

WILL AMERICA RETAIN GOD'S FAVOR?

Many **Psalms** revealing God's favor or disfavor with Israel can be applied to the U.S. as well. After a life-time of reading the Psalms I have only recently noticed the parallel. Perhaps, because a recent book, *The Harbinger*, made a number of parallels between God's judgement on ancient Israel and the New York towers destruction on **9/11**—and asserts that along with restored Israel, the U.S. is God's favored nation today. But also because in the last several years the Holy Spirit has been drawing my attention to the application of the Psalms in my life, with applications also to America and the nations.

Psalm 80:8 comes to mind as an example. It reads: "*You (God) have brought a vine out of Egypt; You have cast out the nations and planted it.*" You might think, "wait a minute, didn't the roots of Israel begin with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob? What is this vine out of Egypt?" It is true the roots began with Abraham, but God's chosen nation could not conquer Canaan until the population was large enough to occupy and hold the land. Perhaps the chief reason God permitted the slavery of Joseph, the later drought in Canaan, and the Jacobites dwelling in Egypt for 400 years, was to amass several million people—a sufficient population for the task of holding and occupying the land. So coming out of Egypt Israel was a vine to be planted in Canaan that would mature as a nation that would make Israel the pride of the nations—and importantly, a nation that would serve and honor God, as an example for other nations to follow if they were to have God's favor and blessings.

What is the U.S. parallel? We learn from history that Christians in England and Europe sailed for America to escape persecution and begin a new life and nation with freedom of religion. They settled in New England and Virginia. They suffered, and many died, in the brutal winters before they could plant crops, learn how to survive from friendly Indians, and establish churches. This brave adventure was, in a sense, a spiritual vine coming out of England and Europe—the parallel of Israel's vine coming out of Egypt. They came to establish a new society with God's favor because they honored God; like Israel planted a godly nation in Canaan because they honored God. Other parallels might be made, but you see the comparison of a vine coming out of one nation to establish a culture that honored God and had His divine blessing. So we move on.

Psalms 80—85 contain many verses declaring how God will bless—and/or punish—His people according to how they obey and honor, or disobey and dishonor God. If the author of *The Harbinger* is correct—that the U.S. is God's favored nation today, like Israel was His favored nation in Old Testament times—then we can readily understand that some **Psalms** can apply to the U.S. today. History also reminds us that God has honored and favored every nation from the Middle East to Europe when they honored the Bible and Christian moral principles. When the Christian nations in Europe ceased to be the example God desired, even though Christianity still exists there, God planted a Christian vine in America.

In the U.S., earliest governments honored God, the Bible, Prayer, Jesus—and our first schools and colleges were Christian oriented. Our Constitution and founding documents are filled with Christian principles. There was no effort to silence or ban Christian influence anywhere in society. Yes, a lot of seamen and charlatans came to our shores living godless lives; and the godless rampaged against Indians and settlers without regard to God's judgement. Whether living under early law in cities or moving westward beyond the reach of law, the Constitution guaranteed freedom of religion and non-Christians were allowed to pursue their life-styles—but they did not try to stop Christianity in public or private. In time non-Christian immigrants brought other religions to our shores and enjoyed our Constitutional freedom, but at the government level only the Christian God of the Holy Bible and His principles were recognized—until now.

Since WWII the U.S. has had both spiritual visitation, and a great falling away from godliness—and we are beginning to see both the departure of God's favor and devastating disasters as this nation turns away from **Almighty God and Bible principles** at the governmental level. Although millions of Americans have a deep faith in Almighty God today, many of our national leaders are turning away

from prayer, Jesus and the Bible. They have violated God's moral laws regarding abortion, sexuality, and marriage. Minorities try to remove crosses and other Christian symbols from the public domain; and one national retailer put "**the Bible is fiction**" stickers on Bibles. Our policies weaken support for Israel while we fund and favor anti-Christian nations. Major Christian dates have been ignored or banned while those of other religious groups have been recognized. It appears that some leaders want to abandon Christianity, but every other (false) religion has an open door into our schools, culture and places of honor. If the U.S. turns from "**Almighty God only**", and gives foreign gods equal status with **Adonai—the Most High Lord**—we could lose God's favor and these five **Psalms** would have more meaning than ever.

Turning to Scripture, **Psalm 80** introduces the trilogy: **Return, Revive, Restore**—the order in which spiritual restoration occurs. God **returns** to make His presence known. He **revives** human hearts and society to repent and recommit to serve God alone (spiritual renewal). Only then, God can **restore** the foundation of righteousness. When the U.S. recognizes God alone as Creator, Supreme Being—and Jesus as mankind's only Savior, then God can **restore** His blessing and favor. **Psalms 80—85** include both favor and punishment—or near abandonment—of ancient Israel. **Psalm 80** is a desperate prayer for forgiveness, and a call for God's face to shine upon His people. This could be America's prayer.

Psalm 81: 8—16 reminds Israel that God will not have (tolerate) any foreign god among them—one of the **Ten Commandments** given to Moses. **Psalm 82** reminds us that God stands among the mighty (leaders of nations and the church) and judges to see if they rule according to His kingdom principles. **Psalm 83** lists Israel's enemies and quotes many of their threats to drive the Jewish people from their land of destiny (which is being repeated today); and assures Israel that if they honor God He will drive their enemies out of the land. He has done this in ancient times, and again in modern times since 1948—and God will do it again because the neighboring nations listed in **Psalm 83** do not exist as nations in the battle of **Ezekiel 38 and 39**. **Verse 82:18** reminds Israel that God alone is "*the*" Most High Lord over all the earth—and the Ten Commandments remind us that God will not tolerate any nation that officially gives equal status to any other so-called deity (**Psalm 81: 8 & 9**).

Psalm 84 declares many blessings that a righteous, God-fearing believer receives; and the blessings spread over to the nation that officially worships the **Lord Most High** only—refusing to give honor or status to any other deity. **Psalm 85** is another great prayer for the nation of Israel. It reminds us of past blessings and favor for Israel—and Americans can review the blessings and favor of God upon the U.S. from our nation's birth until these last 50 or so years. It calls for God to **Revive** and **Restore** His favor upon Israel. It ends with a heart-warming promise that: "*The Lord will give what is good; and our land will yield its increase. Righteousness will go before Him, and shall make His footsteps our pathway.*" As one of God's favored nations today, the U.S. needs to heed this warning to honor the **Most High God** only. We need to let the Gospel light shine to all the nations; we need to repent nationally; we need to stop giving equal status to foreign gods at Government events and in the public forum; and at the national level reverse laws that ignore **Bible** morality and principles.

We can permit religious freedom for others without giving equal standing. We need not give up our God-granted status as a Christian nation to satisfy a minority who clamor for the demise of Christian principles in the public forum, and demand freedom to promote their way of worship in all public arenas. Remember Lucifer's sin—ignoring God's will and laws to do what he wanted. God's laws are loving, just and righteous—and must be obeyed. So what will the U.S. choose: to obey and honor the **Most High God** and have His continued blessings—or yield to a minority who enjoy religious, or non-religious, freedom—but cross the red line by demanding equality? This is a demand Christians cannot grant because to please our living and loving God and have His blessings—we cannot give foreign gods equal status with our **heavenly Father**. This issue is not debatable.

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