

America Today and Tomorrow

Psalm 78:1-6

I. INTRODUCTION-

- a. If you have a heart for the Lord... and a love for our country... you have to be concerned for our nation...not only the America of today... but the America of the future as well.
- b. If things continue as they are... if Jesus tarries His coming...what will America will be like in ten, fifteen, twenty years?
- c. We all know that America is a great nation... the greatest nation in the history of the world.
- d. Our nation is number one in the world in many positive and wonderful ways ...but we are also number one in many negative ways.
- e. Our nation is number one in the world ... in pornography, adultery, homosexuality, perversion, divorce, abortion, political correctness... and the destruction of family values.
- f. It is true that America has the greatest economy in the world... but I, for one ... had rather leave to our children and grandchildren a legacy of great and godly principles... than to leave to them a nation of great wealth to be squandered in a godless society.
- g. When I was a child we were all afraid of the Soviet Union... when that communist nation fell... many thought the world would be a safer place... but that has not turned out to be the case.
- h. With the fall of the demon of communism... seven more deadly demons have taken its place.
- i. The reality is... the world we live in has never been a more dangerous place than it is right now.
- j. It is my conviction that the American dream ... the American way of life... American liberty and freedom... our system of government,

laws and protections... was placed in the bosom of our founding fathers by Almighty God.

- k. America did not just happen... America was and it is a gift to the world from Almighty God.
- l. But because America has turned its back on God in so many ways ... the American dream is turning into a nightmare.
- m. Unless America comes back to the God who made its founding possible... the God who has blessed, protected and been with this nation throughout its history... I am afraid of what will become of our nation in the future.
- n. Frankly... I am greatly concerned about the America my grandchildren will grow up in.
- o. What kind of nation... what kind of legacy are we of today... leaving to the America of tomorrow?
- p. This morning from Psalm 78... I want to lay three thoughts on your heart.
- q. Let me give you a little background for this Psalm ... God had blessed the nation of Israel... God had delivered the Jewish people from the gnawing and tormenting chains of slavery... and God had brought them into a good land.
- r. God had given them His Word... He gave them a good law... He gave them a good and prosperous land... a land flowing with milk and honey... and God had given them a good Lord... He gave them Himself in a special way.
- s. But over time... the people defiled the land with their sin ... they denied their Lord... they disobeyed His Word and His law.

- t. After reaching out to the nation for generation after generation... through His prophets calling upon the people to repent and come back to Him... God finally brought judgment on Israel.
- u. In the aftermath of all this... a man named Asaph... a psalmist ... a prophet... gives some instructions to this rebel nation in this Psalm.
- v. As we shall see... there is a great parallel between what happened to Israel... and what is happening in our nation today.

II. IT IS IMPORTANT TO TEACH THE HISTORY OF OUR NATION-

- a. *Psalm 78:4-6 (NKJV) “We will not hide them from their children, Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, And His strength and His wonderful works that He has done. For He established a testimony in Jacob, And appointed a law in Israel, Which He commanded our fathers, That they should make them known to their children; That the generation to come might know them, The children who would be born, That they may arise and declare them to their children.”*
- b. The truth of God’s involvement in the founding and history of our nation... is not being taught in the classrooms of America today.
- c. Today revisionists with a godless agenda... are attempting to rewrite American history... and erase the God of the Bible from the history of our nation.
- d. Notice that Asaph... the writer of this Psalm... called upon the fathers ... the parents of Israel’s children... to teach the history of God’s great work for Israel.
- e. In America today... if our children are going to learn about God’s involvement in this great nation... we cannot rely on what is being taught to our children in America’s schools.

- f. If the next generation is going to learn the true history of America ... it is going to be up to parents... Pastors... the church... God's people ... and honest Americans to teach them.
- g. What is the true history of America?... we know that on July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence... the founding document of our nation was signed.
- h. While this document was a declaration of independence from an earthly, despotic power... it was more importantly a declaration of dependence upon Almighty God.
- i. The ACLU... the humanists... and the antigod establishment in charge of America's education... do not want our children to know that... that is why in modern history textbooks used in our schools... very little is said about the Declaration of Independence... the founding document of our nation.
- j. The Declaration of Independence begins... "We hold these truths to be self evident that all men... are endowed by their Creator."
- k. The founders of America believed in a Creator... and they believed in creation.
- l. How far have we wandered from God in our country?... you can't even teach about the Creator or creation in public schools today.
- m. Listen to how the Declaration of Independence closes... "With a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence. We mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, our sacred Honor."
- n. More than a Declaration of Independence from Great Britain... the Declaration of Independence was a declaration of dependence upon Almighty God.
- o. In 1778... James Madison, the architect of our federal Constitution and the fourth president of the United States said... "We have staked the whole future of American civilization, not upon the power of

government, far from it. We have staked the future... upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves... to sustain ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God.”

- p. That is the architect of our Constitution who said that... how then can the U.S. Supreme court rule that posting the Ten Commandments on the walls of our courthouses and classrooms is unconstitutional?
- q. On April 30th 1789... George Washington in his first inaugural address said... “We are no less persuaded that the propitious smile of Heaven can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right which Heaven itself has ordained.”
- r. George Washington was saying that without the help of God ... without faith in and reliance on God... America as a free and blessed nation ... cannot exist.
- s. In December 1820... Daniel Webster said... “Let us not forget the religious character of our origin. Our fathers were brought to this land by their veneration for the Christian religion. They journeyed by its light, and labored in its hope. They sought to incorporate its principles... and to diffuse its influence through all their institutions, civil, political, or literary.”
- t. On July 4, 1821... President John Quincy Adams said... “The highest glory of this American revolution was this: it connected in one indissoluble bond the principles of civil government with the principle of Christianity.”
- u. On July 8, 1845... President Andrew Jackson said... “The Bible is the rock upon which our republic rests.”
- v. I could go on... with example after example... giving evidence of God’s involvement in the founding and the protection of this nation.

- w. But that is not what our children are being taught today... in many ways our children are being taught to hate America... and the God who made America possible.
- x. If our children are going to learn the truth about the history of our nation... it is going to be up to us to teach them.
- y. What about the separation of church and state?... while the founders of our nation believed there should be no single national denomination supported by and given preference by the state... they did not believe in the separation of God and government.
- z. On the contrary... the founders of our nation believed that without a firm faith and reliance upon the God of the Bible... America as a free nation would not last.

III. WE NEED TO RECOGNIZE THE GREATEST DANGER TO OUR NATION-

- a. Our nation today faces many enemies... in the world.
- b. Militarily our nation is strong... we are well equipped to defend ourselves from any attack... our nation's strong military... is a deterrent to our enemies.
- c. But the greatest threat that our nation faces does not come from another country... the greatest threat our nation faces today... is the judgment of God.
- d. If God brought devastating judgment on His chosen nation of Israel... we need not doubt that He can and He will bring judgment on our own nation if we do not repent.
- e. Asaph said there were three things that brought God's judgment on Israel ... and America today is guilty of all three.
- f. #1, As Israel turned its back on God... so has America in many ways.

- g. *Psalm 78:17 (KJV) “And they sinned yet more against him by provoking the most High in the wilderness.”*
- h. Instead of being thankful to God and faithful to God... instead of honoring the God who made our nation possible and who has blessed our nation.
- i. In a great way our nation has turned its back on God ... in a great way we have forsaken God... we have thumbed our nose at God... we are provoking God ... we are tempting God to judge us.
- j. Instead of honoring God... a growing number of people in America today laugh at God ... they mock God... they reject God ... and they even hate God.
- k. In verse 41 of Psalm 78... Asaph said that Israel had “limited” the Holy One of Israel.
- l. How had Israel limited God?... they put God in a box... they put God in the corner... they told God to stay out of their business and out of their lives...they told God they would call on Him if they needed Him.
- m. That is what we have done in America... we have taken God out of our schools... we have taken God out of our government... we have taken God out of our society... we have taken God out of our lives... we as a nation have put God in the corner ... we have told Him we will call on Him when we need Him.
- n. So every day in this nation we ignore God... we hate God... we reject God... until a tragedy hits...and then with all fervor we call on God to help us and protect us.
- o. God does not deserve to be in a box... He deserves to be on the throne of our nation.
- p. We elect a president every four years... but our nation has a King who is always on the throne... and we as a nation have rebelled against our King.

- q. Do not think for one minute that God will continue to be dishonored by this nation that He has blessed so greatly... unless we as a nation repent... His judgment will come.
- r. God does not want to judge America... God wants to bless America ... but if we keep going down the road we are going... one day our nation will reach the point of no return...and God's judgment will come.
- s. #2, As sin, evil, perversion and rebellion against God grew in Israel... so it is growing in America.
- t. Every day that goes by... the presence and acceptance of sin, evil, and perversion grows in America... America has become... Sodom and Gomorrah 2.0.
- u. More and more every day...our nation is forsaking... the values, virtues, morals and truths of the Bible.
- v. Every day there is a parade... at the Magic Kingdom in Disney World.
- w. Every day in America... the parade of evil, sin, perversion, profanity, and vanity... is growing wider and longer... homosexuality and abortion.
- x. #3, As Israel committed the sin of idolatry... so is America.
- y. Idolatry... the worship of idols... is not an Old Testament thing... idolatry is alive and well in America.
- z. A modern day idol is anything... good or bad... that a person puts in the place that only God should have in their life.
- aa. We live in a nation that worships money... possessions...power... self...pleasure... and a multitude of other things.

- bb. Some of the biggest idolaters in America today are professing Christians ... who give lip service to God ... but who put anything and everything in the world before God in their lives.
- cc. God is patient, kind and good... for years He reached out to Israel ... calling Israel to come back to Him... but finally Israel reached the point of no return... and God sent His judgment.
- dd. *Psalm 78:59-62 (NKJV) "When God heard this, He was furious, And greatly abhorred Israel, So that He forsook the tabernacle of Shiloh, The tent He had placed among men, And delivered His strength into captivity, And His glory into the enemy's hand. He also gave His people over to the sword, And was furious with His inheritance."*
- ee. The biggest danger to our nation today is the judgment of God... and it is coming unless we as a nation repent and turn back to Him.

IV. WE MUST RETURN TO GOD-

- a. God is already judging America... He is already letting us reap what we have sown.
- b. But unless we repent as a nation... a greater judgment will come ... so what can we do?
- c. The hope of America is not found in the politicians of Washington DC... it is not found in the statehouse in Atlanta.
- d. The hope of America... is found in God's people of America... what can we do?
- e. #1, We must pray for our nation... #2, We must live distinctive Christian lives... we must stop living wishy washy, worldly, compromised Christian lives with no commitment, no dedication, no fervor and no service.
- f. #3, We must be faithful and committed to God and His church... in a perverse world we must live holy lives.

- g. #4, We can and we must be salt and light... influencing our world for Christ... standing against the wrong... and standing for the right.
- h. #5, With courage and with boldness... we must proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ... we must love our neighbors with Christian love... we must be faithful to and committed to our churches.
- i. #6, We must quit treating our church as if it is optional... as if it is unimportant.

V. CONCLUSION-

- a. God loves our nation... He loves all nations and all people.
- b. I believe America is special... America is exceptional... America is God's gift to the world... but America is not exempt from judgment... Israel was not... and neither is America.
- c. You have a big meeting coming up... a meeting with God... what have you done with Jesus Christ?