

God's Plan for Freedom

God planned, from the beginning for us to be free. But man has often misunderstood that plan. God planned for us to be free from sin, not free to follow whatever human passions we enjoy. When Jesus told His followers in John 8:32, "...you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free," He was speaking of freedom from sin, not freedom to sin and not freedom in a political sense of the word. In fact, His people lived under an authoritarian government which denied many of the freedoms we, in America, enjoy today.

That said, we do see times in ancient Israel when God granted the Israelites national freedom from oppressive enemies. But God, many times, removed that freedom when His people ignored His laws. Time after time, God allowed foreign nations to invade, conquer and rule over Israel simply because they ignored His written laws (the book of Judges has several examples, as do the books of Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel). God's own word profusely and deeply connects national freedom with national righteousness. It is impossible to miss those connections and stay logical.

There are no prophecies about the United States of American in the Bible, but we see clear and profound parallels in today's world; as a nation's righteousness and moral integrity go, so goes the freedoms of the nation, simply because they lose God's blessings!

Our founding fathers (of our nation) understood that meticulously. Never before in the history of the world were there gathered together in one room, so many men who understood human nature, various political systems and God's word as were gathered in Philadelphia to consider the future of the new nation they were founding. As they carefully combined their knowledge to forge the very foundations of a new nation, they combined their understanding of those three things in such a way as to guarantee (at least on paper) the future freedoms of speech, religion and many others.

Our response to those three things (human nature, political systems and God's word) has and is determining the fate our nation and our freedoms. If sin prevails (yes, "sin" as defined in God's word) we shall lose His blessings and suffer the fate of sinful nations before us. If righteousness prevails (not good ideas, not political systems, and not laws we happen to like, but true, biblical righteousness) then we shall reap the blessings of godly nations of history (e.g. Israel under Saul, David and Solomon).

Our forefathers, 245 years ago, with strength and blessings from God, "brought forth on this continent a new nation, (Abraham Lincoln) that delivered true, religious freedom and this nation has used it well at times, not so much now. This nation was ultimately founded by God, Himself (Romans 13:1-7) and as such is a great gift to us still today. I, for one, celebrate His precious gift and those who fought, like Gideon of old, to keep our nation free from the onslaught of godless nations in two world wars and many other conflicts.

This week, and this day, I hope you will join me in giving honor to whom honor is due (Rom. 13:7) - those who understood this great blessing and all who worked, fought, sacrificed and prayed to keep our nation free and godly, yesterday and today. "Lord, thank you for the precious freedom from sin, freedom from oppression, and freedom to worship."

-Ray Wallace

Galations 5:1, It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery."