

## **America to be the Exception**

By Craig Seibert

The questions are frequently asked;

- “Is there any way for a country to stop itself from sliding down the side of leisure, selfishness, complacency, apathy, etc..?”
- “Does this Cycle always progress or is there a way to interrupt it?”
- “Are there examples from history where the cycle is checked?”

It turns out that there are examples from history.

If we take a look at the story of the Hebrew Republic, we find that God through Moses lead the Israelites out of bondage. The people gained some spiritual faith and courage, but then wavered for 40 years. Eventually, under a new leader Joshua, the Hebrew Republic moved more fully into spiritual faith, courage, strength, liberty and abundance. God blessed them.

Then came a period called the Judges, where the Hebrew people became inward focused and selfish, complacent, and even apathetic toward the things of God. But God would raise up a righteous leader and a renevent and the Hebrew people would experience renewal and revival. Then over years they would fall back into decline when “every man would do what was right in his own eyes.”

The story of the book of Judges is an example of how a nation or people group through **“virtue, spiritual renewal and turning back to God”** break the downward part of the Cycle and see their society move back to the upward side.

This same pattern can be seen in the books of Kings and Chronicles in the Old Testament.

In more recent centuries, Scotland, Wales, England, the American Colonies, and The United States have experienced something similar. Those countries whose societies were based on biblical ideas and biblical principles and who had strong biblical teaching from the pulpits of their churches would from time to time experience wide spread spiritual renewal.

These revivals or awakenings had huge impacts on both cities and nations and would stop or break the downward cycle and the nations and cultures would renew.

The United States has experienced at least two such events, the Great Awakening before the Revolutionary War, and the Second Great Awakening before the Civil War. If you were to read the descriptions of what society was like before both those awakenings, you would be thoroughly convinced that the U.S. was cascading down the declining side of the Cycle. And yet, God showed up and the nation was renewed.

God fully describes the two paths a nation can choose in Deuteronomy 28. Nations are blessed that follow after Him and His biblical principles for living and society. Nations suffer when they turn their back on Him.

Additionally, God gives direction on how He will even involve himself in national renewal in the well known scripture – 2 Chronicles 7:14

**“If my people who are called by my name will 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.”**

Nations with a strong Christian heritage and/or a strong Christian remnant that will believe and act on this promise have a greater potential to see the Cycle interrupted.

George Washington said this:

*“Can it be that Providence has not connected the permanent felicity of a nation with its virtue?” Only this would “prevent our Nation from running the course which has hitherto marked the Destiny of Nations.”*

Washington was in essence saying, that the pattern of most nations is to go through the complete Cycle and return to a state of bondage. But, a nation that believed in and trusted God and that was virtuous could prevent this from happening and the Cycle would be interrupted.

And here is the key.

The Founding Fathers put into a place a system and had a hope that America could be the EXCEPTION to the regular occurring pattern of national decline.

That a virtuous, self governing people following after God along with the principles of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitutional System that they put into place, would make “America the exception to the rule”.

This should be considered to be what “American Exceptionalism” really means- that the United States could remain in a state of perpetual freedom and liberty if we remained virtuous and humbly followed after God. This would make our nation an “Exception” and “prevent our Nation from running the course which has hitherto marked the Destiny of Nations.”

Now that is something to think about.

Craig Seibert is an author, writer, and speaker and is director of the Christian Civics Training Initiative and the Institute for Christian Citizenship and Statesmanship. [www.ChristianCivicsTraining.org](http://www.ChristianCivicsTraining.org) ~ [www.InstituteForChristianCitizenship.org](http://www.InstituteForChristianCitizenship.org)