

GATEWAY INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS REPORT

“A Passion For Souls”

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Dear Beloved GIMI Team Members,
As I begin writing my article for this July/August edition of our GIMI newsletter, I would like to ask you to please help me pay an enormous tribute to one of the greatest servants of God that He ever gave to the world.



This man was Dr. Ray Starnes who had been living in Latta, SC with his dear wife, Kay, for quite a very long time. Pastor Ray went on to heaven to be with Jesus on Friday, May 24, 2024.

Pastor Ray was one of several wonderful preachers of the Gospel who made such an impact on my young ministry after I surrendered to the Gospel ministry.

When I started my ministry at the age of only 18 years old, Pastor Ray was the pastor of the Beulah Baptist Church in my hometown of Taylorsville, NC. After surrendering to the ministry at 18, I decided to enroll in what is now Fruitland Baptist Bible College in Hendersonville, NC. When I began my classes in August of 1967, I was privileged to meet Pastor Ray. In a short time, we became good friends. In fact, a short time later, Brother Ray and I became roommates in the school dormitory. And, since we drove home each Friday,

Brother Ray and I began to travel back and forth together every week. He and I became great friends, but the most wonderful thing was that he took me under his wing and begin to help me with so many things in my young ministry that I could never thank him enough for all he did to help me.

Pastor Ray spent a lot of time helping me to learn so very much about the life of a minister. The greatest thing he did was to teach me a lot of Biblical theology, especially about the coming rapture of the church and the premillennial return of Christ. He helped God to create a tremendous desire in my heart to study prophecy and the forthcoming return of Christ. Because of Brother Ray's strong teaching, I was able to settle my doctrinal belief about the return of Christ, even in a school that at that time was heavy on teaching postmillennialism. So, I owe so much to Pastor Ray for teaching me the truth about so many doctrines, and not just the end-time events.

In addition to being a great teacher, Brother Ray was a great preacher who excelled in the pulpit when he preached some of the deepest sermons I ever heard from any pulpit. Any person who sat under Pastor Ray's preaching would without a doubt become a Biblically educated believer in Christ.

After Brother Ray and I graduated from Fruitland Bible College, he began a long fruitful ministry, which put him in several pastorates from North Carolina to Texas. I began my pastoral ministry in a small church in North Wilkesboro, NC. As time went by, I preached several revivals for Brother Ray in all of his churches; even the church in Texas when I was traveling as a full-time evangelist. But also, Brother Ray preached in several of my churches where I pastored eleven different churches.

In every one of the revivals which Pastor Ray preached for me, our people came away tremendously blessed with many deeply new truths from the Bible that very few people would ever deal with, especially in a revival meeting at as a guest preacher.

I will close this tribute to Pastor Ray Starnes by telling you that I have been weeping as I wrote this tribute. I already miss Brother Ray so much. We may not have been able to spend much time in recent years due to both of us having bad health. There is a soon-coming day when we will sit together at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb and reminisce about those many years we had to enjoy the work of God together. As I mentioned earlier, Brother Ray was just one of the many preachers that helped me get started well in the work of God. He was near the top of the lists because he was so genuine and passionate about helping this young preacher get started in fulfilling the call of God to fulltime ministry! Thank you, Pastor Ray for a job well done! Please help us pray for Kay and her daughter Rayetta and her family as they hurt from Brother Ray's departure to be with Jesus!

I AM PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN!



As I begin the newsletter this time, I would like to tell every one of you dear readers, that in spite of the horrible conditions that our beloved country is now in because of so much corruption and evil, I am still extremely thrilled to tell you that I am truly proud to be an American! I say this because of the Biblical principles that this country was established upon back on July 4, 1776; 248 years ago! Regardless of the vicious and wicked naysayers and corrupt "Woke" crowd that has tried to take over our country under the leadership of lying Joe Biden and his demonic controlled colleagues, America is still the greatest country that God ever established on this earth.

Yes, when we take a serious look at what is going on in these final days just before the rapture of the church (**II Timothy 3:1-8**), I must tell you that it is easy for us to become seriously discouraged when we see our families and the family principles being destroyed by defiant people rebelling against God, and the truth of His word. Then, when we take a look at the present condition of the contemporary churches in our country, and the garbage coming from so many pulpits, I would like to give you a list of the names of these phony pretending preachers and church leaders, but I won't in order to hopefully keep your attention on the rest of this newsletter. And then, how could any human being buy into this evil 'woke' philosophy that throws God and every righteous truth from the Bible out the window, leading to the eventual total lostness of Christ-rejecting people and an eternal home in hell. Yes, since Satan has deceived and taken over so much territory in this, we are watching a lost generation of people rebelling against God and anything righteous, just because they want to enjoy their sinfulness without ever being held accountable! Yes, all that has been happening, and still is happening in our country, is causing much fear, an attitude of hopelessness, and bringing many doubts about our lives; even our relationship with Jesus. But dear beloved friends, we must never forget who is finally going to win this battle! In the meantime, until Jesus returns, or we die, **WE MUST KEEP STANDING UP FOR JESUS AND THE PRINCIPLES UPON WHICH AMERICA WAS FOUNDED! Just never forget that these wicked 'woke' God-denying people are going to hell, unless they get saved.**



Summer Time In North Carolina

Blessed Mid-summer greetings to you in the precious name of Jesus! I pray that as this year is moving by so quickly, you are enjoying your relationship with Jesus, and that you are faithfully serving Him wherever you are. I believe every born-again child of God should understand that after we get saved, it is God's will that He be first in our lives. In other words, we need to come to grips with the seriousness of understanding why God saved us through His death, burial, and resurrection. He did not save us just to go heaven when we die. **He saved each of us to find or discover His perfect will for our lives.** When we do find His perfect will, and we begin to live and walk in it, we will discover that God's plan for all of us is to do what Jesus said in **Matthew 6:33**, where He told His disciples and us today the following words; **"But seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all things will be added unto you."** And, today as I was looking through my Bible for some wonderful words for our newsletter, I ran across another verse that is so very important to every one of us who is genuinely saved. These words are found in **Luke 2:49**, **"And He said unto them, how is it that ye sought me? Did you not know that I must be about my Father's business?"** These are profound words coming from the lips of our Savior, and especially because His parents had brought Him to Jerusalem at the age of 12 to dedicate Him to God, which would have been a lasting vow of thanksgiving and worship. But yet, it is obvious that Mary and Joseph had forgotten that He came to fulfill the promise of the coming Messiah, and therefore, just as the time for their young boy came to be dedicated to God for His upcoming 33 plus years of ministry while here on earth, His parents had forgotten that the Angel Gabriel had even told them that Jesus would be the Messiah. It is very clear that Mary and Joseph had gone up to Jerusalem with the right motive to dedicate Jesus to God, and to fulfill God's promise that when He had been dedicated to God for His upcoming ministry, He would be serving in obedience to His Father's plan and purpose for His ministry. Then, after 33 ½ years of earthly living and work, He would ultimately die on the cross for the sins of the entire world, and then rise from the dead to bring eternal life to every born-again believer. So, His parents were doing what the Jewish Law required, but in just about 21 years from the age of 12, Jesus would die on the cross and arise from the grave. You see folks, the purpose for Jesus to leave heaven and come down to earth to die in the place of every sinner was to be about God the Father's business. And can I tell you readers something? This same Jesus came to seek and to save those who are lost (**Luke 19:10**). **Therefore, we will never be more like Jesus than when we are going after the lost in order to see them get saved.** This is what GIMI is all about! Every believer should desire to be just like Jesus. And, if we do this, our primary reason for being here on earth, is to follow Jesus in having a life of worship and praise, and to go after lost souls to rescue them from the devil's hell! Now, I would like to ask you dear GIMI Team members a couple precise questions. First, do you know for certain that you are indeed saved? Secondly, if you

know for sure that you are saved, then the main thing in your life is to put everything else behind, and to follow Jesus' command to go after every lost soul. Thirdly, you will never reach the plan or purpose for your life, which God has created you for, until you are totally or completely surrendered to Jesus. If you are not there by now, let me beg every one of you Christian believers to stop reading this article and get with Jesus and report for duty! If you will do this, you will then be in God's army, not on the back pew of the church! I pray that we all will totally surrender to God to fulfill His perfect will for our lives. If we fail in finding God's will for our lives, we will never find out why we are even here on this earth, or why God even created us!

The Fields Continue To Be White Unto Harvest For GIMI!



Beloved brothers and sisters, every time I write my articles for our newsletter, I truly get broken, and sometimes shed tears due to what God has chosen to do through this small ministry in the past 24 years. Without a doubt, God has His hand upon the way we do missions, how we gather the harvest, and so many other areas where we are witnessing Him move majestically in our 12 countries in Africa, through our radio ministry in Africa and in America, and especially, through our ministry in the prisons and schools. I know that sometimes our readers don't believe the huge results we are telling that is happening every month. We do our best to follow up on all of the people who have asked Jesus to come into their hearts. Of course, as I have told you before, in the parable of the sower there were four kinds of soil mentioned in the parable, but only one kind was genuine. So, based upon this, we probably are seeing some that make professions of faith, but their decision is not genuine. And of course, as I always say, "probably only one fourth of church members are genuinely saved people. Therefore, just like in the Bible preaching churches, we continue to preach the Gospel of our Lord Jesus. But, all of the work in the churches is done by only about 25% of the people.

Beloved GIMI Team members, we must keep going on to present the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ to as many people as possible, even if many of the decisions are not real. As one great leader here in America used to say, "it is only our responsibility to present the Gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit, and leave the results to God." No greater statement could ever be said than this statement. Thus, we must move on with the proclamation of the Gospel to win as many people as possible here just before the time when Jesus is coming again!

As I have told you before, during the past 24 years since my wife and I took over this ministry, we have shared the Gospel with over 36.5 million people, with just over 6.7 million of these people making first-time professions of faith in our Lord Jesus. And beloved team members, I know you will rejoice with us in knowing that from January-May of this year, we have been able to share the Gospel with over 633,175 people. And from these large numbers, just over 138,914 people have made their first-time professions of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ! Could you please join us in saying, "Praise God, Hallelujah to our Lord Jesus Christ, and Amen! Amen!

Thank You Pastor Joel And Recent Mission Team For Your Faithful Dedication To Leave Your Families And Go On This Safari For Jesus!

Back during the last week of May and first two weeks of June, Pastor Joel Frye and a small team of dedicated servants made a trip to Kenya and Uganda to share the Gospel with prisoners, schools, children's homes, in some churches, and in Missionary Jim Horne's Bible College. God truly blessed this team and us by giving them a great harvest of souls getting saved and in helping to alleviate so much suffering by distributing much humanitarian aid to all the prisons, schools, children's homes, and other suffering people. I do hope and pray that some of you who get this newsletter might contact Pastor Joel and express gratitude for him taking quality time away from his pastorate at Oxford Baptist Church to take this team to Africa. I am especially grateful for my son making these long trips to Africa when I no longer can make these safaris for Jesus! I have made 70 trips to Africa in the past 39 years. I often cry when I see some of my thousands of photos from our Africa trips, just simply because I miss going there to preach the Gospel. Please help me pray that God might give me better health so that I might one day be able go again to our second home on the continent of Africa. We are praising Jesus for what He is still doing through our GIMI workers. And, dear GIMI Team Members, we just could not keep this wonderful work for Jesus going, were it not for the prayers and faithful financial support by so many of you. If you will try to keep helping us, we will do our best to keep GIMI Ministry going for yet a long time! And, if you will, I know that Jesus will reward you equally when we get to heaven and appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ!!



**Pastor Joel and Longtime GIMI Pastor
James Mwangi In Kenya**



**Bart Grant Holding
A Prisoner's Baby In Kenya**



Pastor Joel's Team At A Large Prison In Kenya



**Pastor Joel With His Recent Mission Team
Many Gifts To A Kenya Prison**



**Pastor Joel and His Team Bringing
Gifts To Kenya Prisoner**



**Brother Joey and Mildred Sharing The Love
Of Jesus With Prisoners' Children In Kenya**



**Pastor Joel and His Team Sharing Jesus
In A Rehabilitation Center In Kenya**

Is God Calling You To Make A Mission Trip To Africa?

Dear Beloved compassionate Christian, have you ever been on a soul winning mission trip to anywhere in the world? Well, if you have, would you seriously consider making another trip to the beautiful continent of Africa? And, if you have never made a mission trip, let me encourage you to prayerfully consider going with my son, Pastor Joel Frye, on one of his future trips to one of our Africa countries. I am very proud of Pastor Joel because of His devotion to Jesus in helping to fulfill the Great Commission. Presently, Pastor Joel is pastoring Oxford Baptist Church in Conover, N.C. where he has been pastoring for 25 years. Oxford Baptist has grown significantly under Pastor Joel's leadership. And, even during these years as a local church pastor, Joel has really been faithful to help his deteriorating father with the huge ministry of Gateway International Missions. Down through the years, Pastor Joel has made several trips to Africa to help his mother and father carry on this growing ministry. Then, in the past two years, Pastor Joel has made two trips to Africa. I am sure, if his health stays good, I believe he will be going from time to time. God has really used Pastor Joel's teams and thousands of souls have been saved! Now, Pastor Joel will probably be going back to Kenya and Uganda again sometime in the future. So, if God is leading you to make an evangelism or medical mission trip to Africa, you just need to contact our GIMI Office. I have included that number, plus a couple more phone numbers that you may call concerning an upcoming trip. Therefore, if you are genuinely saved, if you are a devoted believer, if you attend a soul winning church, and if you are willing to put your fearfulness down under the blood of Jesus, we would love to consider you as a partner with Pastor Joel and his teams. If you seriously feel that God is touching your heart and calling you to make a sacrificial mission trip to help win scores of people to Jesus, we would love to hear from you. You may call me personally at my home phone: **828-635-8866**. Or you may want to call me on my cell phone at: **828-455-7164**. Also, you can call our GIMI Office at: **828-632-2344**, and tell our new Office Manager, T.J. Patton, what you are prayerfully considering. Then too, you may call Pastor Joel at: **828-781-0359**, to help you make the decision about this journey for Jesus. We will provide some information about the upcoming trip, such as projected costs, medical requirements (like needed shots, pills, etc.), legal requirements, do's and don'ts, etc. Then, you will need to fill out some forms to help us decide if you are ready to make this journey for Jesus! We truly welcome you to help us continue taking the Gospel to a lost and dying world! So, in just a short time we should have the dates for some future trips finalized, and hopefully, have the cost factor settled as well.

Let me close by telling you that truly, God has really used the mission teams that have gone to Africa with us down through the years. In fact, my wife and I have taken over 300 people to Africa in the past 24 years. And praise God, He has given our GIMI teams a great harvest of souls! So, in view of the fact that my health is not allowing much travel these days, I do pray that some of you dear GIMI friends and supporters will consider joining our son in helping us to continue telling the world about Jesus! I will close by telling you that if you join Pastor Joel and the teams, you will come home never the same again!

God Gave Us A Wonderful Harvest Celebration Banquet On Friday Evening, June 7, 2024!

On Friday evening, June 7, 2024, GIMI conducted our annual celebration banquet at our office and dining area here in Taylorsville. God truly blessed the evening with a wonderful time of fellowship around a delicious evening dinner prepared by the Boxcar Grille in Claremont, NC. The meal was very delicious, but the fellowship was more enjoyed as we spent the evening in fellowship, enjoying a music concert by Gospel Singer, Wade Spencer, from Perryville, OH. After the music concert, Dr. David Gallamore, pastor of Rock Springs Baptist Church in Easley, SC, preached a challenging message from the precious Word of God. Then, we ended the evening with a time of special prayer. The most important thing that happened during the banquet was that God through his singer and preacher admonished us to go on sharing the precious Gospel message with as many people as we possibly can in the future. Jesus is truly coming soon, and we as His children still have the Great Commission commanding us to take the Gospel to all the world. Therefore, I want to thank those of you who have been supporting GIMI financially, and all of you who have been praying for us on a regularly basis. I do hope and pray

that God might continue to encourage you to continue serving on our prayer and contributor team. We desperately need you to keep helping us and praying daily for us. Truly, the greater the open doors for us to take the Gospel to a lost world, the more often and greater the attacks by the rascal Satan who hates what we are doing!



Pastor David and Shirley Gallamore



Brother Wade Spencer Singing

Well, I believe that by now, you believe it is time for me to stop writing again. Therefore, I am stopping, although I would love to go on writing for a long time to talk about the glorious privilege God has given to my precious wife and me to be a part of this marvelous ministry for so long. Surely, God has had His hand upon this work since its very beginning. And, I pray that He will continue to do so indefinitely! Please know that JoAnne and I love you so very much!!

Still in the King's service,

Dr. Stan Frye
President of GIMI,
Matt. 9:35-38

**If you would like to receive the newsletter by email,
please send an email request
to office@gatewayinternationalmissions.com**

Be Blessed By The Following Testimonies!

Testimony 1:

To The President Gateway International Missions
Dr. Stan Frye

"Greetings to you servant of God, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! I am Julius Olaboro, resident of Soroti City, and a Ugandan by nationality.

I thank God, Who brought you to visit us prisoners in Soroti Main Prison, personally as Julius Olaboro, I am not in the same way I was when I was arrested and put in prison. My life and thoughts are changed, and now, I have hope in Jesus that one day I will get out of prison, and go and preach goodness about Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Through your teachings, I put them into practice, which has transformed my lie and now, I am a pastor in Ward 05. I want to thank you so much for the material support GIMI gave to us prisoners. Now, I have a Bible, which has transformed my life. And, I can now memorize verses and come to know truth about Jesus. I thank you, and I pray that the good Lord may bless you and continue using you more, and please come to visit us again.

Testimony 3:

From Juliet Nabatta

I am overjoyed to share my testimony of faith and miracles. For ten long years, I grappled with the pain of infertility, wondering if I would ever experience the joy of motherhood. Countless doctor visits only brought disappointment as they discovered fibroids, adding another layer of complexity to my already challenging journey.

Just when despair threatened to consume me, a glimmer of hope emerged through Dunamis Radio, a radio broadcast featuring your preaching on II Corinthians. As I listened intently, something stirred within me. In that moment, I gave my life to Jesus Christ. I surrendered my life to Christ, fears and doubts to a higher power, believing in the possibility of miracles. With unwavering faith, I embraced your words and fervently prayed for God's intervention in my life. And miraculously, yesterday I received a report that filled my heart with overwhelming joy; I am pregnant!! Tears of gratitude streamed down my face as I marveled at the divine timing of it all. Despite the medical odds stacked against me, God had blessed me with the precious gift of a new life.

Thank you Jesus,

I am Julius Olaboro, painter, Pastor of Ward 05 in Soroti Main Prison.

Testimony 2:

To: Gateway International Ministries

Appreciation For The Support You Have Given To Us In Soroti Main Prison

We the inmates of Soroti Main Prison in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ salute you and send to you our most choice greetings, grace to you and peace.

With much love, we forward our gratitude and appreciation to you, servant of God, and your ministry at large, for your continuous spiritual material and support that we have received from you in the form of Bibles, soap, etc. through Officer Fred Nato. These items have changed many lives and have made us to know and feel the love of God in our lives. May the good Lord bless you and your ministry; and we thank you so much!

Yours Sincerely,

Soroti Main Prison Born Again Fellowship

Today, I again tuned in, and I was blessed with your teachings, and I decided to write to you and tell you about my miracle that was manifested.

Thank you so much,
Juliet Nabatta



This Is Juliet Nabatta, Now Expecting A Baby!



"Can America Be Saved?"

"Effective Expositions For Life"

An Expository Sermon

Scripture: Deuteronomy 6:10-25

By: Dr. Stan A. Frye

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"Can America Be Saved?"

Scripture: Deuteronomy 6:10-25

Introduction

Earlier in this month of July, we as Americans celebrated the 248th anniversary of our great nation. Truly, God has seen fit to really bless this country because our forefathers built this nation on the principles of God's Word. Yes, many of those original founders were not born-again believers, but they still had a genuine respect for the truth of the Word of God. And when you put these God-respecting founders with all of the truly born-again Christians, we can with affirmation say that our nation was truly founded as a Christian nation. Of course, there are scores of people today who are saying that we were not founded as a Christian nation, but they are so wrong. Please notice the following information about the founding of our great nation. These are the words of John Jay, selected by our first President, George Washington, to be the first Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court. **"Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty, as well as the privilege and interest of our Christian nation to select and prefer Christians for their rulers."**¹ Folks, did you read these words? Our nation was indeed founded as a Christian nation upon the truth of the Word of God.

This same John Jay, the first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court was also elected as the president of the Westchester Bible Society in 1818 and the president of the American Bible Society in 1821. Pay attention to what he said about the Bible.

"By conveying the Bible to people thus circumstanced, we certainly do them a most interesting kindness. We thereby enable them to learn that man was originally created and placed in a state of happiness, but, becoming disobedient, was subjected to the degradation and evils which he and his posterity have since experienced."²

"The Bible will also inform them that our gracious Creator has provided for us a Redeemer, in whom all the nations of the earth shall be blessed; that this Redeemer has made atonement 'for the sins of the whole world,' and thereby reconciling the Divine justice with the Divine mercy has opened a way for our redemption and salvation; and that these inestimable benefits are of the free gift and grace of God, not of our deserving, nor in our power to deserve."³

"In forming and settling my belief relative to the doctrines of Christianity, I adopted no articles from creeds but such only as, on careful examination, I found to be confirmed by the Bible...At a party in Paris, once, the question fell on religious matters. In the course of it, one of them asked me if I believed in Christ? I answered that I did, and that I thanked God that I did."⁴

So hopefully, we will demonstrate enough common sense and honesty to admit and say that, "yes", our country was established as a Christian nation. There is a problem! And, that problem is that this nation has strayed so far away from the principles upon which it was founded that it seems evident that the serious judgment of God is hovering over this nation while millions try to say that God doesn't even exist. We definitely know that God does exist, and if He brought judgment to His own nation of Israel years ago, He definitely will bring it down on us if we don't repent and turn back to Him! Can America be saved and survive as a nation after its 248 years of existence? I say that it can, but if it does, it will have to obey God's plan for the salvation of any nation. Before I give you the plan for God to bring about revival in America and save this nation, let me share with you some of the extremely serious and horrible things that are going on here which cry out for revival and the salvation of our country.

First, let me tell you that since the Roe versus Wade decision of the Supreme Court back in 1973, over 65 million babies have been murdered by abortion. And yet, while people are screaming about protecting the children that are crossing our southern border illegally, very few people are saying anything about the butchering of millions of babies by abortions and these so-called doctors. This abortion fact cries out for the salvation of our land.

Secondly, in the last recorded year of 2023, here in America over 100,000 people died from over-doses of opioids and other drugs. This is many more than the 42,000 plus people who were killed in automobile accidents. This horrible truth cries out for the salvation of our country.

¹ America's God and Country", Fame Publishing, page 318.

² Ibid, page 318

³ Ibid, page 318

⁴ Ibid, page 318

Thirdly, according to statistician, George Barna, only 30% of those in America who claim to be believers attend church regularly. Barna also states that over 60% of Americans say that they did not pray to God once in the last year. Would you say that America needs revival or salvation if we are to survive as a nation? I would!⁵

Fourthly, presently in our country the divorce rate for professing Christians is over 50% just like the divorce rate for unbelievers. This is another indication for the need for America's salvation.

Fifthly, over 70% of African American children that are born in America are born out of wedlock, over 50% of Hispanic children are born without the parents being married, and almost 30% of white children are born out of wedlock. People don't like to hear this, but folks, this is sinful behavior, which will ultimately destroy the homes of our nation, and yes, ultimately destroy the nation.

Sixthly, back in July of 2018, we had Justice Anthony Kennedy resign from the Supreme Court at the age of 81. It was Kennedy who was the swing vote on the right for Gay Couples to get married. Isn't it ironic that this man now steps down after Satan used him to approve the horrible unbiblical idea that a man can marry a man and a woman can marry a woman. Folks, it is very obvious that America is in deep trouble and in need of national salvation lest we die as a nation.

I could just go on and on listing serious reasons why we so desperately need a revival and return to Biblical principles and practice if our nation is to survive. I believe I have given enough negative reasons to hopefully redirect our attention from the bad results of sinful behavior back to the Biblical principles, which God gave the nation of Israel that they had to obey if their nation was to remain a good and prosperous nation. I want us to take a look at our Scripture passage from Deuteronomy and discover the last hope we have for survival as a nation. And, I will tell you that following these principles is the only way for any nation to survive. Now, let's study the Biblical passage together.

Our text comes from God's Word in the Book of Deuteronomy, which was given to Moses in turn for him to give God's Word to the Israelites His requirements for successful and prosperous living once they got into the Promised Land. These people had been wandering in the wilderness for 40 plus years, and now God was giving them another chance to survive and prosper as His chosen nation. Of course, the success of God's plan for all of us is that we obey and put into practice what He tells us to do.

I. THERE MUST BE A RECOGNITION OF AMERICA'S NEED FOR SALVATION.

vs. 10-12

I believe it's understandable without too much emphasis that if we are to contribute to the welfare and prosperity of our country, then we do need in fact to go back and reflect on the goodness of God to us down through our 248 years of existence. We don't have the time to mention scores of things, but instead, let's just take a look at our text and see how God reminded His Jewish nation that they must never forget His goodness to them. So, in order to see the need for national salvation, we must reflect upon God's goodness to us.

A. There must be a recognition of our origin. v. 10

1. Our origin includes a knowledge of our Founder. v. 10a

Truly, America is a God-ordained nation, although we must never forget that we are not God's chosen nation. Israel is God's chosen people, but surely, we as a nation have been blessed in and through God's sovereignty since our founding. God did have a plan for our nation, and we must never forget how He in so many supernatural ways brought this country into existence. And truthfully, we would not still be a nation if God had not come to our rescue so many times starting all the way back at the Battle of New Orleans during the war of 1812. Over and over again, God has supernaturally intervened on our behalf all the way up through even our recent conflict with ISIS.

So my friends, we must stop and reflect on Who founded this nation, and we must humble ourselves and get on our knees and gratefully acknowledge our appreciation to our holy God for His blessings upon us as a nation. Moses told God's people that, and I as God's servant I am telling all of you this today.

⁵ George Barna Website, The State Of The Church 2016.

2. Our origin includes a knowledge of our fathers. v. 10b

The second thing we must do if we are going to truthfully recognize and reflect on our origin as a nation is to look back and reconsider the tremendous price that was paid by our country's founding fathers who worked so hard to establish this great nation. In our text, Moses listed such men as Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, whom God promised His blessings if they would obey His commands and teach the people to do so as well. In our American situation, we need to remember the numbers of great leaders whom God used mightily to establish and develop our land. Maybe they were not all truly born-again believers, but they were truly God-respecting and God-fearing people. Just think of the people like George Washington, James Adams, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, James Madison, and Abraham Lincoln. Also, think about some of the leaders in the Southern Confederacy who were truly God-fearing men; like Robert E. Lee and Andrew Jackson. Then, we need to remember the many pastors who served both in the South and in the North as chaplains during this horrible civil war. Of course, one of the most known ones was Dwight L. Moody who served faithfully as a Northern Chaplain until revival broke out in the northern army like it did in the south. Just like Moses told Israel, we too must never forget the faithful servants God used to establish our nation.

B. There must be a recognition of our opportunities. vs. 10c-11

1. There is the opportunity to enjoy what God gave our fathers. v. 10c

In the last part of verse 10, Moses told the Israelites that they must never forget the great opportunities that God gave to their fathers. Sad to say, this is truly what is happening so vividly in our country. People seem to have such a short memory when it comes to remembering the great blessings on our fathers and mothers from a past generation. It would seem that most people are caught up with enjoying the pleasures and privileges that have been passed down from past generations, but they never seem to stop and reflect on what these pleasures and privileges cost our ancestors. Moses emphatically told the people of Israel that they must never forget that it was God almighty who gave great and goodly cities to the fathers of Israel. Therefore, we too must remember that it has been God Who has blessed our nation with so much prosperity and blessings down through the years. It is truly sure that we will never see the need for salvation in our country unless we sincerely reflect upon and think about how far removed we are, from the blessings of God upon our forefathers. God richly blessed the founding fathers of America because of their faith and trust in Him. We must resolve to never forget how God blessed our father's faith, and we must never forget why He poured out His blessings upon our ancestors.

2. There is the opportunity to enjoy what God gave our families. v. 11

Verse eleven in this text is just a wonderful verse. In this verse, Moses is reminding the post-wilderness generation of how God had blessed their fathers and families by providing water, places to live, food to eat, and the daily necessities of life without the people even having to work for them. Of course, this was referring to the way God took care of their families during the 40 plus years in the wilderness. The climate and environment of the wilderness were not conducive to providing the necessities of life, so God through His sovereign grace chose to meet every need. Therefore, Moses told them that if their fathers and families were provided these items, then as they were getting ready to go into the Promised Land and eventually face some fierce enemies and hard times, God would surely meet their needs as well. Of course, the blessings of God would be dependent upon the obedience of the people.

It is very clear to me that Moses was just trying to let the people know that if they were to enjoy the full blessing of God, as had their fathers and mothers, then they would have to abide by His rules for living. And yes folks, this still holds true today. If we want to continue to receive the bountiful blessings of God, we must too live by the principles of God's Word. We just need to realize that if we ever move away from God's plan and principles like America is right now, then we will receive the judgment of God as did Israel. So, if we don't get the picture of the

wickedness of our American culture and society, we too will experience the judgment of God as did God's chosen people.

C. There must be a recognition of our obligations. v. 12

Now as we come to verse 12, Moses gives his people a firm warning. He tells them that if they ever forget who it was that had blessed their fathers and mothers in past generations, then, they would lose the blessings of God. Moses was just reminding them of how faithful God had been to save the people from Egyptian bondage and slavery. Therefore, if they kept a clear memory of what God had saved them from in the past, they would be more inclined to serve God faithfully in the present. In this verse, God reminds us of two things.

1. He reminds us that we are obligated to remember our Source. v. 12a

In the Book of Philippians we find these words, "**But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:19)**". In this verse Paul the Apostle reminds the Philippian church that their Source for meeting all their needs is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus alone knows all of our needs, and He is the one to meet our needs. Yet, as we look around us in America, it seems that our people don't even recognize God as our Source, but instead depends upon the abilities, techniques, and resources of mankind to have their needs met. I assure you that it is so easy for us to lose everything if we don't remember Who is our true Source and give Him the praise and thanksgiving for His goodness.

2. He reminds us to remember our salvation. v. 12b

My friends, do you ever forget what it means to be gloriously saved if you are in fact born again? Do you remember the day you got saved, and the change that Jesus brought to your heart? Do you remember the feeling of peace, the emotion of joy, and the thrill of having your sins forgiven? I do, and it seems that it was just yesterday, and it has been 67 years. I pray that I will never forget what Christ did for me when He set me free from the bondage of sin and gave me personal liberty. Truly, this was the greatest day in my life, and it will always be so until Jesus comes again for all of us. There is nothing any sweeter than to reflect upon our eternal redemption brought about by Jesus dying on the cross for our sins. Our deliverance from sin is just an eternal imitation of what God did for the nation of Israel when He brought them out from the bondage of slavery in Egypt. Moses told them to never forget God's deliverance, and we too must never forget our deliverance as well. And if we do remember God's saving power, then we surely can see the need in our sin-filled society for deliverance and liberty if this nation is to survive. We must remember that our Declaration of Independence talks about "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness." For sure, the only way to life, liberty and happiness is through our Lord Jesus Christ. So, as we enjoy the reality of salvation from our bondage of sin, then let us pray for genuine deliverance for the spiritual bondage that our country is now in.

Please take notice of the following words from Dr. C.I. Scofield when he makes an analysis of Israel, and then, this analysis is quoted in the book entitled, "The Rebirth Of America", written and compiled by Nancy DeMoss. Please notice this analysis of man's failing in his analysis of Israel. "**A four-fold cycle of rebellion, retribution, repentance and restoration.**"⁶ "God's people, whether in the Bible or in post biblical times, have lived this cycle repeatedly. First, God blesses His believers with abundance, peace and joy. Then, man soon forgets that it all came from God. Pride sets in."⁷

"From pride comes rebellion, as each new generation thinks that it is great because it is wise, and then comes sin (which each generation says is not sin 'in these modern times' but instead liberation from the 'overly restrictive ways of the past.' ")⁸

⁶The Rebirth of America", By Nancy DeMoss, page 153.

⁷ Ibid, page 153

⁸ Ibid, page 153

"God, being long-suffering and patient, allows His people to drift away and sin because He knows what is coming. Sin leads to sin and the corruption of man increases. After matters have come to an accelerated state of decay, our Lord could let it all continue to fester and grow worse: however, His love for us requires that He call us back to repentance. The call to repentance is then given prior to the third stage, retribution. History shows that the call to repentance is nearly always 'preceded by a period of gross iniquity, disgrace, and consequent fear.'"⁹ And then my friends, it is wonderful to know that when God's people do repent, the Lord will restore the land. Surely, surely, this is what America needs right now.

May I tell you also that even after Moses gave this great passage of truth to his people before they went into the Promise Land, along came the Judges who believe it or not, followed the same cycle, which Dr. Scofield described. This cycle written another way was, salvation, sin, slavery, and then, salvation again. The sad thing, however, was and still is that when a society or culture follows this brutal cycle, it never completely recovers after the time of restoration. Why is this true? Because of so much hurt, pain, and too many scars remain behind. Therefore, we must resolve to stay close to Jesus and never forget how good He has been to us, lest we make the same mistakes that Israel made.

II. THERE MUST BE A RETURN TO AMERICA'S PLAN OF SALVATION. vs. 13-18.

Hopefully, by now we have come to see how desperately America needs to be saved as a nation. We are in great trouble, and although I do believe in the imminent return of our Savior, I also believe that if there is a revival and a return to God's principles shown here in Deuteronomy, we can preserve this great nation for a little while longer. But if this is to happen, there must be some very courageous Christians who will not only pray for revival, but they must also be willing to pay the price and stand up for Biblical truth and principles, even in the midst of the criticism and persecution which seems to be getting worse every day. Let's take a hard look at God's plan to save our nation, and to restore the spirituality that has been forsaken.

A. There must be a return to spiritual solemnness in our land. v. 13a

In the first part of verse 13, Moses told Israel that they must fear God in a reverential way. There must not be any other god above Him. They needed to have a solemn and righteous fear daily if they were going to prevent God's judgment and keep His blessings coming. And, it is worth noting that Moses told them that their fear of God was a personal matter because he called God their God. Therefore, if we are to save our nation, then we must repent of our sins to our God, and recognize that if the nation is to experience revival, then we must experience it personally before it can come to the nation.

B. There must be a return to spiritual service in our land. v. 13b

The second part of this verse tells us that not only did Israel need to fear God, but that they were to serve Him faithfully, singularly, and yes, with much labor and commitment. In other words, serving God was not to be an alternative to other matters of attention.

And yet folks, that is truly what has happened in America. If the children in the home of professing Christians have travel ball to play, recreation to enjoy, or just any other precedence, God, the study of God's Word, worship, church attendance, and all spiritual matters must be put on the back burner of our lives. Why, even right now as I write this message, only 30% of those who said they are believers attend church regularly. What about the other 70% of professing Christians?

Also, if our nation is to experience a revival and be preserved for a few more years, then, there has to be a willful separation from the world, and a new commitment to putting the things of God first in our lives. This fact is not even debatable, just like it was not arguable for the nation of Israel. Either we return to God through repentance like Jonah commanded Ninevah, or we will lose this nation, and no doubt very soon! If you think this is an either-or

⁹ Ibid, page 154

proposition, then just stop and take a look into the faces of your children and/or your grandchildren, and just imagine what is going to happen to them if America is not saved.

C. There must be a return to a spiritual stand in our land. v. 13c

The last part of verse 13 says that God's people must be willing to swear by His name. This actually means that God's children must be willing to take a solemn oath, even with sacrifices that they will be loyal to Jehovah God. I see this as a matter of total surrender and complete sacrifice to the Lord of heaven. We must be willing to stand up for Jesus regardless of the cost that it may require. We must not and we cannot be intimidated by ruthless and Godless Americans who seem to have no fear of God, and no tolerance for those who do. Yes friends, it might even cost us our lives or freedom. Will you join me in making a solemn commitment or vow to stand for God and His Word in this easy believism age when so many preachers and church leaders are trying to coexist peacefully with every kind of damnable religion and false doctrine coming down the pike? I pray that you will because we can stand more readily if our numbers are larger. Rather than standing with evil people like some of the liberal left-wingers these days, let's stand up strongly for the Word of God and its Divine principles. Let the wicked scream and holler while we shout the praises unto God, even unto our death like our Christian forefathers of years gone by!

D. There must be a return to a spiritual separation in our land. v. 14

Verse 14 is a profound verse in our text. I say this because in this verse Moses once more emphatically tells the children of Israel that they are absolutely to stay away from the worship of any other gods, or even anything that might even be construed as a god. This certainly refer to the gods of other religions, but it might also refer to hobbies, recreation, games, personal items, or any other thing that might become a god in a person's life and take the place of their real God. This means that nothing or no one should ever be worshipped in the place of Jehovah God. Yet today, I look around at multitudes of the so-called Christian churches, and what do we see, we see the world's religions mixed with the Christian churches. We now have yoga classes in our churches, when this damnable meditation comes from Hinduism and Buddhism. We also have worldly entertainment and performance in our churches trying to draw crowds, when in fact it has become nothing more than a god in the mind and lives of many people.

And I might say, with the proliferation of Roman Catholicism and the mixing of Protestant Evangelical church, we now have professing believers observing Catholic rituals and ceremonies trying to keep peace between Satan and our Lord. Roman Catholicism is a counterfeit religion that should be rejected at all costs. There is not one Catholic doctrine that can save a soul from hell. And yet, millions of people have been led astray to this ritualistic religion making a god of it themselves. Separation from the gods of this world means that we will not associate with, attempt to worship with, or mix true Bible believing Christianity with any of the gods of this world. And, according to this verse, if we worship other gods, it is because we have been influenced by evil people and religious systems that surround us. Paul said in **II Corinthians 6:17**, "**Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.**" In other words, there can be no peace between those who genuinely worship the true and living God, and those who worship false or counterfeit gods of the religious world.

E. There must be a return to a spiritual singularity in our land. v. 15

As we now look at verse 15, we suddenly see a strong warning from Moses to the Israelites concerning the seriousness of singularly serving God, and none other. Moses tells the people that because their righteous God is a jealous God, He will not tolerate them giving their love and devotion to any other god. In fact, Moses tells the people that if they don't serve God only, then He will literally wipe them off the face of the earth. The truth is that because God is a jealous God, He demands total and complete loyalty, and if He doesn't get this kind of reverence and worship, then the nation of Israel would be completely destroyed. This sounds a lot like God is a mean angry God, but the truth is that because He created us and has our very breath in His hands, then He does indeed control everything about us. This is why we must give him our utmost devotion and not even attempt to share our love with the gods of this world.

Applying this to our present situation here in America, we must recognize that our great big loving God does have the right to demand our complete obedience because we belong to Him. In fact, Jesus paid the price of our redemption on the cross when He died for our sins. Therefore, because He has purchased us, we do indeed belong to Him. And, we must realize that if we don't give God our singular devotion, then He might just destroy us as a nation because if God promised to destroy Israel, God's chosen people, then surely, He will not restrain Himself from taking away our nationhood if we don't repent and turn back to Him. So, my friends, let me admonish you to check out your level of devotion to Christ and the Kingdom of God, and see if you need to help restore our land by personally repenting and returning back to Him. There can never be revival collectively in a church or a nation until there is revival in the hearts of individual believers. May we make a new commitment to only serve God and no one else!

F. There must be a return to a spiritual submission in our land. vs. 16-18a

In verses 16-18a, we are admonished by God, through Moses, that we must not test God's patience by being less than totally submitted to Him in every area of our lives. Because it is a very serious matter to try or test the Lord, we must make sure that we are 100 percent surrendered to Christ in every area of our lives. In New Testament terminology, we must make Christ the Lord and Master of every area of our lives. In other words, God and His kingdom must take priority in our lives every day that we live.

The word Massah in verse 16 is the same place also known as Meribah where the children of Israel had rebelled against God when they run out of water. Then, Moses lost his temper and rather than speaking to the rock as God commanded, he smote the rock with his rod in order to get water for the people. The Israelites got the water they wanted, but because of Moses' rebellion and disobedience, this sin kept him out of the Promised Land. The rock Moses smote the second time was a picture of Christ who would one day come and die on the cross for our sins. But, because God told Moses to speak to the rock this time and Moses disobeyed and smote the rock again, it is a revelation that Jesus doesn't have to be smitten or crucified the second time for our redemption. So, the truth of these verses is that when God commands us to do something, we must do it the way He instructs us, or we might just lose the promised land of spiritual blessings.

When we obey the voice of God and do the things He commands, then we will receive the water from the rock of our salvation. We must forever remember that total submission is required and not partial obedience. If we become totally committed or submitted to the will of God, there will be no rebellion of Massah or Meribah. We will gladly and willingly submit ourselves to every command of God. And, this submission will produce three important things in our behavior.

1. First, we must refuse to tempt (try) the Lord. v. 16
2. Secondly, we must revere or respect the testimonies of the Lord. v. 17
3. Thirdly, we must respond to the truth of the Lord. v. 18a

Folks, a totally surrendered or submitted believer to Christ will conduct himself or herself in such a way that he or she will not put God to the test, nor lose respect for the testimonies and statues of the Lord, and he or she will do that which is good and right according to God's Word. There will be no arguing with God, no rebellion toward God, and no disdain for the commands of God. And, I need to tell you that a fully surrendered man or woman of God will hold nothing back from the Lord, but instead, will be a joyfully serving servant of God looking only to please the Lord. If our nation is to be saved and return to the faith of our forefathers, then there must be multitudes of completely surrendered people who serve God without restraint or regret! This must not be a time of rebellion like Israel experienced at Meribah. Full surrender is willful, joyful, and yes, rewarding.

III. THERE WILL BE REWARDS FOR EVERY BELIEVER FROM AMERICA'S SALVATION. vs. 18c-25

Now in these last verses of this great chapter, Moses tells the people that if they pay the price and revival comes to God's people, then there will be many rewards for the obedient servants of God. And, the wonderful thing is that every child of God, who abides by God's plan for the salvation of our nation will not have to wait unto the Judgment Seat of Christ to be rewarded for their faithfulness. In fact, God will provide some wonderful rewards for

every faithful child of God right here on earth until He takes us home or comes again. Let's look at some of these promised rewards for those who follow God's plan for the salvation and preservation of our nation.

A. There will be the reward of lasting happiness. v. 18c

In the introduction to this article, I mentioned the third phrase in the Declaration of Independence where we are told that every man America citizen has the right to pursue happiness. And truthfully, I believe this is a God-given right because every human being should desire to be happy. In the third part of verse 18, we are told by Moses that if God's people obey Him and His commands, then it will be well with them. Of course, I believe this is talking about obedient servants of God having peace and happiness in their souls as a result of their obedience to God and their reverence for Him. Truthfully folks, this is what our American nation needs so much right now.

As I observe the situation in our land, everywhere I look I see people trying to find peace and happiness. Yet, it would seem that most people are looking in the wrong places. I believe this is because people are empty on the inside and just trying to find something to give them peace and a sense of security in a world of phonies and losers.

For instance, our opioid crisis in this country is totally out of control because people are seeking peace and happiness in a fantasy world of drugs and unreality. They begin to use drugs to get a personal high and feel good, only to end up in absolute bondage and imprisonment. Then of course, when they have been on these drugs for a long time, they can't even exist in the world of reality. So, this lasting happiness they are pursuing is only found in a relationship with God the Father through Jesus Christ the Son, and in a life of complete obedience to the commands of our Lord.

Also, if you have looked around you recently, you surely have seen how so many Americans have tattoos on their bodies. We are told by statisticians that 41% of men, and 58% of women now have tattoos on their bodies somewhere. The question is, "Why would right-minded people want to wear these?" Well, I believe they want to wear these tattoos to prove that they are somebody, or they want to prove just how cool they are in an uncool world. Some wear them to make a statement, while others do it to draw attention that they just don't seem to be getting. And then, there are those that are trying to prove their masculinity or femininity so that people will observe or look at them. So, if you really sit down and try to find the main reason for these marks on people's bodies, I believe they are doing it because they are empty on the inside and they are seeking happiness in their insecure world. Yet, most people don't have a clue how these marks on the body, according to the Bible, are signs of paganism. Pay attention **to Leviticus 19:28**, where we find these words, "**Ye shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor print any marks upon you: I am the Lord.**" In this passage God is telling Israel that they should not do anything that would give them the appearance of pagans or the worshipping of other gods. And, they were not to cut their hair or mark their skin as the cultists did, because they belong to God and to no one else.

Also, in the New Testament we are told that as born-again believers, our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit. Please notice these verses. **I Corinthians 3:16-17**, "**Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.**" Also, please notice another verse from I Corinthians. "**What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?**"

(I Cor. 6:19) Therefore folks, when people desecrate their bodies in any way, they bring reproach on the name of Jesus and on the temple (their bodies) where Jesus the Holy Spirit dwells. So, once more, let me ask, "why do people desecrate their bodies (the temple of God) by using tattoos and marks?" I believe the sincere reason is that they are looking to find attention and happiness the way the world does. We need to tell the entire world that when we get truly saved and live according to the principles of God's Word, we will find that lasting happiness we are so desperately searching for.

B. There will be the reward of lasting fruitfulness. v. 18d

In the last part of verse 18, God speaks through Moses the mighty man of God and tells the people that if they want to go into the Promised Land which is ahead of them after 40 years in the wilderness and take possession or ownership of that land, then they needed to live in obedience to the principles of God's Word by demonstrating a life of faith which will overcome the enemies of Satan who is always there trying to destroy the lives of every child of

God, and for sure, to keep these lives from being fruitful. Therefore, if we are going to have a life of fruitfulness and productivity, then we will need to obey God, and put into practice His plan for the salvation and preservation of our great country.

Right now, I believe that America is dying spiritually. We are looking more and more like the deteriorated countries of Europe, which have spiraled out of control down into almost spiritual oblivion because they have turned against God. If we implement God's plan for salvation in America, then we will be rewarded with a lasting fruitfulness that we can enjoy now, and also, our children and grandchildren can enjoy in the future. If we want the future generations to prosper in their lives, then we must return to God immediately and start living by the principles God gave Moses for Israel. May I ask you, "Are you bearing lasting fruit?" If you aren't, why don't you return to God and implement His plan for preservation of our lives and country.

C. There will be the reward of lasting effectiveness. v. 19

Let me begin this verse exposition by asking, "Do you enjoy winning?" Do you love to be victorious in your life? Well if you do, then this verse reveals God's promise to Israel that if they would live by the principles of God's Word, then when they entered the Promised Land, they would be victorious over all of their enemies. Of course, what God is saying here through Moses was that if the people would live according to God's will, they would defeat all the enemies that would oppose them once they got into the land of blessing. These victories were promised to the Israelites, and the promise is still given to us today as well. When we live by God's rules and His righteous ways, then, there will be victory over the many opposing enemies of Christianity here in our land of America. And, just a few minutes ago on my Sunday afternoon TV programs, I heard a great conservative pastor in Dallas, Texas say, "Time may be running out, but if America would repent and turn back to God, then He will preserve our country for a few more years so that we can win as many more people to Christ as we possibly can." In other words, God tells us that He has a plan for us to enjoy victories and the effective defeat of our enemies if we will follow that plan. And the marvelous promise God gives us in this verse tells us that not only will we be victorious over our enemies, but we will even be able to cast these enemy tribes out of our land. Would that not be a blessing? What if we could get rid of the abortion murderers, the atheistic professors in our colleges and schools, the HGTB supporters in our communities, the false religions and cults in society, and many other diabolical people who oppose God and His people? Well, this is truly possible if we will return to God, repent of our sins and wickedness, and then begin to live according by God's plan for America's salvation or preservation. Folks, it can and will happen if we will give God His first place in our homes, our churches, our schools, our communities, our culture, and yes, in our personal lives. Victory surely came for the Israelites, and it can come for us if we will follow God's plan. Truly, there will be great rewards for the obedient children of God.

D. There will be the reward of lasting persuasiveness. vs. 20-24

Now my dear friends, the verses before us are some of the greatest verses in all of the Bible. I will try to be brief, but these verses have so much wonderful truth. They tell us that God through Moses told the Israelites that if they would follow God's plan for living according to His principles, in the years to come their children would begin to ask questions about why their parents had obeyed the Word of God. And when they asked these questions, then the parents would tell them that living by the truth of God's Word and all of His laws and statutes had brought tremendous blessings to them and their families. And, when the children heard about these blessings from God, then the children would be mightily persuaded to follow the example of their parents. In other words, the blessings of God, which had been given to the parents would also pass down to the next generation if the next generation would continue to practice the principles which the parents had lived by.

Then in verse 23, we find one of the greatest promises that was ever given to the Israelites, and this message is given to us today as well. This verse 23 tells us that God's people were brought out of the bondage of Egypt in order for God to in turn bring them into the promised land of blessing. Of course, we do know that the arrival in the Promised Land could have taken only three weeks, but because of the obstinate will of the people and because of their rebellion, these people wandered in the wilderness for over 40 years. Yet, our compassionate God remained

faithful to His people, even when they were unfaithful to Him. Thus, after 40 plus years of going around in circles in the wilderness, God fulfilled His promise and took the remaining remnant of the people into the land of blessing.

May I tell you that this is what God wants to do for America right now. This nation was founded upon Biblical principles but as the 245 years have come and gone, our people have slowly but surely slid down the slippery slope into a people of Godlessness and secularism. Our nation has tried so hard to get rid of God, and the end result has been a huge escalation of every kind of sin, and ultimately the absence of God's conditional blessings upon our nation. If we want to have a positive influence on our children and grandchildren, then we as God's people must return to Him, repent of our backsliding, and begin to implement the principles of God's Word in our lives, our homes, and yes, even back in our churches. We as Christian leaders must begin to get across to our people clearly that God saved us from sinful bondage that He might eventually get us into a victorious type of promised land living as we continue to march on toward our final resting place of heaven. There is just no way that we will ever be able to positively persuade our children and grandchildren to live the way they should if we don't get back to the truth of God's Word in our daily lives.

E. There is the reward of lasting righteousness. v. 25

The final promise from our Lord in this text is found in verse 25. In this verse Moses tells the people of God that if they do implement God's plan from God's Word for the right kind of living, the end result will be a life of righteous living. In other words, if we put into practice the principles of God's Word daily in our lives, then we will not only have a righteous relationship with God, but we will also have a righteous influence on everyone around us. The point is that whatever it costs us to return to God's plan and purpose in our personal lives, the wonderful result will be that we will provide a righteous example for everyone in our families, for our friends, and for those who need to come to Christ for salvation. It is truly impossible to win others to our Lord Jesus Christ, and to collectively change our nation for the good, if we don't have a righteous testimony before those around us.

And, there is one more thing that we see in verse 25; that is that God doesn't just suggest that we return to Him and repent, but in truth, He commands us to do so. Why does He do this? Because mankind is a fallen depraved character who doesn't do much of anything without being admonished to do so. Thus, this is why that these modern-day professing preachers who try to steer people away from strong pulpits into these non-confrontational dialogues cannot provide genuine hope for people. You see folks, unless people are confronted with the truth that they are sinners and need to be forgiven and get saved, all of the mere suggestions in the world will not produce the fruit of changed lives and a changed society. You see, I believe the greatest need in our American culture today is genuine righteousness. This righteousness will never come unless there is repentance, and there will not be repentance without God's Word commanding us to repent. So, as one of God's men, I want to preach to every American that like Jonah preached to the Ninevites, there must be repentance from the pauper in the street all the way to the king in the palace. In other words, we need repentance from the homeless drug users on the streets of San Francisco, all the way to President Donald Trump's house on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C. God has great blessings for His obedient people, but we must never forget that these blessings are indeed conditional based upon our obedience to His Word and manifested in a life of practiced righteousness every day of our lives.

Conclusion

Throughout this writing we have been discussing with you our readers the thought of whether America, this great nation, might be saved from its soon-coming destruction under the mighty chastisement of God. We started out talking about the vital importance of seeing the need for America's salvation or preservation. Then, we discussed the plan that God has given us to bring about the salvation from the impending judgment of God which is coming if this nation doesn't repent and return back to God. Of course, this plan is the same plan that God gave Israel through the prophet Moses as they were getting ready to leave the wilderness and enter the Promised Land. Through God's instruction via Moses, God's people were told that in the Word of God and in his statutes, there are tremendous principles by which God's people must live their lives if they are to prosper as individuals and collectively as a nation. The people of God in Moses' day and yes, even today, must learn that the tremendous blessings of God are conditional

based upon the faithful obedience to God's commands. The requirements are strong and many, but the end results of blessings and rewards certainly make the cost very worthwhile.

I must tell you that after having studied God precious Word for more than 60 years, I don't know of any other passage in the Bible that is more precise and practical for God's people to live by than our Scripture passage in **Deuteronomy 6:10-25**. In this passage God gives His truth explicitly to Moses to share with the Israelites what they must do in order to move into the promise land of blessing and be victorious over the many enemies and opponents that Satan will bring their way. And, when God tells Israel in verse 15 that He is a jealous God and demands total and singular worship, they are also told that if they rebel against His Word that the consequences will be utterly severe. He literally tells them if they don't repent and walk or live by His principles, which He has given through Moses, then He will destroy them from the face of the earth. Now, I can hear some of you screaming, "I THOUGHT GOD WAS A GOD OF LOVE." Well, He is truly a great God of love, but He is also a God of righteousness. And, He wants all of us to know that it is truly a serious matter to respond negatively to His strong commandments and words of instructions for us to live by. To respond this way will ultimately bring the destruction of a life or a nation, and the only thing that can stop the coming cataclysmic judgment of God is for individuals to return to God with brokenness and repentance. This has always been God's plan for revival and renewal, and it always will be. We must stop and seriously consider the fact of how much our attitude of rebellion and our disobedience to God's Word has contributed to the collective national problem. Truthfully, we might genuinely be saved, but in our carnality and worldliness, we might be sowing the seeds of rebellious anarchy by our obstinate and selfish wills. So, I plead with you to please humble yourselves and get on your knees before God in a willful act of submission and repentance. If we do this honestly and sincerely, God is more than ready to forgive our sins, cleanse us from all sinful rebellion, and then, to once again pour out His blessings upon us and our nation as He promised Israel. But if we don't return to Him, surely the judgment of God is coming as it did years later when Israel was carried away again into Babylonian captivity. May this never have to happen to get our nation to repent!!!!

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Barbara Cole
Rev. Kenneth and Pam Cole**

GIVEN BY:

**Martha Boyd
Stan & JoAnne Frye
Barbara Cole**

IN MEMORY OF:

**Lu Ann Auton
Thomas Boyd
Patty Estes
Steve Hollar
Kathy Johnson
Sisters Sarah and Phyllis, and Niece Alison
Dr. Ray Starnes
Randall Wood**

GIVEN BY:

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Stan and JoAnne Frye
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