



BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW!

Aligning your view of the world with God's Word!

Why should God Bless America?

Daniel 9:1-19

Topical Message #5 – S955

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Sunday Morning Service

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Opening Comments

- Good morning – today we continue our series: **Worldviews: Aligning your view of the world with God’s Word!**
- We are going to do something a little different to start this message
- If you are willing and able, please stand
- **Play video ‘God bless America’**
- Thank you – you may be seated
- I am thankful to be an American – this is one of the most blessed nations on earth
- There are some in our culture who would have us believe that this nation has nothing to be proud of
- And they are pointing back to the mistakes of this nation’s past
- And there are things in this nation’s past that we should be ashamed of
- As I look into my own past, there are things that I am ashamed of – things that I did that were wrong – should never have done
- But there is something about my life today that has broken the chains of slavery to my past mistakes – Jesus Christ – **2 Corinthians 5:17**

Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

- Jesus died on the cross to pay the debt of my sins – all of them
- Our nation has things in its past that we should not be proud of
- That is true of every nation on earth
- For more than two centuries, people have worked and fought to make the good thing our founding fathers created better for everyone
- And it is better, much better – not perfect but better
- This country is not perfect, but I flatly reject the lies that this country is a cesspool of capitalistic racism
- They can say what they want but I say, “God bless America!”
- But my question for today is, ‘Why should God bless America?’
- There is something terribly wrong with this country and it is not racism or inequality or gender identity or liberal ideologies

- God has blessed this nation, but why should He keep doing it?
- And what should we be doing so that God blesses this nation?
- But first, let's pray!
- **Pray**

Teaching

- **Why should God Bless America?**
 - Let me start by saying that God is not depending on anyone of us to decide if He is going to bless this nation or not
 - But we each have a personal responsibility before God on behalf of this nation
 - Please turn to **Deuteronomy 28**
 - God did something remarkable when He called Abraham out of his country and chose to make him into the great nation of Israel
 - With that choice came the expectation that they would worship, serve, and obey Him alone
 - With that expectation came the promise of blessing
 - **Deuteronomy 28:1-2**
 - The following twelve verses list all the ways they would be blessed
 - That is followed by a warning
 - **Deuteronomy 28:15**
 - That is followed by fifty-three verses of curses for disobedience
 - God takes obedience seriously
 - Here is one of those curses
 - **Deuteronomy 28:36-37**
 - God gave the land of Canaan to the Jews forever
 - But then He said if they disobeyed Him, He wouldn't let them live there
 - Turn to **Daniel 9**
 - They rebelled against God and did not obey Him so God did what He warned them He would do
 - Right before God exiled the Jews, He told the prophet Jeremiah how long the exile would last **Jeremiah 25:11**
- And this whole land shall be a desolation *and* an astonishment, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.**
- Daniel was a young man when his people were exiled to Babylon

- He was a prophet of God – He was a righteous man living in a wicked, godless nation
- **Daniel 9:1-2**
- Daniel knew that they were at the end of the seventy-year exile
- But then he does something that ought to sound odd to us
- **Daniel 9:3-5**
- ‘we have sinned’ – the most righteous man in Babylon is including himself in the collective ‘we’ of his confession
- I believe one of the weaknesses of the modern church is that we have developed an us versus them attitude – right/left/conservative/liberal
- The Constitution of the United States begins with the words ‘We the people...’
- If you are a citizen of the United States, you are a part of ‘We the people...’
- Daniel continues his prayer
- **Daniel 9:6-13**
- ‘we have not made our prayer’...’that we might turn from our iniquities’
- This is a prayer of national repentance
- Daniel is confessing that they, the collective people of Israel, have not been praying prayers of repentance for the nation of Israel
- Daniel is giving us an example of how we, the church, ought to be praying for our nation
- We can be certain that Daniel was praying – it was his custom
- But it wasn’t the custom of the people of Israel
- God deals differently with nations than He does with individual people
- In the book of Jonah, God sends the prophet Jonah to Nineveh with a proclamation of doom
- It was one of the most wicked cities in the whole world – completely godless
- But not everyone was guilty
- God rebukes his prophet for not caring about the people of Nineveh – Jonah wanted to see them all burn **Jonah 4-11**

And should I not pity Nineveh, that great city, in which are more than one hundred and twenty thousand persons who cannot discern between their right hand and their left—and much livestock?

- There are more than 120,000 innocents – probably children – don't you care Jonah – God does!
- Daniel continues
- **Daniel 9:14**
- Daniel says that because they sinned God 'kept the disaster in mind' – God kept the truth that they would be exiled if they disobeyed in mind
- "the LORD our God *is* righteous in all the works which He does"
- Daniel is saying that it was a righteous act by God to exile **all** the Jews even though not all of them were guilty
- God is always righteous!
- Turn to **Jonah 3**
- He is righteous when He judges people or nations – He is righteous when He blesses one and not another
- He is righteous when He heals one and not another
- He is always righteous in everything that He does – always
- Even when our human view of reality sees something as unfair
- He was righteous in his decision to destroy Nineveh
- But He didn't – why not?
- **Jonah 3:5-11**
- Nineveh repented and God relented
- God created all mankind as the objects of His love and to be divine image-bearers of His glory
- If someone rejects God's love, God will warn them of the danger they are in, but if they choose to walk in their own ways, judgment will come
- It is a choice that God gives all humanity **Deuteronomy 30:19-20a**
I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; that you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days...
- It is a choice that God takes seriously **Ezekiel 33:11**
'As I live,' says the Lord GOD, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die...'

- As much as He dislikes it, God will respect your decision to reject Him
- But then He will also stay true to His nature and discipline someone who makes that choice
- That is true of people and nations
- Turn to **Deuteronomy 8**
- If a nation chooses to reject God, it should expect to experience God's displeasure
- Nineveh was an example of that - So was Israel
- A study of the book of Judges gives us a clear picture of what happens
- Before Joshua led the people into the Promised Land God inspired Moses to warn them
- **Deuteronomy 8:11-20**
- Not long after Joshua was gone the people forgot God **Judges 2:11-12**
Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served the Baals;
¹² and they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; and they followed other gods from *among* the gods of the people who *were* all around them, and they bowed down to them; and they provoked the LORD to anger.
- Then God sent an enemy to oppress them – they cried out to God – He raised up a leader to save them
- And then after a while they would forget God **Judges 17:6**
In those days *there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.*
- God delivers – people prosper – people forget God – God reminds people through oppression – people cry out - repent – God delivers
- Why should God bless America? There is no reason for God to bless America! It has turned its back on Him!
- America needs to repent!
- And if you are a US citizen you are a part of the collective 'We the people...'
- Turn to **Daniel 9**
- We need to pray like Daniel prayed – 'we have sinned'
- Not they have sinned – not the government has sinned – We have!
- We are guilty of turning our backs on you!
- We are guilty of sinning against Your Word!
- We are guilty of doing what is right in our own eyes!

- We are guilty of killing babies in their mother's wombs and calling it 'choice'!
- We are guilty of rejecting your definition of marriage and family!
- We are guilty of treating sexuality as something other than what you call it!
- America does not deserve God's blessing – it deserves to be cursed
- I started this message by saying there is 'something terribly wrong with this country'
- We, as a country, have rejected God – and we need to repent
- If the church doesn't do it, no one will
- America deserves to be cursed by God – God is patient – God has been good to America **Romans 2:4**

Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

- God is calling upon His church to repent – first for their own sins, and then for the sins of their nation
- Powerful things happen when God's people repent
- **Daniel 9:20-23a**
- Listen, it is really hard to pray this way - We might not feel personally guilty for what our nation has done
- But we are a part of the collective 'We the people...' – we are a part of the collective guilt of this nation
- God heard Daniel's prayer of national repentance and sent Gabriel to talk to him
- America is far from perfect, but it is a great nation
- I love this nation God has blessed me to be born into and I want God to bless America
- Let's pray like Daniel in the hopes that God relents from the judgment that this nation we love deserves for turning its back on Him
- Let's pray prayers of faith in the hopes that 'We the people...' remember the God who made this nation great and turn back to him in a great wave of revival
- Let's pray believing that a day may come when we can sing 'God bless America!' and know that God will bless America
- **Prayer!**