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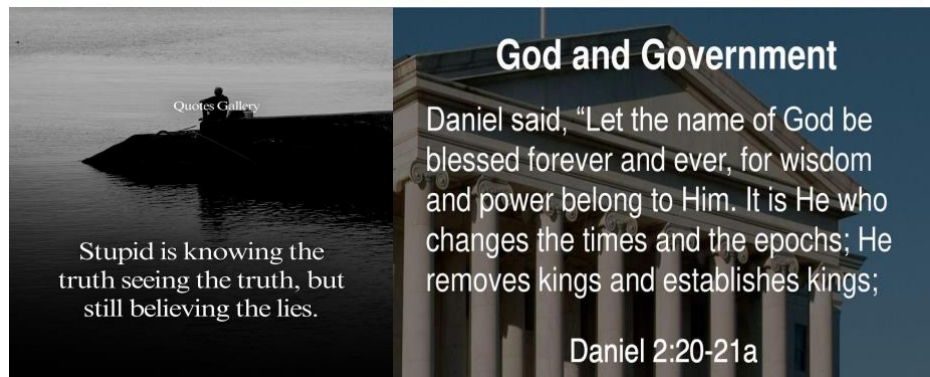
Free Booklet : "Are We Led By The Spirit Of God?"

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Salted Speech Colossians 4:6

- ~ "It is impossible to govern rightly without God and the Bible." ---George Washington
- ~ "A free society is one where it is safe to be unpopular." ---Adlai Stevenson
- ~ "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?" ---Thomas Jefferson
- ~ "God governs in the affairs of men, and if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid?" ---Benjamin Franklin
- ~ The fellow who say he will meet you halfway is sometimes a poor judge of distance.

The Sword of the Spirit never becomes dull from use!



God's Burden Against America by John T. Polk II

Proverbs 14:34: "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people."

"Righteousness" is the state or condition of being "right:"

- As defined by God: "Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous" (**1 John 3:7**);
- By His commandments: "My tongue shall speak of Your word, For all Your commandments are righteousness" (**Psalms 119:172**);
- By His example: "And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous" (**1 John 2:1**).

1. Governments exist to protect the "righteous" within their citizenry: "For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake" (**Romans 13:3-5**).

Every law; court-ruling; verbally-abusive, bullying, headlined propaganda piece; Harlotwood perversely-slanted movie or TV program will be considered in God's Judgment of this, or any other, nation!

2. Speaking to Christians about the Jewish persecution of them, Paul wrote: "For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God which are in Judea in Christ Jesus. For you also suffered the same things from your own countrymen, just as they did from the Judeans, who killed both the Lord Jesus and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they do not please God and are contrary to all men, forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they may be saved, so as always to fill up the measure of their sins; but wrath has come upon them to the uttermost" (**1 Thessalonians 2:14-16**).

3. God would not destroy the homosexually-corrupted cities of Sodom & Gomorrah (**Genesis 18:20; 19:1-11**) if there were as few as ten righteous among them (**Genesis 18:23-33**), but there were not. **God had a "burden" of judgment against** nations, countries, and cities where sin had prevailed:

- **Babylon (Isaiah 13:1) and Nineveh (Nahum 1:1);**
- **Moab (Isaiah 15:1);**
- **Damascus in Syria (Isaiah 17:1);**
- **Egypt (Isaiah 19:1); and**
- **Arabia (Isaiah 21:13).**

Assyria (not covenant-keepers of Moses' Law!) was told by the prophet: "The LORD has given a command concerning you: 'Your name shall be perpetuated no longer. Out of the house of your gods I will cut off the carved image and the molded image. I will dig your grave, For you are vile'"

(Nahum 1:14)

Since then, none of these have ever arisen again to their former prominence and power!

4. Since Jesus Christ has come, no country is God's chosen people except the spiritual kingdom known as the churches of Christ (Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 16:16). All God requires of every nation is to uphold and encourage right thinking and right doing: "Yet the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is not fair.' O house of Israel, is it not My ways which are fair, and your ways which are not fair? Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways," says the Lord GOD. Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin" **(Ezekiel 18:29-30)**. **God is "fair," for He accepts anyone who obeys Him:** "Then Peter opened his mouth and said: 'In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him'" **(Acts 10:34-35)**. **Jesus Christ pronounced the principle that saves:** "And He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned'" **(Mark 16:15-16)** This Gospel obeyed, exalts any nation. < *"The further a society drifts from truth the more it will hate those who speak it."* — **George Orwell** > ---jtpll

"A well-regulated militia, composed of the body of the people, trained in arms, is the best most natural defense of a free country." —James Madison

Lessons from a Snowflake

During the huge winter storm that swept across the nation, one weatherman showed up-close pictures of snowflakes sent in by a viewer, and that reminded me of the amazing beauty of God's creative power. There are many lessons we can learn from the humble snowflake.

Snowflakes show God's amazing design. If you look at a snowflake under magnification, you will see they all have six points or sides, but take on an endless variety of shapes, styles, and sizes. What seems simple to the casual observer is actually an individual work of art by the hand of God. *"The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork"* (Psalm 19:1).

Each snowflake is unique. Millions of snowflakes fall on this earth, and each one is different! Many may look similar, but they each have unique qualities that make them special. People are like that too. *"I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well"* (Psalm 139:14). The unique qualities you have can all be used for God's glory.

The closer you get, the more beautiful they become. Looking at a snowflake from far away, you may not see any design, beauty, or strength to it. But when you get closer, you can see that is not the case! This is how it is with people, as well. The church needs to recognize we are all important and beautiful because we are God's handiwork (1 Cor. 12:12-20)! Draw closer to your brothers and sisters, and you will recognize the value of each.

Snowflakes have greater strength together. One snowflake by itself is not very strong. But put a whole bunch of snowflakes together, and you can make a snowball, a fort, or a snowman. A lot of snow together can stop traffic, shut down electrical grids, and bring daily routines to a grinding halt. This quality of snowflakes reminds us that as Christians, we are stronger together. When the church sets its efforts on a common goal, and works together, we can accomplish great things for the kingdom of God (Acts 9:26-31).

Snowflakes are short lived. From the time it is formed to the time it falls to the ground, then melts and evaporates, is a very short time. Our lives are fleeting as well (James 4:14). That's why we should make the most of the time we are allowed.

So let the humble snowflake point you to God and His amazing creation!