



ARISE! MINISTRIES

Mount Up On Wings - Isaiah 40:31

Tom Stiles, Editor

January 22, 2025

The State of the State

“Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways. Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes.” - Haggai 1:5-6

The New York State Constitution requires the Governor to give an annual message to the Legislature regarding the state of the state. Governor Hochul did so on Tuesday, January 14.

She began by stating:

“Fellow New Yorkers, as we reflect on the great state, two things are clear to me: our future depends upon the ability of every family to afford the essentials of life, and our future depends upon the safety and security of our residents.

But we will not achieve these goals without a fight. My commitment to every New Yorker is this: Your family is my fight.

That has been the inspiration and impetus for everything we have done in the last three years.”

Pardon me Governor, but your support of abortion – the killing of the unborn – is the opposite of “fighting for our families.

The Governor went on to boast of raising the minimum wage, adding jobs, boosting tuition assistance, educational funding, parental leave, etc. Then she noted that “every family deserves to keep their hard-earned money in a state they can be truly proud to call home...Our state has to be livable, and people have to be able to afford to live in it.”

The Governor suggests that the way to do that is for the government to provide more programs and services for New Yorkers. Such as free community college, a \$500 inflation check for eligible citizens, universal child care, more support for mass transit, modernizing the rail service, investing in roads, a \$1000 child tax credit, public broadband, and housing. She also proposed spending \$400 million for the Albany and the Capitol

including \$150 million for the State Museum and \$200 million to “address safety and quality of life in Albany.

The Democrat leaders of the Legislature were supportive of her proposals:

Senate Majority Leader Andrea Steward-Cousins said: “It sounds like all the things that you have heard me talk about, whether it is universal child care, the meals, obviously we are rowing in the same direction.” But added, “Looking at the Budget will tell its own story, but I think it is a good start.

Assembly Speaker Carl E. Heaste said Hochul’s address was on the best he’s heard since he joined the Legislature in 2001.

“It kind of touched on everything that people have been concerned about,” Heaste said, noting that he was particularly inspired by Hochul’s commitment to universal child care.

But he was not ready to say if the state had the revenue to do everything Hochul proposed, saying, I’ve got to put the shopping list together and figure out where we go.”

The Republican leaders in the Legislature reacted as you might expect.

Senate Minority Leader Robert Ortz said in an opinion piece in the New York Post: “Instead of bold solutions, Hochul doubled down on the same disastrous policies that have made our state unaffordable, unsafe, and unlivable.

Assembly Minority Will Barclay saw some positives in the Governor’s agenda, like middle-class tax cuts, but said she “offered an overly optimistic picture of New York’s state of affairs.



To be fair, the Governor also laid out some plans to improve public safety, such as deploying more police on the NYC subways, expanding involuntary confinement, and explaining Kendra's Law, which allows court ordered mental health treatment.

The Governor noted, "I know many New Yorkers are struggling. Inflation, sky-high rents, wages that they don't feel like they can keep up, the changing economy... and an unsettled world."

The problem is that she and her fellow liberals don't realize that it is their policies that are creating these problems.

Governor, consider your ways.

EAGLE'S EYE ON THE NATION

"Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the LORD pondereth the hearts." - Proverbs 21:2

President Biden delivered his farewell address to the nation on Wednesday night. In his brief address, he reflected on his 50 years in politics, touted his record on the economy, and his support for democracy.

But he also expressed his concern about what he called "the dangerous concentration of power in the hands of a very few ultra-wealthy people" and "the dangerous consequences if their abuse of power is left unchecked."

"Today, an oligarchy is taking shape in America of extreme wealth, power and influence that literally threatens our entire democracy, our basic rights and freedoms."

He also expressed concern about what he called a "tech industrial complex," believing that "Americans are buried under an avalanche of misinformation and disinformation, enabling the abuse of power."

"The free press is crumbling," he said. "Social media is giving up on fact-checking. The truth is smothered by the lies told for power and for profit. We must hold the social platforms accountable to protect our children, our families, and our very democracy."

Mr. President, by "fact-checking" you mean censorship. The best solution for "misinformation" is freedom of speech, so that lies can be corrected.

President Biden closed by telling the American people that "Now, it is your turn to stand guard...may you keep the faith...God bless America."

IMPORTANT DATES

January 20 Inauguration Day
January 24 Right to Life March in Washington, DC

HOUSE PASSED A BILL TO PROTECT GIRLS SPORTS

The House passed "The Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act (218 to 206 with all Republicans and two Democrats voting for the bill). The bill would make it a violation of federal law for any recipient of federal educational funding "who operates, sponsors, or facilitates an athletic program or activity to permit a person whose sex is male to participate in a program or activity that is designated for women or girls."

At a press conference following the passage of the bill, Speaker Mike Johnson asserted, "We know from Scripture and from nature that men are men and women are women, and men cannot become women."

When a reporter asked him to clarify what Christian Scripture he thinks teaches that, the Speaker replied, "It goes back to Genesis," and cited Genesis 1:27, where it says, "Male and female, He created them."

CONFIRMATION HEARINGS

The Senate began their hearings of several of President-elect Trump's nominees. The hearings were HOT with Democrat Senators sparing with the candidates. I thought the candidates did well and will be confirmed, while the Democrats looked petty and foolish.

LIBERAL LOGIC

"Everything you've said in these public statements is politics. 'I don't want women.' I don't want moms.' What is wrong with a mom, but the way.' Once you have babies, you therefore are no longer to be lethal? I mean, you are basically saying women, after they have children, can't ever serve in the military in a combat role. It's a silly thing to say." - Senator Kirsten Gillibrand to Pete Hegseth, the Secretary of Defense nominee

No, Senator, it is a foolish thing to say we want moms to fight our wars.

Ministry Report

Week of January 12-18

Last week was typical - I preached on Sunday, studied and made and answered calls and emails during the week.

The church that I preached at was Watertown Baptist Temple, where Dewey Steward is the pastor. He was away for the day, but his church took care of us.

Tom Stiles Speaking Schedule

January 26 Evangelical Baptist Church, Buffalo, NY (AM)
Calvary Heights Baptist Church, Elma, NY (PM)
February 9 Palmyra Bible Baptist Church, Palmyra, NY
February 16 Hunters Creek Baptist Church, Holland, NY