

## THE FUTURE OF AMERICA

### Lesson 1 – The Theories America in Prophecy

#### Introduction:

- Is America found anywhere in Bible Prophecy?
- I feel that this is a legitimate question because:
  - America is the **greatest** Gentile nation in the earth.
  - America has more **prosperity** per capita than any other Gentile nation.
  - America has the strongest **military**.
  - America is a leader in **technology**.
  - Americans read their **Bibles** more than any other people group in the earth.
  - America was founded as a **Christian** nation.
  - America leads the world in **publishing** the Gospel.
- Can America, the strongest nation to assist the poor and the needy be found in any of the 66 books, 1,189 chapters, and 783,137 words of the Bible?
- I believe America's prophetic role can only be found in the **historical context**, symbolism, and patterns of two nations:
  - **Israel** – our **spiritual** pattern
  - **Rome** – our **political** pattern
- These two empires parallel the developing movements and history of the United States

Near the close of the first century A.D., an unknown Palestinian Jew wrote a story about a vision. He said it was revealed to him by an angel named Uriel, whom the Jews believe to be one of the four primary archangels presiding over one of the four corners of the earth (**Revelation 7:1**).

- This man saw an eagle with 12-feathered wings and 3 heads coming out of the sea. He said that the eagle spread his wings over all the earth as all the winds of heaven blew upon him.
- Some Bible students believe this to be a prophecy about America.
- It is found in 2 Esdras 11 and 12 and is part of the Apocrypha. The Apocrypha is not considered inspired scripture, although it was translated from Greek to Latin and placed in the appendix of the New Testament by the Council of Trent in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. It was also added as part of the original 1611 King James translation, but was later removed.

## The Theories:

### I. The **Isaiah** prophecy – *Isaiah 18:1-3*

A. Some contend that the *land beyond the rivers of Ethiopia* refer to America

1. It is *shadowed with buzzing wings*
2. It sends *ambassadors by the sea*
3. It is a nation of *tall and smooth of skin* people
  - i. Hebrew = smooth skin and brightly complected
4. It is *powerful and treading down*
  - i. Hebrew = mighty and conquering
  - ii. Berkeley translation = people dreaded near and far, that conquers and treads down
  - iii. Moffett translation = A terror far and near; a sturdy race of conquerors
5. It is *well watered*
  - i. Since this is beyond Ethiopia the prophet Isaiah would have been uncertain who this could have been.

B. The warning of verse 7

1. What division is the prophet speaking of?
2. Rivers of religion or politics?

### II. The **Jeremiah** prophecy – *Jeremiah 50 and 51* – Noted Bible teachers believe that these two passages are “cryptic (hidden)” references to America.

A. When studied in context and in comparison of related passages it is obvious that this passage isn’t about America. The prophet is clear that this is about Babylon!

1. Since teachers compare the sins of Babylon to the sins of America it is easy to come to that conclusion.

B. The laws of proper interpretation forbid the reading of something into a passage that isn’t actually there.

C. What the prophet says about Babylon: Chapter 51

1. Vs 7 – it was a golden cup in the Lord’s hand
2. Vs 8 – Babylon has suddenly fallen
3. Vs 37 – Prophecies that Babylon “will become heaps, a dwelling place for dragons.”
4. Vs 45 - God warned, “My people go out of the midst of her...”

- D. Jeremiah warned about Israel's 70 years of captivity in Babylon (Jeremiah 25:11)
  - 1. To make chapters 51 and 52 is to ignore the multitudes of warnings from the prophets about Babylon.
- E. A comparison between Jeremiah's words and John the Revelator's words:
  - 1. *Rivers dry up*: Jeremiah 50:38 vs. Rev. 16:12 (Babylon was built on the Euphrates River)
  - 2. *The command to flee*: Jeremiah 51:6 vs. Rev. 18:4
  - 3. *The Golden Cup*: Jeremiah 51:7 vs. Rev. 17:4
  - 4. *The Dragons*: Jeremiah 51:37 vs. Rev. 18:2 / 12:3,9
  - 5. *The Fall*: Jeremiah 51:8 vs. Rev. 18:2 (notice: angel announced the fall twice [*is fallen, is fallen*]. This could be a dual prophecy of the fall of both)

III. The **Mystery** Babylon prophecies – *Rev. 17:1-6* - This is the most recent and frequent teaching to attempt to connect America to prophecy.

- A. It begins with John observing a harlot – they make the harlot to be the Statue of Liberty that set on the waters.
  - 1. Some discrepancies in interpretation:
    - i. The woman in Rev. has a golden cup, Liberty has a torch
    - ii. Liberty is standing, this harlot is sitting
    - iii. Ten Kings are aligned with the harlot – America has a totally different form of government.
- B. It is obvious from interpretation that John is referring the Roman / revived Roman empire.
  - 1. It was common in John's day hide their prophecies against Rome by calling it Babylon
  - 2. Both Babylon and Rome invaded Jerusalem
  - 3. The destruction of the Temple occurred on the 9<sup>th</sup> of Av at the time of the Babylonian and Roman invasions
- C. Careful interpretation will show that Jeremiah's Babylon was located in modern day Iraq and John's Babylon was located in Rome.

IV. The **Daniel's** Empires prophecy – *Daniel 7:1-7*

- A. Daniel had a vision of animals that symbolize several empires that will rule in the future
- B. Traditional interpretation:

1. The beast were to rule in succession
2. Daniel 2 and 8 demonstrate the four beast identity:
  - i. Lion – Babylon (Babylon had winged lions on its gates)
  - ii. Bear – Persia (massive bears roamed the mountains of ancient Persia)
  - iii. Leopard – Greece (signifies the incredible, quick conquering ability of Alexander the great. The leopard had four wings – Alexander’s kingdom was divided into four parts at his death)
  - iv. Iron Teethed beast – Rome (Daniel 2 the legs of Iron speaks of the Roman empire because it had two division [eastern – Constantinople and western – Rome])

C. Non-traditional interpretation:

1. Daniel 7:17 it says that “four kings will arise” – Future tense
2. Daniel 7 was written in Babylonian captivity. If Babylon is listed as the first beast, then that means four other beast shall arise. The prophet might have been alluding to a series of end-time empires that would rule in the later days.
3. Some scholars believe that these four beast represent four modern empires that have risen to world dominance in the past 300 years:
  - i. Lion – represent Great Britain whose wings formed the United States
  - ii. Bear – represents Russia
  - iii. Leopard – represents Germany
  - iv. Final Beast – the final kingdom that will rule in the time of the end

D. Britain and the Eagle:

1. Britain’s emblem was a lion
2. They colonized much of the world, even Palestine
3. Notice – the lion had eagles wings, but they were plucked (removed). The lion stood up and was given a heart like a man.

E. America’s Emblem:

1. A Jewish man by the name of Hayam Solomon was a broker who helped finance the Revolution.
2. After signing the Declaration of Independence a committee was formed to design the seal of US.

3. According to the Federalist Brief, Thomas Jefferson suggested a seal depicting the children of Israel being led with a pillar of cloud and fire. Benjamin Franklin followed with a suggestion of Moses dividing the sea and Pharaoh's armies perishing in the sea.
  - i. The Hebrew thread to our independence
  - ii. We were viewed by the forefathers as the children of Israel coming out of Egypt!
4. After studying the book of Daniel Hayam Solomon read this passage and believed it to be speaking of this newly formed nation.
5. The symbol was adopted – See the DOLLAR BILL:
  - i. Eagle has arrows in one claw and olive branch in the other – Arrows represent war and the olive branch represents peace.
  - ii. The eagle faces the olive branch – America is a nation desiring peace, but has arrows for war if necessary.
  - iii. Eagle has no crown like the English coats of arms – Because this would be a nation of the people and by the people.
  - iv. Over the head of the eagle is 13 stars surrounded by a circle of clouds – The stars are called the Megan David (star of David)
    - a. There were 13 original colonies
    - b. 13 Signers of the Declaration
    - c. 13 stripes on our flag
    - d. 13 levels on the pyramid
    - e. 13 Latin letters above it (God blessed our undertaking)
    - f. 13 letter in motto *E Pluribus Unum* (one nation from many people)
    - g. 13 bars on the shield in front of the eagle
    - h. 13 leaves on olive branch
    - i. 13 arrows in the hand

V. The **God's Vineyard** prophecy – *Isaiah 5:1-7 / Matt. 21:33-43*

A. Probably one of the most popular theories – God would take his chosen vineyard, Israel, and transplant it to another location.

1. This is not the same as replacement theology

- B. Hundreds of years later, Jesus used this parable to talk about a vineyard that God would raise up
  - 1. Israel rejected Christ in unbelief and a “hedge” was removed which allowed the vineyard to be trampled down.
  - 2. This happened in AD 70
- C. Jesus announced that God would “transfer” his vineyard and give it to another nation. Many scholars believe this is the same nation that Moses, Hosea and other ancient prophets foresaw.
  - 1. 1 Peter 2:9-10 could be speaking to this. “...You were not a people, but now you are...”
- D. Can the vineyard theme be found in the prophetic history of America?

## **THE FUTURE OF AMERICA**

### Lesson 2 – The Israel and America Connection

Scripture: Matthew 13:52

The deep mysteries of the Kingdom of God are often hidden or veiled through symbols, patterns, cycles and prophetic correlations. God's purpose in this is to hide this mystery from the wisdom of this world and reveal this wisdom to those who hunger for truth. God uses patterns so that mankind can see a picture of what is invisible.

For example:

- A serpent was used to deceive in the garden (Gen. 3:1-14) -Satan is identified as the "old serpent" in Rev. 12:8-10 (6 thousand years later)
- In exodus 12 the blood of the lamb covered the house of the Hebrews – The power of the blood is revealed in the New Testament not through an animal but Christ. He is the "lamb that takes away sin of the world" (John 1:29)
- The dove is first mentioned in the story of Noah's flood (Genesis 8:11) - In the NT the Holy Spirit manifested on Christ "like a dove" (Matthew 3). The olive branch represents peace and the Holy Spirit is our comforter
- The earthly Tabernacle of Moses was a pattern of the heavenly tabernacle (Hebrews 8:5)
  - Golden Candlestick – Ex. 25 / Rev. 1:25
  - Golden Altar – Ex. 39:38 / Rev. 8:3
  - Ark – Ex. 25:10 / Rev. 11:19

### **AMERICA / ISRAEL PATTERNS:**

1. Both nations came out of another nation
2. Israel came out of 400 years of Egyptian bondage to reclaim the promised-land. America came out of England to form a new nation.
3. Israel journeyed by faith trusting God to lead them. So did the founders of America
4. A sea separated the people from their future land
5. Both nations possessed the land from the natives living in it

6. Both nations had documents based on the scriptures. For Israel it was the Torah; for America it was three: Declaration of Independence, Bill of Rights and Constitution. All of these were based on the Torah, the prophets and the four gospels.
7. The number 13 is special to both nations:
  - Including the tribe of Levi, Israel had 13 tribes. These thirteen tribes, called the children of Israel, made up the nation.
  - America was founded with 13 colonies, which were the original 13 states of the union.
8. In its early beginnings Israel didn't have a King or a Capitol until Saul was chosen. America existed as 13 colonies for many years and had no president until after the formation of the United States.
9. During the reign of Israel's second King, the stronghold of Jebus was seized and called the city of David after the King who seized it. It was later named Jerusalem, and from that time forward, was the capitol of Israel. After America signed the founding documents, a president, George Washington, was selected and a new Capital was called Washington.
10. Jerusalem belonged to no tribe and was an independent city; yet it was the capital of the nation. Washington D.C. belonged to no state in the union; yet it was the capital of the United States.
11. Both nations have been terrorized by the Babylonians
12. May 14<sup>th</sup> is a significant day for both nations. The Jews were scattered throughout the world for about 19 centuries. Finally, on May 14, 1948 the British mandate ended at midnight and Israel was reborn as a nation. May 14 is also significant to America – May 14, 1607 we formed our first colony.

These parallels prove one thing – America is a chosen nation. There is no other nation on earth whose early history parallels Israel.

**THE SACRED FURNITURE IN AMERICA:** One of the most interesting links to Israel is found in the sacred furniture when laid over the American continent.

1. Tabernacle Facts:
  - It was a large rectangular tent – 208 ft. long by 104 ft. wide
  - The only entrance was through the east
  - It had three areas: outer court, inner court, and holy of holies



- Outer court had two pieces of furniture:
  - i. brass altar – had three fires that burned continuously
  - ii. brass laver – was filled with water
- Inner court had three pieces:
  - i. Table of shewbread – 12 loaves of bread
  - ii. seven branched candle-stick – filled with oil
  - iii. golden altar – incense was burned on altar every morning
- The holy of holies contained one piece, the ark of the covenant – covered with gold

## 2. Tabernacle furniture positioned over America:

- Brass altar – cover the area of Tennessee, North Carolina and Kentucky. These three states are the areas where the fires Pentecost spread from...
- Brass laver – fit over the area of the Mississippi River. This is the main water way of America
- Menorah – Sat on south end of inner court. It is positioned on the map in the areas of Texas and Oklahoma. Both states are known as the oil states of America. Most of the wealth in those states comes from drilling for oil and natural gas.
- Table of Shewbread – The bread came from the wheat grown in Israel. On the map this table is positioned over Kansas and Nebraska – the breadbasket states.
- Golden Altar of Incense – on the map it is positioned over the region of Colorado. On the altar there were coals for the fire and 11 different types of incense that made a red color. Colorado has numerous coal mines and has the “red river”
- The veil – would be positioned over the continental divide
- The Ark – Sits over the states of Nevada and California – the states where the Gold Rush started.
  - i. Azusa Street outpouring started in California and the main focus was repentance and mercy.

Are these pictures parallels strange coincidence or merely the imagination of a good prophecy teacher? Or, do they reveal how God designed the United States to correlate to His revelation of the Tabernacle? If so, why would God be so interested in America?

I believe the answer lies in the spiritual foundation and formation of our nation. Just as the Tabernacle was designed as a place of redemption for the nation and a meeting place between the Almighty and His people; I believe America was founded to proclaim the redemptive plan of God to the nations of the world. Hundreds of thousands of churches scattered across America minister to over 40% of the population weekly.

America has become a spiritual dwelling place for the Christian faith, just as Israel was a dwelling place for the covenant people. America is a safe haven for the Jewish people in times of global disasters and holocausts.

Listen to this prophecy in Isaiah 4:6 – *“and there will be a tabernacle for shade in the daytime from the heat, for a place of refuge, and for a shelter from storm and rain.”*

#### **CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS AND THE JEWISH CONNECTION:**

Our earliest history is traced to Christopher Columbus and his journey to the Indies, which ended up as a journey of prophetic destiny.

- Columbus was born in Italy
- Some researches believe that his parents were Jewish, actually Jewish refugees to Spain.
- Columbus boasted of being a descendant of King David
- The name Columbus comes from the name Colon, a commonly used name among the Jews living in Spain.
- In 1492 Columbus spoke of the Jewish Temple in the time of Christ as being the “Second House” – a term used among the Jews of his day.
- He also dated the destruction of the Temple in 68 AD instead of 70 which was the Jewish belief of his day:

*“It was the Lord who put it into my mind, (I could feel His hand upon me), the fact that it would be possible to sail from here to the Indies. All who heard of my project rejected it with laughter, ridiculing me. There is no question that the inspiration was from the Holy Spirit, because He comforted me with rays of marvelous inspiration from the Holy Scriptures. I did not make use of intelligence, mathematics or maps.*

*It is simply the fulfillment of what Isaiah had prophesied. (The Diary of Christopher Columbus)*

- The ship and crews were ready for their journey but Columbus delayed departure until after the 9<sup>th</sup> of Av on the Hebrew calendar (the feast days that commemorate the destruction of the Temple – considered the worst day of the year). It is thought that he had many Jewish men as part of his crew.
- Some of his Jewish Crew: Map and chart man (Abraham Zekuto), Nautical Engineer (Joseph Vachinn).
- After 70 days at sea the ship was on the verge of mutiny, on the 71<sup>st</sup> day he spotted land.
- That day was the last day of the Jewish feast of Tabernacles, Hashannah Rabbah. On this day a special prayer is prayed that remembers how God directed Israel across the sea and saved them from destruction.
- When Louis da Torres left the ship and spoke with the natives he spoke Hebrew and Aramaic, thinking the natives may speak Hebrew possibly linked to the lost tribes of Israel!
- When writing letters to his son Columbus signed his name with a triangle. Jewish scholars note that this form of signature was know among the mystics of his day. Two letters appear to be in the shape of the Hebrew letters *bet* and *hei*, denoting the Hebrew blessing *b'ezrat haShem*, meaning “with the help of God.”

## THE FOUNDERS AND THE JEWISH CONNECTION:

### Lesson 3 – America: A Judeo-Christian Nation!

Scripture:

- Deut. 8:11-20
- Psalm 9:17 (AMP) - The wicked shall be turned back [headlong into premature death] into Sheol (the place of the departed spirits of the wicked), even all the nations that forget or are forgetful of God.

The founding fathers understood that there was a deep spiritual connection to what they were doing.

- William Bradford (one of the first governors) wanted to make Hebrew the official language of the colonies.
- The early settlers considered themselves spiritual Jews who were settling a new promised-land.
- Many of the early rural towns were given Biblical names
- The first colony was named after King James who authorized the Bible into the English language.
- When the ship landed at in Virginia the ship's carpenter and two soldiers raised a large cross in the sand and the land was dedicated to God
- In 1620 the famous Mayflower ship brought pilgrims to the shores of Cape Cod. They formed the ***Mayflower Compact: "In the name of God, Amen. We, whose names are under-written, the loyal subjects of our dread Sovereign Lord, King James, by the Grace of God, of England, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith. Having undertaken for the Glory of God, and the advancement of the Christian faith, and the honor of our King and country, a voyage to plant the first colony..."***

- In 1720 250 Christians traveled from England on two ships called ***the Ark and the dove***. They traveled up the Potomac and settled Maryland. They erected a cross and dedicated the land to God and the Christian faith.
  - In 1649 Maryland law read: ***“No person whatsoever within this Province professing to believe in Jesus Christ shall be in any way troubled or persecuted for his or her religion, nor in any way forced to practice another religion.”***
- William Penn wanted to conduct a “holy experiment” – he said, ***“if I had a colony of my own, I would make it a place of true Christian and civil liberty.”*** England’s King, Charles, owed Penn a large sum of money. So the King paid Penn with land today known as Pennsylvania.
  - Penn wanted to call the new land *Sylvania*, but the King suggested Pennsylvania. The leading city of that state is Philadelphia which is mentioned in the Bible in Revelation 3:7. Many other states ended up following the pattern of Pennsylvania when established.

#### **THE MAJORITY OF OUR COLLEGES WERE CHRISTIAN:**

- Dartmouth (started by a preacher: Eleazar Wheelock – started because the American Indians were converting and it was meant to raise up missionaries)
- Princeton – Rev. John Witherspoon served as President for 26 years (graduated over 478 students: 1 US President, 1 Vice President, 10 Assistants to the President, 13 State Governors, 3 US Supreme Court Judges, 21 US Senators, 39 Congressman)
- Oberlin (Charles Finney taught in the university training preachers)
  - This was first college to train blacks and whites together (during slavery days)
  - The first to have a bachelors degree for women.
  - Finney taught there was no separation between serving God in Church and in public
- Yale and Harvard – Training ministers for the new nation.

#### **POLITICS AND PREACHERS:**

Today liberal secularists have a stroke when they think a conservative Christian is running for any kind of political position. But this has been our heritage as Christians...

- George Whitfield – used as a liaison between America and England.

- John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg (Pastor of Woodstock Lutheran) – One Sunday morning while preaching removed his clerical robe revealing that he was wearing a Continental Army uniform announcing that he was going to fight for America’s independence. Suddenly the men in the congregation all rose yelling “we will go to...”
  - Before the revolution ministers used the pulpit to preach about independence; the same was true during the civil war.
- Martin Luther King Jr. – Led the civil rights movement from a pulpit
- **John Adams**, our second President, said that pastors were the primary cause that resulted in America’s independence. In fact, the British Parliament derogatorily called the Baptist, Presbyterian, and Congregationalist pastors in America the “**Black Regiment**” because they ascended to their pulpits each week in their black, clerical robes and stirred the people’s hearts to liberty.
- In 1729, a preacher from Northampton, Massachusetts named **Jonathon Edwards** began preaching a very unpopular message, “you must be born again.” America was full of churches and lost church members belonging to state sanctioned denominations. Edwards message was that church membership and baptism are irrelevant without with out first having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ the Lord. His persistence in New England was infectious and laid the groundwork for the arrival of a young British evangelist named **George Whitefield**. Whitefield took America by storm. Over the next 30 years ending with his death in 1770, more than 300,000 gave their hearts to Christ in New England alone.
- It was this Great Awakening that led to the drafting of the **Declaration of Independence** which proclaimed that all men are created equal and endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, and that the purpose of government was to protect those God given rights.
- When **Paul Revere** made his famous midnight ride, the British were marching on Lexington to arrest the rebels **John Hancock** and **Sam Adams**. It just so happened that Hancock and Adams were staying in the home of **Pastor Jonas Clark**. As the British approached Lexington his houseguests asked Pastor Clark if his men would fight, to which the pastor replied, “***I have trained them for this very hour; they would fight, and, if need be, die, too, under the shadow of the house of God.***”

- As elections drew near, the pastor would preach “Election Sermons” to remind his congregation of the Biblical standards they were to maintain as they cast their ballots.
- Consider **Pastor James Caldwell**, whose unit ran out of musket wadding during the Battle for Springfield. Pastor Caldwell ran into the church, grabbed stacks of **Sir Isaac Watts** hymnals instructing his men to use the pages as wadding. The famous expression “*give ‘em what for*” came from this incident as Pastor Caldwell cried out, “***Give ‘em Watts, boys!***”
- **President George Washington during his farewell address:** “*Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism, who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness...And let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion.*”
- **Noah Webster wrote in the preface of his 1828 Dictionary:** “*In my view, the Christian religion is the most important and one of the first things in which all children, under a free government ought to be instructed.... No truth is more evident to my mind than that the Christian religion must be the basis of any government intended to secure the rights and privileges of a free people.*”

We have been lied to for so long, that even Christians have accepted it as the truth. It’s funny, I was always taught that it was God who established the three great institutions on the earth.

I was taught that God established the home with Adam and Eve and that a home must be built on the Holy Bible with Christ as the center. To that, every preacher that I have ever met says “Amen.”

I was taught that Christ established the church. Of course every local church must be built on the Word of God and centered on Jesus Christ. To that, every preacher that I have ever met says “Amen.”

I was also taught that God Himself established human government after Noah came out of the ark. It stands to reason that human government must be built on the Word of God and centered on Jesus Christ. Yet to that, every preacher chooses to remain silent.

Our Founding Fathers believed it. The Patriot Pastors believed it. I believe it. We had better understand as America Christians that we are living in the only time in history where true Christianity was not openly persecuted. Beginning at the first church in Jerusalem, true Christians have face torture and martyrdom from the Sanhedrin, the Pagan Roman Empire, the Roman Catholic Empire, Stalin's Russia, Hitler's Germany and even today in every Communistic, Atheistic, or Islamic nation on earth. Only by the grace of God has He worked through the lives of our Patriot Pastors and Faithful Founding Fathers do we have the blessing of the liberty, **which we take for granted.**

Most certainly Jesus Christ is coming again. He could come today. As I look at the events surrounding Jerusalem today, I can see evidence of His imminent return. But what if He tarries for ten years? What if He tarries for fifty years? Will our children and grandchildren face martyrdom for their faith here in Atheist America or Socialist America or an America under the authority of Sharia Law?

Just as God warned Israel in Deuteronomy 6 and 8, don't forget who you are as a people and who I am as your God. If you do, I'll take you out of the land. We are guilty of the same ignorance; we have forgotten who God is and who we are.

Our only hope is for another Great Awakening, but there will not be a revival in the church until there first is a revival in the pulpit. I pray that the Holy Spirit will stir the hearts of my pastor brethren and that God would raise up another generation of the Black Regiment.



## HEBRAIC PATTERNS CLASHING WITH ROMAN CULTURE

Scripture: *Luke 17:20-37 / Rev. 4:7*

Intro: John saw a vision of the heavenly Temple and the throne room. Standing at the four corners of the throne were four living creatures with the faces of a lion, a calf, a man and an eagle. According to Rev. 4:8 these living creatures participate in the worship of God crying, “holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty.”

When Moses established the Tabernacle in the wilderness, God instructed the 12 tribes to be divided into four groups of three tribes and positioned in a particular order around the Tabernacle with one main tribe on each side:

- Dan – to the north
- Judah – to the east
- Reuben – to the south
- Ephraim – to the west

Each tribe was given a special emblem that became the standard of the tribe. It was placed on a flag and flown by the camp in its particular order:

- Dan – Eagle
- Judah – Lion
- Reuben – Man
- Ephraim – bull or ox

**The nation’s capitol:** The capitol is constructed around a large rectangular area called the *Washington Mall*. In the center of the *Mall* is the *Washington Monument* (a huge obelisk sitting as a memorial to our first President).

Four main federal buildings make up the four main areas of the *Mall*:

- North – Whitehouse (home of President)
- East – Capitol Building (Where elected officials meet to enact legislation for the nation)
- South – Jefferson Memorial
- West – Lincoln Memorial

The emblems of the buildings:

- Eagle (Dan - north) – for the US President
- Lion (Judah - east) - Capitol building (Where laws are made – Judah is called the “lawgiver” in Psalm 60:7)
- Man (Reuben - south) – Thomas Jefferson was a Deist (secular humanist) who believe that there is a supreme being that places all control into the hands of men.
- Ox (Ephraim - west) – Lincoln Memorial – Lincoln was a simple man who was raised on the frontier. During his administration the Civil War tore the nation apart, dividing the north and the south. The first battle of the civil war took place in *Manasseh, Virginia*. The tribe of Manasseh was camped west of the Tabernacle. The ox or bull was the emblem of Manasseh. The first Battle of Manassas was called the battle of Bull Run!

THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT – Before it was constructed it was proposed that a large temple be the center of the Mall.

**LINCOLN'S PROPHETIC WARNING:** Abraham Lincoln issued the following prophetic warning about the menace of Romanism to the United States Constitution and American democracy:

“As long as God gives me a heart to feel, a brain to think, or a hand to execute my will, I will devote it against that power which has attempted to use the machinery of the courts to destroy the rights and character of an American citizen. But there is a thing which is very certain; it is, that if the American people could learn what I know of the fierce hatred of the generality of the priests of Rome against our institutions, our schools, our most sacred rights, and our so dearly bought liberties, they would drive them away, tomorrow, from among us, or would shoot them as traitors. The history of the last thousand years tells us that wherever the Church of

Rome is not a dagger to pierce the bosom of a free nation, she is a stone to her neck, and a ball to her feet, to paralyze her and prevent her advance in the ways of civilization, science, intelligence, happiness, and liberty. I do not pretend to be a prophet. But though not a prophet, I see a very dark cloud on our horizon. And that dark cloud is coming from Rome. It is filled with tears of blood. It will rise and increase, till its flanks will be torn by a flash of lightening, followed by a fearful peal of thunder. Then a cyclone such as the world has never seen will pass over this country, spreading ruin and desolation from north to south. After it is over, there will be long days of peace and prosperity; for popery, with its Jesuits and merciless Inquisition, will have been forever swept away from our country. Neither I, nor you, but our children, will see those things.”

It is believed that the Church of Rome instigated Lincoln’s assassination:

- Plans for his murder were made in the home of Mrs. Surratt, a Roman Catholic.
- Booth, the murderer, was a Roman Catholic.
- Mr. Lloyd, who had the gun that Booth pretended he needed for “protection”, was a Roman Catholic.
- Dr. Mudd, who set Booth’s fractured leg, was a Roman Catholic. Garrett, in whose barn Booth tried to hide, was a Roman Catholic.
- It is now firmly established as historical fact that the death of Lincoln was announced by Roman Catholics several hours before it occurred at St. Joseph, Minnesota, forty miles from a railroad and eighty miles from the nearest telegraph station.
- On his arrest Booth said: “I can never repent. God made me the instrument of his punishment.”
- Prominent government officials said they had not the least doubt but that the Jesuits were at the bottom of the great iniquity.
- Mr. Chiniquy, Colonel Edwin A. Sherman and General Harris, friends of Lincoln, investigated the matter and unequivocally affirmed that Rome was the perpetrator of his assassination.

### **ROME AND AMERICA – ANOTHER PROPHETIC CORRELATION**

1. Rome began as a republic and so did we
2. Then both Rome and America became a nation among nations
3. Then both became empires
4. Both then became the most powerful nation on earth

5. Both occupied the Middle East.
6. Both Roman and American currencies became universal around the world
7. Both became the leading voices in the world to whom everyone looked to make decisions
8. Both had strong leaders
9. Both had a Capitol Hill
10. Both had a Senate
11. Both peoples pledged allegiance to the flag
12. Both built sports stadiums
13. Both enjoyed watches races, whether chariots or NASCAR
14. Both became obsessed with luxuries
15. Both allowed homosexuality
16. Both allowed abortions
17. As their empire grew, the Romans overtaxed the rich, and there are those who want us to do that
18. Rome invented the welfare state, and now the United States has one, too
19. Rome went into decline when it tried to control three

## Decline of the Family

What about the moral decline of Rome? Do we see parallels in America? I have addressed this in previous articles such as [“The Decline of a Nation”](#) and [“When Nations Die.”](#)<sup>{7}</sup> Let’s focus on the area of sexuality, marriage, and family.

In his 1934 book, *Sex and Culture*, British anthropologist Joseph Daniel Unwin chronicled the historical decline of numerous cultures, including the Roman Empire. He found that cultures that held to a strong sexual ethic thrived and were more productive than cultures that were “sexually free.”<sup>{8}</sup>

In his book *Our Dance Has Turned to Death*, Carl Wilson identifies the common pattern of family decline in civilizations like the Roman Empire.<sup>{9}</sup> It is significant how these seven stages parallel what is happening in America.

1. **In the first stage, men ceased to lead their families in worship.** Spiritual and moral development became secondary. Their view of God became naturalistic, mathematical, and mechanical.
2. **In the second stage, men selfishly neglected care of their wives and children to pursue material wealth, political and military power, and cultural development.** Material values began to dominate thought.
3. **The third stage involved a change in men's sexual values.** Men who were preoccupied with business or war either neglected their wives sexually or became involved with lower-class women or with homosexuality. Ultimately, a double standard of morality developed.
4. **The fourth stage affected women. The role of women at home and with children lost value and status.** Women were neglected and their roles devalued. Soon they revolted to gain access to material wealth and also freedom for sex outside marriage. Women also began to minimize having sex relations to conceive children, and the emphasis became sex for pleasure.
5. **In the fifth stage, husbands and wives competed against each other for money, home leadership, and the affection of their children.** This resulted in hostility and frustration and possible homosexuality in the children. Many marriages ended in separation and divorce.
6. **In the sixth stage, selfish individualism grew and carried over into society, fragmenting it into smaller and smaller group loyalties.** The nation was thus weakened by internal conflict. The decrease in the birthrate produced an older population that had less ability to defend itself and less will to do so, making the nation more vulnerable to its enemies.
7. **Finally, unbelief in God became more complete, parental authority diminished, and ethical and moral principles disappeared, affecting the economy and government.** Because of internal weakness and fragmentation, the society came apart.

We can see these stages play out in the decline of the Roman Empire. But we can also see them happening before our eyes in America.

## Spiritual Decline

What about the spiritual decline in Rome and America? We can actually read about the spiritual decline in Rome in Paul's letter to the church in Rome. In the opening chapter he traces a progression of spiritual decline that was evident in the Hellenistic world of his time.

1. **The first stage is when people turn from God to idolatry.** Although God has revealed Himself in nature to all men so that they are without excuse, they nevertheless worship the creation instead of the Creator. This is idolatry. In the past, this took the form of actual idol worship. In our day, it takes the form of the worship of money or the worship of self. In either case, it is idolatry. A further example of this is a general lack of thankfulness. Although they were prospered by God, they were ungrateful. And when they are no longer looking to God for wisdom and guidance, they become vain and futile and empty in their imaginations. They no longer honor God, so their foolish hearts become darkened. In professing to be wise, they have become fools.
2. **The second stage is when men and women exchange their natural use of sex for unnatural uses.** Here Paul says those four sobering words, "God gave them over." In a society where lust-driven sensuality and sexual perversion dominate, God gives them over to their degrading passions and unnatural desires.
3. **The third stage is anarchy.** Once a society has rejected God's revelation, it is on its own. Moral and social anarchy is the natural result. At this point God has given the sinners over to a depraved mind and so they do things which are not proper. This results in a society which is without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, and unmerciful.
4. **The final stage is judgment.** God's judgment rightly falls upon those who practice idolatry and immorality. Certainly an eternal judgment awaits those who are guilty, but a social judgment occurs when God gives a nation over to its sinful practices.

Notice that this progression is not unique to the Hellenistic world the apostle Paul was living in. The progression from idolatry to sexual perversion to anarchy to judgment is found throughout history.

In the times of Noah and Lot, there was the idolatry of greed, there was sexual perversion and promiscuity, there was anarchy and violence, and finally there was judgment. Throughout the history of the nation of Israel there was idolatry, sexual perversion, anarchy (in which each person did what was right in his own eyes), and finally judgment.

Are there parallels between Rome and America? I have quoted from secular authors, Christian authors, and a writer of much of the New Testament. All seem to point to parallels between Rome and America.