

Addressing the American Crisis

A BRIEF OVERVIEW

**This resource was used to aid in the understanding of a regional solemn-assembly culture in Buffalo, NY in 2016.*

Jesus came preaching a message of repentance (Mt.4:17), but He did so with a full understanding that this message demanded a particular response (Lk.19:41-44). His message was not just a history lesson for us. He spoke more about the generation in which He would return than He did about His own generation. His message at that time is still His message today.

Repentance begins with acknowledging the problem. This study resource provided an overview of what we term today as a spiritual crisis in America so that we can begin to understand the issues and address them in prayer as our first response.

RECOGNIZING THE URGENCY OF THE HOUR

“Blow a trumpet in Zion; sound an alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the Day of the Lord is coming; it is near.” Joel 2:1

I. The Biblical Day of the Lord is described as both great and very terrible (Joel 2:11; Mal.4:5).

-We are commanded to speak the truth in love (Eph.4:15). Part of the truth does not constitute the whole truth.

“The Lord gives voice before His army, For His camp is very great; For strong is the One who executes His word. For the day of the Lord is great and very terrible; Who can endure it? -Joel 2:11

“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.” - Mal.4:5

II. Blowing the trumpet and sounding the alarm is a command to the body of Christ in this generation (Ez.33:1-6).

“Again the word of the Lord came to me, saying, “Son of man, speak to the children of your people, and say to them: ‘When I bring the sword upon a land, and the people of the land take a man from their territory and make him their watchman, when he sees the sword coming upon the land, if he blows the trumpet and warns the people, then whoever hears the sound of the trumpet and does not take warning, if the sword comes and takes him away, his blood shall be on his own head. He heard the sound of the trumpet, but did not take warning; his blood shall be upon himself. But he who takes warning will save his life. But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet, and the people are not warned, and the sword comes and takes any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at the watchman's hand.’” -Ez.33:1-6

III. The people of God must operate in a Spirit of discernment and war against the temptation to become a culture of social and prophetic appeasement (Jer.2:3; 8:11; Ez.13:10,14-16).

“For they have healed the hurt of the daughter of My people slightly, Saying, ‘Peace, peace!’ When there is no peace.” -Jer.8:11

“Because, indeed, because they have seduced My people, saying, ‘Peace!’ when there is no peace—and one builds a wall, and they plaster it with untempered mortar...So I will break down the wall you have plastered with untempered mortar, and bring it down to the ground, so that its foundation will be uncovered; it will fall, and you shall be consumed in the midst of it. Then you shall know that I am the Lord.

“Thus will I accomplish My wrath on the wall and on those who have plastered it with untempered mortar; and I will say to you, ‘The wall is no more, nor those who plastered it, that is, the prophets of Israel who prophesy concerning Jerusalem, and who see visions of peace for her when there is no peace,’” says the Lord God. -Ez.13:10,14-16

-Every generation in history has experienced some measure of crisis, however current events and trends constitute a unique crisis for America and the global community.

A BRIEF OUTLINE OF THE SIN WHICH CHARACTERIZES THE AMERICAN CRISIS:

I. A deliberate rejection of a biblical God and His Word (Rom.1:18-21; Ps.2:1-3).

-This is seen more clearly than ever by the legislating of man's rebellion against God in our nation.

-We are refusing to acknowledge the divinely ordained institution of marriage (Gen.1:27, 2:24) and the sovereignty and choosing of God to make us male and female.

-Marriage is the only social institution ordained by God before the fall of man—the only means of procreation, resulting in eternal human beings.

“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. 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, 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.” -Rom.1:18-21

“Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying, “Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from us.” -Ps.2:1-3

II. The shifting of our historic national position of standing with Israel as our ally (Gen.12:2).

-This shifting signifies a rejecting of God’s sovereign right to rule the earth and set it’s boundaries (Gen.15:18; Joel 3:1-3)

On the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying: “To your descendants I have given this land...” -Gen.15:18

“For behold, in those days and at that time, when I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem, I will also gather all nations, and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; And I will enter into judgment with them there on account of My people, My heritage Israel, Whom they have scattered among the nations; they have also divided up My land.” -Joel 3:1-2

III.A dramatic and notable drifting away from the clear teachings of scripture by the church. (Jn.14:15; 1 Jn.2:3-6)

“If you love Me, keep My commandments.” -Jn.14:15

“Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.” -1 Jn.2:3

-The normalization and acceptance of the gay agenda in the name of love.

-A radicalized grace message which declares that we do not need to repent, nor feel sorry for our sin and which ultimately gives way to the formation of a culture of the free-licensing of sin in the name of grace (Jer.5:31).

“The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests rule by their own power; and My people love to have it so, but what will you do in the end?” -Jer.5:31

IV. A fresh awakening to love that we would be a lamp-stand people (Rev.2:1-6)

...“ I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. ...you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary. Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lamp-stand from its place—unless you repent.” -Rev.2:1-6

-A fresh commitment to obey what the Bible says

V. The shedding of innocent blood (Gen.9:5-6; Num.35:33)

-This is one of the primary sins which God mentions over and over again throughout the prophets as He charges them with unrighteousness.

Surely for your lifeblood I will demand a reckoning; from the hand of every beast I will require it, and from the hand of man. From the hand of every man's brother I will require the life of man. “Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man.” -Gen.9:5-6

“So you shall not pollute the land where you are; for blood defiles the land, and no atonement can be made for the land, for the blood that is shed on it, except by the blood of him who shed it.” -Num. 35:33

-“As terrorism in the womb increases, domestic terrorism [in the nation] will increase.” -Chuck Pierce (2008 Buffalo)

VI. The hyper-acceleration of sin (Rev.9:21) -The Bible describes four main categories of sin which will characterize the wickedness of man in the generation in which Jesus returns.

“And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.” - Rev.9:21

A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE TRENDS WHICH CONSTITUTE THE AMERICAN CRISIS

1. Global economic crisis

-“One certainty for this crisis: there are no localized solutions for a problem that extends throughout the world.” -YaleGlobal OnLine 2015

“He was granted power... He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.” -Rev.13:15-17

2. Global military crisis centered in the middle east

-This will not go away until a man of peace comes and establishes a peace treaty (covenant) with Israel (Dan.8:25; Dan.9:27). However, it will be a false peace and will give way to great persecution of Israel and tremendous global unrest.

“Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week but in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering.” -Dan.9:27

-Wars and rumors of wars (Mt.24:6-7)

3. The open accessibility of our borders to terrorists and criminals

4. The increase of natural disasters (Jer. 5:24-25; Hag.2:6)

“For thus says the Lord of hosts:‘Once more (it is a little while) I will shake heaven and earth, the sea and dry land.” -Hag.2:6

5. The increase of social and civil unrest (Mt.24:7)

“For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.” -Mt.24:7

6. The rising influence of [militant] Islam in our nation

-We can measure this according to the level of appeasement on the national stage (historical records, textbooks, shifting of historic political and religious position)

7. The increase of the persecution and murder of Christians world-wide

-Many international reports declare that Christians are the most persecuted religious group on the planet with much of the persecution coming at the hands of Islamic extremists.

-Some groups report that as many as 170,000 Christians were martyred last year alone. The average church in America consists of about 184 members. This would be the equivalent of 950 entire church congregations murdered last year alone.

THE HOUSE OF THE WATCHFUL AND THE WISE

Jesus spoke of a generation that would see His return and this generation would live to see and experience all of the major biblical 'signs of the times' in fullness before His return (Matt.24; Lk.21:5-37; Mk.13). Today we are beginning to see many of these signs emerge together for the first time in history. How are we to live?

“ Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender, and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. So you also, when you see these things happening, know that it is near—at the doors! Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away. “ But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is.” -Mk.13:28-34

RELEASING A RIGHTEOUS DECREE OVER BUFFALO-NIAGARA

“Jesus, we declare that the Buffalo/Niagara Region belongs to you. We declare that we are Your people, the work of your hand, Your planting for the display of Your splendor. We declare that You alone are the only true and living God, the rightful King of this city and region. We declare that your purposes will go forward and that you will accomplish all of your will as you see fit. We give ourselves to you this day. We make a fresh commitment to love you with all of our heart and to do your will with all that is within us. We bless you Jesus. Amen”

