

Since 1840 every president elected in a "Zero Year," has died in office.

CAN REAGAN BEAT THE ZERO CURSE?



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There is only one power that can save the President's life! Read why Winkley's attempt failed!

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The Death Cycle

Along with the sorrow, there is a desperate and howling note over the land. We must pray on our knees, but when we get up from them we cry with the poet: "Do not go gentle into that good night. Rage, rage, against the dying of the light." (Alistair Cooke [written two days after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, the seventh consecutive zero-year president to die in office])

It was like a ghost haunting the convention. Everyone was thinking about it, but everybody was afraid to talk about it. (A leading publisher and historian speaking about the so-called "zero factor" in response to a talk show host's question about one of the 1980 political conventions)

The worst thing about history is that every time it repeats itself the price goes up. Of the many strange phenomena connected with the relatively young United States of America, one of the strangest and most incredible is *The Zero Curse*.

The basic facts are well-known. During the past 140

years, no United States president elected to that office on a year ending in zero has survived his term (or terms). Of the thirty-nine men who have held our nation's highest elected position, only eight have died while in office. And of those eight men, seven have been zero-year presidents.

William Henry Harrison was elected president on November 3, 1840. He died on April 4, 1841, just one month to the day after taking the oath of office. The cause was "bilious pleurisy" (probably pneumonia). On Inauguration Day, "Old Tippecanoe" stood bareheaded and without an overcoat. This unusual behavior, which resulted in his death, still baffles many historians.

Abraham Lincoln was elected to his first term on November 2, 1860 and to his second term in 1864. After several reported assassination plots had been thwarted, Lincoln was murdered on April 14, 1865, in a relatively unguarded theater box. The controversy surrounding John Wilkes Booth still shrouds the historic killing.

James A. Garfield became president-elect on November 2, 1880. On July 2, 1881, just months after his inauguration, a demented office seeker, Charles J. Guiteau, shot the president twice. On September 19 of that same year, Garfield died. Questionable medical practices and Guiteau's motives still remain historic mysteries.

William McKinley, a reportedly gentle, sincere man, sought to be president in 1888 and 1892. Finally in 1896, he reached his lifelong goal. Then in 1900, he won a reelection bid. On September 6, 1901, a young anarchist named Leon Czolgosz murdered the president. The president's secretary had tried to stop plans for the president to stand shaking hands in Buffalo, New York, but was overruled. McKinley died eight days after Czolgosz's ploy, and though the nation was gripped with sorrow and humiliation, the real reasons for medical inaccuracies and a supposed plot went unreported.

Warren G. Harding was elected on November 2, 1920. After three years of a scandal-filled term, the president was in Seattle, Washington, when he fell ill, allegedly of

food poisoning. He proceeded to San Francisco, where doctors said he had pneumonia. Other sources also cited heart trouble, so the exact nature of his terminal illness is shrouded in mystery. His wife was accused in a poisoning plot, but the allegations remained only theoretical. Finally on August 2, 1923, Harding died, and the casebooks were closed. Or were they?

Franklin Delano Roosevelt, beloved and berated father of the New Deal, was elected to the presidency for an unprecedented third term in 1940, as the nation mobilized for war. Then in 1945, one month after his fourth inauguration, the ailing president died in Warm Springs, Georgia. At first, he was mourned as the all-conquering hero; but within months, historians began sorting through reports of a sometimes splendid, sometimes sordid career. Supposed suicide reports also surfaced, especially after Mrs. Roosevelt refused to allow the casket to be opened. Even today, the mystery surrounding Roosevelt's death has continued to be the subject of spicy innuendo and historic debate.

John Fitzgerald Kennedy, on November 8, 1960, became the youngest man and the first Catholic ever elected to the presidency. He was both the most popular and the most despised man elected to the nation's highest office during recent history. If he had lived, perhaps historians could give more accurate descriptions of his professional career; but on November 22, 1963, his brilliant and bewildering term was permanently destroyed by a Dallas assassination, a murder that has since filled books, motion pictures, and conversations with suspense, mystery, and nonfitting puzzles.

While still a presidential candidate, Sen. John Kennedy made several interesting remarks while addressing the "coincidental" zero-year cycle:

The historical curiosity is indeed thought-provoking. Since 1840 every man who has entered the White House in a year ending with a zero has not lived to leave the White House alive. I feel that the future will have to necessarily answer this for

itself—both as to my aspirations and my fate, should I have the privilege of occupying the White House.

On face value, I daresay, should anyone take this phenomenon to heart—anyone, that is, who aspires to change his address to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue—that most probably the landlord would be left with a “For Rent” sign hanging on the gatehouse door. (The original of this letter is found in the Library of Presidential Papers, New York)

The senator, though obviously puzzled by the phenomenon, did not take the death cycle to heart. He became president; the White House became Camelot. Then his “aspirations” and “fate” were lost forever as he became the seventh victim of *The Zero Curse*.

Only Thomas Jefferson, elected president in 1800, and James Monroe, elected to the nation’s highest office in 1820, escaped this so-called “zero factor.” Zachary Taylor was the only nonzero-year president who died in office.

Amazing coincidences? Unlikely. The computerized odds against John F. Kennedy dying while in office were 78.5 billion to one. But he was the 1960 zero-year president. The past seven zero-year tragedies now form eerie backdrops for the present. Again and again since 1840, the zero factor has spelled tragedy for American presidents. Will it again rip America apart with another smoldering chapter of tragedy and questions? All of these issues and questions form a veiled historical backdrop for our 1980 zero-year president and for this—*The Zero Curse*.

Thinking is good, but without memory it wastes time drawing new blueprints of old castles. Thinking and memory together will create rather than retrace. (Anonymous)

It is natural to man to indulge in the illusions of hope. We are apt to shut our eyes against a painful truth. . . . Is this the part of wise men, engaged in a

great and arduous struggle for liberty? Are we disposed to be of the number of those who, having eyes, see not, and having ears, hear not, the things which so nearly concern their temporal salvation? For my part, whatever anguish of spirit it may cost, I am willing to know the whole truth; to know the worst and to provide for it. (Patrick Henry [“Liberty or Death” speech to the Virginia House of Burgesses, 1775])

We live in the present;
We dream of the future,
But we learn eternal truths from the past.
(Madame Chiang Kai-shek)

“I have been haunted. I have become increasingly convinced that a curse of death hangs over my head as long as I am president, and I have been frightened.”

“It is a foolish thing; I know that. But it has become an obsession that I cannot shake. It grew from the roots of my boyhood in the mountains, where there were ghosts all around, and all of us knew of someone who had been cursed and was suffering or was dead because of that curse.”

“The death of presidents elected in years ending with zero has occurred seven times. It’s a coincidence, a capricious bit of numerology. In cold moments of logic, I know this. But I have come to believe it is something more sinister, something deadly—and I cannot rid myself of the belief.”
(From the fiction best seller *The Zero Factor* by William Oscar Johnson)

America cowers before puny nations who practice oil blackmail. The dollar is losing its value at home and abroad. People are suffering an unbearable load of taxation. Everyone is scared by inflation. Another presidential assassination could signal the chaos that may end up in a declaration of military law and, ultimately, a total change of our entire government. (In fact, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, an obscure government agency created by a stroke of Jimmy Carter's presidential pen in June, 1979, stands ready to assume control of the United States government. The FEMA, established by Executive Orders 12147 and 12148, is a shadow government with powers so broad and ill-defined that it could *become* the government whenever the Chief Executive decides to declare a national emergency.) Are we on the verge of an Orwellian 1984? A one-world system strong enough to face God's forces has been Satan's acknowledged plan for centuries (see Rev. 17:13). So a presidential assassination might create the "perfect" climate for a takeover of the government that once belonged of, to, and for the people of the United States.

The theory that a curse is the cause of the zero-year deaths is believed among many American Indians, according to an article in a recent national magazine (*Parade*, September 28, 1980).

During the early 1800s, William Henry Harrison was appointed governor of Indian territory by President John Adams and was charged with protecting Indian rights, but the job also included taking Indian lands to advance the settlement of whites. As the Indians resisted the infraction of their rights, they eventually joined with the British against the Americans. But in the War of 1812, Major General William Henry Harrison defeated the British and the Indian allies who were led by Tecumseh, the great Indian chief. Tecumseh was killed in the Battle of Thames on October 5, 1813.

Supposedly, Tecumseh's brother, Tenskwatawa, "the Prophet," who was a medicine man, confessed a curse

upon William Henry Harrison and the United States government.

The curse was that every U.S. president who was elected in a zero year, beginning with Harrison, would die while in office. This legend, known as "the Indians' Revenge," has so far proved true.

In researching this subject we found historians disagreeing on the year of Tenskwatawa's death, with reports ranging from 1836 to 1841. Even the place of his burial is disputed. It seems unlikely that he was even alive when Harrison was elected. However, it is well established that earlier at the Battle of Tippecanoe he had pronounced a death curse on Harrison (during the War of 1812).

Since Tenskwatawa succeeded a former Shaman (witch doctor) in the Shawnee tribe, it is theorized that HIS successor carried out his wishes by pronouncing the Zero Curse on Harrison. The whole thing seems very tenuous and not relevant at any rate. No man can place a curse apart from the devil's power. If Satan is behind the "zero factor," there need not be a specific human agent who pronounced the curse. The legend of the Indians' revenge will never be proven as far as we can see.

A Satanic curse? If so, there is an answer. The 1980 zero-year president need not die while in office.

Whether history's most eerie death cycle can be traced to chance, God, or Satan—the *answer to the Zero Curse* is found in two verses of history's most complete, workable guidebook—the Bible.

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. (2 Chron. 7:14)

Has there ever been a time when healing and forgiveness for America (and the world) were needed more? Some people wonder why God allows such horrible conditions that now exist to continue. The blame is on mankind—not God. God has promised to rid

man of corruption and cause peace to settle upon the world, but man ignores the "if" clauses.

Is the future fixed? If so, why did God give "if" clauses? He cannot lie (Titus 1:2, Heb. 6:18). If God makes a promise or covenant, He will not break it. Obviously the gigantic, worldwide Satanic "cover-up" has ignored the real issues and placed the blame on God, rather than on Satan. God's answers work, but only if people act upon His Word.

"*If my people...*" (It doesn't even have to be a majority of Americans—God promised to save Sodom and Gomorrah for only five righteous people. Genesis 18:32)

"*Which are called by my name*" (the battle lines are already drawn: those identified with Jesus Christ, and all the rest who are—some knowingly, and some in ignorance—being used by Satan).

"*Shall humble themselves*" (humility is the opposite of *self-gratification* and *personal power*).

"*And pray*" (prayer is not a collection of mutterings to some superior being; it is a cosmic, physical/spiritual force that is man's link—through the Holy Spirit—to the throne of God).

"*And seek my face*" ("But if from thence thou shalt seek the Lord thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul"—Deut. 4:29).

"*And turn from their wicked ways*" (God would rather manifest mercy than judgment if people would only stop their self-destructive, Satan-glorifying ways).

Then—and only then—will God return the full blessings for America (and the world). Satan tempts people with good things, then gives them the evil that was hidden behind the good. God reveals the evil first that dwells in mankind's breast, but offers promises for people to dwell in peace and goodness. Each person controls his own destiny, by his obedience or disobedience to God's plan (John 3:16). And collectively, mankind's acceptance of God's plan can also make an eternal difference:

Whenever I announce that a certain nation or kingdom is to be taken up and destroyed, then if that nation renounces its evil ways, I will not destroy it as I had planned.

And if I announce that I will make a certain nation strong and great, but then that nation changes its mind and turns to evil and refuses to obey me, then I too will change my mind and not bless that nation as I had said I would. (Jer. 18:7-10, *The Living Bible*)

So God can hear from heaven, and forgive sin, and heal the land as those called by His name meet His requirements—what does all this have to do with *The Zero Curse*? Even during times of widespread godliness and righteousness, zero-year presidents have died while in office. So even if America does repent and allow God's intervention, will the 1980 zero-year president still become yet another victim of the death cycle?

The second (and most crucial) part of the answer to *The Zero Curse* is in 1 Tim. 2:1-4:

I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;

For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

Statistics from nationwide polls have proven that only one or two percent of the evangelical Christians in America pray at least once a day for the elected government leaders. Yet God specifically commands His followers to pray for the people in authority, especially for the president (the American equivalent to "kings" in verse two).

God (just as He did in 2 Chron. 7:14) gives require-

ments—that Christians should pray for their leaders—before He will give the “quiet and peaceable life” (verse two), allow the country to be “good and acceptable” in His sight (verse three), and give the continued freedom for “all men to be saved” (an assurance of world missions in verse four).

Is it any wonder that at times the American government is controlled by a few unelected, ruthless men? Or is it any wonder that Satan effectively controls the political systems of all countries of the world—including the United States of America? Those are strong words, perhaps, but realistic in the light of the incredible mistakes America has made—and continues to make.

The truth is—if the 1980 zero-year president dies while in office, *God* will not be to blame (He has given a way for mankind to dwell without bloodshed, in peace, but mankind must meet His requirements), nor will some *assassination conspiracy* paid for by the Mob or the “super rich” (they are mere puppets of a higher power), nor even *Satan* (he can be bound and resisted by spiritual Christians—James 4:7; Eph. 4:27; 1 Pet. 5:9), but the real blame will rest squarely on the shoulders of *Christians who refused to pray* for the president and the elected leaders! *God is not going to do what He has commanded His people to do.*

If ever a time has existed when Christians need to intercede for the president—that time is now. There can be no failure this time.

Satan has always placed his forces closely around the leaders of nations. The higher the level of responsibility, the greater the amount of spiritual activity. There are numerous examples, both in ancient times and in the twentieth century.

Israel’s first king, Saul, was an infamous example of a God-ordained ruler who became so troubled with the spiritual conflicts buzzing about him that he became paranoid, homicidal, and eventually involved in self-destructive witchcraft; he died a tormented man—knowing he had turned his back upon God.

Saul’s successor, King David, began public life as a most God-like young man, used in a mighty way to show God’s power, but as the spiritual warfare increased around him, he fell victim to a momentary sexual gratification, and in a tense effort to “cover his tracks,” ended by effecting the deaths of his lover’s husband, his children, and his children’s children. His own nation was cast into a civil war, and the bloodshed that followed created chaos that eventually proved fatal for the nation as it once existed.

As mentioned in Ezekiel 28 (the fallen angels that surrounded the King of Tyre), Satan has attempted to manipulate the thrones of the world through special demonic ambassadors—most of the time he has succeeded. Isaiah 14 also mentions Satan and his special messengers to the leaders of nations.

Daniel, one of the men in the Bible who was faithful in interceding for the leader over him, also wrote about the spiritual warfare centered on kings. In Daniel 10, as he prayed and fasted, Daniel saw a vision of an angel—an angel who had been detained in a twenty-one-day battle with the Satanic “prince” of the kingdom of Persia.

History records similar spiritual battles between the forces of God and Satan over many leaders—in Greece, Rome, Spain, and England. Unfortunately, many times Satan’s messengers won, and political havoc resulted.

In a not insignificant measure, the American presidents have witnessed a tremendous spiritual battle—the conflicts have already been catalogued for the zero-year presidents.

One of the most noticeable catastrophes in recent history was the case of Richard M. Nixon. At seventeen, Richard had walked down the aisle to the altar of the Angeles Temple during an invitation given by Evangelist Paul Rader. Dr. Clyde Taylor knelt beside young Nixon as the future world leader prayed the “sinner’s prayer.” It was a touching, moving conversion. What happened between that time and the shameful resignation during the post-Watergate scandals is not known,

but the incredible spiritual conflict that centered on Richard Nixon during the ensuing years was catalogued by the media and the famous tapes. He had godly counsel from men like Billy Graham, but he chose to surround himself with ungodly men. He made the mistake of thinking he could manipulate the "super-rich" manipulators. The price he paid for not making a clear-cut decision to give God prominence in his administration was costly.

The language on the early Nixon tapes was respectable and it reflected his well-respected intellect, but as the tapes progressed through the crisis, a degeneration process noticeably deepens, and his vocabulary finally degenerates into a cesspool of vulgarity and obscenities. He was torn between serving God and pleasing the people who owned him. At one point, he made a plea for part of his advisors to pray for him, but the advisors were not prayers. The tragic results that befell the disgraced leader were monumental victories for Satan's fury-filled campaign to weaken the country that had been built upon God's precepts. God doesn't necessarily say that a Christian has to agree with a specific leader, but He still commands the Christian to pray for him or her.

One of the little-publicized successes of Christians praying for a president happened during Gerald Ford's Administration. During 1974, an increasing number of Christians became concerned, feeling perhaps that an attack would be made on the president's life. A growing force of Christians banded together to pray for the president's protection. It was a quiet, powerful exhibition of James 4:7. In a two-month period shortly after the praying began, three brushes with disaster were thwarted.

On September 5, 1975, as the president walked through a crowd of well-wishers in a Sacramento park, Lynette Alice "Squeaky" Fromm, a follower of cult-figure Charles Manson, stood within a few feet of Ford and pointed a .45-caliber semi-automatic pistol at him.

After several desperate clicks, the Secret Service agents apprehended Fromm. She began screaming, "It didn't go off! It didn't go off!" Other agents grabbed the weapon and found that the gun was indeed loaded, but for some reason "Squeaky" had not properly loaded the chamber.

On September 22, 1975, Sara Jane Moore pointed a .38-caliber handgun at the president as he emerged from a San Francisco hotel. Oliver Sipple, a retired marine, noticed the gun and hit Moore's hand as the explosion went off. The bullet was deflected, and Ford was not injured.

Less than a month after the San Francisco assassination attempt, the appointed Chief Executive escaped injury during an auto accident near Hartford, Connecticut (October 14, 1975).

In an interview after the second assassination try, Evangelist Billy Graham offered a startling explanation:

I am convinced that it was angels of God that prevented the assassination of our President and the ensuing chaos that would have followed.

Ford was no less emphatic about the role God had played in the near-tragic chain of events when he said, "It was divine intervention that prevented my assassination."

During the 1976 election bid, Jimmy Carter gave a clear-cut testimony of being a Christian. He used biblical terminology. An increasing number of Christians became aware of the need to support him in intercessory prayer. The results during the next years turned what could have been imminent danger into relative safety.

And now—especially after the 1980 zero-year election, Christians are faced with an incredible challenge to intercede for the president.

Not all Christians are going to agree with the president on every issue. There have been many self-righteous believers who have repeated the well-worn phrase, "Well, if the president is *really* a Christian, how

could he possibly do . . . ?” The next time any Christian is tempted to say this, he or she should ask a personal question: “Well, if I am *really* a Christian, how could I possibly do . . . ?”

The truth is that salvation is not based on political platforms, but on a personal faith in Jesus Christ as Savior.

So Christians, though it is healthy to be constructively critical and even unpopularly analytical, do not have the right to refuse prayer for the leader who is over them.

Christians must pray for protection and a “hedge” of God’s protective angels to be set up around the president (and the same goes for all authorities).

Christians must pray that the president will seek wise advice, rather than mere puppetry from the “insiders”:

Take away the wicked from before the king, and his throne shall be established in righteousness. (Prov. 25:5)

And Christians must pray that the president will continually follow God’s guidance, so that America will always enjoy the freedoms and opportunities we have been given.

There are only two alternatives, clearly presented in Rom. 12:21—“Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.” There is no middle way—not even ignorance, since ignorance breeds neglect, and neglect breeds evil. Christians may use the power God has put at our disposal to overcome Satan’s power, or—if we fail to do this—that evil will overcome us. This message from Romans especially applies to Americans, who still enjoy an unequalled freedom to proclaim the gospel to the world.

If Christians do fulfill their function and heed the answers stated in 2 Chron. 7:14 and 1 Tim. 2:14, we will have the power to prevent the coming chaos. But if we do not accept the awesome responsibilities, and if another zero-year president falls victim to the death

cycle, and if the course of history is set in a self-destructive direction—Christians will have to face the most bitter eulogy of all—*It Did Not Have to Happen*.

And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found none. (Ezek. 22:30)

God will intervene in most human affairs by invitation only. When a Christian prays for the leaders of the country and says, “Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven,” he or she is placing in God’s hands the legal right to intervene in human affairs. That Christian becomes a channel through which and by which God can move.

Satan worries when the weakest Christians begin to intercede for the president; Satan trembles when two or more Christians join together in behalf of elected authorities:

Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing [even protection and guidance for the president] that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.

For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them. (Matt. 18:18-20)

But the most workable, powerful verses in Scripture are meaningless and empty unless Christians are willing to practice them. Christians must band together to intercede to break the death cycle and prevent the death of the president, thus preventing resulting chaos and possible loss of religious freedom. That prayer can be similar to this:

Lord Jesus, we pray for our nation. Send healing to our broken land. We use Your Word to rebuke the

power of Satan and his forces. Preserve our president by Your grace, and guide all of our leaders in Your wisdom. Deliver our nation and the world from further chaos so we may continue to spread Your saving gospel.

All the praise we give to You, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Will enough Christians band together to intercede for America's leaders? Will the power of the spiritual conspiracy be broken, or will Christians neglect God's commandment to pray? Will the president—like the past seven zero-year chief executives—die while in office?

The answers may soon be known. Until then, the puzzle will continue to be shrouded in secrecy—the puzzle known as *The Zero Curse*. Can Reagan beat the zero curse? It may be up to you!

(P.S. When Ronald Reagan left office in January 1989, the zero curse was broken! From 1983 to 1989 this had been one of the top prayer concerns of the weekly D.C. prayer tours conducted by the local D.C. area church that in 1992 became the host church for the National Prayer Embassy.)