

The Late, Great United States of America and Bible Prophecy: Are we seeing the "end of the beginning" of the destruction of this country?

The U.S.A. is confronted with perhaps as many momentous events at one time as the country has experienced in its history.

- A world-wide COVID-19 pandemic has caused paranoia, governmental oppression, and loss of liberties.
- The U.S. is on the verge of an economic depression caused by the COVID-19 virus lockdown.
- What many have believed, and is just recently being uncovered, there has been an attempted coup of a President of the U.S. and his administration by people in and out of the government.
- A horrendous murder by a police officer precipitated riots and charges from all corners of society that the U.S. is a "systemically" racist country.

Are we seeing the end of the U.S.A.? Romans 1:21-32 lays out the "de-evolution" of a society or nation that MUST be considered in light of the history of the U.S.A.

21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

The U.S.A. was **NEVER** a Christian nation.

- As Bible believers we need to understand Christian biblically. Biblically, a Christian is one who FIRST has been born again, and SECOND, is following the Lord.
- Many of our founders were culturally Christian, but not biblically Christian. America was **influenced** by "Christian" principles, often biblical principles, but we were not founded as a Christian nation.

"Although the Founders were profoundly influenced by Christianity, they did not design a constitutional order only for fellow believers. They explicitly prohibited religious tests for federal offices, and they were committed to the proposition that all men and women should be free to worship God (or not) as their consciences dictate."

"America has drifted from these first principles [1. Humans are created in the image of God. 2. Convinced that humans are sinful, they attempted to avoid the concentration of power by framing a national government with carefully enumerated powers. 3. They believed in liberty but not licentiousness.] We would do well to reconsider the wisdom of these changes."

"Finally, we ignore at our peril the Founders' insight that democracy requires a moral people and that faith is an important, if not indispensable, support for morality."

<https://www.heritage.org/political-process/report/did-america-have-christian-founding>

22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

"Although secular humanism comprises a diverse set of perspectives, certain commonalities exist within all its forms. Norman L. Geisler condenses the beliefs into five categories shared by all secular humanists, which include nontheism, naturalism, evolution, ethical relativism, and self-sufficiency."

<https://www.livestransforming.com/critique-of-secular-humanism/>

"Since then [1960s], humanist ideology has been spreading like wildfire. It permeates virtually every aspect of contemporary society. It's being promoted through our educational systems, news media, entertainment, advertising and governments. It is at the heart and core of today's so-called culture wars.

"Ultimately, the driving force behind the spread of secular humanism is none other than Satan the devil. Just as Satan convinced Adam and Eve to make their own rules about right and wrong, we, too, can be duped by faulty thinking if we're not on guard.

"Satan is extremely clever and knows how to mix good with evil. That's why certain issues advocated by humanists might sound good on the surface or even have some validity, but in reality be quite destructive. Peter admonishes us, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8). We must understand the ramifications of humanist thinking so we don't become deceived ourselves." <https://lifehopeandtruth.com/discern/may-june-2019/secular-humanism/>

23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

Verses 21 - 23 is where a society (nation) starts to self-destruct.

Leaving the principles of biblical morality, considering themselves wise when in reality they are fools, man and animals becomes the center of thought and concern.

- 24 **Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:**
- 25 **Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.**
- 26 **For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:**
- 27 **And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.**
- 28 **And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;**

When a nation reaches the place of verse 21-23, God than starts His judgment upon that nation.

Vs. 24 Sexual sin between men and women - This sin started to become prevalent in the U.S. in the 1960s. Today, it is accepted by all but the very religious as acceptable practice.

"...most Americans find cohabitation acceptable, even for couples who don't plan to get married, according to a new Pew Research Center survey. Even so, a narrow majority says society is better off if couples in long-term relationships eventually get married."

"Views about marriage and cohabitation are also linked to religious affiliation. About three-quarters of Catholics (74%) and white Protestants who do not self-identify as born-again or evangelical (76%) say it's acceptable for an unmarried couple to live together even if they don't plan to get married. By contrast, only 47% of black Protestants and 35% of white evangelical Protestants share this view. And while half or more across these groups say society is better off if couples who want to stay together long-term eventually get married, white evangelicals are the most likely to say this (78% do so). Among those who are not religiously affiliated, fully nine-in-ten say cohabitation is acceptable even if a couple doesn't plan to get married, and just 31% say society is better off if couples who want to stay together eventually get married." Marriage and Cohabitation in the U.S., November 2019. <https://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2019/11/06/marriage-and-cohabitation-in-the-u-s/>

"Wherefore God also gave them up..."

Vs. 25 Secular humanism, self-gratification, became the standard.

Vs. 26 - 27 Homosexual sin

Not only is homosexuality allowe in our culture, it is glorified. For the first time in history a government has legalized homosexual marriage.

"For this cause God gave them up..."

Vs. 28 Reprobate mind

"...people who are classified as having a reprobate mind have some knowledge of God and perhaps know of His commandments. However, they live impure lives and have very little desire to please God. Those who have reprobate minds live corrupt and selfish lives. Sin is justified and acceptable to them. The reprobates are those whom God has rejected and has left to their own devices." <https://www.gotquestions.org/reprobate-mind.html>

Robert Haldane says about the KJV rendering of "not proper" as "not convenient":
 "This is a very just and literal translation, according to the meaning of the word convenient in an early stage of the history of our language; but it does not, at present, give the exact idea. The original word signifies what is suitable to the nature of man as a rational and moral being. To do things not convenient, is a figurative expression denoting the doing of things directly contrary and opposite, namely, to the light of reason, the reflections of prudence, and the dictates of conscience." Exposition of the Epistle to the Romans

"God gave them over..."

29 **Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,**
 30 **Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,**
 31 **Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:**
 32 **Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them**

A nation under the judgment of God (remember the progression of verses 21 - 28).

1. They knew God but became vain (to become foolish, i.e. (morally) wicked or (specially), idolatrous)
2. They thought they were smart but in reality became fools (*mo-rah'-ee-no* - to become insipid; figuratively, to make (passively, act) as a simpleton:--become fool, make foolish, lose savour)
3. God started His judgment upon this nation: first with heterosexual practices being accepted; then with homosexual practices being accepted; finally with the nation being given over to a reprobate mind that is self-destructive in its practices.
4. This nation is "filled" with the following sins that brings destruction to the nation.

Vs. 29 "Being filled is perfect tense which speaks of having become filled and remaining in that state, thus pointing to a state of filling and controlling. They are completely filled and thus totally permeated and controlled by an undiscerning rejected worthless mind! This is a frightening truth: Men shook their fist at their Creator and He gave them what they lusted for...to be their own god. This is revelation of God's just wrath against unrighteous man! What a tragic, grievous picture of MAN APART FROM GOD. Not being controlled by just a portion of unrighteousness but being filled with ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS." https://www.preceptaustin.org/romans_129-31

unrighteousness "Rather than a general concept of injustice, this word was taken, in the writings of Plato, to mean an unjust act which injures a specific person. Such an act was not necessarily a violation of some specific law, but rather an affront against the just order of society. Among the acts which fell into this category were theft, fraud, and sexual crimes."
https://www.preceptaustin.org/romans_129-31

fornication "This was a common and almost universal sin among the ancients, as it is among the moderns. The word denotes all illicit intercourse." Albert Barnes NT Commentary

wickedness "In Greek this word (*poneria*) means more than badness. There is a kind of badness which, in the main, hurts only the person concerned. It is not essentially an outgoing badness. When it hurts others, as all badness must, the hurt is not deliberate. It may be thoughtlessly cruel, but it is not callously cruel. But the Greeks defined *poneria* as the desire of doing harm. It is the active, deliberate will to corrupt and to inflict injury." William Barclay, Daily Study Bible, Romans 1

covetousness "The Greeks themselves defined *pleonexia* as the accursed love of having. It is an aggressive vice. It has been described as the spirit which will pursue its own interests with complete disregard for the rights of others, and even for the considerations of common humanity. Its keynote is rapacity. Theodoret, the Christian writer, describes it as the spirit that aims at more, the spirit which grasps at things which it has no right to take. It may operate in every sphere of life. If it operates in the material sphere, it means grasping at money and goods, regardless of honour and honesty. If it operates in the ethical sphere, it means the ambition which tramples on others to gain something which is not properly meant for it. If it operates in the moral sphere, it means the unbridled lust which takes its pleasure where it has no right to take. *Pleonexia* is the desire which knows no law."
 William Barclay, Daily Study Bible, Romans 1

maliciousness "is deliberate wickedness which takes pleasure in doing harm. *Kakia* is the quality of wickedness, with the implication of that which is harmful or damaging. It is often translated in a narrow sense for malice, describing a deep-seated feelings against a person that includes hatred that lasts on and on. It is an intense and long-lasting bitterness against a person. It is actually wishing that something bad would happen to a person. It actually means wickedness, a deliberate intention to harm (actively plotting revenge; passively mad when they are blessed and happy when they have misfortune)." https://www.preceptaustin.org/romans_129-31

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| full of | "Full" (mestos) signifies full up, full to the utmost, "stuffed"! Mestos is generally makes reference to that of or with which a person or thing is full. |
| envy | "Envy differs from jealousy in that the former desires merely to deprive another of what he has, whereas the latter desires as well to have the same, or a similar, thing for itself." Vines Dictionary |
| murder | a nation filled with murders |
| debate (strife) | "is the contention which is born of envy, ambition, the desire for prestige, and place and prominence. It comes from the heart in which there is jealousy. If a man is cleansed of jealousy, he has gone far to being cleansed of all that arouses contention and strife. It is God-given gift to be able to take as much pleasure in the successes of others as in one's own." William Barclay, Daily Study Bible, Romans 1 |
| deceit | "Deceit is an attempt to trap or to trick and thus involves treachery... Deception sometimes comes from within, as our desires impel us to deceive. But more often in the NT, deceit is error urged by external evil powers or by those locked into the world's way of thinking." Larry Richards, <u>Expository Dictionary of Bible Words</u> : Regency |
| malignity | "Literally signifies bad custom or disposition, yet it generally signifies something more specific, and is with sufficient propriety rendered malignity, which is a desire to hurt others without any other reason than that of doing evil to them, and finding pleasure in their sufferings." Robert Haldane, <u>Exposition of the Epistle to the Romans</u> |
| whisperers | "It is called whispering, not from the tone of the voice, but from the secrecy. It is common to speak of a thing being whispered, not from being communicated in a low voice, but from being privately spoken to individuals. It refers to sowing divisions. It is one of the most frequent and injurious methods of calumny (a misrepresentation intended to blacken another's reputation), because, on the one hand, the whisperer escapes conviction of falsehood, and, on the other, the accused has no means of repelling the secret calumny." Robert Haldane, <u>Exposition of the Epistle to the Romans</u> |
| Backbiters | "Slanderers" (KJV = "backbiting") is found only here in the NT and describes those who speak evil against of others with the intent to injure the one spoken about. A slanderer is one who "blackens" publicly. https://www.preceptaustin.org/romans_129-31 |
| haters of God | "This is the only NT use of <i>theostuges</i> . The ancient Greeks used to call theostuges someone who turned against God. When any heavy calamity befell such a person, He would accuse God and His providence." https://www.preceptaustin.org/romans_129-31 |
| despiteful | " <i>Hubris</i> was to the Greek the vice which supremely courted destruction at the hand of the gods. It has two main lines of thought in it. (1) It describes the spirit of the man who is so proud that he defies God. It is the insolent pride that goes before a fall. It is the forgetting that man is a creature. It is the spirit of the man who is so confident in his wealth, his power and his strength that he thinks that he can live life alone. (2) It describes the man who is wantonly and sadistically cruel and insulting. Aristotle describes it as the spirit which harms and grieves someone else, not for the sake of revenge and not for any advantage that may be gained from it, but simply for the sheer pleasure of hurting." William Barclay, Daily Study Bible, Romans 1 |
| proud | "The man who is <i>huperephanos</i> is the one who shows himself above. This man who because of his feeling of personal superiority, regards others with haughtiness. He is puffed up with a high opinion of himself, and thus regards others with contempt, as if they were unworthy of any social interactions. The noun <i>huperephania</i> is usually translated pride which is one of those sins which Jesus says proceeds out of a man's heart (Mark 7.22 = only NT use of <i>huperephania</i>)." https://www.preceptaustin.org/romans_129-31 |
| boasters | "(alazon) is used only one other time in 2 Timothy 3:2 (describing men in the last days when difficult times come) and refers to the loud arrogant boaster who expresses pride in oneself or one's accomplishments and often suggests ostentation and exaggeration." https://www.preceptaustin.org/romans_129-31 |

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| inventors of evil things | "...is found only here in the NT and describes the man who, so to speak, is not content with the usual, ordinary ways of sinning, but who seeks out new vices because he has grown blasé and seeks a new thrill in some new sin. With the proliferation of technology we have seen numerous ways in which men have become "inventors of evil" and most are so evil they will not even be mentioned in these notes!" https://www.preceptaustin.org/romans_129-31 |
| disobedient to parents | "Both Jews and Romans set obedience to parents very high in the scale of virtues. It was one of the Ten Commandments that parents should be honored. In the early days of the Roman Republic, the patria potestas, the father's power, was so absolute that he had the power of life and death over his family. The reason for including this sin here is that, once the bonds of the family are loosened, wholesale degeneracy must necessarily follow." William Barclay, Daily Study Bible, Romans 1 |
| Without understanding | "For although the persons so described were not destitute of understanding as to the things of this world, but as to these might be the most intelligent and enlightened, yet, in a moral sense, or as respects the things of God, they were unintelligent and stupid." Robert Haldane, <u>Exposition of the Epistle to the Romans</u> |
| covenantbreakers | "describes covenant breakers or men and women who are 'non-covenant-keeping.' Such individuals break promises, treaties, agreements, and contracts whenever it serves their purposes." https://www.preceptaustin.org/romans_129-31 |
| without natural affection | "To be <i>astorgos</i> is therefore to be "without natural affection" (KJV). Just as the self-loving person is without common decency, he also is without common affection. He cares nothing for the welfare of those who should be dearest to him. His only interest in them is for what he believes they can do for him. To be unloving is to be heartless." John MacArthur |
| implacable | "The word here shows a deadly enmity; the highest pitch of an unforgiving spirit; in a word, persons who would not make reconciliation either to God or man." Adam Clarke's Commentary |
| unmerciful | " <i>Aneleemon</i> applies to those who do not feel for the distresses of others, whatever may be the cause of their distresses; and to those who inflict these distresses it peculiarly applies." https://www.preceptaustin.org/romans_129-31 |

CONCLUSION:

The late British diplomat Sir John Glubb wrote a book in 1977 called "*The Fate of Empires and Search For Survival*." Glubb noted the average age of empires since the time of ancient Assyria (859-612 B.C.) is 250 years. Only the Mameluke Empire in Egypt and the Levant (1250-1517) made it as far as 267 years. America is 244 years old and is exhibiting signs of decline.

"All empires begin," writes Glubb, "with the age of pioneers, followed by ages of conquest, commerce, affluence, intellect and decadence." America appears to have reached the age of decadence, which Glubb defines as marked by "defensiveness, age of intellect (endless talking but no action), the intensification of internal political hatreds, influx of foreigners, pessimism, materialism, frivolity, national pride, the welfare state, and a weakening of religion."

"It is of interest to note that decadence is the disintegration of a system, not of its individual members... Neither is decadence physical... Decadence is a moral and spiritual disease, resulting from too long a period of wealth and power, producing cynicism, decline of religion, pessimism and frivolity."

"Perhaps, in fact, we may reach the conclusion that the successive rise and fall of great nations is inevitable and, indeed, a system divinely ordained.

The end of the U.S.A. may be near as history suggests. But it is not history that brings about the destruction of the U.S.A. but God's judgment. The decline and destruction of nations is, in fact, exactly what a dispensational understanding of the Bible teaches. The beginning of God's judgment started as early as the 1960s. The end of God's judgment, very possibly and likely, is near!

- If the news exposing the hypocrisy, lies, duplicitousness, etc., are producing negative emotions - DON'T WATCH.
- "Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth," Colossians 3:2.
- "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus," Philippians 4:6-7.