

The background of the image is a blurred American flag, showing the characteristic red and white stripes and a blue field with white stars. The text is centered over this background.

America 250
Semiquincentennial



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JAPANESE SOLDIER HID FOR 29 YEARS AFTER WWII

Jeremiah 29:4-7

Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce.

Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

- **Build houses and live in them**
- **Plant gardens and eat their produce**
- **Take wives and have children**
 - **Multiply**
- **Seek the welfare of Babylon**
- **Pray to the LORD on its behalf**

Phillipians 3:20

**But our citizenship is in heaven,
and from it we await a Savior, the
Lord Jesus Christ**

Psalm 18:1-3

**I love You, O LORD, my strength.
The LORD is my rock and my fortress
and my deliverer, My God, my rock, in
whom I take refuge; My shield and the
horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I
call upon the LORD, who is worthy to
be praised, And I am saved from my
enemies.**

- **My strength**
 - **My rock**
 - **My fortress**
 - **My deliverer**
 - **My God**
- **My rock, in whom I take refuge**
 - **My shield**
 - **The horn of my salvation**
 - **My stronghold**

Attribute	Applied to God	American Counterfeit
Rock	Ultimate foundation	I identify strongly as an American and with American values
Fortress	Ultimate security	Trusting military, economy, or political system as final protection
Deliverer	Rescues from danger	Looking primarily to elections, courts, or government to save society
Refuge	Place of comfort in fear	Running first to political tribes, news, or national identity instead of God
Shield	Protection from enemies	Assuming national strength guarantees our future
Horn of salvation	Source of victory and rescue	Believing America's success secures our hope
Stronghold	Unshakeable place of confidence	Finding emotional stability in national fortunes rather than God's kingdom

RESPONSE

First, recognize that while blessed to live here. There is no guarantee that America will continue to be as free and prosperous as it is today. This world is not our true home. Repent of any misplaced trust or hope in a nation and give God credit as your rock, fortress, deliverer, refuge, shield, salvation, and stronghold.

Second, thank God for the freedom and prosperity that we enjoy here. Praise Him for all that you have and the opportunity, safety and hope that you have.

Third, live as a citizen of heaven called to live our Christlike qualities during your stay here in exile. When trouble comes, rejoice. When tempted by your former sinful conduct, resist. Submit to human authorities and, when given the opportunity, testify concerning the hope that is in you.

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