

The Fall of a Nation, Pt. 3 (57 Minutes)
Daniel 5:1-31, NKJV, 2023-12-10A, #4

Introduction: Today, I want to continue to talk to you about some of the factors contributing to the fall of a nation.

- I. The Feeling of Security Was a Factor Contributing to the Fall of Babylon (Daniel 5:1-4).**

- II. The Filling Up of the Cup of Iniquity or of Sins Was Another Factor Contributing to the Fall of Babylon.**
 - A. God disciplines and judges when the cup of iniquity is full (Genesis 15:13-21).**
 - B. “Godliness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people” (Proverbs 14:34, New Living Translation).**
 - C. Some of the sins that filled the cup of iniquity for Babylon:**
 - 1. Idolatry – Valuing any person, place, or things more than God also allowing persons, places, or things to take God’s place in our lives (Daniel 5:4, 23).**
 - a. Job is an example of someone who valued God more than any person or thing on earth (Job 1:6-22).**
 - b. Jesus said that the greatest of all the commandments is to love God with all of one’s heart, soul, and mind (Matthew 22:37).**
 - 2. Sinful Pride (Daniel 5:17-23),**
 - 3. Loving pleasure more than loving God (Daniel 5:1, 23; cf. 2 Timothy 3:4),**
 - 4. Suppression of the truth (Daniel 5:21-22; cf. Romans 1:18-20):**
 - a. God has revealed Himself in creation (Psalm 19:1-3; Romans 1:18-23).**
 - b. God has revealed Himself in conscience (Romans 2:14-15).**
 - c. God has revealed Himself in Christ (Matthew 11:27; John 14:9-10; Hebrews 1:1-3).**
 - d. God has revealed Himself in the Scriptures (Psalm 139:7-12).**
 - 5. Failure to glorify God (Daniel 5:23; cf. Romans 1:21-23; Acts 12:20-23):**
 - a. According to The West Minister Shorter Catechism, “Man’s primary purpose is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever.”**
 - b. God created everyone and everything for His glory (Isaiah 43:7; Revelation 4:11; cf. 1 Corinthians 10:31).**
 - c. God does everything for His glory, and He does what gives Him the most glory: The Red Sea (Exodus 14); Gideon’s army (Judges 6 & 7); the fiery furnace (Daniel 3); the lion’s den (Daniel 6); the death of Lazarus (John 11).**
 - d. God holds our breath in His hand (Daniel 5:23; Job 12:10; Luke 12:20; Acts 17:28).**
 - D. Some of the sins that filled the cup of iniquity before the judgment of the flood:**
 - 1. Wicked imagination (Genesis 6:5; 8:21),**
 - 2. Violence (Genesis 6:11),**
 - 3. Corruption (Genesis 6:11-13).**
 - E. Some of the sins that filled the cup of iniquity for Sodom and Gomorrah (Ezekiel 16:49-50):**
 - 1. Pride,**
 - 2. Gluttony,**

3. **Idleness,**
 4. **Neglect of the Poor and Needy,**
 5. **Homosexuality (Ezekiel 16:50; cf. Genesis 19:24-25; Leviticus 18:22; 20:13; Romans 1:24-32; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 1 Timothy 1:9-10; Jude 7; 2 Peter 2:7).**
- F. Some of the sins that filled the cup of iniquity for the Northern Kingdom of Israel also called Ephraim: (1) Swearing, (2) Lying, (3) Killing or Murder, (4) Stealing, (5) Adultery, (6) Violence (Hosea 4:2; Amos 3:10), (7) Idolatry (Hosea 4:7-19), (8) Pride (Hosea 5:5; 7:10), (9) Abuse of the poor (Amos 2:6; 4:1; 5:11-12; 8:4), (10) Injustice (Amos 2:6-7), (11) Drunkenness (Hosea 4:11), (12) Failure of the priest and prophets to know God and to make Him known (Hosea 4:1, 3-7).**
- G. Some of the sins that filled the cup of iniquity for the Southern Kingdom of Judah:**
1. **Idolatry (Jeremiah 2:11-13; 5:19; 7:18; 10:1-18; 13:10; Ezekiel 6:1-14; 14:1-23),**
 2. **Child Sacrifice or the Shedding of Innocent Blood (Jeremiah 7:31-32; cf. Proverbs 6:17),**
 3. **Pride (Jeremiah 13:9, 17),**
 4. **Adultery (Jeremiah 5:7-8),**
 5. **Violence (Habakkuk 1:2-3),**
 6. **Injustice (Isaiah 10:1-4; Jeremiah 5:28; Habakkuk 1:4),**
 7. **Neglect of the Poor and Needy (Habakkuk 3:14):**
 - a. **The Bible teaches that the poor will not be eliminated from the land, but we are to care for the poor and needy (Deuteronomy 15:11; Matthew 26:11).**
 - b. **Read what Proverbs has to say about the poor in chapters 14 – 31.**

III. Reasons for Delays in Judgment – the Longsuffering of God (Exodus 34:6).

- A. Long-Suffering is an attribute of God (Exodus 34:6).**
- B. The reason for the longsuffering of God is to provide an opportunity to repent (Romans 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9).**
- C. There is a termination date on the longsuffering of God (Genesis 6:3; Hosea 4:17; Jeremiah 7:16; 11:14; 14:11; Ezekiel 14:12-23).**

Conclusion: The cup of iniquity for America is overflowing. America is guilty of all of the sins that filled the cups of iniquity for all the nations that God disciplined and judged. The only hope for America is a delay in judgment. God delayed judgment on Nineveh for over 100 years because of the five actions the Ninevites took in response to the preaching of the prophet Jonah (Jonah 3:5-10): (1) The people believed God. (2) The people proclaimed a fast. (3) The people humbled themselves. (4) The people pray to God. (5) The people repented of their sins.

Let us pray that America will follow the examples of the Ninevites, and let us continue to pray for revival among God's people (2 Chronicles 7:13-14).

Pastor-Teacher, Julius R. Malone