

Why Nations Fall

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake; a scripture filled lesson).

Introduction:

- A. Amos 8:11-12; Psalm 78
- B. George Santayana: "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."
- C. The strongest indicator of the decline and inevitable fall of a nation is seen in the decline and corruption of the influence of religion
 - 1. As go the churches, so follows the nation.
 - 2. What is the state of contemporary Christianity in the United States?

I. AS A NATION, WE NO LONGER RECOGNIZE THE AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE

- A. Psalm 78:9-11
 - 1. Consistently and constantly under attack
 - 2. Higher textual criticism; church seminaries are ironically the worst offenders, not the secular and atheistic organizations
 - 3. Authors and publishers printing anything for money and fame
 - a. Lucado, et al
 - 4. Placing the Bible on par with Koran or book of Mormon
 - 5. Authenticity challenged by religious archaeologists - B.A.R.
 - 6. Christians accepting the wisdom of secular philosophers, counselors, pop figures, and even horoscopes before accepting the crystal clear and time tested wisdom of the scriptures

II. AS A NATION, WE HAVE LOST OUR FEAR OF GOD

- A. Psalm 78:17-20 - Humankind's endless demand is for independence without responsibility
 - 1. We want it our way and we want to blame others when we don't get it
- B. Abortion, euthanasia, endemic fornication, pandemic dishonesty, homosexuality, and many other sins committed in overt defiance of God
 - 1. And then, they cry out in blasphemous defiance or denial of God when they must deal with the consequences of these sins
- C. The overweening pride of man; this is perhaps the most self-oriented society in recorded history - Matt. 12:38-45
- D. When the religious institutions adopt the ways of the world, in fact in some cases exceed the world in magnitude of sin, they have become the very thing they should be opposing. They are the enemy of God's people and the instrument by which a nation falls.

III. AS A NATION, WE HAVE SUBSTITUTED MAN'S WISDOM FOR GOD'S

- A. Psalm 78:22-32
 - 1. God's salvation plan is questioned; all humans are good - Psalm 53:3
 - 2. Men add rituals to and subtract commands from God's plan in the presumptuous belief that they are improving on it

IV. AS A NATION, WE HAVE MADE ECUMENICALISM THE GREATEST VIRTUE

- A. 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)
- B. Psalm 78:52-60; Ez. 22:23-31
 - 1. Paul's answer to ecumenicalism - Gal. 1:6-10

V. ALL OF THIS HAS RESULTED IN

- A. The conditions that bring about the end of a nation
 - 1. Christians who have no firm foundation
 - 2. Salvation and sin have become clouded issues
 - 3. Doctrine is fragmented beyond repair for this generation
 - 4. People are headed for perdition believing all the while that they are going to heaven.
 - 5. The Lord's church becomes an enemy of the public interest and eventually an enemy of the state; when that happens, the nation falls
- B. 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.
- C. Fortunately, for faithful children of God, there is a home beyond our unpleasant pilgrimage through this world
 - 1. Phil. 3:20-21; Heb. 13:14, 11:9-10, 13-16