

The Righteous Will Live by (His) Faith, Hab.2:4

Obviously, today is the Lord's day, and we "memorialize" His *death, burial, and resurrection* for our sins and His glory and kingdom. But tomorrow, our country "memorializes" those who sacrificed their lives for our nation – its sovereignty, liberty, ideals, and way of life. Those men and women served and died for "**one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.**" But is it still:

- "**one nation**"? Or has the *melting pot* ceased to meld us together in unity? Are we "one nation" or are we separate *nationalities* with separate *allegiances* residing within one country? Are we still "one nation" with a united sense of allegiance, purpose, and pride?
- "**under God**"? Haven't we, nationally at least, denied His *creatorship*, His *sovereignty*, and even His *existence* for several decades now?
- "**indivisible**"? Are we not now more divided in more areas and ways than at any point in our history? Rich and poor, race and religion, left and right (and all their associated 'issues'), heterosexual and homosexual, male and female (and those who claim to be the opposite, both, or neither gender), and generationally (baby boomer, millennial, X, Y, Z), and even "fossil" vs. "green" –are we not *divided* in just about every way imaginable?
- "**with liberty and justice for all**"? Do *any* of those "groups" just listed believe that they are getting "*liberty and justice*" from and in our country? Does anyone believe that "**all**" get *liberty and justice*?

I'm not trying to be anti-American, or a *Micaiah* (me·kaw·yeh·hoo; of whom Ahab declared "*I hate him, because he does not prophesy good concerning me, but evil,*" cf. 1Kings 22:8ff), but although I do believe we should remember and honor those who have given their lives in service to our country, **we have to realize and admit that our country is no longer a "Christian nation" as we once claimed.** How can it be considered so when:

- Since 1973 (Roe v. Wade) we've "legally" aborted an **estimated 63 million innocent babies**? Are we any better than the Assyrians, cf. Nah.3:10?
- We've **surpassed 200 mass shootings** (at least four killed) **so far this year** - today is the 149th day of the year; 2021 had 693; 2020 had 611; and 2019 had 417. We've had 27 school shootings this year. Again, we kind of sound like the Assyrians, don't we, cf. Nah.3:1?
- In the last few decades we've *legalized, certified, and celebrated with 'pride'* what God calls *impure, dishonorable, degrading, unnatural, indecent, and depraved*, cf. Rom.1:24-28.
- Even when it comes to "religion," we mostly offer God *leftover 'sacrifices,' profaned the Name of God, thought of His worship as "tiresome,"* our "*priests*" are *corrupt*, and have almost completely *dishonored His covenant of marriage*, cf. Mal.1 – 2.

- We so very much resemble the description of “God’s people” (tongue heavily in cheek) in **Hab.1:1-4!**

So what are we to do?

1. Pray for God to *heal our nation*, or admit that (nationally) **we’re reaping precisely what we’ve sown** (Gal.6:7-8); and, as difficult and painful as it may be, **pray for our nation to recognize, accept, and return to God’s discipline in repentance, Heb.12:4-13?**
2. Continue to preach sermons about how to have *happy and blessed* lives of “*Peace, peace’ when there is no peace,*” Jer.6:14 and “*All is well, all is well’ but there is no peace,*” Jer.8:11; or **realize the true source of our problems, Jas.4:1-3; admit our spiritual adultery, vv.4-5; abandon our pride and adopt humility, v.6; submit (again) to God and resist Satan rather than the other way around, v.7; draw near to God, confess our (national) sins and cleanse our hands, and purify our hearts, v.8; celebrate our sins and ‘tolerance’ or be miserable and mourn and weep for them, vv.9-10?**
3. Learn what “*the righteous will live by his faith*” means, **Hab.2:4.**
 - a. Habakkuk *complained* to God about the *violence, wickedness, iniquity, destruction, strife, and contention* he saw in his nation... and that though he “*call(ed) for help,*” God apparently did “*not hear*” and did “*not save*” though “*the wicked surround the righteous*” and “*justice comes out perverted,*” 1:1-4. God’s answer, in 1:5-11, is that Habakkuk should “*look*” and “*observe*” because He **is** doing something; He is “*raising up the Chaldeans*” to “*fly like an eagle swooping down to devour,*” v.8.
 - b. And what is Habakkuk’s *faithful (full of faith)* response to these things? Note **1:12ff: confidence in God, v.12a; acceptance of His judgment and correction, v.12b;** and though he does not fully understand God’s ways, **vv.13-17; continued faithfulness to his duty and willingness to be reproved, 2:1.**
 - c. Next, God says: “*record the vision*” that “*the one who reads it may run*” and thus be spared, v.3; for though this *discipline* “*hastens toward the goal, and will not fail,*” it “*tarries*” and Habakkuk should *patiently “wait for it,”* v.3.
 - d. “**But the righteous will live by his faith,**” 2:4. A few things must be understood in these regards: 1) **God always rescues the righteous;** Habakkuk is being told that Babylon would conquer, capture, and captivate the *nation* of Judah, but the *righteous individuals* within it would be *rescued,* cf. 2Pet.2:4-9; 2) thus, the *righteous will live spiritually and eternally if not physically and temporally* – and must therefore *trust* God’s judgment by remaining *faithfully righteous no matter what happens to “their” nation,* cf. Phil.3:17-21.

Conclusion: I am neither a prophet nor the son of one. I do **not** know what will become of “our” nation. But I **do** know what God has done in the past when nations who suppose that they are His cease to be so; and I **do** know what will become of God’s kingdom and its citizens!