

Lion and Lamb Apologetics'

How to Know When a Nation is in Trouble

JOHN HALL, DMIN

Psalm 2

1



INTRODUCTION

Is America in trouble? Regardless of your personal politics, a sober-minded, thoughtful Christian can surely see indications in the political and cultural landscape that are concerning. The Bible has much to say about the health/welfare of a nation.

2 Timothy 2:22-26 (ESV)

So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

WWW.LIONANDLAMBAPOLOGETICS.ORG

© 2023, LION AND LAMB APOLOGETICS—1305 CHESTER ST—CLEBURNE, TX 76033

Lion and Lamb Apologetics'

Romans 1:18-32 (ESV)

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

KEY SIGNS:

- 1. A nation is in trouble when people waste their time with futile plans.**
 - ☞ *Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? (Psalm 2:1 ESV)*
- 2. A nation is in trouble when anger, frustration, and division is widespread among its citizens.**
 - ☞ *Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? (Psalm 2:1 ESV)*
- 3. A nation is in trouble when leadership plots against the Lord and against the person of Christ.**

Lion and Lamb Apologetics

☞ *The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying, “Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us.” (Psalm 2:2-3 ESV)*

4. A nation is in trouble when there is a lack of proper fear of God.

☞ *Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. (Psalm 2:11 ESV)*

5. A nation is in trouble when its leadership and citizens fail to submit to the person of Jesus.

☞ *Submit to God’s royal son, or he will become angry, and you will be destroyed in the midst of all your activities—for his anger flares up in an instant. But what joy for all who take refuge in him! (Psalm 2:12 NLT)*

6. A nation is in trouble when its pursuits are misconstrued and misdirected.

☞ *Kiss his son, or he will be angry and your way will lead to your destruction, for his wrath can flare up in a moment. Blessed are all who take refuge in him. (Psalm 2:12 NIV)*

HOW CAN A NATION FIND JOY IN EXISTENCE?

1. A nation will find joy when it repents and turns to God and behaves in a manner that shows appropriate fear and reverence.

☞ *I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you. ... Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. (Psalm 2:7,11 ESV)*

2. A nation will find joy when its leaders act wisely, according to Scripture.

☞ *Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. (Psalm 2:10 ESV)*

3. A nation will find joy when it yields to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

☞ *Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. (Psalm 2:11 ESV)*

4. A nation will find joy when it looks to Christ for salvation.

☞ *Submit to God’s royal son, or he will become angry, and you will be destroyed in the midst of all your activities—for his anger flares up in an instant. But what joy for all who take refuge in him! (Psalm 2:12 NLT)*

5. A nation will find joy when its priorities are properly ordered as outlined in the Bible.

Lion and Lamb Apologetics

☞ *Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him. (Psalm 2:12 ESV)*

LIFE APPLICATION:

1. I will pray for national spiritual awakening and repentance tomorrow morning as part of my spiritual devotions.
2. I will pray for the church's repentant and spiritual cleansing.
3. I will pray for the President, Congressional Leaders, Judges, and other representatives who are in positions of leadership in our country to impact positively our country's health, spiritually and otherwise.

☞ *First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. (1 Timothy 2:1-4 ESV)*

4. I will participate actively in the process of civil discourse and citizenship in a manner that is honorable, respectful, and in line with my biblically informed values.