

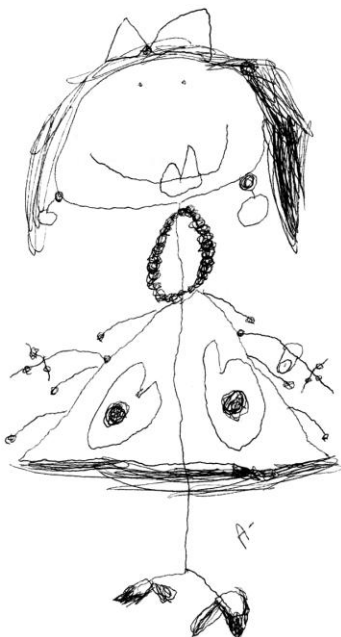


*Angels - the Special Agents of
God's Care*

**#521 – Secure God's Blessings
On Our Nation!**

Ezekiel 8:1-12, 17-18

July 3, 2011



July 4th Celebration
#521 – Secure God’s Blessings On Our Nation!
Ezekiel 8:1-12, 17-18
July 3, 2011

INTRODUCTION.

A. OPENING COMMENTS.

- SERIES INTRODUCTION: **Angels - the Special Agents of God’s Care**

- Next Week we’ll return to our Series: **Angels - the Special Agents of God’s Care.**”

- TODAY’S MESSAGE: **Secure God’s Blessings On Our Nation!**

- Today I want to talk to you about **Securing God’s Blessings On Our Nation!** In this day and time, our Nation is in Turmoil.

- **Our Nation is plagued by Fiscal, Family, Racial and Religious Turbulence.**
- **Hostility and Suspicion characterize our relationships – between either stranger and often family.**
- **Instead of being of time of Celebration, for many Childhood is an adventure in survival.**

- Is there any Hope for Our Nation to Escape these Difficulties – the Answer is ‘Yes!’”, through Jesus Christ. God has given it to His People to Proclaim that Message to our

Confused and Misdirected Nation! And just as the Early Christians transformed the Roman Nation, so we can return ours to Our Christian Heritage.

- Matthew 5:13, 14 - "You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world."

- Matthew 28:18-20 - All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

- ***The Call to Seek the Welfare of Our Nation:***

- Jeremiah 29:7 – Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper."

- 1 Timothy 2:1-4 - READ

B. TEXT AND EXEGESIS.

- Ezekiel 8:1-12, 17-18 - READ

- I am confident...

I. RECOGNIZE THE EVIL OF OUR TIME!

A. POINT #1. (**vv. 5-11** - Then he said to me. “Son of man, look toward the north.” So I looked, and in the entrance north of the gate of the altar I saw this idol of jealousy.

6 And he said to me, “Son of man, do you see what they are doing—the utterly detestable things the house of Israel is doing here, things that will drive me far from my sanctuary? But you will see things that are even more detestable.”

7 Then he brought me to the entrance to the court. I looked, and I saw a hole in the wall. 8 He said to me, “Son of man, now dig into the wall.” So I dug into the wall and saw a doorway there.

9 And he said to me, “Go in and see the wicked and detestable things they are doing here.” 10 So I went in and looked, and I saw portrayed all over the walls all kinds of crawling things and detestable animals and all the idols of the house of Israel. 11 In front of them stood seventy elders of the house of Israel, and Jaazaniah son of Shaphan was standing among them. Each had a censer in his hand, and a fragrant cloud of incense was rising.)

Exegesis

- **v. 5** – “Jealousy” / “Quina” – “A forceful aroused by alarm of losing a person or object...”

- **Deuteronomy 32:15-17, 21** - READ

- **Joshua 24:19-20** – READ

- **James 4:5** - Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit he caused to live in us envies intensely?

- **v. 6** – “Detestable” / “Toeba” – “Of Maximum Offense”

- **Deuteronomy 7:26** - Do not bring a detestable thing into your house or you, like it, will be set apart for destruction. Utterly abhor and detest it, for it is set apart for destruction.

- **Psalm 5:4-7** – READ

- **Proverbs 6:16-19** - READ

- If we're going to **Secure God's Blessings On Our Nation!**, than we must **Recognize the Evil of Our Time!** ***You might be reluctant to Consider it, but our Nation is Filled with***

things that Displease God, Deprive us of His Blessings and Attract His Wrath... Being Aware and Taking an Inventory Can Help Us to Understand the Challenge Before Us and Help us to Focus Our Energies.

- WHAT ARE SOME OF THE SINS OF OUR NATION TODAY?

1. Abortion – the Taking of Innocent, Unborn Life...

- In 2008, the Gutmacher Institute reported 1.21 million Abortions performed Nationwide // 42 million Worldwide
- In One Major City, three Abortion Clinics alone reported having Carried Out Over 16,000 abortions in 2010.
- The United States 2011 Budget sends millions to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) which promotes abortion worldwide / including abortions in China.

2. The Aggressive Promotion (not Passive Acceptance) of Sexual Immorality.

- including now Homosexual Marriage.

3. The Worship of False Gods.

- Islam; Hinduism; Buddhism; New Age; Atheism...

- Idolatry in the Nation's Capital:

- College & My "Field Trip" to a Hindu Temple...
 - 1 Samuel 12:21 - Do not turn away after useless idols. They can do you no good, nor can they rescue you, because they are useless.

- 1 Chronicles 16:26 - READ

- Isaiah 44:9 - READ

4. An Utterly Corrupt Media Culture – and Celebrates Violence.

- Philippians 4:8 – READ

6. The Acceptance of These Sins by Leaders and People Alike!

II. REALIZE THAT JESUS ALONE IS TRUE!

A. POINT #1. (vv.2-4 - I looked, and I saw a figure like that of a man. From what appeared to be his waist down he was like fire, and from there up his appearance was as bright as glowing metal. 3 He stretched out what looked like a hand and took me by the hair of my head. The Spirit lifted me up between earth and heaven and in visions of God he took me to Jerusalem, to the entrance to the north gate of the inner court, where the idol that provokes to jealousy stood. 4 And there before me was the glory of the God of Israel, as in the vision I had seen in the plain.)

Exegesis

- Before Ezekiel was given a word of Warning, He was reminded of the Reality of God...

- It's only when we're confident in God that we can Give His Warnings and Experience His Blessings.

- Revelation 1:9-18 - READ

- If we're going to Secure God's Blessings On Our Nation!, than we must Realize That Jesus Alone Is True! We can't Afford to Approach Our Problems with a Halfway Commitment to Jesus! We Must be convinced that He is Utterly True and Worthy of our Service and Worship if we want to be Able to Face our National Challenges.

- Do You Truly Believe in Jesus? Is Your Trust in Him Alone?

- TWO WAYS AMERICANS CAN DENY CHRIST:

- Christians Abandon Jesus – In Worship and Daily Living:

- Attract Curses and Wrath

- 2 Peter 2:20-21 - READ

- Non Christian persons simply don't Know Him...

- The Absence of Blessings...

- Psalm 33:12-19 - READ

- In the beginning of the Contest with G. Britain, when we were sensible of danger we had daily prayer in this room for the divine protection. "Our prayers, Sir, were heard, and they were graciously

answered. All of us who were engaged in the struggle must have observed frequent instances of a Superintending providence in our favor. To that kind providence we owe this happy opportunity of consulting in peace on the means of establishing our future national felicity. And have we now forgotten that powerful friend? I have lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth- that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without his aid? We have been assured, Sir, in the sacred writings, that “except the Lord build the House they labour in vain that build it.” I firmly believe this; and I also believe that without his concurring aid we shall succeed in this political building no better than the Builders of Babel...our projects will be confounded, and we ourselves shall become a reproach and by word down to future ages. And what is worse, mankind may hereafter from this unfortunate instance, despair of establishing Governments by Human Wisdom and leave it to chance, war and conquest.

- Billy Graham’s Group in “India:”

- Abandonment of God leads to enslavement to Idols, which leads to misery, violence and chaos...

- When Graham’s group was in this country, they were surrounded by poverty and starvation...In this country, cows were also considered sacred – they were worshiped. One of Graham’s assistants commented, all around us people were starving and all we could see was hamburger.

- v. 17 – “fill the land with violence...”

- When you abandon the one who said “Thou shalt not Kill & Don’t Hate Others,” don’t be surprised when the Murder rates begin to rise, Homes begin to Fall Apart and Other Problems Multiply...”

- Psalm 115:8 - Those who make them will be like them, so will all who trust in them.

- John 14:6 – READ / QUOTE

- SERVE JESUS ALONE!

III. PROCLAIM THE CHOICE OF WARNING OR CHANGE AND HOPE!

POINT #1. (**vv. 5, 17-18 – 5** Then he said to me, “**Son of man, look toward the north.**” So I looked, and in the entrance north of the gate of the altar I saw this idol of jealousy.

17 He said to me, “Have you seen this, son of man? Is it a trivial matter for the house of Judah to do the detestable things they are doing here? Must they also fill the land with violence and continually provoke me to anger? Look at them putting the branch to their nose! **18** Therefore I will deal with them in anger; I will not look on them with pity or spare them. Although they shout in my ears, I will not listen to them.”)

Exegesis

- Ezekiel was given a Message of Warning by God to the People of Judah: ***Shape Up, Or I'll Ship You Out!***

- The Call of Ezekiel:

- **Ezekiel 3:16-19 – READ**

- Ezekiel 33:11 - Say to them, ‘As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways!

- If we're going to **Secure God's Blessings On Our Nation!**, than we must **Proclaim the Choice of Warning or Change and Hope!** You and I, like Ezekiel, are called to give warning to our to Family, Friends and our Nation that we must turn to Jesus!

Idolatry leads to Destruction! Trust in Jesus leads to Safety, Peace and Blessing.

- **Matthew 10:32 - Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. 33 But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven.**

- **- READ**

- *The People of Ninevah / Our Nation:*

- The History of the United States includes periods of sin, followed by difficulty, followed by restoration and peace...

- Jonah 3:1-4, 10 - READ

- APPLICATION

1. **REPENT...DO A "LIFE CHECK."** Any sins you've failed to deal with?

- 1 Corinthians 11:31 - But if we judged ourselves, we would not come under judgment.

- 2 Corinthians 13:5 - Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test?

2. **CHECK YOUR WALK WITH JESUS!**

- Genesis 5:24 - Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.

3. **Encourage Faithfulness Among God's People.** Pray...Exhort!

- Hebrews 10:25 – Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

4. **CALL PEOPLE OF THIS LAND TO THE ONLY LIFE THAT IS LIFE...JESUS!**

- Mark 1:15 - "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"

- Acts 2:38 - READ

5. **PRAY FOR CHANGE AT ALL LEVELS – AND BELIEVE IT WILL HAPPEN!**

- Mark 11:22-24 - READ

CONCLUSION.

A. CHALLENGES.

1. **Recognize the Evil of Our Time!**
2. **Realize That Jesus Alone Is True!**
3. **Proclaim the Choice of Warning or Change and Hope!**

**- If you're Going to Follow These Steps and Secure
God's Blessings On Our Nation! this Week, Say
"Amen!"**

B. THE CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP / THE GOOD NEWS.

Dear Jesus,

I believe that you are the Son of the Living God and that you died for my sins and rose from the grave.

I repent of my sins and give you complete control of my life.

Please forgive my sins and make me clean of all I've done wrong.

Come into my heart and lead me in your ways.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

C. PUBLIC COMMITMENT.

- Indicate a decision for Christ, Ask for Spiritual Help or Prayer, Join our Church.

Hymn of Invitation: _____