

San Juan church of Christ

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What Does God's Word Say About... His Reign Over the Nations

The Psalmist's declaration should bring comfort to the Christian citizen: "God reigns over the nations; God sits on His holy throne" (Psm. 47:8). Christ's disciples, who are citizens of the United States, sometimes wonder, perhaps anxiously, about the outcome of war, the result of adversarial politics and the consequences of the waning morality of the public. Is the nation rapidly traversing the gulf from righteousness and God's blessing to the sort of wickedness that inevitably provokes God's wrath?

Bible students know the history of God's dealings with kingdoms, whether chosen Israel of old or any other kingdom during the course of time. The once chosen nation of Israel (Deut. 7:6) engulfed themselves in iniquity [lawlessness]. God promised, "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 I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14). When they would not, they were punished and scattered (1 Kings 14:15-16). God caused kings and armies of other nations to execute His wrath. The kings of Assyria thought that their conquering was of their own might, but the nation was just a pawn in the plan of the Almighty God (Isaiah 10:5-11). Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon was designated by God to be lifted up and have all nations serve him (Jer. 27:5-8), but that same Babylon would be quickly destroyed (Isaiah 13:6-20). "Sheol from beneath" would be "excited" about meeting this corrupt kingdom (Isa. 14:9).

Nebuchadnezzar had a dream that was interpreted by Daniel of a glorious tree chopped down, a predictor of his own temporary insanity (Dan. 4:30-33) which taught him the lesson of the ages: "That the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind, and bestows it [kingdoms] on whom He wishes and sits over it the lowliest of men" (Dan. 4:17).

This lesson of God's wrath on kingdoms and rulers due to their disobedience are not lost in the Old Testament times. Paul wrote, "He has made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries [can anyone say "borders" ?] of their habitation" (Acts 17:26).

The lesson from Jeremiah, of the potter and the clay still holds true today. The Lord said: "At one moment I might speak concerning a nation or concerning a kingdom to uproot, to pull down, or to destroy it; if that nation against which I have spoken turns from its evil, I will relent concerning the calamity I planned to bring on it. Or at another moment I might speak concerning a nation or concerning a kingdom to build up or to plant it; if it does evil in My sight by not obeying My voice, then I will think better of the good with which I had promised to bless it" (Jer. 18:7-10).

If America continues its degradation into immorality, materialism and violence, God's judgment may come sooner rather than later. "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people" (Prov. 14:34). The intensifying evil of the land is reason for Christians to be active in government within the constraints of godliness and lawfulness (Matt. 22:15-22; Rom. 13:1-6; Acts 5:29). It is reason to exercise Constitutional freedom of speech and freedom of religion for the good of our fellow citizens. It is reason to vote for candidates who come "closest" to the standing of principles of life and godliness. This is reason to write Senators and Representatives with concerns from a Biblical perspective. This is part of the Christian's responsibility to obey the Great Commission (Matt. 28:19-20). For if more are converted to obedience of God's will through His word, perhaps more godliness will produce a repentant heart in the sight of God. Nineveh repented from the top ruler on down (Jonah 3). Could America hope for the same?

What if the godly could only come up with a minority of votes and the future policies were determined by the immoral, the idolatrous and the humanistic? What if fraudulent climate change, evolutionary theory, legal abortion and sexual deviation were to continue to be approved by our appointed government officials? Jesus said the righteous should be "the light of the world, a city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand...Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven" (Matt. 5:13-16). This is our only hope!

Please send any comments, questions, or requests for a Bible study to:
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