
A Nation Under Judgment

Selected Scriptures

We live in a day when God is completely ignored and utterly mocked. Wherever you go, sinful man has managed to advance their sinfulness in ways that are often unimaginable. In America, we are seeing an erosion of the justice system, a decline and perversion of morality and a mockery of anything that has to do with God (Jer. 3:21; 5:22-23). A nation that has forgotten and forsaken God comes under the judgment of God (Psalm 9:17).

But what can the Christians do? What should the Christians do? Jeremiah lived in a similar situation, and he confronted a rebellious pagan society with three powerful, God-ordained means

1. Faithful _____

Jeremiah was called and equipped for ministry at a very young age (Jer. 1:5-7). God's empowerment of his prophetic/preaching ministry was unparalleled (Jer. 1:10). God appointed him to be the nation's supervisor. He spoke directly to the issues of his day, confronting them head on. He neither compromises nor sugar-coated his message. He spoke against the sin of idolatry of the nation (Jer. 14:7; 5:7; cf. Jer. 3:9 9:13-14; 11:10; 19:4; 2:12). He spoke against the perversion of marriage (Jer. 3); the abundance of wickedness and the proliferation and tolerance of lies and deceit (Jer.5). He confronted corrupt leadership, both political and spiritual (Jer. 5:13,30).

2. Earnest _____

Jeremiah mourned and wept as he prayed for his people (the Book of Lamentation is about the prayers and mourning over the sin of God's people). One of his lamentation and prayer is in Jer. 8:18-9:2. Though Jeremiah knew that the people deserved God's righteous judgment, he did not preach with a proud and superior attitude. He preached it with a broken and compassionate heart because they were his people and he loved them. He was constantly humbling himself before God in prayer (2 Chro. 7:14; 1 Tim 2:1-4).

3. Godly _____

Jeremiah preached for 42 years and all he received was persecution and ridicule (Jer. 11:18ff. 15:10ff. 18:18ff. 20:7ff.). But through all these, he remained faithful to his calling and lived an obedient life. God used his life to rebuke this wicked society (Jer. 16). God also used his godly living to bring His people back to Himself.

God ordained the believers' godly life to bring transformation in a pagan society. A godly attitude coupled with godly living makes the saving message of the gospel credible to the unsaved (Titus 3:1-2; 1 Pet. 2:12; Phil. 2:14-15).

Is there hope for America? I believe there is. America's hope is in God. But the wonder of it all is that God chose His people to bring about this hope. As we live a life that represents His kingdom, as we seek to demonstrate His power and grace, God will use both our proclamation and our godly living to bring sinners to repentance and healing to our nation.