

Is Time Running Out For America?

Professor Alexander Tyler, while our 13 original colonies still belonged to Great Britain, wrote of the fall of the Athenian republic of over 2,000 years before. He said, "A democracy cannot exist as a permanent form of government. It can only exist until the voters discover that they can vote themselves largesse from the public treasury. From that moment on, the majority always votes for the candidates promising the most benefits from the public treasury, with the result that a democracy always collapses over loose fiscal policy, always followed by a dictatorship."

The average age of the world's civilizations has been 200 years. These nations have progressed through this sequence:

1. From bondage to spiritual health.
2. From spiritual health to great courage.
3. From courage to liberty.
4. From liberty to abundance.
5. From abundance to selfishness.
6. From selfishness to complacency.
7. From complacency to apathy.
8. From apathy to dependency.
9. From dependency back again into bondage.

It seems to me that the American people are now taking steps six through eight. Can we avoid the final step? History says an astounding, "No." We are fourteen trillion in debt and trying to police and finance the world. We have little patriotism and regard for morality, as the recent scandals which consume the political system demonstrate.

As you know, what is true of nations is true of God's people, the church. Israel followed the same steps from bondage into bondage again. During the restoration era, the church fought for its existence. It became strong and courageous. Then it became proud and wealthy. The larger congregations became selfish and complacent and turned their work over to human institutions, thus becoming dependent upon others. Now, many of them are soft and compromising -- and headed into apostasy again! It seems that about the only fact we learn from history is that we do not learn from history.

Adapted From Eugene Britnell