

HOW NATIONS CRUMBLE – WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

Nations rise and nations fall. God remains. Is God involved in raising up nations and destroying nations? Let's allow the Bible to answer that question:

“Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people” (Proverbs 14:34)

“The most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He wishes” (Daniel 4:25b)

“He leads princes away spoiled, and overthrows the mighty” (Job 12:19)

“The wicked will be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God” (Psalms 9:17)

“Put them in fear, O Lord: that the nations may know themselves to be but men” (Psalms 9:20)

“Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: And He changes the times and the seasons: he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding” (Daniel 2:20-21)

In earth's history, hundreds of kingdoms, nations and empires have come and gone. Like a plant, the kingdoms of men sprout up, grow, mature, and finally wither and die, fading into the past, some never to be remembered again. What factors allows a nation to continue to exist while others are doomed to oblivion?

The average age of the world's great civilizations has been 200 years. As America nears its 250th birthday, we have already outlived most empires. Is it beyond reason to believe that America's days will not also be numbered and eventually end? Of course not. So, the question to consider is this: What leads to nations crumbling into oblivion? What does the Bible say?

While there are many factors discussed in the Bible, we will focus on 3 in this article:

1. **Rejection of Truth** – When absolute truth is not acknowledged nor respected, it leads each to define their own standard of “truth”, their own standard of what is “right and wrong”. *“Every man did that which was right in his own eyes”*. (Judges 21:25) But, man, left to his own devices, is incapable of defining what is truth, what is right and what is wrong – it is not in man to direct his own steps (Jeremiah 10:23). When we reject the absolute truth of God, we are inevitably left to our own determination of right and wrong, which will be arbitrary and inconsistent at best. In the void of recognized absolute truth, those in power will often determine the standard, which often leads to arbitrary political correctness and, carried to its logical conclusion, totalitarianism, persecution, and even to mass murder and genocide (Nazi Germany, Stalinist Russia, Communist China).
2. **Breakdown of the Home** – “The family is the nucleus of civilization” – Will Durrant. “Your success as a family...Our success as a nation...Depends not on what happens inside the White House, But on what happens inside your house” – Barbara Bush. As the home goes, so goes the nation. The breakdown of the home was one of the factors identified in the fall of the Roman Empire. The rapid increase in divorce and breakdown of the family undermined the sanctity of the home, the basis for society, and contributed to their collapse. This is no less true today. A proper worldview, the importance of family and respect for authority are most easily modeled and learned by the next generation in the home. As the Bible clearly teaches, without the proper home environment, the next generation and future society will pay a terrible price. (Genesis 2:22-24, Matthew 19:4-9, Romans 7:2)

3. **Rejection of God** – The Bible gives an outline of the descent of the Roman Empire in Romans 1:
- a. **Ignorance** (1:18-22) - Truth is suppressed, often by the elites in society, citizens forget God and society grows darker.
 - b. **Idolatry** (1:23-25) – Man rejects God, society grows more godless and man raises himself up to be god. He himself determines what is right and wrong, and worships himself. Idol worship begins with worshipping self, and often takes the form of materialism and hedonism.
 - c. **Indulgence** (1:24-27) – If man is his own god, then he can do what he pleases. Sin is celebrated. This leads to a destruction of morals, laziness and an increased reliance on government, business without ethics, politics without principles, sexual perversion, an increase in crime and violence, no respect for the sanctity of life, and a lack of compassion for our fellow man.
 - d. **Anarchy** (1:28-32) – Society continues to move away from God. God ceases restraint and gives man over to the inevitable consequences of his actions. Society crumbles. What was true with Rome 2000 years ago remains true today. **Any nation that rejects God and refuses to turn from this path is on its own to suffer the consequences of that decision.**

The harvest of all nations that choose to disobey God is always moral and cultural decline as they grope through spiritual darkness. As Christianity and its stabilizing effect on culture is pushed further and further from the heart and soul of America, we see and feel the results of spiritual darkness growing in our neighborhoods and in our country. Not only is sin tolerated, it is often accepted, celebrated, supported and promoted. The Bible warned of this very circumstance over 2000 years ago, *“You are doomed! You call evil good and call good evil. You turn darkness into light and light into darkness. You make what is bitter sweet, and what is sweet you make bitter.”* (Isaiah 5:20) **While many factors are at play, ultimately America’s fate will depend on whether we turn back to the Bible or pursue a national course of rejecting God.**

As we have seen, God’s word clearly warns us of the consequences of rejecting Him. **Is there still hope for our great country? Yes.** Despite our nation’s many problems, God remains in control and God’s promise still stands: *“but in every nation, the one who fears Him (God) and does what is right is acceptable with Him.”* (Acts 10:35)

We want you to know that **God’s word still contains the solutions for our homes and for America’s future** and we would love to share more of God’s message of hope with you and your family.

On April 24th we had corresponding lessons on this topic. Check our website for sermons titled “How Nations Crumble (Romans 1:16-32)” from the AM service and “When Nations Crumble (Acts 2:37-47)” from the PM service. Also, you can find our worship services on our Facebook page.