

“Cross over to the coasts of Kittim and look, send to Kedar and observe closely; see if there has ever been anything like this: Has a nation ever changed its gods? (Yet they are not gods at all.) But my people have exchanged their Glory for worthless idols. Be appalled at this, O heavens, and shudder with great horror,” declares the LORD.

My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken Me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water. Is Israel a servant, a slave by birth? Why, then, has he become plunder? Lions have roared; they have growled at him. They have laid waste his land; his towns are burned and deserted. Also, the men of Memphis and Tahpanhes have shaved the crown of your head. Have you not brought this on yourselves by forsaking the LORD your God when He led you in the way?

(Jeremiah 2:10-17)

No Excuses

There are some within the Body of Christ who have adopted a point of view called *replacement theology*, that because Israel has rejected the Lord Jesus as her Messiah, America has somehow replaced Israel in God’s viewpoint and now stands in her place in view of God’s promises and prophecies. I have written before criticizing this view as being in error, because God’s promises to Israel and her progenitor Abraham have never been revoked. There was a period of time (prophesied by the Lord Jesus Himself in Luke 21:24 and mentioned by the Apostle Paul in Romans 11:25) when God turned his attention to the Gentiles in order to make Israel jealous, but that Time of the Gentiles is coming an end. God is raising Israel up again and many believers are rediscovering the Jewish roots of the faith, to the point of even adopting what were once exclusively Jewish practices in worship. Evangelist/Author Perry Stone makes the case that there are many parallels between Israel and the United States, and that America has been the leading Gentile nation in order that the Gospel would be preached around the world. There is truth in this, particularly when you read the letters and documents written by the Founding Fathers (any nation that has as one of its slogans during its move for independence *No King but Jesus* enters into a covenant with God – check *Wall Builders’* website for details). But we must remember that when the Lord Jesus returns to rule on the Earth for 1,000 years, He will rule from Jerusalem, and that the United States is mentioned nowhere in prophecy. If the nation does exist during the Millennial Reign, she will be like one of the other nations that will bring tribute to the Lord during that period.

Why is replacement theology adopted in the first place? There are probably many reasons; none of them relevant, because Israel is still Israel and still the “apple of [God’s] eye” (Zechariah 2:8). The promises of God to Abraham have never been revoked. The most likely reason for replacement, I think, deals with the realization that America is not mentioned in Bible prophecy. If the covenant with God can be transferred from Israel to another nation, that nation would be established during the Millennial Reign and, thus, will survive the Tribulation period and possibly not come under the rule of the antichrist. On a more basic level, replacement holds the thought that America could somehow be judged less harshly for her own sins as a nation.

But if you look at the covenant Israel has with God, you might think otherwise. Because Israel was created to be a unique people, the terms of the Law and the Prophets were strict – so strict, in fact, that when Gentiles were being brought into the Church after Jesus' Resurrection and Ascension, the Church decided that the Law of Moses would not be imposed on Gentile converts first, since not even the people of the covenant could keep the covenant (refer to Acts 15 for details).

America has her own calling from God, as every nation does, and she will be held accountable for that calling and for her sins as a nation. She is already starting to feel the effects of judgment for her sins in terms of loss of prestige and in her rising indebtedness with other countries, making her vulnerable to domination by the countries holding her credit. The reference to Memphis and Tahpanhes shaving the crown of the collective nation's head is a reference to either the humiliation of prisoners of a nation defeated in war or as a sign of subservience to a dominant power. Either one is the sign of a nation out of favor with God.

America now persecutes believers – perhaps not as a matter of set policy, but she does nothing to stop the trampling of the rights of Christians trying to exercise their rights of Freedom of Worship under the Constitution. While America is still the largest producer of Bibles in the world, she is also one of the largest producers of pornography and instead of exporting the Gospel (her function in the Kingdom of God) she exports “the American way” to other countries, forgetting that it is the blessings of God for obedience to His Word that raises a nation's esteem in the eyes of the world. (Look at King Solomon in 1 Kings 4:29-34 who God made so wise that other nations sent envoys just to listen to him.) The slaughter of the innocents continues as Americans have murdered unborn children to the tune of 60 million – the equivalent of one-fifth of the current population of America – since the *Roe v. Wade* decision in 1973 opened the floodgates to the practice. Experimentation on human embryos for embryonic stem cells threatens to increase that number even more in the name of science.

I cannot say this strongly enough – America has no excuse, and no escape but one. Repentance and humility before God are the first steps in getting out of this trap, and ones that America must immediately take as a nation. The church must shake itself out of the false doctrines of materialism and selfishness, repent, and be the Body of Christ to this nation again. President Thomas Jefferson, in his *Notes on the State of Virginia*, wrote,

And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are the gift of God? That they are not to be violated but with his wrath? Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just: that his justice cannot sleep for ever”

God is still just... and He does not sleep.