

When the Foundations Are Being Destroyed

Exodus 9:22-26; 10:3-6, 13-15

I. Our nation has been greatly blessed by God.

- A. Our culture has Judeo-Christian roots.
 - 1. Many of our forbearers were believers.
 - (a) Some came here as persecuted Christians.
 - (b) Many came to faith in historic revivals (Great Awakening).
 - 2. Our founders were not all born again believers.
 - (a) But some were and others were greatly influenced.
 - 3. Alexis de Tocqueville
- B. America is not a Christian nation.
 - 1. We are a nation that has been greatly influenced by Christianity.
 - 2. We are not God's chosen people.
 - (a) The Puritans tried to be a new Israel.
 - (b) Their theology was wrong.
 - 3. The old covenant was with a nation, Israel.
 - (a) The new covenant is with individuals.
 - (b) But that doesn't mean God doesn't deal with nations anymore.
- C. God is still the Judge of the nations (Psalm 47:7-8).
 - 1. He established authority (Romans 13:1).
 - (a) He raises up rulers.
 - (b) He raises up prophets.
 - (c) He raises up and tears down.
 - 2. God works through people, but he has never abdicated.
 - (a) He is still King and Judge.

II. The seventh and eighth plagues are related. Both destroy blessing.

- A. The 7th plague is hail; frozen rain.
 - 1. Rain is a blessing when it is the right amount.
 - (a) Irish blessing "may the rain fall soft upon your fields"
 - (b) Even rain is good. Too much or too little is not good.
 - (c) Torrential downpours bring flooding.
 - (d) Too little rain brings drought.
 - 2. The hail brings death and destruction.
 - (a) The blessing, rain, has become a curse, hail.
 - (b) The rain that provides food becomes the hail that destroys it.
 - (c) The rain brings life. The hail brings death.
- B. Are there blessings in our culture that have become a curse?
 - 1. What about freedom?
 - (a) True freedom is the right to choose within set boundaries.
 - (b) When people follow God, the boundaries are set by his word.
 - (c) The 10 commandments are boundaries.
 - (d) So, I am free, but I am not free to take your life.

- (e) God's boundaries are righteousness and justice.
- 2. But what happens when people don't follow God or his boundaries?
 - (a) Then, if someone gets offended, they are "free" to do what they want.
 - (b) I can take your property, burn your property, assault you....
 - (c) Freedom without boundaries is anarchy; a curse.
- 3. Wall Street Journal article
 - (a) There are people who are trying to destroy the foundations.
 - (b) Strategy of undermining our culture.
 - (c) Bring division, not solutions; not reform.
- B. The 8th plague is swarms of locusts.
 - 1. The locusts destroy everything that survives the hail.
 - (a) In Scripture, when things are green it's a sign of life.
 - (b) Brown and dry vegetation is a sign of barrenness, death.
 - (c) The locusts consume blessing.
 - 2. It seems like the pandemic and the lockdown is consuming a lot of blessing.
 - (a) Millions of unemployed.
 - (b) Thriving businesses closed down.
 - (c) Government spending money it doesn't have.

II. Why are these things happening and what do we do about it?

- A. "When the foundations are being destroyed what can the righteous do?" Psalm 11:3
 - 1. Don't forget the next verse (Psalm 11:4A)
- B. The plagues of Egypt are the opposite of God's blessings.
 - 1. Deuteronomy is the renewal of the covenant.
 - (a) The blessing of rain (Deut. 28:1-2, 12-14).
 - (b) But, if you turn away... (Deut. 28:23, 27, 38, 42-45).
- C. American culture has in large part turned away.
 - 1. Haddon Robinson quote
 - 2. The Church in Babylon
- D. God spoke to the church in Laodicea (Revelation 3:14-22).
 - 1. New Morning Mercies; Paul David Tripp; July 24th
 - 2. God calls us to pray for the mission.
 - 3. We need to pray for our nation!
 - 4. We are not helpless. God is with us!