

The Awakening of A Nation

Hosea 4:1-10, 6:1-3

INTRO

As all of you are keenly aware, we are weeks away from a critical election in our nation. As a shepherd who is charged by God to equip the saints, exhort the saints, and provide the saints with biblical knowledge through which to view the world around them, I have been compelled by the Spirit to preach an election day sermon this morning.

Before you get your emails ready (which I do read and care about), and let me know that I've become a political lightning rod, or communicate that I have become too political, here is my response. I have not become too political; American politics has become too theological and spiritual for any caring shepherd of God's flock to stay silent about.

For 20 years, I've taught the Bible verse-by-verse and chapter-by-chapter. I've never avoided an issue found in Scripture, and I've faithfully preached the gospel of Jesus, which is the hope of the world. If I sound too political, it's because politics in this country have sought to take the place of God in the soul of this nation, and the idols that have been established are not only destroying our nation but are infecting the church.

1 Timothy 2:2 (NKJV) for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.

Before I start, I will say upfront that I am not speaking today as a political pundit who has anything to gain by supporting a particular candidate or party. I have no interest in pleasing people on the right or left, and I'm confident I will have enough in today's sermon to offend anyone whose greatest identity is in their political affiliation.

This message today is for the church; the church's need for repentance and re-engagement as those placed on this earth for such a time as this to proclaim Christ, live righteously, and

seek to be the salt and light in a decaying and compromised culture.

And yes, today's sermon is long.

BIBLE PASSAGE

Hosea 4:1-10 (NKJV - New King James Version)

¹ Hear the word of the Lord, You children of Israel, For the Lord brings a charge against the inhabitants of the land: "There is no truth or mercy Or knowledge of God in the land.

² By swearing and lying, Killing and stealing and committing adultery, They break all restraint, With bloodshed upon bloodshed.

³ Therefore the land will mourn; And everyone who dwells there will waste away With the beasts of the field And the birds of the air; Even the fish of the sea will be taken away.

⁴ "Now let no man contend, or rebuke another; For your people are like those who contend with the priest.

⁵ Therefore you shall stumble in the day; The prophet also shall stumble with you in the night; And I will destroy your mother.

⁶ My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

⁷ "The more they increased, The more they sinned against Me; I will change their glory into shame.

⁸ They shall eat, but not have enough; They shall commit harlotry, but not increase;

8:46



¹⁰ For they shall eat, but not have enough; They shall commit harlotry, but not increase; Because they have ceased obeying the Lord.

BIBLE PASSAGE**Hosea 6:1-3 (NKJV - New King James Version)**

¹ Come, and let us return to the Lord; For He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up.

² After two days He will revive us; On the third day He will raise us up, That we may live in His sight.

³ Let us know, Let us pursue the knowledge of the Lord. His going forth is established as the morning; He will come to us like the rain, Like the latter and former rain to the earth.

ILLUSTRATION

In February of 1994, the ***Columbus Iselin*** [*image-1*], a 170-foot research vessel, ran aground on a coral reef off the coast of Florida. The ship was operated by the University of Miami, conducting important research in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. Ironically, while their mission was to study and protect the marine environment, the vessel ended up doing the opposite. It destroyed over 5,500 square feet of precious coral reef, a delicate ecosystem that had taken centuries to grow. To make matters worse, the incident released 5,000 gallons of diesel fuel into the water, compounding the damage.

This well-intentioned vessel, designed for preservation and protection, ended up causing immense harm to the very thing it was trying to safeguard. One official described the reef damage as “utterly devastating.” Despite their good intentions, a lack of awareness and failure to carefully navigate led to irreversible destruction.

What makes this incident even more troubling is a detail revealed in the investigation. *“Capt. Michael Dick told investigators that he only remembers ‘coming to’ once the ship was hard aground,”* said Donald Heinrichs of the National Science Foundation. For about six minutes, Captain Dick had no memory of what was happening, during which time the vessel was dangerously repositioned closer to the reef. The ship was essentially left to drift into disaster. While he was supposed to be in control, he let a crew member go outside, leaving himself alone at the controls during a critical moment.

Isn't this a sobering analogy for the church today? Like the *Columbus Iselin*, the church is called to rescue, protect, and preserve. We are cruising, as it were, through the waters of

our current culture. At times, we are called to be a battleship, engaging the front lines of the spiritual battles that rage over the souls of men. Sometimes, we're a hospital ship, going into war to bring in the wounded and dying to find spiritual healing and strength. Sometimes, we are a preserving ship, bringing the salt and light of truth into a fragile environment.

Yet, if we are not spiritually awake and aware—if we fail to know and apply God's truth—we can damage and pollute the very things we are meant to preserve.

And sadly, like Captain Michael Dick, many of the church's pastors and leaders today have blacked out at a crucial moment. They don't see that the church is adrift, and they fail to take any corrective action to move the church away from damage that will both immobilize it and cause catastrophic harm to everything in its path.

INTRO

The women of our church are currently studying Hosea, and as I read chapters 4-6, I shuddered when I drew parallels between the state of our nation and the state of the church within our country. The word of God stands forever, and the things revealed remain just as poignant and relevant today as to the people of God in that time.

The book of Hosea is a profound narrative of God's covenantal love and Israel's repeated unfaithfulness. Hosea, a prophet to the northern kingdom of Israel, was called by God to live out a symbolic act of Israel's rebellion by marrying Gomer, a wife of unfaithfulness. Just as Gomer repeatedly left Hosea, Israel had turned its back on God, engaging in idolatry and breaking their covenant relationship with Him.

Throughout the book, Hosea pleads with the nation to recognize their spiritual adultery and return to the Lord. Israel's sin was not merely individual but national. It was a society that had abandoned God's laws, forgotten His character, and as a result, the land was full of injustice, immorality, and false worship. At the heart of Israel's rebellion was **a lack of knowledge of God**—not just ignorance, but willful rejection of His ways and truth.

By the time we arrive at Hosea 4, God brings His case against Israel, laying out the consequences of their rebellion. In Hosea 4:1-10, we see that Israel is in a state of moral and spiritual decay because they have rejected the knowledge of God. This rejection is not just an intellectual failure but a heart failure—a refusal to live under God's authority. The priests and leaders were responsible for guiding the people, yet they, too, had abandoned God, and as a result, the people were led astray.

APPLICATION

Just as Israel's rebellion led to national disaster, America too faces a time of reckoning. The church and its leaders, like the priests in Hosea's time, bear responsibility. When the church falls asleep and fails to teach the truth of God, be courageous in adversity, and remain grounded in the gospel, the nation suffers for it. However, Hosea doesn't leave the story in despair. In chapter 6, we hear God's call to repentance and restoration: "Come, let us return to the Lord" (Hosea 6:1). The message is clear—there is hope for restoration if we humble ourselves, seek God's face, and turn from our sins.

God promises in Hosea 6:1-3 that if the people return to Him, He will heal them and restore them. This is the message for both America and the church today: God is willing and able to bring revival, but it requires that we acknowledge our need for Him, repent of our rebellion, and pursue the knowledge of God once again.

AMERICA'S CURRENT CLIMATE

America, along with most of the world, is currently walking a tightrope. I don't say this to incite fear; quite the opposite. The Christian who trusts in their God should not be swayed by the shifting circumstances in a fallen world. But there is a reality to the significance of this moment in time.

- Nationally, we find a convergence of natural disasters that have devastated lives and local communities. Add to that a federal government that was that can't seem to be of practical help, and even hindering help.
- Like the recent hurricanes that quickly gained devastating power through the ideal atmospheric conditions, ***all of the current spiritual, moral, and political conditions are aligned for a national storm***, both physically and spiritually. Throw in economic upheaval, multiple wars within the world, Israel at war for its life and national existence, and an election season that is as confounding, confusing, and disheartening as any we've had in our modern age; we are prepped for disaster.
- Isn't it sobering that so much of what comes next may hinge on the people sitting in this room?

1 God's Charge Against a Nation

BIBLE PASSAGE

Hosea 4:1-3 (NKJV - New King James Version)

¹ Hear the word of the Lord, You children of Israel, For the Lord brings a charge against the inhabitants of the land: "There is no truth or mercy Or knowledge of God in the land.

² By swearing and lying, Killing and stealing and committing adultery, They break all restraint, With bloodshed upon bloodshed.

³ Therefore the land will mourn; And everyone who dwells there will waste away With the beasts of the field And the birds of the air; Even the fish of the sea will be taken away.

APPLICATION

The picture painted is one of a court case in which God is the plaintiff, and the nation of Israel is the defendant. In that case, you're already guilty if you're the defendant.

- While we acknowledge that these principles are contained within a very specific context, that God is dealing directly with his people, the nation of Israel, we also recognize that the principles God lays forth are applicable to any people and any nation. When God's standards are violated, there are very severe implications and consequences. So, in this passage, we see a clear picture of the devastation that occurs when a nation forgets, fails to acknowledge, or even outright casts God out of their thinking and living.
- Notice the charge laid against the nation: "There is no truth, mercy, or knowledge of God in the land." These three things are interconnected. Truth and mercy in a society will dissipate as knowledge of God is abandoned.

- Next, when God is no longer acknowledged or honored in the way a nation governs and conducts itself, the people begin to cast off moral restraint (verse 2):
 - **[Pro 29:18 NLT] 18 When people do not accept divine guidance, they run wild (they cast off restraint - NKJV). But whoever obeys the law is joyful.**
- Look at the categories of sin that follow the loss of a national conscience:
 - **Sins of the lips - swearing and cursing**
 - **Sins of the body - stealing and sexual immorality**
 - **Sins of humanity - bloodshed upon bloodshed.**
 - In other words, the ultimate outcome of an unrestrained people whose conscience toward truth has been seared is: a lack of personal integrity with the things they say, a lack of respect for the property of others, whether it is their physical property or their body, a lack of morality and self-control in their sexuality, and a blood thirst to eliminate life without remorse for their own personal convenience.

Friends, we are there... more than ever before in our history, we are there. People in our nation largely do not know God, nor do they want to. They have swallowed, hook, line, and sinker, the moral framework of secular humanism, which has promised them freedom but led them into bondage.

- People destroy one another with their words and their hands; they flaunt and pour out their sacred sexuality in the streets with one another and in the most perverse expressions imaginable to praise those in our highest offices of authority in the land. And bloodshed upon bloodshed? How about the unabashed murder of nearly 1 million innocent human children every year without even the consideration that they are valuable human persons deserving of human rights and protections... all because they are invisibly living inside a womb?

THE CONTEXT OF AMERICA

Before we look at the tragic place our nation has currently arrived, it would be good to know where we started.

I will say something that might initially upset you, but hear me out.

- Barak Obama got in trouble for saying it, but he wasn't completely wrong. He once said, "We are no longer a Christian nation."

- The US was never a "Christian Nation" in the sense that England was a Christian nation. In England, you were born a Christian. Forced to identify with the church. So in the sense of a nation having a 100% Christian population due to government forces, America is not a Christian nation.
- I would rather say it like this: America is the most Christianized nation on the earth.
- Historically, our entire society, civilization, laws, Declaration of Independence, Constitution, governmental structure, economics, and educational system was built on values and principles centered upon the reality of God and the Bible being His revelation.
- The US did not start as a theocracy but was undeniably deeply shaped by Christian values, and arguably immensely blessed by that foundation.
 - The reasons for this are many, but primarily because those who founded this nation, from its leaders to its inhabitants, at the very least believed in God as creator and man was created in His image, and at most were Christ followers.

So when the colonies of America took a united stand against the unrighteous tyranny and oppression of England, and the continental congress produced the Declaration of Independence, it was not surprising that they started off by saying, ***“We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness (pursuing the good of all people).”***

This text also references ***“the laws of nature and of nature’s God”*** and closes by ***“appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world”*** and noting the signers’ ***“reliance on the protection of divine Providence.”*** At that time, this was not unusual or vague language. The majority of churches and citizens would have automatically equated this language with the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Even Thomas Jefferson, who seems to have been a deist and skeptic, wrote in an 1825 letter that the Declaration ***“was intended to be an expression of the American mind, and to give that expression the proper tone and spirit called for by the occasion. All its authority rests then on the harmonizing sentiments of the day...”***

QUOTE

“Indeed never should it be forgotten that all the measures of civil policy ought to be founded on the great principles of religion; or, at the least, to be perfectly consistent with them: otherwise they will

never be esteemed, because they will be contrary to that moral sense of right and wrong which God has implanted in the breast of every rational being."

Reverend Samuel Wales , Preached at the General Assembly of Connecticut, 1785

APPLICATION

We could sit here for the rest of the morning and talk about the genuine Christian faith of founders such as Samuel Adams, Patrick Henry, John Jay, Roger Sherman, and John Witherspoon. We could go through the countless monuments in Washington DC, and around this nation that attest to the faith of our founding fathers and divine hand of God in our formation.

There are sovereign fingerprints all over our nation's history. Read the **Mayflower Compact** **[image-2]**... going back to the forefathers of our nation's forefathers. AS imperfectly as the first pilgrims governed themselves and the messes they created and endured. Their intent was clear: ***"Having undertaken for the Glory of God, and Advancement of the Christian Faith, and the Honour of our King and Country, a Voyage to plant the first Colony in the northern Parts of Virginia;"***

We can even note that those founders whose faith is more obscure and difficult to define in history, such as Benjamin Franklin, Ethan Allen, Thomas Jefferson, and John Adams, were undoubtedly influenced and moved by biblical thought and the Christian faith in ways that informed their political actions and decisions. Not to mention that hundreds of other delegates that came together to form the first congress were, by in large, men of great religious and moral conviction.

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

In 1787, thirteen fiercely independent colonies came together to try and find common ground and establish a small but influential federal government. While the original plan was to revisit the Articles of Confederation, it became clear over the course of the convention that a new central form of government was needed. Talk about as near as an impossible task as there could be!

- Benjamin Franklin recognized the enormity of the task at hand. They were not gaining ground. Debates and arguments were dividing and limiting forward progress. at 81 years of age, and perhaps being one of the least religious people in the delegation, on June 28, 1787, he spoke to the assembly and appealed to Psalm 117, "Unless the Lord builds the house they labor in vain who build it." He made a motion for prayers to be made at every meeting and to seek God's counsel in establishing this new government. While the motion failed due to a lack of finances to hire a chaplain, so many delegates were moved that on July 4, General Washington led delegates in a prayer service that changed the tone of the rest of the proceedings from that point forward.
- James Madison, founding father and 4th president of the US, writing about the event later, said, **“It is impossible for the man of pious reflection not to perceive in it a finger of that Almighty Hand, which has been so frequently and signally extended to our relief in the critical states of the revolution.”**

APPLICATION

Through an honest, deep study of early America, you will discover that our founders were flawed and that our nation has atrocities in its past.

You will also discover that our nation's founders almost unanimously believed that the nation's happiness, security, and prosperity depended on non-compulsory religious adherence (not forced by law). They saw the government's overreach into establishing religion as something that would adversely affect and hinder the cause of the gospel, which is why the Establishment Clause was created. ***It wasn't designed to keep the Christian faith out of public policy; it was to preserve the integrity of the faith and ensure its propagation without government overreach.***

The phrase "separation of Church and State" is not in the Constitution. Its mentioned in several writings by James Madison and in a letter that Thomas Jefferson wrote to the Danbury Baptist Church in 1802. In that letter, the church that wrote President Jefferson was concerned that the 1st amendment didn't provide enough protections for the church from the government. Jefferson replied that the First Amendment "set up a wall of separation between church and state" to reassure them that they need not fear the government's overreach into their church governance.

We are talking about the same Thomas Jefferson who, As a member of the Continental Congress, proposed that the nation adopt a seal containing the image of Moses “extending his hand over the sea, causing it to overwhelm Pharaoh” and the motto

“Rebellion to tyrants is obedience to God.” [image-3] He closed his second inaugural address by encouraging all Americans to join him in seeking “the favor of that Being in whose hands we are, who led our forefathers, as Israel of old...”

QUOTE

“Even Kevin M. Kruse, professor of history at Princeton University, who spends a lot of time trying to convince us that Christian thought had very little to do with the founding of our nation concedes,

“The majority of the founders believed that religion was necessary for maintaining moral virtue and assumed that the nation would remain culturally Christian.”

QUOTE

“Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious People. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.”

John Adams, Founding Father & 2nd President of the United States

2 The Charge of God Against His People & Priests

APPLICATION

Let's face it, these sentiments sound foreign to us today. We are lucky if we still hear a politician say, "God bless America," and we are even less convinced that it is coming from any level of sincerity or commitment to God.

But this shouldn't completely shock us. We know that humanity naturally drifts from God. The ideas coming from the Enlightenment, globalism, and just the deceptive nature of economic prosperity have dampened people's awareness and recognition of God's existence and involvement in the life of our nation. But what about the Church of Jesus Christ? What has happened to the pillar and ground of the truth? What happened to sermons from pulpits prophetically impacting the halls of Congress to Congress defining for the church what is morally right and wrong?

God continues in Hosea to direct the priests and the people:

BIBLE PASSAGE

Hosea 4:6-10 (NKJV - New King James Version)

⁶ My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

⁷ “The more they increased, The more they sinned against Me; I will change their glory into shame.

⁸ They eat up the sin of My people; They set their heart on their iniquity.

⁹ And it shall be: like people, like priest. So I will punish them for their ways, And reward them for their deeds.

¹⁰ For they shall eat, but not have enough; They shall commit harlotry, but not increase; Because they have ceased obeying the Lord.

APPLICATION

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge:

- God is not referring to scientific knowledge or a lack of general education.
- They had no knowledge of God because the priests and spiritual leaders of Israel did not teach them this knowledge.

- There were prophets prophesying things that God did not speak and priests teaching their own thoughts and ideas, but there was a drought of God's law and a lack of understanding of God's Word.
- The priests saw themselves as above the people, and they used the people, but what they didn't realize was that God was holding them accountable for the people's spiritual knowledge. And when judgment came to the people, the same judgment was coming to the priests. Their title wasn't going to give them immunity to the consequences of their ignorance and unwillingness to convey an accurate knowledge of God to them.

I like David Guzik's observation on this lack of knowledge:

QUOTE

“It isn’t that God says His people are completely ignorant. They have some knowledge, but not enough. They may have just enough to make them think they know it all.

David Guzik

APPLICATION

Part of the frightening reality of where our nation is headed is that the nation's conscience, the church, is losing its grounding in the knowledge of God. We have mass organizations called churches full of biblically ignorant people because, week to week, the shepherds and teachers have decided that they have better creative ideas to communicate to God's people than that which is plainly written in His Word. They've created a narcissistic, "me-centered" faith and a God who exists for my blessing. They skirt issues of righteousness to be accepted by a godless culture; they adopt the language and philosophies of the world in order to be perceived as tolerant and accepting.

All the while, they were ignorantly oblivious to the fact that God would hold them and the people under them accountable for their unwilling lack of knowledge and the actions (or inactions) that followed.

AMENDMENT 3

What happens when God's shepherds decide that they can pick and choose which of God's truths to teach and which they can conveniently change or leave out altogether?

Wicked amendments like Amendment 3 in Missouri gain traction and go unanswered by people of faith because, in their mind, abortion is a compassionate act, an individual freedom, a healthcare right... why? Because when the world pushed its propaganda, there was no pastor at the gate identifying the enemy, attacking the lie, and answering with the truth.

When Nehemiah was threatened by the enemies of Israel and the hearts of those in Israel were growing faint and fearful, we read:

[Neh 4:13 NKJV] 13 Therefore I positioned men behind the lower parts of the wall, at the openings; and I set the people according to their families, with their swords, their spears, and their bows.

Wherever there was a vulnerability, a gap in the wall, or a small opening, Nehemiah set up a guard. He was not willing to give the enemy to find gap to infiltrate God's people.

Talk about website and billboard [image-4] - voteno3.com

APPLICATION

Political reformation won't stem or birth spiritual revival. It wasn't designed to do that. Political policies aren't designed to change people's hearts but to govern and create policies that can lead to blessing and cursing to the neighbors we are called to love.

However, spiritual revival can lead to political reform, which can lead to the blessing of righteousness for our nation.

The greatest thing the church can do for our nation today is to humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God, repent of our apathy and idolatry, reengage ourselves in the mission to proclaim Christ, and recommit ourselves to the knowledge of His Word.

3 God's Offer of Hope

BIBLE PASSAGE

Hosea 6:1-3 (NKJV - New King James Version)

¹ Come, and let us return to the Lord; For He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up.

² After two days He will revive us; On the third day He will raise us up, That we may live in His sight.

³ Let us know, Let us pursue the knowledge of the Lord. His going forth is established as the morning; He will come to us like the rain, Like the latter and former rain to the earth.

QUOTE

“Where there is God, there is hope!”

Pastor Josh

APPLICATION

The Lord's discipline can bring preparation. His rebuke can bring restoration. His tearing can bring healing, and in dying to ourselves, He can raise us up in power.

Are we in the second day? Have we slept long enough as the church? It is now time for God to revive us from the inside out and raise us up that we may LIVE in His sight? May it be so church!

NOTICE: God heals, God binds up, God revives, and God raises up. God will come to us like the rain falls to the earth. But we have a part. We are called to return to the Lord. We are called to know and pursue the knowledge of the Lord.

[2Ch 7:14 NKJV] 14 "if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

SUMMARY

So, if that was all dizzying, here are several short and practical applications as you approach this next election:

1.) Care more about your standing with Christ and your part in proclaiming Him than you care about the outcome of this next election - If you can fight for your favorite candidate, but you are ashamed to tell someone about Jesus, your priorities are backward. Christ's commission was not, **"Go into all the earth and make them American Conservative MAGA supporters."**

2.) Vote in the next election and become engaged in future political processes to the glory of God - The Bible is a significantly political book. From Joseph to Daniel, Moses to Esther, David to King Cyrus, and John the Baptist to Paul the Apostle, God moves in kingdoms and governments and strategically places His people in positions of influence, sometimes from inside the government and some outside speaking into the government. It is a stewardship of your faith, a stewardship of righteousness, and a stewardship of your God-afforded freedoms in this nation, not to take a back seat when light and darkness hang in the balance.

3.) Do not cast a vote for the Democrat party - This is not a partisan statement because I have some personal vested interest in Republicans. It is undeniably clear that the Democrat party in America has become a demonically engineered death cult that celebrates and propagates the murder of innocent unborn human life, flagrantly celebrates perverse sexual lifestyles and the sexualization of children in the name of education and tolerance, and even does some of this in the name of God. To vote for the Democratic party is a vote for a platform that is antichrist and supports things that God hates. The Republican party isn't an innocent, righteous option. There are demonic strongholds within it as well. What the

Christian has the responsibility for is not to only vote when there's a perfect candidate that meets all the qualifications of a church elder. A secular government will never have a perfectly moral candidate or platform. It is the Christians's responsibility to help choose the option that will be most conducive to stemming the tide of evil and polluting the stream the least.

4.) *Don't put your hope in a particular political party or candidate* - Christian, our greatest hope and expectation is not in the White House, but in the one who will ride in on a White Horse and return to this earth as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. No matter what direction our nation goes, the church will continue to stand on the solid foundation of Christ. We care about who's in the white house because we care about people, we care about righteousness, and we recognize what we do in this life matters, but we are under no impression that America is the Kingdom of God or that a politician can rescue people's eternal souls. That's the job of Jesus, and Jesus alone, and our hope for all things rests in our loyalty to Him.

PROCLAMATION

By the President of the United States of America.

A Proclamation.

Whereas, the Senate of the United States, devoutly recognizing the Supreme Authority and just Government of Almighty God, in all the affairs of men and of nations, has, by a resolution, requested the President to designate and set apart a day for National prayer and humiliation.

And whereas it is the duty of nations as well as of men, to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God, to confess their sins and transgressions, in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon; and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord.

And, insomuch as we know that, by His divine law, nations like individuals are subjected to punishments and chastisements in this world, may we not justly fear that the awful calamity of civil war, which now desolates the land, may be but a punishment, inflicted upon us, for our presumptuous sins, to the needful end of our national reformation as a whole People? We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven. We have been preserved, these many years, in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth and power, as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We

have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us!

It behooves us then, to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness.

Now, therefore, in compliance with the request, and fully concurring in the views of the Senate, I do, by this my proclamation, designate and set apart Thursday, the 30th. day of April, 1863, as a day of national humiliation, fasting and prayer. And I do hereby request all the People to abstain, on that day, from their ordinary secular pursuits, and to unite, at their several places of public worship and their respective homes, in keeping the day holy to the Lord, and devoted to the humble discharge of the religious duties proper to that solemn occasion.

All this being done, in sincerity and truth, let us then rest humbly in the hope authorized by the Divine teachings, that the united cry of the Nation will be heard on high, and answered with blessings, no less than the pardon of our national sins, and the restoration of our now divided and suffering Country, to its former happy condition of unity and peace.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, this thirtieth day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States the eighty seventh.

**By the President: Abraham Lincoln
William H. Seward, Secretary of State.**

APPLICATION

I am calling our church and whoever will join us to a week of prayer and fasting. You can designate times and meals to pray and fast as you can. From Monday, 10/28 - Friday, 11/1, we

will pray and fast for our nation, for Israel, for our leaders, for the unborn, for revival and salvation.

Additionally, I have designed a campaign that you can be a part of if you lead it. I'd like to place these Billboards in as many locations as possible in our state in the two weeks leading up to the election. There are obviously costs associated with that, and we will use what money we can raise, whether that's for one billboard or 20. If you'd like to earmark some of your tithe or an offering on top of that, there is certainly no pressure, but I wanted to let you know about the opportunity.