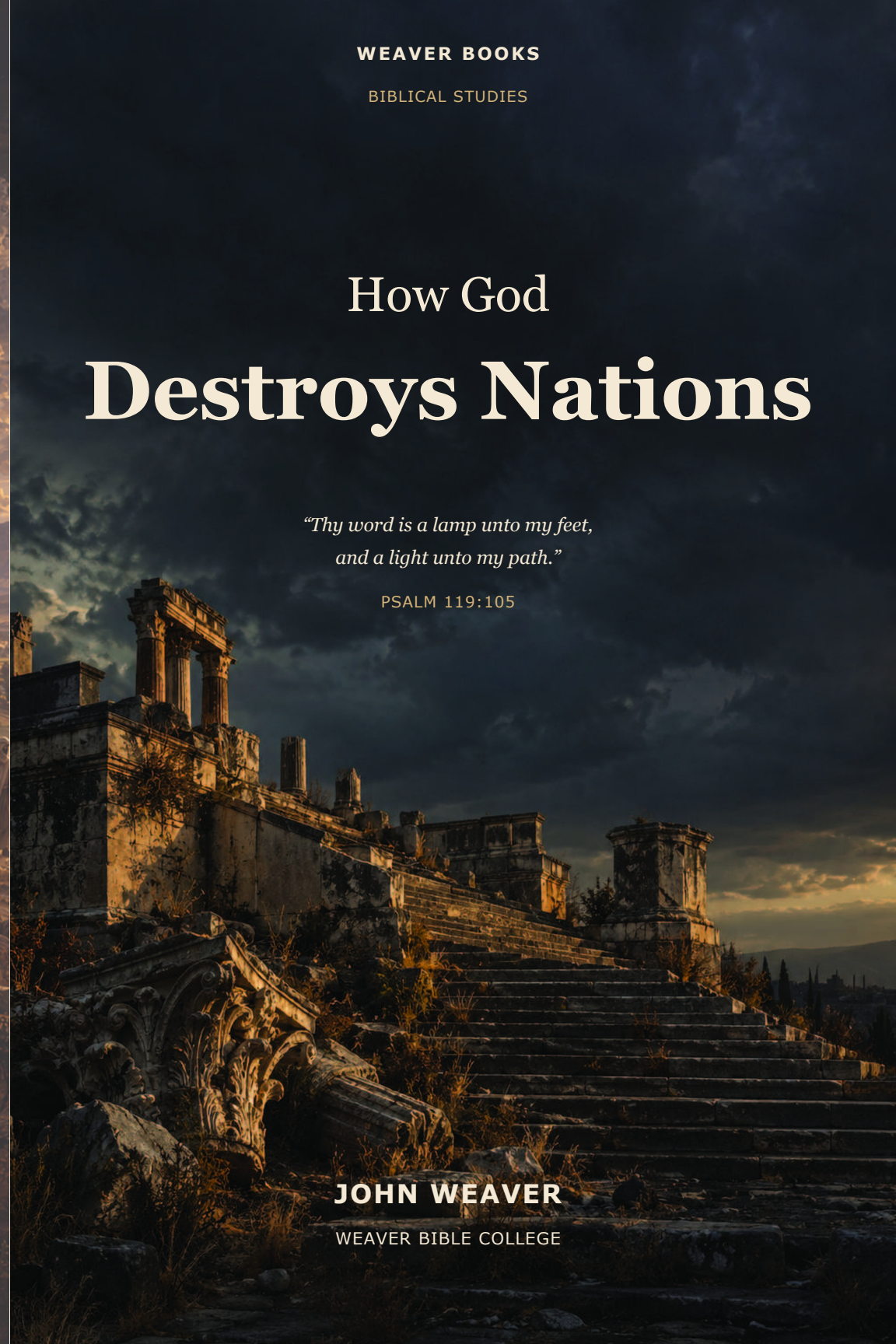
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How God
Destroys Nations

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path."

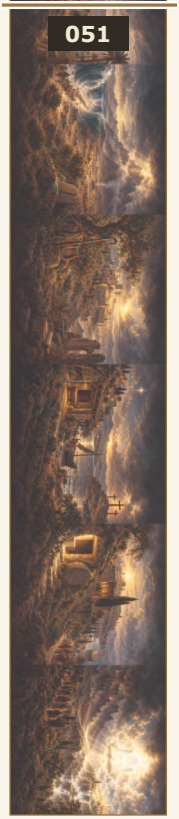
PSALM 119:105



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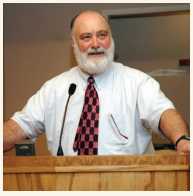
Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.

PROVERBS 14:34

National life is not exempt from God's moral government. John Weaver examines apostasy, false reliance, social conflict, and economic disorder as themes of judgment in Scripture. These sermons ask how disobedience affects a people and emphasize the need to measure public life by God's Word rather than by reassuring appearances.

“All of those false refuges and protections must be destroyed if the people are going to return to God in repentance and faith.”

JOHN WEAVER



John Weaver

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CHAPTER 1

How God Destroys Nations

Part One

SCRIPTURE READING - Isaiah 19:1-10 (KJV)

The burden of Egypt. Behold, the Lord rideth upon a swift cloud, and shall come into Egypt: and the idols of Egypt shall be moved at his presence, and the heart of Egypt shall melt in the midst of it.

And I will set the Egyptians against the Egyptians: and they shall fight every one against his brother, and every one against his neighbour; city against city, and kingdom against kingdom. And the spirit of Egypt shall fail in the midst thereof; and I will destroy the counsel thereof: and they shall seek to the idols, and to the charmers, and to them that have familiar spirits, and to the wizards. And the Egyptians will I give over into the hand of a cruel lord; and a fierce king shall rule over them, saith the Lord, the Lord of hosts. And the waters shall fail from the sea, and the river shall be wasted and dried up. And they shall turn the rivers far away; and the brooks of defence shall be emptied and dried up.

> The reeds and flags shall wither. The paper reeds by the brooks, by the mouth of the brooks, and every thing sown by the brooks shall wither, be driven away, and be no more. The fishers also shall mourn, and all they that cast angle into the brooks shall lament, and they that spread nets upon the waters shall languish. Moreover they that work in fine flax, and they that weave networks, shall be confounded. And they shall be broken in the purposes thereof, all that make sluices and ponds for fish.

"Surely the princes of Zoan are fools, the counsel of the wise counsellors of Pharaoh is become brutish: how say ye unto Pharaoh, I am the son of the wise, the son of ancient kings? Where are they? where are thy wise men? and let them tell thee now, and let them know what the Lord of hosts hath purposed upon Egypt. The princes of Zoan are become fools, the princes of Noph are deceived; they have also seduced Egypt, even they that are the stay of the tribes thereof. The Lord hath mingled a perverse spirit in the midst thereof: and they have caused Egypt to err in every work thereof, as a drunken man staggereth in his vomit. Neither shall there be any work for Egypt, which the head or tail, branch or rush, may do. In that day shall Egypt be like unto women: and it shall be afraid and fear because of the shaking of the hand of the Lord of hosts, which he shaketh over it. And the land of Judah shall be a terror unto Egypt. Every one that maketh mention thereof shall be afraid in himself, because of the counsel of the Lord of hosts, which he hath determined against it. In that day shall five cities in the land of Egypt speak the language of Canaan, and swear to the Lord of hosts; one shall be called, The city of destruction."

Introduction: Cataclysmic vs. Slow Judgment

This series is entitled "How God Destroys Nations." All I need to do is mention the word judgment. When we hear that word, each of us automatically thinks cataclysmically. If something does not happen cataclysmically, people most often do not associate it with judgment. When something happens slowly, or what we call naturally, we tend to label it mother nature, luck, chance, fate, or fortune. When God judges, people assume that He judges cataclysmically.

Look in your Bibles to 2 Peter 2:5. Notice what the Bible says, beginning with verse 4, so that we can see that it is judgment: "For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment." We are talking about judgment. Now watch verse 5.

"And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly." Each one of us knows that God brought a cataclysmic judgment upon the old world. There was a time when Noah stopped preaching, and God opened the windows of heaven and the fountains of the deep and brought the flood upon those individuals. In verse 5 of 2 Peter chapter 2, the word "flood" in the Greek is kataklusmon, where we get our English word cataclysmic. Here was a cataclysmic flood; Noah preached until one day there was a giant cataclysm, so to speak, and God brought the flood.

The same truth is given us in verse 6 concerning Sodom and Gomorrah: "And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly." Just as God brought Lot and his family safely out of the city, He rained fire and brimstone upon Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities of the plain and destroyed them all cataclysmically.

When we think of preeminent judgments in the Bible, we think of the destruction of the 400 prophets of Baal by Elijah, done in one day; the smiting of Herod in Acts chapter 12, done instantly; and the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD. All of those were cataclysmic judgments, and God does sometimes judge in a cataclysmic manner. But God does not judge all of the time in a cataclysmic manner.

The Scripture teaches in 2 Peter 2 and verse 6 that the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah was an example to all those who should hereafter live ungodly. However, that does not mean every future judgment will be cataclysmic. It means that those who live ungodly shall be destroyed, though they do not necessarily have to be destroyed cataclysmically. God is not and cannot be limited to cataclysmic judgments.

He may judge in a manner that produces destruction and death very slowly. Each of us understands that death is death and destruction is destruction. It does not matter whether one dies quickly or slowly; he is still dead. It does not matter whether a nation is destroyed quickly or slowly; it is still destroyed. We do not normally think of judgment in slow terminology. We are prone to thinking cataclysmically, and yet most of God's judgments are indeed slow judgments.

Biblical Examples of Slow Judgment

Do you remember what God told Adam when he sinned? "In dying thou shalt die." Adam lived 930 years, but he was still judged by God. His death was a slow death. King Saul was judged by God, yet he continued to reign another 20 years; his judgment was a slow judgment. Ahab was wicked, and although God decreed his death, he was not smitten instantly. He died later on. Thus, when God judges, He may do so cataclysmically, or He may do so slowly but surely; yet it is equally God's judgment.

The Principle of Slow Judgment in Isaiah 42

Look in your Bibles to Isaiah 42. Here is the principle of a slow judgment. Beginning with verse 22, God says concerning His people: "But this is a people robbed and spoiled; they are all of them snared in holes. They are hid in prison houses: they are for a prey, and none delivereth; for a spoil, and none saith, Restore. Who among you will give ear to this? who will hearken and hear for the time to come?"

Now watch this question: "Who gave Jacob for a spoil, and Israel to the robbers? did not the Lord, he against whom we have sinned? for they would not walk in his ways, neither were they obedient unto his law. Therefore he hath poured upon him the fury of his anger, and the strength of battle: and it hath set him on fire round about, yet he knew not; and it burned him, yet he laid it not to heart."

Note closely this phrase: “Yet it burned him.” Verse 25 says, “Yet he laid it not to heart.” Isaiah continues, “It set him on fire round about, yet he knew it not.” What does that mean? What does that indicate? It indicates what we would call a slow judgment. Whenever you read this passage and see the words “robbed and spoiled,”

“snared in holes,” “hidden in prisons,” “for a spoil,” and “fury poured out,” all of these things indicate a slow judgment. Yet the passage says, “he knew it not.” In other words, it is something that happens slowly and imperceptibly, yet it does happen. “It burned him, and yet he laid it not to heart.”

Everyone knows the illustration of boiling a frog in water. If you pitch a bullfrog into a pot of boiling water, he will instantly jump out. But if you put that same frog in a bowl of water and heat it very slowly, almost imperceptibly, he will sit there until he is cooked to death. We are like that in America. In fact, people everywhere are like that.

Snatch our rights from us all at once, and we will fight. However, take those same rights away one at a time, and we will endure tyranny until we are totally and absolutely enslaved. Enslavement done slowly is still enslavement. Destruction accomplished slowly is still destruction. Robbery carried out slowly over a period of time is still robbery. If I broke into Dr. Holmes’ house, saw a thousand dollars lying there, and took it, would that be robbery? Of course. Suppose instead that I visited him several times at his invitation and took a hundred-dollar bill each time over ten weeks. Would it still be robbery? Of course. It does not matter whether it is done slowly or quickly. It is still theft and still robbery.

Now, how in the world does God destroy nations? The answer is given to us in Isaiah 19. This passage begins with “the burden of Egypt.” The word “burden” literally means the prophecy concerning Egypt. Isaiah is giving this burden, this prophecy, concerning the nation of Egypt.

Why Egypt Must Be Destroyed

Now you must ask yourself a question right away: Why in the world must Egypt be destroyed? Incidentally, it is not just Egypt, but many nations that God has destroyed over a period of years. Since we are looking in Isaiah 19, ask yourself this question: Why must Egypt be destroyed? Let me give you two answers.

First of all, Egypt has historically always been the enemy of God and the enemy of God's people. You must remember that it was

Egypt that defied God, enslaved His people, and resisted all demands to release Israel. When Moses went to Pharaoh and said, "Thus saith the Lord, let my people go," what was Pharaoh's response? "I know not the Lord, neither will I let Israel go." So, historically, Egypt has always been the enemy of God's people. In Revelation chapter 11 and verse 8, you do not have to turn there, but when God is describing the wickedness of Judah and Jerusalem in their corruption and rebellion against Him, He applies to Jerusalem the names of Sodom and Egypt. Those two have always been known for their wickedness, their rebellion, and being peculiarly the enemy of God. So the first answer is because Egypt is God's enemy.

The second answer is this: Egypt was always a false reliance for Judah and for many Israelites. What do I mean when I say a false reliance or a false hope? Let me read to you 2 Kings 18 and verse 21. Listen to what the Word of God says: "Now, behold, thou trustest upon the staff of this bruised reed, even upon Egypt, on which if a man lean, it will go into his hand, and pierce it: so is Pharaoh king of Egypt unto all that trust on him."

You know what Israel did, particularly Judah, the southern tribes? When God would judge the land and times got rough, they would flee into Egypt and stay there. In other words, the judgment was not there, and therefore they would flee there and depend upon Egypt. Many times they depended upon Egypt militarily. Instead of trusting God and repenting of their sins, they would hire the Egyptians for protection and help.

What is God doing? God would not only destroy Egypt because Egypt historically is the enemy of God, but also because Egypt is a false god, a false refuge, and a false protection. All of those false refuges and protections must be destroyed if the people are going to return to God in repentance and faith.

Let me demonstrate it. When God sent the ten plagues upon Egypt, each plague was directed at a god of Egypt. God was knocking down the false gods. The last god was Pharaoh himself. He claimed to be a god, yet he could not even protect his own son, much less the sons and children of the people of Egypt. Every time God struck at Egypt, He was striking at a false god.

When God brings us back to Himself in repentance and faith, He not only takes care that we repent and believe; He also knocks out from under us the false props, false hopes, and false refuges. Thus Egypt had to be destroyed. God will remove any obstacle that hinders true repentance and true turning to Him. Now, how does God destroy nations?

God Destroys a Nation Religiously First

There are five ways God destroys a nation, but I will give you only one each week. Today, I want you to understand that God will destroy a nation religiously. I find this very interesting: the very first thing God does in the destruction of a nation is destroy its religion. Let me show you. Look in Isaiah 19, verse one: “The burden of Egypt. Behold, the Lord rideth upon a swift cloud, and shall come into Egypt: and the idols of Egypt shall be moved at his presence, and the heart of Egypt shall melt in the midst of it.” Skip down to verse three: “And the spirit of Egypt shall fail in the midst thereof; and I will destroy the counsel thereof: and they shall seek to the idols, and to the charmers, and to them that have familiar spirits, and to the wizards.”

Notice particularly in verse one that “the idols of Egypt shall be moved at his presence.” In verse three, it says, “they shall seek to the idols, and to the charmers, and to them that have familiar spirits, and to the wizards.” In other words, when God comes into a land to destroy it, His very first act is to destroy it religiously. Look again at what God says in verse one: “The burden of Egypt, behold the Lord rideth upon a swift cloud, and shall come into Egypt, and the idols of Egypt shall be moved at his presence.” Then, “the heart of Egypt shall melt in the midst thereof.” The heart is the center of one's being and existence. When the heart ceases, so does the individual.

The same is true of a nation. When the heart of a nation ceases, so does the nation. To attack the heart is a death-dealing blow. So God comes in a death-dealing blow to destroy Egypt. When nations turn from God, they do so to their own destruction. Listen to Psalm 9, verse 17: “The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.”

Do not think just for a moment only of that last eternal judgment. Think also of temporal judgments in time and history. When it says, "the nations that forget God shall be turned into hell," that means a nation can live in time and history and become a living hell on earth. That is why Isaiah 19:3 says, "the spirit of Egypt shall fail in the midst thereof," and adds, "and I will destroy the counsel thereof."

Have you ever pondered this question: What does it mean when God destroys the counsel of an individual, or what does it mean when God destroys the counsel of a nation? It means that God is destroying what is usually referred to as good advice, common sense, that which is sagacious, wise, and good. Proverbs 11:14 tells us, "Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety."

The Consequence of Rejecting Truth

Where there is no common sense, no good advice, and no wise, sagacious reasoning, the people fall. Proverbs 24:6 also tells us, "For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war: and in multitude of counsellors there is safety." So when God says, "I'm going to destroy the counsel of a nation," God says, "I'm going to destroy her good advice and common sense."

When God takes away counsel, He takes away truth. And when He takes away truth, the only thing left is error and falsehood. Thus God says in verse 3, "And the spirit of Egypt shall fail in the midst thereof, and I will destroy the counsel thereof." So when God destroys the counsel—the wise, good advice and common sense—what is going to happen? "And they shall seek to the idols, and to the charmers, and to them that have familiar spirits, and to the wizards."

Where did King Saul turn when God departed from him? The Witch of Endor. When God takes away His truth, the only thing that is left is error. We have failed to grasp a simple principle. Do you know why people believe a lie? It is not simply because they do not have the truth. It is because they do not want the truth. Look in your Bible—hold Isaiah 19—but turn to Romans chapter 1. Here is the passage everyone is familiar with, but I want you to see it in light of what has just been said. The reason people believe a lie is not simply

because they do not have the truth, but because they do not want the truth. Look in Romans 1, beginning with verse 21. Romans 1:21.

Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature.

Now look at verse 28: "And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient." Notice what the Bible says: "Because that, when they knew God, they" what? "Glorified him not as God." Neither were they thankful, but they became vain in their foolish imagination, and they changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image.

The word "retain" is very revealing. The Greek word is echo, which means to have, to hold, to own, and possess. They did not like to hold, own, or possess God in their knowledge, and God gave them over to a reprobate mind. It was not that they did not have the truth; they did not want the truth. They refused to hold the knowledge of God in their minds, and therefore God gave them over to a reprobate mind.

There is a principle in the Bible that teaches that God is not mocked. Neither is God mocked, and God will not allow His Word to be mocked. When people refuse and reject the Word of God, God removes it. He will not allow His Word to continue in the hands and minds of those who reject it. Mark chapter 4, verses 23 through 25, gives us this simple truth.

Beginning with verse 23, Christ said, "If any man have ears to hear, let him hear." This is vitally important: if you have ears, you

had better listen. “Take heed what ye hear: with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you.” And to those who hear, more shall be given. “For he that hath, to him shall be given: and he that hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he hath.” What is God saying? If you do not use His truth, you will lose it. He will take it from you. God will not be mocked, nor will He allow His Word to be mocked. Thus, when Israel turned her back upon God’s truth, God removed His truth from Israel.

How did He do that? There are two things to observe as you read through the Bible. When God curses a people, He will do one of two things. First, He will remove His prophets from the land, as He did Elijah. For three and a half years, Elijah was in Zarephath with a widow woman; he was not in the land. God simply removed Elijah from the land, so there was no word from God.

Or, secondly, God can do as He did in the case of Jeremiah. He left Jeremiah in the land but told him, “Pray not for this people.” Whatever Jeremiah told them, he was to tell them that God would destroy them, because that was exactly what He would do. In one instance, God removed His prophets; in another, He left them in the land but shut their mouths so they would not pray and intercede for the people’s good. They would not preach reconciling words. The only words they preached were words of judgment.

In 2 Chronicles 36, verse 15, we read: “And the Lord God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling place.” When God has compassion on a people, what does He do?

He sends them His preachers and prophets to proclaim His word. Second Chronicles 36 says, “But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the Lord arose against his people, till there was no remedy.” Therefore He brought upon them the king of the Chaldees, who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, showing no compassion to young man or maiden, old man, or him that stooped for age. “He gave them all into his hand.”

Do you see what the Bible says? God had compassion and sent His preachers, but the people despised the preachers, mocked the prophets, and despised God's word. Then the wrath of God arose against them, and God destroyed the people. God will always destroy those who refuse His words and His prophets. Usually, before He judges the people, He will either remove His preachers or silence them, so that the judgment may be full.

Isaiah 66 shows the graciousness of God on the one hand and the judgment of God on the other: "Thus saith the Lord, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. Where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest?" Though His hand made all these things, He looks to "him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word." But then He says, "He that killeth an ox is as if he slew a man." Why? Because he is not obeying God.

"He that sacrificeth a lamb, as if he cut off a dog's neck; he that offereth an oblation, as if he offered swine's blood; he that burneth incense, as if he blessed an idol. Yea, they have chosen their own ways, and their soul delighteth in their abominations."

Now, look what God says: "I also will choose their delusions, and will bring their fears upon them; because when I called, none did answer; when I spake, they did not hear: but they did evil before mine eyes, and chose that in which I delighted not." Did you hear what God said? Because they refused His words, would not listen to Him, would have none of His truth, He would choose their delusions. The same truth is reiterated in the New Testament.

God is saying, when you do not receive His Word, when you do not believe it, will not have it, and will not obey it, He will send you a delusion. He will send you a lie, and you will believe the lie. Why would God send people a lie? Why would God allow a nation to believe a lie?

Look in your Bibles to 2 Thessalonians chapter 2, beginning with verse 10. Here is why God will send a lie: "And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved." We are talking about people who are dying lost, dying undone, dying in their

sins, and dying in their rebellion. They would not have anything to do with God or His Word. They would not repent or believe.

Watch verse 11: "And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness." What does God say? When you refuse His Word and reject Him, because you reject God and His Word, He will send you a strong delusion, and you will believe a lie to your own damnation, because you received not His truth.

We look around our nation and in our churches, and we wonder why there are so many who are deceived, ignorant, apathetic, uninterested, neglectful, and downright resistant to anything that is right, holy, just, and scriptural. I am going to tell you why: God has sent them a strong delusion, that they should believe a lie, because they have refused and rejected the Word of God. Let me tell you where we are in this country.

America's Religious Destruction

We are living in a day of political correctness and tolerance. The age of tolerance becomes an age in which people are tolerant of anything and everything until that which is wicked takes control; then there will be a new intolerance. We are being taught that it does not really matter what anyone believes.

All religions are considered equal. Ecumenism and political correctness have a leveling effect in religion. To the politically correct demagogues, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Shintoism, and Christianity are all equally true and all equally lead to heaven and salvation. Therefore, all religions are valid, and none can claim superiority or exclusivity. If you claim to have an exclusive religion, like Christianity, then you are politically incorrect and intolerant, and you must be dealt with.

That is where we are in our land today. That is why Islam is on the rampage in this country, why every cult, ism, and schism imaginable is granted all kinds of political blessing, and why biblical Christianity is hated and despised.

In 1776, when the Declaration of Independence was being signed, Samuel Adams said, "We have this day restored the Sovereign to whom all men ought to be obedient. He reigns in heaven, and from the rising to the setting sun, let His kingdom come." What was Sam Adams saying? We are recognizing our Savior, Jesus Christ, as the Sovereign God of heaven and earth. He has the right to rule in this land and in every land, and we need to say, "let His kingdom come." When our founding fathers used the word "religion," it did not refer to all religions.

It was not referring to Judaism, Islam, Shintoism, or Buddhism. When they used the word "religion," they were referring to Christianity. Listen to what President John Adams said on October 11, 1798: "We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion or Christianity. Avarice, ambition, revenge, or gallantry would break the strongest cords of our Constitution as a whale goes through a net. Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

What was he saying? Our Constitution was made for a Christian people, a people who were going to abide by the law of God. It is wholly inadequate for any other.

Do you realize that our founding fathers took this sentiment: we must be pinned together either by the Bible or the bayonet? In 1983, Alabama courts, in the case of Jaffree versus the Board of School Commissioners of Mobile County, Judge Brevard Hand quoted Justice Story's succinct definition of the First Amendment: "The real object of the First Amendment was not to countenance, much less to advance Mohammedanism or Judaism or infidelity by prostrating Christianity, but to exclude all rivalry among Christian denominations and to prevent any national ecclesiastical patronage of the national government."

What did he just say? He said that this was to be a Christian nation. When it says that Congress shall not establish a religion, all that means is that it cannot make the Baptists, Presbyterians, or Lutherans the established religion. It was not to prostrate Christianity and elevate Mohammedanism, Judaism, or infidelity. No denomination of Christianity would have superiority over

another. Congress had no right to elevate the Baptists, Presbyterians, or Lutherans, and that was it.

Now, what has happened in our nation? We have been destroyed religiously. We were once a Christian nation with Christian law, Christian ethics, and Christian morals based upon the Word of God. When our country was formed, each state not only believed the Bible, but had laws requiring every ruler to believe in Jesus Christ and in the inspiration of the Bible. Every state and every colony believed that Christianity was the true religion and was to be the law of the land. Now we have turned from the foundation of our founding fathers and become a multicultural, multi-religion, multi-nightmare society with no morals, no ethics, no direction, and no hope.

Psalm 11, verse 3 asks a simple question: "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" The foundations have been destroyed in our country, and they are continuing to be destroyed. When God would judge Israel, He allowed her to degenerate into religions. All you have to do is read 1 Kings chapter 12. What did Jeroboam the son of Nebat do? He made two golden calves, put one in Dan and one in Bethel, and said, "These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt." You did not have to go down to Jerusalem; you could worship in Dan and Bethel. He started a new religion.

Judah fell into the same trap. All you have to do is read 1 Kings chapter 11, where Solomon introduced idolatry into the land and built altars to all these false gods. We have degenerated in this country to a land of religions instead of a land of Christianity. The breakdown and destruction of Christianity in America can be viewed as nothing less than the judgment of God upon America.

When God destroys a nation, He first destroys that which unifies, that which supports the nation, and that is her religion. That which initially unified and supported these states that joined together in that compact was biblical Christianity. He destroys the religion first because it is pagan, idolatrous, and an affront to His majesty. What did He say in Isaiah 42? "My glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images." All of our multi-religions are an affront to His majesty.

Two Tests of Religious Judgment

How can we tell when a nation is being judged religiously? The answer is simple: there is a two-pronged test. The first test is this: What is a nation's basis for truth? What is our nation's basis or foundation for truth? Is it the Word of God, or is it political correctness? Is it God, or is it the Supreme Court? Is it God, or is it the legislature? Is it the rule of God, or is it the rule of man?

If the basis for truth and righteousness is not the Word of God, turn in your Bibles to Jeremiah 7 and look at verse 28. Let God say it. The first test is to ask: What is the basis of a nation? What is the nation's basis for truth? If it is not the Word of God, here is what God says that we are to say.

He tells Jeremiah, "But thou shalt say unto them, This is a nation that obeyeth not the voice of the Lord their God, nor receiveth correction: truth is perished, and is cut off from their mouth." Isn't that amazing? God said, if you reject my word, you have no truth. You know why we're in the mess we're in in America? We don't have truth. We have rejected it. We've turned from it.

I've told people I could work out these problems we have in a heartbeat. Every problem has a solution. Problems can be resolved, fixed, and worked out. I never have a problem with problems; I only have a problem with people. If people are willing to do what's right, then the problem will be worked out. The reason we're having these problems is that there is no basis for truth: the government doesn't know the truth, and the people don't want the truth. So God says, if my word is not your basis, then you're humanist. Truth is perished and cut off from their mouth, and that's why you don't obey me.

Now the second test is equally simple. Are the people concerned whether or not they really have truth? We're talking about a two-pronged test. The first is, what is the nation's basis for truth? The second is, are the people genuinely concerned whether they have the truth? Do the people of a nation genuinely express concern to do right, to be right, and to believe right?

If not, look at Jeremiah 5:31: "The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?" God says, you will like it

right now, but wait till judgment falls. Then you'll wish you had the truth and had listened to it.

I think of Jeremiah so many times, the weeping prophet who preached to a people who would not listen. They would not repent. It's frustrating when you see people deep in problems and a nation so corrupt, when you know what the answer is, but none will listen. They love to have it that way.

I want you to turn to one last passage. Look in 2 Kings 17. Here is a picture of America. We like to profess that we are a Christian nation and say that we are a Christian people. Yet in 2 Kings 17, the king of Assyria had conquered Israel, removed the people from the land, and put a bunch of other folks there.

2 Kings 17:26 says, “Wherefore they spake to the king of Assyria, saying, The nations which thou hast removed, and placed in the cities of Samaria, know not the manner of the God of the land: therefore he hath sent lions among them, and, behold, they slay them, because they know not the manner of the God of the land.” God was not sovereign to them; He was merely a little local god. “Then the king of Assyria commanded, saying, Carry thither one of the priests whom ye brought from thence; and let them go and dwell there, and let him teach them the manner of the God of the land. Then one of the priests whom they had carried away from Samaria came and dwelt in Bethel, and taught them how they should fear the Lord.”

Bethel is where one of the golden calves was. Therefore, he was not really teaching the truth; he was teaching them how to worship the golden calf.

“ Howbeit every nation made gods of their own, and put them in the houses of the high places which the Samaritans had made, every nation in their cities wherein they dwelt. And the men of Babylon made Succoth-benoth, and the men of Cuth made Nergal, and the men of Hamath made Ashima, and the Avites made Nibhaz and Tartak, and the Sepharvites burnt their children in fire to Adrammelech and Anammelech, the gods of Sepharvaim. So they feared the Lord, and made unto themselves of the lowest of them priests of the high places, which sacrificed for them in the houses of

the high places. They feared the Lord, and served their own gods, after the manner of the nations whom they carried away from thence."

"Unto this day they do after the former manners: they fear not the Lord, neither do they after their statutes, or after their ordinances, or after the law and commandment which the Lord commanded the children of Jacob, whom he named Israel." What did they do? They said, "We fear the Lord." But what did they do? They made their own idols and worshipped and served them.

We like to profess that we are a Christian land and a Christian nation, yet we do not care one whit about God's Word, God's law, or what God says. We live and act as a nation and worship as a nation like the heathen. God judges nations, and the first way He judges them is religiously.

Conclusion: A Call to Hold to Truth

When God removes His truth, the only thing left is a lie; when people believe a lie, they are doomed and damned. Our Lord Himself said, "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." If you do not know Jesus Christ, you do not know truth; if you do not know the Word of God, you do not know truth. He is the living Word, the Bible is the written Word, and God, the God of Scripture, is the God of truth.

Father, we thank You for Jesus Christ and Your truth. Whatever the world or every other person in America does, I want You and Your word. As a church, we want You and Your word. We want to be governed by Your law, submit ourselves to Thee, walk in obedience, and bring honor, glory, and majesty to the one true and living God who has revealed Himself in Jesus Christ.

O Lord, help us to be biblical, godly, and to honor Thee. Help us at all times to hold to Thy truth without compromise and without fear of man. In the name of Jesus Christ we ask and pray, Amen.

CHAPTER 2

How God Destroys Nations

Part Two

SCRIPTURE READING - Isaiah 19:1-17 (KJV)

Introduction: Review of Part 1 and the Nature of God's Judgments

> The burden of Egypt. Behold, the LORD rideth upon a swift cloud, and shall come into Egypt: and the idols of Egypt shall be moved at his presence, and the heart of Egypt shall melt in the midst of it.
>
> And I will set the Egyptians against the Egyptians: and they shall fight every one against his brother, and every one against his neighbour; city against city, and kingdom against kingdom. And the spirit of Egypt shall fail in the midst thereof; and I will destroy the counsel thereof: and they shall seek to the idols, and to the charmers, and to them that have familiar spirits, and to the wizards. And the Egyptians will I give over into the hand of a cruel lord; and a fierce king shall rule over them, saith the Lord, the LORD of hosts. And the waters shall fail from the sea, and the river shall be wasted and dried up. And they shall turn

> the rivers far away; and the brooks of defence shall be emptied and dried up.
>
> The reeds and flags shall wither. The paper reeds by the brooks, by the mouth of the brooks, and every thing sown by the brooks, shall wither, be driven away, and be no more. The fishers also shall mourn, and all they that cast angle into the brooks shall lament, and they that spread nets upon the waters shall languish. Moreover they that work in fine flax, and they that weave networks, shall be confounded. And they shall be broken in the purposes thereof, all that make sluices and ponds for fish.
>
> Surely the princes of Zoan are fools, the counsel of the wise counsellors of Pharaoh is become brutish: how say ye unto Pharaoh, I am the son of the wise, the son of ancient kings? Where are they? where are thy wise men? and let them tell thee now, and let them know what the LORD of hosts hath purposed upon Egypt. The princes of Zoan are become fools, the princes of Noph are deceived; they have also seduced Egypt, even they that are the stay of the tribes thereof. The LORD hath mingled a perverse spirit in the midst thereof: and they have caused Egypt to err in every work thereof, as a drunken man staggereth in his vomit. Neither shall there be any work for Egypt, which the head or tail, branch or rush, may do. In that day shall Egypt be like unto women: and it shall be afraid and fear because of the shaking of the hand of the LORD of hosts, which he shaketh over it. And the land of Judah shall be a terror unto Egypt.

"Every one that maketh mention thereof shall be afraid in himself, because of the counsel of the LORD of hosts, which he hath determined against it." Now, I began a series last week, and I dealt with part one on how God destroys nations. In these seventeen verses, there are five ways given unto us by which God destroyed Egypt. The principles are still the same today, and we can see these same principles at work not only in our nation, but also in the nations of the world as well.

Last week I began this series by talking about judgment. Every time we think about God's judgment, we think of cataclysmic judgments. We think of the flood. We think of the destruction of

Sodom and Gomorrah. We think of how Elijah cut off the heads of the prophets of Baal. We think about how God smoked King Herod. In other words, here are things that happen instantaneously and very climactically. And so we tend to have that thought in our mind, that if anything is cataclysmic, then, of course, God has done it.

We get our English word "cataclysmic" from the Greek word that is used for "flood" in 2 Peter 2:5, and the word is "cataclysmos." It is a cataclysmic judgment when God sent that flood. However, I demonstrated in my introduction that judgments do not have to be cataclysmic to be from God. You cannot bind God down to simple cataclysmic judgments. Slow judgments are equally from God. God oftentimes uses what you and I would know as slow judgments far more readily and far more often than He does the cataclysmic judgments.

In reality, the slowness of judgment can add unmitigated suffering in a number of ways. Hold Isaiah 19—I am coming right back there—but look in your Bibles to the book of Lamentations, chapter 4 and verse 6. Right after Isaiah, you have Jeremiah and Lamentations. We are talking about the slowness of judgment now and how that slowness can add unmitigated suffering to the judgment. Jeremiah says: "For the punishment of the iniquity of the daughter of my people is greater than the punishment of the sin of Sodom, that was overthrown as in a moment, and no hands stayed on her."

Jeremiah wrote the book of Lamentations as he was watching Jerusalem destroyed. He makes this phenomenal statement: "For the punishment of the iniquity of the daughter of my people"—that is, the punishment of Jerusalem—"is greater than the punishment of the sin of Sodom, that was overthrown as in a moment, and no hands stayed on her."

The Slowness of Judgment Adds Unmitigated Suffering

Here is a prime example not only of the slowness of judgment, but of how the slowness of judgment adds what I would call unmitigated suffering. Sodom and Gomorrah were overthrown in an instant. They were there, and then they were gone. But that was not so with

Jerusalem. Jerusalem was judged by God, but her judgment was done very slowly; therefore, there was much more suffering—mentally, emotionally, physically, and spiritually.

When God destroyed Jerusalem, armies surrounded the city. Jerusalem was besieged for two solid years. Death stalked outside by the armies and their armament, and death stalked inside by famine and disease. Lamentations chapter 4 gives a description of some of the suffering in Jerusalem. It says, "Her Nazarites"—those young men who had taken the Nazarite vow—"were purer than snow, they were whiter than milk, they were more ruddy in body than rubies, and their polishing was of sapphire." But what had happened? "Their visage is blacker than a coal; they are not known in the streets: their skin cleaveth to their bones; it is withered." It had become like a stick. In other words, they were basically starving to death.

Verse 9 says, "They that be slain with the sword are better than they that be slain with hunger: for these pine away, stricken through for want of the fruits of the earth." Those killed with the sword are better than those who die of hunger. When you are killed by the sword, at least you die quickly. But when you starve to death, you die slowly, in much anguish, pain, and suffering.

Verse 10 shows how bad it was: "The hands of the pitiful women have sodden their own children: they were their meat in the destruction of the daughter of my people." Starvation and famine stalked the city with such rage that women killed, cooked, and ate their own children. Here is a slow judgment compared to a quick judgment. Jeremiah said the punishment of the iniquity of the daughter of my people was far greater than the punishment of the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah. Why? Because Sodom and Gomorrah was overthrown in a moment.

God Destroys Nations Religiously and Socially

It was over and done with, but not so with Jerusalem. Last week, I showed you how God destroyed a nation religiously when they forsook Him, because God will not give His glory to idols. God will not brook any competition. Isaiah 42:8 says, "I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise

to graven images." God is a jealous God. When God destroys a nation, He destroys them, first of all, religiously. Then, of course, when He does so, He allows that nation to break down socially.

Please remember this: religion is basically the glue that holds the fabric of society together. When one leaves the one true and living God, when we leave biblical Christianity and break down into various sects and isms, we destroy ourselves socially as well as religiously. When biblical Christianity is rejected and all the isms, cults, and schisms arise, they pit one against the other. It is not simply a breakdown in religion; it is a breakdown socially as well.

When God judges a nation, He not only judges them, first of all, religiously, but secondly, He judges them socially. Look back in your Bibles to Isaiah chapter 19, verse 2, and observe this social, or societal, judgment. God says, "And I will set the Egyptians against the Egyptians: and they shall fight every one against his brother, and every one against his neighbour. City against city, and kingdom against kingdom."

Isaiah 19:2: God Sets Egyptians Against Egyptians

Social or societal unrest is indicative of God's judgment upon a nation. Turn to Proverbs 16 and verse 7. This is a verse I would encourage you to memorize because it is so vastly important and so full of truth. You need to see it for yourself. Look in Proverbs 16 and verse 7.

The Bible says, "When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him." God is capable of making our enemies to be at peace with us. If God is capable of making even our enemies to be at peace with us, He is certainly capable of enabling brothers, neighbors, and citizens to be at peace with each other and to get along.

However, when the judgment of God falls on a nation, a man's enemies are often those of his own household. That is what our Lord said in Matthew 10:36: a man's foes shall be they of his own household. In other words, when God's judgment is upon a nation, a man's foes can be those of his own household, including his brothers.

Now look at verse 2 of Isaiah chapter 19. God says, "And I will set the Egyptians against the Egyptians." "I will set"—this is something that God will do Himself. In other words, the internal struggles and dissensions in a society will be caused by the judgment of God.

Social Upheaval as Divine Judgment

There is a passage in Amos 3:6: "Shall a trumpet be blown in the city, and the people not be afraid? shall there be evil in a city, and the LORD hath not done it?" The first part is easily explained because those old cities had watchmen upon the walls. When the watchmen saw danger, they blew the trumpet and warned the people. Whenever the people heard the blast of the trumpet, they were afraid because they knew that some type of danger was approaching. Thus he asks, "Shall the trumpet be blown and the people not be afraid?" Then he asks, "Shall there be evil in a city, and the LORD hath not done it?" In other words, God brings evil upon a city in judgment. Social upheaval is indeed God's judgment. When those who ought to be mutual defenders turn upon each other, cut each other down, and seek to destroy each other, it is nothing less than the judgment of God.

There can be no evil greater and more destructive to a state or to a people than when they turn on each other. Hence, here is a lesson we need to learn: when nations rise up in a seditious manner, it is the Lord setting them against each other. He inflames their minds for battle and prompts them to slay each other by mutual wounds. Therefore, we should understand the opposite: it is God's favor and God's blessing when we have friendship and when peace and harmony are cherished by neighbors. Just as we must ascribe dissension and upheaval to His judgment, we must ascribe peace and contentment to His blessing.

The Monstrosity of Brother Against Brother

He said, "And they shall fight every one against his brother." What can be more monstrous to our minds than when brother destroys brother? I am talking about those related by blood. When you take up your arms to destroy each other as if you were a wild beast let

loose upon each other, we can discern and comprehend, to a degree, how one man can kill his enemy.

But to turn around and slay his brother—and, if I wanted to pull out newspaper headlines, there are innumerable cases in this country of brother indeed slaying brother, brother slaying sister, sister slaying brother, children slaying parents, and parents slaying children—is one of the most monstrous things that could happen to a society. Alice and I just saw last night this little five-year-old girl they found down in Florida. They found her body. Her head was gone. Two weeks later, they found her head. Finally, after a number of years, they found out who the child was and arrested the child's mother and her boyfriend for the murder of the child.

If you cannot trust your own flesh and blood, who can you trust? If brother is going to be turned against brother, what do you think about neighbor against neighbor and friend against friend? God says, "And I will set the Egyptians against the Egyptians, and they shall fight every one against his brother." Then He goes further: "and every one against his neighbour." Then He goes further: "city against city, and kingdom against kingdom." So He says, first, it will be brother against brother; secondly, neighbor against neighbor; thirdly, city against city; and fourthly, kingdom against kingdom.

God Permits but Does Not Author Sin; He Uses It for Judgment

Egypt was divided into provinces. It would be like America: Georgia against Florida, Georgia against Alabama, or Alabama against South Carolina—state against state. Under the judgment of God, the Egyptians will be embroiled in endless dissensions and quarrels among themselves. There will be no need to bring in a foreign force to destroy them; they will destroy themselves. God said, "I will pit the Egyptian against the Egyptians." These divisions and animosities are their sin. God is not the author of them; they come from men's lust, according to the Bible. But God, as a righteous judge, permits them for their punishment. The Bible says in the book of James, chapter 1, "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man."

“But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.” All these animosities, divisions, and sins come from the Egyptians. They come from the citizens themselves. God is not the author of them. God allows them, permits them, and uses them for the destruction of the nation. Instead of helping each other and acting for each other's common good, the Egyptians fight brother against brother, neighbor against neighbor, city against city, and kingdom against kingdom. A kingdom that is thus divided will soon be brought to desolation.

That is exactly what happened in Israel. The northern kingdom pulled away from the southern kingdom, but because of their sins, their constant bickering and fighting, and their rebellions, either Judah was attacking Israel or Israel was attacking Judah, back and forth. Just read your Bible. God said in Hosea 13:9, “O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself.” That is basically what happened: because of their sins, rebellions, and wickedness, they destroyed themselves.

The Reaping of Relativism and Rejection of God's Law

Remember the principle God gave in Galatians 6:7-8: “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.” That principle is true not just individually, not just familially, and not just ecclesiastically; it is also true nationally. God is not going to be mocked in our individual lives, our family lives, our church lives, or our national lives.

We complain about all the violence, immorality, fraud, and wickedness in our country and in our schools. But what in the world can we expect when everyone believes and teaches relativism—that there are no absolutes, there is no such thing as right and wrong, and everything is simply relative? If you do not believe in absolutes or in right and wrong, and you believe everything is relative, then why not steal? Why not murder? Why not rape? Why not pillage? Why not plunder? Why not rid yourself of your whining brother or your complaining neighbor? If everything is relative and there are no

absolutes, there is no right and wrong. The only thing you can expect is total, absolute anarchy.

What did God say in Hosea 8:7? He said, “For they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind.” That's what has happened in our own country. We've sown the wind and we're reaping the whirlwind, and it is coming in great power.

Biblical Warnings of Societal Destruction

Now, let me show you. Turn your Bibles to Leviticus 26. One of the judgments of God mentioned in violating His law, rejecting and refusing His law, is that our cities are going to be destroyed. That is, society is going to be in upheaval. Notice, if you would please, verse 25. Leviticus 26 is equal to Deuteronomy 28; that is, it is also the passage where you have the blessings and the curses. Now watch this: Leviticus 26, verse 25. God says to His people that reject His law: “And I will bring a sword upon you, that shall avenge the quarrel of my covenant: and when ye are gathered together within your cities, I will send the pestilence among you; and ye shall be delivered into the hand of the enemy.”

Then look at verse 31: “And I will make your cities waste, and bring your sanctuaries unto desolation, and I will not smell the savour of your sweet odours.” Verse 33 says: “And I will scatter you among the heathen, and will draw out a sword after you: and your land shall be desolate, and your cities waste.”

Now let me ask you a question: Will God turn man against man, brother against brother, neighbor against neighbor, city against city, and state against state? The answer is yes. He will do that in a societal judgment. Look in your Bibles, if you would, to Isaiah 49 and verse 26. Here is an amazing statement, and then I am going to give you an illustration of how He did it. God says: “And I will feed them that oppress thee with their own flesh; and they shall be drunken with their own blood, as with sweet wine: and all flesh shall know that I the LORD am thy Saviour and thy Redeemer, the mighty One of Jacob.” Now what did God say? “I will feed them that oppress thee with their own flesh, and they shall be filled”—or drunken—“with their own blood.” What is He saying? “I'm going to

turn them against themselves." Now, if you go in your Bibles to 2 Chronicles chapter 20, you will see an illustration of this.

Illustration from 2 Chronicles 20: God Turns Enemies Against Each Other

In 2 Chronicles chapter 20, bands came up against King Jehoshaphat: the children of Moab, the children of Ammon, and the children of Edom. Jehoshaphat turned to the Lord because he had no power nor might against such a great company. There was no way he could fight against this great conspiracy against him. So he prayed to the Lord, and the Lord told him what to do.

Look in verse 21: "And when he had consulted with the people"—this is King Jehoshaphat—"he appointed singers unto the LORD, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the LORD; for his mercy endureth for ever." When they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir. The Bible says, "And the LORD set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten."

"For the children of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of mount Seir, utterly to slay and destroy them: and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, every one helped to destroy another. And when Judah came toward the watch tower in the wilderness, they looked unto the multitude, and, behold, they were dead bodies fallen to the earth, and none escaped. And when Jehoshaphat and his people came to take away the spoil of them, they found among them in abundance both riches with the dead bodies, and precious jewels, which they stripped off for themselves, more than they could carry away: and they were three days in gathering of the spoil, it was so much."

What did God do? God turned the Moabites and the Ammonites against the Edomites, and the Edomites against them. Then, when one had killed the other, He turned the rest against themselves, and they killed themselves.

Application to Modern America: Racial and Ethnic Tensions

God does not have to send a great judgment upon us. All He has to do is leave us to ourselves, and we will kill each other. All He has to do is restrain His grace. America is falling apart along racial lines.

Blacks are pitted against whites, and whites are pitted against blacks. Hispanics are now in the mix—more than in the mix. They are the majority in the Southwest. You have seen the billboard: "Welcome to"—what was it?—"Welcome to San Diego." "CA" was marked out, and "Welcome to San Diego, Mexico" was written. There was a big uproar about the billboard. Look at how many Hispanics we have in this particular state.

I am simply pointing out the fact that there are not only Hispanics; there is also a large Indian minority in this country. I am not talking about American Indians; I am talking about Indian Indians. You cannot go to a motel or a convenience store without running into Indians. How about the Arabic people? The Muslim people? How about the Orientals?

The point I am trying to make is this: We have turned into a multicultural society, and in America now we have every ethnic group under the sun living here. Ultimately, if God withdraws His restraining hand, each group will be pitted against the other group. That is what God said: "I'll turn brother against brother, neighbor against neighbor, city against city, state against state."

At some point, someone is going to say, "Brother Weaver, I believe exactly what you are saying, but I want you to understand that the powers that be designed this kind of racial tension so that they could better control us all." Well, that is undoubtedly true. But it is equally true that if everybody obeyed God's law, that kind of tension could not exist between us, regardless of the planning and scheming of the one-worlders.

Listen carefully: You do not have to believe in miscegenation in order to be kind and civil to strangers of other races. Miscegenation is intermarriage. You do not have to believe in interracial marriages simply to be kind to strangers and people of other races.

Biblical Love as Obedience, Not Feelings

In fact, let me tell you what God commanded. God commanded that there be one law for Israel and one law for the stranger who sojourned among them. Look in your Bibles, first of all, to Exodus chapter 12, verse 49: "One law shall be to him that is homeborn, and unto the stranger that sojourneth among you." God says one law. It does not matter if you are a homeborn Israelite or a stranger; there is to be one law. Look in Leviticus 24 and verse 22.

I could multiply these passages. Leviticus 24:22 states it plainly: "Ye shall have one manner of law, as well for the stranger, as for one of your own country: for I am the LORD your God." God says you are to have one law. Look at Numbers chapter 15 and verse 16. God says, "One law and one manner shall be for you, and for the stranger that sojourneth with you." Over and over, God says there is to be one law. It does not matter who it is; there is to be one law.

I want you to look back in your Bibles to the book of Leviticus, chapter 19. I did not read this passage, but I want you to see what is included in one law toward the stranger, as one law toward he that is homeborn. Look at Leviticus 19:33–34: "And if a stranger sojourn with thee in your land, ye shall not vex him. But the stranger that dwelleth with you shall be unto you as one born among you, and thou shalt love him as thyself; for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God."

God says we are to love strangers as ourselves. There is to be one law.

Does that mean that I have to believe in interracial marriage? No. Does it mean I have to embrace strangers in my bosom and bubble over, becoming sentimental and all teary-eyed? No, it is not what that means at all. What it does mean is this: You treat that stranger biblically, regardless of who he is, regardless of where he is from, and regardless of what color his skin is. You treat him biblically.

Let us see what is included. In Leviticus 19:33-34, he says, "And if a stranger sojourn with thee in your land, ye shall not vex him. But the stranger that dwelleth with you shall be unto you as one born among you, and thou shalt love him as thyself; for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God."

What does loving him include? “Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment, in meteyard, in weight, or in measure. Just balances, just weights, a just ephah, and a just hin, shall ye have: I am the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt. Therefore shall ye observe all my statutes, and all my judgments, and do them: I am the LORD.”

Loving the stranger and having one law toward the stranger includes dealing openly and honestly with them in economic matters. It does not have anything to do with feelings. Love is not feelings. Love is obedience. You cannot honestly say that you are loving someone if you are dealing falsely, fraudulently, and deceitfully with them. In Deuteronomy 10:19, God repeats this command: “Love ye therefore the stranger.” Why? “For ye were strangers in the land of Egypt.”

Please remember this: According to the Bible, love is not feelings. Love is obedience. That is why Romans 13:10 says, “For love is the fulfilling of the law.” How do I love a stranger? How do I love a neighbor? By acting biblically and scripturally and fulfilling God’s law toward them. Nowhere in the Bible does God command me to have feelings for strangers or to embrace strangers in sentimental and emotional expressions of love. What God does require me to do is act biblically toward anyone and everyone.

In light of this context, understand clearly that love is the fulfillment of God's law. First John 5:2 says, "By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments."

How do I know that I love Don? How do I know that I love Roy? How do I know that I love Margaret? How do I know that I love Henry? The answer is not merely by bubbling over, having tears in my eyes, getting goose bumps, running up and down, and saying, "Oh, I love you, I love you." No, I know that I love them when I keep God's commandments toward them. I love Henry if I treat his wife properly, his children properly, and treat him properly. By properly, I mean biblically and scripturally: not doing anything to him that God forbids me to do, but obeying God and acting toward him in the way that God tells me to act.

Verse 3 says, "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous." What is the love of God? The love of God is keeping His commandments. It's that simple. So what does God require me to do to prevent anarchy and a breakdown of society? It is simply to act biblically toward each other, whether I know you or not, whether you're a stranger or not.

The alternative to biblical law is either totalitarianism or anarchy. Sometimes those things can go together. There can be a period of anarchy before there is totalitarianism, or totalitarianism can be overthrown and result in anarchy. But either way, it is the judgment of God for disobedience in forsaking His law. You know what He said in Galatians 5:15? "But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another." Isn't that amazing?

Do you remember the foundation of this country? We were a unified people. First, we were unified in religion; that is, we were Christians. There were different denominations, but all admitted and confessed the deity of Jesus Christ and the inspiration of the Word of God. There were Presbyterians, Congregationalists, Baptists, and Methodists, but we all believed the Bible and Jesus Christ. In the foundation of this country, we were unified in our Christianity and in our economics.

We knew the truth about silver and gold. We were unified in our work ethic. We believed that if a man did not work, neither should he eat. Even in morality, we were unified; we knew right and wrong.

We were not perfect as a nation, but originally we did act as Christians and as a Christian nation as a whole. Today, we are totally fractured as a nation. We have left biblical Christianity, and consequently we do not even know how to treat our neighbor. It is amazing that most people have trouble with their neighbors.

Let me give you an illustration. I was right here in this town and stopped to fill my car with gas. A black man was doing the same thing. I finished just a heartbeat before him, and we were both walking rapidly to the door to pay for the gas. I was half a step ahead of him, and I saw the expression on his face. I knew what he was thinking: "That honky is going to beat me and get in there before I am and I'm going to have to wait." I could see it written all over him.

I grabbed the door first, opened it, held it for him, and said, "Go right on in, sir." The expression on his face totally changed. A smile came, and he said, "Thank you, sir." Then he walked in, and I walked in.

I make it a point in my life to open doors for women at the post office or wherever I am, regardless of their color or age. It is amazing how many people simply cannot get along.

We have trouble with our neighbors because we criticize, whine, and complain. We want them to treat us right, but we do not want to treat them right. The problem in this country is that we have left the law of God and our Christian heritage, and we do not even know how to deal with each other.

The social deterioration is obvious in our churches. Look at how professing Christians cannot get along. We fume, fuss, fight, cuss, divide, run off preachers, and run off people with whom we disagree—even some with whom we agree. I know of one church named Harmony Baptist Church that had a split. The group that broke off went next door, bought land, built a new church building, and named it New Harmony Baptist Church. The old harmony was not sufficient; they had to have a new harmony.

Whatever happened to Christian character, Christian charity, patience, longsuffering, and forbearance? Have you ever asked yourself why we cannot get along as Christians? Is it because of God's judgment against us?

When I was first converted, many years ago, God called me to preach. It did not take long for me to become disillusioned. I looked at preachers and thought, "These are great men." Then I saw them fussing and fighting among themselves, condemning and criticizing one another. I thought, Lord, something is wrong.

If somebody does wickedly and wrongly, according to the Bible, that is one thing. But if my pride, ignorance, and lack of grace cause me not to get along with someone, that is my sin. It is one thing to be divided for the sake of truth; it is quite another to suffer division because of our own sins. I am afraid most division in this country—in our churches, neighborhoods, and state—is mainly because of our own sins, and not over truth or righteousness.

When God destroys a nation, He will not only judge it religiously; He will also judge it socially. A few years ago, a man named Thomas Chittum wrote a book entitled Civil War II. Thomas Chittum was a sniper in Vietnam, I think an engineer, and lived in New Jersey. Some of you may have read this book. What Thomas Chittum does is basically this: He predicts that there will be a huge civil war in this country based upon racial distinctions. He even graphs the areas in which certain ethnic groups, or certain races, will have control, based upon demographics.

He says that if you live in a certain area, when you see these things happening, you had better move and get out of there, because he shows the ethnic group that basically controls everything in every area of the country.

Whether he is right or not, I know not. But I know this one thing for sure: the only thing holding this country together is the grace of God. If God restrains His grace, if God withdraws His restraining hand, then we will be as divisive and as destroyed as the Egyptian nation in Isaiah chapter 19.

One of my favorite verses, which you have heard me quote innumerable times, is Proverbs 8:36. Here our Lord, who is wisdom personified, said, “He that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death.” In our society, where we are breaking our necks to be politically correct, welcoming every cult, ism, and schism under the sun, and willing to be everything but Christian and obedient, we are exercising and exemplifying our hatred toward Christ and His law. We are expressing a love for death. All fallen man can do, apart from Christ and His Word, is produce a society of death.

There are five ways that God destroys nations. God destroys them religiously and socially, but there is a domino effect: when God sends one judgment, it falls in every other area and affects every area of life. God's judgment will be evidenced in every sphere.

We need to ask ourselves, Why are we so divided? Is it because of God's righteous judgment against our society, because we, as a whole, have forsaken His Word and rejected His Son?

Father, we are so thankful today for Jesus Christ. We must admit and confess that we are in a mess in this country—religiously and socially. We are fractured, divided, broken, and in trouble. Unless Your healing hand of grace and mercy comes upon us, unless You grant an opening of our eyes and reviving, and unless You give us repentance, we too shall go the way of other nations in destruction.

Give us grace, Lord, that we may serve Thee acceptably with reverence and godly fear, and may each of us determine in our lives that we are going to do what is right, regardless of what anyone else does. We ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CHAPTER 3

How God Destroys Nations

Part Three

SCRIPTURE READING - Isaiah 19:1-17 (KJV)

Introduction and Review

I have started a short series that I have been preaching through, and today you come to the third part. The series is entitled, "How God Destroys Nations." I am bringing this series so that you can see basically what has happened historically and what is really even happening presently.

Isaiah 19, verse 1, through verse 17:

"The burden of Egypt. Behold, the Lord rideth upon a swift cloud, and shall come into Egypt: and the idols of Egypt shall be moved at his presence, and the heart of Egypt shall melt in the midst of it. And I will set the Egyptians against the Egyptians: and they shall fight every one against his brother, and every one against his neighbour; city against city, and kingdom against kingdom. And the spirit of Egypt shall fail in the midst thereof; and I will destroy the counsel thereof: and they shall seek to the

> idols, and to the charmers, and to them that have familiar spirits, and to the wizards. And the Egyptians will I give over into the hand of a cruel lord; and a fierce king shall rule over them, saith the Lord, the LORD of hosts. And the waters shall fail from the sea, and the river shall be wasted and dried up.
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> And they shall turn the rivers far away; and the brooks of defence shall be emptied and dried up: the reeds and flags shall wither. The paper reeds by the brooks, by the mouth of the brooks, and every thing sown by the brooks, shall wither, be driven away, and be no more. The fishers also shall mourn, and all they that cast angle into the brooks shall lament, and they that spread nets upon the waters shall languish.
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> Moreover they that work in fine flax, and they that weave networks, shall be confounded. And they shall be broken in the purposes thereof, all that make sluices and ponds for fish. Surely the princes of Zoan are fools, the counsel of the wise counsellors of Pharaoh is become brutish: how say ye unto Pharaoh, I am the son of the wise, the son of ancient kings? Where are they? where are thy wise men?"

“And let them tell thee now, and let them know what the LORD of hosts hath purposed upon Egypt. The princes of Zoan are become fools, the princes of Noph are deceived; they have also seduced Egypt, even they that are the stay of the tribes thereof. The LORD hath mingled a perverse spirit in the midst thereof: and they have caused Egypt to err in every work thereof, as a drunken man staggereth in his vomit. Neither shall there be any work for Egypt, which the head or tail, branch or rush, may do. In that day shall Egypt be like unto women: and it shall be afraid and fear because of the shaking of the hand of the LORD of hosts, which he shaketh over it. And the land of Judah shall be a terror unto Egypt, every one that maketh mention thereof shall be afraid in himself, because of the counsel of the LORD of hosts, which he hath determined against it.”

When you look at Isaiah chapter 19 and verse 1, the Bible says, “the burden of Egypt.” Actually, the word “burden” refers to the prophecy of Egypt. As you read through Isaiah, you will find the burden of Tyre, the burden of Moab, and the burden of Assyria. In

other words, each of these burdens is a prophecy against a particular country.

In Isaiah chapter 19, I have drawn out the principles God uses when He destroys a nation. I realize that, in context, this passage refers to Egypt, but the principles are the same. The very first thing shown in this passage is that when God destroys a nation, He always destroys that nation first and foremost religiously. Usually, when a nation has left Him, it has gone into idolatry. Of course, He has said in Isaiah 42 and verse 8, "My glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images." He and He alone is the Lord God.

God's Judgments Are Often Slow

When we think of judgment, we normally think cataclysmically. We think of Noah's flood, Sodom and Gomorrah, how God destroyed Herod, and how Elijah beheaded the 450 prophets of Baal. We normally think of instantaneous, cataclysmic judgment. But Scripture demonstrates that most of God's judgments are not instantaneous, cataclysmic judgments; they are slow judgments. Even when God pronounced the death sentence against Adam, He said, "in dying thou shalt die." Adam lived 939 years, yet he was under judgment the whole time. King Saul was also under God's judgment, yet he continued to reign another 20 years. A lot of God's judgments are slow judgments.

When I say that God destroys the country religiously, I simply point out that when this country was founded, we were indeed a Christian nation founded upon Christian principles. I gave not only the Word of God in history, but also quoted several Supreme Court justices who said that this is a Christian nation. Yet you look around today and find that we are no longer living or acting as a Christian nation. We are certainly denying the one true and living God and His Word. The only way to explain what has happened in this country is that God has destroyed us, basically, religiously speaking.

Therefore, everyone has turned, as He said in verse 3: they have turned to their idols, to their charmers, to those who have familiar spirits and wizards. That is why witchcraft, voodooism, and every "ism" under the sun are on the increase. God destroys nations religiously.

The second message that I brought was that God destroys nations socially. In verse 2 He said, “And I will set the Egyptians against the Egyptians: and they shall fight every one against his brother, and every one against his neighbour; city against city, and kingdom against kingdom.”

Once again, when this country was founded, we were a unified people. It did not matter who came into this country as an immigrant. When they came, they realized this was a Christian nation with a Christian culture, and they submitted to our culture and teaching. But what has happened today? Christianity has basically been kicked out, and we must bow to every Islamic religion or every foreign religion under the sun. The religion that is certainly dictated and legislated against is biblical Christianity.

You have blacks pitted against whites, whites against blacks, Spanish against the white, the Orientals, and the Africans. Everything is now basically class-oriented. Someone says, “But Brother Weaver, don't you remember the one-worlders and the one-world schemers? They planned it this way so they can control us.” My answer is yes, I understand that. But God said, “One law shalt thou have to him that is homeborn, and unto the stranger that sojourneth among you.” In other words, we are to treat each other the way God always tells us to treat each other. I don't care who you are, folks. You can still be civil, kind, and biblical toward anyone, regardless of his race. If you and I followed the law of God, we could not have this warfare being promulgated by the one-worlders.

Governmental Judgment

You do not have to be a Christian to be decent. I understand that, in one sense of the word, you cannot be totally decent unless you are a Christian, but you can be kind and courteous without being a Christian. Certainly, that is exactly what we ought to be, and what we should be all the time, even as unbelievers. But God says He is going to turn Egyptian against Egyptian, brother against brother, neighbor against neighbor, city against city, and kingdom against kingdom.

God Destroys Nations Governmentally

We can see the social deterioration in this country based upon what is happening right now. God destroys nations not only religiously, but socially. The third thing we come to is this: God will destroy nations governmentally. I did not necessarily plan this message to fall on this particular day; that is how the providence of God worked it out. I want to show you some of the ways God destroys nations governmentally.

When I am talking about God destroying nations, I want to clear up one thing in your minds today. Do not sit there and say, "Well, God must be some fiend. God must be some evil, wicked individual who is just waiting to smite and destroy nations." That is not so. The only reason God would fight against a nation, the only reason God would smite a nation, was in justice and in judgment.

The Bible says in Lamentations chapter 3 and verse 33 concerning God, "For he doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men." God is not some old fiend sitting up in the heavens somewhere with a switch, just waiting to whip the living daylights out of anybody and everybody. No, He doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men. When God smites us, He does so in righteous justice, and that is exactly what He does for our rebellion and our sin.

As we think about this, it is imperative to remember that in Romans chapter 13 it is God who instituted civil government. Since God is the one who instituted civil government, it follows that God has the absolute right to lay down the qualifications for those who rule in His government, and He also has the absolute right to place limitations upon that government which He has instituted. Government is not God.

It cannot do as it pleases. God only ordained three institutions: the family, which is a ministry of education; the church, which is a ministry of grace; and the civil government, which is a ministry of justice. The family cannot do as it pleases and survive. The church cannot do as it pleases and survive, and neither can the civil government do as it pleases and survive. You have to remember that when we talk about the family and when we talk about the church,

we are also talking about government. The most basic government is self-government. Then there is familial, or family, government; ecclesiastical government; and civil government. Civil government is just one form of government, not the only government. Yet sometimes when we think of government, we think only in the realm of the civil.

Although God ordained the family, the church, and civil government for a blessing, that which God ordained for a blessing can, when abused, misused, or violated, turn out to be a curse. God says in Malachi 2:2, "If ye will not hear, and if ye will not lay it to heart, to give glory unto my name, saith the LORD of hosts, I will even send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings: yea, I have cursed them already, because ye do not lay it to heart." If you will not hear God, take it to heart, and give glory to His name, He will curse your blessings. Notice what God said: "I will curse your blessings."

Consider the family, going from the least to the greater in one sense of the word, and marriage in particular. Proverbs 18:22 says, "Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD." Marriage is honorable. I can truthfully say that God has blessed me and my wife, and I hope she can say that He has blessed her and her husband. The Bible says, "Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD." But the truth is that many men got a wife who did not prove to be a good thing, and many women got a husband who did not prove to be a good thing. The Bible does say that he that getteth a wife getteth a good thing and obtaineth favour of the LORD, but I know many men who got a wife that did not get a good thing, and many women who got a husband that did not get a good thing.

Marriage and the home have been ordained to be a blessing. But when you take a spouse in rebellion and disobedience to God, that which He ordained to be a blessing can indeed turn out to be a curse. God says, “I will curse your blessings: yea, I have cursed them already.”

The same principle can be applied to ecclesiastical government, that is, to the church in general. In 1 Timothy 3:15, Paul wrote to Timothy, “But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou

oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." The church is supposed to be the pillar and ground of the truth.

Yet, if we were honest in our assessment of the average church today, we would have to confess that there is not much truth in most churches. Instead of being a beacon of truth and a pillar and ground of the truth, most churches have become what the Apostle John said in Revelation 2:9 and Revelation 3:9: synagogues of Satan. Do you realize that in the average church you can indeed find entertainment?

You can find refreshment, social life, and even some fellowship in the church, but the truth is that you find very little truth. Emphasis is put on everything but the truth. The Bible says the church is to be the pillar and ground of the truth. Yet when you get into the average church, that which God ordained to be a blessing basically turns out to be a curse. I do not care how much entertainment and fellowship you have; if there is no truth, it is still a curse.

Do you realize that it is easier to become a member of most churches than it is to become a member of most country clubs? All you have to do in most churches is simply make your profession of faith, even if that profession is unbacked by a life of holiness and obedience.

You have seen how the family, which God ordained to be a blessing, can turn into a curse. You have seen how the church, which God ordained to be a blessing, can be turned into a curse. Likewise, civil government, according to Romans 13 and verse 4, was ordained for our good. The Bible says, "For he is the minister of God to thee for good." It is for our good that the civil ruler terrorizes evil works, does not bear the sword in vain, and has the power to punish murderers, rapists, and kidnappers. God has ordained it like this.

If the criminal lives, society dies. If the criminal dies, society lives. Therefore, it is for our good that civil government has the power to execute the wicked and ungodly. That which God commanded to be a blessing, civil government, can also become a curse when it becomes anything other than that which God has ordained.

Can families be rent apart? Of course. Can churches be rent apart? Yes. Can governments be rent apart? Yes. Why does God, in His infinite justice and wisdom, destroy some families? Because of their rebellion and disobedience to His Word. Why does He destroy some churches? For the same reason. Why does He destroy some governments? For the same reason. God can judge any of the institutions that He has ordained. When God destroys a nation governmentally, how does He do so?

Tyrannical Corruption

First of all, note that He will destroy a nation governmentally through tyrannical corruption. Look in your Bible to Isaiah 19:4: "And the Egyptians will I give over into the hand of a cruel lord; and a fierce king shall rule over them, saith the Lord, the LORD of hosts." God will give a government over to what you and I would call tyrannical corruption. Isaiah 19 shows what will happen to the Egyptians once they have been destroyed religiously and socially, once they have been deprived of their courage and their understanding.

There is absolutely nothing left for them but to be reduced to absolute slavery. Do you realize that a nation destitute of any hope in God, a nation destitute of social structure, must fall on its own accord? It does not necessarily have to be invaded by an enemy. When we have lost hope and have absolutely no type of social structure, we must fall on our own. These Egyptians, who are now under His curse, will be shut out from any hope of upholding their liberty. They are going to undergo hard bondage. He said, "I'm going to hand them over into the hands of a cruel lord."

Tyranny has never been a God-ordained form of government. God-ordained government, according to Romans chapter 13, carries out the purposes for which He instituted it: the punishment of the wicked and the protection of the righteous. You will find that in 1 Peter 2:13 as well. Those are the two reasons why God has ordained government.

God has never ordained tyranny as a legitimate form of government, in the sense that tyranny can never carry out the purposes for which God has ordained government. But God can, in

His infinite justice, curse a nation and a people by giving them a tyrannically corrupt government as just punishment for their sin and rebellion.

An illustration may help us understand this statement. Murder is not a God-ordained form of death. How can I say that? God said, “Thou shalt not kill.” Yet we know that many individuals die like that, don't we? Tyranny is not necessarily a God-ordained form of government, but many nations have been destroyed by tyranny. Although God may use tyranny for punishment, it is not necessarily a God-ordained form of government. The Egyptians, then, were to be destroyed as a nation by their tyrannical and despotical rulers. When God judges a nation, He destroys it governmentally.

In Hosea 13:11, God said, "I gave thee a king in mine anger, and took him away in my wrath." In other words, God in His righteous indignation gave the people of Israel a king, and then in His wrath He not only took the king away, but took the people away as well. In His wrath and anger, He gave them Saul.

Do you remember 1 Samuel 8? God told Samuel, "They have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them." He said, "I'm going to give them a king, but here's what I want you to tell them. You tell them what kind of king they're going to have." So God gave them that king in His anger, and He took him away in His wrath.

When He did, Saul and his sons and many of the Israelites died by the hands of the Philistines. Tyranny can be used to punish a nation. If there is a cursed beginning, there is certainly going to be a cursed ending.

When God set David over the people, it was a lawful appointment. God gave David to be the ruler over His people for their good, and he did so, basically speaking. But when God gave them Saul, it was a singular judgment because of their rebellion and disobedience to Him. Just as God gave Saul in His anger, all evil rulers who are like Saul are given in anger as well. David, by God's appointment, was for the good of the people; Saul, by God's judgment, was for the punishment of the people.

We have to remember that God is sovereign. God is the one who controls everything in this world. Daniel 2:21 says that He, God, "changeth the times and the seasons." He "removeth kings, and setteth up kings." In Psalm 75:6-7, God says, "For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another." God is absolutely sovereign and absolutely free in His own wisdom to give us either a ruler in grace and mercy, or a ruler in judgment and righteousness.

In other words, He knows the purpose for which He gives us rulers. We must remember that when God's people in the Old Testament were obedient to Him and followed Him, God said in Psalm 105:14, "He suffered no man to do them wrong: yea, he reproved kings for their sakes." God said, when you obeyed Me, I reproved kings for your sake. Proverbs 21:1 says, "The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will."

So God is capable of reproving kings. But when God wants to destroy a nation, one way He does so is governmentally: He delivers the people over into what we would call tyrannical corruption. There is a second way the Bible teaches that God destroys a nation governmentally. How is that? Political imbecility. When we talk about political imbecility, we are basically talking about political stupidity.

Political Imbecility

When you look at some of the laws in this country, including the Federal Reserve Act, you either have to conclude that we have some of the most stupid politicians or some of the most traitors. You simply have to make up your mind which one. But look at what I am talking about when I speak of political imbecility. In Isaiah chapter 19, verse 11, he says, "Surely the princes of Zoan are fools, the counsel of the wise counsellors of Pharaoh is become brutish: how say ye unto Pharaoh, I am the son of the wise, the son of ancient kings? Where are they? where are thy wise men? and let them tell thee now, and let them know what the LORD of hosts hath purposed upon Egypt. The princes of Zoan are become fools, the princes of

Noph are deceived; they have also seduced Egypt, even they that are the stay of the tribes thereof."

Notice how many times God says that the princes are fools, brutish, and deceived. The Hebrew word for fool here is very revealing. Pronounced in English, it would be "evil," which is a good word for it. The word for fool here literally means to be foolish; one who despises wisdom, mocks when he is guilty, is quarrelsome, and is licentious. That pretty well describes our rulers today, doesn't it? Those who are licentious, quarrelsome, foolish, and lacking wisdom.

God is not limited to what we would call tyrannical corruption in order to destroy a nation governmentally. He may destroy a nation governmentally by turning its leaders into absolute fools. When God says that the princes are become brutish, brutish means that they are dumb and as stupid as animals. In other words, they are absolute fools.

When the Bible talks about a fool, it is not talking about a mentally deficient person. It is talking about someone who is hard-headed and stiff-necked, who refuses to listen, who will not hear, and who will not receive counsel and instruction. For instance, in Jeremiah 6:10, God complains of these rulers: “To whom shall I speak, and give warning, that they may hear? Behold, their ear is uncircumcised, and they cannot hearken: behold, the word of the LORD is unto them a reproach; they have no delight in it.”

How far do you think we would get if we elected an assembly of godly Christian men, took up a large enough offering to send them to Washington, and then sat down with our president, judges, and legislators to lay out for them what the Word of God commands them to do? How many of you think they would genuinely listen and pay attention?

That is what God said: “So who am I going to speak? Who’s going to listen?” They have become absolute fools. They will receive no instruction and no correction. Concerning the judges, Psalm 82:5 says, “They know not, neither will they understand; they walk on in darkness: all the foundations of the earth are out of course.” He is talking about the judicial officers.

What does he say? “They know not, neither will they understand.” I received a letter this past week from a brother who had been fighting in the court system. He was absolutely assured that he would win his court battle because, when he got into court, he would show the judge the law, and the judge would rule according to it. I remember thinking the same thing, only my education came about thirty years earlier. The law means nothing today. Being right means nothing today. That is why God says concerning those judges, “They know not, neither will they understand.” In Jeremiah 8:9, He says, “The wise men are ashamed.”

“They are dismayed and taken: lo, they have rejected the word of the LORD; and what wisdom is in them?” They have rejected the word of the LORD, and what wisdom is in them? Do you realize political imbecility abounds on every hand in our country, in our day and time? It appears that very few politicians in America possess an ounce of common sense, and the truth is most of them will not listen to any rational arguments. Do you realize our Constitution means nothing? The Word of God means nothing. The Bible says in Proverbs 17:16, “Wherefore is there a price in the hand of a fool to get wisdom, seeing he hath no heart to it?”

That is, he does not really want it. He not only will not listen; he does not want to listen. And the few who do listen are unwilling to change their conduct or their thinking after they listen to you. The Bible, in Ecclesiastes chapter 4 and verse 13, says, “Better is a poor and a wise child than an old and foolish king, who will no more be admonished.” Isn’t that amazing? Better is a poor and wise child than an old and foolish king who will no more be admonished.

I believe Mark Twain was right when he said, “Suppose you were a congressman and a fool, but then I’m being redundant.” Even Mark Twain understood political imbecility back then. Political imbecility will turn a nation from common sense, common law, and constitutionalism into political correctness. Do you realize what has happened in our country? Everyone knows—or at least anyone with one eye and half sense knows—that political correctness is wrong, absurd, stupid, and destructive.

And yet, in our desire to be wise in and of ourselves, we become as fools. We not only allow our leaders to destroy us; we destroy

ourselves. When God wants to destroy a nation, He may use tyrannical corruption, but He is not limited to that. He may also use political imbecility. I sometimes think that is exactly where we are in this country. Our leaders are fools, biblically speaking.

Moral Turpitude

If you look in verse 14 of Isaiah chapter 19, you will find that God is not limited to tyrannical corruption or political imbecility if He wants to destroy a nation governmentally. Verse 14 says, "The LORD hath mingled a perverse spirit in the midst thereof: and they have caused Egypt to err in every work thereof, as a drunken man staggereth in his vomit."

Another way that God may destroy a nation governmentally is through moral turpitude—by its own sin, wickedness, and rebellion. God destroys governments through the immorality of their leaders and rulers. When God sent a perverse spirit, what does that mean? It means that the rulers became perverse, or, as you and I would call it, perverse. Bad government produces bad citizens. When the leaders of a nation lead in perversion, many times the citizens follow.

I've heard people argue for the last thirty years, "Why should I not cheat? Why should I not steal? Why should I not be an adulterer? Why should I? After all, our rulers do it." That is their argument. If you ever try to defend yourself by arguing over the definition of the word "is," you've got problems. When President Bill Clinton says, "That depends upon your definition of the word 'is,'" you're talking about moral turpitude. It was Solomon who led the people into idolatry and immorality in 1 Kings chapter 11; Jeroboam did it in 1 Kings 12; and Manasseh did it in 2 Kings 21. We have rulers today who are immoral, ungodly, and positively wicked.

Moreover, they are not only perverse; they have enacted laws that protect perverts. We have rulers known for adultery, fornication, sodomy, pedophilia, and all of that being commonplace among our judges, rulers, and officers. If you want to know the depth of moral turpitude in this land, read Senator John DeCamp's book, The Franklin Cover-Up. Read The Transformation of America, but have your bag ready, because you will need it. It will make you sick to your stomach. Read Thanks for the Memories. It is unbelievable how

Senator John DeCamp indicts the Democratic Party and the Republican Party in pedophilia rings. He not only indicts them; he defended some of the children our rulers and leaders molested, and some of those children have already won multimillion-dollar judgments against our rulers.

God can destroy a nation not just through tyrannical corruption or political imbecility, but through moral turpitude as well. Wicked rulers are the delight of a wicked people, and a wicked people are the delight of wicked rulers. It's a two-way street. You know what God said in Hosea 7, verses 3–5? “They make the king glad with their wickedness, and the princes with their lies. They are all adulterers, as an oven heated by the baker, who ceaseth from raising after he hath kneaded the dough, until it be leavened. In the day of our king the princes have made him sick with bottles of wine; he stretched out his hand with scorners.”

What does the Bible say? “They make the king glad with their wickedness.” In other words, wicked people encourage wicked rulers, and wicked rulers encourage wicked people. If both are wicked, neither can condemn the other. There will be no one to call anyone into account for their sins.

I do not have to point out the fact that our nation is being destroyed governmentally through immoral and wicked rulers every day, every week, every month. There is some congressman, someone getting caught in idolatry, fornication, wickedness—you name it, it is there. God can deliver a people over through their government to immoral conduct and thus destroy them.

Blatant Idolatry

Fourthly, God can also destroy through what you and I would call blatant idolatry. It is one thing to push idolatry upon a people; it is quite another to claim to be God. I do not believe that we have any rulers in this country who are yet so audacious and outrageous as to stand up and say, “I am God, worship me.” No one, I believe, would be that stupid yet. But you do not have to stand up and say, “I am God.” All you have to do is demand that people treat you like God.

The claim is still there. You never have to utter your voice. No one today is going to have the audacity and gall to claim Godhood, and yet they demonstrate that desire by demanding that everyone submit to everything they think fit to do to govern us. We have forgotten a simple principle: government can be an idol just like anything else.

God said in Hosea 8:4, “They have set up kings, but not by me. They have made princes, and I knew it not: of their silver and their gold have they made them idols, that they may be cut off.” The context of Hosea 8:4, in the first three verses, clearly demonstrates that Israel had cast off God and replaced Him with wicked, ungodly rulers.

When the Bible says, “They have set up kings, but not by me: they have made princes, and I knew it not,” that verse is not denying the omniscience of God, nor is it denying the sovereignty of God. God is actually saying, “You set up kings, but not by me.” That is, you set up men who did not meet My qualifications. You set up men whom I did not choose. You set up princes, and I knew it not.

They were absolutely contrary to the qualifications that I laid down in my Word. And yet you chose them. You chose them in rebellion to me. You have lifted them up and exalted them to a place of rulership which they should never have. In John chapter 10, our Lord said, “I said, Ye are gods,” and, if you take the context back to Psalm 82, He is referring to rulers and especially to judges. Anyone who held an office of authority supposedly under God was considered as a god in those days because he had power and authority.

What is God complaining of here? The people have lifted these men up and elevated them. When God condemned them, He would not have them, recognize them, or honor them. When you make people rulers in rebellion to God, it is idolatry.

Go back to 1 Samuel chapter 8, when the people demanded a king that they might be like other nations. God said, “They have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.” When you deny God as king, you deny His law. When you elevate a man to be ruler contrary to the Word of God, you recognize not only that man but also his law.

Has it ever dawned on you to question why, in the last forty, fifty, or sixty years, such anti-God, anti-Christian, immoral legislation has poured forth out of the White House and Congress? Because if you claim to be God, you will not brook any rivals. If man wants to play God, he will not recognize the one true and living God.

I believe it was Jean-Paul Sartre, the French existentialist, who said, “If I am God, then you're the devil.” If I am God, anyone who opposes me is my enemy. Is that not the attitude of those who believe in political correctness? I believe it was President George Bush himself who said, “Close your eyes to the words of Christ, if you're not with us, you're against us.” Blatant idolatry.

Social Anarchy

We're living in a Moloch state just like I taught you yesterday. We don't even know it or realize it. But fifthly, there is another way that God can destroy a nation governmentally. He may use tyrannical corruption, political imbecility, moral turpitude, blatant idolatry, or what you and I know as social anarchy.

In such a case, God oftentimes will destroy the rulers, but He does not replace them. Therefore, the people descend into social anarchy. That is like Judges 17:6 and, I believe, Judges 21:25, where you have the theme of the book of Judges: "In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes."

You cannot escape government. We must have family government, church government, and civil government. You cannot escape the concept of government. If you simply throw out government, all you have is anarchy, everyone doing that which is right in his own eyes.

It may sound good until you want to run that red light at 100 miles an hour, and I'm running the green light at 70 miles an hour, and we meet. It is impossible to exist without government. You must have government. But God can destroy us as a nation simply by destroying our rulers, even if they were tyrants. In Hosea 3:4, He says, "For the children of Israel shall abide many days without a king, and without a prince, and without a sacrifice, and without an image, and without an ephod, and without teraphim." Just as they

are not going to hear from Me, they are not going to hear from a ruler or anyone; they are going to be left to themselves.

Everyone's afraid of China and Russia. We do not have to fear Russia or China. If God wants to destroy us, all He has to do is let us alone; we'll kill ourselves. In Hosea 7:7, God says, "All their kings are fallen: there is none among them that calleth unto me." Social anarchy.

In Hosea 10:3, Scripture says, "For now they shall say, We have no king, because we feared not the LORD; what then should a king do to us?" We have no ruler. Why? Because we did not fear God. God took him away. Now we have nothing; we are left to ourselves.

When we think of governmental corruption and governmental destruction, we normally think only of tyranny and anarchy. We never realize that God can just as easily destroy a nation through political imbecility, moral turpitude, and blatant idolatry. In His infinite wisdom and justice, God may use any one of those five ways, or any combination of them. He may use one, two, three, four, or all five. Either way, the nation will be destroyed.

Application and Conclusion

Think how important it is, in light of this, for God's people to group together and stay together. If God destroys this nation, what are we going to do? As Christians, according to Psalm 58 and Revelation chapter 19, we'll say, "Hallelujah, the Lord God omnipotent reigneth."

Because we always rejoice in His righteous judgment. But you say, "Brother Weaver, don't you understand that if this nation is destroyed, everybody is going to suffer?" Yes, I understand that. But if God brings down Washington, D.C., the Federal Reserve System, the Illuminati, the Bilderbergers, and all the one-worlders, if He destroys them tomorrow and our economy collapses because it is based upon debt, what would happen? The only people with insight to know what to do and character to do what needs to be done would be God's people. We could arise and build based upon the Word of God, Christian liberty, and Christian principles. God never leaves

His people nor forsakes them. When God destroys His enemies, He always has a way of protecting His people.

When you look around and see the deterioration in our country, be honest: things cannot go on as they are. Something is going to happen. God will either judge and destroy us, then allow His people to arise and build, or somehow send revival and repentance. I do not know which. Or God may, as Brother Ray talked yesterday, allow some of us to secede and have our own Christian nation. But when you see the hand of God, remember that He may use tyrannical corruption, political imbecility, moral turpitude, blatant idolatry, or social anarchy. Any one of those five things will bring a nation to its knees. As we see that happening in this country, it ought to bring us to our knees, crying out for mercy, wisdom, help, and discernment. May we turn to Him in repentance and faith.

Father, we are so thankful today for the Lord Jesus Christ, for His grace and mercy to us. Lord, I pray that You would give us wisdom and discernment as Your people. Give us grace that we may submit to Your Word, understand Your principles, and apply them. Help us, Lord, to honor Thee in every area of our life and to be that which we should be. In the name of Jesus Christ, we ask and pray. Amen.

CHAPTER 4

How God Destroys Nations

Part Four

SCRIPTURE READING - Isaiah 19:1-17 (KJV)

Introduction and Review of Previous Points

The burden of Egypt. Behold, the Lord rides upon a swift cloud, and shall come into Egypt, and the idols of Egypt shall be moved at his presence, and the heart of Egypt shall melt in the midst of it.

And I will set the Egyptians against the Egyptians, and they shall fight every one against his brother, and every one against his neighbor, and city against city, and kingdom against kingdom. And the spirit of Egypt shall fail in the midst thereof. And I will destroy the council thereof, and they shall seek to the idols, and to the charmers, and to them that have familiar spirits, and to the wizards. And the Egyptians will I give over in the hand of a cruel lord, and a fierce king shall rule over them, saith the Lord, the Lord of hosts.

> And the water shall fail from the sea, and the rivers shall be wasted and dried up. And they shall turn the rivers far away, and the brooks of the fence shall be emptied and dried up. The reeds and the flags shall wither. The paper reeds by the brooks, by the mouth of the brooks, and everything sown by the brooks shall wither, be driven away, and be no more. The fishers also shall mourn, and all they that cast angle into the brooks shall lament, and they that spread nets upon the water shall languish. Moreover, they that work in fine flax, and they that weave networks, shall be confounded, and they shall be broken in purposes thereof, all that make sluices and ponds for fish.

"Surely the princes of Zoan are fools. The counsel of the wise counselors of Pharaoh has become brutish. How say you unto Pharaoh, I am the son of the wise, the son of ancient kings? Where are they? Where are the wise men? And let them tell thee now, and let them know what the Lord of hosts hath purposed upon Egypt." The princes of Zoan are become fools, the princes of Noph are deceived. They also have seduced Egypt, even they that are of the state of the tribes thereof. The Lord hath mingled a perverse spirit in the midst thereof, and they have caused Egypt to err in every work thereof, as a drunken man staggereth in his vomit. Neither shall there be any work for Egypt, which the head or tail, branch or rush, may do. In that day shall Egypt be likened to women, and it shall be afraid in fear because of the shaking of the hand of the Lord of hosts which he shaketh over it. And the land of Judah shall be a terror unto Egypt, and every one that maketh mention thereof shall be afraid in himself because of the counsel of the Lord of hosts which he hath determined against it.

As we've been looking at this short series on how God destroys nations, I've covered three points so far. First, God destroys nations religiously, and I dealt with that in verse 1 and especially in verse 3. When God destroys that which binds people together, very obviously, the only thing left is dissolution and seeking individual wizards and charmers and idols. That's exactly what he says. You go and splinter into a zillion pieces.

I simply pointed out that historically, our nation was begun as a Christian nation. It doesn't matter what denomination you were;

every original colony and every original state said that, in order to be a ruler, you must acknowledge the deity of Jesus Christ, believe in him, and confess the inspiration of both the Old Testament and the New Testament. This country was founded upon Christian principles.

For years, even our courts ruled that way. But now our nation has disintegrated, and we have become a multicultural and multi-religious society, so that everything under the sun is tolerated in this land except biblical Christianity. Thus, God has basically destroyed us religiously.

Secondly, when God destroys nations, He does so socially. In verse 2 He said, "And I will set the Egyptians against the Egyptians, and they shall fight everyone against his brother, and everyone against his neighbor, city against city, and kingdom against kingdom." Our country has become a multicultural society. We have not only racial and ethnic groups but also various religious groups. What is happening in this country is not simply blacks against whites or whites against blacks. We have Hispanics, Orientals, and everything under the sun. We have left the law of God and do not even know how to treat one another.

God says that we are to have one law for him that is born in the land and one law for the stranger that is among us. In other words, we must all at least honor His law and act according to His law toward each other, or there will be nothing but division, chaos, and confusion. That is exactly what has happened. God destroys a nation not only religiously but socially.

Last week I dealt with the third point: how God destroys nations governmentally. I gave five specific ways. The first was through tyrannical corruption. In verse 4, God says, "I will give Egypt over into the hand of a cruel lord and a fierce king shall rule over them."

The second way was through political imbecility. In verse 11, He says, "Surely the princes of Zoan are fools. The counsel of the wise counselors of Pharaoh has become brutish." Again, in verse 13, "The princes of Zoan have become fools." You do not have to look far in our country to find political imbecility. It reigns supreme everywhere. It is unbelievable.

God does not have to use tyrannical corruption. He can also use political imbecility and, thirdly, moral turpitude. He says in verse 14, "The Lord hath mingled a perverse spirit in the midst thereof, and they have caused Egypt to err in every work thereof, and as a drunken man staggereth in his vomit." You look around in our nation today, and we have so many immoral, wicked, ungodly perverts in authority. God can destroy a country not just through tyrannical corruption or political imbecility, but because of immorality—that is, moral turpitude. Bad government always produces bad citizens.

The fourth way is through blatant idolatry, when the government itself claims to be God and demands everything that God would demand. In fact, the government in this country today demands far more than God demands, especially in taxes. Lastly, social anarchy is the fifth way God destroys nations through government.

Sometimes He simply takes away the rulers. Therefore, you have what you find in the book of Judges: "There was no king in Israel in those days: every man did that which was right in his own eyes." You have sheer social anarchy.

You cannot exist without government. There must be self-government, family government, church government, state government, and national government. I am not for overthrowing government. Government is absolutely necessary. I am for throwing wickedness out of government and having a godly government in every area and sphere. When your government acts as God has ordained it to act, it is a blessing and not a curse. But when it leaves its proper sphere and becomes something other than that which God has ordained, it becomes a curse. That is why God says, "I will curse your blessings, yea, I've cursed them already." God can turn a home, a church, or government into a curse. So God destroys nations governmentally.

Economic Destruction

Economic Destruction Through Natural Phenomena

The fourth way that God destroys nations is economically. You will find that in verses 5 through 10: "And the water shall fail from the

sea, and the rivers shall be wasted and dried up. And they shall turn the rivers away, and the brooks of defense shall be emptied and dried up. The reeds and the flags shall wither. The paper reeds by the brooks, by the mouth of the brooks, and everything sown by the brooks shall wither and be driven away and be no more." Read all the way down to verse 10, and you have what you and I would call natural phenomena that God is using to destroy the nation economically.

The most obvious form of economic destruction is that which we refer to as nature. Humanists refer to God's acts of sovereign providence as Mother Nature. Most do not understand that it is God Himself who is in control of all these elements. There is no such thing as luck, chance, fate, or fortune in a world ruled by God. God controls everything, including the weather.

Listen to this question that God asked in Amos 3 and verse 6: "Shall a trumpet be blown in the city, and the people not be afraid?" All these ancient cities had watchmen upon the walls, and when that trumpet blew, it meant danger was imminent. You had better take care. "Shall a trumpet be blown in the city, and the people not be afraid? Shall there be evil in a city, and the Lord hath not done it?" What is God asking? Can anything wicked and evil come upon a city or people without the Lord?

The answer is no. This teaches us that we must see God's hand of judgment in every natural catastrophe that exists.

How does God destroy the economy of a nation? The first way is naturally, by using nature itself. All God has to do to destroy the economy of a nation is withhold the sunshine, the rain, or the nourishment that the land needs to produce. When that nourishment is withheld, crops naturally wither and die.

Plagues, insects, worms, and other natural predators are indeed equally a part of God's judgment. Let me show you. Look in your Bibles, first of all, to Jeremiah chapter 14 and verse 22. "Are there any among the vanities of the Gentiles?" The word vanities there refers to idols or false gods. So here is the question: "Are there any among the idols or the false gods of the Gentiles that can cause rain? Or can the heavens give showers? Art not thou he, O Lord our God?

Therefore, we will wait upon thee, for thou hast made all these things." In other words, showers and rain do not come apart from the blessing of God. God is the only one that can send the rain.

Now look in your Bibles to the book of Amos, chapter 4. I want you to see some of these judgments that God sends upon the people because of their unrepentant attitude. Amos chapter 4. Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos. Let us begin reading there with verse 6. I want you to see the hand of God against these people economically, and look at what these judgments consist of.

Amos 4, verse 6: "And I have also given you cleanness of teeth in your cities," that is, famine, "and want of bread in all your places. Yet you've not returned to me, saith the Lord."

Now, if God has sent famine, that means there have been crop failures. Watch verse 7: "I also have withholden the rain from you when there were yet three months to the harvest, and I caused it to rain upon one city and caused it not to rain upon another city. One piece was rained upon, and the piece whereupon it rained not withered. So two or three cities wandered into one city to drink water, but you were not satisfied, yet have you not returned unto me, saith the Lord." Now watch: "I have smitten you with blasting and mildew."

"When your gardens and your vineyards and your fig trees and your olive trees increased, the palmerworm devoured them. Yet have you not returned unto me, saith the Lord. I have sent among you the pestilence after the manner of Egypt. Your young men have I slain with a sword, and have taken away your horses, and have made the stink of your camps to come up in your nostrils. Yet have you not returned unto me, saith the Lord."

When God sent the palmerworm, when God sent the locust, when God sent all of those natural predators, when God withheld the rain, when God sent famine and drought, it was equally the judgment of God as when God sent the military or when God sent fire from heaven. God does not have to burn us up to destroy us.

In Job 38, beginning with verse 22, God speaks of the frost, sleet, snow, and hail. Job is right before the book of Psalms. God asks, “Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow? Or hast thou seen

the treasures of the hail?" Then He says, "Which I have reserved against the time of trouble, against the day of battle and war."

You know what God can do? God can use what you and I would call natural phenomena—that is, inclement weather—and destroy a nation economically. When hail falls the size of baseballs, it is not just your crops you better look out for; you better be on the run. I have seen much smaller hail fall in my days and strip crops bare in the field, knocking every leaf from every stalk. God says, "These are my treasures that I have reserved for the time of judgment."

In Nahum chapter 1, beginning with verse 3, we see how God is in control of what you and I would call "Mother Nature." Nahum is right after Micah and right before Habakkuk. I do not like that term, but that is what the world calls it. "The Lord is slow to anger and great in power and will not at all acquit the wicked. Now look. The Lord hath His way in the whirlwind, and in the storm, and in the clouds, and in the dust of His feet." Who do you think sends the hurricanes, the tornadoes, and the cyclones? Verse 4 says, "He rebuketh the sea, and maketh it dry, and drieth up all the rivers."

"Bashan languisheth, and Carmel, and the flower of Lebanon languisheth. The mountains quake at Him." Who sends the earthquakes? "And the hills melt, and the earth is burned at His presence. Yea, the world and all that dwell therein. Who can stand before His indignation, and who can abide in the fierceness of His anger? His fury is poured out like fire, and rocks are thrown down by Him."

Let me tell you something. If you and I cannot stand up to what you and I would call the natural judgments of God, who in his right mind could ever think he could stand up to God Himself? The tsunami that hit?

I saw a picture of that huge tidal wave before it hit the land, and one report said that it was traveling at 500 miles an hour initially. Who in the world can outrun something like that? You can't.

In Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28, especially verses 12 and 24, the blessing—the giving of rain—or the curse—the withholding of rain—is tied to obedience and disobedience. God promises that as we

obey Him, He will send the rain in due season. He also promises that if we disobey Him, He will curse us and withhold the rain.

In Isaiah chapter 19, God uses, first and foremost, natural phenomena to destroy a nation economically. In verse 5 He says, "The water shall fail from the sea, and the river shall be wasted and dried up."

The Drying Up of Egypt's River and Industries

Egypt was not a land that had rain in it. Egypt got all of its fertile soil from the overflowing of the Nile River.

When the river failed to reach its normal height and failed to overflow, there was nothing left but barrenness and famine. When the river is dried up, metaphorically speaking, God is saying, "I'm going to destroy your commerce. I'm going to destroy your economy." Egypt was famous for its river. The Nile River was known for its beauty, strength, and wealth. The Egyptians also idolized that river and treated it as a god. God said, "I've got news for you. Your god's going to fail."

You think the American economy is a god? You think it can't fail? The Egyptians thought the Nile River couldn't fail either. But God said, "I will dry it up." He would not allow nature, which God created, to favor them anymore. He would withhold His blessings and curse them. God does so economically, but He does so naturally. Everything by the river also dries up. Look what He said in verse 6.

"And they shall turn the rivers far away, and the brooks of the fence shall be emptied and dried up, the reeds and the flags shall wither. The paper reeds by the brooks, by the mouth of the brooks, and everything sown by the brooks shall wither and be driven away and be no more." The drying up of the river is the absolute destruction of the economy of Egypt. The entire fishing industry of Egypt is destroyed.

Do you remember how the children of Israel, in Numbers chapter 11 and verse 5, whined and complained against God? They said, "We remember the fish that we did eat in Egypt freely." In other words, there was an abundance of fish in the land. But now, when God dries up the river, He is going to be killing the fish, which means one of

the main food sources of the land of Egypt is gone. Can you imagine what it would be like to Darien, to Brunswick, maybe to Jacksonville, Southern Alabama, for all of the fishing industry suddenly to be totally and absolutely destroyed? The same would be true of Maine and Massachusetts, where people rely upon all types of fishing industry.

Look in verse 8: "The fishers also shall mourn, and all that cast angle into the brook shall lament, and they that spread nets upon the waters shall languish." Everything related to the industry is going to be destroyed. Among the children of the world, genuine tears are shed over lost jobs and lost money. Here God says everything in this fishing industry is going to be destroyed.

Those who made it their business to keep fish will be ruined as well. Skip down to verse 10: "And they shall be broken in purposes thereof, all that make sluices and ponds for fish." When you made a sluice, the water ran into your pond, where you kept your fish after you had caught them. They were always easy to get right out of the pond, but because the sluices are going to dry up, the ponds are going to dry up. The entire fishing industry is gone. There is no fish from the river and no fish in the ponds.

Verse 9 says, "Moreover, they that work in fine flax and they that weave networks shall be confounded." It is amazing how many occupations are tied together and stand and fall upon each other.

Can you imagine what would happen in this country if just the transportation industry was shut down for one week? What about the power grid? Everything is dependent upon electricity and transportation. Egypt was famous for its fine linen and flax. Even Solomon traded for this fine linen in 1 Kings 10 and verse 28. Egypt was known for its flax, and the finest hands in Egypt worked that flax.

But now God says, look, that's going to be destroyed as well. Do you understand that the decay of trade weakens and wastes a nation by degrees and brings it to ruin? Do you realize the trade deficits that exist in this country? You say, “Well, we sell China $100 million worth of goods every year.” Yes, they sell us 10 or 20 billion dollars' worth every year. In other words, there's more coming in than there

is going out. What God is saying is that He is going to destroy this nation economically by ruining its trade. He's going to ruin its industry—in fact, He's going to destroy it so much that people will not be able to work.

Look down at verse 15: “Neither shall there be any work for Egypt which the head or tail, branch or rush may do.” It doesn't matter if you're high and mighty or low and impotent. God says there's not going to be any work for you to do. When there is no work for a people, when people are unable to work or unwilling to work, destruction slowly descends upon the nation.

One of the problems we have in this country today is not that we do not have work. We just have too many who are unwilling to work, and those who are unwilling to work are willing to freeload off those who are willing to work. And what does God say? “If any man will not work, what? Neither should he eat.” I have no sympathy for anyone who will not work or make his own way. But God says, look, I can ruin you economically.

I was raised on a farm, and I saw a bumper sticker that I really liked. Farming today has become so socialistic and so governmentally controlled that it's almost impossible for a farmer to do what he needs to do or even make any money. But one bumper sticker I did like said, “Don't criticize a farmer with your mouth full.”

But stop and think about that. When the farms go under, you need not go to the grocery store because their shelves will be bare as well. Everything is tied together. When God destroys a nation economically, one of the easiest and most obvious ways He does it is through a natural phenomenon, the judgments of nature.

Secondly, God may also destroy the economy of a nation institutionally. Since money is in the realm of government, in one sense of the word, that institution, government, may destroy the nation economically. One way governments destroy the economy of a nation is by debasing or destroying the money supply. When money is debased, it loses its intrinsic value.

Economic Destruction Through Institutional Means
The Debasement of Money and the Federal Reserve

Isaiah 1:22 says, "Thy silver is become dross, thy wine mixed with water." Instead of a pure coin, instead of honest money, you now have silver debased by mixing a baser metal with it. Henry VIII of England had the nickname Old Copper Nose because he took the gold coins of the realm and debased them by putting a covering of copper on them to make them look like gold. When the people held the coins in their hands, the covering came off first around the middle, exposing his nose. They were copper coins, merely gold-covered, and so he was called Old Copper Nose because he had debased the coins of the realm.

God says in Proverbs 25:4, "Take away the dross from the silver and there shall come forth a vessel for the finer." God is talking about pure silver. Then Proverbs 26:23 says, "Burning lips and a wicked heart are like a potsherd covered with silver dross." In other words, silver dross is absolutely worthless; it is not pure and is not good for anything. Do you understand that all the coins we have in this country today are absolutely and totally worthless? There are no governmental coins of value unless you happen to find something minted in time past or they do a special mint. Most of these so-called governmental special mints offered on television advertise, "You can get this $20 gold piece for $19.95."

I hope you're not stupid enough to buy one for $19.95. There is not enough gold in it to do anything with. We have been duped and conned into believing that fake money is real money. It is not, cannot be, and never will be. All the coins in our possession are absolutely and totally worthless.

You do not necessarily have to debase the coinage to destroy an economy if you can replace it with a worthless supply of paper. The trick is to deceive people into believing that something inherently worthless is valuable.

The trick is to deceive people into thinking that something intrinsically worthless is valuable. Have you ever wondered why people rob banks? Suppose you had a satchel full of paper. What good is it? Someone has said—and I do not know the author of this

quote, but I really like it—that the government is the only entity that can take a perfectly good piece of paper, slap some ink on it, and make it completely worthless.

One of my favorite stories is about the counterfeiter in Russia before the fall of Tsar Nicholas. He was so good at counterfeiting that he never got caught. The last issue of government money that he produced had a picture of Czar Nicholas on it. Here is why he quit: around the picture of Czar Nicholas, he had engraved, in very small but still legible letters, “My money is worth more than yours.” He had to quit counterfeiting because it was not paying. The money was going down in value so quickly that the supplies he was buying were worth more than the money.

The point is this: inflation is not higher prices. It is a hidden tax, and it is indeed a means of confiscating our wealth. In our system, it is the Federal Reserve that causes inflation. Inflation occurs because the Fed prints more and more money, continuing to sink the value of the paper money already in circulation. Franklin Sanders said, “The Fed, talking about the Federal Reserve, the Fed was conceived in inflation, born in inflation, raised up in inflation, flourishes in inflation, and will perish in inflation. The Fed is inflation.” And that is a fact.

Bouvier's Law Dictionary gives this definition of a dollar: money, a silver coin of the United States valued at 100 cents, or the tenth part of an eagle. An eagle is a gold coin of the United States valued at ten dollars. It weighs 258 grains, consisting of 900 parts pure gold and 100 parts alloy, according to an act of January 18, 1837.

The act continues: "Gold, silver, and some other less precious metals in the progress of civilization and commerce have become the common standards of value in order to avoid the delay and inconvenience of regulating their weight and quality whenever passed. The governments of the civilized world have caused them to be manufactured in certain proportions and marked with a stamp which attests their value. This is called money."

What is called money? Gold or silver minted and guaranteed to be of a certain value. The Coinage Act of 1792, established by Congress, defined a dollar as a certain weight of silver shaped into a coin,

minted, placed in circulation, and authorized by the mint of the United States of America as a silver dollar. It also addressed gold eagles and other coins. A dollar was a silver coin.

Today we have a Federal Reserve note, which does not promise anything, is not redeemable or demandable for anything of intrinsic value, and has been unilaterally decreed as legal tender. Yet it is not and cannot ever be considered lawful money of the United States of America. Therefore, what we carry in our pockets and call Federal Reserve Notes is not and cannot be lawful money according to the laws of our land, even according to our Constitution.

You may rightly call these things Federal Reserve Notes, but they are not really valid as promissory notes. They may be bills of credit. Usually such things are called scrip, fiat money, funny money, bogus, worthless, fake, or monopoly money—but they are not money. They are not and cannot be. Thomas Jefferson was writing to Samuel Kercheval in 1816, and his statement deserves careful attention.

"To preserve the independence of the people, we must not let our rulers load us with perpetual debt. We must make our election between economy and liberty or profusion and servitude. If we run into such debts as that we must be taxed in our meat and in our drink, and our necessaries, and our comforts, and our labors, and our amusements, for our callings, for our creeds, as the people of England are, our people, like them, must come to labor sixteen hours in twenty-four, give the earnings of fifteen of these to the government for their debts and daily expenses, and the sixteenth, being insufficient to afford us bread, we must live as they now do on oatmeal and potatoes, have no time to think, no means of calling the mismanagers to account, but be glad to obtain subsistence by hiring ourselves to rivet their chains on the necks of our fellow sufferers."

Can you believe that? He said that if we do not understand this, and do not make it clear that we cannot be in debt as a nation, we must be taxed in our meat, in our drink, our necessaries, our comforts, our labors, our amusements, our callings, our creeds—everything.

What he has said has come to pass. And what he has said is equally true: we are riveting their chains around our necks. Once the

government gets to this place, we will have no time to think and no way to call the mismanagers to account. God can destroy a nation institutionally through its money and destroy it economically. The choice is between real money and credit. When we had real money, the dollar was easy to define.

It would be 412.5 grains of pure silver in coin form. That 412.5 grains was the average. Usually it was 416 when minted and traded as a dollar; when it fell below 409 grains, it was traded proportionately. But if it got much lower than that, the coin was called back and reminted to weigh what it was supposed to weigh.

Banks would recall the coins of least value and remint them. Then you could go to a banker and ask him what a dollar was, and he could tell you. He would not have to refer you to the controller of the currency. He would not have to refer you to the Federal Reserve. He would not have to refer you to the United States Treasury. He could simply say, "It's 412 and a half grains of pure silver, and it's what it is. That's a dollar."

Do you realize money is one of the basics of society? It should not be extreme to suggest that without sound money, you cannot have a sound society. If the money of a society is inherently dishonest, what does that tell you about the people who issue it and the people who accept it? The point I am trying to make is simply this: we live today in a credit society. We have no money.

The Illusion of Job Creation and Government Theft

The stupidity of what the average American eats for news is absolutely phenomenal. We hear that the government created two million more jobs. Folks, the government cannot create jobs. Let me give you an illustration. I am the government. Let us say there are twenty people in this room: ten have jobs, and ten do not. I am going to put the other ten to work. We will let them pick up trash, dig ditches, and do this or that. Now I can say that all twenty are working. Is that not wonderful? Whereas ten were working, now I have twenty working. One problem: since I am the government, how do I pay these people in the new jobs I created? That is right—I have to tax the ten over here so I can have money to pay the others. Have I created jobs?

Yes, we have the illusion of twenty people now working. How much money is still in this little group? The same amount. I have just spread it out, taking from some and giving to others, and created a new job. You say, “You do not have to tax me. You are the government; just print more money.” Yes, I shall do that. I will print the money and pay these ten men. And guess what? That which you have still goes down in value. You still lose.

God can destroy us economically, and He has. Would you really like to know why we do not have silver and gold as money in this country? Would you really like to know why we are not on the gold standard? Let me tell you why. If we were on a gold standard, if we had gold and silver coins in this country as money, we could not have deficit spending, a government out of control, or endless bureaucracies to eat out our substance and enslave us.

The Gold Standard and Economic Freedom

If you think I am exaggerating, listen to Alan Greenspan before he became chairman of the Federal Reserve. In Gold and Economic Freedom, in 1966, Greenspan wrote: "This is the shabby secret of the welfare statists' tirades against gold. Deficit spending is simply a scheme for the hidden confiscation of wealth. Gold stands in the way of this insidious process. It stands as a protector of property rights. If one grasps this, one has no difficulty in understanding the statist antagonism toward the gold standard."

In 1966, Mr. Greenspan said that the reason our nation would not willingly return to the gold standard was that doing so would mean the cessation—the end—of governmental theft, governmental confiscation, and the international banking cartel. Now you know why we do not have silver, and why we do not have gold: billions are stolen from the American people through usury, banking, and governmental agencies. That gives them an incentive to keep the scheme going as long as they can.

Do you realize that we are economically ruined as a nation and do not even realize it? The average American cannot afford to miss one week of work. He has no savings, nothing laid up for a rainy day. If the motor in his vehicle blows up, he must go to the bank and borrow money to have it repaired. Moreover, those who do have perceived

wealth have it in the bank as electronic digits—CDs, paper, bank deposits, stocks, and bonds—all of which are basically worthless and can be made worthless overnight.

The Vulnerability of Modern Wealth

Why were millionaires jumping out of windows and killing themselves in 1929? They went to bed millionaires and woke up penniless paupers. Overnight, their paper money was gone. Dross. Silver and gold always have some value; someone will always barter and trade for them. Consider the hyperinflation in Germany in 1923, I think it was. They used their German marks to paper their walls. The currency was worthless.

Someone may object, "My money is tied up in property, and I am sure that is safe." Let me ask you: What about taxes? What about confiscation? What about eminent domain? Thousands have lost their property through property taxes, debt taxes, and inheritance taxes.

How in the world did England come to possess and own all of those fine castles throughout the land? The answer is simple. They taxed the people to the extent that they could not afford to live in the castles. The taxes were more than they made. They literally gave the castles to the government, which then graciously allowed them to live in them, since their families had been there for 500 years. But the castles are owned by the government, not by the people.

You can have land worth $200,000, but if your taxes are $500,000, you cannot afford to keep it. I do not know how many of you have gotten your property taxes this year. But I have news for you: you are going to find a huge increase in them across the board in the state of Georgia. You will find in Ezra and Nehemiah how those in charge who were wicked always stole from those who were not in charge, and how those who had authority enriched themselves at the expense of others.

Our economy is being destroyed slowly but surely, even by our own government. Look at NAFTA, GATT, and the World Trade Organization. Ask yourself: Where are our jobs going? Where are our factories going? Why are they moving overseas? Who made

those agreements—you or the government? God can either destroy us by natural means or by institutional means.

If you do not have silver and gold, you do not have any money. It is just that simple. I do not care what you have; you do not have any money. Silver and gold have always been, number one, biblical money, and number two, historical money. You can have tons of paper, and it can turn out to be absolutely worthless.

Conclusion: A Nation Unaware of Its Destruction

Have we been, and are we being, destroyed in this nation? The answer is yes. Let me read once again Isaiah 42:22–25. This passage refers to what you and I would call a slow judgment:

"But this is a people robbed and spoiled. They're all of them snared in holes. They're hidden in prison houses. They are for a prey and none delivereth. For a spoil, and none saith restore. Who among you will give ear to this, and who will hearken and hear for the time to come? Who gave Jacob for a spoil, and Israel to the robbers? Did not the Lord, he against whom we have sinned? For they would not walk in his ways, neither were they obedient to his law. Therefore he hath poured upon him the fury of his anger, and the strength of the battle, and it hath set him on fire round about, yet he knew it not. And it burned him, yet he laid it not to heart."

God says, "You're on fire and you don't even know it. You're being destroyed and you don't even know it." The trick is getting people to believe that something inherently worthless is valuable in and of itself. No. Money is gold and silver. You may have numerous items worth bartering with and bartering for, and they can be like money, but historically and biblically, money is silver and gold. God says, when you do not have this, you are snared, a prey, robbed, spoiled, and being burned, and you do not even realize it.

We have been burned in this country for a long, long time. We've been burned by our rulers, by our government, which has taken from us everything of value and left us, as Thomas Jefferson said, bowed down and riveted in chains around our necks.

Let's pray. Father, we're thankful for Jesus Christ and for the truth of Your Word. We know, Lord, that Your Word is powerful and

never returns void. Father, make this effective, not only in the lives of our people but also in the lives of those who hear this message.

May we protect ourselves, first and foremost by obedience to Thee and Thy Word, and by understanding what real money is, while looking around and seeing how our nation is being destroyed economically. The Bible says, “The prudent man foreseeth the evil and hideth himself.” Give us grace to do so. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

CHAPTER 5

How God Destroys Nations

Part Five

Isaiah 19:1–17

SCRIPTURE READING - Isaiah 19:1–17 (KJV)

The burden of Egypt. Behold, the Lord rides upon a swift cloud and shall come into Egypt and the idols of Egypt shall be moved at his presence and the heart of Egypt shall melt in the midst of it. And I will set the Egyptians against the Egyptians and they shall fight everyone against his brother and everyone against his neighbor, city against city and kingdom against kingdom. And the spirit of Egypt shall fail in the midst thereof, and they shall seek to the idols, and to the charmers, and to them that have familiar spirits, and to the wizards. And the Egyptians will I give over in the hand of a cruel lord, and a fierce king shall rule over them, saith the Lord, the Lord of hosts. And the water shall fail from the sea, and the rivers shall be wasted and dried up. And they shall turn the rivers far away, and the brooks of defense shall be emptied and dried up.

> The reeds and the flags shall wither. The paper reeds by the brooks, by the mouth of the brooks, and everything sown by the brooks shall wither, be driven away, and be no more. The fishers also shall mourn, and all they that cast angle into the brooks shall lament. And they that spread nets upon the water shall languish. Moreover, they that work in fine flax, and they that weave nets, shall be confounded.
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> And they shall be broken in purposes thereof, and all that make sluices and ponds for fish. Surely the princes of Zoan are fools, and the counsel of the wise counsel of Pharaoh is become brutish. How say you unto Pharaoh, I am the son of a wise, the son of ancient kings? Where are they? Where are the wise men? And let them tell thee now, and let them know what the Lord of hosts hath purposed upon Egypt. The princes of Zoan have become fools. The princes of Noph are deceived. They have also seduced Egypt, even they that are the stay of the tribes thereof. The Lord hath mingled a perverse spirit in the midst thereof, and they have caused Egypt to err in every work thereof, as a drunken man staggereth in his vomit. Neither shall there be any work for Egypt, which the head or tail or branch or rush may do. In that day shall Egypt be likened to women. And it shall be afraid and fear because of the shaking of the hand of the Lord of Hosts, which he shaketh over it.
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> And the land of Egypt shall be a terror unto Egypt, and the land of Judah shall be a terror unto Egypt. Everyone that maketh mention thereof shall be afraid in himself, because of the counsel of the Lord of Hosts, which he hath determined against it.

Introduction and Review

We have dealt with four previous messages on how God destroys nations, and from this chapter I showed you how He destroys nations: first, religiously; secondly, socially; thirdly, governmentally; and fourthly, economically. If I had the time today, I could review each one of those, but remember that they were over an hour in and of themselves. If you have not heard these messages, make sure that

you do so, because as you look around today, you can see applications that are very apparent in our land today.

Today we come to the last way that God destroys nations. In fact, this is the way that most people usually think about, and that is what you and I would call military destruction. The truth is that God has often used the military strength of other nations to defeat and destroy those nations whom He was judging.

As a rule, nations trust in their armaments, their military supremacy, and their expertise for defense. God never, ever enters the equation. Just this morning, I was listening briefly to the news, and they had a debate over whether or not God should be in politics. I never listened to the debate because I was assured in my own spirit that I would get angry, and I did not want to get angry. I thought to myself, Well, probably the kind of politics they are talking about, He would not want to be involved in anyhow.

Certainly God has ordained government. Since God has ordained government, He has the right to lay down the qualifications for rulers and the limitations for government. There should be no argument over that, because God is the Ordainer and the One who instituted government. By the same token, God has divided the nations and made nations, and He has used the military strength of other nations to defeat nations against whom He has purposed to judge.

Nations Trust in Military Might, Not God

Most nations do not even consider God. They are so callous and wicked that they do not believe they need His help, blessing, or protection. Yet the truth is exceedingly plain in Scripture. Let me quote a few verses. Most of you know them. Do you remember Psalm 127, verse 1?

The Bible says, “Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it: and except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.” In other words, if God does not sovereignly protect the city, it does not matter how many watchmen you have. It does not matter how many armaments you have. If God does not protect the city, the city will fall. No amount of military armament is

sufficient if God does not protect and defend the people. Human vigilance and human weapons cannot secure the city apart from God's protection.

The Bible tells us in Psalm 147, verses 10 and 11, “He, that is God, delighteth not in the strength of a horse, nor taketh pleasure in the legs of a man.” Stop and think about that. The strength of the horse and the legs of the man represented the military strength of the land. So the Bible says God does not take pleasure in the strength of a horse, nor in the legs of a man. The verse goes on, “The Lord taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in them that hope in his mercy.” Scripture tells us it is not man, not man's ability, and not man's armament that makes the difference, but simply the grace and mercy of God.

The Bible tells us in Proverbs 21:31—and here is the verse that everyone needs to memorize—“The horse is prepared for the day of battle: but safety is of the Lord.” Having seen fields of fire in a military sense, I have often wondered how anyone could ever crawl through all those bullets. And yet people do. The answer is that safety is of the Lord. It is not of the armaments. It is not in the strength of the armaments. It is of the Lord.

Psalm 33:17 says, “A horse is a vain thing for safety: neither shall he deliver any by his great strength.” Stop and think about that. We could paraphrase that into a modern-day application: a tank, bomber, ship, or fighter jet is a vain thing for safety; neither will it deliver anyone by its great firepower. It is the same principle. God is telling us, first and foremost, that safety is of the Lord, and we have to understand that principle.

God Destroys Nations Militarily

The fifth and final way in which God destroys nations is militarily. Look in verses 16 and 17. God says in Isaiah 19:16–17, “In that day shall Egypt be likened to women, and it shall be afraid and fear because of the shaking of the hand of the Lord of hosts, which he shaketh over it. And the land of Judah shall be a terror unto Egypt. Everyone that maketh mention thereof shall be afraid in himself, because of the counsel of the Lord of Hosts which he had determined against him.”

Fear from Rumors and the Shaking of God's Hand

In these two verses, God declares that a general consternation will seize the Egyptians. That is, they will be afraid and fear, and that fearfulness will be evidence not only of a universal decay, but also a means of their utter ruin. Their fear will seize them as a people, not merely a few individuals. God says that two things will cause this tremendous fear. The first, in verse 16, will be what they hear from the land of Judah. The second is the counsel of the Lord of hosts, which He had determined against them.

How is it that what they have heard happen in Judah will be a terror to the Egyptians? The very first thing to understand is that it was Sennacherib, the Assyrian leader, who led his army into Judah and basically wiped it off the map. The land of Egypt, of course, was right next to the land of Judah. When the Egyptians concluded that there had been a pact between Judah and the Assyrian monarch, and yet that this did not hinder the Assyrian monarch from destroying Judah, they simply assumed that they were next. They heard what had happened in Judah and understood it as a warning concerning themselves.

In other words, it was like living in a close tenement housing section, where houses are only three or four feet apart. When you see your neighbor's house on fire, burning out of control, what is your automatic assumption? That your house is next, because the fire is going to lead from one house to the other. The Egyptians were fearful because the Assyrians had wiped out Judah, and they simply knew that they were going to be next. Now note what else is going to happen.

He says in verse 16, "In that day shall Egypt be likened to women, and it shall be afraid and fear." Why? "Because of the shaking of the hand of the Lord of Hosts, which He shaketh over it." They are going to fear because of the shaking of the hand of the Lord of Hosts and because of the counsel which God has determined against Egypt. Now, look what God did to Judah. What was in the land of Judah? The tabernacle and the temple.

It seems to me there is a verse in First Peter that goes something like this: "If judgment first begin at the house of God." What is going

to be the end of the heathen and the wicked? They understood that God was shaking His hand. Scripture asks, “If these things be done in a green tree, what shall be done in the dry?” In other words, if you cannot put up with something in a time of blessing, what in the world are you going to do in the time of cursing? He said, if you cannot run with the horsemen, you are in trouble. What are you going to do when the Jordan swells up? If you cannot comprehend, understand, and do what is easily done in a good time, how in the world can you survive in a bad time? Verse 16 talks about the shaking of the hand of the Lord of hosts.

It is important to note how easily God can make a people a terror to themselves and to others, even when they have been seemingly confident and secure. Do you realize that, for God to send general consternation, frustration, and terror upon a people, He does not even have to send an army? All He has to do is send a rumor.

That is what this verse is talking about. You will find this in Obadiah 1 and verse 1: “The vision of Obadiah. Thus saith the Lord God concerning Edom. We have heard a rumor from the Lord and an ambassador sent among the heathen. Arise you and let us arise up against her in battle.” Note what he said: a rumor from the Lord. The Lord did not necessarily have to send the army. He sent a rumor.

God does not even have to get up from His throne to destroy a nation. In Isaiah 37, beginning with verse 7, God says, “Behold, I will send a blast upon him. And he shall hear a rumor, and return to his own land. And I will cause him to fall by the sword in his own land.”

This concerns the king of Assyria. Rabshakeh returned and found the king of Assyria warring against Libnah, for he had heard that he was departed from Lachish. Observe what God said: “I’m going to cause him to hear a rumor.” He would return to his own land and fall by the sword in his own land.

God caused the king of Assyria to hear the rumor that the people had hired Tirhakah, the king of the Ethiopians, against him. The king departed, left the land, and returned to his own country. Then he was killed by two of his own sons. How did God get him out of the land? He simply caused him to hear a rumor.

Jeremiah 51:46 says, "...and lest your heart faint and you fear for the rumor that shall be heard in the land, a rumor that shall both come one year, and after that another year shall come a rumor, and violence in the land, ruler against ruler." God says all it takes is rumors. Do you realize that the Egyptians were struck with fear based upon a rumor? The Egyptians always thought they were able to maintain war. Many times they attacked other nations without provocation, and they also used their soldiers as mercenaries. They were a warlike people, and yet they could do nothing when God sent a rumor except tremble and fear like women. In Isaiah 19, God said, "In that day shall Egypt be likened unto women: and it shall be afraid and fear." Why? "Because of the shaking of the hand of the Lord of hosts, which he shaketh over it."

John Calvin wrote concerning verses 16 and 17, especially verse 16. He said, "The sudden change which is now effected is a striking display of the judgment of heaven. And therefore, he adds, that the shaking of the hand of God will be the cause of terror. By these words, he shows that this war will be entirely carried on by the Lord, and therefore that the Egyptians cannot stand against it because they have not to do with men. What Isaiah declares concerning Egypt ought to be likewise applied to other nations. For if wars arise and insurrections spring up, we ought to acknowledge it to be a judgment of God which men lose courage and are overwhelmed with terror. We see how the most warlike nations give way and show themselves to be less courageous than women and are vanquished without any preparations of war whenever the Lord strikes their minds with dread."

What Calvin said concerning Isaiah 19, verses 16 and 17, applies to other nations as well. It is a principle of truth that when God shakes His hand, when God merely threatens, or when God sends a rumor, men are struck with terror and fear and become unable to function or fight; yea, they become like women.

The Terror of God's Actual Fighting

If the shaking of God's hand causes such fear and consternation, what must it be like when God actually strikes and fights? Revelation 6 shows what happens when God actually fights: "And the kings of

the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; and said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?"

I can assure you of one thing: when God does fight, He will be the only one left standing. It should be evident that it is comely and right to fear God whenever He merely shakes His hand over us. It is right to humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God when He but threatens us.

My daughters, many times when they were small, would act up while I was preaching. If I ever caught their eye, I would look at them like this. Usually that was sufficient, because they knew that if they did not straighten up, the rod was about to fall. It is right to humble ourselves when we see the threatening hand of God against us.

Do you realize how wicked and ungodly King Ahab was? When God sent word to Ahab that He was going to kill him, Ahab humbled himself and put on dust and ashes. God said to Elijah, "Seest thou how Ahab humbleth himself before me? because he humbleth himself before me, I will not bring the evil in his days: but in his son's days will I bring the evil upon his house." As wicked and ungodly as Ahab was, he gained a little time by humbling himself under the hand of God.

What amazes me is the number of Christian people who do not think or believe that God would ever use the military option upon America. Most people tend to think that we are better than past generations, and that our sins and rebellions are not quite as bad or wicked as theirs. The truth is, our sins and rebellions are worse.

America's Sins Are Worse Due to Greater Light

Do you remember how God destroyed the nations of the Old Testament? You may ask, "How can you sit there and say that our sins as a nation are worse than theirs?" Let me tell you how I can say that: it is exactly what Scripture teaches. What we sin against is the

fullness of light and the fullness of truth. In the Old Testament, they had some light and some truth, but they did not have the fullness of light and truth the way we do. John 1:17 says, “The law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.” The fullness of grace and the fullness of truth was revealed when Jesus Christ was revealed.

Turn to Hebrews 10. Here the apostle argues that our sins deserve a worse judgment than the sins of the people in the Old Testament. Beginning with verse 28, he says, “He that despised Moses’ law died without mercy under two or three witnesses.” In the Old Testament, when you committed a capital sin or a capital crime, you died. When there were enough witnesses against you, you were cut off. There was no mercy; you were killed.

Now look at verse 29. Here is his argument concerning how much sorer, or worse, punishment shall be thought worthy: the person who has trodden underfoot the Son of God, counted the blood of the covenant wherewith he was sanctified an unholy thing, and done despite unto the Spirit of grace. In other words, now we have the fullness of light in Jesus Christ. When we sin, we sin against the completed, final, and full revelation of the Word of God. We sin against the full and final revelation of God in Jesus Christ. What we are doing is sinning in the light of full knowledge and full light.

The author of Hebrews asks, in effect, how much worse punishment do you suppose such a person is worthy of? Since Jesus Christ has been revealed, there is an added dimension and an added insult to our sin and our rebellion against God. The Scriptures teach us that we today deserve worse punishment.

There is another objection that I hear: God is too loving to send judgment upon America. God would never engage in war, and God would never use war. Let me tell you something. Whenever you think that way, you are thinking humanistically; you are not thinking scripturally. When people say, “The God that I serve is too loving to send judgment like that,” the God they are serving is a figment of their imagination. He is not the God of Scripture.

The only God that exists is the God of the Bible. The Bible declares unto us who God is and what His attributes are. If you have a

problem with what the Bible reveals, the only thing I can tell you is that you are wrong and the Bible is right. Scripture informs us; in fact, it states emphatically, in Exodus 15:3, “The LORD is a man of war: the LORD is his name.”

God Is a Man of War

What did the Bible just say? The LORD is a man of war. The context is the destruction of Pharaoh, his army, and his chariots. God overthrew them, and here they are singing and praising God, saying, “God is a man of war. The LORD is a man of war.” That is His name.

Moreover, let me ask you a question: Do you know how God delivered Israel out of Egypt? Deuteronomy 4:34 gives a specific statement concerning that deliverance: “Or hath God assayed to go and take him a nation from the midst of another nation?” It continues, “By temptations, by signs, and by wonders, and by war, and by a mighty hand, and by a stretched out arm, and by great terrors, according to all that the LORD your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes.” How did God deliver the Israelites out of the land of Egypt? By war. By war.

Does it not stand to reason that if the Lord is a man of war, and if God delivered Israel out of Egypt by means of war, God could also destroy a nation by means of war? Has God ever destroyed a nation by means of war? Innumerable times.

In Judges chapter 3, we see that it was God Himself who brought these enemies upon Israel because of their sins. Judges 3:7 says, “And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and forgot the Lord their God, and served Baalim and the groves. Therefore the anger of the Lord was hot against Israel, and he, that is God, sold them into the hand of Cushan-rishathaim, king of Mesopotamia, and the children of Israel served Cushan-rishathaim eight years.”

In verse 12, “And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the Lord, and the Lord strengthened Eglon the king of Moab against Israel, because they had done evil in the sight of the Lord.” In chapter 4, verse 1, “And the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the Lord when Ehud was dead. And the Lord sold them into

the hand of Jabin king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor, the captain of whose host was Sisera, who dwelt in Harosheth of the Gentiles." Then chapter 6, verse 1: "And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and the Lord delivered them into the hand of Midian seven years."

Did God destroy Israel by means of war in 722 B.C., when the Assyrians came and captured the ten northern tribes? The answer is yes. Did God destroy the southern kingdom, Judah and Benjamin, in 586 B.C., when the Babylonians came and captured it? The answer is yes. Did God destroy Jerusalem in 70 A.D. by the Roman army? Yes. Ask yourself what happened to Babylon, Assyria, Moab, Edom, Egypt, and a multitude of other nations. God destroyed them by war.

I want you to turn in your Bibles to First Chronicles, Chapter 5. First Chronicles, Chapter 5. I'm just trying to prove a point. That point is that God is indeed a man of war, and that God does indeed use war to chastise and punish nations.

In 1 Chronicles 5, beginning with verse 25, we read: "And they transgressed against the God of their fathers, and were whoring after the gods of the people of the land whom God destroyed before them."

"And the God of Israel stirred up the spirit of Pul, king of Assyria, and the spirit of Tiglath-pileser, king of Assyria, and he carried them away, even the Reubenites, and the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh, and brought them into Halah, and to Habor, and Hara, and to the river Gozan of this day." What did God do? God stirred up the spirits of the kings of Assyria to come down and to fight against His people and to carry them into captivity.

Look in chapter 6 and verse 15. Jehozadak went into captivity when the Lord carried away Judah and Jerusalem by the hand of Nebuchadnezzar. Who carried them away into captivity? The Lord. How did He do it? By the hand of Nebuchadnezzar.

When God destroys a nation by war, it is impossible for that nation to stand. Look in Jeremiah 46. The problem we have in this country today is that we believe we are the greatest military power upon the face of the earth. We may be in one way or another, but we have so many computer-oriented weapons today that, if the power

grid goes down, all of them are worthless. The Chinese outnumber us ten to one, and they have more land weapons than we do.

I am simply pointing out that when God destroys a nation, it does not matter what it has militarily; it cannot stand. Jeremiah 46, beginning with verse 14: “Declare ye in Egypt, publish it in Migdol, and publish in Noph and in Tahpanhes: say ye, Stand fast, and prepare thee: for the sword shall devour round about thee.”

Why are thy valiant men swept away? They stood not, because the Lord did drive them. He made them to fall; yea, they fell one upon another. No nation can stand, no matter what its armaments are, when God decrees against it. No nation can stand when God fights against it. Do you realize that when nations go into idolatry, God always raises up enemies against them?

Look back in your Bibles to 1 Kings chapter 11. Solomon was a wise man, and yet he went into idolatry. All of his strange wives whom he had married caused him, led him, and pushed him into idolatry. He built all those altars for his wives.

The Bible says in 1 Kings 11, beginning with verse 11: “Wherefore the Lord said unto Solomon, Forasmuch as this is done of thee, and thou hast not kept my covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded thee, I will surely rend the kingdom from thee, and will give it to thy servant. Notwithstanding in thy days I will not do it for David thy father's sake: but I will rend it out of the hand of thy son. Howbeit I will not rend away all the kingdom; but will give one tribe to thy son for David my servant's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake which I have chosen.”

The Lord stirred up an adversary unto Solomon, Hadad the Edomite, who was on the king's seat in Edom. In verse 23, God stirred up another adversary, Rezon the son of Eliadah, who fled from his lord, Hadadezer king of Zobah. He gathered men unto him, became a captain of their band, went to Damascus, dwelt there, and reigned in Damascus. He was an adversary to Israel all the days of Solomon. Beside the mischief that Hadad did, he abhorred Israel and reigned over Syria.

If you take the time to read Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28, you will find that one specific curse for disobedience is that a nation

cannot stand before its enemies. God said, “Ye shall go out one way against them, and flee seven ways before them.” When God judges a nation, no matter what its armaments are, it cannot stand, militarily speaking.

Remember that one of the attributes of God is His immutability—His unchangeableness. In Malachi 3:6 He says, “I the Lord change not.” Since God does not change, neither do His judgments or His retribution. If God destroyed nations in the Old Testament by means of war, it should not surprise us that He also destroys nations in the New Testament by means of war. It should not surprise us that God still uses that same military option today. God does not change. We must remember that the Lord is a man of war.

God's Armory and Sword Judgments

Remember, I told you that God is a man of war. In Jeremiah 50:25, the Bible says, “The Lord hath opened his armory and hath brought forth the weapons of his indignation, for this is the work of the Lord God of hosts in the land of the Chaldeans.” Note that the Lord hath opened his armory. God has his own gun cabinet. Isn’t that wonderful? He has an armory. It is not just a gun cabinet, however; he has plenty of weapons in it. He opened his own armory and brought forth weapons of destruction.

One of those weapons is the sword, which speaks of war. Look at Jeremiah 47:6–7. The people say, “O thou sword of the Lord, how long will it be ere thou be quiet? Put up thyself unto thy scabbard, rest and be still.” But how can it be quiet? “Seeing the Lord had given it a charge against Ashkelon and against the seashore, there hath he appointed it.” When God brings this sort of judgment upon them, it does no good to cry, “O thou sword of the Lord, be still. Go back into your scabbard.” God said it will not go back into his scabbard until it has finished that which he has appointed it to.

Look at Jeremiah 48:10: “Cursed be he that doeth the work of the Lord deceitfully, and cursed be he that keepeth back his sword from blood.” God said, when he sends another nation to destroy another nation, he will curse the man who holds back his sword from blood. God uses nations to destroy other nations.

Now, in Ezekiel 14:21, God speaks of his four sword judgments. Here are four weapons that he has in his armory. “For thus saith the Lord God, How much more when I send my four sword judgments upon Jerusalem.” What is the first one? “The sword, and the famine and the noisome beast and the pestilence, to cut off from it man and beast.” God said, “I’ve got four sword judgments.” He has four particular weapons in his armory that he uses, and the first one mentioned is the sword.

God is speaking: “Or if I bring a sword upon that land and say, Sword, go through that land, so that I cut off man and beast from it.” God uses a sword. There is no two ways about that.

The word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Son of man, set thy face toward the mountains of Israel, and prophesy against them. And say, You mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Lord God. Thus saith the Lord God to the mountains, and to the hills, and to the rivers, and to the valleys. Behold, I, even I, will bring a sword upon you, and I will destroy your high places. Now who is it that is bringing the sword? It is God.

And your altar shall be desolate, and your images shall be broken, and I will cast down your slain men before your idols, and I will lay the dead carcasses of the children of Israel before their idols, and I will scatter your bones round about your altars. All your dwelling places of the city shall be laid waste, and the high places shall be desolate, that your altars may be laid waste and made desolate, and your idols may be broken and ceased, and your images may be cut down, and your works may be abolished. The slain shall fall in the midst of you, and you shall know that I am the Lord. Who was it that brought the sword? It was God. When God gets through wiping you out, you will understand that it was I, the Lord, who did it.

There are so many passages where God himself says that he brought the sword. Ezekiel 21, beginning with verse 1: “And the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Son of man, set thy face toward Jerusalem, and drop thy word toward the holy places, and prophesy against the land of Israel, and say to the land of Israel, Thus saith the Lord, Behold, I am against thee, and will draw forth my sword out of his sheath, and will cut off from thee the righteous and the wicked, seeing them that I will cut off from thee the righteous and the

wicked. Therefore shall my sword go forth out of the sheath against all flesh from the south to the north, that all flesh may know that I, the Lord, have drawn forth my sword out of his sheath, and it shall not return any more."

What is God saying? I want to draw my sword. I want to do the cutting. But God does it normally by sending other nations.

Again, the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, "Son of man, prophesy and say, Thus saith the Lord, saying, A sword, a sword is sharpened, and is also furbished. It is sharpened to make the sword slaughtered. It is furbished that it may glitter. Should we then make mirth? It contendeth that the rod of my son is every tree, and he hath given it to be furbished, that it may be handled. This sword is sharpened, it is furbished, to give it into the hand of the slayer. Cry and howl, son of man, for it shall be upon my people, it shall be upon all the princes of Israel. Terror by reason of the sword shall be upon my people. Smite therefore upon my thigh, because it is a trial, and what if the sword condemn even the rod? It shall be no more, saith the Lord." Notice what he is saying: it is my sword; I am going to send it.

And thou shalt, O man, prophesy and say, Thus said the Lord God concerning the Ammonites and concerning their reproach, even say thou, The sword, the sword is drawn for the slaughter; it is furnished to consume because of the glittering. Once again, God said, "I'm going to destroy them by my sword."

Turn to Ezekiel 30. Over and over, as you read through these prophecies against the nations, it is God drawing forth His sword. In Ezekiel 30, verse 1, the word of the Lord came again unto me, saying, Son of man, prophesy, and say, Thus saith the Lord God, Howl ye, Woe worth the day! For the day is near, even the day of the Lord is near, a cloudy day; it shall be the time of the heathen. And the sword shall come upon Egypt, and great pain shall be in Ethiopia, when the slain shall fall in Egypt. And they shall take away her multitude, and her foundations shall be broken down. Ethiopia, and Libya, and Lydia, and all the mingled people, and Chub, and the men of the land that is in the league shall fall with them by the sword.

Verse 6 once again says, God shall destroy them. Skip down to verse 20. Ezekiel 30, verse 20: And it came to pass in the eleventh year, in the first month, in the seventh day of the month, that the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Son of man, I have broken the arm of Pharaoh king of Egypt. I have broken the arm of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and, lo, it shall not be bound up to be healed, to put a roller to bind it, to make it strong to hold the sword. Therefore thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I am against Pharaoh king of Egypt, and will break his arms, the strong and that which was broken, and I will cause the sword to fall out of his hand. And I will scatter the Egyptians among the nations, and will disperse them among the countries, and I will strengthen the arms of the king of Babylon, and put my sword in his hand. But I will break Pharaoh's arms, and he shall groan before him, with the groanings of a deadly wounded man. But I will strengthen the arms of the king of Babylon, and the arms of Pharaoh shall fall down, and they shall know that I am the Lord, when I shall put my sword in the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall stretch it out upon the land of the Egyptians.

What is that passage telling us? God says, the nation that I send to chastise and judge another nation, I make their sword strong. I make their arms strong. But the nation that is going to be judged, I will break their arms—that is, I will break their power. They will have no power to fight, no power to resist; they will be destroyed.

Now, let me show you one last argument. When we talk about the military option—God destroying one nation militarily—and especially when we apply it to America, here is the main objection. It is not merely that God would never do such a thing, never judge us, or never use war; I have shown you where He does use war. Here is the main argument most people make: "We are certainly bad as a nation. I know there are things wrong in our country. There are sodomites, abortion, socialism. We have bad government and bad citizens. Yes, I admit we are bad, but other nations are worse."

The Principle of Greater Accountability

So we think God will not judge us; He will judge the other nations that are worse. Look in your Bible at Luke 12:47–48. Our Lord says, "And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not

himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes." Why will the one who knew the Lord's will and did not do it be beaten with many stripes, while the one who did not know it will be beaten with few? Here is the principle: "For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more."

You say other nations are worse. I concur. But other nations have not had our blessings, opportunities, or responsibilities. They have not been given the truth and the life as we have been given them. Our sins are worse because we are sinning against light, against the fullness of truth. God said that the servant who knew to do his Lord's will and did it not shall be beaten with many stripes. His punishment will be worse, for he sinned against the light.

The same problem existed in Habakkuk, one of the minor prophets. Habakkuk understood that God was going to use the Chaldeans, or Babylonians, to judge Israel. But the Babylonians were worse than they were. His question was, God, how can You do this?

In Habakkuk 1:6, God says, "For, lo, I will raise up the Chaldeans, that bitter and hasty nation, which shall march through the breadth of the land, to possess the dwellingplaces that are not theirs." They were terrible and dreadful; their judgment and dignity proceeded from themselves. God said, "I'm going to send them. I'm going to send this wicked, hasty, bloodthirsty nation to destroy the land."

In verses 12 and 13, Habakkuk asks, "Art thou not from everlasting, O Lord my God, mine Holy One? We shall not die. O Lord, thou hast ordained them for judgment; and, O mighty God, thou hast established them for correction. Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity." That is, You cannot look upon it approvingly or condoning it. How can You look upon the Chaldeans, who deal treacherously, and hold Your tongue when the wicked devours a man who is more righteous than he?

What was his argument? God, we may be bad, but we are not as bad as the Chaldeans are. That was his argument. Yet the Chaldeans

did not have the light or the truth that the people of Israel had. They did not have the revelation that God's people had.

Finally, Habakkuk came to the conclusion that God was just and holy, and that whatever God did was just and right. In Habakkuk 3:17–19, he came to this realization: I am going to trust God regardless of the circumstances. He ends by saying, "Although the fig tree shall not blossom."

Neither shall fruit be in the vines, and the labor of the olive shall fail, and the field shall yield no meat. The flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no hurt in the stalls. Yet will I rejoice in the Lord. I will joy in the God of my salvation. The Lord God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon my hind places.

What is he saying? I am going to have to trust God. If there is nothing to eat, if everyone is cut off, if we have nothing as a nation, I still must trust God. Do you remember the question that Abraham asked God? "Shall not the God of all the earth do right?" And what is the answer? The Judge of all the earth is going to do right. Whatever God does is right. However God punishes us is right.

God did use heathen, wicked nations innumerable times to chastise a people who were not as wicked as they were. Read Isaiah 10. Read Ezekiel 7. God is free to use any creature, any instrument, in any way, and at any time that he chooses. He alone is God. The Scriptures affirm that to him alone are the issues of life and death. David said, "My times are in his hands." David said, "To the Lord our God belong the issues from death."

Applications: Fear God, Hear the Rod, and Repent

How does God destroy nations? Religiously, socially, governmentally, economically, and militarily.

Now let me make some applications. The first one should be obvious. This past week, one man said to me, while we were talking about the situation we are in, "I am afraid of China." I have news for you, folks. They outnumber us. If you started killing the Chinese today, and killed fifty thousand a day, one hundred years from now you would still be shooting.

As fast as they multiply, do not think that God has to use a great military power like Russia or China to bring us to our knees. Cuba is sufficient. Castro is sufficient. When God withdraws His protective hand from a nation, anyone can destroy that nation. It does not have to be a mighty war power, because when God breaks our arms, He strengthens the arms of those He is going to use to judge us.

I am not afraid of China. I am not afraid of Russia. I am not afraid of Cuba. I am afraid of God. I fear Him. He is the One whom we should fear. As long as His hand of protection is upon us, there is not a nation that can touch us. But if He ever withdraws that hand, there is not a nation that can protect us.

Secondly, Micah 6 and verse 9 gives us very pointed instruction: "The Lord's voice cried to the city, and the man of wisdom shall see thy name." Listen to what God says: "Hear ye the rod, and him who hath appointed it." I like that verse. What is God telling us? God does exactly what we do. God, first of all, speaks to us through His Word. If we hear His Word, that is sufficient. If we do not hear His Word, then the rod is going to fall. It is just that simple. When His rod falls, if we will not hear His Word, at least He will get our attention with the rod.

There is no parent who whips an obedient child. You only whip a child who is disobedient, and only when the child will not listen. That is what God says: If you will listen, you will not need the rod. But if you do not listen, I am going to send the rod.

Jeremiah 6:17–19 says, "Also, I set watchmen over you saying, hearken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, we will not hearken. Therefore, hear ye, nations, and know, O congregation, what is among them. Hear, O earth, behold, I will bring evil upon this people, even the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened to My words, nor to My law, but rejected it." God said they would not listen to His words, so He was bringing the sound of the trumpet. What is the sound of the trumpet? Warning. There is danger. There is war. If we hear His words, we will not have to hear His rod. But when we do not heed His words, the rod will fall.

Here is a third application. God does not even have to send a nation against us to destroy us. All He has to do is send a rumor, and

the rumor will cause the stock market to crash, the people's hearts to turn like water. When God sends His rumor, along with that rumor He sends terror, agony, frustration, and desperation. If God sends a rumor, it will not be something that can be lightly sloughed off or thrown off. When a rumor is believed, it can effectively destroy the morale and the fiber of a nation and of a people.

You may ask, “You have given me five ways that God destroys nations—religiously, socially, governmentally, economically, and militarily. I see all of those things happening in this country. What can we do to avert the judgment of God?” Here is the simple answer: repent. Repentance is not only personal; it is familial, ecclesiastical, and national. It is personal, in the family, in the church, and in the nation.

But where does God expect us to start? From the bottom up—as individuals. You cannot expect a nation to repent if the church will not repent. You cannot expect a church to repent if the families will not repent, and you cannot expect the families to repent if the individuals will not repent. Every family, every church, and every nation is made up of individuals.

Here is one question: If you will not repent, who will? God demands that you repent of any and every sin, any and every violation of His law, and that you come back to Him through the obedience of His Word.

If you say, “I’m not going to do it,” then you are one of those who is bringing the judgment of God upon this nation. Do you remember that, as wicked and vile as Sodom and Gomorrah were, God was willing to spare them if He found how many righteous? Ten righteous. There are far more than ten in this room. If you are willing to be biblical in every area and sphere of your life, and repent of everything in your life that is contrary to the Word of God, you are one of those who are helping to avert the judgment of God upon our nation.

Repentance is the answer. But before we can have national repentance, we must have ecclesiastical repentance. Before we can have ecclesiastical repentance, we must have family repentance. And

before a family can repent, there must be individual repentance, because individuals make up every one of those institutions.

Let us pray. Father, we ask in the name of Jesus Christ that You would help us and give us repentance. Help us to see and know that the Lord is a man of war, that Thou dost have Thine own armory, and that Thou bringest forth Thy weapons against those nations, peoples, individuals, families, and churches who refuse to repent. Give us the gift of repentance, as well as the gift of faith. Enable us to trust Thee, no matter if the fig tree does not blossom, the vines fail, the flocks are cut off, and there is no herd in the stall. Help us, Lord, to trust Thee at all times, in every circumstance and situation, for Thy honor and glory. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

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