

Living In Modern America

Introduction:

- A. [Lady – “Jesus must be coming because I don’t believe things can get any worse...”]
 - B. We have seen a spiraling decline in the our nations!!!
 - C. [Michael Youssef]
 - D. Jeremiah 29:4-10
 - E. “Even though our Nation maybe in spiritual and moral decay, we have a responsibility for the way we live in America.”
 - F. What is here?
 - a. This is a letter from the prophet Jeremiah to the recent captives in Babylon (1)
 - b. An epistle in the O.T.!
 - c. There are lessons for us to see here...
 - G. 3 Keys for Christians living in today’s America:
 - I. Embrace your true citizenship.(4-6)
 - a. God’s word to Israel.
 - i. God had placed them in their condition of captivity.
 1. They have lived in sin for year and ignored the warning of God...
 2. Now they were captives in a foreign land...Babylon.
 - ii. God told them to make themselves acclimated to their new residence.
 1. To build homes and plan to live in them...
 2. Make gardens
 3. Get marries and have a families
 4. {Not intermarriage}
 5. God still wanted the seed of Abraham to increase!
 - iii. They were to get use to their surrounding...
 1. For they were going to be there a long time...70 years! (10)
 2. But Then God would bring them home.
 - b. God’s word to us.
 - i. If are Christians, we are more than citizens of the USA
 1. We are citizen of heaven.
 - ii. However, being citizens of heaven doesn’t mean that we done take part of the society that we live in.
 1. [Don’t admire the Amish to much]
 2. We should do are part of everyday life as well.
 - iii. But we should live like pilgrims or sojourners.
 1. Our lives should reflect our citizenship.
 2. [Israel wasn’t to stop being Israel]
 3. But we should live knowing that one day the Lord is coming to take us home!
 4. “And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.” – 1 Jn. 2:28
- “The second key...”
- II. Promote peace in the land. (7)
 - a. God’s word to Israel.
 - i. God commanded the Israelites to seek the peace of the city...
 - ii. “peace”
 1. Hebrew – “Shalom”
 2. welfare, prosperity, goodness, well-being, peacefulness
 - iii. What a hard command:
 1. This was the kingdom that had ransacked Jerusalem...
 2. Babylon was a wicked pagan land.
 3. False gods, wicked idolatrous practices, and violent.
 4. Nebuchadnezzar was a wrathful and violent king!

- a. **[Slaughter of diviners who couldn't interpret His dream]**
 - b. **[Fiery Furnace]**
- iv. Yet God told them to seek peace and not be a people of cursing their new kingdom authority.
- v. They were to do and work towards good things for the city...
- vi. They were commanded to pray for peace...
- vii. And as a result they too would live in peace.
- b. God's word to us.
 - i. We should seek for the peace, prosperity, and welfare of America.
 - ii. Even though the land we live in does very wicked things, we should still work towards her peace.
 - 1. *"Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men."* – Rom. 12:17-18
 - 2. This is why we vote!
 - 3. This is why we seek true justice
 - 4. This is why we stand upon the principles of God in our land.
 - 5. This is why we remind Americans of the original purpose of the founding fathers in our nation!
 - a. *"While we are zealously performing the duties of good citizens and soldiers, we certainly ought not to be inattentive to the higher duties of religion. To the distinguished character of Patriot, it should be our highest glory to add the more distinguished character of Christian"* – George Washington
 - b. *"Resistance to tyranny becomes the Christian and social duty of each individual. ... Continue steadfast and, with a proper sense*

of your dependence on God, nobly defend those rights which heaven gave, and no man ought to take from us." – John Hancock, 1st to sign the Declaration of Independence.

- c. *"When we view the blessings with which our country has been favored, those which we now enjoy, and the means which we possess of handing them down unimpaired to our latest posterity, our attention is irresistibly drawn to the source from whence they flow. Let us then, unite in offering our most grateful acknowledgments for these blessings to the Divine Author of All Good."* – James Monroe, 5th President

iii. We are to pray for our nation!

- 1. **[Sign]**
- 2. *"Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence."* – 1 Tim. 2:1-2
- 3. **[Nero]**
- 4. Pray for those who oppose us!
- 5. *"But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you"* – Matt. 5:44
- 6. We need revival!!!

iv. Remember what happen to America, happen to us!

"The final key..."

III. Be careful of talking heads. (8-9)

a. God's word to Israel.

- i. God commanded the Israelites to be cautious of so called prophets and diviners {workers of magic or fortune-tellers} who would rise up among them.
- ii. They would seek to lead the people in to deception...
- iii. They were instructed not to listen to them because they weren't from God...
- iv. They were false!
- v. What were they prophesying about?
 1. Before the captivity these false prophets spoke against Jeremiah and would foretell that Babylon wouldn't take over Jerusalem...
 2. Now that they were in captivity they were telling the people to get ready to go back home, because God would about to bring them back...
 3. When in actuality God was setting them out of the Promise Land for 70 years! (10)

b. God's word to us.

- i. We too must be careful of all the messages being spread today.
- ii. *"Yes. Believe it or not, this is the Message from GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies, Israel's God: "Don't let all those so-called preachers and know-it-alls who are all over the place there take you in with their lies. Don't pay any attention to the fantasies they keep coming up with to please you. They're a bunch of liars preaching lies—and claiming I sent them! I never sent them, believe me." – Message Paraphrase*
- iii. Not every preacher is a preacher from God!
 1. They deny the Word...
 2. They deny sin...
 3. They deny the gospel...
 4. **[Prosperity & social gospels]**
 5. They rewrite what is to be acceptable.

- a. Abortion
- b. Same Sex Marriage
- c. Wicked behavior
- d. Force out Christianity!!!

6. *"But there were also false prophets in Israel, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will cleverly teach destructive heresies and even deny the Master who bought them. In this way, they will bring sudden destruction on themselves."* – 2 Pet. 2:1 NLT

iv. Beware of the politicians that claim to have all the answers!

1. Our hope is not in Washington!
2. Our problems cannot be fixed by laws, tax incentives, government programs, or even healthcare reform!
3. Climate change initiatives, immigration reform, and gun control won't save America!

v. Only the true living God, The God of host, the God of angel armies can do it!

vi. We must be busy listening to His message and His ways for our lives!

vii. *"My dear friends, many false prophets have gone out into the world. So do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see if they are from God. This is how you can know God's Spirit: Every spirit who confesses that Jesus Christ came to earth as a human is from God. And every spirit who refuses to say this about Jesus is not from God. It is the spirit of the enemy of Christ, which you have heard is coming, and now he is already in the world."* – 1 Jn. 4:1-3 NCV

Conclusion

- A. Are you faithfully praying for our nation?
- B. Are you truly a citizen of the greatest Nation?