

Perspective

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Open Letter to the President of the United States

In my lifetime I have never felt compelled to write any political leader in the country, but I'm writing to you because this nation is at a critical junction in history. It is largely due to your leadership that this possible better outcome could be brought about for the nation and the world.

Often leaders have wanted victory in war for selfish reasons. The apostle James, brother of Jesus Christ, wrote almost two thousand years ago to the twelve tribes of Israel scattered abroad: *"Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures."* (James 4:1-3). Some American leaders have committed their nations to war for the wrong reasons, but I do not believe that is in your heart. You send our armies to fight to bring about peace, not only for the United States, but also for our friends and allies. You do not want to see the people of Ukraine or Russia continue to die. You detest the acts of terrorism in the world which have cost so many lives. Mr. Trump, you should be applauded for your efforts in striving to bring about peace in the world. Everyone in their right mind wants peace, but nations often go about securing it the wrong way.

They sought for peace, but have not found it

Peace has been illusive since time immemorial, but why? Men like Hitler sought to achieve a thousand years of peace by force. Chamberlain sought it by appeasement of Germany, but it did not work. Clearly if they had known the right way, they would have used it, but they did not know. In ancient times, the prophet Isaiah wrote chiefly to the Kingdom of Judah: *"Their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood; their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; wasting and destruction are in their paths. The way of peace they have not known, and there is no justice in their ways; they have made themselves crooked paths; whoever takes that way shall not know peace."* (Isaiah 59:7-8)

Isaiah's words describe the problem in America, as well as the Western world—our peoples walk in crooked ways. You did not cause that, but you inherited the responsibility as president of leading a people who have turned away from God. What they need is a loving and humble leader who will nudge them in the right way. Jeremiah 6:16 admonishes us: *"Thus says the LORD: 'Stand in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; Then you will find rest for your souls. But they said, 'We will not walk in it.''"*

You obviously cannot turn the whole nation to God, but the nation can recapture the time-honored ways of love of God, family, and country. If we teach honesty and compassion for our fellow man in their time of need, the ways of our nation will be made right.

God instructed ancient Israel in the way of peace and prosperity

When Israel came out of Egypt, and they wandered in the wilderness for forty years. They were instructed by God: *"And you shall remember that the Lord your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not."* (Deuteronomy 8:2)

Our peoples have been humbled and demoralized since World War II with failures in wars. Even so, our peoples have sunk to new lows morally. Though God continues to bless the country monetarily, and we have the highest GDP in the world, it is as though we have put our money in pockets with holes in them. Haggai 1:5-6 expresses it well: *"Now therefore, thus says the Lord of hosts: 'Consider your ways! You have sown much, and bring in little; you eat, but do not have enough; you drink, but you are not filled with drink; you clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; and he who earns wages, earns wages to put into a bag with holes.'"*

With the incredible blessing of wealth we have had, we could almost adorn our buildings with gold, silver, and precious stones, but many of our own people live paycheck to paycheck to survive. Why? *"Go up to*

the mountains and bring wood and build the temple, that I may take pleasure in it and be glorified,' says the LORD. 'You looked for much, but indeed it came to little; and when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why?' says the LORD of hosts. 'Because of My house that is in ruins, while every one of you runs to his own house.'" (Haggai 1:7-9)

God doesn't expect us to build a temple to Him, but He does want us to turn back to Him. Does our nation please God? The prophet wrote: "*The ox knows its owner and the donkey its master's crib; but Israel does not know, my people do not consider.*" (Isaiah 1:3)

What is a stake?

Unless this country's ways are changed for the good, prophecy indicates the United States shall fall. We claim to be "one nation under God" in our pledge of allegiance which is spoken by young students in many American schools. However, are we under God or do we just claim to be? If we aren't, then we are hypocritical. Isaiah 10:5-6 is an end-time prophecy aimed at the U.S. and United Kingdom: "*O Assyrian, the rod of mine anger, and the staff in their hand is my indignation. I will send him against a hypocritical nation, and against the people of my wrath will I give him a charge, to take the spoil, and to take the prey, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets.*"

"Taking the prey" isn't something we think about in this modern era. It means a great number of people will be taken captive. In that time, the wealth of the nation will be taken as well. In short, the U.S. and Britain will be stamped out of existence. Unless our people will turn to God, the stakes are as high as they possibly can be. It will be a time unlike any other in history or will ever be (Matthew 24:21-22).

When our ways please God

One of the favorite scriptures of President Reagan was II Chronicles 7:14: "*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.*"

God wants to heal our people and the descendants of Jacob. Consider what God instructed ancient Israel around three millennia ago: "*Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the Lord your God: Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the country. Blessed shall be the fruit of your body, the produce of your ground and the increase of your herds, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks. Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out. The Lord will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before your face; they shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways.*" (Deuteronomy 28:1-7)

Our country used to be known as the "breadbasket of the world." The agricultural output of the United States was feeding the world. We are slowly losing this moniker as many farming families fall by the wayside and land is lost to development. In Deuteronomy 28:16-19 God warned Israel if they persisted in disobedience: "*Cursed shall you be in the city, and cursed shall you be in the country. Cursed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Cursed shall be the fruit of your body and the produce of your land, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks. Cursed shall you be when you come in, and cursed shall you be when you go out.*"

God also further warned them in verse 25 what would happen if they did not follow the commandments: "*The Lord will cause you to be defeated before your enemies; you shall go out one way against them and flee seven ways before them; and you shall become troublesome to all the kingdoms of the earth.*"

The simple truth, if our ways please Almighty God, then He will look down from His throne in heaven and bless us. This country, more than ever, needs a prudent president who will nudge our people in the direction of living moral lives. We need a leader who will cause the nation to look to God for help in this time of war, and maybe God will have mercy upon us. For it is He Who gives power and is our refuge and our strength.