

WHEN GOD BLESSES A NATION DEUTERONOMY 28:1-14, 15-20

When you look at the landscape of America what comes to your mind? The sobering truth is, since each of us have lived in America all of our lives, it isn't very hard to take lightly the abundant blessings that God has blessed our land with. Yet, when we compare ourselves with any given other country, there can only be one sobering reality.

We have been blessed and we have been blessed abundantly by the Lord God.

- If you have a change of clothes, in comparison to many countries you are richly blessed.
- If you have a change of shoes, or have shoes at all the compared to many countries you are blessed.
- If you have one meal a day, you are blessed.
- If you have a roof over your head and a home to call your own you are more blessed than many peoples of many countries.
- If you have one automobile, you are better off than much of the world's population.
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The fact is, there is no getting around the reality that we are not only blessed but we are immensely blessed by the Lord God. Our land has gone through the Revolutionary War, Civil War, World Wars 1 & 2, The Korean War, The Vietnam War, The Persian Gulf War, and recently the war against terrorism. And with all that has happened, this nation still stands, and not only does it still stand, but it still stands as the land that is the most desired place to be in all the world. But why? Why has God chosen to bless this land with all His riches, abundance and blessings.

1. GOD LOVES TO BLESS A LAND WHEN THERE IS A PEOPLE THAT REVERES AND OBEYS HIM. To the nation of Israel, God made a covenant promise, and that promise was simply this. "If you fully obey all these commandments of the Lord your God...these are the blessings that will come upon You." It was not an accident that the nation of Israel was blessed. Their blessings came about as a byproduct of godly people obeying the Living Lord, and standing on truths that are timeless and eternal. Those that were blessed were blessed because God loved them, and loved for them to worship Him. Second, they were blessed based on the obedience of their forefathers. One of the reasons that God has blessed this land with abundance is based on one sobering yet simple reality- many of our forefathers sought the leadership of God in the founding and establishing of this land that we now call the United States of America. Many presidents who have walked the corridors of the White House have been men guided by Biblical principles, who were willing to make godly decisions in hours that were most crucial to the life of this land.

A recent documentary disclosing the speech of former President John F. Kennedy revealed that the last speech that he was to give (which was preempted by his assassination) contained within it certain passages from the Bible that he would have quoted, yet his death preempted such a speech. While this land has never been a land where most the people are godly, or most the people are Christians, or most the people are faithful attenders of church, there

is one sobering truth about this land- we hold high the holiness and omnipotence of Almighty God.

2. WHEN GOD BLESSES A NATION HE WILL BLESS THEM IN VISIBLE WAYS AND HE DESIRE THE PRAISE FOR SUCH. God made a promise to the nation of Israel. He declared in essence that He would make their businesses and farms successful. The God that made this promise better than 4000 years ago has not changed. When a nation worships God, praises God, God will make it His business to bless the people who exalt him.

God made a promise then, and that promise still holds true today. When God finds a people that will worship Him from their hearts, and will praise Him, exalt Him, and truly obey Him, not for what they can get out of it, but because they know Him to be a good God, then He will make it his business to bring about his blessings. We are a land that preaches and teaches the gospel of Jesus Christ. We are a land that is willing to run to the aid of peoples that are being abused and taken advantage of and mistreated, and God never lets that go unnoticed.

While we are not a land of majority of Christians, there is a remnant of godly people in the land, in public office, in places that desire to make a godly impact on the land, and God will not let that go unnoticed. Yet, God wants to praise of His people. When we have won victory in a military battle, God wants His people to be appreciative to all the armed men who fought, but ultimately give Him the glory for all victories. King David declared, “it is a vain thing to place your trust in a chariot (the means of military might in his day)

3. WHEN GOD BLESSES A NATION, HE WANTS THEM TO SEE THAT THE BLESSINGS ARE DIRECTLY FROM HIM. God declared to the nation of Israel, that He would be the One that would bring about the blessings, and He even named what the blessings would be.

First, there would be the blessing of successful businesses and farms. Second, there would be the blessing of many children. Third, there would be the blessings of large crops and herds. Fourth, there would be the blessing of plenty. In short, God wanted His people to know that the purpose of plenty was completely attributed to the goodness of God. Fifth, the Lord would make them successful in their daily work. God also declared that victory in battle would be His doing.

God takes the space to name all the blessings that He will give to the nation to reveal to them that obedience to God does pay. Often times, there is a tendency to believe that all our obedience to God is going no where and accomplishing nothing on this earth, only somehow counting for future gains. But the truth is obedience by God’s people in a given nation causes that nation to flourish. Obedience causes businesses to flourish.

God declared the specific ways that He would bless a nation when they chose to obey Him with the truth of Scripture. The fact is any person who follows biblical principles in his or her life cannot be a failure and what holds true for a person also holds true for a family and what holds true for a family also holds true for a community, and what holds true for a community holds true for a nation. Sadly, there is often the reality that because of mental genius that we as a

nation have done something marvelous to receive the blessings of God, but that is completely inconsistent with the truth. The only reason God blesses a nation is in proportion to their obedience.

Consider: Look with wisdom at those lands who hold other gods other than the Lord God Almighty. Consider those lands who serve gods that are pagan and in reality dead or simply a part of their imagination. Their land is like their god- dead, desolate, and decayed.

God is the initiator of every good blessing, and it is a wise man or woman who remembers that all the good things of life come from the Living God. If a person is living in obedience to the Living God, he or she has a right to expect the blessings of God in and upon their life for it is God that made the promise in the first place.

4. WHEN GOD BLESSES A NATION, HE WANTS THAT NATION TO LIFT HIS NAME ON HIGH. When God blessed Israel, He did not want His people to walk away idly without giving Him thanks, praise and glory for all He had given to them. He had given them their His presence, successes in defeating enemy after enemy. He had given them rich lands. He had made their businesses to succeed. It was not their mere mentality that brought about success but the Most High God. The fact that God loves to hear His people praise Him is revealed by the sobering truth that the word “praise” is mentioned 248 times in the Old Testament alone, give full proof that the God that has blessed us, loves for us to boast in Him and who He is.

5. WHEN GOD BLESSES A NATION, HE WANTS THAT NATION TO CONTINUAL BE BLESSED THROUGH OBEDIENCE. Once Israel started receiving the good things from God, He desires to continually bless them. The phrase “will come upon you” carries not only the truth about blessing but an ongoing reality that blessing after blessing would come- if they stayed the course of obedience. The nation that God started to bless was the nation that God desired to continue to bless. The truth is God has blessed America for over 200 years, and the God that brought our forefathers to this country has by no means run out of blessings. The God who caused the first settlers to come for the purposes of religious freedom, continual desires to bless this land, “The United States”. But for blessings to continue there must be continued obedience. *The power of obedience to God’s laws and Word will always bring about personal, family, and national success- God has ordered it and it cannot be changed.*

6. WHEN GOD BLESSES A NATION, HE WANTS THAT NATION TO KNOW PAST BLESSINGS DO NOT SECURE FUTURE BLESSINGS. While God blessed the nation of Israel, and has blessed the United States immensely, God gives a sobering Word in verses 15ff. In short God declares, “If you won’t listen to the Lord your God and won’t obey these laws I am giving you today, then ...curses shall come upon you.” It is a dangerous thing to presume that future blessings await us simply because we have been blessed in the past. In truth there is no such principle in Scripture.

God declared that if the nation chose to forget Him, reject Him, spurn Him, turn away from Him, that He would see to it that they experienced blight. There would be a blight of fruit and bread. There would be a blight of children. Less and less children would be born. He would see to it that crops failed. In short God would see to it that they were destroyed because

they forgot who the “Blesser” was. In our land today there is a strong undercurrent to take “God” and the holy things of God from society. The name “God” is continually attacked. Ten Commandments remain under fire as to whether they should or should not be hung. The sacred sanctity of marriage (one man to one woman) is under fire. Yet, God’s Word remains clear. God’s past blessings do not secure future blessings for a person, city or nation. Though Israel had been blessed God warned them of the blight that would come. When we fail to respond to holy God with obedience and faithful devotion, and spurn His Word, as though it was some sort of casual word, we as a nation are on a downward spiral.