

Patriotism

Scripture: Esther 4:13-17

Introduction:

- One of the most misunderstood words in the English vocabulary is “**patriotism**”.
- There is a definite erosion of patriotism caused by the rise of “**secularism**”.
- Trends for which we should be very concerned – caused by secularism.
- Biblical thought is linked with the establishment of our nation.
- The reason for America:
 1. Proverbs 11:11
 2. Proverbs 20:28
 3. Proverbs 14:34
 4. Proverbs 16:12
- According to Scripture, the survival of any nation depends on the fact that it **must have an upright citizenship; must be morally righteous; must have integrity of government; must have justice of law; must have fairness for the poor.**

SIMILARITY BETWEEN ESTHER AND AMERICA

- A. We find ourselves in the same position of Esther and Israel.
 1. Under pressure.
 2. Freedom eroded.
 3. Complacent.
- B. Picture the situation.
 1. Esther becomes queen of Persia at a crucial period.
 2. Mordecai and Haman.
- C. We must not lose our sense of historical urgency.

WHAT WE SHOULD LEARN FROM ESTHER

- A. *We need to recognize God's commitment to His covenant pledge.* (v.12)

1. At first Esther showed doubt and hesitation.
2. Mordecai's answer in verses 13 and 14.
3. The question was and is, "Are we going to do this our way or God's way".
4. God's covenant with America according to William Bradford.
5. America's place in prophecy.

B. **Esther renewed her personal commitment to the God of the covenant.** (vs.15-16)

1. The devil wants us to get caught up in the corporate and forget our sense of responsibility.
2. Romans 14:12 says, "***So then everyone of us shall give an account of himself before God.***"
3. Verses 15-16 reveal the elements of renewal that makes the covenant come alive to us.
4. Our whole country has run on prayer power.
5. The only way to persevere our freedom is to understand that it is carved out on our knees – as the pilgrims did.
6. "In the midst of all the suffering we felt that God was with us in everything – the outgoing and incoming and He was letting His name be praised through us for all prosperity." William Bradford
7. Don't let the walls fall down!

C. **Reliance on providential call of His people.**

1. What is providence? God's hand in the glove of history.
2. God wants to make us an historical part of what He is doing.
3. Psalm 135:6: "***He does whatever he wishes in heaven and on earth, in the seas and in the depth below.***"
4. Daniel 4:35: "***He looks on the people of the earth as nothing; angels in heaven and people on the earth are under his control. No one can oppose his will or question what He does.***"