

Morning Worship

July 1, 2018

Pastor — Allan Lane

Organ --- Alva Lou Schottel

Worship Leader — Don Beavers

Piano —

As you enter for worship, please silence your cell phones.

(CCLI permit # 424692 covers all copyright song lyrics)

Welcome and Fellowship

Allan/People

Scripture Reading Deuteronomy 30:11-19

Don/People Hymn # 630

America the Beautiful

Don/People

Worship Prayer

Allan Lane

Pledge to the Flags and to the Bible

Allan/People

Hymn # 634 *My Country, 'Tis of Thee* Don/People

Hymn # 633 *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory* Don/People

Offering Prayer

John Lewis

Tithes and Offerings

People

Offering Music

Alva Lou Schottel

No Children's Worship

(On break for the summer)

Message

Real Threats to America

Isaiah 9

Hymn # 316 *Jesus Is Tenderly Calling* Don/People

Prayer Concerns

Allan/People

Chorus# 633 *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory* Don/People

Real Threats to America

Isaiah 9:18-19

In Isaiah 9 the prophet compared wickedness to a fire. It starts small and when fed will grow out of control. When we look at how God dealt with Israel, we see that America by comparison is subject to the same conditions of judgment.

The reason I chose this text is because we Americans will celebrate Independence Day Wednesday. That's 242 years since we declared our Independence from Great Britain. Do you love your country? Me, too, but I wonder how much longer we can continue in this direction before the glories we've known are a thing of the past. When we look at how God dealt with Israel, the comparisons to America are uncanny. I believe that the same threats which destroyed Israel may well be looming in the background in America.

Today, let's examine three conditions that were present when God judged the nation of Israel and see what warnings they teach us today.

1. A People Filled with Pride .

The first condition was a people filled with pride. Go back earlier in Isaiah 9 and look at verses 9 and 10. God was sending judgment on the Israelites. They made two mistakes.

a. They ignored the cause . First, they ignored the cause of the calamities.

b. They boasted in their abilities . Second, they arrogantly boasted that they would rebuild. It is as if they thought they did not need God.

The Bible says a lot of bad things about pride:

- Proverbs 16:18 says, "Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall."
- 1 Peter 5:5 – "God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble."
- And Proverbs 29:23 says, "A man's pride shall bring him low, but honor shall uphold the humble in spirit."

We could share countless examples, but suffice it to say, God hates pride. As we look at America, we see an extremely proud people. I'm not talking about patriotic pride of being American, which is good and healthy. It's the arrogance we have to think that we can defy God; ignore His Word; mock His moral code; kill our unborn; promote that which is evil and perverted and debauched; ignore our politicians' corruption as long as they're "on our side," that we can outlaw prayer in schools. In our pride and arrogance we have abandoned Biblical principles; we have fallen headlong into an ethos of hedonism; we have embraced, celebrated and now even enshrined in law what God calls an abomination. And then we wonder why the foundations of our country are crumbling around us; why crime is soaring; why some major nations are all ascending and America and its allies are declining in power and influence.

Listen to what Abraham Lincoln said of us almost 150 years ago: "We've grown in numbers and wealth and power as no other nation has grown...We've vainly imagined in the deceitfulness of our own hearts that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient...,too proud to pray to the God that made us."

Or look to what the Psalmist says in Psalm 2:1-5. If America continues to go the way of the heathen nations, do not be surprised if God laughs and mocks us in our foolish pride, and speaks to us in his wrath, and vexes us with His severe displeasure. America, wake up and repent before it is too late.

2. A Program of Confusion .

A second condition was internal confusion. Look at verse 16 of Isaiah 9. The phrase "they that are led of them are destroyed" literally means, "those who are guided by them are brought to confusion." Without the moral compass of the Bible, the Israelite leaders devolved into a babble of confusion. Does this sound familiar?

In verse 19, when we're told that God's anger would fuel the fire of judgment against Israel, Isaiah says, "no man shall spare his brother." This refers to anarchy. Because there was ungodly leadership from their national leaders, there was confusion and anarchy among the Israelites.

Back in 1992, Dr. James Dobson wrote, "We are involved in nothing less than a civil war of values—a collision between two ways of seeing life. This is not an issue of two alternatives from which to choose, but a life and death struggle. One value system is going to predominate. One is going to rule the country."

The lunacy of some of the answers of some of our leaders defies credulity. Recently a new approach to delinquency adopted by several large U.S. public school systems, including the Los Angeles Public School District, decrees that students cannot be suspended or expelled from school for "willful defiance." The idea is to keep delinquents in school so that they're not deprived of an education. But anyone with a brain could tell you that this is a just a recipe destined to produce smarter criminals.

These schools have become anarchic prisons where teachers and students are held hostage by thugs from elementary school up through high school who now run rampant and can do anything they want. While their leaders "cause them to err, those who are led of them are brought to confusion."

God's Word has a simple answer that makes sense to anyone with half a whit of common sense in Proverbs 22:10. Again, we could spend hours going over you examples of this kind of madness, but you get the idea.

3. A Progression of Wickedness .

A third condition was a progressive worsening of wickedness. Notice again verse 18. In 1947, Harvard sociologist and historian Dr. Carl Zimmerman studied the deterioration and ultimate disintegration of various cultures and published his findings in his scholarly book, *Family and Civilization*. His research showed conclusively that there is a definite pattern to the rise and fall of every great nation, empire, and civilization. Zimmerman asserted that the very same patterns appear in every single case, without fail or significant variance. He discovered eight common elements that were present in every culture that disintegrated and declined.

That was in 1947, and while his conclusions might have seemed far-fetched then, those of you who are old enough may have seen the trends even then. Listen to these eight common elements of every civilization at the cusp of its destruction:

- One, marriage lost its sacredness; it was frequently broken by divorce.
- Two, the traditional meaning of the marriage ceremony was lost. Alternate forms and definitions of marriage arose, and traditional marriage vows were replaced by individual marriage contracts.
- Three, women lost interest in child bearing and mothering, preferring to pursue power and influence.
- Four, public disrespect for parents and authority in general increased.
- Five, juvenile delinquency, promiscuity, and rebellion accelerated.
- Six, people with traditional marriages refused to accept family responsibilities.
- Seven, desire for and acceptance of adultery grew.
- And eight, there was an increased tolerance for sexual perversions of all kinds, particularly homosexuality, with a resultant increase in sex-related crimes.

All of these have been slowly but surely growing like a cancer in our society for the last 60 years, and just two years ago, the United States Supreme Court tied it up into a neat little bow in its gay marriage ruling. As we watch the rise of our enemies from Russia, China, Iran, North Korea, and whatever flavor of the day of radical Islamic terror (Al Queda yesterday; ISIS today; ??? tomorrow?), do we have the moral fortitude to stand against the barbarians at our door? I'll let you be the judge of that.

Conclusion

Psalm 33:12 – "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.

Well, what can we do? I would suggest two things we can do as God's people:

- First, we can get involved in reshaping our nation.
- I believe that every citizen has a responsibility to vote. If ever our voice needed to be heard, it's now. Knowing that the next president will probably appoint one to three of the next Supreme Court Justices, which, let's face it, is really the only body of government that counts anymore, it's all the more crucial to vote for those who stand biblical principles, and who will appoint judges that uphold biblical principles.

Someone said this:

"If our country survives---and I realize that's a big IF---it will be because there is an awakening in the lives of committed Christians across our nation who finally begin to realize that it is not only their opportunity but also their absolute responsibility to be intricately involved in the political process of our country and to use that involvement to turn this nation once again to the Lord.

"For much too long we have allowed our government to grow farther and farther away from the direction that God has always demanded our nation take. At the same time we have yielded the control of our country to a godless, secular, humanistic philosophy that has absolutely sapped the strength and spiritual vitality America has always had. Never before, in the history of Christendom, have so many believers been willing to forfeit their liberty and freedom without even putting up a struggle." (Richard Hogue as quoted in *America, Return to God*)

If we were to be honest with ourselves, as important as this is, and it is important, it's not enough. In the end the battle for the soul of our country is not a physical battle. It's a spiritual battle which leads us to a second personal application of today's sermon:

- We should apply the 2 Chronicles 7:14 principle. We're fond of talking about all the sins of everyone else out there in society, but God teaches that a nation's revival begins with HIS people. Read 2 Chronicles 7:14. How might we see a great healing of our land? When God's people humble themselves, pray, seek God, and turn from our sinful ways. Only then will we hear from heaven; only then will God forgive our sin; and only then will God heal our land.

It's happened before, and it can happen again. Twice in our history, the U.S. slipped into moral decay, though never to the degree that we have today. By the early 1700s, the moral rectitude of our Pilgrim and Puritan founders gave way to moral laxity and sin. But many of God's people humbled themselves and prayed to God and sought God diligently and passionately and turned from sin. God rose up powerful preachers like Jonathan Edwards, George Whitfield and John Wesley who called God's people to repentance in what became known as the First Great Awakening. There was widespread revival, conversions of whole communities, and a return to godly living. Many scholars see the First Great Awakening as the precursor to the American Revolution.

Again, after the Civil War, America became a fat, greedy, voracious nation, devolving into moral decline again. But a group of believers in some churches of New England began to pray for another revival. They humbled themselves, and prayed earnestly and repented of sin. Then God rose up great men like D.L. Moody, Wilbur Chapman and G. Campbell Morgan who carried on great revivals that had long lasting effects on society.

God has done it in the past, and if He tarries His coming again, He could do it again if God's people all over the nation follows His formula.

We Must Reshape Our Nation!

In God We Must Trust

This week we will be celebrating the 242th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Historically, that's actually a long time for a nation to remain in existence. It may seem like a long time, but it's actually just 12 generations. Even through its brief history on the world stage, God has richly blessed the United States. It is the richest and most powerful nation in the world. It also has a wonderfully rich spiritual history.

- It was founded by pious Pilgrims and Puritans.
- Two of the greatest religious revivals in history, known as the First and the Second Great Awakenings, occurred in the United States.
- Rev. John Witherspoon, a Presbyterian minister, was a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and almost all the forefathers extolled Christianity and its morality.
- It was the teachings of Christ that was the basis for the end of our country's national disgrace—slavery, and it was devoted Christians who lobbied endlessly to abolish it.
- *My Country, 'Tis of Thee* was written by a Baptist minister, Samuel Francis Smith.

- *The Pledge of Allegiance* was written in 1892 by a Baptist minister, Francis Bellamy.
- The words *In God We Trust* are traced to the efforts of Rev. W.R. Watkinson.

God truly has shed His grace on the United States of America...and there's a reason for it. As you probably already know, when it was a young country, the Frenchman, Alexis de Tocqueville, visited the United States to discover what made America so great. He traveled across its vast land, looking for greatness in its harbors and rivers, its fertile fields and boundless forests. He studied its schools, its military, its Congress, its Constitution—but still he could not find the secret.

It was not until he went into its churches and heard its pulpits "afire with righteousness" that he found the answer. When he returned to Europe, he wrote, "America is great because America is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great."

Sadly, our country has ceased to be good and is no longer great in many ways.

- It once stood for the Ten Commandments, but today the Ten Commandments are mocked, and often are illegal to even mention in a public setting.
- When the founding fathers reached a deadlock in the Constitutional Convention and simply could not agree on a crucial point, one of the members suggested that they have a prayer meeting; and right there the members of the Continental Congress knelt down and prayed for God's wisdom. Sadly, today prayer is illegal in our public schools.
- Violence, crime, abortion, immorality, drunkenness, pornography, governmental corruption, rampant materialism, an insatiable desire for sinful pleasure, and every imaginable sin are a pretty apt description of broad swaths of Americans. And yet, on every American coin and paper bill is the little motto "In God We Trust."

While the motto on our coins may be no longer true, it SHOULD be true for us who name the name of Christ. We must transfer the motto, "In God We Trust" from our money into our hearts if we want the greatness of America to be seen.

God Bless You!

Bro. Allan

Opportunities For Service

Living out Your Spiritual Commitment . . . and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan

Sunday, July 1, 2018

Sunday School 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: ? ? ? ?, Gary Yarbrough

John Lewis, Joseph Coats

Alternate: Larry McKahan

Evening Service.....6:30 pm

Wednesday, July 4

Happy Independence Day!

No Evening Service...6:30 pm

Sunday, July 8, 2018

Sunday School.....9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: ? ? ? ?, Ken Kirkpatrick,

Larry McKahan, Bill Schottel

Alternate: Ken Nice

Evening Service.....6:30 pm

Wednesday, July 11

Prayer Warriors.....10:00 am

Prayer / Bible Study.... 6:30 pm

Worship Team 7:30 pm

Up-Coming Events.....

July 4 — Independence Day!

July 11 — Prayer Warriors 10:00 am

July 15 — Fellowship Dinner and Business Meeting at Noon

— Collect for the Longs

July 16-19— Children's Camp Grand Oaks

July 22-26 — Vacation Bible School

August 18 — Biblical Manhood Conference

GROW Team

Commit to **GROW! Everyone make a contact!** Invite someone to Bible Study and Worship this week. ☺

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Sunday Nights

We will have Sunday night services tonight. Please join us as we will continue *A Case for Faith* with Lee Strobel. Don't miss it!

Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study

Come pray for the direction of our church. Please plan to attend and pray at 6:30 pm and enjoy a time of fellowship and Bible Study.

Calvary-

Thank you for the donation of Gideon Bibles. Mom would have appreciated that!

Dave and Anette Schottel

Mark Your Calendars Now!

♦ July 16-20

Children's Camp

♦ July 22-26

Vacation Bible School

♦ August 18

Men's Conference
Frederick Boulevard
Baptist Church

Vacation Bible School

July 22-26

Mark your calendar!

Let Ellen know if you are willing to serve and what age group. Be thinking about who you can bring.

Biblical Manhood Conference:

Our Higher Calling:

Biblical Manhood in the Home, Church, and World

August 18, 2018

8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Frederick Boulevard Baptist

Pastors and Men's ministry leaders, we encourage you to bring a group of men from our church. The cost is \$20 per person and lunch is included with your registration. This conference is open to men and young men(12+).

Key Speaker

John Akin

North American Mission Board

Worship lead by:

Conor Scholes

Noland Road Baptist Church

Ken is Moving!

Ken Nice will need furniture to use in his new apartment. If you have something extra, let him or the church office know. Thanks!

For the Record-

Attendance: June 24, 2018

Sunday School.....	27
Visitors.....	0
Total.....	27
Contacts Made.....	12
Morning Worship.....	42
Sunday Night.....	N/A
Children's Worship	N/A
Wednesday Night	8

Financial Record:

Weekly Budget \$ 2,286.39
Offering Received ... \$ 2,013.87
Long Family - May... \$ 160.00
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Offering Received by Mail:

July Counting Team:

Fred Kerns and Jordan Lane

July Van Driver:

George Burgess
Call 232-3747 **before 8 am**

July Member Birthdays:

02... Mary Sharp
05... Kathryn Beavers
15... Bill Schottel
20... Dorothy Post
23... Flora McKahan
24... Allan Lane
26... Jack Conard
26... Annette Schottel
30... Bill Haskins
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July Anniversaries:

Don and Mary Sharp

July 3, 1970

Gary and Sharon Yarbrough

July 8, 1978

Don and Marcia Hart

July 15, 1973

Larry and Flora McKahan

July 29, 1966

Prayer Requests ...

Jim and Brigida Winans
Annette and David Schottel
Judy Anderson—hospital
Marcia and Don Hart—blessings
Blake Conner—Swymeler's Grandson
Mike Green—knee recovery
Larry McKahan—infection
Arlette Duty—strength
Sharri Duty—surgery recovery
Donna and Bill Dunn—health
Jack and Flo Conard
Peggy & Gary Fewins—Peggy's health
Gina Harr—strength
Tammy Panning, Emily Jones & Liam
Cynthia Burdick—cancer recovery
Karissa and Matt Long and family
The Waters Family—guidance
Stephanie & Jason Terpack
Shawna Hughes—recovery

Rosella Davis—Flo Conard's sister
Mary Sharp's brother-in-law Jim
Bill Clinton—Don and Mae's son
Lisa Bowers—Jack and Flo's daughter
LoLeta Middleton—strength
Zella Davis —Doris Richardson's sister
Rev. A. B. Brown Betty Campbell
George Ferbert Kevin Duty
Nellie Reynolds Madeline Swink
Ann Riddle Don Beavers
Kathryn Beavers Keon McKahan
Jozy Winans Kenny Duty
Pat Means Buddy Means
Bill & Juanita Debbie Sands
Pat Puckett Curtis Conard
Brenda Burgess Roscoe Lane
Carolyn Houts Tim Izer
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church
David and Deborah Grace
Our Nation and Leaders
Our Military Service people
Today's Prayer Requests ...

Our Nation and our Leaders ...

Five More New Families...
