to be the total measure of what this Congress has amounted to.

The 118th Congress and the year of 2023 have been unprecedented. Earlier this year, leader HAKEEM JEFFRIES made history as the first man of African descent to be elected the leader of a major political party.

Nevertheless, almost immediately chaos erupted. The Speaker's vote was a mess. Speaker Emeritus MCCARTHY was elected after 15 rounds of votes, 15 rounds. It was the first time in a century that election of a House Speaker took multiple ballots to complete, and it was the longest vote in the United States' history since 1855 lasting 133 rounds just over 2 months.

I will say, though, that our honorable leader, HAKEEM JEFFRIES, did receive 3,179 votes for Speaker across 15 rounds.

The hits just kept coming as we rolled into the spring. At the end of March, we reached a new milestone, the People of the State of New York v. Donald J. Trump marked the first time—after four indictments against President Trump—that we have ever seen in our country's history a former President indicted on criminal charges.

As the weather got warmer, temperatures flared. Some wanted to take our national debt hostage. To be clear, this is money the Congress had already appropriated, and with a bipartisan coalition we managed to avert an economic calamity and an economic shutdown.

Fast-forward to the fall, and many of the same issues arose again. Then Speaker MCCARTHY was confronted with an unruly small group who were willing to shut down the government after the debt ceiling debate. For keeping the government open, Speaker MCCARTHY became the first Speaker in the House to ever be removed. The chaos that ensued was brutal. The House went without a Speaker for 23 days, the longest since 1961.

A marathon 10-week session that tested everyone's patience produced only frustration and anger. There is a reason we have had a record number of retirements from the Members of Congress at every level that we have not seen in a decade. Thirteen Senators and Representatives have already announced they are not seeking reelection in just the month of November. This is the highest number of retirements we have seen in this body in more than a decade.

This should not surprise us because dysfunction is a bitter pill to swallow, and I say that broadly because that dysfunction is not limited to this Chamber or to the House of Representatives.

□ 2015

Over in the Senate, Senator TUBERVILLE stood in the way of over

400 senior military officers that deserved promotion and the dignity of all of their ranks and their compensation. He held up 400 officers, putting our Nation's security at risk. One United States Senator thought his understanding of what was right should supersede the will of 99 other United States Senators.

More than that, this one Senator spent most of the year subjecting the United States military and members of the armed services to the detrimental effects of his personal whims and wishes. He had no regard for the families he put in jeopardy who risk their lives every day for our citizenry. He showed no concern for the hard work and dedication of these military officers who have focused their careers on protecting and serving our Nation.

Perhaps most of all, this United States Senator tried to impose his morality on 1.4 million active military personnel in the armed services without their consent and without the advice of their commanding officers.

Senator TUBERVILLE's story is instructive of what happens when we come together and do the right thing. Just last week, he folded. As a man of faith, I pray that the second part of the 118th Congress is more productive than the first. With only 21 bills that have been passed into law at the halfway point of this Congress, it is on pace to be the most sluggish Congress since our predecessors met in 1931 and 1932, but let's stay positive and hopeful.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from the great State of Louisiana, Congressman TROY CARTER.

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman JACKSON for the great work that he continues to do. I thank him for his illustrious words and for the opportunity to participate in the CBC Special Order.

2023 has been an exciting and action-packed year. It has been an honor to serve as the second vice chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus under the leadership of my dear friend Congressman STEVEN HORSFORD, Democrat from Nevada.

As a member of the Regional Leadership Council for Region 7 and on the House Homeland Security and Transportation Infrastructure Committees, this session has been yet another one that we continue to work.

I am proud that, despite the pushback from our friends on the other side almost at every opportunity, we have accomplished historic investments for the American people. I would like to highlight just a few of them that we challenged all year long.

Environmental justice must be at the center of any action to address disproportionate health and environmental impacts on communities, especially communities of color. This year I hosted multiple EPA executives, including the EPA Administrator, Michael Regan, and the Secretary of Department of Energy, Jennifer