

“Evaluating America”

Most of us place a high value on "personal" messages. Like form letters and mass mailings are the norm in our daily lives today. It is always refreshing to receive a "personal" note from a person or organization. Specially, if it is hand written.

Some have made a concerted effort to make their mailings seem to be "one-of-a-kind." Today it is difficult to tell what is personal correspondence and what is "mass mailing."

Sometimes it may seem the same with scripture, God's written word. Many televangelist get confused when the Bible writes about Israel. Is it talking about just the Jews? Is it talking about the nation of Israel? Is it speaking of England – Canada – Australia, ect – etc? Or is it referring to America? Spiritual speaking it is a blanket statement to all nation of the world !

Today, we want to narrow subject on Israel, down to the United States of America, by asking, “What would God say to America if He spoke audibly to us?”

I believe He would remind us of Proverbs 14: verse 34, “Righteousness exalts a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.” These truths hold true for any nation today. History is littered with the echoes of failed nations. Nineveh, the Egyptian dynasty, Greece, the Roman empire.

Today, the United States is a proof text for that verse! To see that we will divide Proverbs 14: 34, thoughts into four sections. The first word of Proverbs 14: 34 is "**Righteousness.**" It is a word seldom spoken of outside of conservative churches.

Today. We “Do not”hear our politicians speak: about righteousness. Nor do we hear the news media say anything about righteousness. There are at least three implications of the word, **righteousness**. One. It implies sovereignty. If there is such a thing as righteousness, then someone sovereign must determine what it is.

Humankind has a varied idea of righteousness. Man alone could never in a life time agree on what is righteous and what is unrighteous.

God, however, is an authority on

righteousness. Notice Psalm 71: 19, "Thy righteousness also, O God, is very high, who has done great things: O God, who is like unto You?" Now look at Psalm 98: and verse 2, "The Lord has made known His salvation: His righteousness has He openly showed in the sight of the heathen."

Implication two ; righteousness implies a standard. Society today does not want a standard; they will not even acknowledge that one exists. Lying is ok -- truth is evil. What does God thinks about that standard ? Read Jer 9: 3, “And they bend their tongues like their bow for lies: but they are not valiant for the truth upon the earth; for they proceed from evil to evil, and they know not Me, saith the Lord. Verses 5 and 6, And they will deceive every one his neighbour, and will not speak the truth: they have taught their tongue to speak lies, and

wear themselves to commit iniquity. Thine habitation is in the midst of deceit; through deceit they refuse to know Me, saith the Lord.”

This is the main reason that the word of God has been attacked and ridiculed by unbelievers! Turn again

to the Psalm. Psalms 119: 40, "Behold, I have longed after Your precepts: quicken me in Your Righteousness." Look at Psalm 119: 142, "Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and Your Law is the truth."

At the founding of our nation, the Bible was held in high esteem. There are both direct and indirect quotations in the correspondence of the founding fathers.

The **third thought of righteousness implies “straightness.”** It is one thing to admit that there is a standard, and it is quite another to make that standard your own pet. The word in our Bible implies a personal righteousness, and a personal morality.

The Judeo-Christian moral principles has guided our nation from its founding up, until this



generation in which we live. Our forefathers chose the righteousness of the Bible as its guiding light. Notice Moses exhortation to obedience in Deut. 4: 5, "Behold, I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as the Lrd my Gd commanded me, that you should do so in the land Wither you go to possess it."

Who can doubt that the United States of America has been exalted among the nations? Some Americans, like Nebuchadnezzar in the book of Daniel, takes the credit for such exaltation. The mentality is that we somehow deserve the greatness and power of our past. That is a sad mistake to make. America has been exalted and blessed because of God's love and mercy, not because of our goodness and personal holiness thinking!

Let us examine the word — "**exalted**" a little more closely to determine just what God means in the term – most "Righteousness" exalts a nation ... !" A exalted nation is set - apart. One of the meanings of the word "exalted" is "to be lifted up, to be made high." The Bible teaches us that God Himself is exalted, the Holy scripture is exalted, and the house of Israel is exalted above the heathen nations.

In Psalms 46: 10, we find a promise that the righteous nation also will be lifted up and made high. "Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth." Psalms 37: 34, God tell us we will be exalted also: "Wait on the Lord, and keep His way, and He shall exalt you to inherit the land: when the wicked are cut off, you shalt see it."

There is no nation in the history of the world which has been lifted up and exalted more than the United States of America! The United States has dominated history throughout the 20th century. Another sub – meaning of the word "**exalt**" is "To raise high as an in accessible fortress, out of the reach of danger." Psalm 32:7, "You [Lord] art my hiding place; You shalt preserve me from trouble; You shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance." Psalms 119: 114 follows up by saying, "Thou art my hiding place and my shield: I hope in Your word."

Many nations have been destroyed by their enemies or by God Himself through natural disasters, plagues, pestilence, war. Unbelief have destroyed many countries, but U.S. will celebrates her birthday next July 4th.

What a testament that is to God's protection and

preservation! An exalted nation is seen as being strong.

Another shade of meaning of the word "exalt" is to triumph over its enemies. A mere glance at the **history** of America will reveal the hand of God's protection watching over us in war and in peace. Think of the odds of the colonies defeating the most powerful nation in the 18th century world, the British Empire, yet, it happened.

We take for granted our victory in the Revolutionary War. We assume that our power then resembled our power today. Not true! It was a miracle from God that America gained her freedom from England. Why did the civil war not tear this nation apart? Could it have been the protection of God? In World War II, America took on much of the world, essentially single handedly and assured freedom throughout the globe.

There was a time when our citizens proudly said, "America has never lost a war!" That's history now! We must give God the glory for past victories, for He has protected us. Psalms 144: 1 gives us some insight, [on this subject]. "Blessed be the Lord my strength, which teaches my hands to War, and my fingers to fight"

Knowing there is two sides to every story we will now look at "the revolt of a nation" and how "Sin" plays its part. We will find this depressing aspects of God's promise to "any nation." Remember the verse we started this sermon with: "As surely as righteousness exalts a nation, sin destroys it" (Proverbs 14: 34).

Today, many people want a "buffet-style" religion. They want a God who is merciful, loving and kind. The God of Christianity fulfills that desire. But the God of mercy and love is also the God of judgment and damnation. People turn away from such a God.

But here is the problem. This verse is a coupled, having two parts. The parts are opposite and contrasting. One cannot be accepted without the other. They stand together as a testimony of God's unapproachable holiness. The truth is that God will judge sin! He will not wink at it, forget it, or misplace His records. To understand this truth, let us examine the meaning of the word "Sin."

Sin is an undisciplined aim. To sin is "to miss the mark, as an archer misses his target." Psalm 2: 1, "Help, Lord; for the godly man cease; for the faithful fail from among the children of men." Mankind is bound to fail, seeing we are only flesh. But our sinful

nature is not an excuse. Missing God's mark is the result of an undisciplined aim, a careless shot at God's perfection.

America does not demand greatness of itself anymore. Nor does it honor what is good and right. Contrariwise, we honor and reward the evil and the liars of this world. Look at our culture. The "bad guy, is now the norm; the "good guy" is the potential hypocrite who bears watching and called a terrorist.

In God's word sin is an unwise assurance. Another meaning of "sin" is "to stumble, to err from the path again, it seems that we have a built in excuse. Which of us has not stumbled from the path through no fault of our own? It is human nature to fail, and to stumble at times. Our stumbling and erring from the path comes from a false assurance, a careless attitude.

America has taken for granted the blessings of God, assuming that He will continue to bless and protect us in spite of our sin. Psalm 59:12, "For the sin of their mouth and the words of their lips let them even be taken in their pride." Sin is ungrateful, actions. The crown meaning of "sin" is an outright transgression, and rebellion against God's word. "Daniel 9: 11 tells us, "Yea, all Israel have transgressed God's law, even by departing, that they might not obey Thy voice; therefore the curse is poured upon us ... because we have sinned against God."

The clearest of all definition of sin is 1 John 3:4, "Whosoever commits sin transgresses also the law: for Sin is the transgression of the law." God's laws!! Continuing our thoughts on the verse we started the sermon with in Proverbs 14: 34, "Righteousness exalts a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people." The reproach of a nation. " The first mention of the word "reproach" in our English Bible can be found in Genesis 30:23, "And she [Eve] conceived, and bare a son; and said, God has taken away my reproach." Eve had borne a son whom she expected to be the promised Messiah. Her "reproach" was the curse that God placed on her, because of Adam's sin. Sin brings a reproach, whether it is in the life of the individual or in the time line of a nation.

Looking at different meanings of scripture **when thinking of reproach:** Number one definition of reproach is: "to be brought low, to go from the heights to the depths." In Nehemiah 1:3, is found an example that Nehemiah reported, "The remnant that

are left of the captivity there in the Province are in great affliction and **reproach:** the wall of Jerusalem also is broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire." Israel's sin had caused them to go into captivity and now their capital city stood in ruins. The remnant was brought low by their sin.

We too, have been brought from the heights to the lows by the sins of the house of Israel. God is bound to judge sin. He will not turn a blind eye to America's folly, as He judges Israel [house of Israel] and the gentile nations. Think of how often God had to destroyed cities because of homosexuality. Tens of thousands marched in gay parades! Notice God's clear thinking about that parade. Gen 6:5,"And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the Earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." **Verse 12,** And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; For all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth." God's answer for this sin Sodom and Gomorrah comes to my mind. **Dishonored** is another definition of "reproach." It means "to be ridiculed, to rail on, to revile."

In I Samuel 17:26 a young David said, " ... what shall be done to the man that kills this Philistine, and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the Living God?" Israel was powerless in the face of Goliath and the Philistines. They were ridiculed and reviled by their inability to control the situation at that time. Goliath mocked the army of Israel and the whole nation.

America knows something about such disgrace. As we look at the disasters of Biden administration, we see the nations of the world mocking us. We were the richest and most developed nation in the world, but we are reviled by much of the world. The Muslim nations and communist nations thinking like China and Russia have little respect for our system of government or our culture.

We were reviled and ridiculed by the former Soviet Union until God brought them low, we can not think that the same thing cannot happen to us. Now Russia is rising again!

Defeated, is the final definition of "reproach." It means "to pluck or strip away all that is good." Our culture today is in the process of doing just that. Our defeats are coming from the hands of foreign invader, who has built a shadow government that lies, back

stabs and cause division. They are no longer thought of as Americans. "The shadow government," secret government that our former president Obama trained speaks of splintering people into competing special interests groups. Now president Biden is following in Obama's foot steps! Politicians pit one group against another. Racism pits one group against another. These are the things that weaken America, they keep us divided.

The city of AI in history was a little speck on the map of the Israelite army. After the great victory at Jehrico, Israel thought AI would be a simple campaign, a "mopping up" exercise, but the sin of one man brought defeat.

I believe there is another sin that is defeating America. It is found in the street corner churches. And yes, I recognize our culture is rotten; and our society is eaten up with evil. But the church going "Achans" are hoarding up the world's gold and garments and allowing the "gospel truth" to fall short of its assigned task.

America has been great because of God. If we fall, it will be because of our failure to honor God as our sovereign authority and Lord. Do we have to watch America, our beloved land become mired in the slough of compromises and fearfulness?

It is God's called out servants that must standup for what is right! We must not fear the wrath of man or the condemnation of sinners. They hated our Lord of lords and King of kings, Jesus the Christ. If we are the light which exposes their evil, they will hate us as well. What would God's personal message to America be if He spoke to us audibly in this day? I believe He would say, "Righteousness exalts a nation: but sin is a reproach to any People."

Let us pray for our land and resolve to do our best to make America great again. But, we must keep in mind if we achieve anything, it is God which must accomplish it! 🙏

James Russell

This sermon was given in 2012. It was up-dated in 2021 by Cogit.



Ps 51:8-19

Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.

9 Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities.

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

11 Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.

12 Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

13 Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.

14 Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness.

15 O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

16 For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering.

17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

18 Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion: build thou the walls of Jerusalem. 🙏

King James version