

# When A Nation Deserts God

250<sup>th</sup>   
ANNIVERSARY

Galatians 1:1-9

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All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • Pastor Joe's Email is joe@southreno.com.  
IN SOME PLACES, GOD'S WORD IS UNDERLINED WITH DOTS WITH PASTOR JOE'S COMMENTARY IN THE BRACKETED, LIGHTER FACED TEXT.  
You can locate this passage in your Chair Bible on Page 147 (in the NT Section).

## A. Middle East Update

1. The Middle East is in the middle of significant upheaval.
2. The United States has significantly changed its objectives there.
  - We have turned from maximal goals to a narrow ceasefire approach.
  - We have made major concessions with very little reciprocal demands.
  - We have shifted from military leverage to diplomacy.
  - The U.S. is currently a focus of some harsh criticism.
3. The U.S. (and all others) cannot take the word of an extremist Muslim during a time of war.

“It is not lawful to lie except in three cases: Something the man tells his wife to please her, to lie during war, and to lie in order to bring peace between the people.” [Source: Asma bint Yazid ibn al-Sakan al-Ansariyyah, a prominent early Muslim woman who was a close companion of Muhammed, her title was Khaṭībāt al-Nisā' (“The Orator of the Women”) whose writing were published in Farsi in 1938.]

THE HADITH (quoting Muhammed) states, “At times of war, as a tactic or to demoralize the enemy and win the war especially with an infidel....” [Source: Hadith 13/328 بئال المجبور].
4. Our ultimate hope is not in Middle Eastern stability—*nor the White House*—but in Jesus Christ's return.
5. Believers are called to “Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.” (Psalm 122:6)
6. Our policy on immigration must be rethought as the Islamic socialists are actively seeking to gain political power in the United States (and the world).

## B. Will Our Nation Desert God?

### 1. Our Nation needs to turn and seek a fresh Word from God.

**Galatians 1:1, NASB95** - <sup>1</sup> Paul, an apostle (not sent from men nor through the agency of man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised Him from the dead)....

### 2. Our Nation must know only the Gospel provides true freedom.

**Galatians 1:3–5, NASB95** - <sup>3</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>4</sup> who gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, <sup>5</sup> to whom *be* the glory forevermore. Amen.

### 3. Our Nation must see the danger of turning from the Gospel.

**Galatians 1:6–8, NASB95** - <sup>6</sup> I am amazed [lit., utterly shocked] that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; <sup>7</sup> which is *really* not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. <sup>8</sup> But even if we, or an angel [GK: ἄγγελος (*AN-gel-os*) a common and powerful word for “angel”] from heaven [GK: οὐρανός (*our-anós*), lit, *sky*; in comparison to GK: ἄγγελος (*AN-gel-os*) a common and powerful word for “angel” as some “illuminating angelic being” (Dr. John Stott, *The Message of Galatians*, p. 26), cf., John Calvin, Martin Luther, FF Bruce, RC Sproul, Chuck Swindoll, NIVAC, ESVEC, NAC and others], should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!

The word *angel* refers to a radiant, awe-inspiring, illuminating angelic being—but Paul's use of *heaven* (“the heights,” “the sky above”) turns the whole statement into deliberate hyperbole. He's saying: even if a dazzling, supernatural messenger was to descend from the skies with a message that contradicts Christ, denies the true gospel, or points you away from biblical salvation—reject it without hesitation. No being, no vision, no revelation, no experience outranks the gospel once delivered. Even if the most glorious being you can imagine appeared with a different gospel—“let it be accursed”.... When Paul uttered, “even if *an angel from heaven*” comes down and appears heavenly, glorious, glowing with light, and supernatural, but contradicts the gospel of old, that angel and his message is NOT from Holy God. - Dr. John Stott

### 4. All nations must realize the curse of turning from the Gospel.

**Galatians 1:8, NASB95** - <sup>8</sup> But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you [who preach a] gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!

### 5. Our Nation must heed God's call to return to the Gospel.