

Untold millions of barbarians from the North, divided into tribes, and they simply and slowly migrated over its 2000 mile northern border and settled into Western Europe. That is why we have different speaking nations there today. (English, French, Dutch, etc.)

We have a warning from our Founding Fathers. They researched history from top to bottom and came up with our Republic, which rivals or surpasses that of Rome. We have lasted 244 years in spite of two World Wars, four other wars and a Civil War, where the number who died in it, was greater than in all our other wars combined.

But our Founding Fathers saw the dangers of any system that was close to being a democracy. Some feared that it would not last 100 years. The reason was that they knew it needed two things from its citizens: (1) Virtue – strong character that does what is right and just for all citizens. (2) Education – people who act in accordance with reason and not emotions.

At this very time a warning came from the Historian Edward Gibbon. He wrote, “The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire”, in six volumes between 1776-1788. He listed five reasons why Rome crumbled.

- (1) The breakdown of the home and an increase in sexual immorality.
- (2) Increased taxation that brought people to the breaking point.
- (3) Preoccupation with pleasure, entertainment and moral extravagances.
- (4) The build-up of national armaments, and blind indifference to moral and social problems.
- (5) Decline in the support of religious and charitable organizations.

This was more than a warning about what could happen to us. It was a prophecy of what is happening right now to us.

**WORDS** Looking at our situation, I have two words to sum up what I see and feel. First is the horrible word, discouragement. It is horrible because it means a person is tempted to give up and sees no use in trying any more. If we do this, about being a better parent and give up trying, our children will suffer. The list is endless, and most, I feel, are like that today, when it comes to our situation now.

The second word is frustration – No matter what we try, or how many things we try, or how many times we try, nothing seems to work. Einstein defined insanity as, “Doing the same thing over and over again, expecting a different result.”

A few weeks back, I shared what I believe we need to do about the relationship between black Americans and the police. I suggested we need to get it done on the local level – with our governors, our mayors, our police chiefs, our policemen, our young men and women and outstanding civic leaders (black and white), working together.

And what we see is mayors suing governors fighting the police, allowing violent groups, who are nowhere close to being like the peaceful protesters, to burn buildings and loot. While this is going on mayors are talking about doing away with the police. The inmates are running the asylum!

What we lack from congress, from governors and from mayors, is what our Founding Fathers said was essential for our survival – **VIRTUE** – doing what is right and best.

This brings us to 608 BC and Habakkuk, where we find some more words for Christians, if America does crumble like Judah did. They are: **FAITH – HOPE – DUTY – FORTITUDE**

**(Part 2 Next Week)**

**“The Man Who Watched His Nation Crumble”**

**&**

**“The Man Who Went from Fear to Faith to Hope to Duty”**