

## THE BIBLICAL INDICTMENT OF AMERICA

World history confirms what the Bible boldly declares: the establishment and future of a city, territory, nation or an empire, is determined by the Lord, concerning the creation of a nation. We are told in Acts 17:26, "And He (God) has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their pre-appointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings."

The prophet Jeremiah explains in his book how the future of a nation - is determined., "The instant I speak concerning a nation and concerning a Kingdom, to pluck up, to pull down, and to destroy it, if that nation against whom I have spoken turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I thought to bring upon it." Continuing with this thought in verses 9 -10, "And the instant I speak concerning a nation and concerning a Kingdom, to build and to plant it, if it does evil in My sight so that it does not obey My voice, then I will relent concerning the good with which I said I would benefit It" (Jer 18:7-10).

This article will be looking into the epic tales of two infamous cities, **Nineveh and Jerusalem.** It will be looking at these two comparison cities to determine for us which one of these locations best characterizes America's current spiritual condition.

If such a historical comparison can be applied now, Then the relevant question is? Should Americans find hope in Jeremiah 18: verses 7 - 8, with the story of Nineveh at the time of Jonah, or feel despair in the story of Jeremiah 18: 9 - 10, which describes Jerusalem at the time of the Babylonian conquest?

To determine the answer, lets propose the examination of these two cities, that will be address as **"The Nineveh behavior"** and **"The Jerusalem behavior."** We will begin by looking at "the Nineveh behavior" first.

It seems in many ways America is like Nineveh. The wickedness of Nineveh was so great that God effectively said it was recognized up in heaven in Jonah 1: 2, "The sin of Nineveh has come before Me." America is at such a state today! The Nineveh behavior has its origin in the 8th century BC, before Jeremiah 18: 7-10 was written. It is rooted in 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 I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

These words spoken primarily dealt with the Lord's response to King Solomon's petition for the

protection of the nation of Israel around 957 BC. They apparently also laid the groundwork for the Lord's treatment toward other nations, around this time. The Assyrian city of Nineveh at the time of Jonah about 760 BC proclaim this.

Nineveh, the capital city of the Assyrian empire was ultimately destroyed around 612 BC, however the empire had become exceedingly evil long before it came to its end. At the height of its wickedness, the Lord sent Jonah, a prophet, to warn Nineveh's of a fast approaching destruction. "And Jonah began to enter the city on the first day's walk. Then He cried out and said, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" (Jonah 3: 4). Jonah's warning was well received by the king and the people of Nineveh. They took it upon themselves to turn from their evil ways and Nineveh received a stay of execution. Verse 10 we read "Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it" (Jonah 3: 10).

The Assyrians at that time have never been classified as "My people." The fact that they repented and turned from their evil ways changed, their spiritual standing with the Lord.

With the historical precedents of 2 Chronicles 7:14 and Jonah 3:10 already in place, Jeremiah 18:7-8 reinforces this Nineveh principle: "If an evil people repent and turn from their wicked ways, the Lord will relent from bringing disaster upon them."

Lets now examine the sharp contrast of the Nineveh behavior to **"The Jerusalem behavior."** The Jerusalem behavior applies when a nation reaches a point of no return and the Lord determines that its destruction will not be postponed. This happened to the city of Jerusalem, and the southern kingdom of Judah, about 2700 years ago, during the time of the Hebrew prophet Jeremiah.

**Three times** Jeremiah was told to stop praying for the people of Judah. [The house of Judah.] Jer. 7:16, "Therefore do not pray for this people, nor lift up a cry or prayer for them, nor make intercession to Me; for I will not hear you. Do you not see what they do in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem?

We find this repeated again in Jer 11: 14, "So do not pray for this people, or lift up a cry or prayer for them; for I will not hear them in the time that they cry out to Me because of their trouble."

The third time witnessed, is said in Jer. 14:11-12, "Then the Lord said to me, "do not pray for this people, for their good. When they fast, I will not hear their cry; and when they offer burnt offering and grain offering, I will not accept them. But I will consume them by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence."

After Jeremiah received his instructions to quit praying for the people of Judah, he forewarned them of their impending judgment. The people were captured and transported into Babylonian captivity, where they remained for seventy years. Their homeland sat desolated during that period. Jer 25:4 thru 8 and verse 11. "And the Lord has sent to you all His servants the prophets, rising early and sending them, but you have not listened nor inclined your ear to hear. They said, [the prophets said] "Repent now everyone of his evil way and his evil doings, and dwell in the land that the Lord has given to you and your fathers forever and ever. Do not go after other gods to serve them and worship them, And do not provoke Me to anger with the works of your hands; and I will not harm you.' Yet you have not listened to Me, says the Lord of hosts: because you have not heard My words. **Dropping down to verse 11**, "And this whole land shall be a desolation and an astonishment, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years."

In God's foreknowledge, the Lord knew that the house of Judah would not have a Nineveh or 2 Chronicles 7:14 moment of repentance! Jeremiah's intercessory prayers on behalf of Judah would have no effect on the Lord's decision and he was told to cease praying for the people. The Lord explained why in Jer 7: 27, "Therefore you (Jeremiah) shall speak all these words to them, (In Judah) but they will not obey you. You shall also call to them, but they will not answer you."

Has anything changed today? NO, in essence, Jeremiah was informed that the people of Judah would not respond to his warnings in the similar way that the people of Nineveh did to Jonah's fore warnings as for the providing of forgiveness that we read earlier given in Jeremiah 18: 7-8, that said, "The instant I speak concerning a nation and concerning a Kingdom, to pluck up, to pull down, and to destroy it, if that nation against whom I have spoken turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I thought to bring upon it."

If the house of Judah would have repented, like Nineveh did, then the Lord would certainly have relented from judgment. However, due to their evil doings and disobedience the Lord implemented the provision of judgment according to Jeremiah 18: 9 - 10, which was ultimately executed through the Babylonian conquest. "And the instant I speak concerning a nation and concerning a Kingdom, to build and to plant it, If it does evil in My sight so that it does not obey My voice, then I will relent concerning the good with which I said I would benefit it."

The people of Judah forsook their God Jehovah and became idolatrous. Jeremiah 19: verse, 4 thru - 9, provides the indictment of and verdict for the house of Judah. These verses paint a graphic picture of despair and they are summarized in Jeremiah 19.

We will notice first "The indictment of Judah," found in Jeremiah 19: 4 - 5). "Because they have forsaken Me and made this an alien place, because they have burned incense in it to other gods whom neither they, their fathers, nor the kings of Judah have known, and have filled this place with the blood of the innocents (5) They have also built the high places of Baal, to burn their sons with fire for burnt offerings to Baal, which I did not command or speak, nor did it come into My mind." (NKJV).

Next we read the verdict for Judah. A judgment in the form of a slaughter would come.

Reading now, Jeremiah 19:6 - 9. "Therefore behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, that this place shall no more be called Tophet or the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, but the Valley of Slaughter. (7) And I will make void the counsel of Judah and Jerusalem in this place, and I will cause them to fall by the sword before their enemies and by the hands of those who seek their lives; their corpses I will give as meat for the birds of the heaven and for the beasts of the earth. (8) I will make this city desolate and a hissing; everyone who passes by it will be astonished and hiss because of all its plagues. (9) And I will cause them to eat the flesh of their sons and the flesh of their daughters, and everyone shall eat the flesh of his friend in the siege and in the desperation with which their enemies and those who seek their lives shall drive them to despair." (NKJV).

It is important to note here that the Lord told Adam and Eve in Genesis 1:22, 28, and Noah and his three sons in Genesis 9:1,7, to be fruitful and multiply upon the earth. The goal was to populate the earth with Godly offspring. Contrary to the Lord's command, the people of Judah were murdering and ultimately reduced to eating their children!

The Jerusalem principle depicts what has historically happened when judgment and destruction occurs to an evil people who forsake the Lord.

We need now to look at America's indictment because America has taken God out of the public debate. As God's called we need to put Him back in! We are witnessing today a famine of God's word. We are living and seeing God's teachings trampled on!

Was this predicted to happen? Notice Amos 8:11-12, "Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord God, that I will send a famine on the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, **but of hearing the words of the Lord**. They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; They shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the Lord, but shall not find it."

Throughout history, nations and empires have been judged and destroyed for transgressing Biblically defined moral and spiritual boundaries! Boundaries such as: sexual perversion; idol worship; wickedness and moral decadence!

America is in the danger zone! It has crossed every forbidden Biblical boundary and in so doing has forsaken God. Over the past sixty years, we have seen America transgressed dangerous boundaries.

In 1962, we saw the removal of prayer in the public schools by the Supreme Court.

In1963, we watched the removal of Bible reading in public schools by the Supreme Court.

In 1973, we witnessed legalized abortions by the Supreme Court.

Since then, America has performed over 60 million abortions. Presently about 1 million abortions occur every year in America.

From 1980 and forward, posting a copy of the Ten Commandments on the wall in public classroom were unlawful. Having the 10 Commandments in front of court houses were ruled unlawful.

In 2013, the Supreme Court struck down the defense of marriage act (doma).

In 2015, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of same sex marriages. That is God's final law before a nation falls!

The former U.S. president Barack Hussein Obama was the most pro-abortion, pro-homosexual, and anti-religious president in America's history! He has advanced a famine of God's teachings in this Judaio/Christian nation of America, while trying to hand the USA over to the United Nations, to be our government overseer.

These <u>forewarning</u> have come in the forms of judgments, prophetic voices, and ultimately by giving them the ungodly leaders they deserve. **For instance**, in 2015 - the Obama White House administration had turned its back on Israel.

Remember the Iran nuclear deal that Obama believed was a good deal! So good he gave them a pot load of our money (billions) by night under cover to Iran! Israeli prime minister Netanyahu believed it was the worst deal imaginable. A poll conducted at that time by the panels politics in Tel Aviv, confirmed the concerns that Israel was having about US president Barrack Obama. The poll overwhelmingly rated him as the worst president for Israel to deal with in the last 30 years.

The Lord has provided ample warnings to the USA that we are headed for destruction, because of our sins! Isa 58:1, "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew My people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins."

At this point, we have looked at two city characters Nineveh was first and then we checked into the city of Jerusalem.

Which of these two cities does the United States of America most resemble today? Forgiven Nineveh or judged Jerusalem? Most would agree that once upon a time the Lord planted, built up and blessed this nation the USA.

This would connect the USA with Jeremiah 18:9 which says, "And the instant I speak concerning a nation and concerning a Kingdom, to build and to plant it." It appears safe to also suggest that from the lawless Supreme Court decisions provided earlier. America has "Taken God out of the public debate." If the Lord's voice is not even in the public debate, then how can we be obeying the Lord's say-so, in the important matters of this country? If we are not obeying the Lord's commands then we are doing evil in His sight.

This would connect us to look like that of Sodom and Gomorrah at the time of Abraham around 2000 BC. Which in its worst conditions led to children being sacrificed, which resulted in the destruction of the Northern Kingdom of Israel in 722 BC and the Southern Kingdom of Judah in 586 BC, which caused the ultimate destruction of the Assyrian empire about 612 BC, by the Babylonians and Medes. Which led to the destruction of the Egyptian army at the time of Moses about 3500 BC.

Pagan nation mistreating Abraham's children, "The children of Israel" will be cursed according to Genesis 12: 2 - 3, "And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and you shalt be a blessing: and I will bless them that bless you, and curse him that curses you: and in you shall all families of the earth be blessed." This policy pertains to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and their descendants, "the house of Israel" "And the house of Judah" today.

Blessings are in store for those who treat the house of Israel favorably, but troubles are guaranteed to them that curse the house of Israel. In every instance the destructions caused unbearable sufferings and hardships to everyone, including believers in God and unbelievers, that did not heed the prophetic warnings given in advance by the Hebrew prophets.

Notice Daniel 5: 24, "Mene, mene, tekel, upharsin. God has numbered your kingdom, and finished it; you have been weighed in the balances, and found wanting; your kingdom has been divided."

June 26, 2015, is when the Supreme Court approved same sex marriages and gay rights got their way! **That was Sodom and Gomorrah last sin!** Read Jeremiah 18:10, in connection with the U.S.A. "If it (a nation like the USA) does evil in My sight so that it does not obey My voice, then..."(then what?) "then I will relent concerning the good with which I said I would benefit it" (Jer. 18:10).

Let's now substitute America for Jerusalem and Judah in Jeremiah 7:16 to see if the shoe fits. "Therefore do not pray for this people, nor lift up a cry or prayer for them, nor make intercession to me; for I will not hear

you. Do you not see what they do in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem?" Paraphrasing this verse for potential American application. "Therefore do not pray for the Americans, nor lift up a cry or prayer for them, nor make intercession to Me; for I will not hear you. Do you not see the forbidden biblical boundaries their supreme court has crossed over in the city of Washington DC, the sale of aborted baby body parts by planned parenthood of the Pacific Southwest, and the gay pride parades in the streets of San Francisco and San Diego?"

We ask? Will America have a Nineveh or Jerusalem experience? Is it possible that the historical example of Nineveh could be repeated in America? If indeed America is headed for a disaster? Could America receive a similar pardon from the Lord? The answer is yes, but the Lord does not issue "get out of jail free" cards, like in the game of Monopoly.

Americans and its leaders must sincerely emulate the actions of Nineveh in order for the Lord to relent from destroying the nation. American's must surly repent first!

I'm not saying that Americans should stop praying for their country, nor am I suggesting that Americans will become so desperate that they will someday eat their sons and daughters. In fact, Ezekiel said Ezekiel 5: 9 -10, that it was a one-time episode for Judah that would not be repeated. "And I will do among you (Jerusalem) what I have never done, and the like of which I will never do again, because of all your abominations. Therefore, fathers shall eat their sons in your midst, and sons shall eat their fathers; and I will execute judgments among you, and all of you who remain I will scatter to all the winds."

What is being asked of America to consider? **Read again "Isa 59:1-2,** "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear. And in **Verse 4,** "No one calls for justice, nor does any plead for truth. They trust in empty words and speak lies; they conceive evil and bring forth Iniquity." **Verses 13 to 15,** "In transgressing and lying against the Lord, and departing from our God, speaking oppression and revolt, conceiving and uttering from the heart words of falsehood. Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands afar off; For truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter. So truth fails."

Does America have a national repentance forthcoming in the near future? If the answer is yes, then America will most resemble forgiven Nineveh and Jeremiah 18: 7 - 8. That reads, "The instant I speak concerning a nation and concerning a Kingdom, to pluck up, to pull down, and to destroy it, if that nation against whom I have spoken turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I thought to bring upon it."

If the answer is no, then what? Then, at the very least, the Lord will no longer bless this nation and America's greatness will never return!

Only God, who knows the end from the beginning, knows America's final verdict! "Remember the former things of old, for I am God, and there is no Other; I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure" (Isaiah 46: 9 - 10). James Russell