

“This World Is Not My Home”

Introduction:

- A. Many who have a true picture of the world in which we live, including people in our own country, have heavy hearts due to the direction our country has gone.
- B. Some may even be experiencing despair and hopelessness.
- C. I want to share some ideas that will help us cope with some disagreeable, unpleasant, offensive, and scary events that appear to be in our future.
 - 1. I’m going to say a lot of negative things, but they will be canceled out by a positive note: This world is not our home—we are just passing through.
 - 2. And we (Christians) have something the world does not have—prayer.
 - 3. We are to petition God for things, such as what Paul noted in writing to Timothy:
 - 1 Tim. 2:1 “I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; 2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; 4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.”

I wish to discuss five points:

- 1) The fact that God controls the nations;
- 2) Where we currently stand as a nation;
[This is the scary part; and I don’t normally address such matters from the pulpit.

But we need to know the facts so we can prepare for the future.]

- 3) Why God would allow our freedoms to be taken;
- 4) Our divided kingdom; and
- 5) How we should respond.

Body

I. God Controls the Nations

A. God controls the nations -- He always has and He always will.

1. I've studied the Old Testament records of God's dealings with Israel, and it is apparent throughout that He blessed them and protected them when they trusted and looked to Him for guidance and protection.
2. But when they turned from Him to false gods and became like the nations around them, He punished them—usually by allowing their enemies to conquer and control them.

B. Let's take a quick look at the record God has given us of Babylon's sacking Jerusalem and taking God's wayward children into captivity:

2 Kings 24:8 Jehoiachin was eighteen years old when he began to reign, and he reigned in Jerusalem three months. And his mother's name was Nehushta, the daughter of Elnathan of Jerusalem. 9 And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father had done. 10 At that time the servants of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up against Jerusalem, and the city was besieged. 11 And Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came against the city, and his servants did besiege it. 12 And Jehoiachin the king of Judah went out to the king

of Babylon, he, and his mother, and his servants, and his princes, and his officers: and the king of Babylon took him in the eighth year of his reign. 13 And he carried out thence all the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king's house, and cut in pieces all the vessels of gold which Solomon king of Israel had made in the temple of the LORD, as the LORD had said. 14 And he carried away all Jerusalem, and all the princes, and all the mighty men of valour, even ten thousand captives, and all the craftsmen and smiths: none remained, save the poorest sort of the people of the land. 15 And he carried away Jehoiachin to Babylon, and the king's mother, and the king's wives, and his officers, and the mighty of the land, those carried he into captivity from Jerusalem to Babylon. 16 And all the men of might, even seven thousand, and craftsmen and smiths a thousand, all that were strong and apt for war, even them the king of Babylon brought captive to Babylon.

1. First, note that an eighteen-year-old had become their king and he “**did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD**” -- he was evil and he lacked wisdom and shunned direction from above.
2. Second, note that it was not the poor people who were greatly punished—it was the rich and middle class.
 - a. The text tells us that the “**poorest sort of the people of the land**” were left.
 - b. I suppose they were farmers who could take care of themselves—perhaps they were not involved in the issues that brought on God’s wrath.
3. It is likely that the inhabitants of Jerusalem felt safe and secure behind their great walls.
 - a. They had plenty of running water in the city.
 - b. They had food, money, and friends.

c. Perhaps they had felt safe for so long that they took their freedom for granted.

C. If you are under fifty years of age, and have lived in the U.S. all your life, you never had reason to fear an all-out invasion from some other country—such as military attacks against numerous strategic locations simultaneously.

1. You likely never had any real concern about a possibility of losing your freedom to some enemy, determined to control you in ways you would not like, or KILL you, after taking power or control of the country.
2. Not having experienced such fear is not bad—it is good.
 - a. But we have felt secure and safe for so long, we've begun to take our freedom for granted.
 - b. We have watched documentaries and true story movies of war-torn countries, and have seen the evil that is perpetrated upon good people—often for no reason other than hate.
 - 1) But did we really empathize with those people?
 - 2) Or did we look at these accounts as entertainment and think that nothing of that sort could ever happen here, or to us?
 - 3) All through history people have had reason to be concerned about war and being taken over by an evil and stronger foe—people who do not value human life and even seem to enjoy torturing people.
 - 4) This is frightening but we need to face reality.

II. Where We Currently Stand as a Nation

A. Our country is on the verge of being taken over by people who want to control every aspect of our

lives; they may have already done it.

1. These people that have infiltrated a major political party in the U.S. are no longer the party supported by my grandparents—and even my mother and father for a number of years.
2. These people's politics are more in line with the enemies the patriots of our country went to war to fight.
3. We have been in war the socialist/ communists for a long time, but not with missiles and bullets.
 - a. In 1956, Russia's Communist leader Nikita Khrushchev said,
"We will take America without firing a shot. We do not have to invade the U.S. We will destroy you from within."
 - b. No doubt many who heard that chilling threat thought "That will never happen."
 - c. Nevertheless, Khrushchev's words are coming true.

The people in control intend to:

- 1) Limit our freedom of speech (which they have already done to some degree, especially before the election);
- 2) Greatly limit our Second Amendment rights, which will take the real power from the people, making us defenseless so that they can control us as they wish;
- 3) Raise our taxes, which will create hardship for most people;
- 4) Do away with fossil fuel, causing shortages and prices to soar;
- 5) Use our money for abortions even in other countries;

- 6) Open our southern border and allow people to come in illegally by the thousands (ignoring our immigration laws) —knowing that many of them will be dangerous criminals, some will be terrorists, and some will be carrying contagious diseases;
- 7) Make it legal for non-citizens (illegals) to vote, which will dilute the vote of citizens;
- 8) Support our enemies—to include China and Iran— which they have already done;
- 9) Put unscrupulous people in high-level positions in government—people that cannot swear to support the Constitution because their allegiance lies elsewhere;
- 10) Put freedom of religion on the chopping block (at least the Christian religion, which they have already done to a degree);
- 11) ...continue putting us in debt to the point that bankruptcy is inevitable, at some point (like Greece). The official national debt is around 30 trillion, but the unofficial debt is more like 300 trillion dollars. Finally,
- 12) Fix the electoral system so the people can never take the country back.

d. If these people succeed the world will not be the same because historically the U.S. has been a stabilizing influence for good in the world.

III. Why God Would Allow Our Freedoms to Be Taken

- A. Christians who have prayed for this country may feel God has let us down by allowing evil to win.
 1. But from studying the Old Testament and observing God's dealings with Israel, we know that after much patience He chastises His people as a means of provoking them to repentance.

2. Nations are punished because of the sins of the leader or the majority, yet even the faithful are affected.
- B. In 2015, 75% of adults in the U.S. identified as being Christian.
1. But as of 2019, that number declined to 65%.
 2. That amounts to a freefall—in just four years a drop of 10%.
 3. How could this happen so rapidly?
 - a. It happened because our enemies, who seek to take our freedoms, have taken over most of our schools and the majority of the media.
 - b. And, they produce most of the TV shows and movies that gradually program our minds the way they want us to think and behave.
- C. There are a lot of GOOD people in the world, but evil in government, to include the U.S., is rampant.
1. Corruption in government is something we have observed in other countries.
 2. Many times the U.S. has sent aid to help poor people around the world, or for people experiencing a major catastrophe, only to have much, if not all, of the money stolen by political leaders.
 3. Sadly corruption in our own government is about as bad as any, and it is not limited to one party.
 - a. Remember when the U.S. gave Iran (a terrorist nation whose leaders chant “Death to America”) 1.7 billion dollars?
 - b. Rand Paul, a highly respected Senator from Kentucky, recently stated (regarding the election) that there is a "great deal of

evidence of fraud," and he said we need a "thorough investigation."

- 1) Yet even though hundreds of affidavits were provided by witnesses, along with video evidence, our FBI and DOJ took no interest in investigating and even the Supreme Court refused to hear evidence of voter fraud.
 - 2) The FBI's response to some who sought to expose serious irregularities was to tell them to back away and forget about it.
 - 3) The media said there was no fraud and they ridiculed all who questioned it and categorized them as "conspiracy theorists."
4. Certainly, the U.S., in its current state, would be included in the Apostle John's observation:

"The whole world lies in wickedness"

(1 John 5:19b).

- a. This is what the situation is and I'm talking about it because we need to know so we can look to the future and deal with it wisely.
- b. The words of the wise man remind us of how life used to be, but serve as a warning of what our future holds.

Proverbs 29:2 **"When the righteous are in authority and become great, the people rejoice; But when the wicked man rules, the people groan and sigh"** (Amplified Bible).

D. While many "churchgoers" like to think the U.S. is a righteous nation and that the great number of denominations is evidence of this, the facts simply do not support that thinking:

1. Nearly half of the population, by their votes, has helped to promote homosexuality, murdering of babies, rejection of the two genders established by God, and the idea that people

can change or select their sex at will.

[These things are, without question, contrary to biblical teaching.]

2. People seem to have lost their desire to hear and learn the truth--they have become like the people of Israel who at one time, as stated by Isaiah, said: **“Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophecy deceits”** (Isa 30:10).
3. Christians (so-called) support leaders of a party that is anti-Christian and which promotes a religion that aspires to conquer the world through violence.
 - a. A previous President brought these people here by the hundreds of thousands.
 - b. Paid their way and the gov. has been supporting them with taxpayer dollars...
 - c. Others are old-fashioned atheists who ridicule the idea that there is a creator.
 - d. A major political party has been known to boo God in their political rallies.
 - e. Political maneuvers (designed to gain power) that have resulted in massive destruction, businesses burned to the ground, loss of lives, ruining of lives of innocent people, and a massive waste of resources, have caused people to lose faith in their government.
 - f. Did you know that over 1.5 billion dollars were spent *“protecting the Capitol”* from patriots, whom the people that seek to control us, would have everyone believe were/are a huge threat to them?
 - g. All because of ONE riot that could not rightly be called an organized attack on the Capitol, or on democracy, as confirmed by the FBI.
 - h. State and city governments have allowed radical groups to create havoc and anarchy—allowing riots that resulted in harm to hundreds

of police officers (several deaths) and billions of dollars in damage.

- 1) Where was the outrage?
 - 2) Instead of calling for military troops to protect property belonging to city and Federal Buildings (that were under siege for months), as well as property belonging to private citizens, they called for "defunding the police."
4. Many Christians who are supposedly "the light of the world" (Matt. 5:14) are actually walking in darkness (1 John 1:1:6).
5. Many who profess to be Christians, and claim to follow the Bible, are happy to believe their preachers when they say "*obedience is not necessary,*" which flatly contradicts what God tells us:

Matt. 7:21 - "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven."

Heb. 5:9 – "And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;"

- a. They also are happy to believe their preachers who declare "once you have faith you are saved and cannot ever be lost no matter how you live" – a popular doctrine that clearly contradicts what God tells us:

Gal. 5:4 – "Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace."

- b. Even preachers who teach the truth regarding what to do to be saved, and to keep saved, have lost their zeal for evangelism, or don't even recognize that this is their primary duty.

- 1) So, knowing all this, can we not see why God

would take away some freedoms and make life hard for us?

- 2) After all, it is not good that we have been so spoiled that we have little empathy for Christians in places like South and Western Africa, where they are being murdered by Muslims by the hundreds.
- 3) And more recently, Christians in India are being massacred for their faith.
- 4) Why should Christians today think we cannot live, or cannot be happy, unless we are free of persecution?
- 5) Christians in the first century were treated like criminals and were fed to wild animals in an arena for sport.
- 6) Based on the rhetoric coming from people currently in control of our government, not only Christians but all patriots as well have reason for concern that they will be mistreated.
- 7) We are being called “deplorables” and even “domestic terrorists.”
- 8) The MSNBC host suggested using drone strikes against American citizens such as were used against ISIS.

E. The number of churches and professed Christians is NOT evidence of a godly nation--most are like the Jews of which Jesus spoke:

Matt. 15:8 **This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.”**

1. Even the most conservative of churches—ones that seek truth and even get the plan of salvation right—are too often like the church of Laodicea, of whom Jesus declared:

Rev 3:15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. 16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth. 17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:"

2. Regardless of how bleak the world may look, or even when threats begin to be carried out, the Bible gives us the answer for how we can have hope for our future.
 - a. Many hymn books include a hymn called "This World Is Not My Home."
 - b. The first stanza says:

*"This world is not my home
I'm just a-passing through
My treasures are laid up
Somewhere beyond the blue."*
 - c. What a wonderful feeling those with faith in Christ have because of the profound truth clearly expressed by the composer, Albert Brumley.
 - d. Indeed, this earth is not our eternal home, but to be recipients of heaven we must endeavor to please God.
 - i. He wants us to put our trust in Him—not in our government, nor in our personal wealth.
 - ii. 1 John 5:5 states: "Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?"

IV. Our Divided Kingdom

- A. *No source of history is more reliable and relevant than the Bible.*

1. Therefore, any observation that uses this source should be given consideration.
 2. I'm a citizen of the United States—a nation not governed by a king or dictator, historically speaking.
 3. But biblical lessons are nonetheless applicable.
- B. For hundreds of years, Israel had a king and the kingdom was divided by tribes as well as religious beliefs.
1. There were twelve tribes and they were divided religiously into three parties:
Pharisees, Sadducees, and Essenes.

[The Essenes "emerged out of disgust with the other two. This sect believed the others had corrupted the city and the Temple. They moved out of Jerusalem and lived a monastic life in the desert, adopting strict dietary laws and a commitment to celibacy."]

2. All the tribes (except Judah for a time) turned from God to the worship of idols and lost His favor.
3. Israel, after which the nation was named and who was referred to as God's wife, lost favor with God because of the people's unfaithfulness and refusal to repent (Jer. 3:8, 14).
 - a. It was God's plan for the Savior to come from this nation, comprising a very small area east of the Mediterranean Sea.
 - b. Therefore He guided and protected them from the huge number of fierce enemies that were, and are to this day, determined to destroy them.
 - c. Nevertheless, Israel's lack of diligence in seeking God and standing for truth, and His ways, resulted in their hopelessly divided state, and eventually their doom as a great nation (Jer. 19:11).
 - d. God tells us their biggest problem, which was written by Hosea, was ignorance:
 - 1) "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected

knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children” (Hosea 4:6).

15.

2) This is the same problem our country faces today.

C. Jesus said, “Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation” (Matt. 12:25).

1. In view of the current divided condition of the U.S., citizens should be greatly concerned.
2. Sometimes, God sends hard times upon a nation to move the people to turn from evil and back to Him.
 - a. He sends storms, floods, earthquakes, evil leaders, volcanoes, and other means to wake people up.
 - b. Some heed the warnings while some do not and continue on as usual.
 - c. There are going to be hard times in our future, especially for some, but God will take care of us if we trust Him and do things His way.
 - 1) Persecutions tend to cause Christians to be more productive.
 - 2) Difficult times tend to help people face reality and to look to God for guidance, direction, protection and hope.
 - 3) But socialism, which we are facing, is in competition with Christianity.
 - i. Socialist governmental officials want people to put their trust in their government – not God.
 - ii. Dictators don't believe in God – or if they do they are inclined to place themselves on a level with Him.

D. The condition God set forth for the people of Israel is applicable to us today:

2 Chron. 7:14 “If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”

1. This passage was directed to Israel but is applicable to the U.S. in principle.
2. God will bless us once again if we will turn back to Him.

V. How We Should Respond

A. There has always been evil in the world.

1. The contrast of evil and good is like light and darkness in a sense.
2. Some very evil people in the world are taking control.
 - a. Because of their self-interest, it is very possible that our lives will become much more difficult and the rights we have enjoyed will diminish as they push their agenda, and seek to control the thoughts and actions of everyone to their way of thinking.
 - b. We could respond in various ways.

We could:

- 1) Simply worry until illness sets in;
- 2) Join them and become like them;
- 3) Fight them; or
- 4) Do as Jesus suggested and “Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break

through nor steal” (Matt. 6:20); and

- 5) Do as Paul teaches in his first letter to Timothy:

1 Tim. 6:17 “Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; 18 That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; 19 Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.”

- B. One can prepare for heaven by seeking biblical truth, obeying the gospel to be saved and then endeavoring to **walk in the light** as Jesus is in the light (1 John 1:7).
- C. Christians in the first century were faced with governmental officials who hated them and who persecuted them severely—even to death.
1. Nero was the worst.
 2. Tacitus, the historian, relates how Nero was thought to have set Rome ablaze (64 A.D.), destroying more than half of the city, and blaming it on Christians.
 - a. Tacitus states that Christians were “infamous for their abominations” (a false depiction placed upon all Christians through propaganda).
 - b. Do we not understand that this is what is happening today?
 3. So Nero thought to blame Christians for the fire, but the only evidence against them was that they lived close to where the fire started.
 - a. Nevertheless, he convicted vast multitudes, *“not so much for the crime of burning the city, but for hatred of the human race.”*

- b. Since there was no proof that even one Christian had a part in burning the city, the real charge, for which they ALL should be executed, was “hatred of the human race” —a ridiculous charge considering the teaching of Jesus.
 - c. The killing of Christians was made a sport.
 - 1) Tacitus wrote that *“They were killed by dogs... nailed to crosses or set aflame and when the daylight passed away, they were used as nighttime lamps.”*
4. There are people in power in the U.S. who are twisting things in the same way Nero did, and they seek to destroy ALL conservatives for what a few brainless radicals were involved in.
- a. It does not matter that there is no evidence that conservative leaders had any part in the riot on the Capitol, nor does it matter that conservatives have denounced these actions—that part is ignored.
 - b. Indeed, some today are using Nero’s playbook to destroy those who oppose them—making false charges against all as being “deplorables” and “domestic terrorists.”
 - c. Persecutions similar to what Nero perpetrated are currently happening in various parts of the world.
 - d. Although we have grown up in “the land of the free,” is it not true that we have taken our freedoms for granted?

Conclusion:

- A. We are not going to get out of this world alive—none of us.
 - 1. We are all going to die—that is a fact, unless Jesus comes first.

- a. So, we need to live like this world is not our home.
 - b. Jesus said to “lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven” (Matt. 6:20).
 - c. We can do that by looking to Jesus and trusting and obeying.
2. Our world is full of danger.
- a. Covid-19, for instance, scares many—some are terrified.
 - b. There is not a mask big enough, or efficient enough, to protect us from everything going on in the world today.
 - c. We need to suit up with the “whole armor of God.”

Ephesians 6:13 “Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; 5 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench . all the fiery darts of the wicked. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;”

- 1) This passage shows how Christians battle, both defensively and offensively.
- 2) All should understand that Christians are not BOMBS and BULLETS but SALT and LIGHT.
Christianity is not about carnal warfare.

3) Yet our mission is militant, as laid out by Paul:

2 Cor. 10:3-5 “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: 4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

B. This earth is not our eternal home and God wants us to put our trust in Him, not in our government.

1. Even a socialist or communist government will keep you alive if you will let them control you.
 - a. But this might mean you don't get to worship like you want.
 - b. Or if you preach the Bible you don't get to teach what the Bible says regarding certain issues.
 - c. The government may give you the items necessary for life, like food, clothing, and shelter.
 - 1) But they will not, and cannot, help you “lay up treasures in heaven.”
 - 2) This we must do on our own by looking to the Scriptures, finding them to be inspired of God, the written word of God, and words by which we may be saved.

Heavenly Father,
Thank you that this world with all its evil is not our home. Help us to earnestly endeavor to be lights shining brightly in the darkness until you call us to our heavenly home. In Jesus name.
Amen