

a commentary:

ON THE U. S. SPACE SHUTTLE DISASTER - WHERE WAS GOD?

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I. INTRODUCTION

Why did the U.S. space shuttle Columbia fall to destruction? Where was GOD? He was there as the space ship was destroyed, and we pray to wing the souls of those who died into His Eternal Kingdom Above by His loving hand, but not to give His Divine blessing or protection to prevent the shuttle's destruction!

Whatever the lethal malfunction was that terrible day on board that rocket ship, there was no miraculous intervention by the hand of Divine Providence to prevent the destruction of that proud icon of our proud nation. Are there lessons here for us to discern? And we see them if we insist on looking with prideful and haughty eyes?

II. IF AMERICA EVER CEASES TO BE GOOD

The visiting French historian - Alexis De Tocqueville - searching in the 1830's for the source of our nation's greatness concluded, "Not until I went into the Churches of America and heard her pulpits flame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power. America is great because America is good; and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great."¹

The real question is, has our nation lost the blessings and protection of Providence because of the sinful and haughty state of our hearts before The LORD? We fill the earth with iniquity and blood. We parade our sin as a people before GOD and man, thinking ourselves immune from the wrath of other men or The Judgement of The Creator. We make for ourselves idols from the vain imagination of our minds. We make of ourselves as gods, while denying The Almighty, GOD The Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Truly, are we not today in America – like ancient rebellious Israel in The Bible – as those spoken of in PSALM 123:3-4, "Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy upon us: for we are exceedingly filled with contempt. Our soul is exceedingly filled with the scorning of those that are at ease, and with the contempt of the proud?"² For we are fast becoming a nation of fools, as in PSALM 53:1, "...The fool hath said in his heart, There is no GOD. Corrupt are they, and have done abominable iniquity: there is none that doeth good!"³

III. IT BEGAN WITHIN MANY OF OUR LIFETIMES

It began - within many of our lifetimes - with the removal of The Bible from public schools. Prayer and Scripture reading to our school children were outlawed. The teachings of Moses and CHRIST were banned. The posting of The Ten Commandments in our schools was made a crime. Then began the assault against the family and the

¹ 1, Federer, America's GOD and Country, entry for Alexis de Tocqueville, p 205, paragraph 6-7. From De Tocqueville's 2-part work entitled, "Democracy in America," published in 1835 and 1840, observations on the American people and their institutions.

² 2, KJV, PSALM 123:3-4.

³ 2, KJV, PSALM 53:1.

sanctity of human life.

Today's America embraces blasphemy, abortion, atheism, witchcraft, homosexuality, materialism, wealth, evolution, violence, promiscuity, adultery, humanism, socialism, profanity, vulgarity and lewdness. More and more, our Churches & synagogues embrace heresy. Our institutions promote abominations. False religions and overt worship of the devil abound.

We pour out upon the world a constant stream of so called "entertainment" of ungodliness and abomination. Our greatest export products are weapons of war, destruction and death, with which we fill the earth. We wallow in great opulence, while amongst us grows armies of the poor and downtrodden. We worship money, things of the world, modern medicine, the works of our hands and most especially ourselves.

And in our pride and haughtiness, we forget GOD.

IV. PRIDE GOETH BEFORE DESTRUCTION

Another symbol of America's pride - this time a space shuttle - has fallen to utter destruction. PROVERBS 16:18 warns, "Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall!"⁴ Our nation is again filled with passing weeping, gnashing of teeth and cheap grace repentance.

But in truth, our hearts have not fully turned. Our land continues to be soaked with the stains of sin. And we continue to cry out, "O LORD, deliver us, but allow us to keep our idols and do not call us to put away our iniquity! Are You not thankful, O LORD, for the superficial lip service that we as a people condescend to give Thee?" But in truth, how much more prideful haughtiness will The Almighty allow us before He judges our iniquity as a nation?

Like ancient apostate Israel of Old, we spurn righteousness and obedience to The Word of The LORD when we prosper. And when danger looms, we beat our breasts and declaring our everlasting security as a nation, calling out as in JEREMIAH 7:4, "...The Temple of The LORD, The Temple of The LORD..."⁵ "O GOD," we call out in time of need, "See how many Churches we have built for You! See how good and enlightened a people we are! Must You not protect and bless us, no matter what evils we commit?"

But in our routine vanity, the heathen is exalted and the godly are ridiculed. PSALM 2:1 declares, "Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?"⁶ Our nation's vanity is now to be clearly seen for the empty dust that it is before Heaven and earth! And still we refuse to hear The Word of He alone Who is our Salvation, as the prophet recorded in JEREMIAH 7:3, "Thus saith The LORD of Hosts, The GOD of

⁴ 2, KJV, PROVERBS 16:18.

⁵ 2, KJV, JEREMIAH 7:4.

⁶ 2, KJV, PSALM 2:1.

Israel, Amend your ways and your doings, and I will cause you to dwell in this place” in peace and security!⁷

V. IF A PEOPLE REJECT GOD

If a people reject GOD, will not GOD reject those same people? MATTHEW 21:42 records, “JESUS saith unto them, Did ye never read in The Scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner? This is The LORD’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes!”⁸ Thus did Old Testament Israel pass into the dust of history, to be replaced by The faithful Church to all the corners of the earth.

For any nation that rejects JESUS CHRIST will, if they do not earnestly repent and turn from sin, be rejected by Him! America is not immune. PSALM 33:12 declares, “Blessed is the nation whose GOD is The LORD...”⁹ As I have observed many times, the opposite is just as true, that cursed is any nation which turns from The LORD!

As saint James declares in JAMES 4:8-10, let us Hear The Word of GOD Incarnate calling us to repent of our sins and be healed: “Draw nigh to GOD, and He will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of The Lord, and He shall lift you up!”¹⁰ Shall we again receive the blessings and protection of The King of the universe? Then let us return to GOD in humble repentance!

VI. IN CONCLUSION

America will either repent before The Cross of JESUS CHRIST or fall into total ruin and destruction, if not by the hands our enemies from without, most certainly by our own hands from within! Therefore, as Saint Peter declares in I PETER 5:6, “Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of GOD, that He may exalt you in due time.”

GOD calls all men to turn from their sins, as the prophet declares in his day to his own nation, in EZEKIEL 33:11, “As I live, saith The Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?”¹¹

Why did the U.S. space shuttle Columbia fall to destruction? Where was GOD? If we are to learn anything from our most recent national calamity, let it be this from MATTHEW 3:2, “Repent ye: for The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!”¹²

⁷ 2, KJV, JEREMIAH 7:3.

⁸ 2, KJV, MATTHEW 21:42.

⁹ 2, KJV, PSALM 33:12.

¹⁰ 2, KJV, JAMES 4:8-10.

¹¹ 2, KJV, EZEKIEL 33:11.

¹² 2, KJV, MATTHEW 3:2.

VII. REFERENCES

1. "America's GOD And Country Encyclopedia Of Quotations." William J. Federer. Fame Publishing, Inc., Coppel, Texas. 1994.
2. "The Holy Bible - Authorized King James Version - Scofield Study Bible." Edited by Rev. C. I. Scofield, D.D.. Oxford University Press. New York. 1945.