



Why Nations Fall

Psalm 78

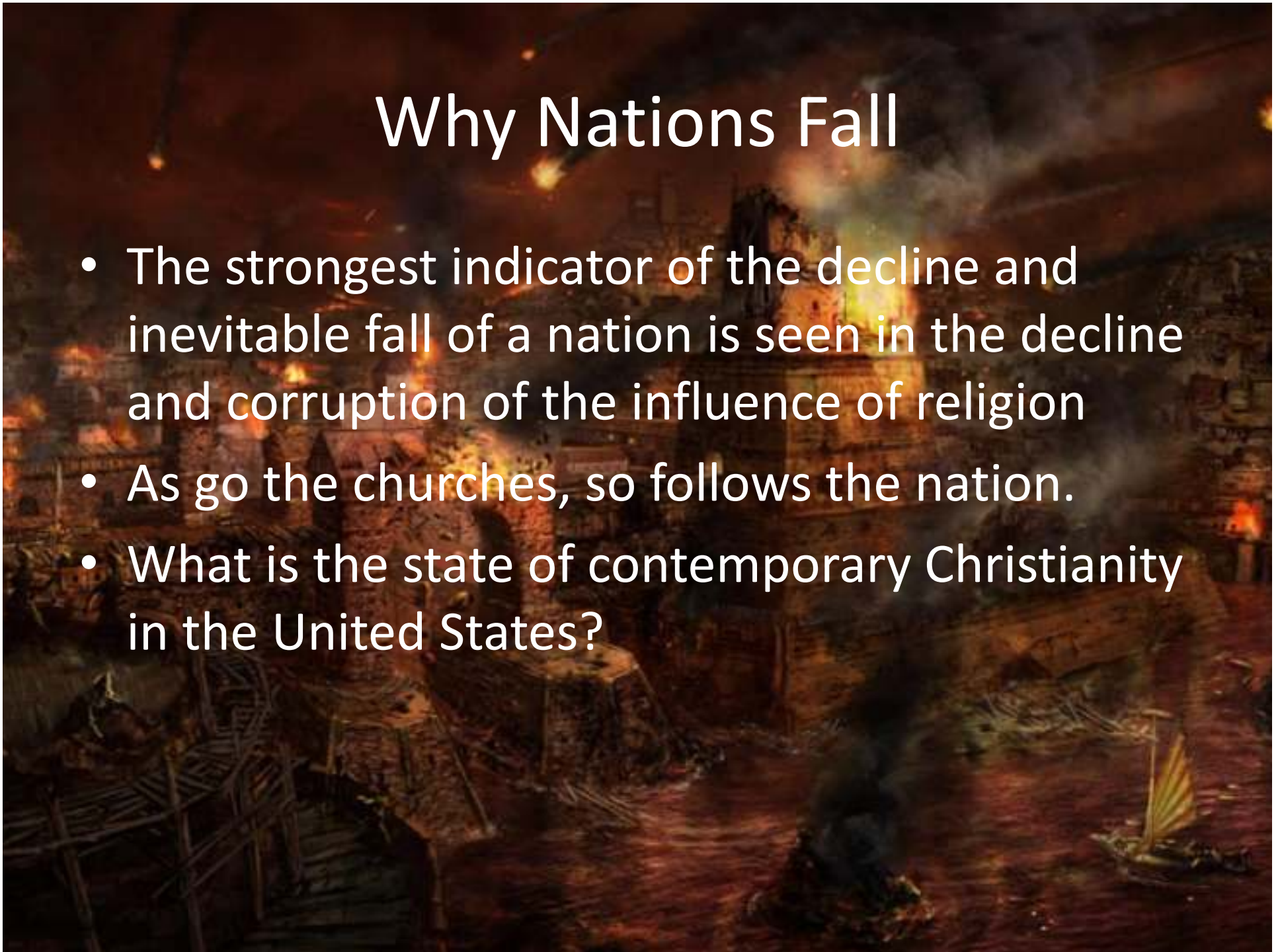
A Scripture Filled Lesson

Why Nations Fall

- Amos 8:11 - “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. 12 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.”
- “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” (George Santayana)

Why Nations Fall

- The strongest indicator of the decline and inevitable fall of a nation is seen in the decline and corruption of the influence of religion
- As go the churches, so follows the nation.
- What is the state of contemporary Christianity in the United States?



As A Nation, We No Longer Recognize The Authority Of Scripture

- Psalm 78:9-11 - “The children of Ephraim, being armed and carrying bows, Turned back in the day of battle. 10 They did not keep the covenant of God; They refused to walk in His law, 11 And forgot His works And His wonders that He had shown them.”

As A Nation, We No Longer Recognize The Authority Of Scripture

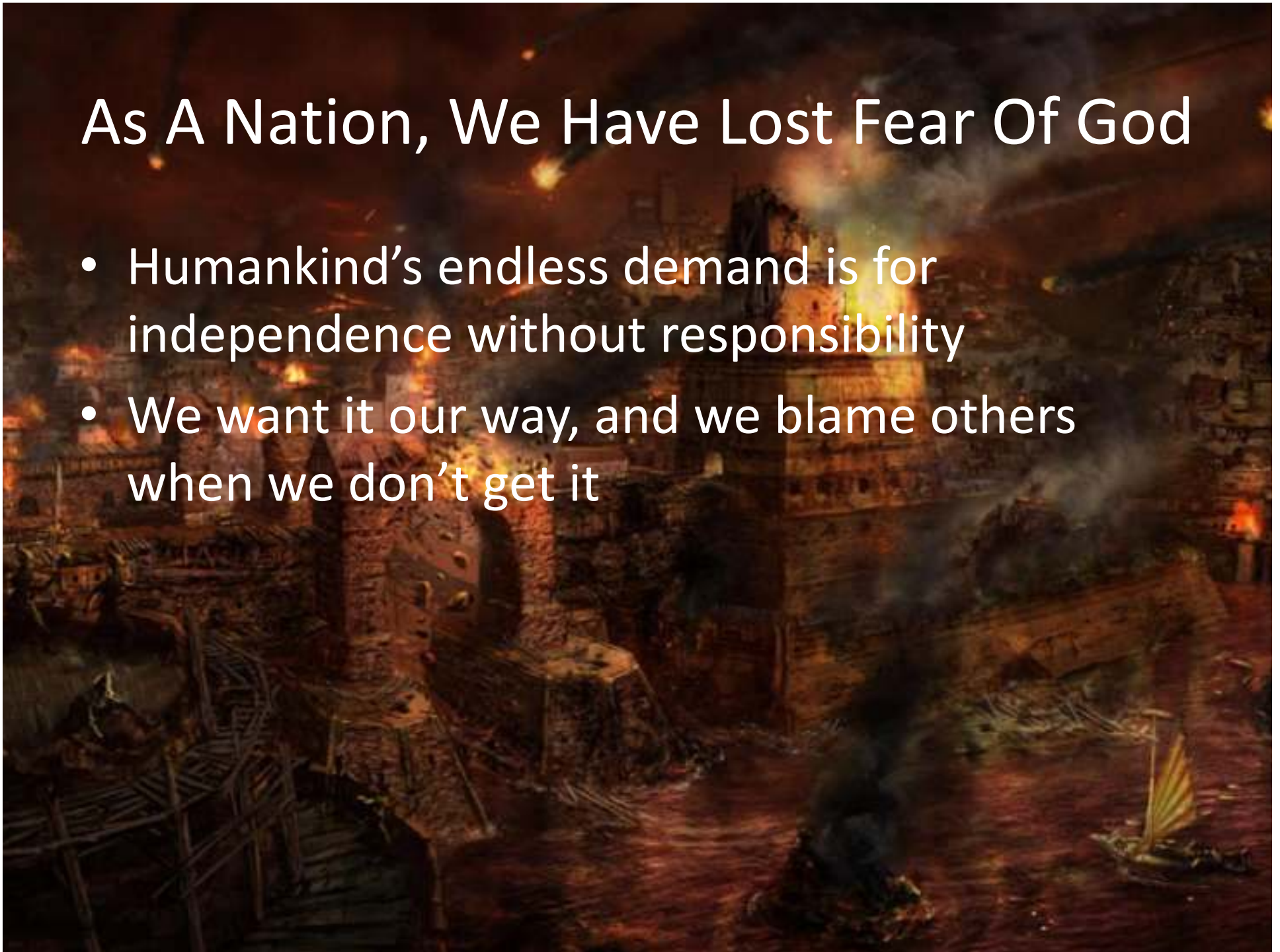
- The Bible is consistently and constantly under attack
 - Higher textual criticism
 - Authors and publishers printing anything for money and fame
 - Placing the Bible on par with Koran or book of Mormon
 - Authenticity challenged by religious archaeologists
 - “Christians” accepting the wisdom of secular experts over the wisdom of scripture

As A Nation, We Have Lost Fear Of God

- Psalm 78:17-20 - “But they sinned even more against Him By rebelling against the Most High in the wilderness. 18 And they tested God in their heart By asking for the food of their fancy. 19 Yes, they spoke against God: They said, ‘Can God prepare a table in the wilderness? 20 Behold, He struck the rock, So that the waters gushed out, And the streams overflowed. Can He give bread also? Can He provide meat for His people?’”

As A Nation, We Have Lost Fear Of God

- Humankind's endless demand is for independence without responsibility
- We want it our way, and we blame others when we don't get it



As A Nation, We Have Lost Fear Of God

- Abortion, euthanasia, endemic fornication, pandemic dishonesty, homosexuality, and many other sins committed in overt defiance of God
 - And then, they cry out in blasphemous defiance or denial of God when they must deal with the consequences of these sins
- What overweening pride! We are perhaps the most self-oriented society in recorded history.
 - Matt. 12:38-45

As A Nation, We Have Lost Fear Of God

Matt. 12:38-41 - "Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying, 'Teacher, we want to see a sign from You. 39 But He answered and said to them, 'An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. 40 For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. 41 The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here.'"

As A Nation, We Have Lost Fear Of God

Matt. 12:42-45 - "The queen of the South will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and indeed a greater than Solomon is here. 43 When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. 44 Then he says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when he comes, he finds it empty, swept, and put in order. 45 Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first. So shall it also be with this wicked generation.'"

As A Nation, We Have Substituted Man's Wisdom For God's

Psalm 78:22-32 - “Because they did not believe in God, And did not trust in His salvation. 23 Yet He had commanded the clouds above, And opened the doors of heaven, 24 Had rained down manna on them to eat, And given them of the bread of heaven. 25 Men ate angels' food; He sent them food to the full. 26 He caused an east wind to blow in the heavens; And by His power He brought in the south wind. 27 He also rained meat on them like the dust, Feathered fowl like the sand of the seas; 28 And He let them fall in the midst of their camp, All around their dwellings. 29 So they ate and were well filled, For He gave them their own desire. 30 They were not deprived of their craving; But while their food was still in their mouths, 31 The wrath of God came against them, And slew the stoutest of them, And struck down the choice men of Israel. 32 In spite of this they still sinned, And did not believe in His wondrous works.”

As A Nation, We Have Substituted Man's Wisdom For God's

- God's salvation plan is questioned; all humans are presumed to be good
- Psalm 53:3 - “Every one of them has turned aside; They have together become corrupt; There is none who does good, No, not one.”
- Men add rituals to and subtract commands from God’s plan in the presumptuous belief that they are improving on it

As A Nation, We Have Made Ecumenicalism The Greatest Virtue

- Ecumenicalism - “Of or relating to a movement (ecumenical movement), especially among Protestant groups since the 1800s, aimed at achieving universal Christian unity and church union through international interdenominational organizations” (Wikipedia)



As A Nation, We Have Made Ecumenicalism The Greatest Virtue

Psalm 78:52-60 - "But He made His own people go forth like sheep, And guided them in the wilderness like a flock; 53 And He led them on safely, so that they did not fear; But the sea overwhelmed their enemies. 54 And He brought them to His holy border, This mountain which His right hand had acquired. 55 He also drove out the nations before them, Allotted them an inheritance by survey, And made the tribes of Israel dwell in their tents. 56 Yet they tested and provoked the Most High God, And did not keep His testimonies, 57 But turned back and acted unfaithfully like their fathers; They were turned aside like a deceitful bow. 58 For they provoked Him to anger with their high places, And moved Him to jealousy with their carved images. 59 When God heard this, He was furious, And greatly abhorred Israel, 60 So that He forsook the tabernacle of Shiloh, The tent He had placed among men"

As A Nation, We Have Made Ecumenicalism The Greatest Virtue

Ez. 22:23-26 - “And the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 24 ‘Son of man, say to her: You are a land that is not cleansed or rained on in the day of indignation. 25 The conspiracy of her prophets in her midst is like a roaring lion tearing the prey; they have devoured people; they have taken treasure and precious things; they have made many widows in her midst. 26 Her priests have violated My law and profaned My holy things; they have not distinguished between the holy and unholy, nor have they made known the difference between the unclean and the clean; and they have hidden their eyes from My Sabbaths, so that I am profaned among them.”

As A Nation, We Have Made Ecumenicalism The Greatest Virtue

Ez. 22:27-31 - “Her princes in her midst are like wolves tearing the prey, to shed blood, to destroy people, and to get dishonest gain. 28 Her prophets plastered them with untempered mortar, seeing false visions, and divining lies for them, saying, Thus says the Lord GOD,' when the LORD had not spoken. 29 The people of the land have used oppressions, committed robbery, and mistreated the poor and needy; and they wrongfully oppress the stranger. 30 So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one. 31 Therefore I have poured out My indignation on them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; and I have recompensed their deeds on their own heads,' says the Lord GOD”

As A Nation, We Have Made Ecumenicalism The Greatest Virtue

- Gal. 1:6-10 - “I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, 7 which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed. 10 For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.”

All Of This Has Resulted In

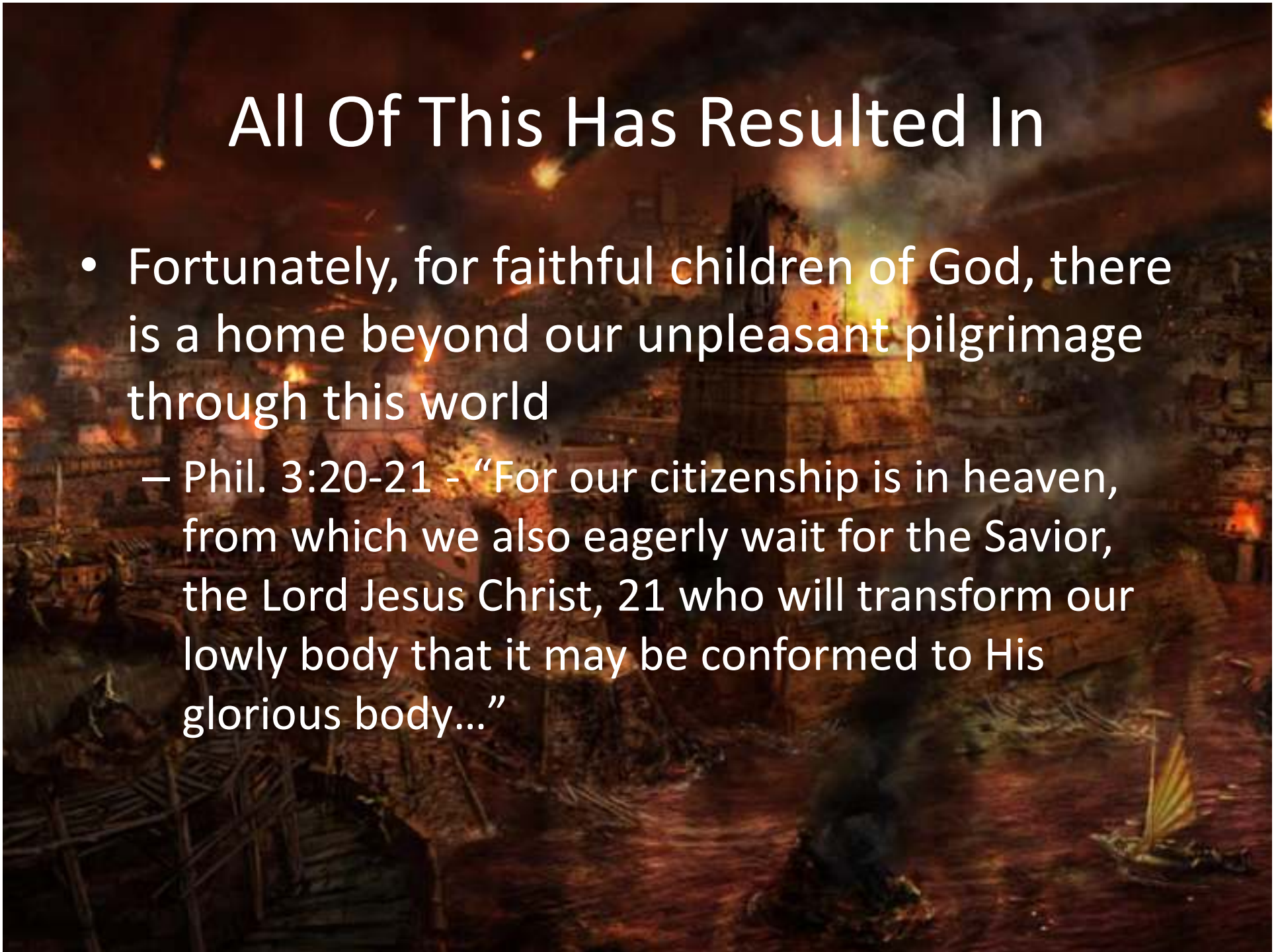
- The conditions that bring about the end of a nation
 - Christians who have no firm foundation
 - Salvation and sin have become clouded issues
 - Doctrine is fragmented beyond repair for this generation
 - People are headed for perdition believing all the while that they are going to heaven.
 - The Lord's church becomes an enemy of the public interest and eventually an enemy of the state; when that happens, the nation falls

All Of This Has Resulted In

- Any nation, because of its abandonment of truth, its embrace of sin, and its opposition to sound instruction has passed the tipping point. It is no longer a matter of will it fall, but has become a matter of how fast that fall will occur. 1.
- The United States of America is not an exception to this rule.

All Of This Has Resulted In

- Fortunately, for faithful children of God, there is a home beyond our unpleasant pilgrimage through this world
 - Phil. 3:20-21 - “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body...”



All Of This Has Resulted In

- Heb. 13:14 - “For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come”
- Heb. 11:9-10, 13-16 - “By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; 10 for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God... 16 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. 14 For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. 15 And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.”