The World We Live In!

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday June 14th, 2020

Text: Hosea 4:6-7; Jeremiah 6:15

### Intro

1. History has a grim way of repeating itself! Godless nations have a way of disappearing from the pages of history, no matter their might or accomplishment!
2. Israel, Kingdom of the Northern Ten Tribes, God’s chosen people, would be punished for her lack of knowledge – taken away by Assyria in 722 B.C. leaving no remnant behind!
3. Hosea 4:6-7: God, through Hosea, outlined why they were being removed from their land:
   1. Destroyed for lack of knowledge
   2. Rejected as priest for rejection of knowledge
   3. Children forgotten for forgetting knowledge
4. ***All preventable!***
5. While that was long ago to Israel, God has promised consequences for ignorance of His word to all men: Eternal separation from God!
   1. II Thess. 1:7-9: Whether from ignorance or willfully, those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel will be eternally separated from Him and eternally punished!
   2. Acts 17:30-31: God no longer overlooks ignorance but requires all men everywhere to repent for there is a Day of Judgment!
   3. Jn. 12:48: Doesn’t matter if men reject God’s word, they will still be judged by it!
6. ***Eternal destruction and separation from God is preventable!***
7. Jeremiah spoke to the Israelites in the Southern Kingdom of Judah, who saw their brethren taken away by Assyria, but then did the exact same thing! (Exiled to Babylon in 586 B.C.)
8. God, through Jeremiah, said an unashamed world that can no longer blush brings destruction!
   1. Jer. 3:3: “Therefore the showers have been withheld, And there has been no spring rain. Yet you had a harlot's forehead; You refused to be ashamed.”
   2. Jer. 6:15: “Were they ashamed because of the abomination they have done? They were not even ashamed at all; They did not even know how to blush. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; At the time that I punish them, They shall be cast down,” says the LORD.”
   3. Jer. 8:12: “Were they ashamed because of the abomination they had done? They certainly were not ashamed, And they did not know how to blush; Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; At the time of their punishment they shall be brought down," Says the LORD.”
9. The process for the breakdown of a society is outlined in *Romans 1:18-32:*
   1. Rejection of God
   2. Creation of gods (in man’s own images)
   3. Reprobate minds (given over to immorality)
   4. Loss of Control: Self & Society
10. Edward Gibbon’s *The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* (1776 through 1788) attributed societal immorality to the fall of Rome:
    1. Arrogant in their decadence
    2. Grew complacent
       1. “The Roman Empire succumbed to barbarian invasions because of a loss of civic virtue among its citizens. They had become lazy and soft, outsourcing their duties to defend their Empire to barbarian mercenaries, who then became so numerous and ingrained that they were able to take over the Empire. Romans had become effeminate, unwilling to live a tougher, “manly” military lifestyle.”
11. Exactly what Romans 1 teaches! (Romans was written in the 1st century, over 1700 years before Gibbon’s history on the fall of Rome!)
12. ***Moral decay leads to ruin!*** (Seen in both God’s word and in secular history!)

#### The World We Live In – No Longer Able to Blush!

1. The U.S., like so many nations around the globe, have become like Judah and the Roman Empire, a nation that no longer blushes!
   * + 1. **Abortion:** 1973: Roe v. Wade opened the door to mass murder of unborn children in the name of women’s civil rights and murder was changed to abortion!
          1. Surgically-Induced Abortions (Not counting chemically-induced abortions) in US 1973-current (as of 06/11/2020 as reported by <http://www.numberofabortions.com/>) is 62,013,170
          2. US this Year after 16 weeks gestation: 18,460
          3. Significant because of what we know of the development of a baby at 16 weeks:
   * The body is fully formed, the fingers and toes have fingerprints & nails.
   * Is about 5 inches long and weighs about 3 ounces, about the size of a large avocado.
   * The baby is moving about: may grasp for the umbilical cord , suck it's thumb, and is capable of making facial expressions and kicking at the amniotic sac.
   * The heart & circulatory system and the urinary tract are fully functioning. and the blood is pumping through these tiny veins
   * The baby is inhaling and exhaling the amniotic fluid through the lungs.
   * The eyes are in the proper position, and the baby can see straight ahead & blink his/her eyelids.
   * The genitals have formed. In the case of a girl, the uterus has already developed and the ovaries are in the proper place.
   * Umberto Castiello at the University of Padova, Italy reported unborn babies have the ability to interact as early as 14 weeks into the pregnancy.
     + 1. **Homosexuality:** June 26, 2015 SCOTUS striking down DOMA (Defense Of Marriage Act) and allowing same-sex marriage in all 50 states!
          1. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that based on Section 1 of the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution no states are allowed to ban same-sex marriage, thus granting same-sex couples the right to marry across all 50 states!
          2. Removed state rights to keep the definition of marriage to one man and one woman (Matthew 19:4-6; Mark 10:6-9: Jesus said 1 man, 1 woman, from the beginning of creation!)
          3. The majority (voted 5-4) voted DOMA Unconstitutional and opened the door to same-sex marriages based on one’s “feelings.” They created (made-up) a law based on feelings of love, thus leaving future courts to define “love.”
          4. Their bizarre interpretation of the 14th Amendment has had far-reaching consequences.

* Defining love and marriage as between one person and…fill in the blank!
* Already many people have tried to use it to legalize polygamy!
* Already people have used it to try and marry animals and things in other countries!
  + - * 1. The White House was lit with the colors of the rainbow in celebration of the Supreme Court ruling on same-sex marriage, June 26, 2015. (Social media was abuzz with rainbowed profile pics!)
        2. It was so shocking that people wondered if it was a real photo or event!
        3. On June 29, 2015, then-President Obama remarked on the rainbow-lit White House during a press conference:
* “I didn’t have the chance to comment on how good the White House looked in rainbow colors … to see people gathered in the evening on a beautiful summer night and to feel whole and to feel accepted and to feel they had a right to love, that was pretty cool. That was a good thing.”
* He went on to say, “That’s a moment worth savoring.”
  + - 1. **Adultery:** Rampant and unashamed websites like Ashley Madison promote adultery as an exciting affair that everyone ought to experience!
         1. The Ashley Madison website scandal (August 19-23, 2015) exposed how popular it is!
         2. Their website had a tagline: “Life is short, have an affair!”
         3. Hackers released files on 36 million (out of a reported 40 million) users spanning 53 countries, and over 10,000 users who used their government or military work emails.
         4. Men and women alike (though the hackers revealed it was 90-95% men) were seeking affairs through anonymity.
         5. When the files were released, the adulterers blamed the website for not keeping them secret, and the website blamed the hackers!
         6. At the heart of it is people do not hold marriage in honor (Heb. 13:4) – men and women sought to cheat on their spouses!
      2. **“Divorce for any reason”:** Led to many broken homes and confused the issue of Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage for God’s people!
         1. Mt. 5:31-32; 19:3-9; Mark 10:6-12; I Cor. 7:10-11 (Rom. 7:1-3; I Cor. 7:39; Heb. 13:4)
         2. Jesus’ teaching on divorce and remarriage came from the question, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any reason at all?”
         3. He said if you divorce your spouse, you can only remarry if the reason for the divorce was adultery!
         4. If you divorce for any reason and then remarry you have committed adultery!
         5. Our society looks at it quite differently: if a person is divorced (for any reason) then they are fair game to remarry! **God’s people need to be careful and diligent in choosing a spouse!**
         6. To be Scripturally (Lawfully in God’s eyes) wed:

Lawfully married if man married to a woman (vice versa) – Mt. 19:4-6; Mark 10:6-9

Lawfully married if any previous marriage ended in the death of a spouse (widower, widow) – Rom. 7:1-3; I Cor. 7:39

Lawfully married if any previous marriage ended with putting a spouse away for adultery (man, woman, or both) – Mt. 19:8-9

Lawfully if not a polygamous marriage (multiple wives, concubines, etc.) – Mt. 19:5-6; Mark 10:6-9

Neither spouse engaged in an adulterous affair – Rom. 13:9; Heb. 13:4

* + - * 1. Jesus was quite clear; but our society has “muddied the waters” on the issue. **God’s people need to be diligent!**
      1. **Racism & Violence:** Injustice plagues our country!
         1. The May 25, 2020 death of George Floyd, a 46 year old African American man, by a white police officer, Derek Chauvin, in Minneapolis, MN, sparked protests across the nation!
  1. Peaceful protests continue across the nation, but in some places rioting and looting!
  2. This event and events since have highlighted the racial injustices and unrest in our country and deepens the divide between people.
  3. All of mankind, no matter their skin color or ethnicity, is made in the image of God! (Gen. 1:26-27) – Latin: Imago Dei
  4. We are all humans, the same race to God -- Acts 17:26: All nations came from one man! (Same blood!)
  5. Racism is a man-made division! All ONE race! (Humans)
  6. Murder is condemned because man is made in the image of God (Gen. 9:6).
  7. Jesus said the 2nd greatest commandment (next to loving God with all we are) is “YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' There is no other commandment greater than these” (Mark 12:31).
  8. Jesus also said, “Treat others the same way you want them to treat you” (Luke 6:31).
  9. Jesus went on to die for ALL of humanity!
  10. He died for everyone because that is the worth He placed on each soul: Worth His blood – II Cor. 5:14-15; II Peter 3:18

1. The world we live in has truly become like Judah of old and is “not ashamed” and no longer knows “how to blush!” *(Jeremiah 6:15)*

Conclusion

1. “The world we live in” is not an excuse to live as the world but is to differentiate God’s people from the world – for we are to be holy and separate! (II Cor. 6:17-18)
   1. We live in the world but must not be part of the world! (John 17:15; I Cor. 5:9-10)
2. Solution: Personal Righteousness
   1. No matter what our world does around us, the righteous must choose to be holy and blameless in the midst of a crooked and perverse world! (Jer. 6:16; Phil. 2:15)
   2. Pray for our leaders so that we may continue with freedom to assemble and serve God in peace and safety! (I Tim. 2:1-2)
   3. Trust in God *(He is in control – Dan. 4:31-37; Rom. 13:1)* and exercise your right to vote for godly leaders!
3. Solution: Not Reject God’s Word
   1. Both Israel & Judah of old knew God, and knew better, but they had willfully forgot God and His Laws & were destroyed! (Hosea 4:6-7; Jeremiah 8:12)
   2. Let us never be guilty of “lack of knowledge,” of “rejecting” & “forgetting” God’s word!
4. Solution: Be Lights!
   1. Don’t become discouraged in doing good because of the unashamed evil around us, but let us be forces of good influence despite the inability of our world to blush! *(Mt. 5:16: Be Lights)*
5. Solution: Teach the Gospel!
   1. Be above reproach, trust in God, and teach the gospel and the consequences for sin!
   2. Evil cannot be legislated out because it is a heart problem!
   3. The gospel can change hearts and transform lives ! (I Cor. 6:9-11; Rom. 1:16-17; 12:1-2;) – Teach the gospel!
6. If not a Christian, obey the gospel now: Repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins!
7. If sin in your life, repent and be renewed! Be a force of good influence – be a light!

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