

# “The Coping Christian in One Nation Under Satan”

by Doug Hamilton

## VII) Patterns of Falling Nations Through the Eyes of God.

As far back as I can remember, there has always been the United States. We are known as the land of opportunity and freedom. I have been to many countries of the earth and have concluded that this is still the greatest nation on the globe, having many a great people! On the other hand, we are only a shadow of what we were in the past. We have a long documented history as a nation, including the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and Amendments. There is so much history over the past two hundred and thirty-five years, but a question arises, CAN WE FALL AS A NATION?

### Nations are like people.

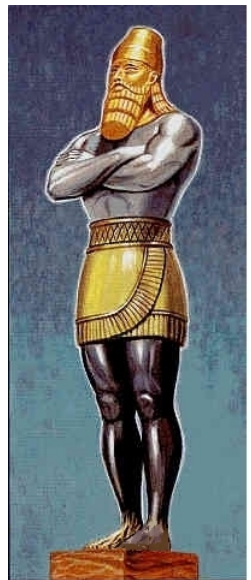
- A person is born into this world, goes through the normal stages of life and dies in the end. Sometimes a person might die young, but other times they live longer periods. Some might take a little different path in life, but the basics remain the same. Sometimes people try to cheat death through the futile mindset of endless medical care, exercise and vitamins, but in the end they still die. Birth, death and whatever is in between is a pattern of life.
- Nations are also born, go through normal stages of life and then die. Some nations last longer than others, but no nation can permanently in place. Some nations take measures to preserve themselves, but in the end every nation will meet their end. *Ecclesiastes 3:1–2 There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven, A time to give birth and a time to die; A time to plant and a time to uproot what is planted.*

### Four Great Nations, Four Great Deaths

The birth, life and death of nations is nothing new when it comes to the Bible. This pattern is clearly seen in the Book of Daniel.

Daniel 2:31-34 “You, O king, were looking and behold, there was a single great statue; that statue, which was large and of extraordinary splendor, was standing in front of you, and its appearance was awesome. <sup>32</sup> “The head of that statue was made of fine gold, its breast and its arms of silver, its belly and its thighs of bronze, <sup>33</sup> its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. <sup>34</sup> “You continued looking until a stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and crushed them.

- Head of Gold: The Babylonian Empire
  - This was a great Empire that boasted the likes of the Hanging Garden of Babylon, the destruction of Solomon's Temple and the crushing of all the other nations around them. According to the Greek historian Herodotus, who wrote in the 5th century B.C., Babylon lay in the shape of a huge square, surrounded by 60 miles of walls, the greatest of which was 300 feet high and 87 feet wide. They had a population of more than 500,000 within the city walls. Nobody ever thought Babylon could fall until Cyrus, king of Persia, destroyed her in 539 BC.



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- Chest of Silver: The Medo-Persia Empire
  - The Medo-Persian was known for their powerful army, their centralized administration and civil services. Nobody thought they could ever fall as a nation. That all changed when a young man name Alexander the Great crushed them in 331 BC.
- Thighs of Brass: The Greek Empire
  - The world had never seen anyone more battle savvy than Alexander the Greek. He quickly expanded his empire all the way to the Himalayas. Upon his death in 323 BC, the empire was divided into four, being defended by its generals. This empire stood until Roman Republic began in 146 BC.
- Legs of Iron: The Roman Empire
  - Rome was not built in a day, but was firmly in power by the time of the death of Julius Caesar in 44 BC. The first Emperor, Augustus, set the tone of this Great Empire. They were known for their military, providential rule and structure. They in essence learned all they could from the previous empires and went from there.
  - It was during this time that the Christ would come (the stone cut out of the mountain) and begin the One True Kingdom, the church. Though the Empire continued for some time, the effects of Christianity had dominated.

In this passage of scripture we find four great nations who met their demise. The leaders of all of these empires, from the boasting-Babylonian named Nebuchadnezzar to the Roman emperors, had reached the end. All these nations believed and even boasted to be without end, but history proved otherwise. Nations die just like people die.

### When will we learn?

We are told in *Romans 15:4* "*Those things that were written aforetime were written for our learning...*" The history of the Bible can teach us about our future, including the future of our own nation, only if we desire to learn. Here are a few quotes from famous minds of the past concerning the importance of learning from the history of those who came before us.

- The famous German philosopher Hegel said, "*What experience and history teach us is this: that people and government never have learned anything from history or acted on principles deduced from it.*"
- The famous Spanish philosopher George Santayana once stated, "*Those who forget the past are condemned to repeat it.*"
- The historian Will Durant wrote, "*So the story of man runs in a dreary circle, because he is not yet master of the earth that holds him.*"
- Writer E.A. Bucchianeri wrote "... *the vintage of history is forever repeating ~ same old vines, same old wines!*"
- Winston Churchill said it best, "*The one thing we have learned from history is that we don't learn from history.*"

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## The Challenge to the Christian:

We must be willing to take a deep look into history to find the answers to some very important questions.

- What happened to the hundreds of nations who have fallen in the past?
- What is the pattern of how they fell?
- What are some of the signals in place prior to their fall?
- What, if anything, could have been done to extend the life of those nations?

We have already briefly mentioned four great empires of the earth. Now we will take a closer look at a specific nation from the Bible, the nation of Israel.

## The Life-Cycle of the Nation of Israel

The year was 1470 BC and the location was on the west side of the Jordan River in Israel. Moses is preparing the Jews to finally enter the Promised Land after living as nomads in the desert for nearly forty years. What had been promised to Abraham more than four and half centuries prior was about to come to fruition.

Genesis 12:1-3 Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father’s house, To the land which I will show you; <sup>2</sup> And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; <sup>3</sup> And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”

Abraham was old, married to an old woman, had no children to whom would be his heir, yet he was offered a promise from God. God told him to leave Ur, his father's house, his clan and go to the land we call Israel and God would make him a *GREAT NATION*. This is the history of a Nation.

It says in *James 2:23* “*AND ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS,*” and he was called the friend of God. The promise to make Abraham a nation through which his descendants would number as the *stars of the sky* (Gen 15:5) and the *sands of the sea* (Gen 32:12). His descendants would first go into Egypt as predicted by God.

Genesis 15:13-16 God said to Abram, “Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years. <sup>14</sup> “But I will also judge the nation whom they will serve, and afterward they will come out with many possessions. <sup>15</sup> “As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you will be buried at a good old age. <sup>16</sup> “Then in the fourth generation they will return here, for the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet complete.”

Everything was set in order by God:

- Moses was sent to deliver the people for this new nation.
- The Ten Plagues freed the people from the nation of Egypt.
- The new nation headed out to their new location.

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- The new nation doubted the promise of God and must wander the desert for four decades.
- The time was ready for the promised people of the new nation to take their Promised Land.

Moses outlined the terms of the new nation before they actually came into to possess the land. Deuteronomy 30:15-20 said as long as they would be faithful to God, He would continue to bless them as a nation. If however they chose to be unfaithful to the commands of the Lord, He would deliver them over to another nation. Moses died and Joshua brought the people into the Promised Land. Before his death, Joshua would charge the people of this new nation to stay faithful.

Joshua 24:14-15 “Now, therefore, fear the LORD and serve Him in sincerity and truth; and put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD.”<sup>15</sup> “If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

The plan was simple. Stay faithful to God or your nation would fall! For the next 1500 years the nation would go through an on-again/off-again relationship with God. They would turn from the ways of God, be delivered over to an enemy nation through the natural consequences of the actions, cry out for deliverance, become faithful again and be delivered into nationhood. Time after time they went through this cycle only to fall to enemies, including the Moabites, Ammonites, Midianites, Canaanites, Philistines, Assyrians, the Babylonians and the Greeks. Sometimes their captivity was for a short time, but other times it was for decades. Each time the nation would spiral a little further from the original intent of God.

Then in 70 AD the Romans surrounded the city of Jerusalem, utterly destroying it and selling the survivors into slavery. This was the fulfillment of Jesus' words in *Matthew 24:2* “*Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down.*” There were so many Jewish slaves on the market that one could purchase five for every one gentile slave. They were wiped out as a nation, their temple was destroyed and the people were scattered throughout the world, stripped of an earthly promise.

### America’s Future???

Is it possible that America will also be taken over by an enemy? Our enemies are growing; our debt is growing; our immorality is growing. Our Christianity is waning; our morals are weakening; our military is shrinking. We have looked into the past and know where we were and where we are today. Can you not see where we are going in the future?

### Late-breaking News!!!

This week, a county clerk in Kentucky named Kim Davis, a democrat and of the Christian faith, refused to marry homosexuals because of her beliefs. When a judge ordered her to do so, she refused and was locked up in the county jail. This is a result of a government turning on their Creator for



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which they based their rights from the very beginning. In that same county only twenty-five years ago it was a crime to engage in sodomy. Now they arrest people who do not approve of the same.

### There is Still Time!

This is not even the overall will of the American people as indicated by a recent poll by Caddell Associates on July 22, 2015. It revealed that almost three-quarters of Americans (71%) desire "a commonsense solution that both protects religious freedom and gay and lesbian couples from discrimination." Thus far, however, protection from such "discrimination" typically has come at the cost of religious freedom and freedom of conscience. When asked which was more important – protecting religious liberty or protecting homosexual rights – voters by a 4-to-1 margin (31% to 8%) chose religious freedom. Most of the rest said both are important.

### A Comforting Thought: Every Nation Will Fall, But One.

In the prophecy uttered by Daniel in chapter 2, there is a “Stone cut out of the mountain without hands”. This is Christ and His kingdom is the church. The Jewish nation of the chosen people of God was replaced by the nation that would bear the name of His Son. It is said of this new nation called the Christians *"But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; <sup>10</sup> for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY"* (1 Peter 2:9-10).

This nation, the church, would not be defined by location on earth, but a citizenship in heaven (Phil 3:20). The Christian nation does not have a capitol, but is located in the hearts of those who worship Him in “spirit and in truth” (John 4:24). They will not be following an earthly king, a prime minister or an elected president, but a Savior (John 10:27). *Revelation 19:16 "...on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."*

Nations will come and go, but the Christian nation is here to stay! We simply have to make sure that we are already citizens of this nation. We must have that fact embedded into our soul before moving on to a deeper study of the failing earthly nations. In the next lesson we will take a deeper look into how and why do nations fall, but comfort yourselves with the thought that our kingdom of Christ will never fall!