

FATHER GOD, Forgive Us and Restore Us

From Daniel chapter 9, and personalized for our nation, the United States of America:

“Alas, O LORD, the great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and lovingkindness for those who love Him and keep His commandments, we have sinned, committed iniquity, acted wickedly and rebelled, even turning aside from Your commandments and ordinances.” We, the people of the United States of America, have largely forgotten You, our God, and Your Word, and have become exceedingly selfish, greedy, idolatrous, immoral, rebellious, unfaithful, and wicked. Moreover, we have become lukewarm and accepted the shedding of innocent blood of children as normal; the blood of more than 61.3 million babies pollutes our land and cries out to You continually, just as Abel’s blood cried out to you after Cain murdered his brother (Genesis 4:3-12; 2 Kings 3:27; 21:1-16; 24:1-4; Psalm 106:35-43). Regarding the lost babies, You are weeping over them and over our nation, and want Your people to be deeply concerned as You are.

We also know that our nation sinned against You and our brothers by accepting, authorizing and sustaining slavery for 246 years. You judged our nation by dividing us against one another and bringing the Civil War. But afterwards You poured out Your mercy and grace upon us, removed our need for slavery by accelerating inventions and the industrial revolution, and blessed us as no other nation has ever been blessed on the earth. Yet as a nation we never repented of slavery; thus many of us retain hatred or apathy, with unchanged hearts, because of our lack of repentance and forgiveness.

“Moreover, we have not listened to Your servants the prophets” priests and pastors, “who spoke in Your name to our . . . fathers and all the people of the land,” and who laid many righteous foundations for this nation. Therefore, during the past 100 years, on our watch and the watch of our parents and grandparents, we the Church have drifted away from the Scriptures, and lost our influence as light, as salt, and as “the pillar and support of the Truth” in our nation (Matthew 5:13-16; 1 Timothy 3:15). We stopped looking to You and wisdom from Your Word to guide us in our society, public policy and government, and our nation is now on the verge of self-destruction.

“Righteousness belongs to You, O LORD, but to us open shame, as it is this day . . . because of (our) unfaithful deeds which (we) have committed against You. Open shame belongs to us, O LORD” – to our church and government leaders who are our shepherds, and to us as husbands and fathers, wives and mothers, and children – “because we have sinned against You.” We have not “obeyed the voice of the LORD our God, to walk in His teachings which He set before us through His servants . . . Indeed all (the United States) have transgressed Your law and turned aside, not obeying Your voice; so the curse has been poured out on us, along with the oath which is written in the law of Moses the servant of God, for we have sinned against Him. Thus He has confirmed His words . . . to bring on us great calamity,” including divisions among our people to distinguish the wicked from the righteous, the Coronavirus pandemic, and lawlessness sweeping our nation. “As it is written in the law of Moses, all this calamity has come on us; yet we have not sought the favor of the LORD our God by turning from our iniquity and giving attention to Your truth.”

“Therefore the LORD has kept the calamity in store and brought it on us; for the LORD our God is righteous with respect to all His deeds which He has done, but we have not obeyed His voice. And now, O LORD our God, who” blessed our nation in generations past, and delivered us from our own sins and our enemies “with a mighty hand and have made a name for Yourself, as it is this day—we have sinned, we have been wicked. O LORD, in accordance with all Your righteous acts, let now Your anger and Your wrath turn away from” this nation whom You birthed and loved; “for because of our sins and the iniquities of our fathers,” we are “a reproach to all those around us.”

We know from Your Word and history that You relate to, bless, or judge nations in this life, because they are temporal and not eternal. Reveal to us our standing before You as a nation, and whatever ways You are judging us that we may know You, humble ourselves, and return to You.

“So now, our God, listen to the prayer of Your servant and to his supplications, and for Your sake, O LORD, let Your face shine on Your desolate” Church and beloved nation. “O my God, incline Your ear and hear! Open Your eyes and see our desolations . . . for we are not presenting our supplications before You on account of any merits of our own, but on account of Your great compassion. O LORD, hear! O LORD, forgive! O LORD, listen and take action! For Your own sake, O my God, do not delay, because Your . . . people are called by Your name.”