

Handwriting On the Wall

(Sermon Notes) By Warren Zehrung 7/18/2015

The happenings in the news of the last couple of weeks have been astonishing. They have left me sick and bewildered. Is nothing sacred anymore? We've heard all these things before – I don't know why they have hit me so hard this time. I just feel that we are at a turning point as we go into the Fall Holy Days.

We have seen the United States sign a treaty which has given Iran the go-ahead with its full nuclear program.

We have seen the murder of an innocent bystander by a multiple offending illegal alien.

We have seen the Chattanooga recruiting office shootings by an ISIS inspired radical Muslim terrorist. Some of you may not be aware that ISIS is operating a staging camp just a few miles from El Paso, Texas while they pick out targets of opportunity.

We have seen the sacred institution of marriage **reduced** to nothing more than a barn-yard's mischievous shenanigans. It is because of these and other blatant sinful acts that God is pulling the plug on America.

We have come to the "tipping point" from which there is no turning back – "the handwriting is on the wall." This is not the America that I grew up in.

I was born in the midst of WWII – the most extensive war this earth has seen. We emerged victorious – both Ephriam and Manasseh – England and America – the most powerful nations on earth. Our countries had been ascending to greatness for a good while.

By my calculation we reached our zenith of world influence in about 1947. Evil empires feared our shadow. We had all the gold and money in the world. We went to sleep at night with the windows open and the doors unlocked. It was an entirely different world than that which we see about us today?

One generation later – my generation – America has become a hopeless case. Everything is becoming upside down and topsy-turvy, and **backward**. God warned:

Isaiah 5:20 Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

Society as we have known it is changing so completely as to become unrecognizable. There has been such an onslaught of attacks against our religion, our morals and our culture it is mind boggling.

In today's sermon we will be talking about how in one generation so much of what we once held near and dear has been lost.

Daniel 5:1 Belshazzar the king [of Babylon] made a great feast to a thousand of his lords, and drank wine before the thousand.

Daniel 5:2 Belshazzar, whiles he tasted the wine, commanded to bring the golden and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple which was in Jerusalem; that the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, might drink therein.

Daniel 5:3 Then they brought the golden vessels that were taken out of the temple of the house of God which was at Jerusalem; and the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, drank in them.

Notice how ancient prophesies mirror the present. In brazen haughtiness and arrogance Belshazzar gloated before all the prominent men of his day.

In the same way that Belshazzar basked in the glory of his father's accomplishments (Daniel 5:1), Our President rides a wave of affluence and opulence made possible by the past freedom and opportunity of those whose free enterprise labors built our imposing economy.

Today, the True God is being systematically removed from every vestige of government, education, justice and private life in America.

Following in the footsteps of Belshazzar, foreign gods [like the gods of the radical Muslim Brotherhood] are being given the preference of the White House.

Daniel 5:4 They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone.

Daniel 5:5 In the same hour came forth fingers of a man's hand, and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaster of the wall of the king's palace: and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote.

Daniel 5:6 Then the king's countenance was changed, and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his loins were loosed, and his knees smote one against another.

Daniel 5:8 Then came in all the king's wise men: but they could not read the writing, nor make known to the king the interpretation thereof.

Daniel 5:9 Then was king Belshazzar greatly troubled, and his countenance was changed in him, and his lords were astonished.

Belshazzar called in Daniel who told them that the handwriting on the wall indicated that the jig was up – It was all over with for the king and the nation:

Daniel 5:18 O thou king, the most high **God gave** Nebuchadnezzar thy father a kingdom, and majesty, and glory, and honor:

OK, we need a flash back in time as a reminder right here. We are going back to Nebuchadnezzar's time and the events taking place in 585 BC... The nation of Israel had gone into Assyrian captivity some 130 years before in 721 BC. Now Judah and Jerusalem have fallen to Nebuchadnezzar.

Jeremiah 39:6 Then the king of Babylon [Nebuchadnezzar] slew the sons of Zedekiah in Riblah before his eyes: also the king of Babylon slew all the nobles of **Judah**.

Jeremiah 39:7 Moreover he put out Zedekiah's eyes, and bound him with chains, to carry him to Babylon.

Jeremiah 39:8 And the Chaldeans burned the king's house, and the houses of the people, with fire, and brake down the walls of Jerusalem.

Jeremiah 39:9 ...and carried away **captive** into Babylon the remnant of the people [of Judah] that remained in the city.

Nations ascend and descend before God who changes not. Assyria, Israel, Babylon, Persia, Greek, Roman, Britain, American. But God remains the same yesterday today and forever.

Ancient Israel had God as their King. Israel was a world power under King Solomon. Israel was founded on God's word, dedicated to His will, consecrated to His purposes, and God blessed it with prosperity, power, security, peace, and a place at the head of nations.

Israel rejected God - they forgot the Sabbath Day and turned to idolatry. Israel chose gods of abortion, sodomy, sensuality, materialism, blood violence; idols of wealth and carnality, and sexual promiscuity. Israel rejected the way of God, His laws, the standards of God and... for immorality.

Israel was punished for 2520 years. The blessings God had promised to Abraham were withheld all that time. Then God opened the gates of heaven on our country. 1803 was a turning point in the explosive growth of blessings on America in wealth, power, population and liberty.

America had been dedicated to God by our founding fathers. April 30th, 1789 was the day that America, as we know it, came into existence. It was the day the first President was sworn into office, the Inauguration of George Washington.

Washington placed his hand on the **Bible**, and then he gave the first ever Presidential address. And, in that speech, on America's first day, as a new nation, George Washington said:

"The propitious smiles of Heaven can never be expected on a nation that **disregards** the eternal rules of order and right which Heaven itself has ordained."

Brethren, we have come to the point that George Washington feared. The USA now **disregards** the eternal rules of order and right which Heaven itself has ordained.

What was George Washington saying? He was saying "America's blessings are based on its relationship with God. America was dedicated to the True God and His way. America would look to God. If America ever disregards or forgets or turns away from the eternal rules of order and rights, the laws, the precepts, the standards, the ways of God, if America ever departs from these, then the blessings of God will be withdrawn from the land.

That is the prophetic warning embedded in our national foundation. And, it is coming true in our day.

We are now witnessing America increasingly disregarding the eternal rules of order and right which God has ordained. And, the warning is, that if we do so, the smiles of Heaven the blessings of God will be withdrawn.

America became the most blessed nation on earth, a home for those seeking to be free. By sheer size and strength America became protector of other nations who sought freedom from oppression.

Why have we followed in the steps of ancient Israel?

Daniel 5:19 And for the majesty that he gave him, all people, nations, and languages, trembled and feared before [Nebuchadnezzar]: whom he would he slew; and whom he would he kept alive; and whom he would he set up; and whom he would he put down.

Nebuchadnezzar enjoyed great power and prestige.

Brethren – please draw the clear parallel: Great Britain – and then the USA were this great – even much more powerful than Nebuchadnezzar ever was.

Daniel 5:20 But when [Nebuchadnezzar's] heart was lifted up, and his mind hardened in pride, he was deposed from his kingly throne [by God], and they took his glory from him:

Daniel 5:23 But [you king Belshazzar] have lifted up thyself **against** the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of his house before thee, and thou, and thy lords, thy wives, and thy concubines, have drunk wine in them; and thou hast **praised** the gods of silver, and gold, of brass, iron, wood, and stone, which see not, nor hear, nor know:

In the **exact same way**, our national leaders – the President, Congress – and the Supreme Court – are **thumbing their noses** at the great God who established America – and gives life itself to everyone.

Daniel 5:23 [continuing] ...and the God **in whose hand** your breath is, and whose are all thy ways, hast thou **not** glorified:

Our founding fathers of America were keenly aware of God's hand and blessings poured forth in the establishment of this once great nation.

Daniel was saying, "God, who **gave** Nebuchadnezzar thy father, and you king Belshazzar – this great nation – and everything in it – even your **life** itself – you have turned your back on – forgotten - rejected."

Daniel 5:25 And this is the writing that was written, MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN.

Daniel 5:26 This is the interpretation of the thing: MENE; God has numbered thy kingdom, and **finished** it.

Belshazzar , you are being shut down – now!

Daniel 5:27 TEKEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art **found wanting**.

You come short and "don't cut it anymore."

Daniel 5:28 PERES; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.

Your enemy is rising up around you as we speak.

Dan 5:30 In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans **slain**.

Dan 5:31 And Darius the Median took the kingdom,

That is exactly where we are today in the USA!

We, the USA, have turned from God. We have removed God from our lives. We have removed Him out of our culture, out of our government, out of our economy. We have rejected God and taken Him out of the rearing and lives of our children. Though we invoke His name as a nation, it is most often meaningless. America and England have forgotten her God. Muslim strangers rise among us with their moon god of hate and dominance.

The Muslims push at our ways and our law - based on God's law. They bring their Sharia law - a law without mercy, justice, or righteousness. America is in a nose-dive to its own oblivion - and who is trying to stop the death spiral?

Abraham Lincoln (his name is almost prophetic Wow!) also issued a call to the nation. Abraham Lincoln said this:

"It is the duty of nations as well as of men to owe their dependence to the overruling power of God.

To confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow with the assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon and to recognize the sublime truth announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history that those nations are only blessed whose God is the Lord.

We have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand that preserved us in peace and multiplied it and enriched and strengthened us.

It behooves us then, to humble ourselves before the offended power. To confess our national sins and to pray for clemency and forgiveness."

So, Lincoln set forth this call to America to repent, to turn to God, to seek His mercy. The words of Abraham Lincoln ring out to us today that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord. Has this nation grown so far from God that we cannot even imagine a **president doing so** today?

Brethren, these Scriptures were recorded for our sakes, today. The greatest of nations fall. Time is going by so quickly – and our nation has become so corrupted. We have seen God’s judgment beginning to descend on our nation.

Our leaders have just agreed to **give** the rogue nation Iran the nuclear go ahead for multiple atomic bombs and the ICBM’s to deliver them on the modern countries of Israel. In five years Iran will have multiple war-heads. ICBM missiles are not needed to attack the little state of Israel in Palestine – it is so close to Teheran.

In lifting the sanctions against Iran we have agreed to give hundreds of Billions of dollars to fund Iran’s exportation of terror throughout the region.

We have insured God’s **judgment** upon ourselves by lawlessly legalizing in our entire nation that which God defines as an abomination – and Paul says it is too filthy to talk about.

And the selling on the open market the body parts of viable babies – Our President counts as one of his crowning achievements. The handwriting is surely on the wall for our nation. How much longer before the night comes when no man can work? Jesus said:

John 9:4 I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

This is where we are today – it is all over except for picking up the pieces. Don’t get me wrong Brethren, God can always turn things around – but, will our country turn around – it does not look like it. Here is God’s perpetual promise to our nations:

2Chronicles 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

Instead of humbling themselves, and praying, and seeking God’s face, and turning from their wicked ways ... our leaders are doubling down – and popping Champaign corks in the Whitehouse.

That is exactly what Belshazzar was doing the night before his destruction – celebrating.

We have seen God ordained marriage come under severe attack by those who advocate the advancement of the same-sex agenda. It is not enough to try to stay out of the fray because the perverted agenda is being foisted on the innocent. Pastors face tough fines and imprisonment for refusing to be involved in the fracas.

We are back to same situation as Daniel and the lion’s den. Will we exercise our faith in God? They could throw us faithful ministers to the lions – but we will not bow down and perform ungodly marriages – nor ever approve of murderous abortions. The wrath of God is coming soon on those false ministers who will not take a stand for righteousness sake.

Marriage and the family provide the **very basis of society** – and they always have! What will happen to our nation now?

A young couple in Oregon, who ran a bakery tried to opt-out of providing a cake for a same-sex wedding. They did not fight or protest – they simply said, let us opt-out. But, because they hold their religious beliefs to be sacred – about the sanctity of marriage – they are being persecuted and fined \$135,000 by the government. That is more than enough to destroy their business. They simply did not wish to get involved. They had no agenda.

The perpetrators of this battle were not content to be left alone – but insisted in imposing their perversions on the owners of the bakery. Our sick government would not allow the young couple to maintain their beliefs and rights.

God says homosexuality is **not** matrimony:

“If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an **abomination.**” (Leviticus 20:13)

After the government violated the cake shop owner’s constitutionally mandated **freedom of religious practice**, the government had the audacity to also suspend their constitutionally mandated right of **freedom of speech**, as well, by slapping a gag order on the evangelical Christian bakers – banning them from speaking publicly about their refusal to participate in or bake wedding cakes for ungodly, illicit unions.

Matrimony is defined by God. The recent Supreme Court has ruled that same-sex marriage must now be recognized as ‘legal’ under the Constitution.

Acts 5:29 ... **We ought to obey God rather than men.**

Marriage calls for a mother and a father.

“**Male and female** created He them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created.” (Genesis 5:2)

If God had made another **man** out of Adam’s rib, those two would have been the totality and the end of the human race!

Marriage is defined in the Book of Genesis – and it was instituted by God. Marriage is unique in nature, because marriage is a distinct human institution ordained by God. God put the first man and the first woman in the Garden of Eden. He first created Adam a male. He then created Eve a female. God is the author of human reproduction, and only His law applies to the practice thereof.

The Supreme Court has fashioned a **confused**, ungodly, and unnatural law. I call it confusing because of what it is causing. Just this week I heard about a plan to have the words “Husband and Wife” removed from our language – proposed by California Democrat Representative, Lois Capps.

In the wake of the Supreme Court’s decision to legalize perverted same-sex marriage nationwide, more than two dozen Democrats have proposed legislation that would eliminate the “gendered” words “husband” and “wife” from federal laws and replace them with “gender-neutral” words like “spouse” and “married couple.”

Here is another example this week of “confusion”: Two mothers and no father on a baby’s birth certificate.

For nine months, Molly Maness-Roberson carried her infant son, made from, Keri Roberson's, her wife’s egg and an anonymous donor’s sperm. (It seems in the natural order there has to be a father in the equation.) Now, they’d like the birth certificate of their son, Boston, to **list both** of his mom’s names on a legal instrument. Do they really believe that to be the way to build a viable and lasting society?

Our President has also snubbed his nose at our Creator by redefining the Godly institution of marriage – to be a perverse thing in God’s sight.

God said that a **man** shall **cleave unto his wife**: and they shall be one flesh (Genesis 2:24).

This monster 'law' created by the Supreme Court is **not legal**, constitutional, nor is it according to God's Law or the rule of nature.

This Supreme Court 'victory' in legalizing sodomy for the entire country was celebrated at the White House by bathing the entire presidential mansion in **rainbow**-colored lights – the very symbol of perverted lifestyles.

It is ironic that most do not realize that those who adopt that position – calling it an "alternate lifestyle" – are also snubbing their noses at God. The rainbow is God's **warning** to turn away from such wickedness.

Genesis 6:5 And God saw that the **wickedness** of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

God drowned the world with a deluge, except for Noah's family, because of its wickedness. And now the White House basks in colors of the rainbow.

Genesis 9:11-15 [God said], I will establish my covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the **waters of a flood**; neither shall there anymore be a **flood** to destroy the earth. And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: I do set my **rainbow** in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth. And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the **rainbow** shall be seen in the cloud: And I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the **waters** shall no more become **a flood to destroy all flesh**.

The rainbow represents God's covenant that He will not destroy man with a flood of **water** again – not that He will not bring retribution on man with **fire** for his wickedness. God has shown, in a small way, at Sodom and Gomorrah the ultimate fate of those who commit such iniquity. The **rainbow** should act as a dire warning not to trample on the Divine institution of marriage. It is folly to use the **rainbow** to celebrate the wickedness of man.

Genesis 19:24 Then the Lord rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah **brimstone and fire** from the Lord out of heaven.

The President and the US Supreme Court are gloating this week over their ungodly abominations – just as surely as Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans did. We know how God looks at that reveling in perversion. Our country is doomed because marriage is no longer sacred.

2Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

In order to demonstrate how the world has been turned upside down (Isaiah 5:20), I would like to compare and contrast the perverted reasonings of the President and the US Supreme Court – working together in **judicial activism**.

A **baby** or a **cake** – which is more important? I want to compare their reasoning **over a cake**, to their stance on the destruction of **innocent** lives. The administrators of the government funded **Planned Parenthood** abortion clinics revel in selling body parts of viable babies. First, they justify their abortions on the **premise** that the baby is **not viable** – not capable of sustaining life. And then, they turn around and sell the individual parts as **viable** tissue.

Here is an example of calling evil good, and good evil...(Isaiah 5:20): Tearing babies apart seems to be a **good** idea to these deranged abortionist – while they become vicious over the matter of a **cake**???

Planned Parenthood is involved in the illegal sale of aborted fetuses and conducting illegal partial-birth abortions. They are harvesting the unborn for profit. Actually, there is nothing new with this mentality. It has happened before:

Jeremiah 32:35 And they built the high places of Baal which are in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, to cause their sons and their daughters **to pass through the fire** to Molech, which I did not command them, nor did it come into My mind that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin.'

'**Pass through the fire,**' was their version of late term abortion.

Jeremiah 19:5 They have built also the high places of Baal, to **burn their sons with fire** for burnt offerings unto Baal, which I commanded not, nor spoke it, **neither came it into my mind:**

Our nation first eclipsed this low mark of **ancient times** back in 1973 with Roe v. Wade. Our Supreme Court made it lawful to extinguish the lives of unborn children. There have been over a million executions of babies a year since 1973. And God **cringes** every time.

Our President said, "Because this is a country where **everyone** deserves the same freedom and opportunities to fulfill their dreams." He should have voiced his true feelings – by adding, "**Except** for babies who are robbed of their God given lives... babies who trusted their protection to abortionists." Our President's statement fails to apply to nearly 60 million unborn babies. They never had a chance to live their lives or fulfill their opportunities and dreams.

God said that this beastly **brutality** to the blessed fruit of the womb – never entered His mind (Jeremiah 19:5)! Now once again our leaders have managed to **lower the bar** of civility and morality **even lower** with these heinous and despicable acts. If God could not imagine it **before**, what must He be thinking **now**?

Our President and our Supreme Court are in favor of aborting babies of which God has said that such an abomination never entered His mind. Our President is also on the Congressional record as being in favor of murdering surviving babies of failed abortion attempts. God has given us leaders with truly **contemptible** minds. God calls it a **reprobate** mind.

Just as when Israel and Judah had been carried away into **captivity**, Belshazzar did not **retain** God in his mind.

Romans 1:28 And even as they did not like to **retain God** in their knowledge, God gave them over to a **reprobate** mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

Romans 1:32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have **pleasure** in them that do them.

What does God think of our nation, and what is in store for us now? The enemy is rising up amongst us. The shooting this week in Chattanooga, TN – leaving 5 military men dead – was reminiscent of the 2009 recruiting office shooting – right here in Little Rock, Arkansas. The shooting took place when the American, Abdulhakim Mujahid Muhammad, born Carlos Leon Bledsoe, opened fire with a rifle on soldiers in front of a United States military recruiting office in Little Rock. Muhammad killed Private William Long and wounded Private Quinton Ezeagwula. Law enforcement officials said Muhammad had **researched various targets** around the United States, including military bases, government facilities, and synagogues. Muhammad was not charged with **terrorism**, however, because our US administration also has an alien agenda.

Just like they did in Texas when 14 people were killed at the Fort Hood

military base by fundamentalist Islamic terrorist and radical Muslim, Nidal Malik Hasan opened fire while shouting "Allahu Akbar!" One of the deaths was an unborn innocent child – robbed of its life. The president's administration deemed it to be "workplace violence." What kind of nation have we become? What sort of people should we be?

2Peter 3:11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation [conduct] and godliness?

"The Handwriting is on the Wall" This has become a clichéd saying meaning, "It's all over with." I never dreamed that in one generation – my generation – we could see such a reversal of our nation's direction. America has indeed been fundamentally changed – as promised by our President.

The handwriting is indeed on the wall.

God declares the end from the beginning so that we might know His mind in regard to our state of affairs (Isaiah 46:10).

Our leaders and our country are in their last days. We were once a blessed, prosperous and powerful nation when America rejoiced in our God, families and nation. But now our President, who knows not the **history, heart and soul** of this once great people, has turned to the full rejection of the way of God. Do not get me wrong, our President knows of the might and wealth of America – it is just that he gives **no credit** to God for our once prominent position among the populations of the earth.

It is not so much a matter of our President's egregious lying or gross unconstitutional conduct; it is a matter of flagrantly going directly against God's express will for His people.

Israel went into captivity for turning their back on God. There are sins that are markers indicating our demise. Our President and Supreme Court have acted to make ungodly conduct the law of the land.

End: Handwriting On the Wall