

When a Nation Provokes God

by Leroy Surface

The prophet Isaiah, who died over a century before the destruction of Jerusalem, was sent by God to warn Judah and Jerusalem of the pending captivity and destruction if they did not repent and return to worship the one true God. It is amazing how his warnings of judgment to come fit so perfectly with America in our generation.

Provoking God *“Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward.”* Isaiah 1:4

In 1963 the Supreme Court of the United States, in order to satisfy the whims of very evil atheist woman, ruled against prayer and Bible readings in the public schools. For sixty years, many of America's children have had no exposure to the word of God or the values contained therein. Sadly, they have become our educators and our leaders. This was more than just another court decision. It was the “provocation” that provoked our Holy God. It set the stage for America's moral decline, and we are “reaping what we have sown” as a nation. Galatians 6:7. In the place of prayer and Bible readings, our schools have become the breeding ground for violence, perversion, and promiscuity.

A diseased nation *“Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint.”* Isaiah 1:5

This provoking of God's “anger” will increase “more and more” as the nation revolts against him more and more. Isaiah said the “head” is sick and the “heart” is faint. The “head” of our nation is in Washington D.C., while the “heart” is the millions of honest, hardworking people who live in the “heartland of America.” They build our cars, haul our freight, and provide the food to feed our nation, and they are faint in heart over the present condition of our “head” in Washington D.C.

Putrifying sores *“From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment.”* Isaiah 1:6

Only a little over sixty years ago, when our children were influenced by prayer and Bible reading in the

schools, the LGBTQ community was less than 2% of the population. Of those born in between 1997 to 2003, 20.8% identify as LGBTQ, and the percentage is increasing. This is an unnatural digression. Is America being filled with the “wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores” which Isaiah prophesied of?”

Destruction in the land *“Your country is desolate, your cities are burned with fire: your land, strangers devour it in your presence, and it is desolate, as overthrown by strangers.”* Isaiah 1:7

In the summer of 2020 we watched in horror as thousands of people filled the streets of many cities, protesting against the police. The FBI has said 164 buildings were looted and burned in Minneapolis after George Floyd died in the hands of the police. Almost 1800 miles away, a thousand protesters gathered for a hundred nights straight, while rioters tried to destroy the federal courthouse, doing 1.6 million dollars in damage. Four years later, we are again in an election year, 2024. As I write this, I foresee a summer far worse than four years ago. Our major cities are in grave danger of burning and looting such as we have not seen in the past.

A city under siege *“And the daughter of Zion is left as a cottage in a vineyard, as a lodge in a garden of cucumbers, as a besieged city. Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah.”* Isaiah 1:8-9

In Isaiah's prophecy, the “daughter of Zion” as it relates to America is the church of Jesus Christ. In 1965, two years after God's influence was taken out of our public schools, 97% of American's claimed to be Christian. The most recent poll was taken in 2020, and the number was down to 65%. Without question, the church of Jesus Christ is under attack, as Isaiah said, “a besieged city.” In the sixty years of my ministry, I have never viewed politics as the answer, but I do urge every believer in Jesus Christ to go to the polls this November and cast their vote for conservative candidates who uphold biblical values.

“Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.” Proverbs 14:34

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