America in Crisis

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The turmoil that America is experiencing is nothing new. It is merely history repeating itself. That is why I want to compare America's present crises with those of Israel during Biblical times. In so doing, we could see what the Bible forecasts for America.

Explosion of Lawlessness in the Land

If I had to identify two nemeses that grossly plague America, they are these: **(1) Lawlessness and (2) the "spirit of Antichrist."**

(Definition) What is "lawlessness"? The best definition I have found is this: Lawlessness is **"defiance of the known will of God."** (Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words.) Lawlessness substitutes God's law for man's law. (List ways on the marker board that lawlessness abounds)

Sins of Lawlessness

Abortion

Alternate lifestyles

Murder

Rejection of truth. When sinners embrace false truth, they are emboldened with arrogance and a prideful sense of superiority.

Destruction of others' property

Rejection of Authority Figures (ICE) that carry out the will of God.

Then there is the "spirit of antichrist" that prevails today. How is this defined? The "spirit of antichrist" is threefold:

First, this spirit manifests itself by blasphemy and impugning the name of Christ. It is boisterous and uses God and Christ's name in vain. It's a swear word for people.

Second, the prefix "anti" indicates that which "takes the place of Christ; it involves the removal of Christ and the enthronement of But this prefix also indicates that which is *against* Christ.

Third, the Apostle John noted that the "spirit of antichrist" cannot say, "Jesus is Lord." Moreover, when people, organizations, committees, etc., exclude the name of God or Jesus Christ, they manifest a "spirit of antichrist."

For the next few minutes, I want to illustrate how lawlessness leads to the demise of nations. I will begin by pointing out that lawlessness led God to chastise ancient Israel.

Turn to **Hosea 4:1—6** and let's read.

"Their rulers dearly love shameful ways" (4:18).

"The rebels are knee-deep in slaughter. I will discipline all of them" (Hosea 5:2).

"They do not acknowledge the Lord" (5:4).

"They practice deceit, thieves break into houses, bandits rob in the streets" (Hosea 7:1).

"Israel's arrogance testifies against him, but despite all this he does not return to the LORD his God or search for him" (7:10).

"I long to redeem them but they speak about me falsely" (7:13).

"They set up kings without my consent; they choose princes without my approval" (8:4).

Nothing Unites America

It's ironic that our country is called the *"United* States of America" when hardly anything unites us!

Not the Bible. Politicians are now taking their 'Oath of Office" on books other than Scripture.

Not the Flag. In city after city, the flag is burned.

Not the National Anthem. Ball players kneel in protest as it's sung.

The Founding Fathers are now held in disrepute. Their statues have been toppled and broken to pieces.

America's Judaeo-Christian principles have been mocked and a former President denied America was ever a Christian nation.

Last year, I concluded several things about our nation. At the top of the list I sensed that ***"America has lost its song. . . ."*** Think about that for a moment. . . . Have you ever tried to define "song"? Songs are written because something has deeply stirred the heart. It could be love or intense feelings or passions—both positive and negative—that people can relate to. Unfortunately, there is no longer a patriotic, soul-stirring song of endearment that unites Americans. *America has lost its song!*

It is an understatement to say, the ***"United" States is a DIVIDED country!*** And we are divided because we have rejected the ways of God.

(Quote) Thomas Jefferson said: "Can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are the gift of God? They are not to be violated but by His wrath. Indeed, I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just; that His justice cannot sleep forever."

Folks, I fear that America has so violated God's law that nothing can withstand his judgments.

I hear preachers claiming that America will be reunited and we will become one in purpose again. Some are even prophesying that our country will reunite around its founding principles. Don't misunderstand me! The United States needs healing and restoration. But I want you to give me two minutes to unpack the assumption that unity will reign from coast to coast in the United States:

(1) For Christians to believe that America will be reunited around the Constitution and the Bill of Rights

(2) For Christians to believe that America will regather around its founding principle that proclaims we are a Christian nation, (I want to pause and read two quotes from John Quincy Adams: "The Declaration of Independence laid the cornerstone of human government upon the first precepts of Christianity." And next, he said: "The highest glory of the American Revolution was this: it connected, in one indissoluble bond, the principles of civil government with the principles of Christianity"). With that said, I will continue.

(3) For Christians who believe Americans will rally around the Biblical tenet that 'life begins in the womb.

(4) for Christians who believe Americans will continue to support Israel in these "last days" when this contradicts Scripture and shows that the world will turn against Israel.

And finally, (5) for the Christians who believe unity will reign among the races and our racial differences will dissolve and be resolved, then here is what I have to say: **You have more faith than anybody I have ever met**!

I would like to believe that Americans will drop their differences and unite in loving friendship, but my discernment tells me that the Bible is right when it foretells the division among the peoples during the Endtime.

Jesus predicted tremendous cultural infighting during this time. When Christ said "nation would rise against nation" he used the Greek word *ethnos*. And ethos means 'ethnic group will fight ethnic group'!

Folks, such idealistic thinking contradicts the Bible's characterization of the Endtime when it foretells international **lawlessness** and the **"spirit of Antichrist"** fomenting around the globe.

There is no question that preachers should decry the injustices of the world. But nowhere in the Bible does it say our hope is in a unified government, social order, or peace treaties among the nations. The Christians' hope is not in winning the "Culture War." Folks, the hope for Christians in the "last days" is to become a praying church; a Spirit-filled church; a bold, witnessing church; and unity within the Body of Christ.

It is a reignited army of Christians and not a cultural revolution that is the answer for today. When the church can reclaim its commitment to these principles, we will see a move of God unlike anything you and I have ever witnessed.

I want to tell you a danger that threatens our Pentecostal and Charismatic churches: that which was birthed in the fire of the Spirit can eventually become a bed of smoldering ashes.

Notice Where Division Leads Nations

Now, with all the lawlessness and disunity manifesting, where is it leading America? It is directing us to the same place it led ancient Israel. I want you to turn to Hosea 8:1—8 and let's read where God says these sins will lead our nation.

Hosea 8:1–7

This year of 2020 was marked on God's calendar before the beginning of time. As omniscient, God knew the circumstances that would befall the world—the impeachment coup against an innocent president; the pandemic; the protesting and rioting; the stoking of racial differences; the international monetary impact of COVID—19; the collapse of thousands of businesses around the world; and the concerted efforts of world leaders to control the movements of people. And intertwined with these problems, Satan has used 2020 as a "year of unprecedented deceit."

With all this impacting the world, can you see that this has been a foreboding year compared to most others? Since 2020 has been a year of tumult by both man and nature, do you think it is important for the church—the people of God—to take notice... and take action? If you answered "Yes," my question is: What have you done to make a difference in the church and in the world?

If churches across this nation continue to worship week to week without invoking a Spirit-led, Biblically scripted response to these world events, they have slipped into complacency. This is not the year to "hold the fort" and trust that everything works out. This is the year for churches to battle the gates of hell.

If America's pulpits cannot see the perils of 2020 and recognize that liberalism and political correctness are corroding society, then the ministry of preaching has lost its discernment, its power, and its persuasion to redirect the thinking of people.

If Christians, by-and-large, do not understand that their "marching orders" originate with the "King of kings" and not with the federal government, then they must re-read the Constitution of the Kingdom—which is the Bible!

Here's the bottom line: the events of 2020 ***should have*** shaken the souls and disturbed the hearts of Christians in a seismic manner! This event should have created a proactive response. Yet many Christians are unmoved by the Holy Spirit and have no inclination to shake free from their complacency.

Folks, I'm going to divulge my desire for Christians:

> My heart's desire is that Christians would revolt against living the Christian life "as usual."
>
> Revolt against their witness-in-the-world "as usual."
>
> And revolt against having church "as usual."
>
> I hope that the church, in general, and Christians, in particular, will not fail the assignment God has given for this time.

(Harbinger) There is a reason I'm preaching this message. America and the nations are facing a decisive, appointed moment in world history. And we cannot let this moment pass by without a Biblical confrontation. Christians must rise to the occasion.

(Question) That leads me to ask an important question: What are you willing to sacrifice in order to fight against this beastly Leviathan that has arisen upon our shores? What are you willing to do to help spare this nation from evil on behalf of the succeeding generation?

> The Pilgrims of the early 17th Century left the protection of the mightiest monarchy on Earth—Great Britain—to sail to an unknown world and claim it for God. They

surrendered property, pleasures, and prosperity in hopes of creating a better world where God and freedom reigned.

In the War of Independence, our Founding Fathers persevered through cold, disease, and outnumbered forces before victory was claimed. Later, all but a few of the framers of our Constitution were martyred for their beliefs.

And then there are those referred to as the "Greatest Generation"—the people of WWII. These people sacrificed everything to repel Hitler and his coalition. Women worked in factories and surrendered their husbands and sons to the battlefield. Girls were willing to serve as nurses overseas. All for the sake of preserving American values.

So again, my question is: What is this generation of Christians willing to sacrifice to preserve the remaining Biblical values of America? In order to give hope to their children and grandchildren? God *is* asking us to do *something,* and I hope his divine request becomes evident quickly.

I want to close by reading the last verse of Hosea. Please turn to **Hosea 14:9**.

"Who is wise? Let them realize these things.
Who is discerning? Let them understand.
The ways of the LORD are right; the righteous walk in them,
But the rebellious stumble in them."