

GOOD QUESTION

The Lord, The Nation, And The Choice (note: we have a choice)

By Richard Owen Roberts

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom He has chosen for His own inheritance (Psa. 33:12).

God is interested in more than the redemption of individuals. I am convinced God has a plan for the nations. It is long past time we developed concern for our nation. Here in America, we have got to have revival or the whole cause of missions that we have been deeply involved in for centuries is going to dissolve. The collective testimony of the American church is so dreadfully erroneous that the average person witnessed to does not believe in Christ because they cannot believe in the Christians they know. Hypocrisy! There is an incredible change when the church is revived and becomes the living, vital body of Christ. The testimony then to the individual is ringing and clear.

I am sure that about all of you admit that America is at a crisis point. I do not have the impression that God is longing for the chance to destroy us. I do not see any evidence whatever that He has set aside His plan for the United States of America. If things go rotten even more than they have already, if God is to become our enemy in a 100% fashion, it will not be because that is His heart. It will be because we are content to maintain a focus in our lives and in our churches that does not represent His heart. We must recognize the corporate aspect of Christianity, and we dare not suppose that because some individuals are being saved, the heart of God is satisfied.

God Has Made America a Great Nation

If you know anything about the history of this land, you know that we did not get where we are at by our strength or by our piety. It was God who put us in the position we are in. Democracy is an outgrowth of Christianity. This nation has been a democracy because of our devotion to Jesus Christ and His Gospel. And now we are losing the very core element that made us a democracy and thinking we can go elsewhere in the world and bring democracy to them! If we want to see the nations of the world turn to democracy, we better start sending missionaries who, under the power of the Holy Spirit, proclaim the Gospel that frees men from the love of sin and self and enables them to embrace Jesus Christ and His love for humanity and His respect for the poor and the downtrodden. But like insane men, we toss aside the thing that has made us great. And we think that we can help others to get established when we do not even understand ourselves our own roots. Oh, may God help us!

I am saying to you that the heart of God is for the nation. And the heart of God was toward these United States because there were men deeply committed to make this a Christian nation. Oh not completely, but can you name another nation in the modern world

that came as close to being a Christian nation as this nation did? I think sometimes somebody has to remind us of some of the basics.

Patrick Henry wrote, "It cannot be emphasized too strongly that this great nation was founded not by religionists, but by Christians, not on religion, but on the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ!" He might as well not have lived as far as some of our historians are concerned.

Samuel Adams in a proclamation on a day of fasting in the year 1795 said, "The supreme Ruler of the universe having been pleased in the course of His providence, to establish the independence of the United States of America, we ought to be led by religious feelings of gratitude to walk before Him in all humility according to His most holy law, but with true repentance and contrition of heart we may unitedly implore the forgiveness of our sins through the merit of Jesus Christ, and humbly supplicate our Heavenly Father." You cannot even get the average preacher to call his church to repentance, to say nothing of political leaders calling the nation to fasting and prayer and confession and repentance and crying out to God to come and save us!

Benjamin Rush, that medical man so vitally involved in the early days of the country, wrote, "I do not believe that the Constitution was the offspring of inspiration, but I am perfectly satisfied that the union of the state in its form and adoption is as much a work of divine providence as any of the miracles recorded in either the Old or the New Testament."

John Jay, a distinguished statesman in America's early history, wrote, "Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty as well as the privilege and the interest of our Christian nation to select and to prefer Christians for their rulers."

Do not tell me we had no Christian origins. Men did not write passionate words like that without fire burning in their hearts and without a vision of one nation under God. This nation was founded on the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and governed by the commandments of our God.

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom He has chosen for His own inheritance." Obviously Psalm 33 was not written about America. Clearly, it is a passage dealing principally with Israel. But nonetheless the sober fact remains, *"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord."* But that other phrase in verse twelve must not be neglected: *"the people whom He has chosen for His own inheritance."*

Can you explain the incredible growth, the strength, the beauty, the wonder of America apart from Jesus Christ? Do you think it is possible for a nation to move from being a howling wilderness to a great nation in a relatively short span of time, merely on the basis of its natural resources or the imagination of its scientists or the might of its politicians? You cannot explain America apart from God.

(THESE ARE EXCERPTS FROM, A LONGER ARTICLE BY BROTHER ROBERTS IN THE MAY ISSUE OF "HERALD OF HIS COMING", A MONTHLY PRAYER AND REVIVAL JOURNAL WHICH WE HIGHLY RECOMMEND TO YOU.)

BROTHER ROBERTS HAS BEEN A CLOSE FRIEND OF "THE CAPITAL HILL PRAYER

ALERT" FOR TWO DECADES. PIERRE BYNUM AND I LOVE AND ADMIRE HIM.)

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