

[\*18] For this week's family Zoom, my topic was to ask the group: "What's up with Liz Cheney?" who is on her book tour right now. I'm attracted to her current status as a public figure because she embodies, to me, one of the great, almost comical, ironies of 21<sup>st</sup> century politics: She was railroaded out of office and out of the Republican party by a man who created his public persona—bully, intimidate, never apologize, lie, lie, lie—from the playbook created by Liz Cheney's father, Dick. Liz and Dick co-authored a book (*Exceptional*, 2015) flogging Barak Obama for his weakness, declaring what we needed was a "strong" president to restore the status of the US on the global stage. They both supported and voted for Donald Trump twice, endorsed all of his policies and decrees. Then, oops, he went a step too far. Like Bill Barr on the high end or Cassidy Hutchinson on the low end, et al., they saw the light way too light, their reputations in tatters, their influence diminished, too young still just to skulk off the stage as George Bush had, so they rebranded into "woke" critics warning us from the sidelines on their book tours or through piecemeal gigs on CNN or MSNBC. I just don't trust them. I think the only thing they would change about the narrative that ruined them would be the 2020 election results, which would have made January 6<sup>th</sup> unnecessary. Donald Trump would have had his second term and they would have considered it all hunky-dory. Will Cheney's current protestations about the dangers of another Trump presidency alter the outcome of the election? I don't think so. Not unless the count is as razor thin as the Bush-Gore "hanging chads" fiasco in 2000. But at least she'll sell some books.