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We Have Forgotten

By Teresa Hampton

Abraham Lincoln said, “We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven. We have been preserved, these many years, in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth and power, as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own.”

We would do well to take notice of his words, but what is more important, we should take notice of God’s word. *Righteousness exalts a nation but sin is a reproach to any people* (Prov. 14:34), and, *Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!* (Psalm 33:12).

A cursory glance at Jewish history reveals that God had mercy on nations, even pagan nations like Nineveh, that repented and honored him (Jonah). And His mighty wrath came down on kingdoms who forsook Him, yes, even the chosen seed of Israel.

Developing a righteous country begins with individuals like you and me who are blessed with God’s gracious gift of salvation. With these blessings, however, come responsibilities. We must continue to obey God, guide our families to obey Him, and aggressively teach the gospel so the Lord’s church will flourish in our land.

Another responsibility we have is to seek men and women to rule over us who uphold the moral standards created by God. We are blessed immeasurably to have the freedom to choose our rulers. We can vote them in and vote them out. God has given us knowledge and wisdom to discern, to the best of our ability, the character of the people we choose to govern us locally or nationally. We should be alert when a candidate for public office, or one who is presently in office, openly endorses unrighteousness or is unwilling to stand for God’s principles of morality in the face of political pressure to conform.

Mr Lincoln was right. We are the recipients of the bounties of heaven and earth. Shame on us if we do not step up and represent God while enjoying the peace and prosperity He alone has given us!

Today’s Verse: *For the Lord brought Judah low because of Ahaz, king of Israel, for he had encouraged moral decline in Judah...* (1 Chron. 28:19).

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