We have been studying America and the crossroads that it's at regarding church and country. From God's Word or laws to man's laws that are contrary to God's Word, what will the church and country decide to do. We have looked at America through the prophetic foretelling or forth telling in God's Word but also its' destiny if we are obedient or disobedient to God's Word or commands.

We have laid down a foundation for righteousness based on God's Word. Also, the blessings and cursing that are brought upon a people or nation based on the law of Moses found in Deuteronomy and other passages as well.

We looked at the economic system which is government, and what the Word says about it, along with learning by studying other nations. We studied the curse that comes upon a nation when abortion is allowed even though you don't believe in it but vote for someone who does.

Last week we studied the writings from Paul to the Church regarding homosexuality and same-sex marriage. God's Word is very clear about the manifestation or the condition of the heart and mind when a person and society exchange the truth for lie. They no longer have the ability to judge correctly or discern right from wrong.

At the time Paul was writing this, the Romans had many gods, anything you wanted to choose they had. Whatever you needed or wanted - keep everyone happy. Paul, along with others, spoke the Word and said “no, there’s but one true God” and that rubbed the Romans the wrong way.

Much like today in the governmental arena or parties, one party wants nothing to do with the One True God, or has a twisted view of what God has said. They want to keep everyone happy but they really are coming up against the One True God. This was the setting that Paul is writing under 2000 years ago as well.

Tonight, we are going to continue looking at the parallels of what is happening in America today compared to the Roman Empire of Paul’s day. We need to learn from what has gone on before so we, God’s people, are not destroyed.

Hosea 4:6 Amplified Bible

6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because you [the priestly nation] have rejected knowledge, I will also reject you that you shall be no priest to Me; seeing you have forgotten the law of your God, I will also forget your children.

Hosea 4:6 King James Version

6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

God's people are not understanding that He gave them His Word to protect them and to keep them from making the same mistakes.

Ecclesiastes 1:9 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition

9 The thing that has been—it is what will be again, and that which has been done is that which will be done again; and there is nothing new under the sun.

Ecclesiastes 1:9 King James Version

9 The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun.

But, what has happened before is happening again - spiritual wickedness in high places and Paul addresses this spiritual warfare in Ephesians 6.

Ephesians 6:12 King James Version

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, ***against spiritual wickedness in high places.***

Ephesians 6:12Amplified Bible

12 For we are not wrestling with flesh and blood [contending only with physical opponents], but against the despotisms, against the powers, against [the master spirits who are] the world rulers of this present darkness, ***against the spirit forces of wickedness in the heavenly (supernatural) sphere.***

You can't deny the parallels of America today and the Roman Empire of Paul's day when you study the two. So, it would be wise to ask the question, "What brought down the Roman Empire"? The Roman Empire was actually never overthrown by an invading empire, it deteriorated from within.

All of this is a warning not just from biblical scholars but from economists, sociologists and historians in the United States have been giving. These warnings have also come from some of the big Ivy League universities like Harvard, Yale and Dartmouth.

Some of these individuals have said that America is on a very similar track that the ancient Roman Empire was during it's demise.

"What experience and history teaches us is that people and governments have never learned anything from history, or acted on principles deduced from it."

-Philosopher Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel

August 27, 1770 – November 14, 1831, was a German philosopher of the late Enlightenment. While primarily influential within the continental tradition of philosophy, has become increasingly influential in the analytic tradition and his Western philosophy is universally recognized.

"The one thing we have learned from history is that we don't learn from history."

- Winston Churchill

30 November 1874 – 24 January 1965, was a British statesman who was the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from 1940 to 1945 and again from 1951 to 1955. Churchill was also an officer in the British Army, a historian, a writer, and an artist. He won the Nobel Prize in Literature, and was the first person to be made an honorary citizen of the United States.

America started with a pattern of ancient Israel. The Puritans came to this land for religious freedom and not to form a "democracy". Tonight, I want to speak to you about the earliest formation of America from the spiritual side and the difference between a "democracy" and a "republic". America was founded as a republic and not a democracy, which most people have never heard and/or don't understand.

We're going back to the time of the early founders and specifically the Plymouth Plantation, the Pilgrims, William Bradford, and the Massachusetts Bay Colony, which is the Boston, Salem area.

Those people didn't come like the people of Jamestown did. Jamestown was more or less established to plant and grow tobacco and to render the Virginia company a profit.

But the Pilgrims, Puritans, Massachusetts Bay & Plymouth Plantation came to establish communities of faith. They believed they had to come into covenant with God and with one another.

John Winthrop wrote a book called "A Model Of Christian Charity". In his book and I will paraphrase *"...we believe that God is bringing us across the sea just as he brought the Israelites through the sea."*

12 January 1587 – 26 March 1649 was a wealthy English Puritan lawyer and one of the leading figures in the founding of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, the first major settlement in what is now New England after Plymouth Colony. He led the first large wave of immigrants from England in 1630, and served as governor for 12 of the colony's first 20 years of existence. His writings and vision of the colony as a Puritan "city upon a hill" dominated New England colonial development, influencing the governments and religions of neighboring colonies.

So, they believed that God was bringing them across the sea just like he parted the Red Sea and brought Israel through the sea. They were coming to New England to establish what amounts to a Common Wealth of Israel because they saw themselves in that same vein.

Commonwealth: an independent country or community likened to a republic.

At one point, there was a move to make Hebrew the official language of those colonies. Winthrop said words to this effect (this is not a direct quote), "We are entering into covenant with God, God has ratified that covenant and we know that God expects us to live up to that covenant".

He went on to say that "if we are not faithful to that covenant…" then he quoted Moses from Deuteronomy 28:37…

Deuteronomy 28:37 Amplified Bible

37 And you shall become an amazement, a proverb, and a byword among all the peoples to which the Lord will lead you.

Deuteronomy 28:37 King James Version

37 And thou shalt become an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword, among all nations whither the Lord shall lead thee.

Now, the issue of a democracy or a republic as the form of government in which we, America was founded, is not a party affiliation Republican or Democrat. This is a philosophy of government, the very foundation of it.

Our Founding Fathers were adamantly opposed to the notion of a democracy. In the Federalist Papers, Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, & James Madison wrote vehemently against the excesses and the dangers of democracy.

Definition of Democracy: People rule

The inherent flaw with that philosophy is…people. Because the problem with people is from their youth, there is wickedness in their heart.

Genesis 8:21 King James Version
21 ...for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth;

Genesis 8:21 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition
21 ...for the imagination (the strong desire) of man's heart is evil and wicked from his youth;

The Founders understood that the power could not exclusively be given to the people. It could not be given exclusively to the Executive Branch, the Judicial Branch or the Legislative Branch as well.

This is why the Founders devised a government that operated under the separation of powers. The design was to dispense the power around so not one branch, not even the people, have all the power. So they established a Constitutional Republic.

Definition of Republic: In the interest of the people

So, in a Democracy, which means "the people rule"…people can decide today that we want _____ so they create a law to get _____. Then, tomorrow the law may change to something else with the ebbs and flows of the people's feelings or cultural behaviors.

But, a Republic, which means "in the interest of the people", there is a law established and everyone works within the parameters of that law.

The problem with a democracy is, if you have good people or Godly people making the laws based on God's Word then that benefits everybody.

Proverbs 29:2 King James Version

2 When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.

Proverbs 29:2 Amplified Bible

2 When the [uncompromisingly] righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when the wicked man rules, the people groan and sigh.

But, if you get an ungodly person, administration or leadership that corrupts the people, the whole nation suffers or mourns. Changing laws, neglecting the balance or protection of power was given to all branches and the people to safeguard against a nation suffering.

Proverbs 29:2 King James Version

2 When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.

Proverbs 29:2 Amplified Bible

2 When the [uncompromisingly] righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when the wicked man rules, the people groan and sigh.

We have studied in depth about the benefits of having a leader or or leadership that is being righteous or doing what is right according to God's Word "the righteous are in authority". But what does it mean for that person in leadership or persons/ administration to be wicked "when the wicked beareth rule"?

The English word "wicked" originated from the old Anglo-Saxon word wiker (or "wicker" in the present-day spelling) which meant to twist i.e. a candle "wick" is called that because it is twisted. The twisted definition of wicked was formed from an earlier word meaning weak i.e. **not strong enough to resist being twisted** (the English words wicked, wick and weak all originated from the same word).

Just as string is weak enough to be twisted into wicks, people can allow themselves to be weak enough to be "twisted" into a state of wickedness (although wickedness takes many forms, the word for witchcraft, wicca, is also based on the same root word as weak, wick and wicked).

In the Bible, the Hebrew word that is translated as "wicked" is pronounced **raw-shaw.** It means to be wrong by making trouble, or twisting things with "wicked work" i.e.

Psalm 141:4 Amplified Bible
4 Incline my heart not to submit or consent to any evil thing or to be occupied in deeds of wickedness with men who work iniquity; and let me not eat of their dainties.

Psalm 141:4 King James Version
4 Incline not my heart to any evil thing, to practise wicked works with men that work iniquity: and let me not eat of their dainties.

The Greek word of the New Testament that is usually translated as "wicked" is pronounced **pon-ay-ros.** It means to be hurtful by degeneracy i.e. "twisting" what is good into something that is demoralized psychologically and perverted physically. As with the Hebrew word, it is done by "wicked works" - sick, Satanic behavior. Notice carefully however that the "wicked" can become "untwisted" by repentance and obedience to God's Law.

Colossians 1:21-23 Amplified Bible

21 And although you at one time were estranged and alienated from Him and were of hostile attitude of mind in your wicked activities,
22 Yet now has [Christ, the Messiah] reconciled [you to God] in the body of His flesh through death, in order to present you holy and faultless and irreproachable in His [the Father's] presence.
23 [And this He will do] provided that you continue to stay with and in the faith [in Christ], well-grounded and settled and steadfast, not shifting or moving away from the hope [which rests on and is inspired by] the glad tidings (the Gospel), which you heard and which has been preached [as being designed for and offered without restrictions] to every person under heaven, and of which [Gospel] I, Paul, became a minister.

Colossians 1:21-23 King James Version

21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled
22 In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreproveable in his sight:
23 If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

Jesus used another word for wickedness when people tried to twist His Words and that word was hypocrite(s). That is used in several places in the New Testament.

Wickedness will not last, God will only allow it to go on for so long.

Malachi 4:1-4 King James Version

1 For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.
2 But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.
3 And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the Lord of hosts.
4 Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments.

Malachi 4:1-4 Amplified Bible

4 For behold, the day comes that shall burn like an oven, and all the proud and arrogant, yes, and all that do wickedly and are lawless, shall be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch.
2 But unto you who revere and worshipfully fear My name shall the Sun of Righteousness arise with healing in His wings and His beams, and you shall go forth and gambol like calves [released] from the stall and leap for joy.

3 And you shall tread down the lawless and wicked, for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, says the Lord of hosts.
4 [Earnestly] remember the law of Moses, My servant, the statutes and the ordinances which I commanded him on [Mount] Horeb [to give] to all Israel.

This is one of the things that our Founders wrote about in the Federalist Papers. See, if you can assume that everyone who gets into power is going to be good then a democracy might work.

However, how likely are we that everyone is always going to be good, just and moral? It is very unlikely. This opens up the door to tyranny and despotism. In fact, George Washington, James Madison and all of our Founders wrote against the dangers of a direct democracy where the people rule. Democracy in action is the French Revolution.

President George Washington said, "America would continue to flourish until we (Americans) got to the place of thinking like Esau.."

Genesis 25:30-34 Amplified Bible

30 And Esau said to Jacob, I beg of you, let me have some of that red lentil stew to eat, for I am faint and famished! That is why his name was called Edom [red].
31 Jacob answered, Then sell me today your birthright (the rights of a firstborn).
32 Esau said, See here, I am at the point of death; what good can this birthright do me?
33 Jacob said, Swear to me today [that you are selling it to me]; and he swore to [Jacob] and sold him his birthright.
34 Then Jacob gave Esau bread and stew of lentils, and he ate and drank and rose up and went his way. Thus Esau scorned his birthright as beneath his notice.

Genesis 25:30-34 King James Version

30 And Esau said to Jacob, Feed me, I pray thee, with that same red pottage; for I am faint: therefore was his name called Edom.
31 And Jacob said, Sell me this day thy birthright.
32 And Esau said, Behold, I am at the point to die: and what profit shall this birthright do to me?
33 And Jacob said, Swear to me this day; and he sware unto him: and he sold his birthright unto Jacob.
34 Then Jacob gave Esau bread and pottage of lentiles; and he did eat and drink, and rose up, and went his way: thus Esau despised his birthright.

I have this birthright, but what good is it to me…if you will just give me what I want, then I will give you my birthright. President George Washington equated our birthright in this context to our liberties and our freedoms.

So, our first President, a Godly righteous man said that America would continue to prosper until we started to trade away our economic, political and religious freedoms for: healthcare, housing, food etc…

We will trade you our liberties and freedom because they are worthless compared to government taking care of us. George Washington warned us hundreds of years ago that when that happens, we have set ourselves up for a tyrant who goes against the other branches or check and balances and does the will of the wicked people.

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