

Which Direction Will Our Nation Go?

The leadership in a nation determines the direction our nation travels: morals, ethics, social practices, religious beliefs, economics, environmental, military. The population usually thinks and acts according to their culture. It is critical, essential and imperative for a nation to believe in and follow the true God or national decay will result.

A. The Influential Leaders in each society:

1. The Family: Mothers, Fathers, Grandparents, etc.
2. Educators: formal and informal
3. Government at all levels
4. Individuals who stand for the true Lord.

B. Scripture records how influential leaders affect nations and people.

1. One example: **the history of Judah from King Rehoboam to King Zedekiah**, a period of about 350 years. Reference: 1 Kings 12 to 2 Kings 26 and 2 Chronicles 10 - 36.

Examples:

- a. **King Rehoboam**: 17 year reign: He rejected the law of the Lord. Judah suffered 17 years of division and war. Reference: 2 Chronicles 12
- b. **King Asa**: 41 year reign: Judah experienced a period of prosperity and reform.
Read: 2 Chronicles 14:2, 15:9,12,15-16,19. Reference: 2 Chronicles 14, 15:9-15; 1 Kings 15:9-24
- c. **King Jehoram & Queen Athaliah**: 8 year reign: The King married Athaliah, daughter of Ahab and Jezebel. He murdered his brothers and did evil throughout his reign Their son Ahaziah followed him as king and only reigned one year. He did evil as did his father.
Read: 2 Chronicles 21:4,6,12-13,, 22:2-4, 10-12; 23:1, 8-9, 11-13, 15-16
- d. **High Priest Jehoiada makes Joash King**: 40 year reign Many years of blessing and prosperity until the death of High Priest Jehoiada.
Read: 2 Chronicles 24: 1-2, 15-25
What lesson can we learn?
- e. **King Hezekiah**: 29 year reign. He did right and served the Lord all his reign, both in prosperity and during times of trouble.
Read: 2 Chronicles 30:1, 26, 32:7-8, 12, 21-22/ Reference: 2 Chronicles 29:3.
- f. **King Manasseh**: 55 year reign Did evil throughout his reign.
Read: 2 Kings 21:5-6, 16
- g. **King Josiah**: 31 year reign Did right and served the Lord all his days. His reforms resulted in discovery of the Book of the Law of the Lord given by Moses.
Read: 2 Chronicles 34:29-33

C. Just as the nation of Judah chose to follow the God of the Bible or chose to reject His Truths, our nation has experienced similar choices throughout our 247 years. Many influential leaders today, reject the Truths of the Bible. Our institutions teach opposing “truths” and do not know or do not want to know our Christian history. Much of our population has adopted these “enlightened truths”. How many of today’s troubles reflect these decisions?: the selfish “it’s all about me” attitudes, the crisis of family breakups, drug and alcohol abuse, dishonesty, a lack of work ethic, sexual immorality, sexual trafficking, pornography, suicide, violence, murder, rioting, poverty, etc.

1. Our courts no longer believe the Bible is the source upon which laws are based.

Read intro: iii - v; p2107-2110

2. “Separation of Church and State:

Read: p683-688

3. Colonial and State Constitutions:

Read: p2095 - 2097

4. The Judicial Branch:

Read: 2100-2101

D. The above References are from: Founders’ Bible, The Origin of the Dream of Freedom , NASB, Shiloh Road Publishers. Notes by historian David Barton & Brad Cummings.

E. We need to trust and obey our Bible. Then: “Do not despair, fear not, rejoice in the Lord, be anxious for nothing, give thanks; God is in control, know: God loves you, forgives you, strengthens you, he’ll never leave you or forsake you.”