

# *Blood Sweat and Tears*

(Sermon Notes) By Warren Zehrung – 1/18/2014

After Adam and Eve sinned – they were removed from God’s Garden of Eden where they only had to dress and keep its abundance - this became man’s lot on the earth.

## **Genesis 3:**

**19** In the **sweat** of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it was thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

God wants us to **work** toward being healthy, wealthy and wise, and in doing so there would be much **Blood Sweat and Tears**.

There is an intriguing Scripture in the Book of Exodus.

We have come to this very point in American history.

## **Exodus 1:**

**8** Now there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph.

That meant that the latest Pharaoh did not know or care about the history of the Israelites – who they really were and how they had come to be in Egypt. That single fact meant serious trouble and persecution for God’s people.

That new Pharaoh was unaware of God’s miraculous intervention in the life of Jacob and his extended family. That ignorance on Pharaoh’s part led directly to Christ’s intervention and deliverance of Israel from Egyptian captivity and bondage. That is the story of the first Passover.

We are witnesses to the fact that **today**, “Now there arose up a new President over America, which knew not the Pilgrims, the Pioneers and the **American spirit**.” That has brought our great country to where it is today.

I wish that I knew many more of the details of how my family came to be a part of the **American dream**. These are some of the sketchy details that I know.

About seven centuries before Jesus Christ was born, Israel was carried captive into Assyria and then up into Europe. It is highly probable that some of our ancestors were among those captives. Here is what we do know for an absolutely positive fact:

## **Amos 9:**

**9** For, lo, I will command, and I will **sift the house of Israel among all nations**, like as corn is sifted in a sieve, yet shall **not the least grain** fall upon the earth.

God knows where we all are—every single one of us. God’s promises to His people are sure.

Beginning in the 1670s the first significant groups of German immigrants began arriving in the (then) British colonies, settling in Pennsylvania. My dad's people came from Germany to America.

Johannes Zehrung arrived in Philadelphia, PA on September 29, 1753 on board the wooden and masted ship, "Rowand."

Not only were our ancestors pulled by the allure of America—the enticements of **land** and **religious freedom**, and pushed out of Europe by shortages of land and religious or political oppression.

The lack of true freedom of worship made life difficult for them. When stories and letters from William Penn's colony in America reached them, some chose to make the journey there where freedom of religion was protected. Many did not have enough bread to feed their families and saw no sign of ever getting ahead. America offered them hope.

The trip was long, arduous and dangerous because of the poor quality of food and water aboard ships and the infectious diseases like typhus. Hundreds of Germans died making the trip. Many immigrants, particularly children, died before reaching America.

Pennsylvania offered good, fertile land to these mostly farmer immigrants. However, after a time in Pennsylvania, my early German immigrant forefathers set out for Nebraska—they must have heard great stories about Nebraska.

They headed for the middle of the Louisiana Purchase – the vast land mass purchased by Thomas Jefferson from Napoleon Bonaparte in 1803. They traveled more than half way across the continent – because there was no USA yet.

It was a 1500 mile trip by wagon across Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa and most of Nebraska to Alliance – for over 5 generations my relatives lived there before WWI- when my grandfather moved out.

On that trip across much of America they had to bring everything with them. In addition to the plagues of hardship, hunger and cold, starvation, disease, and Indian attacks—they persevered. That is the kind of rugged individuals they were.

When my people got to Nebraska they built themselves sod houses. They dug a shallow hole in the earth – stacked the dirt for the walls – laid some timbers across the top and replaced the sod for their roof.

They lacked every convenience that we would consider essential. There were few roads, mostly trails, no running water, electricity, phone, sewer, healthcare, or refrigeration.

And they thanked God for His abundant blessing that they could stop – plant a crop and live in freedom. It was subsistence farming at its most difficult.

When they did have a little produce in excess of their basic needs – they were able to sell or trade with their neighbors – to the benefit of both. That was fledgling **capitalism** in America!

God said “Do not bury you talents – but turn a profit.”

**Matthew 25:**

- 15** And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.
- 16** Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents.

**Luke 19:**

- 15** And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading.
- 16** Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds.

The pioneer farmers prayed for a good harvest to carry them over to the next year. They prayed for their children to survive. Can you imagine the hardships of the 1700's and the 1800's as they persistently lived and died—generation after generation?

Coming into our day, I vividly remember visiting my grandmother who had nothing but potatoes to carry them over the winter into the next season.

America was truly the land of the brave and home of the free. And there was room for all comers to America. Our welcoming cry went to all the world: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

With God's blessings America grew greatly—to world prominence. We built America. We put a man on the moon. We fed the world with our abundance. We owned most of the gold. More than once we freed the world from tyranny. God blessed our works.

And early Americans were no strangers to hard work. Those early settlers seeking an opportunity to work and provide for themselves were willing to work **harder** to achieve their goals of religious and economic freedom.

God was delivering on His promise to our Patriarch, Abraham. Notice the blessings:

**Deuteronomy 28:**

- 12** The LORD shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to **bless all the work of thine hand**: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow.

God did not say, “Sit back and after 2520 years I'll just **dump** it in **your lap**.” No, He said, “I'll **bless all the work** of thine hand.”

Can you imagine our nation back then? Hard working, growing – prospering... timber, and cattle and grain.

Can you imagine their reaction had the US Government descended on them and informed them that much of their meager substance was going to be taken away from them and redistributed to others?

They would have instinctively known that it was positively un-American. Every God-fearing pioneer would have packed up and moved somewhere else because they had the **American** dream. America grew immensely great, powerful and wealthy.

Then our nation **forgot God**—and everything changed.

Now, today, we must beg and borrow. Our military generals retire from service as hoards of rebels overrun our American consulates. Have you noticed how the Chinese armed forces are growing while America's are shrinking?

Financially, we are going deeper and deeper into debt every day. God is not with America any longer. Notice the curses:

**Deuteronomy 28:**

**43** The stranger that is within thee shall get up above thee very high; and thou shalt come down very low.

**44** He [Chinese and foreigners] shall lend to thee, and thou shalt not lend to him: he shall be the head, and thou shalt be the **tail**.

Now, our gentile thinking government is trying to come up with solutions to our country's financial woes by increasing their own size and power. They are like Pharaoh who has **forgotten** what once made America great.

It was God, Law, Constitution, and Work that built America.

As Americans, we once knew this truism: When there is more **economic freedom**, there tends to be more economic **prosperity**.

The proof of that statement is shown in the fact that the greatest period of economic growth in U.S. history was during a time when the federal government was much smaller, there was no Federal Reserve System and there was no income tax.

America's **capitalistic** or free-market economy virtually exploded in growth in those earlier days of our country.

People are quick to say that both capitalism and socialism have their problems. That is absolutely true, because—both socialism and capitalism **without** God will not work.

The difference is that **in capitalism** people are freer to work and pursue their goals.

Of course, **greed** in capitalism leads to the correction factors of recession, depression or collapse—but that is because the equalizing effects of God's jubilee year principles are ignored.

Socialism on the other hand is **ungodly** through and through. Socialism is **sin** because it is stealing. The eighth commandment is:

**Exodus 20:**

**15** Thou shalt not steal.

For America to precede in the right direction—the generational theft must stop. And that is what this unprecedented borrowing is—generational theft—stealing from our children.

The Government's idea of **compassion and charity** is to steal from the working and retired classes and give it to the government created non-working class.

If our government were truly **compassionate and charitable** they would have long ago done more for:

**Our Veterans** – the government doesn't care.

Those with **disabilities** – the government could do so much more.

Those with **preexisting maladies** – would cost a pittance compared to the nation busting Obamacare law.

Capitalism works because when the rewards are great, the efforts to succeed are greatest. On the other hand, **socialism fails** absolutely every time it is tried because when government takes away the reward of **hard work**, no one tries to succeed. It is that straight forward.

But, there are also the factors of **control and power** in socialism. Gentile dictators love **control and power**. When monies and services are redistributed to non-workers—their vote is insured. That is the only reason our government has opened our borders to the unskilled foreigners when there are nearly 100 million Americans who have lost their jobs—they desire their votes.

It is not a new concept—by any means: It is only a modern day spin on the words of Alexander Tytler 1747-1843 which seem to fit the current situation in America some 200 years later.

Alexander Tytler wrote: "A democracy is always temporary in nature; it simply cannot exist as a permanent form of government.

"A democracy will continue to exist up until the time that voters discover that they can vote themselves generous gifts from the public treasury.

"From that moment on, the majority always votes for the candidates who promise the most benefits from the public treasury, with the result that every democracy will finally collapse due to loose fiscal policy, which is always followed by a dictatorship."

What the recipients of this welfare fail to recognize is that their relative economic status becomes less and less. There is a much greater disparity between the welfare class today and the middle class wage earner than at any time in the history of the progressive movement.

Simply stated, the gap between the haves and the have-nots continues to get larger—and now it promises to get much worse—even catastrophic for our country.

Brethren, this past week was a **turning point**—and forms a new epoch in the political course of our nation.

Our President declared his intentions to fundamentally change the basic nature of our government.

We have lost our constitution in America—it is not supported, followed or respected by our national leaders. We no longer have a realistic republic.

This latest generation—like the President, are what we call the baby-boomers. They (the Boomer generation) do not really believe in the **separation of powers** underlying our constitutional republican government.

Our President, in order to compel his will on the American people declared **this week** that his powers would contravene those of the legitimate congress—the House of Representatives and the US Senate.

For the purpose of expediting the regime's socialistic agenda in what is being declared a "Year of Action," the President indicated that he would work with rubberstamping lawmakers to pass his legislation but he also stressed that he is prepared to use his **unilateral executive actions more frequently** to advance administration goals.

The President said: "We are not just going to be waiting for legislation in order to make sure that we are providing Americans the kind of help that they need."

In a speech last Saturday, the President made it clear that he intends to further **insulate himself** from mainstream American Constitutional values by **surrounding** himself with like-minded policy advocates who share his domestic policy agenda.

The President is surrounding himself with like-minded young baby boomers.

Brethren, does that ring a bell for you? There is nothing new under the sun. This exact scenario has played itself out before—God has recorded the things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

**1 Corinthians 10:**

**11** Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

**1 Kings 12:**

**1** And Rehoboam went to Shechem: for all Israel were come to Shechem to make him king.

Remember:

**1 Kings 11:**

**6** And Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and went not fully after the LORD, as did David his father.

For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and other false gods.

And so, God split his kingdom. Rehoboam in the south and Jeroboam in the north.

America is being broken asunder as we speak.

**1 Kings 12:**

- 2 And it came to pass, when Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who was yet in Egypt, heard of it [Solomon's death], (for he was fled from the presence of king Solomon, and Jeroboam dwelt in Egypt;
- 3 That they sent and called him. And Jeroboam and all the congregation of Israel came, and spake unto Rehoboam, saying,
- 4 Thy father made our yoke grievous: now therefore make thou the grievous service of thy father, and his heavy yoke which he put upon us, lighter, and we will serve thee.
- 5 And he said unto them, Depart yet for three days, then come again to me. And the people departed.
- 6 And king Rehoboam consulted with the old men, that stood before Solomon his father while he yet lived, and said, How do ye advise that I may answer this people?
- 7 And they spoke unto him, saying, If thou wilt be a servant unto this people this day, and wilt serve them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, then they will be thy servants forever.
- 8 But he forsook the counsel of the old men, which they had given him, and consulted with the young men that were grown up with him, and which stood before him:
- 9 And he said unto them, What counsel give ye that we may answer this people, who have spoken to me, saying, Make the yoke which thy father did put upon us lighter?
- 10 And the young men that were grown up with him spake unto him, saying, Thus shalt thou speak unto this people that spake unto thee, saying, Thy father made our yoke heavy, but make thou it lighter unto us; thus shalt thou say unto them, My little finger shall be thicker than my father's loins.
- 11 And now whereas my father did lade you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke: my father hath chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions.
- 12 So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, as the king had appointed, saying, Come to me again the third day.
- 13 And the king answered the people roughly, and forsook the old men's counsel that they gave him;

Brethren have you noticed all the **new and very excessive taxes** that are being imposed on us by these new regulations?

**1 Kings 12:**

- 14 And spoke to them after the counsel of the **young men**, saying, My father made your yoke heavy, and I will add to your yoke: my father also chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions.
- 15 Wherefore the king hearkened not unto the people; for the **cause was from the LORD...**

God is allowing this **plague and curse** to sweep over America to bring this nation to repentance.

I received a few emails with regard to this *Countdown to the Return of Jesus Christ* this morning that said, "Lighten up." Don't be so negative. But this is the job and responsibility of all the faithful ministry of Jesus Christ:

**Isaiah 58:**

**1** Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and show my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.

Not only will this serious crisis impact our nation, this Godless socialism has already begun taking its spiritual **toll on the Church of God brethren**.

I found this analysis of what the President has just declared:

"Faced with a recalcitrant Congress and a constrained budget, President Obama is increasingly working to promote White House economic and social policies."

My Translation: In spite of the lack of Congressional funding, the President plans unrestrained spending on his socialist programs. What is wrong with this scenario?

This is governmental theft and larceny on a grand scale.

There was a time when the organized trade unions exacted a larger slice of the American pie for themselves, but this is a massive government takeover of our nation's heritage. It is borrowing and spending with no intentions to ever repay the debt. It is running up the credit card with plans to walk away without paying.

We have already seen this wrong thinking grab hold of some brethren in the Church of God who borrowed excessively, only to change their name and abandon their responsibility to repay.

We had a case in the Church some years ago where a man deliberately ran up his credit card as high as possible—knowing that he was about to declare bankruptcy. He thought it was both wise and funny. God's people need to be educated in God's law.

**Hosea 4:**

**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.

There was no thought on the part of the man going bankrupt for those who **trusted him** to repay their good-faith gesture in loaning him the money. That is a clear violation of the Commandment, "Thou shalt not steal."

**Exodus 20:**

**15** Thou shalt not steal. (repeated for emphasis)

It is an insidious trap to be on a government welfare plan.

Next time we will look at the serious detrimental spiritual implications of our Governments policies on the people of God.

End Blood Sweat and Tears