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The Coop Report...

Will Jesus hold leaders of nations responsible?

What would Jesus say about the leader of a nation who reject's God's Word and endorses those things that God despises? Will God judge a nation based on the decisions /actions of its leader(s)? Are the people of the nation held accountable to God for the sins of its leader(s)?

The short answer is "yes." God already has *and* will again judge *entire* nations based on either count. The Bible documents many accounts of God administering His wrath on His own people, the Israelites, because of their failure to follow His covenants. These accounts begin shortly after their exodus from Egypt and continue throughout the Old Testament Period.

Just because these well-documented accounts occurred more than 2000 years ago, does not mean that God has not continued to discipline His people or that He is somehow "dead" or no longer interested in restoring creation to its originally intended order. Biblical prophecy about His ultimate judgment of this earthly world and its inhabitants saturate both the Old as well as the New Testaments.

America's fascination with its military might and material prosperity has forgotten, for the most part, that God has been the benefactor of these blessings and our standing in the world order. A vast number of Americans (I would venture to say that the *majority* of Americans) have abandoned their worship of our Creator and benefactor as they lie recumbent, singing their own praises, in their "warm and fuzzy" surroundings. Multitudes of Americans now worship their own personal idols (i.e., expensive homes, cars, boats, vacation homes, etc.) at the expense of their Creator.

As a result, God has begun to harden the hearts of our people as He did in ancient times. He has allowed the ACLU and other socialist organizations dictate the direction of our country. As God has been removed from our schools, our government buildings, athletic fields, our spiritual decay has morphed into a state of *moral* decay. What will happen next is the destruction of our society by the emergence of civil unrest that will ultimately consummate in our destruction, just like all other powerful and mighty nations before us.

Historically, there are some common denominators that signify when a people/nation have reached the point, where in God's eyes, He unleashes His own enemies as the remedy for their waywardness I believe we are now at that critical juncture. "High Noon" has arrived. So, what are these common denominators that define a nations' expiration? Listed below, are the cream of the crop, so to speak:

Child sacrifices
- Ancient Times – Molech
- Current Times - Abortions

Homosexuality
- Men having sexual relations with other men
- Women having sexual relations with other women

Willful disobedience…
- To God's laws and covenants

Let's see what the Bible says about this subject…

Perhaps the most compelling series of records of God's frustration with the wayward Israelites is found in Numbers 13-14; Deuteronomy 31:14-22; and Judges 2:6-23. The backdrop for this record of God's indictment for His own people begins when God leads His people to the edge of the Promised Land.

As the people, led by Moses, approached the Promised Land Moses sent spies (one from each tribe) into the land to do what we would call today, "a recon mission." (see *Numbers 13*) Upon their return, only two individuals, Joshua and Caleb, remained faithful and grateful for this gift of God. The rest cowardly rejected the expectations of this land by saying it was inhabited by powerful people with heavy fortifications for they failed to remember how powerful their God…the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is even so the parting of the Red Sea and the protection God provided them as they travelled through the wilderness. They failed to acknowledge God's sovereignty and faithfulness of a loving and caring heavenly father.

As a result of their unfaithfulness, God returned the entire nation of Israel to the wilderness for 40 years so all of those who had witnessed God's miraculous signs as well as His glory during their escape from Egypt would die without receiving the most generous inheritance of His promised land.

After this 40 years of wandering in the wilderness had

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elapsed, Moses once again, brought the people to the edge of the Promised Land. God spoke to him and prophesized that the people would enter it, but they would eventually worship the other gods they would discover there, breaking their covenant with Him. As a result, "…many disasters and difficulties will come upon them…" (see *Deuteronomy 31:16-18*).

God then gathered Moses to his people (i.e., Moses died) and Joshua led the Israelites into the Promised Land. God was with Joshua as he led many campaigns against the inhabitants of the Promised Land and was successful in doing so because God was with him. When Joshua died and the generation of people he led followed suit, the people who remained had no knowledge of God and what He had done for them, so they began to serve other gods, just as He had prophesied (see *Judges 2*).

Since that time, the Holy Scriptures have recorded how God's people cyclically entered a period of disobedience, followed by God's punishment, then restoration after they call upon Him in repentance. Their "disobedience" may have resulted from worshiping other gods, failing to abide by His commands, or failing to ask Him for His guidance and blessings on things that affected the entire nation.

God's punishment of His very own people included the Assyrian invasion and exile of His people in the Northern Kingdom of Israel in 722 B.C. and several invasions and ultimate destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians in 586 B.C. The Assyrian invasion resulted in the exile of the people from the Northern Kingdom of Israel and their dispersion throughout the Assyrian Empire. The exile of the Southern Kingdom of Judah resulted in their actual captivity in Babylon for about 50 years.

In addition to the these major events where God used His enemies to judge and discipline His people, there were other wars in which He allowed His own people to be defeated as a result of their disobedience. These included:

⇒ Egypt against Judah (1 Kings 14:25-28) after Judah:
- Worshiped other gods
- Setup male prostitutes
- People "…engaged in all the detestable practices of the nations…"

⇒ Philistines against Jehoram, King of Judah (2 Chronicles 21-16-17)
- Acted in the same ways as the house of Ahab had done
- Two of his cities rebelled against him because of his evil ways
- Jehoram forsook the Lord
- Built Asherah poles for worship of this false god
- Caused the people of Jerusalem to prostitute themselves
- Led Judah astray
- Murdered his own brothers and other members of his family

⇒ Syrians against Judah (2 Chronicles 24:23-24)
- Joash, the once good king, turned against the Lord
- Abandoned the Temple at the request of Judah's officials
- Made and worshipped Asherah poles
- Made and worshipped other gods

⇒ Ahaz against Edom (2 Chronicles 28)
- Made cast idols
- Worshipped Baal gods
- Practiced child sacrifices to the false god, Molech
- Ahaz allied with Assyria to help with his war against Edom

⇒ Assyria against Manasseh (2 Chronicles 33:11)
- Reversed his father's faithfulness to the Lord by
- Building Asherah poles for worship
- Built altars in the Temple for worship of other gods
- Worshipped the Baal gods
- Worshipped the stars

Do you see the similarities in our present-day American culture and those of ancient times when God's wrath was poured out against His own people? Are we disobedient in our relationship with God? Is Obama, his

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administration, and representatives in Congress and/or the Senate or even your local government officials leading us down the same paths that will lead to our destruction?

I believe we are heading for destruction. Do not be fooled by what you may think are thousands of years of an absent God. God is NOT dead nor is He content with our current way of life in America. Actually, He has not been absent from our world. He has brought judgment on America many times over the past 50 -60 years in hopes that we will turn from our wicked ways and restore Him as the only Lord of our nation. In 2001, we got a *huge* wake-up call – the terrorist attack on the World Trade Centers. Since then our nation has been rocked by other natural and financial disasters, each one seem to outdo their predecessors:

⇒ A multiplicity of increasingly severe weather events
- Tornadoes
- Hurricanes
- Record snowfalls
- Hailstorms
- Earthquakes and tsunamis
- Wildfires
- Floods

⇒ Financial crises
- Stock Market "crash"
- Bank failures
- Foreclosures

Additionally, our nation, either by ignorance or flat out defiance of God's Word has chosen to distance itself from our ally in the Middle East -- Israel. Our leadership (Obama and his administration as well as our liberal Congressmen and Senators) are trying to promote peace between Israel and the Arab states by pressuring Israel to give up some of the very land He promised to Israel from the days of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Here's what our Divine Master says about that in the Book of Joel:

> *"In those days and at that time, when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem, I will gather all nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. There I will enter into judgment against them concerning my inheritance, my people Israel, for they scattered my people among the nations and divided up my land."* (Joel 3:1-2 NIV)

So, what would Jesus say about the state of America? He would say we need to return to our relationship with Him (i.e., our Christian roots) -- destroy all of the idols that have led us astray and replace our current government leadership with Christians who read and understand God's Word.

No, God is not dead, nor is He taking a break from "things." He is merely taking it all in as the patient God He is. In His own timing and in His own righteous and just manner He will ultimately judge all nations by their obedience or disobedience to His Word.

We remain together in Christ,

Brian

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