

July 2nd, 2023
Pinecrest Baptist Church
a.m.

Sermon Title: Safe From God
Sermon Text: (Isaiah 26:20-21)

Intro:

Two hundred forty seven years ago, 56 men put their names, their lives, and their livelihoods on the line, when they signed a document called the Declaration of Independence from Great Britain.

- Not only did they do it. They did it with no timidity at all!

- Before the document was finally signed, a reward or bounty had been put on the head of one John Hancock by the King of England. According to a historian from the national archives, after Hancock signed his name he, “rose from his seat, pointing to it, and said, ***“There, John Bull can read my name without spectacles, he may double his reward, and I put his at defiance.”***

One of the most important lines in that patriotic document that the forefathers of our nation crafted is the final one. ***“for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.”***

What riches, blessings, and favor our nation has enjoyed for all of these years, due to the “protection from divine providence.”

- As people often say, “All good things must end.”

I do not know if you have realized this, but I assert it to you today. That I believe we have entered that time, when Our Nation no longer “Enjoys the Protection of Divine Providence.”

- Our Divine Protection has Ended.

Sometimes I hear people look around and state, “If something doesn’t happen soon, something is going to happen soon!”

- Or “The Lord is going to judge America, if she does not repent.”

There was a time not long ago, we made some decisions as a nation.

We ruled prayer in public schools was against the Law...

We had to Stop saying that our country was built on Judeo Christian values.

In one generation, over the last 100 years this is what we now see...

- 1.) Sexual revolution breaking “free from the bonds of marriage”
- 2.) Killing babies in the womb so we do not have to deal with the consequences.
- 3.) Homosexual revolution, breaking free from the truth of a “husband and wife.”
- 4.) Legalization of Mind Altering Drugs
- 5.) Transgenderism.
- 6.) Police are bad guys and criminals are just victims
- 7.) Suicide rates are higher than they’ve ever been; but its because Christians are bigots.
- 8.) Profanity, sexual inuendo, and dumpster fire morality pours through entertainment like water at Niagara Falls
- 9.) Two plus two is not necessarily five
- 10.) Pure, old fashioned mathematics is racist.

11.) Not even mentioning the plethora of false religions and counterfeit churches. . . . and on, and on, and on. . .

Now people hear things like that and say, “If that doesn’t change the Lord is going to have to judge us soon!”

Friend, listen to me. Those aren’t the things that lead us into judgment – those things are the evidence that we are being judged!

When a man thinks of God’s judgment upon a people, his mind may run to the flood of Noah. – That was a judgment, but it won’t happen again.

- But we may think of:
 - the confusion of languages at Babel
 - the fire and brimstone of Sodom and Gomorrah
 - the plagues poured out on Egypt
 - the pestilence sent throughout the nations at various times.
 - Nations being invaded and taken captive

And all of those are examples of times that God wrought judgment upon a people; and brought down the thunder.

But there is another judgment, that is in my estimation perhaps the worst of all. Worse than fires and earthquakes, famines, and financial collapse.

- It is the judgment of “Abandonment.” – When God Almighty removes His protecting providence, and hands a society over to the dregs and slime of sin and wickedness.

Now before you say, God would never do that – you’ve just confessed that you don’t the God of the Bible very well at all. Asaph wrote in 80th Psalm a section the Israel was to sing and remember.

Psalm 80:8-13 – “Thou hast brought a vine out of Egypt: Thou hast cast out the heathen, and planted it. Thou preparedst *room* before it, And didst cause it to take deep root, and it filled the land. The hills were covered with the shadow of it, And the boughs thereof *were like* the goodly cedars. She sent out her boughs unto the sea, And her branches unto the river. Why hast thou *then* broken down her hedges, So that all they which pass by the way do pluck her? The boar out of the wood doth waste it, And the wild beast of the field doth devour it.”

Isaiah 5:5-6 – “And now go to; I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard: I will take away the hedge thereof, and it shall be eaten up; *and* break down the wall thereof, and it shall be trodden down: And I will lay it waste: It shall not be pruned, nor digged; But there shall come up briers and thorns: I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.”

God seared into the minds of the Israelites, both through the prophets and through their songs, that all He had to do to bring judgment upon them was to “remove their divine protection,” and tear down their hedges.

All of that being said, God does in fact do that!

Now what are the signs a nation has been judged? What is the evidence that this may be happening among a people?

Romans chapter 1 is perhaps the standard bearer for seeing the evidence that God has judged a nation.

Signs of Judgment on a Nation:

- God's responses to a nation's defiance: (Romans 1)

1.) "Wherefore God gave them up to uncleanness...to dishonor their own bodies between themselves." – vs 24

2.) "God gave them up to unto vile affections: (homosexuality) into that which is against nature." – vs 26

3.) "God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to those things which are not convenient." – vs 28

Uncleanness between themselves

Vile affections contrary to nature

Reprobate minds which are not convenient

Vs 24 – "gave...up" – handed over, or delivered to "uncleanness" –

This is a broad term with a few different applications. Throughout the New Testament it is associated with "sexual impurity, spiritual impurity, and sometimes with demonic influence."

In Romans 1 – Paul ties it to "sexual impurity, but more so dishonoring of the human body." Sexually filthy, demonically influenced, and bodily abusive.

*note – Make no mistake about it, these aren't the reasons for the judgment, these ARE the judgment. – When a society

demands for there to be no God, at the time of His choosing, He hands them over to the influences they desire.

Vs 26 – "Vile affections" (the example given is homosexuality) – wicked passions. – Unrestrained by God, uninhibited by God; in other words, their own wickedness unleashed, and no longer confronted, restrained, or rebuffed by the God of heaven.

Vs 28 – "a reprobate mind" – "things which are not convenient"

Reprobate – "worthless, or literally 'of no use.'" – A boat that won't float is not usable for what it was made for. A plane that cannot fly is not usable for what it was made for. A mind that is reprobate cannot be used for what it was made for. – A worthless, and unusable mind.

-Not Convenient – "Do not fit" or are "not fitting"

These aren't the things that God will bring judgment on a society for, these are the Judgments of God upon that society.

- He lets them embrace their own godlessness without conscience.

- He lets them pervert, and distort natural affection into something He did not make.

- He unplugs their minds from the power of rationale, and designed function.

Here's the point – Do you think that man is JUST NOW this bad? Do you think that humanity is JUST now reaching this stage of depravity?

- Sin has ALWAYS been this bad! And even Worse than we see it now! – But by the grace of God we have never lived under the full load of its power, or we wouldn't have made it this long!

Here's the judgment:

- The limitations on Demonic Activity – become removed
- The hindrances to Sinful Aggression – have ceased
- The leash on depravity's desires has been cut!!

When we live in the society that calls good evil, and evil good, we are living among a people unimpeded in any way by the God of providence.

What can a Christian do when the country he loves is crumbling in sin, and dying in judgment?

Can God protect the Christian on earth, from the Judgment falling from heaven?

- Protection from Judgment is the entire work of God on the human race! – Of Course He Can.
- The Total protection from Ultimate Judgment and Hell is called, "Salvation!"
- There would be nothing more foolish than to think that God can save from sin, and protect us from hell, but He cannot keep us safe during the destruction of a society on earth.

Will God protect the Christian on earth, from the Judgment falling from heaven? – Now that's that next question. Friend there is a clear, divine, declaration in the Word of God that

answers that question. Write this down in big bold black print. – He **Might**.

- Zephaniah 2:3 – **"Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth, Which have wrought his judgment; Seek righteousness, seek meekness: It may be ye shall be hid in the day of the LORD's anger."**

The Word of God tells us we can be "hidden" from the time of troubles; and "Hidden" from our enemies. Those are wonderful and blessed promises.

- But there is one more...
- To be "hidden" during a time of judgment
- To be "hidden" during a day of wrath"

Man has three sure enemies – The World, the Flesh, and the Devil. But he has ONE Real Danger and Imminent threat, and that is God.

- The Lord Jesus said in Matthew 10:28 – **"And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."**

Isaiah 26:20-21

Narrative/Context:

- A message for a future generation of Israelites.
- A message for the final generation of Israelites.
 - pertaining to life during the great tribulation to come upon the earth.
- They will be God's Remnant of Believers, living in countries and societies enduring Judgment.

From this, we notice two overriding things that are necessary to know pertaining to judgment.

I. The Safety of a Sacred Home – vs 20 – “Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself for as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast.”

*Note – The Lord’s instructions to Israel for that future time, teach us the principles we need to know in our time.

Note who He speaks to:

A. To Those the Lord is at Home With. – “Come, my people, into thy chambers”

1.) This is an “imperative invitation” – It both commands and compels – it both directs And pleads.

*Note – The language doctors tell us that this word “come” in the Hebrew means, come, or go, or move, or walk – the idea of “exercising mobility”.

- They also tell us that this in the imperative mood – like a command.

- But they also tell us that this is a pleading sense, which is why they translate it “come inside” instead of “go inside.”

- What does that matter?

2.) The Lord is pleading them to Come to Him, in Their own House!

a.) The picture here is that The Lord is at Home in this house.

Now that’s a great question? – Is the Lord at home with You! – I didn’t say are you at home with Jesus, I am saying is Jesus at home in your house!

- There is no safer place in any circumstance than in the approving presence of Christ Jesus.

B. About Those the Lord is at War With – “Shut thy doors about thee.”

*Now note – What’s this? If I am safe with the Lord, what’s this for?

- The same reason that twice before the Lord had His people to shut their door during a time of public judgment.

- 1.) He “shut Noah” in the ark

- 2.) He “shut the door of Israelites” during Passover.

- The closed door is not to keep them in, but to Keep Judgment OUT!

Oh, but Preacher, can those who are not the Lord’s not come in also and avoid judgment. Of course they can, but that is not the picture here.

- In Noah’s closed door – it kept the water of judgment out

- In Israel’s closed door – it kept the influence of the Egyptians out...

Here is the plan for a Sacred Home with Jesus: - The Door is Shut to the Outside Influence of the Judged. The Door is secure on the Inside to know Jesus better!

- The influence of a Judged Society on the outside.

- The influence of the Saving Jesus on the inside. – A Door or wall of separation in between!

Vance Havner said once, the automobile got men out of the house, and the television got the world into the house. The only thing a Christian family can do when the Nation is crumbling is to keep your Home Saturated with Jesus and Vacated from Worldliness.

He speaks to Those Who the Lord is at Home With; about those who the Lord is at War With; and for Those who the Lord is at One with.

C. For Those the Lord is at One With – “hide thyself for as it were for a little moment.”

1.) Hide in Jesus

Psalm 27:5 – “For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: In the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; He shall set me up upon a rock.”

Psalm 32:7 – “Thou *art* my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; Thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah.”

There is ONE and ONLY One place of safety during the time of judgment on earth and in eternity, and that is Jesus Himself.

- The only shield I have, and the only one I need is Jesus, and if He slay me, I will trust Him.

The home is to be like an Ark in the time of flood!

II. The Doctrine of a Global Doom – vs 21

*Note – Here is a subtlety we need not to make too much of, but enough not to miss it.

- The Lord implores His people to take certain actions, before He tells them why.

- In the first part of verse 20, He gives them an action to take; and had He stopped speaking right there, they would have still been left in the place of choosing obedience or disobedience.

(The simple point is, friend when Jesus says “Come unto me” – it doesn’t matter WHY...

- When He says “Follow me” don’t ask “What for?”

Now note the three most important things the Lord wants them to know this verse about what is to come.

A. It is Inevitable – “Behold the Lord cometh”

B. It is Painful – “to punish the inhabitants of the earth...”

C. It is Justifiable – “for their iniquity”

Conclusion: - Now here’s the conclusion of the matter.

- You may find protection from a rogue government...
- You may find safety during a national conflict
- You might be able to take shelter and welcome during a time of national crisis...

- But Who is going to keep you safe from God?
- there is only ONE – God Himself in Jesus Christ!