

Should God Bless America?

(Copyright ©1truth1law.com 2012)

According to many politicians, religious people, and citizens of the United States, God is supposed to bless America. Apparently, this position is based on their trust in God combined with a misguided belief that they represent Him in their values and deeds. Also, some feel that God has been involved in the development and destiny of the United States over the past few centuries and supposedly He views their country as a special nation among other nations.

It is fascinating to compare these claims with another nation that existed thousands of years ago because the citizens of that country had similar ideas and, when confronted with having God's blessings removed, they seemed shocked. This reaction was connected to the nation's strong sense of entitlement. In other words, they felt that God should continue to bless them even though they did not follow His commands. When God sent His servants to warn them about the consequences of their rebellious conduct, they ignored those servants and in some cases abused or killed them (cf. Mt. 23:34-35; Lk. 11:49-51). Eventually, this nation rejected God's instructions altogether and the result was captivity by a foreign country.

Before examining some of the details surrounding this ancient nation's behavior, it is worth considering Abraham Lincoln's insight regarding America's future because he had a sense of where the country would go if it was not vigilant regarding its moral conduct,

At what point shall we expect the approach of danger? By what means shall we fortify against it? Shall we expect some transatlantic military giant, to step the Ocean, and crush us at a blow? Never! All the armies of Europe, Asia and Africa combined, with all the treasure of the earth (our own excepted) in their military chest; with a Bonaparte for a commander, could not by force, take a drink from the Ohio, or make a track on the Blue Ridge, in a trial of a thousand years. At what point, then, is the approach of danger to be expected? **I answer, if it ever reach us it must spring up among us.** It cannot come from abroad. **If destruction be our lot, we must ourselves be its author and finisher.** As a nation of freemen, we must live through all time, or die by suicide (Abraham Lincoln's January 27, 1838 address to the Young Men's Lyceum of Springfield, IL entitled, "The Perpetuation of Our Political Institutions"; emphasis added).

There is a saying that "history repeats itself" and, unfortunately, in many cases mankind does not learn from the experiences of the past because these lessons are forgotten after hundreds, or even thousands, of years. In the case of the ancient nation mentioned previously, namely Israel, the people understood God existed and that He was the One who blessed and protected them from their enemies. They also realized that there were conditions attached to the blessings and protection they were receiving. The forefathers of this ancient people diligently applied themselves to all the instructions that God gave them and then taught these to their children (cf. Gen. 18:19; Lev. 10:11; Dt. 6:7; 11:19). As a result, that nation grew and prospered for a number of generations. However, after many years had passed, the descendants of the original people began rejecting the law and commandments that God gave to their ancestors.

In this study, some of the lessons of the past will be examined as a witness against the citizens of the United States. If they ignore the failures of the past, there will be negative consequences,

But with most of them (citizens of ancient Israel) God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. ⁶Now **these things became our examples**, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted (1Cor. 10:5-6; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

Some of the things that ancient Israel lusted after included customs associated with the worship of pagan deities,

Then Israel remained in Acacia grove, and the people began to commit harlotry with the women of Moab (see study: A Contentious Woman and A Harlot). ²They invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods. ³So Israel was joined to Baal of Peor, and the anger of the Lord was aroused against Israel (Nu. 25:1-3; Ed. note in parenthesis).

The argument today would be that most Americans don't sacrifice to pagan gods. However, upon closer examination the majority of the country's population does participate in annual customs associated with pagan deities. By participating in these activities, they are rejecting God because He has nothing to do with Christmas, New Year's Day celebrations, Easter, Halloween, and other non-biblical practices. Every one of these festivals originated in pagan systems of worship and none of them represent Almighty God nor do they remind mankind about His plan of salvation. In contrast however, God's Holy Days explain what He is doing progressively to restore all of sinful creation (see section: God's Holy Days).

Many of the pagan nations, who lived in close proximity to ancient Israel, worshipped deities such as Tammuz (a Babylonian and Sumerian god, later adopted by the Greeks as Attis and by the Romans as Adonis) and one aspect of this religious system involved weeping for Tammuz and praying for his resurrection from the dead (cf. Eze. 8:14-15; see study: Why Passover, Not Easter, Should Be Central To Christianity). Some of the customs associated with this false god are observed in Easter festivities today. During the time of Moses it was only because a few individuals stood up against this system of pagan worship that Almighty God spared the entire nation of Israel (cf. Nu. 25:11),

And indeed, one of the children of Israel came and presented to his brethren a Midianite woman in the sight of Moses and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel, **who were weeping at the door of the tabernacle of meeting** (for Tammuz). ⁷Now when Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it (Israel's weeping for Tammuz), he rose from among the congregation and took a javelin in his hand; ⁸and he went after the man of Israel into the tent and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman through her body. So the plague was stopped among the children of Israel. ⁹And those who died in the plague were twenty-four thousand (Nu. 25:6-9; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

What if it is only because a few people in the United States of America have refused to follow along with these, and other pagan customs every year, that God has not destroyed the entire nation?

And Abraham came near and said, 'Would you (the Angel of the Lord) also destroy the righteous (of Sodom and Gomorrah) with the wicked?' ²⁴Suppose there were fifty righteous within the city; would you also destroy the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous that were in it?' (Gen. 18:23-24; Ed. notes in parentheses).

And the Lord said, 'If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes (Gen. 18:26; cf. 18:28-32).

It is important at this point to mention that God defines the righteous as those who seek to obey His law and commandments, and this would include the observance of His Holy Days as opposed to the pagan holidays that are kept by the majority of mankind today,

Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law. I am a stranger in the earth; do not hide Your commandments from me (Ps. 119:18-19).

I have chosen the way of truth; Your judgments I have laid before me. I cling to Your testimonies ... (Ps. 119:30-31a).

I will run in the way of Your commandments, for You enlarge my heart (create a deep desire to obey God's law and commandments) (Ps. 119:32; Ed. note in parenthesis).

... **For all Your commandments are righteousness** (Ps. 119:172b; cf. vs 142; emphasis added).

And the dragon (symbol of Satan) was enraged with the woman (symbol of God's true servants; see study: A Contentious Woman and A Harlot), and **he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ** (Rev. 12:17; cf. 14:12; Mt. 19:17b; Rom. 7:12; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

Going back to Paul's earlier statement that ancient Israel's conduct was recorded as an example for us today, here is the next point he covered,

And do not become idolaters as were some of them. As it is written, 'The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play' (1Cor. 10:7).

Paul's comment pertained to ancient Israel's proclivity to engage in false religious activities even though they had been given clear instructions from Almighty God not to participate in these customs. It was a short time after God commanded Israel not to make any graven image, with the intent to worship it, that they did exactly that (cf. Ex. 20:3-5),

And he (Aaron the High Priest) received the gold from their hand, and he fashioned it with an engraving tool, and made a molded calf. Then they said, 'This is your god, O Israel that brought you out of the land of Egypt!' ⁵So when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it. And **Aaron made a proclamation and said, 'Tomorrow is a feast to the Lord'** (Ex. 32:4-5; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

The moment any nation deviates from the Holy Days that Almighty God calls His, and creates their own holidays as Aaron did, they have committed idolatry. The ancient nation of Israel created a false system of worship which was contrary to God's command (cf. Ex. 20:8-11). There is no difference between "carving out" an idol or "carving out" a pagan based holiday, both separate God and His truth from His people and both directly contravene His command,

Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: **'The feasts of the Lord, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are My feasts'** (Lev. 23:2; emphasis added).

Christianity hijacked God's festivals and labeled them "Jewish," which they never were meant to be. As Jesus Christ said, the Sabbath was made for man (for the benefit of all mankind) just as the rest of God's Holy Days were,

And he (Christ) said to them (the Pharisees), **'The Sabbath was made for man...** (Mk. 2:27a; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

All twelve tribes, or nations, who descended from Jacob (later named Israel) observed God's Holy Days. The Jews were only one of these tribes. This means that eleven non-Jewish tribes kept God's Holy Days, including the weekly Sabbath and the New Moons (see study: The New Moon). So America has done exactly what ancient Israel did, they have replaced God's Holy Days with their own pagan-based religious practices. Consequently, they have no right to ask God to bless them while they ignore what He commanded and thereby break His law.

Continuing with Paul's statement in 1 Corinthians 10:8, sexual immorality was another sin that ancient Israel committed and it is the same in America today. In fact, America's sexual immorality is one of the reasons other religions, such as Islam, find the United States so offensive. For example, the United States exports vast numbers of sexually explicit and immoral movies, not to mention video games and publications that espouse violence or Satanic themes. All this material has a powerful and negative impact upon other cultures and religions worldwide. Because America has freedom of speech and the press, it seems to think this is reason enough to export sexually perverse material to other countries. Since financial gain is the primary motive behind the production of these forms of explicit immorality, the business community in the United States seems quite comfortable justifying their actions, despite the fact this material is considered repulsive by many people. When American citizens are asked why other countries don't like them, they exhibit an amazing disconnect. They don't understand that their so-called "value system", as expressed in media and entertainment, is not shared by everyone else in the world,

Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them (ancient Israelites) did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell (1Cor. 10:8; Ed. note in parenthesis).

The next point that Paul mentioned to the Corinthians, regarding the conduct of ancient Israel, had to do with their ungrateful attitude (cf. 1Cor. 10:9-10). They were unhappy with the bread God provided even though they did not have to labor to receive it. They

had soon forgotten that God provided it miraculously every day (cf. Ex. 16:4), and because of it they were still alive and able to complain,

And the people spoke against God and against Moses: 'Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and **our soul loathes** (detests) **this worthless bread**' (Nu. 21:5; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

The main point of the exercise in the wilderness was that the nation of Israel develop trust in God to protect and provide for them. In turn, they were expected to willingly obey His commands, no matter how bad circumstances may have appeared. This is the reason Jesus Christ explained the whole duty of man in the context of daily bread,

But he (Christ) answered and said, 'It is written, "**Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God** "' (Mt. 4:4; Ed. note in parenthesis).

The United States of America, in large part, has either forgotten these words or they choose to ignore them. They would rather accommodate the latest fads than obey Almighty God. For instance, as it is currently fashionable to tolerate "alternative lifestyles", many Americans quickly accept these despite the fact they contravene God's word (cf. Gen. 2:24; Pr. 14:12; Isa. 53:6; 55:8-9; Eze. 33:20; Jer. 32:39). One of these trends has to do with "same sex marriages" and God's command is very plain in this matter,

You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination (Lev. 18:22).

If a man lies with a male as he lies with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination. They shall surely be put to death. Their blood shall be upon them (Lev. 20:13).

For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature.²⁷ Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due (Rom. 1:26-27).

Just as it was not fashionable for the majority of people in ancient Israel to willingly obey God's word, so it is the same today in the modern nation of the United States. There is a systematic movement aimed at dismantling every law and commandment that God has given. One nation, outside the United States, has accelerated this process by ruling that the Bible constitutes a form of hate literature (see: <http://www.wnd.com/2003/02/17314/>).

Many "religious people" in the United States would claim that the Bible will never be regarded as hate literature in their country. However, if you were to ask a U.S. citizen who is working diligently to overturn its teachings, these individuals would be happy to have it outlawed. In fact, when it is not a factor in legislation regarding matters such as homosexuality, it is already outlawed. To believe that the nation of America "will go no further," regarding dismantling God's law and commandments, is naïve. As one saying goes, "the train has left the station." Therefore, apart from some national disaster, every so-called restraint that God has placed in His word will eventually be rejected by the majority of American people. It is just a matter of time.

Paul's concluding statement to those living in Corinth is sobering and unfortunately seems to be lost on the majority of people in the United States because they do not see any connection between what happened to ancient Israel and what is occurring within their own country,

Now all these things happened to them (ancient nation of Israel) as examples, and they were written for our admonition (instruction), on whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹²Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall (1Cor. 10:11-12; Ed. notes in parentheses; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Ancient Israel eventually became so corrupt that God removed all His blessings and protection. Although this did not happen overnight, it nonetheless occurred just as He said it would through His prophets (cf. Dt. 28:15-68).

So for all the reasons mentioned in this study, and many others, God will not continue to bless America no matter how many times this request is made by politicians, religious people, or citizens. However, God will bless any nation, or individual, that willingly seeks to obey Him,

... But on this one will I (Almighty God) look: On him who is poor (in spirit/attitude) and of a contrite spirit, and **who trembles** (has deep respect) **at My word** (Isa. 66:2b; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

This document is the collaborative work of individuals who believe God's truth should be given freely (Mt. 10:8; 1Cor. 2:12; 2Cor. 11:7; Rom. 10:14-21) and the message of the one true God should be made available to all nations (Mt. 24:14) as a prerequisite to the return of Jesus Christ as King of kings (Mt. 17:10; 19:17; Mk. 9:11; Lk. 1:17; Rev. 19:11-16).

To protect the integrity of this document and prevent alteration and misapplication of its contents in whole or in part, this document is protected under copyright law.

Copyright: This document may be freely copied and distributed provided it is copied without alteration, addition, deletion, or charges, and includes the name of the publisher and this copyright. Quotations may be taken from this document provided the name of the publisher is cited.

All Rights Reserved

(Copyright ©1truth1law.com 2012)