

America's Decline Into Darkness – Clues to a National in Decline

Impending Judgment For A Nation In Love With It's Excesses

Isaiah 5:8-25 Woe to those who join house to house; They add field to field, Till there is no place Where they may dwell alone in the midst of the land! 9 In my hearing the LORD of hosts said, "Truly, many houses shall be desolate, Great and beautiful ones, without inhabitant. 10 For ten acres of vineyard shall yield one bath, And a homer of seed shall yield one ephah." 11 **Woe** to those who rise early in the morning, That they may follow intoxicating drink; Who continue until night, till wine inflames them! 12 The harp and the strings, The tambourine and flute, And wine are in their feasts; But they do not regard the work of the LORD, Nor consider the operation of His hands. 13 Therefore my people have gone into captivity, Because they have no knowledge; Their honorable men are famished, And their multitude dried up with thirst. 14 Therefore Sheol has enlarged itself And opened its mouth beyond measure; Their glory and their multitude and their pomp, And he who is jubilant, shall descend into it. 15 People shall be brought down, Each man shall be humbled, And the eyes of the lofty shall be humbled. 16 But the LORD of hosts shall be exalted in judgment, And God who is holy shall be hallowed in righteousness. 17 Then the lambs shall feed in their pasture, And in the waste places of the fat ones strangers shall eat. 18 **Woe** to those who draw iniquity with cords of vanity, And sin as if with a cart rope; 19 That say, "Let Him make speed and hasten His work, That we may see it; And let the counsel of the Holy One of Israel draw near and come, That we may know it." 20 **Woe** to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! 21 **Woe** to those who are wise in their own eyes, And prudent in their own sight! 22 **Woe** to men mighty at drinking wine, **Woe** to men valiant for mixing intoxicating drink, 23 Who justify the wicked for a bribe, And take away justice from the righteous man! 24 Therefore, as the fire devours the stubble, And the flame consumes the chaff, So their root will be as rottenness, And their blossom will ascend like dust; Because they have rejected the law of the LORD of hosts, And despised the word of the Holy One of Israel. 25 Therefore the anger of the LORD is aroused against His

people; He has stretched out His hand against them And stricken them, And the hills trembled. Their carcasses were as refuse in the midst of the streets.

The Decline of a Nation

Looking at **Isaiah 5** we see the decline of the nation of Israel into Spiritual Darkness as a result of **Grasping At Worldly Materialism** - Woe to those who join house to house; They add field to field, Till *there is* no place Where they may dwell alone in the midst of the land! (v.8) , **Drunken Pleasure Seeking** - Woe to those who rise early in the morning, *That* they may follow intoxicating drink; Who continue until night, *till* wine inflames them! - Woe to men mighty at drinking wine, Woe to men valiant for mixing intoxicating drink (v.11, 22), **Defiant Sinfulness** - Woe to those who draw iniquity with cords of vanity, And sin as if with a cart rope (v.18), **Immoral Perversion** - Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! (v.20) **Arrogant Conceit** - Woe to *those who are* wise in their own eyes, And prudent in their own sight! (v.21) **and Corrupt Leadership** - Woe to men mighty at drinking wine, Woe to men valiant for mixing intoxicating drink, Who justify the wicked for a bribe, And take away justice from the righteous man! (v.22-23) - Here is a list of the consequences that resulted; houses desolate, poor yield from crops, captivity, and death as the anger of the LORD was kindled against His people.

GOD WILL BRING JUDGMENT ON A NATION

God warned Israel and America should also consider itself warned.

- **8-10—Grasping at Worldly Materialism.** Money is not the root of all evil, but the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil including materialism. Materialism is idolatry, which you will know them by their fruits as the land speculators knowingly broke God's principles and standards in order to obtain money. (Mic. 2:2, 9; Amos 2:6-7)

- **11-12—Drunken Pleasure Seeking - Hedonism.** Hedonism says, “if it feels good do it,” or as the Occultist Aleister Crowley said, “do what thou wilt.” For the Hedonist the purpose of life is to seek pleasure. As with Eve the people of Isaiah’s day had neglected or were apathetic to the glory of God it is all about Self-Fulfillment.
- **18-19—Defiant Sinfulness** – Many throughout history have taken their pursuit of iniquity to the extreme, violent in their quest – sinning presumptuously drawing their sinful passion into them all the while mocking and defying the Holy and Righteous God that judges mankind by every word spoken and action taken – making sure not to challenge those sent in His name
- **20— Immoral Perversion - Moral Relativism.** Inversion of good and evil – absolute truth does not exist – how could something that feels so right be wrong - all values and beliefs are equally good – all paths lead to heaven
- **21—Arrogance Conceit - Spiritual Deception.** People become so arrogant and foolish in their thinking that they have lost the spirit of discernment and are easily led into every form of pagan worship.
- **21-23—Corrupt Leadership. Drunk With Power – Easily Bribeed by the Wicked - Made Rich From Ill-Gotten-Gains from the Righteous.** There is no end to their pride and arrogance for knowing they are guilty of all kinds of gross iniquities their opinion of themselves is only elevated (Prov. 16:18) - drunk not only of the blood of the innocent but the best of pharmakeia – drunken by power and guided by riches gained and threats issued by the Money Changes bribes they celebrate their unjust laws, regulations and sentences on those they were sworn to protect

Worldly Mankind Driven by Their Lust

We can summarize the six elements of Israel’s decline into just three (1) Lust of the Flesh - drunken pleasure-seeking and immoral perversion (2) Lust of the Eyes - grasping materialism, (3) Pride of Life - defiant sinfulness, arrogant conceit, and corrupt leadership. During this course of study, we will see plainly how America has followed in the footsteps of Israel. Our society has bowed down to the lies of Satan and the pounding of his messages that has appealed to the same desire

that led Satan and a third of the angels to fall from God's grace – SELF-FULFILLMENT. It was Satan's self-centered desire to usurp God that led him to break the first Commandment and was justly demoted from the top angel position, the pinnacle of God's angelic creations, to total enmity with God. Satan wants the same for us. He wants us to focus on ourselves, our desires (rights) – "meism."

Dare I...Is American Under God's Judgment?

Romans 1:18-32: ¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹ because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, ²¹ because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Professing to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. ²⁴ Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, ²⁵ who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. ²⁶ For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. ²⁷ Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. ²⁸ And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; ²⁹ being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; *they are* whisperers, ³⁰ backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, ³¹ undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; ³² who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

Will America Meet The Conditions For Revival?

Nehemiah 8 - Now all the people gathered together as one man in the open square that *was* in front of the Water Gate; and they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded Israel. ² So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly of men and women and all who *could* hear with understanding on the first day of the seventh month. ³ Then he read from it in the open square that *was* in front of the Water Gate from morning until midday, before the men and women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people *were attentive* to the Book of the Law. ⁴ So Ezra the scribe stood on a platform of wood which they had made for the purpose; and beside him, at his right hand, stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Urijah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah; and at his left hand Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hashbadana, Zechariah, *and* Meshullam. ⁵ And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was *standing* above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶ And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. Then all the people answered, "Amen, Amen!" while lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with *their* faces to the ground. ⁷ Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodijah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, and the Levites, helped the people to understand the Law; and the people *stood* in their place. ⁸ So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped *them* to understand the reading. ⁹ And Nehemiah, who *was* the governor, Ezra the priest *and* scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day *is* holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn nor weep." For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the Law. ¹⁰ Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for *this* day *is* holy to our Lord. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the LORD is your strength." ¹¹ So the Levites quieted all the people, saying, "Be still, for the day *is* holy; do not be grieved." ¹² And all the people went their way to eat and drink, to send portions and rejoice greatly, because they understood the words that were declared to them.

Will American Humble Itself?

2 Chronicles 7:14, if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Will American Listen and Obey?

Psalm 81:13, 16, "O that My people would listen to Me, that Israel would walk in My ways. If My people would just listen, and obey, I would quickly subdue their enemies." V. 16, "If My people listen to Me and walk in My ways, I will feed you with the finest of the wheat and with honey from the rock I would satisfy you."

The Battle Grounds

The Battle for the Minds and Souls of Our Children

Humanism/Naturalism – Horace Mann brings us compulsory attendance law for every child to attend a government funded public school to John Dewey the Father of Modern Progressive Education they bring into our classrooms their Humanistic Naturalistic Philosophies and having no room for the God of the Bible. Teaching our children that man was the center of all things the ultimate best of evolution. Educators said since man evolves, his society must evolve, and therefore his laws must also change to fit the changing man. Leading us to our next battle ground...

Battle for the Beginning

Evolution - Satan created doubt in the mind of modern man with Darwin's On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life, which is the most significant book in modern history as it questioned the very beginning verses of the Bible. Evolution – creation without God in the exclusion of the Genesis account of creation was now in play and today is taught as fact to our children and endorsed by professing Christians. Social scientist and philosophers quickly adopted Darwin's Theory as a means of freeing them to pursue the lust of the flesh and fulfill their sexual desires. We are rapidly becoming a nation of naturalists - intellectuals, philosophers, scientists, educators, politicians, judges in America are mostly naturalists. They believe that the idea of God is a superstition, to deal with certain anxieties of the human heart. Naturalism is the idea that nature is all there is, that virtually everything that exists is simply the product of unplanned, uncontrolled accidents. Life is based on this assumption that we have just randomly evolved into what we are today. Creation then is the result of unconscious forces randomly mutating.

Man says evolutionary science is the purposeless end of a purposeless process that did not have him in mind. This is what is taught in the universities and then this is what is learned by the students. Those students then become the next generation of educators, the next generation of politicians, the next generation of social architects, the next generation of judges who make their legal decisions. They become the next generation of journalists who interpret things that are going on in the world from a naturalist's perspective. This is nothing more than atheism.

That's how Darwin's evolution impacted law, society, government, politics, economics of teaching in textbook sales, as well as science in all its branches. Not only biology would change from Creationism to Evolution, but physics and math would change from Ordered Systems to Chaos as a focus of teaching.

The Battle for What Is Sacred

It did not take long, and we see our governments' wisdom in taking down the **Ten Commandments** in our schools removing from the eyes and minds of our children that which God set as sacred in man's relating to God and man's relating to each other. It was replaced with Relative Morality base on evolution and the result; we filled our schools with assault, rape, murder, gangs, mass murder, increasing rates of suicide, bombs, cheating, a higher percentage of the functionally illiterate, disrespect for authority, and most schools now have a full-time police presence with some schools arming teachers. The minds of our children have been captured through the imagination and now spend 40 or more hours each week in front of some electronic device and zero time in the word of God. Our children will consume with total abandon the books in the Harry Potter series with massive volumes of reading and now find the word of God boring in comparison. Making Witchcraft, Mysticism and the Occur with greater numbers than the largest Protestant organization in America. The result is a massive membership increase for WICA while churches around the country no longer having Sunday school classes due to lack of interest or maybe it should be said other interest. What are we teaching our youth when now a sport activity trumps time in church?

Pornography – These leaders in education and thought philosophers were freed from the restrictions of a god and moral restrictions and soon pornography found its foundation. The US Supreme Court and its 9 appointed Judges set loose the early restraints placed on obscenity and Satan's sights were clearly set on the foundation of society - family. Pornography damages families and is an addiction by almost 50 percent of male Church goers – with the greatest increases in the last decade among children and women!

Divorce - If you spend any time reading the Bible at all you see its references to the structure of family (Father, Son, Daughter, Marriage, Bride, etc.). In the days of Moses because of the desires (rights) of those stiff necked people Moses allowed a more liberal right of divorce (*Matthew 19:4-9* - "Why then," they asked, "did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?" Jesus replied, "Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery.").

Our society moved to quick and easy no fault divorce and the rates of divorce went from single digit rates to the thirty percent range almost overnight with rates today closer to fifty percent. One of the pillars that support the moral foundation of society – the family was blown away. **Divorce among Christians has been by far the most damaging to the Church in its ability to influence our culture.**

Redefining of Roles and Abortion – The Demise of the Biblical Principle of Headship in the family soon follows. The roles of women in what we would call the traditional family was questioned with the Women's Liberation Movement. The role of women as mother and the role and importance of the father was turned on its head and another pillar of support of the family was removed. This Liberation also coincided with the Roe V. Wade decision. The desires (Rights) of the woman over that of the child and we witness another huge pillar of our moral foundation again blown away – *Jeremiah 1:5*: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations." How many prophets to the nations have been lost? How will we as Christians stand before the Almighty God of the Universe and justify to Him the murder of millions upon millions of His special creation – the child created in His Image.

Redefining of Marriage and Family - Today, the final attack is under way – the institution of marriage. Our society is moving rapidly toward the redefining of marriage as ordained in the Bible - *Matthew 19:4-6: "And He answered and said to them, 'Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning "made them male and female," and said, "For this cause a man shall leave father and mother and shall cling to his wife, and the two of them shall be one flesh?" So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.'* " The question must be asked, "once we redefine marriage away from what is ordained by God by what means will you be able to stop any other form or combination or union. What is to stop polygamy, polyamory, incest, children married to adults, and even bestiality?"

The Silence of the Church

Lust of the Flesh – Lust of the Eyes – Pride of Life - Satan has moved us to believe it is all about us and not about God. Satan moves issues from a moral issue to a rights issue. Marriage if redefined to anything other than what is ordained by God and His special revelation to man, the Bible, will prove just as disastrous as Humanism, evolution, redefining of the roles of women and men, divorce and abortion to mankind. Jesus said in *John 16:33 - "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."* To the small percentage of Christians that have a Biblical World View, the shadows of our affliction are here and the net has been cast and is being tightened around us. We see the signs all around as the people that cry out tolerance have redefined the word to mean, "We will be tolerate of you as long as you except and embrace our lifestyle on our terms." If we take a stand based on a Biblical World View expect "trouble," as our nation becomes more and more secular expect the attempt at silencing the Church if it preaches the Word of God! As we witness the genocide of Christians around the world at the hands of those that profess Islam or atheism remember the words of Stephen

Apathy has led Americans to take their freedoms for granted, to become intellectually lazy, to reject reason, logic, and context. The Bible speaks repeatedly about the need to acquire knowledge, wisdom, and understanding, yet Americans have done the exact opposite and rejected knowledge. Knowledge is the acquisition of truth, and wisdom is the application of truth. According to the Bible,

Jesus Christ is truth, His Word is truth, and yet Americans have developed apathy toward God that has now turned into disdain toward His character and nature.

Keep your eyes upon Jesus, **love and pray for those that persecute you and know that JESUS IS LORD!**

WORD

Matthew 7:15-20 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. 16 Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? 17 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. 19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. 20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

WORSHIP

Psalms 121:1-8 I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. 2 My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth. 3 He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber. 4 Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. 5 The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand. 6 The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night. 7 The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. 8 The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.

RESOURCES

The MacArthur Study Bible - <https://www.gty.org/store/products/bibles/none/1/40>

Grave Influence – Brannon S. Howse - <https://shop.worldviewweekend.com/product/grave-influence>

America In God's Providence – Generations - https://store.generations.org/products/america-in-gods-providence-textbook?_pos=2&_sid=511cbb19e&_ss=r