

A Nation Without the Bible

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

A. Amos 8:11; 2Chron. 15:1-6

1. Political - The king of Syria kept Israel in subjection and paying tribute. Later, Assyria conquered Syria, giving Israel a brief period of freedom until Tiglath-Pileser began his rule of Assyria. Israel had peace from 805-740 BC. Jeroboam began to reign 783 BC. He restored the borders to what they were in the days of David. Uzziah did likewise in Judah.
2. Social - Prosperity, laziness, and luxury led to greed and injustice
3. Religious - Multiple religious rites but very little righteousness. Idolatry at Dan, Beersheba, Gilgal, and Bethel. Feasting and revelry. Bribery and contempt for holy things. Moral decay and a famine for the faith.

B. Physical famine in America is almost unknown.

1. Zomba Prison in Malawi (singers) eat one small portion of corn gruel per day; a few days each week they get a few beans
2. That level of hunger is unknown in the US; we are the envy of the world.
3. Conditions can change -.Gen. 41:1-57 - Joseph saved the nation through the revealed word of God.
4. We stockpile everything: food, fuel, medicine, durable goods, and other resources against shortages

C. We are setting up conditions for a famine for the word of God.

1. We have removed it from our schools, courts, and other public institutions; we are attempting to ban it from all public conversation, advertising, media, and lawmaking.
2. In Europe, there are hundreds of enormous, ornate cathedrals that are empty monuments to religions that are no longer believed or practiced.
3. We have set up conditions for that famine here in a country that still calls itself "one nation under God." Future generations will call it "one nation without God."

I. A NATION WITHOUT THE BIBLE IS WITHOUT FREEDOM

A. John 8:32 - Did you know that it is impossible to enslave a Bible reading people? That is why tyrants and totalitarians hate the Bible.

1. History reveals that wherever the Bible is read freely, it eventually brings freedom to the people.
2. Ghana is the only surviving and successful democracy in Africa. It is no coincidence that it is also predominately Christian.
 - a. Sunday mornings in Ghana; afternoons in the shopping district, the small congregation in Accra; Ghana missionaries
3. It is true around the world: India, Philippines, Belize, etc. Wherever Bible reading is on the increase, freedom is on the increase. Wherever, Bible reading is in decline, freedom begins to diminish

II. A NATION WITHOUT THE BIBLE IS WITHOUT FOUNDATION

A. The life built on the Bible stands - Luke 6:46-49; Job 4:17-21; Prov. 14:34

1. God's Word provides a solid foundation

a. Psalm 11:3; 1Cor. 3:10-12; Eph. 2:19-21

B. Apart from the Bible, there are no absolute truths

1. "Of all the major religions, or lack thereof, the atheist's is one of the best pretenders: his foundation for all existences, as well as moral behaviors for the permanent good of mankind, begins at science but ends at himself, the Napoleon complex of both intelligence and imagination."
(Crissjami)
2. Everything becomes relative or dependent on random circumstance.
3. It is not possible to determine right or wrong
 - a. Psalm 119:11, 89, 101, 105, 130, 140
4. Neglecting the Bible starves the soul resulting in a more deadly famine than caused by a drought or flood - Psalm 119:28, 50, 74, 76, 81

III. A NATION WITHOUT THE BIBLE IS WITHOUT FAITH

A. Rom. 10:1-4, 17; Heb. 5:12

B. Faith comes by hearing the Bible - 1Peter 1:23; James 1:18; 1John 3:9

IV. A NATION WITHOUT THE BIBLE IS WITHOUT A FUTURE

A. What can be done? - Psalm 2:10-12

B. Rom. 1:19-20 - When the drafters of the Declaration of Independence wrote, "We hold these truths to be self-evident," they were writing of the kind of *phaneros en autois* ("evident in themselves") truths the apostle Paul was writing of in Romans 1:19-20. As a matter of fact, in Romans 1:20, the words *tois poiemasin nooumena kathoratai* ("by means of things that are made, are understood, being clearly seen") are the exact equivalent to "self-evident." Paul uses both of these phrases in the context of what men know naturally by natural revelation, apart from the special revelation revealed in God's Word. According to Paul, what can be known about God apart from the Bible is known by all men, because He causes them to know it. Therefore, all men are without excuse. But, although men know the truth, the Bible tells us they are bent on suppressing it in unrighteousness (Romans 1:18). In other words, we can't expect our opponents to be honest. If they have to lie about this nation being founded upon the principle that there is a "law above the law" (i.e., God's law above man's law), then they will lie.

Thomas Jefferson, a secularist, said: "The God who gave us life gave us liberty. Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are the gift of God?" In 1952, in *Zorach v. Clauson*, liberal U.S. Supreme Court Justice William Douglas wrote, "We are a religious people whose institutions presuppose a Supreme Being." If an extremely liberal Supreme Court justice can understand this, then why is it becoming so difficult for people to understand that ours is a nation that was founded by our forefathers to be under God? In truth, it would not be difficult at all if it were not for those who "suppress the truth in unrighteousness."

In Romans 1, the apostle Paul gives the four step decline in the history of the nation that forgets God: 1) A nation rejects God, 2) it turns to false religion or bans religion, 3) it becomes bogged down in immorality and violence, 4) and then, God judges it. Consequently, a nation without God is a nation has no future. (Allan Turner, *The Preceptor*, May 13, 1990)

Conclusion:

A. Eph. 6:10-18