

IS AMERICA RIPE FOR DIVINE JUDGMENT? - PART 1

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Hollywood Elites And Transgenderism, America Is A Sinful And Sick Nation, American Entertainment Filth Shore To Shore, To Many Foreigners Hollywood Represents America To The World, We Are To Learn From The Past, An Overly Rigid And Legalistic Approach To Understanding The Scriptures, The Importance Of Comparing Verse With Verse, Drawing Important Lessons From The Scriptures, Let Every Man Be Fully Persuaded In His Own Mind, Not Written To You But Still Written For You, Parallels In Our Modern Times, Book Of Jeremiah And Parallels To The United States, A Just Righteous Fair Merciful God, Individual Judgment And National Judgment, God's Multiple Dealings With Ancient Israel, Judgment Begins At The House Of God, America Is Ripe For National Judgment, Widespread Sin And Rebellion In America, June 26, 2015: USA Passed The Point Of No Return, My 1970s Experience In Denver, Subtle Decades Long Slide Into Rebellion And Sin, Just Leave Us Alone, LGBTQ+ Agenda Down Through The Decades, Some Parents Fighting Back, Whole World Lieth In Wickedness, A Crooked And Perverse Nation, America's Corruption, Sinful Nation Laden With Iniquity, We Can't Just Ignore It, Inevitable Judgment, God's Patience And Mercy With Wicked, God Doesn't Afflict Willingly, Desire For Repentance

After reading a certain news feed post which claimed that according to a recent study, 94% of the children of American celebrities identify as transgender or non-binary, I posted the following comment as a reply:

----- Begin Quote -----

America is spiritually sick, plain and simple, and she is in rebellion against God. Consider what the Prophet Isaiah wrote:

"Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward. Why should ye be stricken

any more? ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment."

Isaiah 1:4-6, KJV

----- End Quote -----

While a number of the other participants who were engaged in the comment thread quickly agreed with my assessment, there was one particular individual who stated that I was in error -- according to him at least -- by assuming that Hollywood represents the United States of America. He insisted that it was not so. To be honest, I was surprised by his response, and so I questioned him by responding with the following:

----- Begin Quote -----

"Are you suggesting that America is not spiritually sick? Are you suggesting that the verses I quoted should not be applied to America? Are you not aware that Hollywood TV shows and movies broadcast their liberal filth not only from American shore to American shore, polluting the minds of millions of people, but that the very same filth is exported to many other nations all around the world?"

----- End Quote -----

So as I told this person, what I had stated was not just an assumption as he had claimed. In my view, it is an obvious fact. The truth is, my friends, that many non-Americans only know about America by what they see in Hollywood movies and television shows. So for such people, Hollywood does in fact represent America to them, whether we like it or not. Is it a complete, balanced picture of America? No, of course not. However, for many foreigners, it is all that they will ever see and know about America.

After explaining this to the aforementioned person, he again responded that, in his opinion at least, God does not care what people assume about the United States of America, based only on what a tiny percentage of people who control most of the mass media present to the world. Furthermore, he stated that he does not believe that God is going to judge American rural families who work hard on their farms, and who serve faithfully in their churches, based on all of the junk that

is broadcast in American commercials and television shows. In his view, that is not the God of the Bible. Furthermore, he stated that the Bible verses I quoted from the Book of Isaiah were meant for Israel, and thus shouldn't be applied to Christian era America.

Now, obviously, this person made some valid points which I do in fact agree with to a certain extent, and I told him as much. Yet at the same time, it seems to me that there are a few points which he is missing, or perhaps which he does not fully understand. To begin with, while it is indeed true that the verses I quoted were written regarding apostate Israel of many centuries ago, nevertheless, there's also something very important that we all need to remember. That is the fact that the Scriptures clearly teach us that we are supposed to learn from the past, so that we will not make the same mistakes as they did. This truth becomes rather evident in Bible verses such as the following:

"For whatsoever things were written aforetime WERE WRITTEN FOR OUR LEARNING, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope. Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus:"

Romans 15:4-5, KJV

"Now these things WERE OUR EXAMPLES, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted . . . Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and THEY ARE WRITTEN FOR OUR ADMONITION, upon whom the ends of the world are come."

1 Corinthians 10:6, 11, KJV

"Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are SET FORTH FOR AN EXAMPLE, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire."

Jude 1:7, KJV

So even though in quite a few instances certain Bible verses were directed to nations and peoples of the distant past, if we are wise, we will learn from their mistakes, and hopefully not repeat them. As I have mentioned before, the problem that I see is that there are many modern Christians who seem to take a very rigid and legalistic approach when it comes to reading and understanding God's Word. Such people place so much emphasis on making sure that they do not misinterpret

the Scriptures, that they go from one extreme to the other.

I am referring to the Christians who will frequently say "Oh, no. You are wrong. You are taking that verse out of context." Now please don't misunderstand what I am saying here. I have in fact taught for many years now that it is very important that we carefully and prayerfully compare verse with verse in order to arrive at a proper understanding. Furthermore, I've stated many times that it is because so many Christians fail to do this -- or don't even read the Bible at all -- they've become deceived by so many false doctrines.

But you see, my friends, there is likewise such a thing as taking this Bible study approach to such an extreme, that we could actually miss some things, and fail to grasp certain lessons that the Lord is trying to teach us by way of some verses. For me personally, the Bible is alive. As such, even if a certain group of verses is written to someone who lived long ago, or is directed to a nation which existed centuries ago, if I'm truly being led by God's Holy Spirit, it's still possible for me to draw important lessons from it. That is precisely what the previous group of Bible verses is talking about.

Let me give you a simple example by using a Bible verse with which some of you will be familiar. In Romans 14 the Apostle Paul dealt with a problem which arose when certain disciples were arguing about Jewish dietary habits and the observance of Jewish feast days. Some of the disciples were convinced that these practices were necessary, while others were not in agreement with them. Thus, in verse five Paul writes as follows:

"One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind."

Romans 14:5, KJV

Now, if I were to read that verse in a very rigid, legalistic manner, I might conclude that the verse really does not apply to me, because it was written to the Roman brethren, and also because it discusses Jewish kosher laws and feast days, but I am not a Jew. So I might dismiss the verse altogether. But I don't look at the verse in that manner. Even though the verse is directed to people who lived two thousand years ago, and addresses issues concerning Jewish customs, nevertheless, I can still glean an important lesson from it. That lesson is

in the fact that Paul says "Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind."

You see, my friends, that is an important lesson which I can apply to my own life two thousand years later today. From it, I can learn that regardless of what other people think, it is important that I'm persuaded in my own mind, and that I stand on my own faith and personal convictions. That is how I read the Bible. The Holy Scriptures are literally filled with such important lessons from beginning to end. They are a treasure house of knowledge. Yet if we adopt the rigid approach that I previously described to you, we may very well miss them. Well, sadly, there are in fact many Christians who do just that. I have encountered certain Christians over the years who refuse to even read the Old Testament. They'll say "Oh, that doesn't even apply to me. That was written for the Jews and ancient Israel."

Furthermore, directly related to this is the fact that many things which happened during Biblical times -- including in the Old Testament -- are still happening in our modern day, even if it is in a different form. In other words, there are some very clear historical parallels we can draw if we take the time to conduct an in-depth study of the Scriptures. For example, have you ever read the entire Book of Jeremiah? It describes the situation in Israel which led up to the three invasions by the armies of Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar. I am referring to the corrupt political leadership, the corrupt religious leadership, the idol worship, the child sacrifices, etc.

My friends, if you have never read this Book, you may be very surprised, and perhaps even shocked, to learn exactly to what degree the wicked path America is currently on, parallels the sins of ancient Israel. The very same can be said regarding the verses I shared earlier from the Book of Isaiah. In my view, the similarities are alarming, and they should serve as a serious warning call to America today. So the question we need to ask ourselves is this: Will we not reap the very same type of judgment if we continue along the same wicked path? This is in fact a topic I discuss in my article called "Don't Ever Underestimate Our Spiritual Enemy", among others. You'll find it listed at the end of this same article. Just click or tap on the link in order to read it.

Now concerning what the aforementioned person said regarding God not punishing American rural farmers for the sins which

are committed by the wicked Hollywood elite -- meaning their transgender children, among other things -- I agree with him. I too believe in a just, righteous, fair and merciful God. I do not believe that our Heavenly Father would judge such a God-fearing, Bible-believing family living on a farm in Iowa by laying the sins of the Hollywood elites on them. My view is that normally, God judges each of us for our OWN sins. Yet at the same time, the Bible also plainly teaches us that not only does God judge us as individuals, but He likewise judges nations as a whole as well. We see this happening many times throughout the pages of the Bible. There is such a thing as national accountability.

Now, being as we have been discussing ancient Israel in this article, just look at how the Lord punished the nation three times via the Assyrian, Babylonian and Roman invasions, which resulted in three Diasporas. As some of my readers will know, many thousands were killed. Many thousands were enslaved and carried off to other lands. Many cities, towns and villages were burned to the ground. Many thousands also died due to starvation, disease, betrayal and violence amongst their own peers, etc. These events all occurred as a result of their deep apostasy and rebellion against the Lord.

This does not even include the Israelites' other enemies such as the Philistines, the Midianites, etc. I discuss this topic in considerable depth in other articles such as "The Fruits of Disobedience", "Oh Israel, Why Will Ye Die?" and "You've Got It Wrong: Submit and Live!", which you will also find at the end of this same article. The point is, my friends, there clearly exists both individual judgment and national judgment as well. Furthermore, as the Apostle Peter informs us, when national judgment has been ordered by the Lord, it will begin with the Lord's judgment upon His very own Church first, as Peter writes in the following Bible verse:

"For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?"

1 Peter 4:17, KJV

My dear friends, as I explain in articles such as "Don't Ever Underestimate Our Spiritual Enemy", personally, for some time now, I have been convinced that the United States of America is ripe for just such national judgment as well, because she shamelessly and defiantly flaunts her sins in God's own face, just as the ancient Israelites did. Sadly, the individual I

was having an online exchange with appeared to downplay the severity of this problem in America. As I mentioned earlier, he remarked how a tiny percentage of powerful people control the mass media, thus seeming to infer that maybe the problem is not quite as big as we have been led to believe.

Honestly speaking, his view caused me to question if this individual truly understands how serious the problem has become, and how widespread sin and rebellion have grown in the United States. It was at this point, as I was writing this article, that I decided to directly visit his online account in order to learn a little more about him. What I discovered is that while he is an American, he actually lives and works in a ministry that is located in Mexico. That being the case, perhaps if he is very occupied with his ministry there, he honestly just isn't fully aware of how bad the situation has become within the USA. I really don't know for certain, but that would explain his view.

But for those of my readers who actually do live within the continental USA, and who probably have to confront and deal with this wickedness quite often, I am sure that you know full well that this evil of which I speak is NOT limited to just a small group of vociferous, liberal Hollywood elites who support transgenderism. Neither is it something simply imaginary which has been sensationalized and exaggerated by the mainstream media and the entertainment industry. There IS a wicked disease of sin and rebellion which has spread, and continues to spread, all across the American landscape. Maybe it hasn't reached every single corner of America yet, but given enough time, it probably will.

As I have mentioned before, I am personally convinced that the day that the Supreme Court of the United States ruled in favor of same-sex "marriage" all across the land on June 26, 2015, is the day that America symbolically slapped God right in the face, and passed the point of no return. That is the day that America plainly told God that she doesn't care what He thinks of her. That foolish ruling was a very defiant and bold statement. It was wicked America digging in her heels against God and saying "Come on God! Let's go at it!" So to me, this IS a national issue. This IS a national sin. It is NOT just a few Hollywood elites, or the mainstream media exaggerating the story. It is America's story!

My friends, just look at how much further we have slid down the slippery slope since that time. I remember when this all

began back during the 1970s. I was temporarily living in the city of Denver, Colorado at the time. Back then, the gay and lesbian community had begun a shrewd strategy to buy up and populate different apartment buildings around Denver. I was staying in one of them. One particular day as I was coming home, I passed by an apartment where the door was partially open. For some reason, I just happen to glance sideways, and I saw two gay guys inside kissing each other on the mouth. I think it was the very first time I had ever seen something like that. As a dedicated Christian, it absolutely disgusted me, and I have never forgotten it.

So as I said earlier, whether some people realize it or not, our nation has been slip sliding away in a state of rebellion for literally decades. However, this slide into sin has been so very slow, so gradual, and so subtle, that it wasn't until about halfway through the decade of the 2010s that a lot of people really started to wake up to what has been going on. However, sadly, by that time, it was already too late because serious damage had already been done, and the LGBTQ+ victory had already been won. As occurs in all wars -- and this is in fact a war, my friends -- what has been occurring since then basically amounts to mopping up exercises, and tying up some of the loose ends. And boy are they doing a good job of it!

For my younger readers who may not be fully aware of all of these things, and the actual progression of events, allow me to share with you a brief history. Five decades ago, back in the 1970s, the LGBTQ+ community first began making the false claim that they just wanted to be left alone to live their lives as they please, without harassment or discrimination. That was their mantra. "Just leave us alone. You don't bother us, and we won't bother you." It was a bald-faced lie. They had an agenda. They just weren't ready to reveal it yet.

Now for those of you may doubt that what I am saying is true, I invite you to read an article entitled "The Overhauling of Straight America" which appeared in the November 1987 edition of a pro-LGBTQ+ magazine called "Guide". You will find it in the "Gay and Lesbian Agenda" area of the "Non-BBB Articles" section of this same website. You will be shocked! So as I said, if we fast-forward fifty years, what we see is one long history of continuous lies, as the LGBTQ+ crowd aggressively advanced their radical, extreme agenda one step at a time. As I said, it began with the false claim of just wanting to be left alone. But then look at what happened. This list is not necessarily in chronological order:

- Then came so-called "gender reassignment surgery", also known as "gender affirmation surgery". These procedures are covered by both Medicaid and Medicare in some US states, while getting dentures for an elderly person is not. Do you see something wrong with this?
- Then came renegade, liberal circuit court judges who knowingly and repeatedly overturned and circumvented the will of decent, God-fearing, Bible-believing Americans who strongly and clearly opposed such wickedness.
- Then came renegade, liberal state legislatures who likewise knowingly and repeatedly overturned and circumvented the will of decent, God-fearing, Bible-believing Americans who strongly and clearly opposed such wickedness.
- Then came legalized civil unions which represented a half step towards the long-sought-for victory of full-fledged same-sex "marriage".
- Then, sadly, on June 26, 2015 came nationwide legalization of same-sex "marriage" by mandate of a foolish and very misguided Supreme Court of the United States, despite the majority of the American people still being quite opposed to it.
- Then came openly gay or lesbian bishops, pastors, priests, politicians, actors, sports figures, and everyone else in between. As a result, some church denominations experienced serious schisms and split up into separate denominations.
- Then came same-sex union blessings in some of the churches.
- Then came adoption of normal, healthy children by same-sex couples.
- Then came law suits against Christians and Conservatives who follow their hearts and their faith, and who oppose the LGBTQ+ sinful lifestyle.
- Then came school library books which openly promote the LGBTQ+ lifestyle.
- Then came gender-neutral bathrooms.
- Then came drag queen story hour in our public schools.

- Then came teaching LGBTQ+ history in the classroom.
- Then came liberal parents who encourage their children to act and dress like the opposite sex.
- Then came hormone injections, puberty-blocking drugs in young children, and double mastectomies on adolescent girls in order to alter their natural-born physiology so that they can appear outwardly the way that they were being made to feel inwardly by misguided adults and parents.
- Then came a gender-neutral option on birth certificates.
- Now they promote their ungodly, sinful lifestyle in every area of the entertainment and mass media industries where they possibly can, and constantly shove it in our faces. It is inescapable; unless one goes and lives in a cave.
- Now it has gotten so bad, that liberal local school boards, teachers and counselors aren't only promoting transgenderism, but they're actually encouraging young children to transition, and they are hiding it from the child's parents. How can this possibly be legal when the children are still minors and under the custody of their parents?
- Now, in more recent news, according to an article in The Washington Times, some liberal-minded schools aren't happy with just offering LGBTQ+ books in their school libraries. Now they want to FORCE young children with impressionable minds to read them, whether they or their parents like it or not.

Yes, but of course, as they first started saying back during the 1970s, they just wanted to be left alone, right? They would never go any further than that, right? They would never become so powerful, that they would actually bring lawsuits against decent, God-fearing people who refuse to bow to their will and wicked agenda, right? If you believe that nonsense, then you, my friend, are seriously deceived! These things are no longer just "if" scenarios. They are now established facts in our lives. Thankfully, some parents are fighting back and taking it to the US Supreme Court. If the justices accept the case, let's hope that the God-fearing justices on the bench will do what is right in the sight of God by giving these brave parents a victory.

So, my friends, what about us? What about our right to live in a Bible-based, God-fearing society which honors and obeys God's natural order of things? Perhaps similar to myself, you find yourself wondering how much longer God will endure this madness and rebellion against His holy Laws. Perhaps you ask yourself when His patience will finally run out. Lastly, maybe you wonder when His judgments will begin to fall on the wicked who mock Him everyday, and who cast His Word to the ground. I am reminded of the following Bible verses:

"And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness."

1 John 5:19, KJV

"That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;"

Philippians 2:15, KJV

While I have concentrated on discussing transgenderism and the LGBTQ+ agenda in this current article, being as that is what motivated me to write this article in the first place, we should not simply ignore the fact that there are quite a few other things which are seriously wrong with our nation. Should we even get into discussing the issues of abortion, widespread devil worship in the entertainment industry, the corruption in the Big Business sector, corrupt politicians, the corrupt pharmaceutical industry, child trafficking, drug trafficking, rampant alcoholism, and so many other evils which plague our society?

My friends, let's be honest with ourselves. Our country is indeed in one hell of a mess in a spiritual sense. Despite what that other person claimed, there is a terrible sickness all across America, and it is growing worse year by year, as America revolts more and more against the Lord, exactly as those verses in Isaiah state. So in my view, those verses are very applicable to America today. Let me share those verses with you one more time:

"Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward. Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds,

and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment."

Isaiah 1:4-6, KJV

To reiterate, this is indeed a national problem, and thus it is also a national sin, contrary to what that other person stated. It is NOT something that is confined to just a small sector of the population, or something which is merely being exaggerated beyond measure by the mainstream media. We see it on our television sets. We see it on our streets. We see it when we go to the store. We see it all over the Internet. We hear it in our music. We see it in the movie theater. We see it in our churches. We see freaks and sinful people just about everywhere living in defiance against God. We cannot deny it, and we cannot ignore it, when it is right in front of our faces. Can we? Or are we that deceived and living in such a superficial bubble?

So then, if this is truly the case, then in my view, unless there is true, nationwide, heartfelt, lasting repentance, I can honestly say that I only see this eventually ending in one way, and that is with harsh judgment from the Lord, just as occurred with nations of the past in the Bible. This is nothing new for me. I have been sharing this warning message for literally decades now, as I have watched America's slow decline. Now if we follow the Biblical example, we know that God gives a nation plenty of time to repent of its sins. He is very patient, and very merciful.

In the Scriptures, God gave some nations -- such as Israel -- literally decades to repent before He laid His judgmental axe to the tree. God sent prophet after prophet to them, who warned them to get their hearts right with the Lord before it was too late. After all, the Lord truly does not wish for anyone to perish. Furthermore, we are told that He does not afflict willingly, but only sends judgment as a last resort when we force His hand by our foolish refusal to repent of our sins. This truth becomes evident in Scriptures such as the following:

"For the Lord will not cast off for ever: But though he cause grief, yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies. FOR HE DOTHT NOT AFFLICT WILLINGLY nor grieve the children of men."

Lamentations 3:31-33, KJV

"Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die?

saith the Lord GOD: and not that he should return from his ways, and live?"

Ezekiel 18:23, KJV

"Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I HAVE NO PLEASURE IN THE DEATH OF THE WICKED; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?"

Ezekiel 33:11, KJV

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, NOT WILLING THAT ANY SHOULD PERISH, but that all should come to repentance."

2 Peter 3:9, KJV

Please go to part two for the conclusion of this article.

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IS AMERICA RIPE FOR DIVINE JUDGMENT? - PART 2

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Abraham Pleads For Sodom And Gomorrah, The Stiff-Necked And Hard-Hearted Israelites, America Is No Different From Israel, Misguided Christians Who Pray For US Judgment, Jesus' Rebuke, Dreadful Aftermath Of Babylonian Invasions, As Bad As Sodom And Gomorrah, Christians Who Reject Image Of A Wrathful God, God And His Word Do Not Change, God's Two Faces: A Lion And A Lamb, God Chastises Us In Love To Bring About Repentance, Modern American Church Is In A Mess, Telling It Like It Is, An Unknown Day Of Divine Chastisement, Judgment Delayed Does Not Equate To Judgment Postponed, Both Spiritual And Physical Preparation For God's Judgments, Conclusion, BBB Reading List

Continuing our discussion from part one, I'm also reminded of the story which is found in Genesis 18 and 19 where Abraham pleaded with God to not destroy those wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. As you may know, the Lord was very patient with Abraham as he bargained, trying to get the Lord to spare the cities if even the smallest number of righteous people could be found in them. Of course, tragically, such was not the case, and both cities were utterly destroyed.

As I mentioned in part one, the Scriptures inform us that the Lord sent prophet after prophet to warn the people of Israel to repent of their rebellion and apostasy. And yet they were so proud, rebellious, stiff-necked and hard-hearted that they absolutely refused to repent of their wickedness. From the Old Testament to the New Testament, and from Moses, to Jesus to the Apostle Paul, we find literally dozens of verses where they are described in this very same manner. While I could list all of them here, it would probably be too tedious for some of you to read. However, allow me to share at least some of them with you:

"And the LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a STIFFNECKED PEOPLE:"

Exodus 32:9, KJV

"Unto a land flowing with milk and honey: for I will not go up in the midst of thee; for thou art a STIFFNECKED PEOPLE: lest I consume thee in the way. And when the people heard these evil tidings, they mourned: and no man did put on him his ornaments. For the LORD had said unto Moses, Say unto the children of Israel, Ye are a STIFFNECKED PEOPLE: I will come up into the midst of thee in a moment, and consume thee: therefore now put off thy ornaments from thee, that I may know what to do unto thee."

Exodus 33:3-5, KJV

"And he said, If now I have found grace in thy sight, O Lord, let my Lord, I pray thee, go among us; for it is a STIFFNECKED PEOPLE; and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for thine inheritance."

Exodus 34:9, KJV

"Understand therefore, that the LORD thy God giveth thee not this good land to possess it for thy righteousness; for thou art a STIFFNECKED PEOPLE . . . Furthermore the LORD spake unto me, saying, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a STIFFNECKED PEOPLE: Let me alone, that I may destroy them,

and blot out their name from under heaven: and I will make of thee a nation mightier and greater than they."

Deuteronomy 9:6, 13-14, KJV

"Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and BE NO MORE STIFFNECKED."

Deuteronomy 10:16, KJV

"Now BE YE NOT STIFFNECKED, as your fathers were, but yield yourselves unto the LORD, and enter into his sanctuary, which he hath sanctified for ever: and serve the LORD your God, that the fierceness of his wrath may turn away from you."

2 Chronicles 30:8, KJV

"O LORD, are not thine eyes upon the truth? thou hast stricken them, but they have not grieved; thou hast consumed them, but THEY HAVE REFUSED TO RECEIVE CORRECTION: they have made their faces harder than a rock; they have refused to return."

Jeremiah 5:3, KJV

"But this thing commanded I them, saying, Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you. But THEY HEARKENED NOT, NOR INCLINED THEIR EAR, but walked in the counsels and in the imagination of their evil heart, and went backward, and not forward. Since the day that your fathers came forth out of the land of Egypt unto this day I have even sent unto you all my servants the prophets, daily rising up early and sending them: Yet THEY HEARKENED NOT UNTO ME, nor inclined their ear, but HARDENED THEIR NECK: they did worse than their fathers. Therefore thou shalt speak all these words unto them; but THEY WILL NOT HEARKEN TO THEE: thou shalt also call unto them; but they will not answer thee. But thou shalt say unto them, This is A NATION THAT OBEYETH NOT THE VOICE OF THE LORD their God, NOR RECEIVETH CORRECTION: truth is perished, and is cut off from their mouth."

Jeremiah 7:23-28, KJV

"Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Behold, I will send upon them the sword, the famine, and the pestilence, and will make them like vile figs, that cannot be eaten, they are so evil. And I will persecute them with the sword, with the famine, and with the pestilence, and will deliver them to be removed to all the kingdoms of the earth, to be a curse, and an

astonishment, and an hissing, and a reproach, among all the nations whither I have driven them: Because THEY HAVE NOT HEARKENED TO MY WORDS, saith the LORD, which I sent unto them by my servants the prophets, rising up early and sending them; BUT YE WOULD NOT HEAR, saith the LORD."
Jeremiah 29:17-19, KJV

"And they came in, and possessed it; but THEY OBEYED NOT THY VOICE, NEITHER WALKED IN THY LAW; they have done nothing of all that thou commandedst them to do: therefore thou hast caused all this evil to come upon them . . . And they have turned unto me the back, and not the face: though I taught them, rising up early and teaching them, yet THEY HAVE NOT HEARKENED TO RECEIVE INSTRUCTION."
Jeremiah 32:23, 33, KJV

"But the house of Israel will not hearken unto thee; for THEY WILL NOT HEARKEN UNTO ME: for all the house of Israel are IMPUDENT AND HARDHEARTED."
Ezekiel 3:7, KJV

"Thus saith the Lord GOD; This is Jerusalem: I have set it in the midst of the nations and countries that are round about her. And she hath changed my judgments into wickedness more than the nations, and my statutes more than the countries that are round about her: for THEY HAVE REFUSED MY JUDGMENTS AND MY STATUTES, THEY HAVE NOT WALKED IN THEM. Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because ye multiplied more than the nations that are round about you, and HAVE NOT WALKED IN MY STATUTES, NEITHER HAVE KEPT MY JUDGMENTS, neither have done according to the judgments of the nations that are round about you; Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I, even I, am against thee, and will execute judgments in the midst of thee in the sight of the nations. And I will do in thee that which I have not done, and whereunto I will not do any more the like, because of all thine abominations."
Ezekiel 5:5-9, KJV

"But THEY REFUSED TO HEARKEN, and PULLED AWAY THE SHOULDER, and STOPPED THEIR EARS, that they should not hear. Yea, THEY MADE THEIR HEARTS AS AN ADAMANT STONE, lest they should hear the law, and the words which the LORD of hosts hath sent in his spirit by the former prophets: therefore came a great wrath from the LORD of hosts."
Zechariah 7:11-12, KJV

"But they and our fathers dealt proudly, and HARDENED THEIR NECKS, AND HEARKENED NOT TO THY COMMANDMENTS, AND REFUSED TO OBEY, neither were mindful of thy wonders that thou didst among them; but HARDENED THEIR NECKS, and in their rebellion appointed a captain to return to their bondage: but thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and forsookest them not . . . Nevertheless THEY WERE DISOBEDIENT, AND REBELLED AGAINST THEE, and cast thy law behind their backs, and slew thy prophets which testified against them to turn them to thee, and they wrought great provocations. Therefore thou deliveredst them into the hand of their enemies, who vexed them: and in the time of their trouble, when they cried unto thee, thou heardest them from heaven; and according to thy manifold mercies thou gavest them saviours, who saved them out of the hand of their enemies. But after they had rest, THEY DID EVIL AGAIN BEFORE THEE: therefore leftest thou them in the hand of their enemies, so that they had the dominion over them: yet when they returned, and cried unto thee, thou heardest them from heaven; and many times didst thou deliver them according to thy mercies; And testifiedst against them, that thou mightest bring them again unto thy law: YET THEY DEALT PROUDLY, AND HEARKENED NOT UNTO THY COMMANDMENTS, BUT SINNED AGAINST THY JUDGMENTS, (which if a man do, he shall live in them;) and WITHDREW THE SHOULDER, and HARDENED THEIR NECK, and WOULD NOT HEAR."

Nehemiah 9:16-17, 26-29, KJV

"YE STIFFNECKED AND UNCIRCUMCISED IN HEART AND EARS, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye."

Acts 7:51, KJV

As I said, there are so many verses in the Bible which are similar to the above, where the Lord continually rebukes the Israelites for being so stubborn, spiritually deaf and blind. But, my friends, we have to ask ourselves. Is it possible that in her current arrogance, America has become the very same way? I think you already know my answer. So should it really come as any surprise to us if some day in the not-to-distant future, God also decides that He has had enough of our rebellion, and decides to rain down judgment upon us?

Sadly, there are certain misguided Christians who actually pray for God's judgments to fall on America. I sometimes encounter them on the social networks. Some of these very

foolish people will even hope and pray that certain people will die, and then they gloat when they do die. These are individuals who claim to be Christians. I say "Shame on you all! You certainly don't represent the love of Christ!" In fact, as some of you may know, when certain of the disciples erroneously yielded to the same type of unloving attitude, Jesus sharply rebuked them, as we see by the following set of Bible verses:

"And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem, And sent messengers before his face: and they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him. And they did not receive him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem. And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did? But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. And they went to another village."

Luke 9:51-56, KJV

Myself, I am NOT like that. And the reason why I am not like that, is because I have read deeply into the Scriptures, and so I understand exactly how harsh God's judgments can be once they begin to fall. It is not something that I would wish on anyone. If you don't understand what I am talking about, then I suggest that you begin by reading the Lamentations of the Prophet Jeremiah. He writes that not only did people's skin turn black due to malnutrition and starvation, but women even cooked their own children for food. Do you require Scriptural proof of this? Then please read the following Bible verses:

"Our skin was black like an oven because of the terrible famine."

Lamentations 5:10, KJV

"Arise, cry out in the night: in the beginning of the watches pour out thine heart like water before the face of the Lord: lift up thy hands toward him for the life of thy young children, that faint for hunger in the top of every street."

Lamentations 2:19, KJV

"The tongue of the sucking child cleaveth to the roof of his mouth for thirst: the young children ask bread, and no man breaketh it unto them . . . The hands of THE PITIFUL WOMEN

HAVE SODDEN THEIR OWN CHILDREN: THEY WERE THEIR MEAT in the destruction of the daughter of my people."

Lamentations 4:4, 10, KJV

In case you are wondering, that word "sodden" in Lamentations 4:10 is derived from a Hebrew word which means to boil, cook, bake or roast. Can you imagine that kind of harsh judgment coming to America? Earlier, I mentioned how Abraham pleaded for the lives of the people of Sodom and Gomorrah. Well, you may be interested to know that the Lord told Jeremiah that He viewed the Jerusalemites as being as wicked as the people of those wicked cities, which is why they also received such terrible punishment. Consider the following two Bible verses:

"I have seen also in the prophets of Jerusalem an horrible thing: they commit adultery, and walk in lies: they strengthen also the hands of evildoers, that none doth return from his wickedness: they are all of them unto me as Sodom, and the inhabitants thereof as Gomorrah."

Jeremiah 23:14, KJV

"For the punishment of the iniquity of the daughter of my people is greater than the punishment of the sin of Sodom, that was overthrown as in a moment, and no hands stayed on her."

Lamentations 4:6, KJV

Now while God is indeed very patient, very merciful, and willing to go the extra mile with us, at the same time, as the previous verses demonstrate, and as other Scriptures likewise inform us, eventually, a country reaches a certain tipping point where sin and rebellion have become so great, so repugnant, and such a stench in the Lord's nostrils, that God simply can no longer ignore them or tolerate them. Thus, His harsh judgments begin to fall. And when they do, you had better watch out! As I mentioned earlier, according to what the Apostle Peter wrote, when the Lord's divine judgments do begin to fall, they are first directed to God's own people. Let me share that verse with you one more time:

"For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?"

1 Peter 4:17, KJV

Sadly, as some of you will know, there are those Christians who absolutely refuse to accept this image of God. In their

minds, God is only a God of love, and never a God of wrath and vengeance. That God of wrath business is just part of the Old Testament they claim. It no longer applies to us today they say. Well, my dear friends, I wonder how they explain all of the verses we find in the New Testament where John the Baptist, Jesus and the Apostles spoke about and wrote about the wrath to come. And mind you, a lot of this was written AFTER Jesus had died on the Cross and returned to Heaven. As an example, consider the following verses which can all be found in the New Testament alone:

"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:"

Matthew 7:13, KJV

". . . he that cometh after me . . . will throughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

Matthew 3:11-12, KJV

". . . He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one; The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth."

Matthew 13:37-42, KJV

"It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God . . . For our God is a consuming fire."

Hebrews 10:31, 12:29, KJV

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."

John 3:36, KJV

"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;"

Romans 1:18, KJV

"Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience."

Ephesians 5:6, KJV

"And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?"

Revelation 6:16-17, KJV

"The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb . . . And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God."

Revelation 14:10, 19, KJV

"And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God . . . And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who liveth for ever and ever."

Revelation 15:1, 7, KJV

"And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth . . . And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath."

Revelation 16:1, 19, KJV

"And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God."

Revelation 19:15, KJV

"And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

Revelation 20:15, KJV

"But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."
Revelation 21:8, KJV

My friends, that is certainly a lot of divine wrath in the New Testament for a God who is supposedly no longer a God of wrath based on what some of these misguided Christians say. Furthermore, the Scriptures clearly indicate that God does NOT change, and His Word does NOT change either. For anyone who may doubt that this is so, again, please consider the following group of Bible verses:

"Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever."
Psalms 119:160, KJV

"LAMED. For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven."
Psalm 119:89, KJV

"The counsel of the LORD standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations."
Psalms 33:11, KJV

"For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed."
Malachi 3:6, KJV

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever."
Hebrews 13:8, KJV

So to reiterate my point, God does NOT change, His Word does NOT change, and His methods do NOT change either. Just step seriously out of line from His Will for your life, and see what happens. You will surely find out! So I am sorry, but I personally do not believe in just some kind of lovey-dovey Jesus. As I have mentioned before, the Lord has two faces. He has the face of lion, and the face of a lamb. Which one we see, or which one a nation sees, depends a lot on how much we are obedient to His Will.

One important thing which we do need to remember though, is that when God is compelled to chastise us for some reason, He does so out of love, just as we do with our own children. The Lord's primary goal is simply to restore us to the path of righteousness. Consider the following sample verses:

"My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction: For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth."
Proverbs 3:11-12, KJV

"Open rebuke is better than secret love."
Proverbs 27:5, KJV

"And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons . . . Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby. Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed."
Hebrews 12:5-8, 11-13, KJV

"Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction."
Isaiah 48:10, KJV

"In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the LORD thy Redeemer."
Isaiah 54:8, KJV

". . . for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."
Hebrews 13:5, KJV

"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."
John 6:37, KJV

My friends, any Christian who is truly wide awake cannot deny that the American Christian Church is in trouble, and in very serious need of a good wallop from the Lord. Many of us know why this is so. Sadly, instead of converting the world as it

is supposed to do, the Church has been converted by the world instead. As a result, we see rampant worldliness and the vile commercialization of our faith. We also see gay and lesbian priests, ministers and pastors who both celebrate and bless same-sex relationships. Our churches are filled with secular rock music, carnality and fleshliness, jealousies and envies, dictatorial, power-hungry preachers, false teachers and false prophets, strange manifestations which are anything but godly and more. Clearly, few churches today resemble the Church of the First Century. So as Peter wrote, if we barely survive, "what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?"

I realize that I have been rather blunt in this article. Yet at the same time, I have never been one who compromises the truth. I tell it like it is, come what may, even if it turns some of my fellow Christians against me. But I do hope that you realize that everything which I've stated here is firmly established in and supported by the Scriptures. As such, we cannot just shut our eyes and pretend that these things are not happening in America, because they most certainly are.

Let me add that I honestly don't know when or in what form the Lord's judgments will fall upon this nation. But as I pointed out earlier, given the current state of this country, I am convinced that it is indeed inevitable at some point in time, the reason being that the nation as a whole only grows worse in its rebellion by the year, and refuses to repent. As I note in "Don't Ever Underestimate Our Spiritual Enemy", we need to remember that divine judgment delayed does not equate to judgment postponed. Perhaps the Lord is simply giving us a little bit more time to come to our senses and repent before it is too late.

Let me mention again that I do not wish for judgment upon the USA, and I most certainly do not desire it, because it will affect us all to one degree or another. While I currently do not foresee any serious degree of nationwide repentance on the horizon, as individual Christians and Christian families, one thing we can do is to make sure that we are pleasing God in our daily lives, by living as righteously as we possibly can, by striving to remain obedient to His Word, and also by faithfully doing whatever it is He has called each of us to do in this life.

If you live in the continental USA, then it is also advisable to be as physically prepared as possible for any potential

calamities which may strike your particular region. In fact, it may interest you to know that over twenty-five years ago, I wrote an article which may be helpful to you in preparing for such calamities. Called "Y2K Preparation: Survival Items List", it is a long list of items which you can purchase at a regular supermarket, such as canned goods, etc. The list is not based on expensive freeze-dried goods which cost you an arm and a leg, particularly if you have a large family. You will find a link for the article at the end of this same article. As we read in the Book of Proverbs:

"A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished."

Proverbs 22:3, KJV

With these thoughts, I will bring this article to a close. It is my hope that you've found it informative and enlightening, and I pray that it has been a blessing in your life as well. If you have an account with Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr or with any other social network, I would really appreciate if you'd take the time to click or tap on the corresponding link that is found on this page. Thanks so much, and may God bless you abundantly!

For additional information and further study, you may want to refer to the list of reading resources below which were either mentioned in this article, or which contain topics which are related to this article. All of these articles are likewise located on the Bill's Bible Basics web server. To read these articles, simply click or tap on any link you see below.

Age of Accountability and Parental and Divine Discipline

Are You Flexible?

Backsliding, Divine Chastisement and the Divine Agreement

Beholding the Evil and the Good

Churchianity Or Christianity: Which Do You Practice?

Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah: A Warning to Modern Society

Don't Ever Underestimate Our Spiritual Enemy

Facebook False Prophets and Misguided Teachers

Future of Same-Sex Marriage

Gargoyles: Satan Loves Church Buildings!

God's Golden Teeth, Or Satan's Delusion?"

Have You Been Slain In The Spirit?"

Humility in Our Understanding of God's Word

It Is Time to Wake Up!

Lies and Deceptions of the Roman Catholic Church

Love, Mercy, Forgiveness and Chastisement
Modern False Prophets And Worldly Ecumenism
My Evolving Theology
Oh Israel, Why Will Ye Die?
Please Stop Misinterpreting the Scriptures
Queen James Bible: Blasphemous Abomination Exposed!
Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth
Rise of the False Church
The Fruits of Disobedience
The Gay and Lesbian Agenda: To the Point!
The Office of Prophets and Teachers
The Overhauling of Straight America
Understanding the Bible in Context
What is Wrong with Modern America?
When Sin is No Longer a Sin
Where Are The First Century Churches?
Y2K Preparation: Survival Items List
You've Got It Wrong: Submit and Live!

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