

Why Do the Heathen Rage?

Romans 13 teaches us that God establishes nations. With that in mind, I believe that America is truly a gift of God to a people who understood who He is and how to create a nation of freedom, religious and otherwise.

With so many freedoms and approximately one million immigrants *per year* who desire to move here because of those freedoms, why are so many unhappy and destructive? With more opportunity than virtually every nation on earth, why are we having protests turn to riots and demonstrations turn into looting? So many people I know are truly happy, yet so many I see in major cities in the US right now are in a rage! What can explain such a dichotomy?

There may be many social or political answers, but the heart of the matter is a matter of the heart. God explains it quite clearly in Psalm 2. The King James text renders:

Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?

The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against His anointed, saying,

"Let us break their bands asunder and cast away their cords from us."

In verse one, God acknowledges the question many ask throughout history about why some people rage and pursue vanity (useless thing with no profit). In verse two, God answers their question - it is because those people are attempting to throw off anything that attaches them to God or binds them to His truths.

Any and every group or nation which seeks to distance itself from God, or defy His rules or deny His existence, will, to some degree, experience rage. The very act of throwing off the cords which had previously restrained bad behavior creates the environment wherein the inner frustrations of the ungodly heart become the outer rage against godliness and eventually authority itself.

One of the sins that Peter says is "especially" bad is "despising authority," (II Peter 2:10, NASB). Any sin can separate us from God, but some sins have gravely different results. The rioting and looting that have plagued our nation in recent weeks are prime examples of what happens when anyone or any group seeks to throw off godly principles that restrain lawlessness. Obviously there are few ideas more lawless than the "Abolish the Police" movement now gaining traction in some places.

The answer, rather obviously, is a return to God and His word. Until that happens, national and local leaders will seek human answers that actually lead to more hand-wringing than heart healing.

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Further study: Matthew 7:12; Romans 13:1-7; II Peter 2:9-10