

## **The Fate of Nations**

Harmony M.B.C., October 4, 2009 (Morning)

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Job 12:23 He increaseth the nations, and destroyeth them: he enlargeth the nations, and straiteneth them *again*.

When we look at world politics and the relationships among nations we are tempted to imagine that the power and influence of a nation is determined by how well a nation can play global politics, how much it can offer the rest of the world, and what threat of force it can muster or present to the world. These characteristics have seemed to make America the dominant nation on earth for the past 100 + years. In fact playing global politics well has been the strong point of every nation that was ever perceived as being a leading world player. Because of that, mankind has come to accept as a law of earth that nations lead the field among the countries of the world when they could display these characteristics. Political savvy on a global scale, having wealth and in some way sharing it with the rest of the world, and being recognized as having superior fire power and knowing how and when to use it have been hallmarks of America. Until now. Now, our leaders seem to be acting like high school kids playing at government, our nation appears to be on the verge of financial collapse, and are promising the world that we have not intention of flexing our muscle while at the same time adopting policies that will take away our military might. So, if things go as they look like they might, we may in the near future be discredited as not having any political savvy, the U.S. dollar may soon be worth less than 10 cents, and we may have no superior fire power to display to the world. If these things occur, then our power and influence will be gone. But, I want to ask everyone to answer this question: does a nation shine because it has these things, or does it have these things because of something else that makes it shine? Our bible text this morning answers that question, and I want us to look at the truth of our text and realize some things about God, The Nation Builder.

### **I. It is God That Makes or Breaks Nations**

We know that when He makes a nation, it DOES shine upon the earth

Exhibits wealth, power, prestige, is honored, brings glory to the earth, promotes improvements in local and world cultures

When He breaks a nation, it weakens, degenerates, and becomes a second-rate influence on the global scene, and eventually disappears from the face of the earth.

This is not the work of stupid men acting as free agents, or political forces out of control, or circumstances of the time; it is by permission of God that all the underlying factors that bring the downfall of a nation should be let loose to straiten or destroy it. This kind of control and intent of God is revealed to us in His own words written about how he intended to get rid of the government and state of Israel: (Isaiah 10:5-6) O Assyrian, the rod of mine anger, and the staff in their hand is mine indignation. 6 I will send him against a hypocritical nation, and against the people of my wrath will I give him a charge, to take the spoil, and to take the prey, and to tread

them down like the mire of the streets.

Notice also how God gives credit to Himself for the calamities that fall upon a nation that has rejected Him: Deut. 32:23-25 I will heap mischiefs upon them; I will spend mine arrows upon them. 24 *They shall be* burnt with hunger, and devoured with burning heat, and with bitter destruction: I will also send the teeth of beasts upon them, with the poison of serpents of the dust. 25 The sword without, and terror within, shall destroy both the young man and the virgin, the suckling *also* with the man of gray hairs.

## **II. What is it that causes God to increase, enlarge or guide a nation, and what is it that causes God to destroy one?**

See the pattern of God in Deut. 32:9-19

Also: Jer 5:6-9 Wherefore a lion out of the forest shall slay them, *and* a wolf of the evenings shall spoil them, a leopard shall watch over their cities: every one that goeth out thence shall be torn in pieces: because their transgressions are many, *and* their backslidings are increased. 7 How shall I pardon thee for this? thy children have forsaken me, and sworn by *them that are* no gods: when I had fed them to the full, they then committed adultery, and assembled themselves by troops in the harlots houses. 8 They were *as* fed horses in the morning: every one neighed after his neighbor's wife. 9 Shall I not visit for these *things*? saith the LORD: and shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this?

## **III. What can we as the people of God do for our country when it has brought His anger and judgment upon itself?**

2Ch 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

Psa 117:1 O praise the LORD, all ye nations: praise him, all ye people.

Pro 14:34 Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin *is* a reproach to any people.

Psa 33:12 Blessed *is* the nation whose God *is* the LORD; *and* the people *whom* he hath chosen for his own inheritance.