

Friends, first let me thank you for your prayers and fasting for the nation in the months leading up to this election. Then, let me encourage you to take heart. It seems that when Christians pray for something and it does not come, or come in the way or time that we expected, we are tempted to be somewhat fatalistic. BY this I mean we are tempted to feel that what happened was either inevitable or somehow God wanted it that way. There are many times in scripture where God did not get His way - immediately. But ultimately He always does. God always expects that each of us will continue to be obedient to His calling and pray for our nation and its leadership. We must still be obedient to the Lord's command to disciple the nations and we must continue to pray and act fervently that "His will is done on earth as it is in heaven". We must be diligent to follow the Lord and heed His call. We are supposed to influence history and society.

In 1789, George Washington took his oath of office as the first president of the United States, not in Washington DC, but on Wall Street in New York City. He held his hand on the bible which was purposely opened to Deut 27 as a clear message to the new nation

1, 2 "Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the LORD your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the LORD your God."

15 "But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you.."

The precedent was set and throughout the years we have received the blessings or judgment determined by our choices, and so it is today. When Daniel prayed to God, recorded in Daniel Chapter 9 he repented that his forefathers had received their judgment in accordance with these prophecies of Moses.

I can believe that Abraham Lincoln's memory is honored by the fact that our first black president was elected from the same state that gave Lincoln to the nation. But the demands of the day will judge not by "the color of their skin but by the content of their character" to quote Dr. Martin Luther King. We will all be praying for the President to do well for the sake of the country. The US presidency is perhaps the most important political appointment in the world and what a US president does, or leaves undone, affects billions of people and nations around the globe directly and indirectly. Recently Rick Joyner pointed out, "In Scripture, one of the ways that a nation was judged by the Lord was to give them immature leadership. Obama is the most inexperienced Presidential candidate in history." Perhaps this is a form of the judgment for our nation and we must be 'on call' to keep praying. Now is not the time to back away or take our hand from the plow.

Considering this we should re-energize ourselves in prayer and seeking the Lord. I, for one, have never lived in a nation that has been placed under the judgment that we may have just chosen for ourselves. Time will reveal the extent and length of the period of judgment. But we should take heart that just as in the days of Esther and Mordecai the Lord was with His people even in their captivity. Thomas Jefferson said "God who gave us life gave us liberty. And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have

removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are a gift from God? That they are not to be violated but with His wrath? Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, and that His justice cannot sleep forever." I believe we are entering a period of cleansing and judgment.

Jeremiah said, "If you have run with the footmen, and they have wearied you, Then how can you contend with horses?" I hear the hoof beat of horses. I believe those who have prayed earnestly will have found that they have been strengthened in their spirit, and although there may presently be a temptation to faint, do not loose heart, you are stronger now than you were, and you were being prepared for the task ahead. I believe the Lord showed me that in these past weeks and months relationships have been forged and strengthened that will serve you well in the times ahead. Make a note now of these relationships; some are old and some are new, and guard them for the times ahead.

Democracy was one of the greatest gifts that God gave to the world through the church in the Reformation. We have been blessed to have a unique and very stable democracy ordered though a strong republic. When Benjamin Franklin left the constitutional convention in Philadelphia he was asked what form of government we were presented with. He replied famously "A Republic if you can keep it". I believe we will be tested in this in the coming months.

There are a number of things from the 2008 election that we can be blessed about. Electing our first African American president is a great thing and hopefully can mean a new era in light of race relations. I have hope for this, we shall see. We are the first nation in world history to elect a president that is not of fully of the same race as the majority population. Marriage was guarded in a number of states and in California it took on an even greater importance in that the question of oligarchy (rule by few) or democracy was really at the root of the issue when a few judges overruled the will of millions of voters.

But tests and trials build strength and character; they in turn bring hope which is the substance of faith. So now is a time for girdling the loins of our minds and rest our hope fully upon the grace that is brought through the revelation of Jesus Christ. It is time to be strong in the Lord and prepare to advance. There is still time for the words of Jesus to come to pass which were proclaimed over this land as far back as John Winthrop and the Pilgrims that this nation "shall be as a city upon a hill, the eyes of all people are upon us." It isn't necessarily easy to take the top of the mountain, but that is exactly what we are called to do. Remember it was on top of the mountain that Jesus gave us the victory by his sacrifice. In the same message referring to the passage in Deut 27 Winthrop said "Therefore let us choose life, that we, and our Seed, may live; by obeying his voice, and cleaving to him, for he is our life, and our prosperity." This is not only about us, but about many to come after us. Now is a time to be strong and recommit to the work at hand. We are more than conquerors in Christ Jesus.