

God Bless America - cont.

many in charge are wanting to “go soft on crime” and abolish the death penalty. Many citizens engage in violence without being punished and murder increases. Abortion continues.

Unauthorized religion is on the increase as well as sexual immorality because we are “tolerant” of everyone’s beliefs and lifestyles. Materialism continues to increase. Divorce is higher today than years ago. Like ancient Israel, many citizens in America don’t “blush” any more when they engage in sin (Jeremiah 3:3; 6:15; 8:12).

Is There Hope for America?

Yes, I believe God will continue to bless America. But, “In God We Trust” must be our motto, not “In the US we trust” (Psalm 147:10-11; Jeremiah 9:23). We must give up our sin and pride (Proverbs 16:18). We must learn the lessons of ancient nations like Assyria (Isaiah 10:12-13), Babylon (Daniel 5:20-31), Tyre (Ezekiel 28:2), and Philistia (Zechariah 9:6) which all fell.

“God bless America.” May these three words never become empty on the lips of United States politicians or citizens (Proverbs 14:34).

- Chris Reeves -

- Scripture of the Week -

“Keep the charge of the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His ordinances, and His testimonies, according to what is written in the Law of Moses, that you may succeed in all that you do and wherever you turn...”

- 1 Kings 2:3 -

Obeying God will bring you success!

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

God Bless America

*Blessed is the nation whose God
is the Lord
- Psalm 33:12 -*

The words “God bless America” come from the song written by Irving Berlin in 1918 and rewritten by him in 1938 for Kate Smith to sing on radio. The lyrics are very meaningful:

*While the storm clouds gather, far across
the sea, let us swear allegiance, to a land
that's free. Let us all be grateful, for a
land so fair, as we raise our voices in a
solemn prayer.*

*God bless America, land that I love. Stand
beside her and guide her through the
night with the light from above.*

*From the mountains, to the prairies, to the
oceans white with foam. God bless Ameri-
ca, my home sweet home. God bless
America, my home sweet home.*

God Rules the Nations

The reason that God has and can continue to bless America is because God rules over all the nations of the world. And because he rules over all people, he can either curse them or bless them based upon their disobedience or obedience toward him (Psalm

9:19-20; 99:1-2).

God, through is providential working, can control the hearts of world leaders. He can put them in power and remove them from power when they become proud (Proverbs 21:1; Daniel 4:25,32). This is why we constantly need to pray for our leaders (1 Timothy 2:1-2).



Has God Blessed America?

Yes, God has indeed blessed America. He has blessed it with freedom, with a fertile land, and with financial fortune. Like Israel of old, America has become a “great nation” by God’s grace and providence (Deuteronomy 4:7-8).

With Blessings Come Responsibilities

Everyone wants blessings, but we must also remember that with blessings come responsibilities. This is true in many aspects of our life. What are some responsibilities that a nation must carry out in order to keep being blessed?

- A nation needs to repent of its wickedness (Ezekiel 18) or it will be removed from its land (Ezekiel 19).
- A nation needs to stop its evil or it will be oppressed by its enemies (Jeremiah 32).
- A nation needs to return to the Lord or it will be punished by the Lord. Consider the question: “Why has the Lord done this?” (Deuteronomy 29:24; 1 Kings 9:8; and Jeremiah 5:19; 16:10; 22:8).
- A nation that has turned from God needs to turn back to God (Hosea 4:6; 7:10; 8:3,7; 10:13; 11:7; 13:9)

How Does America Stand?

So, where does America stand today with regard to its relationship with God. Well, look at all the social indicators. We have a high crime rate and