

AN ARTILLERY SERMON

INTRODUCTION:

In colonial America, it was the custom for ministers to preach sermons to equip the saints in their civic duty during elections. These sermons were called artillery sermons.

In your congregation, you are accustomed to confess your sins corporately as a people, with the need for that confession evidenced by the type of men who currently represent us in the civil realm. Extending this principle, we can see the dissolution of our culture all around us. Is this happening apart from the will of God? Not at all. It is the hand of the Lord.

THE TEXT:

"Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth" (Dt. 28:1).

HOW GOD JUDGES CULTURES:

Too often we assume that all divine judgments are "other-worldly." But this limitation is not placed upon the divine chastisements represented in Scripture. Some of these judgments listed below you may have seen from time to time, on a daily basis, in your newspaper.

adversarial rulers—*"Therefore the wrath of the Lord was kindled against His people, so that He abhorred His own inheritance. And He gave them into the hand of the Gentiles, and those who hated them ruled over them" (Ps. 106:40-41).* Rulers who hate the people they rule are a rod in the hand of God.

loss of children—*"As for Ephraim, their glory shall fly away like a bird—no birth, no pregnancy, and no conception! Though they bring up their children, yet I will bereave them to the last man . . . so Ephraim will bring out his children to the murderer." Give them, O Lord—what will You give? Give them a miscarrying womb and dry breasts!" (Hosea 9:11-14).* God has taken a love for fruitfulness away from us. And so we lose our children to barrenness, both artificial and natural, abortion, infanticide, and corruption.

homosexuality—Those involved in "gay pride" foolishness want to pretend that they are refusing to do the will of God. Actually, they are refusing to obey the command of God, and are therefore fulfilling God's intention to destroy them. *"Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves . . . For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due" (Rom. 1:24-27).*

crime in the streets—Harmony within a citizenry is a gift of God. But when we are set against one another, this is the judgment of God. *"For I set all men, everyone, against his neighbor" (Zech. 8:10).*

stupid laws—One of God's great instruments as He governs the world is His practice of blinding the "wise." *"because they had not executed My judgments, but had despised My statutes, profaned My Sabbaths, and their eyes were fixed on their fathers' idols. Therefore I also gave them up to statutes that were not good, and judgments by which they could not live" (Ez. 20:24-25)*

abundant lawsuits—The United States has six percent of the world's population, and seventy percent of the world's lawyers. *"They have spoken words, swearing falsely in making a covenant. Thus judgment springs up like hemlock in the furrows of the field" (Hos. 10:4).* The judgment refers to lawsuits, and the hemlock is a poisonous plant.

destructive immigration—*"The alien who is among you shall rise higher and higher above you, and you shall come down lower and lower. He shall lend to you, but you shall not lend to him; he shall be the head, and you shall be the tail" (Dt. 28:43-44).* The issue is not immigration considered in itself, but rather the nature of the immigration. What we are experiencing is God's judgment.

missing men—We have lost true masculine leadership—in the home, in the church, in the nation. *"I will give children to be their princes, and babes shall rule over them . . . As for My people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O My people! Those who lead you cause you to err, and destroy the way of your paths" (Is. 3:4,12)*

seeker friendly worship—And as all this happens, what does the church do? We dither about with this and that, and try to make our churches conducive to the rebellious mind. *"The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests rule by their own power; and My people love to have it so. But what will you do in the end? . . . They have also healed the hurt of My people slightly, saying, 'Peace, peace!' when there is no peace" (Jer. 5:31; 6:14).*

THE REASON FOR HOPE:

"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, 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" (2 Chron. 7:14).

The fact that we have been brought to the point where we even see these things is cause for great hope.