

John Newlin Ministries, Inc.

- realizing the power of a life in Christ-

WILL THEY WAKE UP?

A lion has come out of his lair;
a destroyer of nations has set out.
He has left his place
to lay waste your land.
Your towns will lie in ruins
without inhabitant. - Jeremiah 4:7 NIV

More than 700 years before Christ came to earth God spoke these dire words to the prophet Isaiah:

“Go and tell this people:

“‘Be ever hearing, but never understanding;
be ever seeing, but never perceiving.’ - Isaiah 6:9 NIV

He was calling Isaiah to take his truths to the people but he also warned Isaiah the people – or at least a large number of them – would not understand what he was saying and would not perceive what they were seeing. This is a heavy truth for us today. Keep it in mind as we go forward here.

A hundred or so years later God called the prophet Jeremiah. God spoke his heart to Jeremiah. He spoke of how the people (in Judah and Jerusalem) did not belong to the Lord, of how they had been utterly unfaithful to him (Jeremiah 5:11). He repeated what he had said to Isaiah more than a hundred years earlier that I just quoted, also referring to his people as foolish and senseless people “who have eyes but do not see, who have ears but do not hear. (Jeremiah 5:21).”

God elaborated on this in Jeremiah 4:22 with these words:

“My people are fools;
they do not know me.
They are senseless children;
they have no understanding.
They are skilled in doing evil;
they know not how to do good.”

Keep Your Eyes on Jesus!

P. O. Box 15797, Wilmington, NC 28408 * 910 395 1465

www.johnnewlinministries.org

Email: info@johnnewlinministries.org

[Twitter.com/johnnewlinmin](https://twitter.com/johnnewlinmin)

Are not these words applicable to large numbers of people living today in the US? And yes in Europe and elsewhere? But focus on the US here. As I have spoken and written before, America was a country founded dedicated to God. Not only were most of the founding fathers strong believers but also a large number were preachers themselves. And in the settling of Jamestown and with the Mayflower that came to Plymouth Rock there was devotion and dedication to God. I mentioned before that the King of England in his charter to the group that settled Jamestown noted that a purpose of this effort was to spread the gospel!

Where are we now in the US? Huge numbers know nothing about God and don't pretend to. But even more concerning, I think, large numbers of those who go to church weekly and think they are in fine standing with the Lord are just as lost as the total unbelievers. So many of our churchgoers attend places where there is no true serious commitment to the fullness of the truths of scripture and the gospel. They attend places where the imminent return of the Lord is not being taught, where the reality of the Holy Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit are not known nor experienced, where miracles and healings just do not happen, and most seriously where Jesus' words about the need to be born anew, or born again, in order to be in the Kingdom of God just are not taught nor understood. In his famous discussion with Nicodemus in John chapter 3, Jesus made the point that a man must be born of water and the spirit in order to be in the Kingdom of God. When Nicodemus pressed him on this, Jesus explained that it was not a physical rebirth but rather a spiritual rebirth. As John says in John 1, when a person is truly born again, God himself then is their father. Really. Not just a quaint turn of phrase. Really. A person gets a new spirit. As Paul says, the old has gone, the new has come. How many of those sitting there on Sundays know this and have experienced this? How many of those preaching in these places know this and have experienced this? Some to be sure, but apparently not all.

At the beginning of chapter 5 in Jeremiah God tells Jeremiah to go up and down the streets of Jerusalem and to see if he can find one person who deals honestly and seeks the truth. If Jeremiah could find one, God would forgive the city. Obviously Jeremiah could not find one, for the city was soon besieged and overcome by Babylon. I think we still have some people like that in America, a few today. But that is not apparent in the daily news broadcasts is it, nor in the workings of the national government or the entertainment world. It is not apparent in many dealings in the business world either, nor in parts of the ministry world, as we can attest.

Look how far the country has fallen. Now it is down to having formally taken official action and put into practice widespread sanction of homosexual marriage, clearly condemned in the Bible in Leviticus and Romans. It continues with the wanton killing of millions through abortions. And it has stepped way back from its so very valuable partnership and support of Israel as this nation exists surrounded by unbelieving and hostile countries. Going further, the government has taken steps limiting the use of

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words like “Jesus” in government places and functions, in the military. There is great pressure on military chaplains as to what they can say. The anti-Christian message from the national government has intensified to the point that just last week I read an article attributing the fall in the morale of the military to this very reason. One of our potential presidential candidates recently recommended that no Christian enter the military service until the current national government is out of office.

Those words at the very beginning of this piece are so dreadfully true. A lion has come out of his lair, a destroyer of nations. That is the devil, satan, the evil one. His time is short indeed as the Lord’s return nears, and he is frantic and active. The horrors right now in the many terrorist groups that operate actively and visibly throughout Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, Nigeria, Kenya, Somalia, Syria, Tunisia, Pakistan, and many more places are clear physical evidence of the lion’s activities. This more than fulfills the prophesy about wars and rumors of wars, for there are many underway now. Look at how desperate the people are – hundreds pile onto inadequate boats to cross the Mediterranean to get to a safer place, many losing their lives doing so. It is open season on Christians by these terror groups. It is overall, as I have said before, a move of militant islam. It is the major physical opponent in these end times.

And yet still the formal US leadership fumbles and excuses and does not deal with the enormity of the challenge. Just last week Judicial Watch reported the famous ISIS has a base now in Mexico just eight miles from El Paso, Texas. They can’t have that for our good, do you think?

I am again reminded how God had told Isaiah the people would be ever hearing but not understanding, ever seeing but not perceiving. Those people for Isaiah were the Jews. But we are in America, the only nation in history other than Israel truly begun dedicated to God. Don’t you think some of God’s truths apply here too? We need to pray that God will open the eyes of the blind Americans, remove the blinders. God did say at the beginning of Jeremiah 4 that if his people would return to him, put their detestable idols out of his sight, no longer go astray, in a truthful, just and righteous way, then the nations will be blessed by him.

Thankfully, it is becoming apparent lately that even many secular individuals are getting concerned about events of the day and all the strange happenings in our country. Maybe their concern will help in leading up to a revival in the land, for they are searching but apparently not yet finding. A recent article pointed out that 34 states now have asked for a constitutional convention. That is above the two-thirds required for such to happen. Wow. I understand the Speaker of the House is reviewing all the data to see where this stands, to see if the requirements have been met. Imagine such a thing. A word of warning, though. While some good things might happen, what is to stop the convention from just rewriting the entire constitution? Help in these days must come from something more important than man.

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We are indeed in the last days. So few know. Please help spread the word. Send this newsletter elsewhere. Get our material. Invite us to speak where you are. Surely we would all prefer to be in a right relationship with God when he comes rather than in a fallen lost position!

May God keep each of you in the palm of his hands. May he guide your paths. May he interrupt your sleep with his words and his guidance. May you always keep your eyes on Jesus.

Again, we thank all of you who support this ministry with your prayers, your contributions, and all your efforts to get the truths of God out to a terribly fallen world. And we thank those who also have contributed in support of the ministries in Kenya and Pakistan as they operate in such difficult environments. We are so close to the return of the Lord. I know your heart aches when you see how many are so oblivious to all that is going on. Help us keep the message going, through whatever media and methods God would have us use.

And always remember to stay alert! The Lord really is coming soon. May you live in the blessings of God always.

John

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