

# In SPIRIT and TRUTH

## LORD, HEAL OUR LAND



As I recall, it was just six months ago, January 6, 2021, that the storming of the U.S. Capitol building took place. I believe that event will undoubtedly be considered one of the most shocking and shameful days in American history! The riot that took place led to the evacuation and lockdown of the Capitol, and resulted in several deaths. Soon after, there were other reports of two mass shootings: one, where ten people (including a policeman) were gunned down in a Colorado grocery store, and another in Atlanta, Georgia, where eight people were killed in spas in the Asian community.

The 2020 political and social justice protests in communities nationwide also involved riots, as well as looting, violent protests, flash mobs, assaults on policemen, escalating gun violence,

and homicides, in general. Consequently, Time Magazine labeled 2020-2021 as “one of America’s most violent years in decades”.

After the attack on the Capitol, most American citizens were outraged. Many began to wonder, asking, “What’s going on in America?” Others exclaimed, “This is not us, we are better than this!” Well, as we consider the daily moral decline in our society, one might also ask, “Is there any hope for America, or has our society’s sins taken us to the point of no return?”

Once again, we must consider the Word of God as our source of truth and understanding. We who know the Lord, believe His Word remains true, no matter how bad things look in this world we live in. God has not changed and He remains *sovereign*, meaning He is supreme in power and authority!

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In the days of the prophet Isaiah, the Lord rebuked the mighty and prudent elders of Jerusalem and Judah, pronouncing *judgment* upon them because of their sins; consequently, they would have their authority taken away from them, to have children oppress them and women rule over them... *“As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths.”* Isaiah 3:12

Because the ways and counsel of God has not changed, it is apparent that the same remains true for men of God in the church today... children rule over them because they



still refuse to allow the Word of God to be the authority for training their children in preparation for adulthood. They instead choose to lean upon their own understanding, or to adapt to the teachings of modern psychologists, while continuing to fail miserably.

With regards to what happened on January 6th, I can assure you that the mob mentality manifested at the Capitol that day, did not happen overnight. The sad truth is that the men and women seen violently entering and vandalizing government property, and those going on random shooting rampages in our nation are just more examples of what happens in a society where lawlessness has gotten totally out of control! If you think about it, it was just a few years ago that the middle-aged adults of this generation were youths, many in rebellion, left to themselves without discipline or spiritual

guidance. Hence, there has been several generations of children with little respect for authority, who are *now adults*; and many claim that they have a *right* to express themselves in ways unacceptable, or even detrimental to society.

Have you ever wondered why there was never the problem of juvenile delinquency in the Bible, more specifically in the Old Testament, among the Jewish nation? It is because those

children fully understood *the Law* and the first commandment with a blessing, to “honor thy father and mother” (Ephesians 6:2). In those days children knew not to disobey the Law, because there would be the serious penalty of death. For example, if a child demonstrated stubbornness or rebellion, according to the commandments, he was to be

*stoned to death* as a consequence for his behavior (Deuteronomy 21:18-21); and if one would dare hit or curse his parents, he would also be put to death (Exodus 21:15 and 17). In other words, there was a healthy understanding of not only *the love of God*, but also the fear of consequences for disobeying authority.

In the 1940s, psychologist Dr. Benjamin Spock became famous with the introduction of new thought concerning child-rearing in his book entitled, *Baby and Child Care*. Dr. Spock “encouraged parents to be reasonable, consistent, open, and friendly with their kids — not regimented or authoritative” (in the latest edition). “But when the first generation of Spock-raised babies turned into the rebellious teens of the 1960s and 1970s, Dr. Spock’s ideas took a hit from the stricter, more regimented experts.”

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So today, our nation is forced to deal with several generations of children, now all grown up, yet unruly and oppressive to society. The “Baby Boomers” (the generation of children born in the U.S. from 1946 to 1964) are now adults, ages 50s to 70s, with their own ideas about what is considered appropriate behavior in society. Unfortunately, each succeeding generation of youth has been less parented and more rebellious.

Nevertheless, there is still hope for America! Let’s consider God’s solution to the woes of this land, according to 2 Chronicles, chapter 7.



It all begins with *humility and repentance*...

*“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.”*

*2 Chronicles 7:14*

According the Pew Research Center, the United States has the largest Christian population in the world, followed by Brazil, Mexico and Russia, and is thus considered to be the most

Christian country in the world. However, there are some who believe that America is fast becoming another Sodom, the ancient city of the Old Testament, destroyed with Gomorrah, because of its great sexual wickedness. Others believe that judgment is awaiting America because we have forsaken the godly principles of our forefathers, to lust after money and wealth, (unfortunately) even in the church.

However, though it may seem obvious that God has called the world to repent of their sins, what most Christians do not realize is that **He is also calling *the church*, those who are called by His name, to “depart from iniquity (sin)”**

(2 Timothy 2:19). For not only has America and the church fallen short concerning our children, but the church is also guilty of being lukewarm

and compromising in many other areas as well; therefore, God will first have to deal with the sins of the church before judging the world. As a matter of fact, we are told in 1 Peter 4:17, that **“*judgment must begin in the house of God*”**. Why? Because Jesus needs to purge His church of its sins!

In Ephesians 5:26-27, we are told that the church of Jesus Christ will be washed and cleansed before He returns for His Second Coming. Jesus said

He will present to Himself “a glorious church *not having spot, or wrinkle or any such thing*”... a holy church, “*without blemish*”.

As those in the church of God allow the Lord to perfect them, then will their prayers be heard on behalf of our hurting nation. Only then will God be able to deal with the rebellion, violence, and turmoil of this nation to bring forth healing... not only our land, but also the hearts of those who are hurting because of the abounding wickedness in our land.