

# “The Coping Christian in One Nation Under Satan”

by Doug Hamilton

## VIII) Why do earthly nations always fall?

Thus far in the series, *The Coping Christian in One Nation Under Satan*, we have covered quite a bit.

- In the first lesson we examined the founding document of our nation, *The Declaration of Independence*. This manuscript revealed that our *certain unalienable rights* come from a *Creator*, not man. Fifty-six men staked their entire future against the British government with this as their basis.
- In lesson two we studied many of the Founding Fathers of our nation and discovered them to be God-fearing Christians.
- In lesson three we surveyed the early education of our nation and found it to be deeply Christian. This was true at all levels, from early education to the highest levels of college.
- In lesson four we took on the “Separation of Church and State” myth which is so commonly put forth by the secular humanists. Clearly this wall was meant to keep the government out of religion, not the other way around.
- In lesson five we covered the unraveling of the concept of being created with certain unalienable rights. Throughout our history this idea has been ignored through slavery, through misogynistic and now through persecution of religion itself.
- In lesson six we scrutinized a technique referred to as *historical revisionism* and how the same secularists have used it to erase our history.
- In lesson seven, we covered the fact that all nations will fall in the end, except the nation of Christ, which is His church.

In this, lesson eight, we will take a deeper look into the reasons why nations fall. To properly assess this, we must first understand the differences between applied and natural consequences of behavior.

### Applied and Natural Consequences

There are two types of consequences that exist in this life: Applied and Natural. When a person drives too fast in his car, an applied consequence would be a speeding ticket. The only damage is to the wallet and driving record of the violator. This is done to hopefully save the driver from some of the possible natural consequences of bad behavior. A natural consequence of speeding might be losing control of the car and crashing into another driver. The damage in this case is to the driver, the car, some property and possibly some others whom might have been in his path.

There are natural consequences and natural blessings built into the commandments of God. Even if someone is ignorant of the commandments of God, the natural effects will still come forth; they are built into creation itself. This is what Paul is referring to in Romans chapter one.

- Romans 1:19-20, "...because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them.<sup>20</sup> For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse."

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Paul would later go on to say in Romans 2:14-15 that the *"Gentiles who do not have the Law"* could *"do instinctively the things of the Law...in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts."* In other words, if a father, either a Christian or non-Christian, shows love and support for his child, both can benefit from God's natural laws built into the parenting equation. They will likely have a strong bond between them and it will serve them well. If the father neglects their children, both will likely have the natural consequences of a wounded relationship. The bulk of the blessings and curses are built into the commands of God. *Galatians 6:7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.* The law of the reaper applies to both the lost and the saved.

### National Consequences

The same is true of nations, for they are made up of many individuals. Peter states in *Acts 10:34-35* *"I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality,<sup>35</sup> but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him."* When a nation embraces the natural laws that are evident through observation of His creation, things will likely go well for that country. When a nation goes against God's intrinsic natural qualities, there will be a curse in its place and the culture will be at risk of decline.

### What are the natural laws of nations?

We simply need to go back to where God revealed the Ten Commandments to the Jews. There are ten specifics that God required the Jews to embrace in order to bless the nation; if they failed, the nation would be cursed. The Ten Commandments were nothing more than principles being specified to the Jews.

- Exodus 20:5-6 "For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me,<sup>6</sup> but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments."

How does one go from the specific commands of the Law to the natural laws of God? It is simple; we look for the principles built into each of them. God does not give commands without a reason (Isaiah 1:18), but with Divine intent of protection and benefit to us. We are the child; He is the parent. God is protecting us by showing the elementary principles that make nations strong.

Principle #1 "I will focus on this Creator of the Cosmos." (Exodus 20:3 "You shall have no other gods before Me.)

- The Law: The Jews were delivered out of Egypt and from their pagan god-system. The purpose of the plagues was to assault this god-system and begin the process of turning back to the God of the promise of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
- The Principle: "I will focus on the Creator of the Cosmos." As mentioned, the evidence of creation is all around us (Romans 1:19). It is intellectually dishonest to observe all we know of the Cosmos and come to the conclusion that there is not intelligent design of some sort. The more that is revealed through science, the more we know of our

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complexity, from the simplest single cell amoeba to the complex neuron of the human brain; we are *fearfully and wonderfully* designed (Ps 139:14). We cannot understand all there is to know about this intelligent Designer just from the evidence of the Cosmos, but we certainly cannot dismiss the evidence. To do so sends us down a path for which there is no excuse. The natural evidence calls for us to seek to know about Whom this Creator is.

**Principle #2** "I will put nothing on this earth ahead of the Creator." (Exodus 20:4 You shall not make for yourself an idol.)

- **The Law:** The Jewish nation was told not to be involved with idolatry. This is when men take something from creation, remake it and then exalt that ahead of God. Jehovah would not tolerate this in any form.
- **The Principle:** "I will put nothing on this earth ahead of the Creator." Recognition of creation naturally leads us to believe we are dealing with someone or something higher than us. In fact the Creator would have to be the highest being of all in our minds for it is this Designer that brought us into being. Anything we exalt above the Designer would be idolatry and would violate our conscience. It simply does not make sense to take something that He made, and from it, make it something to worship. There is no room in a successful society to do such.

**Principle #3** "I will show the reverence for the Creator." (Exodus 20:7 You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.)

- **The Law:** The Jewish nation was never to invoke the name of God in their dialogue, risking reduction of value of His holy name. They were to let their "*yes be yes and their no be no*" (Mt 23:16).
- **The Principle:** "I will show the reverence for the Creator". Knowledge of a Creator and the logic to never put anyone or anything ahead of Him, invokes a life that demonstrates the highest reverence. We strive hard to search for the ways to generate respect for that which is holy or perceived to be thereof.

**Principle #4** "I will dedicate time for the Creator." (Exodus 20:8 Remember the Sabbath.)

- **The Law:** The Deuteronomy 5:15 account gives the primary reason the Jews were commanded to rest on the Sabbath, "*You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt...*" They were slaves in Egypt when God delivered them. They did not have a day off, but worked all the time, and as a result God made them take a day off.
- **The Principle:** "I will dedicate time for the Creator." The society that embraces the logic of a Creator and reverence for Him must also take time to be devoted to the same. If the

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culture does not devote time to better understand Him, then the Creator is reduced down to less than He should be.

Principle #5 "I will value the experience of others." (Exodus 20:12 Honor father and mother.)

- The Law: The youngest generation of the Jewish society was to honor the generation above them. In this case it would be the parents of the children that would teach this lesson to be applied for the good of the nation. *Leviticus 19:32* 'You shall rise up before the grayheaded and honor the aged, and you shall revere your God; I am the LORD.' If they failed to honor those whom were more experienced, then the result would chaos (1 Kings 12:8).
- The Principle: "I will value the experience of others." For a nation to function, they must show respect for the experience and authority of others who have come before us. This begins with the parents and extends to even the most elderly of our society. If that is the national principle in place, then the people will be have the natural blessings of God.

Principle #6 "I will value the life of my fellow man." (Exodus 20:13 “You shall not murder.”)

- The Law: The word is "murder", not "kill", hence referring to human life. The Jewish nation was to value the life of all people. They were not to murder their children (Leviticus 18:21), their fellow Jew (Leviticus 24:17), or even the sojourners in the country (Leviticus 19:34). To do so was a capital offense punishable by execution.
- The Principle: For any civilization to succeed, there must be protection extended for the people of that nation. This applies to the least of them to the greatest of them, from the unborn to the elderly, from the lost and the saved. When respect all human life is absent, disorder ensues on many levels.

Principle #7 "I will value sexual purity." (Exodus 20:14 You shall not commit adultery.)

- The Law: The Jewish nation was to hold marriage as the highest covenant between human beings. They were taught that marriage was tri-fold: 1) A Family relationship, 2) a Life-long relationship and 3) a Sexual relationship (Genesis 2:24). They were commanded to not be like the gentiles whom usually lived very immoral lives. When the Israelites came into the land, the inhabitants were rampant in the sins of homosexuality, incest, bestiality, necrophilia, orgies or any other form of sexual immorality was to be sternly dealt with. They even sacrificed their infants to the gods of fertility with the “*Fire of Molech*” (Leviticus 18:21). God commanded circumcision to the Jewish men so they would be constantly reminded of their covenant against immorality. The only sex which God permitted for His nation was that which was in the bonds of marriage.

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- The Principle: "I will strive to be sexually pure." The nation that holds marriage in the highest *honor and undefiled* (Hebrews 13:4) will be strong. The offspring of that union will learn lessons of love, respect, sexuality and maturation to carry into their own marriages. When the national consensus says they will have purity in sexual relations that nation will be strong. To not do so will lead to all manners of immorality.

Principle #8 "I will value the personal blessings of others." (Exodus 20:15 "You shall not steal.")

- The Law: The Jewish people were not to be a nation of thieves; they had to show respect for the property of others. They understood that God allows blessings to come into their lives and respect of such honors Him.
- The Principle: "I will value the personal blessings of others." Any nation that does not respect the personal blessings of others will fall into chaos. When a politician levies class warfare, when a thief robs a house, when a bank defrauds a patron or a similar examples not valuing the personal blessings of others, it lashes out against the nation.

Principle #9 "I will value honesty." (Exodus 20:16 "You shall not bear false witness.")

- The Law: The Jewish nation was to be a people that walked in truth. God knew that if the people would not value the quality of truth, then deceit would take over the culture. *Exodus 23:1 "You shall not bear a false report; do not join your hand with a wicked man to be a malicious witness."*
- The Principle: "I will value honesty in my life." For a nation to succeed, there must be a societal consensus of the value of truth. To not do so will breed distrust and chaos among the populace. It doesn't matter if you call it a half-truth, a black lie, a white lie, a mis-truth, an outright lie or any other combination of the same, it is a false witness. If lies are allowed to seep into the culture, then truth will not be there to protect them.

Principle #10 "I will value contentment." (Exodus 20:17 You shall not covet.)

- The Law: The Jews were not to be coveting in their heart for other peoples' positions in life. *Dt 5:21 'You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, and you shall not desire your neighbor's house, his field or his male servant or his female servant, his ox or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor.'* God wanted them to be content with what they had, not being in wanton desire of others around them.
- The Principle: "I will value contentment". There is something to be said when a person is content in their life. They are not going to succumb to the earthly pulls of materialism or the throws of hedonism and excess. When this is not present there is not dependence on God, resulting in a straying people (Rev 3:17).

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History teaches us that when nations embrace these principles, then they are more likely to be strong and prosperous. This is not necessarily because of intervention from God, but the natural blessings which He has built into the formula. When nations pull away from these principles, with secularism, irreverence and immorality, then they will not stand.

### How do earthly nations fall?

The strength of a nation lies in shared societal values which reap natural generational blessings from God. It is the “Law of the Reaper”. When a nation chooses to go down a path of secularism, denying the existence and importance of God, something or someone must take its place. If that nation reaches a tipping point, then they all begin to fall like dominos. The society begins to do what is *right in their own eyes* (Judges 21:25). They curse the Creator. They stop valuing the seasoned and experienced citizens; they devalue human life; they fall into immoral behavior; they become confused over personal blessings; they make truth a catch phrase at best and are drawn into rampant chaos.

Some of the resulting natural consequences are the acceptance of inexperienced leaders, a devaluing of human life at every level, out of control immorality with disease, death and demoralization, people trusting their riches over God. The nation becomes a country of narcissists, each trying to seek one's own personal good. The national cohesiveness is permanently destroyed in the end and the nation implodes on itself from within. Proverbs 14:34 *“Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a disgrace to any people.”*

Nations fall when they collectively receive the natural consequences from their own foolishness. Fellow saints, this is where we are leading to today.

### This week's challenge:

- *Nehemiah 1:5–7 I said, “I beseech You, O LORD God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who preserves the covenant and lovingkindness for those who love Him and keep His commandments, <sup>6</sup> let Your ear now be attentive and Your eyes open to hear the prayer of Your servant which I am praying before You now, day and night, on behalf of the sons of Israel Your servants, confessing the sins of the sons of Israel which we have sinned against You; I and my father's house have sinned. <sup>7</sup> “We have acted very corruptly against You and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the ordinances which You commanded Your servant Moses.*

We must pull our heads out of the sand and get on our knees to God, confessing our national sins. We have all contributed to this problem. The people who came before us did the same. We must recognize this problem and be honest concerning the law of the reaper. We have sowed evil and the crop is coming in. In the next lesson we will want to cover what are the recognizable steps of the dying nation, but this week pour your hearts out in honesty to our God this week.