

# Lost Youth – Lost Land

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There is a direct connection between how our youth are educated, and how long we will experience peace and safety in our land. Almighty God makes this connection in His Word but, sadly, it is ignored by the majority of those in positions of authority and influence over our youth; whether it is parents, teachers, religious leaders, politicians, or “so-called” role models.

Because the case for teaching God’s values to our youth is ignored or marginalized, we are now witnessing the effects which include contempt for those responsible for administering law and order. Many of those showing this contempt are the product of a lawless upbringing, and some of these same people are now in positions of leadership. This is one of the reasons for the growing anarchy in American cities today.

Decades ago, children were brought up to respect those responsible for administering law and order. In so doing, our cities experienced much less crime and unrest. For example, in 1960 there were 288,460 cases of violent crime in the US, compared to 1,245,248 in 2018. Factoring in population growth between 1960 and 2018, the ratio should be approximately 580,000 violent crimes for 2018, but the actual figure is 1,245,248. Therefore, violent crimes have more than doubled since 1960. Also, over the past 15 years the drop in religiosity has been twice as great as the decline during the 1960s and 70s

(<https://religionnews.com/2014/01/27/great-decline-religion-united-states-one-graph/>).

With this brief background, we will examine what Almighty God has to say on this subject, even though “the train of lawlessness has already left the station”. Bear in mind, the principles laid out by God are timeless and apply to all people

throughout all generation regardless of race or gender.

*If you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments, and perform them, <sup>4</sup>then I will give you rain in its season, the land shall yield its produce, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. <sup>5</sup>Your threshing shall last till the time of vintage, and the vintage shall last till the time of sowing; you shall eat your bread to the full, and  **dwell in your land safely. <sup>6</sup>I will give peace in the land, and you shall lie down, and none will make you afraid...** (Lev. 26:3-6a; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted; emphasis added).*

Sadly, in America today, many cannot lie down without being fearful of stray bullets coming into their homes due to lawless behavior in many of our cities. This is a direct result of not teaching our children to respect law and order. Sadly, many of those responsible for administering law and order in our communities are the least qualified, due to their lawless upbringing.

*But if you do not obey Me, and do not observe all these commandments, <sup>15</sup>and if you despise My statutes, or if your soul abhors My judgments, so that you do not perform all My commandments (cf. Mt. 4:4), <sup>16</sup>I also will do this to you: **I will even appoint terror over you, wasting disease** (7829; disease of the lungs) **and fever** (6920; inflammation, sweating) **which shall consume the eyes and cause sorrow of heart** (Lev. 26:14-16; Ed. note in parenthesis).*

Once law and order breaks down within our nation, outside forces will take advantage of the situation.

*... You shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it. <sup>17</sup>I will set My face against you, and **you shall be defeated by your enemies. Those who hate you shall reign***

**over you, and you shall flee when no one pursues you** (Lev. 26:16b-17; emphasis added).

It's a matter of cause and effect, which our youth are not being taught any more, either by parents or educators.

*As for My people, children* (SHD 5953; self-serving, petulant ones) *are their oppressors, and women* (SHD 802; cowardly men; indecisive ones) *rule over them. O My people! Those who lead you cause you to err, and destroy the way of your paths* (Isa. 3:12; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

In contrast, those who obey God's law and commandments are decisive because they understand the will of God. Consequently, they will not make decisions based on public opinion, or pressure. Also, they are genuinely concerned about the welfare of others and will not resort to various forms of oppression in order to achieve their goals (see study: *New World Leaders "In Waiting"*).

**For God has not given us** (those who seek to obey God) **a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind** (2Tim. 1:7; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

By not making God's law and commandments a foundational part of educating our youth, they are allowed to pursue other priorities by default. These other priorities are regarded by Almighty God as "gods" because they do not reflect His values and, as a consequence, lead to lawless behavior. Eventually, this lawless conduct will result in the destruction of any nation that follows this course.

*When you beget children and grandchildren and have grown old in the land, act corruptly and make a carved image in the form of*

*anything, and do evil in the sight of the Lord your God to provoke Him to anger, <sup>26</sup>I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that **you will soon utterly perish from the land...*** (Dt. 4:25-26a; emphasis added).

One of the foundational principles in God's law and commandments is respect for authority, which begins in early childhood with respect toward parents.

*Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God has commanded you, **that your days may be long, and that it may be well with you in the land...*** (Dt. 5:16a; cf. 5:29-33; 6:1-3; 11:9; emphasis added).

If children do not respect their parents, they are unlikely to respect other authorities as they grow up. Eventually, any nation that follows this course will become callous and lawless, as we see occurring today. Jesus Christ predicted this would occur just prior to his return to establish his Father's law and order worldwide.

**And lawlessness will abound, and the love of many will grow cold** (Mt. 24:12; emphasis added).

The apostle Paul expanded on Christ's statement and said the following:

*But know this, that **in the last days perilous times will come:** <sup>2</sup>For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, **disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, <sup>3</sup>unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, <sup>4</sup>traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, <sup>5</sup>having a form of godliness but denying its power...*** (2Tim. 3:1-5a; cf. Rom. 1:28-31; emphasis added).

History is clear about this: the ancient nation of Israel ultimately refused to teach God's law and

commandments to their children, and as a result many of them were taken into captivity by the Assyrians, while others were captured about 200 years later by the Babylonians (2Kgs. 17:1-6; 2Kgs. 25:1-11). This could have been avoided if the people had obeyed what God said to them numerous times.

*You shall **teach them** (God's law and commandments) **to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up** (Dt. 11:19; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).*

***That your days and the days of your children may be multiplied in the land of which the Lord swore to your fathers to give them, like the days of the heavens above the earth** (Dt. 11:21; emphasis added).*

It is inconceivable in today's world, with its many forms of advanced technology, that a country could be wiped off the map, or go into captivity. However, God's word confirms this will happen to any nation that ignores His word and refuses to teach it to successive generations of children.

***The Lord will cause you to be defeated before your enemies; you shall go out one way against them and flee seven ways before them; and you shall become troublesome to all the kingdoms of the earth.** <sup>26</sup>*Your carcasses shall be food for all the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and no one shall frighten them away* (Dt. 28:25-26; emphasis added).*

The children that were supposed to be taught about God's law and commandments will be separated from their parents if they survive the coming catastrophes.

*Your sons and your daughters shall be given to another people, and your eyes shall look and*

*fail with longing for them all day long; and there shall be nothing you can do* (Dt. 28:32).

*You shall beget sons and daughters, but they shall not be yours; for they shall go into captivity* (Dt. 28:41).

The process leading up to this future captivity is already well underway, as aptly described by God.

*Because you did not serve the Lord your God with joy and gladness of heart, for the abundance of (the) things (He provided), <sup>48</sup>therefore you shall serve your enemies, whom the Lord will send against you, in hunger, in thirst, in nakedness, and in need of all things; and He will put a yoke of iron on your neck until He has destroyed you. <sup>49</sup>The Lord will bring a nation against you from afar, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flies, a nation whose language you will not understand, <sup>50</sup>a nation of fierce countenance, which does not respect the elderly nor show favor to the young. <sup>51</sup>And they shall eat the increase of your livestock and the produce of your land, until you are destroyed; they shall not leave you grain or new wine or oil, or the increase of your cattle or the offspring of your flocks, until they have destroyed you. <sup>52</sup>They shall besiege you at all your gates until your high and fortified walls, in which you trust, come down throughout all your land; and they shall besiege you at all your gates throughout all your land which the Lord your God has given you* (Dt. 28:47-52; Ed. notes in parentheses).

The argument will be made that these scriptures are limited to the ancient nation of Israel, but this ignores the fact that Almighty God does not change and His principles apply to all nations at all times. Therefore, what has happened in the past to one nation will happen again to another if His word is ignored over an extended period of time.

..... *In truth I (Peter) perceive that **God shows no partiality.** <sup>35</sup>**But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him** (Ac. 10:34a-35; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).*

*For **I am the Lord, I do not change...** (Mal. 3:6a; cf. Jas. 1:17; Ps. 102:27; 119:89; emphasis added).*

There is no excuse for ignorance when it comes to God's word. If it was readily available during the time of the First Covenant, it is even more so in today's world with its mass media.

*For this commandment which I command you today, it is not too mysterious for you, nor is it far off. <sup>12</sup>It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will ascend into heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?' <sup>13</sup>Nor is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?' <sup>14</sup>But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it (Dt. 30:11-14).*

Willing obedience to God's word is a prerequisite to inheriting everlasting life for everyone, whether they lived during the time of the First, or the Second Covenant (Mt. 4:4).

*See, I (God) have set before you today life and good, death and evil, <sup>16</sup>in that I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply; and the Lord your God will bless you in the land... (Dt. 30:15-16; cf. 1Jn. 5:3; Ed. note in parenthesis).*

Jesus Christ re-affirmed Deuteronomy 30:15-16 by stating the following.

*But **if you want to enter into life** (everlasting), **keep the commandments***

(Mt. 19:17b; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

Our children will either be gathered together by their parents, teachers, and leaders in society to be taught God's word now, or they will be gathered in a future resurrection to learn about God's value system, as summarized by His law and commandments (Rev. 20:1-6). Ultimately, the choice of "when" this will occur is in the hands of every parent.

***Gather the people together, men and women and little ones, and the stranger who is within your gates, that they may hear and that they may **learn to fear**** (have proper respect toward) **the Lord your God and carefully observe all the words of this law,** <sup>13</sup>**and that their children, who have not known it, may hear and learn to fear the Lord your God as long as you live in the land...** (Dt. 31:12-13; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).*

Continued failure to teach our youth about God's value system leaves a vacuum that is being filled by a number of secular beliefs including Marxist/Leninist indoctrination, re-writing American history to claim that the American Revolution was launched to ensure slavery would continue (in Matthew Desmond's 1619 Project), and teaching children to hate their own country. This is a great irony when Communist systems teach their children to worship their leaders and country.

*"Our nation is witnessing a merciless campaign to wipe out our history, defame our heroes, erase our values and indoctrinate our children." (https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/505841-trump-children-are-taught-in-school-to-hate-their-own-country).*

Our children are meant to be taught God's values as summarized in His law and commandments. It is upon this foundation that our children are

meant to build their lives. Failure to do this will result in the inevitable destruction of any nation. Moses stressed the importance of this just before he died.

*Moses finished speaking all these words to all Israel, <sup>46</sup>and he said to them: "Set your hearts on all the words which I testify among you today, which **you shall command your children to be careful to observe – all the words of this law.** <sup>47</sup>For it is not a futile thing for you, because it is your life (your life depends on it), and **by this word you shall prolong your days in the land...."** (Dt. 32:45-47a; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).*

The continued existence of any nation is dependent upon the integrity of each successive generation. In other words, the leaders of tomorrow are being fashioned today through their upbringing and education. Because this is so important to any nation's survival, God instituted stringent penalties on any youth that persists in rebelling against the authority established by God, starting with conduct in the nuclear family.

*If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey the voice of his father or the voice of his mother, and who, when they have chastened him, will (still) not heed them, <sup>19</sup>then his father and his mother shall take hold of him and bring him out to the elders of his city, to the gate of his city. <sup>20</sup>And they shall say to the elders of his city, '**This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious; he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton and a drunkard.**' <sup>21</sup>Then all the men of his city shall stone him to death with stones; so you shall put away the evil person from among you, and **all Israel shall hear and fear** (Dt. 21:18-21; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).*

In our modern world, Almighty God's critics will accuse Him of being unfair, which is nothing new. Even His son, Jesus Christ, was accused of being unfair (Eze. 18:29-32; cf. Mt. 25: 24-27; 20:13). In reality, this action is a great deterrent to any youth who thinks they can disrespect authority.

Therefore, with this "law on the books" it is unlikely that many youth will persist in rebelling against the authority of their parents, and this will create a deeper respect for all the authorities established by God as they grow older.

*Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God (Rom. 13:1).*

It should be self-evident that the riots in many US cities recently are the result of failing to teach/educate our youth about God's law and commandments. Had God's values been instilled from childhood, we would not see burning buildings, and people being injured or killed. This is the effect of parents, teachers and other leaders in society abdicating their responsibility to properly instruct our youth. Instead of teaching our youth about God's values, we have instilled various secular "commands" from our enlightened leaders, and now "the chickens are coming home to roost" (i.e. we are reaping what we have been sowing) (cf. Mt. 15:9; Mk. 7:7).

*For the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hidden. <sup>15</sup>Woe to those who seek deep to hide their counsel far from the Lord, and their works are in the dark; they say, "Who sees us?" and, "Who knows us?" <sup>16</sup>Surely you have things turned around! Shall the potter be esteemed as the clay; for shall the thing made say of him who made it, "He did not make me"? Or shall the thing formed say of him who formed it, "He has no understanding"? (Isa. 29:14b-16; emphasis added).*

In other words we believe we are so enlightened, and even more righteous than Almighty God who created us. Therefore, the importance of teaching God's values to our children is largely ignored, and our nations are beginning to suffer the consequences.

*Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!* <sup>21</sup>**Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!** (Isa. 5:20-21; emphasis added).

**There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death** (Prov. 14:12; cf. 16;25; emphasis added).

God knew that Abraham would teach his children and grandchildren about God's law and commandments, but sadly there are very few people today that follow Abraham's example.

*For I (God) have known him (Abraham), in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the Lord, to do righteousness and justice, that the Lord may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him* (Gen. 18:19; Ed. notes in parentheses).

By definition, Abraham doing "righteousness" meant that he was observing God's law and commandments.

**For all Your commandments are righteousness** (Ps. 119:172b; emphasis added).

**The righteousness of Your testimonies is everlasting** (Ps. 119:144a; emphasis added)

The entirety of Your word is truth, and every one of **Your righteous judgments endure forever** (Ps. 119:160; cf. Mt. 4:4; emphasis added).

Many generations after Abraham, his descendants failed to continue teaching God's law and commandments to their children. This resulted in centuries of slavery in the land of Egypt (cf. Gen. 15:13). Sadly, history will repeat itself because mankind either ignores the past, or simply refuses to learn from it.

Even those who claim to be Christian fail to see that trusting, or having faith, in God includes a willing obedience to His law and commandments. This is why the apostle Paul made the connection between Abraham's attitude toward God's "commands", and those who are true Christians today,

**And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise** (Gal. 3:29; emphasis added).

As we just saw, Abraham taught God's law and commandments to his children and grandchildren. Therefore anyone, who claims to be a Christian and yet ignores God's law and commandments, is not of "Abraham's seed", and consequently not a "Christian", despite assertions to the contrary (cf. Mt. 7:21-23; cf. 1Jn. 2:4). Because the majority of Christianity has marginalized, or completely ignored, the importance of obeying God's law and commandments, they are contributing to the growing chaos in our world today.

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