



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

God's Signs: Recognizing The Need For Restoration

JULY 25, 2012

Dave DePue / PO Box 1775, Topeka, KS 66603 / dave.depue@capitolcom.org

We have looked at several leaders, each who have transformed their nation, restoring a culture of peace and prosperity. Our study for this week highlights leaders who disregarded warnings of declining morality, sin against God and each other. In the long term, God does not bless a person, community, or a nation that is evil, and sinful.

INTRODUCTION

We are certainly not the first society or people to see the need for restoring our culture. Old Testament prophets warned the people of perilous times and God's pending judgments. National leadership and the general population generally ignored the various warnings with a few notable exceptions. What wisdom can we gain from Scripture or historical perspective?

DOES IT LOOK LIKE TROUBLE AHEAD?

Matthew 16:1-3 "When evening comes, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red,' and in the morning, 'Today it will be stormy, for the sky is red and overcast.' You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times!"¹

Matthew reports of Jesus' criticism of the religious leaders for noticing the signs of nature but not seeing the application of The Holy Scriptures to their day.

God called a rancher/farmer named Amos to preach, warning Israel and Judah of disaster to come. This judgment would reach them and neighboring nations. The listing of sin included: cruelty, slave trade, treaty breaking, irreconcilability, sadism, revengefulness, despising God's Word, exploitation of the poor, and sham religion (Amos, Chapters 3,4, and 5). He predicted that judgment would start with an earthquake, which occurred in 755 BC, two years later (Amos 1, Zechariah 14:5). Judgment continued until their conquest and later exile to Assyria in 722 BC.²

Years later, in the midst of Israel's judgment, the prophet Habakkuk contrasted God's grace and proud humans (Habakkuk, Chapter 2). We are to live by faith!

FACING A CULTURE OF SIN

Nineveh, the capitol city of Assyria, was an enemy of Israel. They were known for their violence, extreme cruelty, pride, and idolatry (Jonah 3:8). God sent Jonah to warn the residents of His pending judgment. After an encounter with a large fish, Jonah preached throughout the city, telling of their need to repent and ask God for mercy. Jonah was surprised when King Assuridan III ordered his subjects to fast and pray for forgiveness. Over the next one hundred years, other Assyrian kings returned to their warlike manner, and cruel and violent practices. God sent the prophet Nahum to warn Nineveh again. Armies of the Medes, Chaldeans, and Sythians opened the sluice gates of the river, undermining the wall to enable their advance. The city was destroyed in 612 BC (Nahum, Chapter 3).³

PERSONAL SIN – NATIONAL SIN

Do you know of anything in your life that might be keeping you from God's favor, receiving His blessings? Our corporate challenge is to examine our communities, our state, and nation. What can we ask forgiveness from and repent of that would please God? It seems clear that we are in need of grace!

CONCLUSION

Consider any unconfessed sin that may be present in your life and the lives of family. Consider what we can do in our community, State, and Nation to make right any wrongs. **Repentance should precede prayer.**

A PRAYER

Father God, I accept that Your Son paid my sin debt on the cross. This faith makes me righteous in Your eyes. Help me to make amends with any person that I have offended. Show us how we can restore our communities, our State, and our Nation. Please return our favor with You. Bless Kansas and bless America. I pray this in the Name of Jesus. Amen.

¹ The Holy Bible, New International Version. (Biblica Inc.) 1984.

² John MacArthur, The MacArthur Study Bible. (Thomas Nelson) 2006. p1248.

³ Ibid. p1280.