

God Bless America

I'm proud to be an American and feel blessed to be born and able to live in the United States of America.

I would rather live in America than anywhere else in the world. God has richly blessed us and that is one of the reasons that Independence Day, July 4, is one of my favorite holidays.

I am inspired by singing songs like

God Bless America

by Irving Berlin

God bless America,

Land that I love,

Stand beside her and guide her

Thru the night with a light from above;

From the mountains, to the prairies,

To the oceans white with foam,

God bless America,

My home, sweet home.

God bless America,

My home, sweet home.

Although there are still many good qualities regarding our country, there is much that needs to be corrected today to preserve the land that I love, the land of the free.

America has some serious problems that are a threat to our nation.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not a "gloom and doom" individual. Most of you know that I am a positive and optimistic person but we also must face reality. Today I want to share with you some biblical principles about how God has dealt with nations and see how these principles apply to America.

Consider Amos' Decree Of God's Coming Judgments

In Amos 1-2, the prophet announced God's decree of coming judgments against eight nations, including God's people, Israel and Judah. Each of these judgments against the nations was fulfilled either by the conquests of the Assyrians, the Babylonians, or the Macedonians.

This reminds us that God's sovereignty extends over **all** nations – idolatrous nations, Jewish nations, and in principle, so called "Judeo-Christian" nations.

Psalms 22:28 says that "God rules over the nations."

Daniel 2:21 tells us that God "removes kings and raises up kings."

Jeremiah 18:7,9 says that almighty God "plucks up, pulls down, and destroys" nations and that He "builds and plants" nations.

When **any** nation refuses to abide by principles of righteousness and their unrighteousness becomes the accepted way of life, it is at risk of God's judgment against them.

God is the sovereign ruler **over all nations** – America is no exception.

Even in the Christian age, the inspired Paul announced in Acts 17:26 that God determines the nations "appointed seasons" (i.e., the duration of their existence) and the "boundaries of their habitation" (or the extent of their conquests).

Revelation 1:5 plainly teaches that Jesus Christ is “the ruler over the kings of the earth”; and that He is “King of kings, and Lord of lords” in 19:16. To those who respect the testimony of the Scriptures, the issue is clear—God has **not** lost control of the affairs of this earth!

Remember God’s Warning to Israel

The Old Testament is full of examples. Leviticus 18 mentions numerous abominations and the Israelites were warned by God against practicing any of them.

Verses 24-30 say,

“Do not make yourselves unclean by any of these things, for by all these the nations I am driving out before you have become unclean, and the land became unclean, so that I punished its iniquity, and the land vomited out its inhabitants. But you shall keep my statutes and my rules and do none of these abominations, either the native or the stranger who sojourns among you (for the people of the land, who were before you, did all of these abominations, so that the land became unclean), lest the land vomit you out when you make it unclean, as it vomited out the nation that was before you.”

These passages make it abundantly clear that nations have always suffered the consequences of the practice and acceptance of what God condemns. The abominations committed by the Gentile nations, abominations that caused them to be “vomited out” of the land, were eventually practiced by the nation of Israel. Because of this, the Israelites were later “vomited out” of the land and carried off into either Assyrian or Babylonian captivity.

Consider Our Nation Today

Sadly, many of these shameful sins described in Leviticus 18 **are presently practiced in America today**. It is arrogant and presumptuous to think that such abominations can be practiced, condoned, or tolerated without facing the righteous judgment of God. God made no distinction between the Jew or Gentile nations who practiced these things and we can be confident that America is no exception to the rule, regardless of how frequently we may sing “God Bless America.”

Americans cannot promote and hold to godless ideologies such as atheistic evolution and secular humanism and remain unharmed by such godless teachings. When man is told that he is only a higher form of animal, not the product of special Divine creation, he will think and behave like an animal or in some cases, worse than an animal. Read Romans 1:21-32.

Americans cannot continue to reject God’s guidance in morality, ethics, and righteous conduct that is taught in the Bible, and expect God to bless America.

Americans cannot behave like Jezebel and demand God’s blessings.

Americans need to recognize that we simply cannot have it both ways; our way when times are good, and God’s way when trouble comes.

Matthew 6:24 says "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."

God’s past judgment on nations should be a concern to us today. These principles by which He judges nations **have not changed** according to Malachi 3:6 and Hebrews 13:8.

In view of these and many other biblical examples, we pose this question. Since God does not change as to his righteous character, and since He punished nations of the past as they reached a

certain point of degeneration, is it not reasonable to assume that He will hold us accountable for our actions? Paul wrote in Romans 15:4 that these things were written for our learning.

Our country is on a collision course with God.

It may not come in our day, but the indications are painfully obvious that we are in serious trouble. Look at Assyria, Babylon, Greece, and Rome.

None of these superpowers lasted more than a few centuries. Decadence consumed them. And there are clear signals that the same weaknesses are eating away at America's vitals.

Take a Look at American Family Life.

President James A. Garfield once said: "The sanctity of marriage and the family relation make the corner-stone of our American society and civilization." Current conditions clearly suggest that the "corner-stone" is crumbling.

A large part of our society has abandoned the idea that God designed the **marriage**.

For instance, the Bible clearly teaches that sexual gratification is an integral part of marriage and **only** in marriage. Sexual activity outside of a legitimate marriage is fornication (1 Corinthians 7:2).

At one time it was the case that a mere "live-in" arrangement was a matter of shame.

Now, fornicating relationships are common. People comment upon their "live-with" associations with no embarrassment at all.

Jeremiah 6:15 says "Were they ashamed when they committed abomination? No! They were not at all ashamed; they did not even know how to blush. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall. At the time I punish them, they shall be cast down, says the LORD."

We are told by experts that more than five million Americans are "living together" without the benefit of legitimate marital commitment.

Add to this the fact that **divorce** has become a national norm. There was a time when a divorced person was not even a viable political candidate. Now, divorce does not raise an eyebrow. Not only is society out of control in terms of divorce, the church is almost to that point as well.

Two sins stand out from all others in our day.

Two sins, particularly sickening in God's sight, have swept over America. These two sins have been **politicized**—instead of being left in the moral and religious arena where they belong.

These two moral issues in our country are **abortion and homosexuality**.

A nation can survive for a period of time even when murder, theft, adultery, and the like are rampant. All sin is destructive, however, history shows that when some sins become acceptable in a civilization, its demise is imminent.

The killing of children and sexual perversion are just such sins.

America Must Face the Facts about Abortion.

Each year, we murder more than a million of our children in the abortion chambers across the nation. Who could have imagined that America would ever give legal sanction to a woman to kill her unborn baby? Our founding fathers most certainly could not have done so. Who could have imagined one day that more than 48 million babies would be sacrificed in the United States of America?

The killing of the innocent (Exodus 23:7), and the shedding of innocent blood—a thing that God hates (Proverb 6:17)—are widespread in our land. To discover what God thinks about prenatal life, I urge you to read Exodus 21:22-25, Psalm 139:13-16, Isaiah 49:1, Jeremiah 1:4-5, and Galatians 1:15. Read the three phases of human life in Hosea 9:11—conception, pregnancy, and birth. Read where God used the same word (*brephos*) to refer to John in his mother's womb, and to refer to the baby Jesus lying in the manger (Luke 1:41-44; 2:12,16). God also used "son" to refer to John in the womb (Luke 1:36). Read about God's outrage at the Israelites for sacrificing their children to pagan deities (Jeremiah 19:4-5; 32:35). The Bible clearly teaches that God possesses the same regard for human life from the moment of conception as well as after babies are born.

Our own medical science verifies the same thing. Samuel Armas was a 21-week, unborn baby when doctors at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tennessee performed spina bifida surgery on him while he was still in his mother's womb. During the surgery, his little hand flopped out of the incision opening and rested on the doctor's fingers. Eyewitness photo journalist Michael Clancey insists that Samuel's fingers gripped the doctor's finger. In any case, Samuel was born 15 weeks later. Nothing about his exit from his mother's body, suddenly transformed him from a nonhuman into a human. He was a human fetus throughout his pre-birth circumstance.

A terrible and tragic inconsistency exists in America today. Merely taking possession of an egg containing the pre-born American bald eagle and especially if one were to destroy that little pre-birth environment and thus destroy the baby eagle that is developing within—results in a stiff fine and even prison time. Yet one can take a human child in its pre-born environment and not only murder that child, but also receive government blessing and support to do so! Eagle eggs, i.e., pre-born eagles, are of greater value to American civilization than pre-born humans! That is what has happened to our society. The new ethics and moral sensibilities are absolutely bizarre.

The number of known abortions in America since 1973 is nearing 50 million—approximately 50 times more than all Americans lost in all of our wars. That figure is staggering to the human mind. That number represents about one-sixth of the present U.S. population. What if we awoke in the morning to face the frightening news that terrorists had released a deadly virus in major urban areas that was resulting in the death of 50 million Americans? We would be shocked, panic-stricken, and heartsick. Yet, Americans have tolerated the wholesale slaughter of that many of its children—entire generations of young people who will never see the light of day. At least the pagans killed their children for **religious** purposes, thinking they were pleasing a higher authority. We do it mostly for **convenience**—to evade the consequences of the sexual anarchy that runs rampant across our civilization.

What about Homosexuality?

When the Lord surveyed ancient Sodom and Gomorrah, he announced: "Their sin is very grievous" in Genesis 18:20. Then he purposed to destroy these wicked cities. He does not tolerate rebellious humanity indefinitely.

The rapidity with which homosexual activists continue to successfully bully our nation to normalize what once was universally considered abnormal is astonishing. And toleration has not satisfied them. Allowing their views to be taught in public schools has not appeased them. They insist that society endorsement extend to redefining marriage to include same-sex couples. Seven states and Washington DC have now legalized it.

A destructive plague of sexual insanity is creeping through American civilization.

This domino effect will ultimately end in the moral implosion of America.

America is being held captive by moral terrorists.

The social engineers of "political correctness" have been working overtime for decades to restructure public morality.

Even large corporations and businesses across the country have been legally required to subject their employees to mass propaganda under the guise of "sensitivity training."

Social architects are redefining marriage and morality at every level of our government.

They have placed themselves at odds with the Bible and the history of Western civilization.

They have brushed aside over 200 years of American heritage and are literally restructuring the American moral landscape.

The Founding Fathers of these United States would be shocked, incensed, and outraged.

They understood that acceptance of homosexuality would undermine and erode the moral foundations of civilization.

Sodomy, the longtime historical term for same-sex relations, was a capital crime under British common law.

Homosexuality was treated as a criminal offense in all of the original 13 colonies, and eventually every one of the 50 states. Severe penalties were invoked for those who engaged in homosexuality.

Where did the Founding Fathers and early Americans get their views on homosexuality?

The historical clear answer is—the Bible. Traditional, in other words biblical, marriage in this country has always been between a man and a woman.

In the words of Jesus: "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them **male and female**,' and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'?" (Matthew 19:4-5). He was merely quoting the statement made by God regarding His creation of the first man and woman (Genesis 1:27; 2:24).

Throughout all of biblical history God's attitude toward same-sex relations remained the same.

Romans 1:26-27 calls homosexuality shameful.

God's warning to the Israelites equally applies to America:

Leviticus 18:22-25 says that "You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination....

Do not defile yourselves with any of these things; for by all these the nations are defiled, **which I am casting out before you**. For the land is defiled; therefore **I visit the punishment of its iniquity upon it, and the land vomits out its inhabitants**." This is a sin that makes God sick.

The God of the Bible will not allow the abomination of homosexuality to go unchallenged and unpunished. The social turbulence of the 1960s created a sexual revolution in social morals among

the baby boomer generation. The philosophy of “do your own thing” literally has become part of American society. The result is that many Americans live their lives and make their day-to-day moral decisions on the basis of a mixture of values drawn from a variety of sources. Situation ethics is the order of the day, and the average person simply acts on his feelings and personal opinions. Morality is now individualistic—with each person formulating his own belief system and then measuring his behavior against that subjective and personal moral framework.

The prevailing sentiment is that no one should “judge” anyone else’s beliefs or actions, and everyone should be “tolerant” of the diversity of viewpoints that permeate society.

Several political movements are promoting **homosexual marriages**. The Gay, Lesbian & Straight Teacher’s Network, a national homosexual teachers group, is determined to teach the youth of the United States that homosexual relationships are normal and beautiful. We are out of control!

Is Our Hope for the Future Found in our Past?

Perhaps it would be wise to reflect upon the past to find the answer for the future.

Generally, the founding fathers of this nation had a high regard for the Bible and acknowledged the value of religion as a stabilizing national influence.

Daniel Webster once said, "If we abide by the principles taught in the Bible our country will go on prospering, but if we and our posterity neglect its instruction and authority, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us and bury us and our glory in profound obscurity."

Noah Webster asserted that “The Bible is the chief moral cause of all that is good and the best corrector of all that is evil in human society; the best book for regulating the temporal concerns of men.” He further claimed that “All the miseries and evils which men suffer from vice, crime, ambition, injustice, oppression, slavery and war, proceed from their despising or neglecting the precepts contained in the Bible.”

In a letter to Thomas Jefferson on December 25, 1813, John Adams stated that “the Bible is the best Book in the world.”

Declaration signer and president of the Continental Congress (1784), Richard Henry Lee, emphatically affirmed on March 6, 1786: “It is certainly true that a popular government cannot flourish without virtue in the people.”

The Founders of our country were adamant in their insistence that the survival of the Republic depends on its citizens maintaining unchanging Christian moral virtue. They would be deeply disturbed to see the extent to which our civilization has slumped from its original high moral ground.

All of these Founders, and many more, understood and believed the biblical declaration:

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

Solomon also stated in Proverbs 29:2,4, “When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; But when a wicked man rules, the people groan. The king establishes the land by justice, but he who receives bribes overthrows it.”

For almost 200 years, American culture was friendly toward Christianity. But for the last 50 years, sinister forces—from humanism, atheism, and evolution to social liberalism and political correctness—have been aggressive in their assault on the Christian religion. They have succeeded in gradually dismantling many of the moral and spiritual principles that once characterized society. America's religious, moral, and spiritual underpinnings are literally disintegrating.

Every effort is being made to remove references to God and Christianity from public life. Many are feverishly reshaping our history, laws, and traditional way of life. They have mounted a massive, full-scale assault on traditional moral values. They are endeavoring to sanitize our society and cleanse it of its Christian connections.

America Is At War! America is fighting a **spiritual culture war**. **The central issue is God**. America is in a life-and-death struggle over whether the God of the Bible will continue to be acknowledged as the one true God, and Christianity as the one true religion.

Let me be very clear. **This lesson is not about politics. It is about morality and biblical principles.** Christians must **stand up and speak out** at every opportunity for these principles. And we must strongly oppose what the Bible condemns.

In Summary

We have studied the following truths as taught in the Bible.

1. The destiny of all nations is ultimately in the hands of almighty God.
2. God expects nations to conform to certain moral criteria.
3. When the moral fabric of a people deteriorates to a certain point, God can and will bring that national power to its knees.

What Can We Do?

How can we contribute to the preservation of our beloved America?

Each Christian, consistent with his or her abilities, has a **three-fold responsibility**.

1. We must pray and commit ourselves to live according to God's teachings in the Bible.
2. We must teach forcefully the positive truths of moral conduct and teach against the evils that plague our modern culture.
3. We must oppose the teachings and actions of those who would destroy this nation.

My prayer is that God **will** bless America and that God will bless His church.

Invitation

Now as we close this message we offer the invitation of Jesus. Jesus loves you and we do too. Even though God hates sin, He loves the sinner. We are all sinners and fall short and need to turn away from sin. The good news of Jesus Christ is that we can repent and He will forgive us of all our sins. If you need to become a Christian, you can be saved by being baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. If you are a Christian and need the prayers of your brothers and sisters, we also urge you to let us know how we can help you.