

Is This Why America Is In Trouble?

Ron Hall

Why did God overthrow governments in the Old Testament? Was it because of idolatry? Bloodshed? Oppression of the poor? Sexual sins and perversion? These sins stand out as reasons for the downfall of nations. But one evil was beneath these sins, and it often goes unnoticed as the cause of the demise of civilizations.

As the prophets of God warned of the doom of empires, they cited this sin as a reason for the outpouring of God's wrath:

- **Babylon:** "I will cause the arrogance of the proud to cease" (Isa. 13:11).
- **Moab:** "We have heard of the pride of Moab; he is very proud" (Isa. 16:6).
- **Tyre:** "Thine heart was lifted up...I will cast thee to the ground" (Ezek. 28:17).
- **Judah:** "I will mar the pride of Judah, and the great pride of Jerusalem" (Jer. 13:9).
- **Israel:** "And the pride of Israel doth testify to his face: therefore shall Israel and Ephraim fall in their iniquity" (Hos. 5:5).

Ponder these verses in light of our national situation. We have seen the worst blow to our economy since the Great Depression. We have watched as unemployment soared and savings accounts dwindled. We have for the first time in many years seen empty shelves in grocery stores. **But where is humility before God?** Where is repentance and confession of sin? We are dangerously close to the spiritual condition of Israel after God had depleted their natural resources numerous times: "I have given you cleanness of teeth in all your cities, and want of bread in all your places: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the Lord" (Amos 4:6). Maybe we need to have our teeth cleaned by God. Would that bring our attitude down?

Our politicians are full of pride because few things will inflate a person's ego like power. They boast of things they have done and things they will never actually do. Nikita Khrushchev said politicians are the same everywhere—they promise to build bridges where there is no water. But even when politicians are successful we must not give them too much credit and they shouldn't brag like they did it by themselves. Their lives and ours are in the hand of God (Ecc. 9:1; Acts 17:25). Only by His gracious will do we even breathe, much less accomplish things we are eager to do (James 4:13-17). Nebuchadnezzar, a ruler who boasted that he had built the most wealthy and powerful nation on earth, learned the hard way that God is able to bring down arrogant looks in a moment (Dan. 4:37). What will it take for our public officials to realize this?

No man can truly succeed who is not humble. He may get his way. He may get attention. He may appear to have everything under his control. But eventually the house he built will come crashing down. The same is true with a country. We can have a strong military, a robust economy, and efficient education, **but** if we fail to acknowledge God we will fall. We can keep saying, "We'll get through this," "We're in this together," "Let's put America back on the map again" and other hackneyed expressions, but unless we stop being so independent and start admitting our utter dependence on God we will continue to feel the heavy hand of God upon our country.

[Selected-Emp. Mine-RH]

A WOLF SANCTUARY

G. K. Wallace

Paul taught that "grievous wolves" would "enter in among you, not sparing the flock" and would destroy the church. Elders are warned to be alert to false teachers. The wolf will come as he has done in the past. The love of God is not broad enough to cover the conduct and teaching of the wolf. Love does not whitewash false teachers. Love does not excuse the wolf in the flock. Love does not invite or permit the wolf to enter the flock. The good shepherd will lay down his life to protect the sheep. There is a vast difference in letting a false teacher sit in an audience while "holding his opinion" and putting him up to teach his divisive ways under the guise of being broad minded. "But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep" (John 10:12)

It is the duty of the shepherd to protect the sheep. However, under the guise of "academic freedom" wolves feel free to devour the sheep. Some of these wolves are not even in "sheep's clothing" but openly avow that they intend to teach false doctrine. They are in the pulpit and in our schools. Our schools were built to provide a place for "controlled environment and teaching." The charters of these schools set out the bounds of these directors and teachers. He who accepts a position in a Christian school is honor bound to abide by the purpose and design of the school. Some of the schools have strayed or been stolen. If a teacher does not agree with the principles for which the school was built he should go, like a gentleman, to some other school. His effort to disrupt the Word for which the school was founded is not "academic freedom" but subversion and rebellion. The administrators and directors of our schools should stand by the charter and purpose of our schools. Elders should protect the "flock." "The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep" (John 10:13).

Brother Keeble used to say as he attacked false doctrine that it is "rooting time." Jesus said, "Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up" (Matt. 15:13,14). Only the blind leader will fail to remove the poisonous plant. It is being said, "We do not debate like we once did." That is true and we are partly to blame. We are not challenging the false teachers of our day. The opponents of Truth constantly argue and debate their cause. However, they prefer to do this without an opponent. All propagandists make repeated efforts in argumentation to get across their points. It is being said, "No one is ever converted by an argument." Yet, you cannot make a politician, or a political canvasser believe that. The Nazis and the Communists were quick to see the power of argumentation of belief and conduct. Opinion is not always formed by argumentation but a good measure of it is. If you doubt this just listen to a liberal debate that debating is wrong.

Today liberal brethren think they can win the denominational world by joining with them in some way. To join with false teachers in a so-called "dialogue" may gain a measure of commendation from sectarian leaders for what they call "good sense" and "broadmindedness." However, let these "good fellows" try to lead their bedfellows into a full knowledge of obedience to the gospel of Christ and they will find themselves completely ostracized.

We need now, more than ever, to press the true gospel with zeal and persistency. Worldly prudence will suggest that we be more quiet and unobtrusive in the propagation of the faith. This time-serving expediency has become the disgrace of our age. We need to be "instant in season, and out of season" and keep in mind that the gospel is the "power of God" unto salvation (Rom. 1:16). Let's not permit the house of God to become a wolf sanctuary.

(Brother Wallace's article was needed fifty years ago and it is still needed today. TJK)

NEWS AND NOTES

“I was sick, and ye visited me...” (Matthew 25:36)
Remember in Prayer:

Sharon Wallace saw her doctor this past Wednesday and she will have additional surgery April 14.
Linda Baker fell and broke her leg. She was in St. Bernard’s but is now at Encompass room 205.
Sandra Sherman suffered a fall Sunday and is at home recovering after a night in the hospital.
Myra Preston is now at home now and continues to need our prayers.
Marie Sharp, Lanafae Stephens’ mother, is in St. Bernard’s for comfort care.
Bryson Miller, the great nephew of James and Sandra Johnson was in a serious accident and is in the Elvis Presley Trauma Center in Memphis. He is in serious condition but is improving.

In Other News:

REMEMBER: Gilbert Gough will be with us for a **“Day of Exhortation”** March 28. There will be a potluck after morning services. Everyone is encouraged to be present and enjoy this good day together. It is time to “Arise and build” (Nehemiah 2:20).
Ukraine Missions are in need of children’s Tylenol and/or children’s Ibuprofen. There is a bucket in the foyer for us to place it in. See Myra Morris for any additional information you may need.

Presently we have no members we are aware of who are either directly or indirectly affected by the Covid-19 Virus.

Those Privileged To Serve
March 14, 2021

NUMBERS FOR THE WEEK
Week Of
March 7, 2021

SUNDAY MORNING
 Song Leader: Ben Johns
 Opening Prayer: Mark Brewer
 Closing Prayer: David Dye
 Bible Reading: Barry Roush
 Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

LORD’S TABLE
 Presiding: Terry Joe Kee
 Hal Baugh J. L. May
 Mitch Mosley Ryan Manley
 Jack Johnson Scott Pratt

ANNOUNCEMENTS
 Randy Oden

SUNDAY EVENING
 Song Leader: Mark Wooten
 Opening Prayer: Jason Garland
 Closing Prayer: Jeff Presley
 Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

WEDNESDAY NIGHT
March 17, 2021
 Song Leader: Scottie Blanchard
 Opening Prayer: Jerry Dodson
 Closing Prayer: Ryan Manley

DEVOTIONAL SPEAKER
March 17, 2021
 Terry Joe Kee

Sunday Bible Study	83
Sunday AM Worship	111
Sunday PM Worship	90
Wednesday Bible Study	88
Contribution	\$6164

“Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven.”
Proverbs 23:5

The Friend of Truth



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KeeNotes

It is such a joy to see many of our members who have been staying in due to being susceptible to the virus, now out and back in their places. We rejoice to see those of our number back with us and in their pews. We do not say we do not need to continue to be vigilant, but we are so very thankful to God that so much is better and continuing to improve. We have hope that soon *everything* will be back to normal or something very close to that.

With better times we still miss being able to hug and get close with our brethren, but it does not stop us from *wanting* to. We are still missing some and look forward to seeing them back in place and us again growing in Christ.

This year we are planning to have four Sundays we are calling “Days of Exhortation.” Our theme will be taken from the words of Nehemiah who encouraged the Jews to “arise and build” as the city was lying in ruins. We need to be encouraged to get back to work in the kingdom of the Lord. So, on March 28, Gilbert Gough will be with us to begin this series. If you will, go ahead and mark June 27th, August 29th and October 24th as the coming days we will continue this theme with Lee Moses, Ivie Powell and Kent Bailey coming to revive us and bring us back to life after a year of dormancy. Use these days as times to truly lift us up and get us back to working at the greatest work we will ever be given to do – saving souls.

Remember our activity board on the bulletin board in the foyer. Please remember to put up a pin each time you send a card, make a call, visit, invite, etc. someone. There is still much being done and much more we can do. Let us be busy in well doing and not faint.

If you do not want the fruits of sin, stay out of the orchard.

SHEPHERDS
 Dan Nichols
 Randy Oden

DEACONS
 Scottie Blanchard
 Jerry Dodson
 Stacy Eddleman
 Mike Felts
 Jason Garland
 Scott Pratt
 Kevin Roush
 Mark Wooten

MISSIONARIES
 Guyana, South America
 Samrit Kammanee
 Micah Robertson, Montana
 Warren, PA

SERVICES
SUNDAY
 Classes 9:00 a.m.
 Worship 10:00 a.m.
 5:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY
 Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

What Must I Do To Be Saved?
Hear the Word of God
 Romans 10:17
Believe the Word of God
 John 8:24
Repent of your sins
 Luke 13:3
Confess your faith in Jesus as the Son of God
 Romans 10:9,10
Be Baptized for the remission of your sins
 Acts 2:38
Live faithfully
 Revelation 2:10
“Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.” (John 4:35)

Each One Invite One in Twenty-One