

Introduction

The day is July 5, 2015. Yesterday we celebrated the 239th birthday of our country. Much has happened over the years of our history. We have been through a number of wars, external and internal. We have survived a number of devastating events, both natural and man-made. All throughout our history, until recently, our country has maintained a foundation of Christian ideals. Our system of government and laws have been founded upon the structure of morals found in Scripture. As our country ages, however, we find this biblically based foundation being eroded. There is much division going on in our country.

This sermon, though, was not going to be about the moral demise of our country. However, when considering what to speak about, I thought it would be interesting to see if something as obscure as 239 years appears anywhere in Scripture. This thought was one that seemed to come out of the blue, if you will. I find this is often a prompting of the Holy Spirit, though! It turns out there is one event in Scripture that has a tie with 239 years. What is even more interesting is how this event even seems to tie in with our current state of affairs in this country. So, let's take a look at what this event entails and the lesson we can learn about it from Scripture.

The 239 Year Tie In

Let's take a look at the Scripture that speaks of this 239 year period.

Genesis 11:18–19 (KJV)

18 And Peleg lived thirty years, and begat Reu:

19 And Peleg lived after he begat Reu two hundred and nine years, and begat sons and daughters.

We have this man named Peleg who at the age of 30 became the father of a son named Reu. It was 209 years after this that Peleg died. This makes Peleg's life span 239 years. Peleg is our tie in not only because of the 239 years he lived, the same number of years our country has been

in existence as a country, but also because of what Scripture further records about Peleg. Now there is not much said about Peleg in Scripture. His name only appears 8 times in Scripture, not counting personal pronouns referring to him. There are seven occurrences in the Old Testament and one occurrence in the New Testament. The New Testament occurrence calls his name Phalec in the lineage given in Luke 3. All the references to his name appear in chronologies. Two of these chronologies, though, give us some information that is of further importance, though. This is found in Genesis 10:25 and 1 Chronicles 1:19.

Genesis 10:25 (KJV)

25 And unto Eber were born two sons: the name of one *was* Peleg; for in his days was the earth divided; and his brother's name *was* Joktan.

1 Chronicles 1:19 (KJV)

19 And unto Eber were born two sons: the name of the one *was* Peleg; because in his days the earth was divided: and his brother's name *was* Joktan.

We will come back to Peleg in a little bit, but first let's take a look at the statement "in his days the earth was divided."

The Earth Divided

"In his days the earth was divided" was important enough that the Holy Spirit prompted two different writers to make note of this point. Therefore, it is worth taking a look into. It turns out this is a very important event because there was a major change for man implemented by God because of a major event committed by man.

Scripture is here speaking of a division amongst the inhabitants of the earth. Man speaks these days of a time when earth was one big continent he calls Pangea, but this is not Pangea being divided. The continents of the earth were divided at the time of the Flood when the fountains of the deep broke open. By the way, Scripture says nothing about this happening nearly a

billion years ago as the so-called experts claim. The division spoken of here is of man being divided up by God. We read of this story in Genesis in the story of the Tower of Babel.

Genesis 11:1–9 (KJV)

1 And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech.

2 And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there.

3 And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them throughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar.

4 And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top *may reach* unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.

5 And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded.

6 And the LORD said, Behold, the people *is* one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.

7 Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.

8 So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city.

9 Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.

The important thing to realize here is God scattered men abroad as we read in Genesis 11:8 because man was attempting to reach heaven through their own works as shown in Genesis

11:4. Man said in Genesis 11:4, "Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven;"

But, God said in Genesis 11:7, "Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech." Without this ability to communicate with each other, God's plan won out and man left off to build the city. It was at this point as we read that these men were divided. Once again, man must come to God on God's terms. He cannot reach God on his own terms.

We find from the genealogies presented in Genesis 10, that Nimrod was the grandson of Ham. Ham and his offspring had been cursed by Noah because of what Ham had done to Noah. He had looked upon his father's nakedness and bragged about it to his brother's Shem and Japheth. It was Ham's son, Cush, who was the father of Nimrod and it was said that Nimrod began to be mighty in the earth. The beginning of Nimrod's kingdom was Babel. The very Babel that God ended when he confounded the language of men. God is not going to bless something that goes against His terms.

This division was caused by the offspring of Ham, namely Nimrod. Ever wonder where we got that saying that is an insult of a person, "What a Nimrod.?" The one and the same. We started this section though, speaking of all this happening in the days of Peleg. Nimrod was the one who caused it all to happen, but God records it happening in the days of Peleg.

As we look at the genealogies again, we notice an interesting fact begin to arise. Nimrod was a descendant of Ham and therefore cursed. Peleg however was a descendant of Shem. It is Shem's lineage that leads to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David, Solomon, and Jesus. Peleg was the great-great-great grandfather of Abram, who was later named Abraham by God. Interestingly, Peleg was the great-great-great grandson of Noah, the father of us all. Peleg was the fulcrum or middle point between Noah, the father of us all and Abram, the father of the Jews. Who says genealogies are boring!

Ham's line was cursed, Shem's line was not cursed. In fact, Shem's line produced the Messiah, the saviour of the Jews who were yet to be called Jews. Shem's line had been blessed.

God Does Not Change

Though man's ways change continuously, God does not change. God tells us this in His Word.

Malachi 3:6 (KJV)

6 For I *am* the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

God is dealing with the Jews in this verse because of all the sin they had been committing against Him. God had made a covenant, a unilateral covenant with the Jews. This means all the responsibility of keeping the covenant rested on God Himself. God is reminding the Jews of this in Malachi 3:6 when he says, "For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed." God had reinforced His covenant, made originally with Abraham, with Isaac, and Jacob.

As I stated, man's ways change continuously. A covenant with man turns out to be meaningless. Man will not always keep his word. God always keeps His word. Why is it that man would rather listen to man instead of listening to God? It is man who changes. God does not change.

A Promise From God To The Jews

God's covenant with Abraham included promises of God to Abraham. God would make Abraham the father of many nations. He would have so many in his line that they would be uncountable as the stars of heaven and the sands of the sea. God would give Abraham the land of Canaan. The promised land that now contains Israel. The land that God promised Abraham is much larger than what the Jews currently reside in. For us as believers though, the promise made to Abram at the beginning of his quest holds much to either the blessing of a nation or a curse to a nation. You see, this covenant God set in place with Abraham and his descendants was an everlasting covenant. That means it had no ending date to it. God promised Abram the following in Genesis 12:3.

Genesis 12:3 (KJV)

3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

This covenant God made with Abraham is still enforce today. We must hold fast to this or be doomed. This section of Scripture also deals with the events of the cities and the area of Sodom and Gomorrah. There is a reason why sodomy is called what it is in the English language. Sodom and Gomorrah and the areas surrounding them practiced every kind of sexual perversion they could think up. Our God, who does not change, destroyed this whole area because of it. Abraham even pleaded with God that if there could be found even ten people that God would not destroy it. Out of cities that could hold hundreds of thousands of people, in an area that could hold millions of people, not even ten could be found that had not been perverted. God does not change. This kind of sexual sin remains an abomination in the eyes of God. It matters not what man may plead for. It is an abomination and will be destroyed.

What Does This All Mean For Us?

We've looked at what happens when we approach God. If we approach God on our own terms, we are cursed. If we approach God on His terms, we are blessed. We have seen that God does not change. We have seen that God will reward those who bless the Jews and curse them that curse them. We have seen how God will not allow abominations to go unpunished.

Our country was founded on religious and moral ideals. This is a fact based upon historical evidence and cannot be denied by our current administration. George Washington, our first president, clearly stated what Obama chooses to violate. Washington in his 1796 Farewell Address had this to say,

“Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism, who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness, these firmest props of the duties of men and citizens. The mere politician, equally with the pious man, ought to respect and to cherish them. A volume could not trace all their connections with private and public felicity. Let it simply be asked:

Where is the security for property, for reputation, for life, if the sense of religious obligation desert the oaths which are the instruments of investigation in courts of justice ? And let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.”

Washington realized that the principles established by God had to be the guide in our republic, if this republic was to survive. Unfortunately, Washington and the other founding fathers were only theists. They believed in a god, but not necessarily the God of Christianity as some would have you believe. This is evidenced by the lack of the name of Jesus in the writings of the fathers; only mentions of God. I believe this weakened the foundation of this country.

We have personally seen the effects of taking God out of our schools, out of our universities, out of the public eye in general. Groups have sprung up demanding we remove everything that would identify itself with God from our country. Courthouses have had to remove plaques with the 10 commandments on them. The very courts that were established at the beginning of our country; whose laws were based on God's Laws. These same groups have demanded prayer, studying the bible in groups or individually be removed from our schools. If a valedictorian mentions God or especially Jesus in his or her speech, the microphones have been shut off. If a cross is displayed in public, these same groups have demanded they be taken down. Even the displaying of the metal tie that resembles a cross from the 9-11 destruction is being attacked by these groups. Instead of passing laws that protect the safety of our country and its citizens, laws are passed to endanger our country by allowing illegal aliens into the country to enjoy the benefits this country still has to offer. Protecting the lives of those who have openly committed to destroying not only us, but our whole way of life. While these terrorist groups are protected, our unborn babies are being slaughtered by the millions every year with the whole destruction protected by the laws established by ungodly men and women.

In 1948, when Israel became a nation again, the United States promised to stand by her, and we have. God's Word has promised to bless those who bless Israel. Under our current administration, however, instead of being an ally to Israel as we had promised, we are being an ally to those who are vocally committed to destroying her. The same group that wants to destroy us. We are cursing Israel, and God has promised to curse us as a result.

We have begun to come to God on our terms. In spite of what history has shown happens to those who do such things, we continue on in open defiance to God. In spite of what Scripture has shown, we have begun to promote that which God calls an abomination. History has recorded what has

happened to those once great civilizations that gave way to sodomy and were destroyed. Civilizations like Rome and Greece have become mere shadows of what was once glorious kingdoms. The same will happen to the United States of America. God is not mocked, so we should not be fooled into thinking we can get away with what no one else has.

We Have A Choice To Make

We have a choice to make. Are we for God or are we for man? Will we allow the happenings of this current time to continue unabated? Our founding fathers and the patriots with them would not stand for the type of ruthless governing that is going on now. They would stand up and make it known this will not go on any longer. All this is foolishness and hate speech to those who are not saved. In fact, to those who are not wholly sold out to God, it can seem a hateful way of looking at things. I love God and am sold out to Him. I love history, also, and do not want to see what has happened before be repeated, especially since it does not have to be. Just taking back our country is not good enough, however. In fact, I believe it to be impossible to take back this country unless one is saved by believing on Jesus' death, burial and resurrection. Unless we are blood bought Christians, we can never hope to bring this country from the brink of complete and total destruction. We need people who will pray, and it is only the prayers of a righteous man that availeth much (James 5:16). We need people who will get involved with taking this country back. If we need to fight for it, then fight for it. But, before we try to take the country by military might, we need to do what we as citizens of this country have the right and obligation to do. We need to start writing to our representatives. After all, we are not a democracy, but a representative republic. Our representatives need to hear from us and hear from us loudly of what we expect from this country and what we expect them to do. We can write them, call them, email them, even go to speak to them in person. But the action needs to come from us.

First and foremost though, we need to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We need to make sure that people know about what is written in 1 Corinthians 15:1 – 4,

1 Corinthians 15:1–4 (KJV)

1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

The choice is ours.