

Plain Path

Weekly newsletter of the Fry Road church of Christ

Sunday, March 23, 2014

Volume 19, Number 12

“Teach me thy way, O Lord, and lead me in a plain path... Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart” (Psalm 27:11-14)

IF AMERICA FELL (PART 2)♦♦♦

by David Watts

(Originally published in GOSPEL ANCHOR, February 1988. Bro. Watts passed away July 9, 2001. He was living and preaching in Longview, Texas at the time of his death. Here we repeat the introduction only, and then the remainder.)

Could America be invaded and defeated? Could our nation be destroyed? It is common knowledge that our nation's enemies have the capacity to annihilate us. Thus far they have been deterred from doing so by our threat of retaliation, but if they decided to attack us, we could not save ourselves from destruction. We could obliterate them in the few minutes we had

before our land was reduced to rubble, but we could not prevent our own destruction. And, as more and more unstable governments gain nuclear weapons, there is a growing fear that a crisis sparked by a smaller nation could escalate into wider devastation that would include us.

If the prospect of America being turned into a graveyard seems farfetched, imagine what it

would be like if our nation experienced a catastrophic financial collapse. In recent years some have said this was inevitable. Books predicting an enormous economic collapse have been

best-sellers. Some people are buying gold for the time when paper money will be worthless. Some have urged people to prepare for the future by stockpiling guns, tools, and seed to barter with once the collapse comes.

If our nation went into irreversible decline, or was actually destroyed, what message would the Bible have for us? Consider three answers to that question (*first answer may be found in last week's bulletin - bp*):

2. If America fell, it would not be the first time God allowed, or caused, a nation to fall.

In the time of Noah, God destroyed a population potentially numbering in the millions. He did that because they were morally corrupt and filled with violence (Gen. 6:5,11-13).

In the time of Abraham, God exterminated the people of Sodom and Gomorrah because of their homosexuality and other sins (2 Pet. 2:6).

(America, continued on pg 2...)

V.B.S. Countdown Schedule

(for Teachers *and* helpers/volunteers)

March 29 - Workday
April 26 - Workday
May 17 - Workday
June 23-26 V.B.S.

Each work session
is scheduled for
10:00 AM

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(America, continued from pg 1...)

In the days of Moses, God broke the back of the idolatrous Egyptian nation. Because of their depravity, God destroyed the Canaanites in the time of Joshua (Lev. 18:24, 25).

In the time of Isaiah, and later in the days of Jeremiah, God brought down the northern and southern kingdoms of the Jews. And it is thought-provoking to recall that He used neighboring nations to accomplish those judgments (cf. Isa. 10:5, 6), nations the Jews would have considered more wicked than themselves.

And during the apostles' generation, God used the Roman Empire to crush the ungodly Jewish nation which rejected Christ.

These are just some of the most prominent national judg-

ments revealed in the Bible. We cannot know the details of God's providential role in the rise and fall of nations after the Scriptures were completed. And though we dare not pretend to know the secret counsel of God concerning our own nation's future, this much we can know: if America falls it will not be the first time God allowed, or caused, a wicked nation to go down.

3. If America fell, God would not forget his people.

This is not to say Christians are promised exemption from hardship and suffering during political upheavals. But the godly people of a place are not forgotten by God amid an ungodly majority.

Noah wasn't forgotten in a world filled with corrupt people (2 Pet. 2:5).

Lot wasn't forgotten when Sodom was blotted out (2 Pet. 2:6, 7).

During His judgments against the apostate Jews, God didn't forget the faithful Jews (Amos 9:8-10; Ezk. 9:1-6; Mal. 3:16,17).

And Christians weren't forgotten during the early decades of the Lord's church (Matt. 24:22; Rev. 7:1-3).

Remember, this didn't mean godly people always escaped suffering when their nation fell, but they were never forgotten by God, and divine vindication and compensation is not limited to this life. Jesus said, "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not

fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows" (Matt. 10:28-31). God doesn't forget the righteous.

Conclusion...

None of this means Christians want to see our nation fall. In fact, the Bible teaches us to pray for rulers that we might lead quiet and peaceful lives (1 Tim. 2: 1,2). We might all do well to imitate Abraham, who interceded for the people of Sodom (Gen. 18:23f), or Amos, who learned of coming judgment against Israel, pleaded in such a way God changed His mind about sending some of the just punishment they deserved (cf. Amos 7:1f). Certainly Christians can pray that our nation will not fall or decline if it can be God's will that we continue.

So, as Christians, we don't want to see our nation decline or collapse. But ultimately our hope must be in God, not our President. Our confidence is in the Bible, not the Constitution. We trust in providence not politics.

In this evil, troubled, and uncertain world, Christians can have an inner peace and tranquility the world has no claim to. That peace is not dependent upon whether the Stock Market is up or down, or whether the gross national product is high or low. It is not built on trust in political maneuvering by our statesmen, or military alliances with our allies, or yet unbroken peace treaties with our enemies. It is the peace and confidence that comes from knowing God will always rule, and we belong to Him.



**THIS WEEK'S
DAILY BIBLE
READINGS**

**NEW TESTAMENT
READING**

MATTHEW 26 - 28

March 23 - 25

**OLD TESTAMENT
READING**

EXODUS 1 - 9

March 26 - 29

I TIMOTHY 4:13

FAMILY NEWS & NOTES

*News and Notes of Interest
to Fry Road Members*

Because of the large number of visitors to our services, we would ask those wishing to identify with the congregation to do so by expressing this interest directly to the elders.

Upcoming Meetings & Events:

Gospel Meeting (Steve Wolfgang) V.B.S. ("We Would See Jesus")
April 13 - 16, 2014 June 23 - 26, 2014

Annual Singing **Gospel Meeting (Joseph Casimier)**
September 6, 2014 September 7 - 10, 2014

Information on local gospel meetings and preachers we support can now be found on the new bulletin board in the West hallway.

Condolences...

Sick and Shut-Ins



Sections have been removed to preserve members' privacy

Miscellaneous...

Sermons:

Next Sunday:

Arrows That Never
Miss Their Mark

Tonight:

Where Were You?...

Locally...

FOR THE RECORD

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS

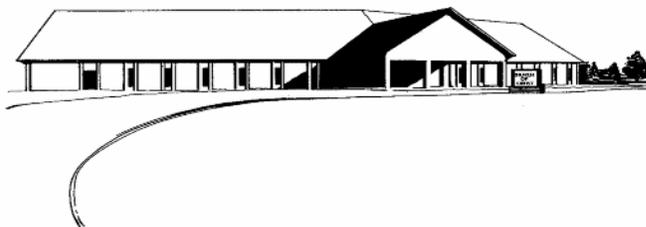
MONTHLY ASSIGNMENTS

Sections have been removed to preserve members' privacy

IN KEEPING WITH OUR LONG STANDING AGREEMENT, THOSE SERVING PUBLICLY ARE REMINDED TO PLEASE DRESS IN A MANNER RESPECTFUL OF THE GOD WHOM WE SERVE.

ELDERS:

Ruben Amador
Matthew Heaton
Donnie Mangrum
Steve Voss



DEACONS:

John Coleman	Ken Dunsmore
David Ellison	Ray Farrell
Aubrey Garner	Steve Geraci
Steve LaGrasta	John Light
Steven Martin	Mike McMurray
Jason Mock	David Stevenson
Glenn Tomblin	

TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Classes	9:30 AM
Sunday Morning Assembly	10:30 AM
Sunday Evening Assembly	6:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Classes	7:30 PM

EVANGELIST & EDITOR:

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