

## A Message to a Nation

The final similarity we see is ...

### III: God's Bothersome \_\_\_\_\_

God responds to their rebellion with...

A. \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>9</sup> *Wherefore I will yet plead with you, saith the LORD,*

- **plead** = to grapple / to wrangle / to strive with

God says ... *you loved Me; you showed kindness to Me; you followed Me; you were the apple of My eye. But then, for no reason of My own, you rebelled against Me by chasing after those things that are empty. And Israel, I want you to know that I'm a holy God and a jealous God. I'm a God of accountability. But because I love you, I am not willing to just turn you over to that which will destroy you. I will confront your rebellion. I will confront your sin. I will strive against you. And I will wrestle against your new gods and your unconfessed sin.*

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B. the \_\_\_\_\_ of God's response.

*... and with your children's children will I plead.*

The consequence of this generation's rebellion continued down through 2 more generations (70 years).

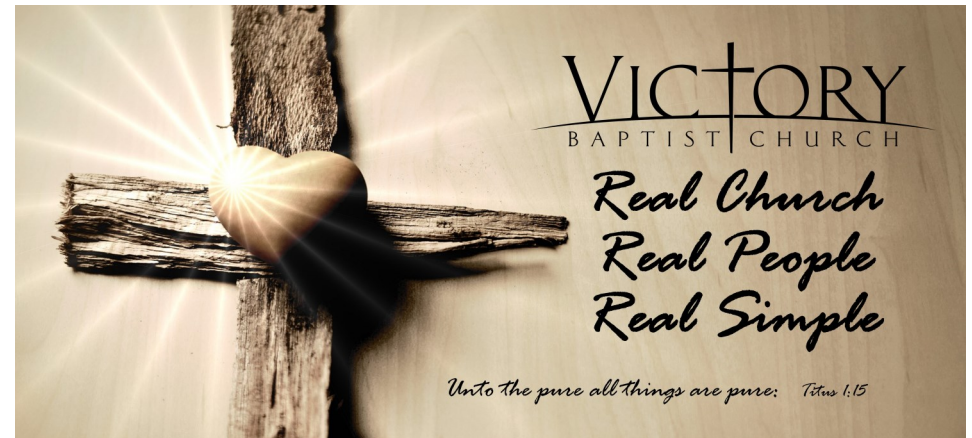
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God's message to a nation, whether it be Israel, the U.S.A., or any other nation is this ... *when you love Me, and follow Me, and desire Me, you will prosper. But when you turn your back on Me and walk away; when you no longer want Me or need Me, then My strife will come upon you for generations to come. But it doesn't have to be that way (Jer. 3:12-15). Won't you come to Me? Won't you return to that loving relationship I so desire?*

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January 31, 2021

## A Message to a Nation

Jeremiah 2:1-9

Throughout the Book of Jeremiah we find God giving the nation of Israel a very basic message through His prophet Jeremiah. It is a two-fold message: 1) judgment is coming and 2) it doesn't have to come if you will just return to Me.

This morning we will draw some parallels between God's message to Israel in their day and apply them to the U.S.A. in our day.

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## A Message to a Nation

The first parallel we find is ...

I: **A Beautiful** \_\_\_\_\_ between God and Israel

A. Israel's \_\_\_\_\_ for God

<sup>2</sup> *Go and cry in the ears of Jerusalem, saying, Thus saith the LORD; I remember thee, the kindness of thy youth, the love of thine espousals, when thou wentest after me in the wilderness, in a land that was not sown*

God reminds Israel that in the early days of their relationship they had a kindness, and love for Him to the degree that God considered them spiritually espoused to one another.

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B. Israel was \_\_\_\_\_ unto the Lord

<sup>3</sup> *Israel was holiness unto the LORD,*

God is saying that the children of Israel were separated or consecrated unto Him.

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C. Israel was \_\_\_\_\_ by the Lord

*... all that devour him shall offend; evil shall come upon them, saith the LORD*

God not only says I loved you and you loved me; you are a special nation that is separated unto me; and you are the apple of my eye; but He also says if anyone messes with you, I will take care of them.

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While the U.S.A. is not Israel nor does it replace Israel, certainly we find in our history a love for God, a separation unto God, and the protection and blessing of God upon us.

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## A Message to a Nation

The second parallel we find is ...

II: **A Bankrupt** \_\_\_\_\_

Although Israel had a wonderful relationship with God, something changed. Suddenly, iniquity came into their heart. We find three things about their rebellion.

A. the rebellion was \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>5</sup> *Thus saith the LORD, What iniquity have your fathers found in me, God is saying to Israel ... what did I do wrong? Why did you commit spiritual adultery with these false religions and false gods?*

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B. the rebellion was \_\_\_\_\_  
*... have walked after vanity, and are become vain?*

● vain = empty

They left a loving, kind, holy, wonderful and fulfilling relationship with God for the empty promises of false gods and religions of a foreign people.

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C. they were \_\_\_\_\_ ... verses 6-7

They had forgotten who they were and how they had gotten to such a place of blessing. They had also backslidden because their spiritual leaders had backslidden.

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Israel's rebellion against God only led to spiritual bankruptcy. Their new gods, new religion, new ideas all came up empty and had no value to them.

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