***Other Types of Reversionism

RV35-01***

We are turning once again now to the book of Revelation to consider the letter to the church at Sardis. The spiritual breakdown of reversionism in Sardis, we have seen, takes a variety of expressions. Reversionism expresses itself today in many different directions. It is important for us to try to put our finger on some of those expressions so that we may be in a position to identify when this kind of spiritual breakdown is beginning to take place within our own souls.

**Financial Reversionism**

We looked last time at financial reversionism which places trust in money rather than in the God who supplies it. A spiritual Christian has to distinguish between temporal and eternal values. A spiritual Christian has that kind of differentiation. When reversionism sets in, however, he loses that clean-cut distinction. He cannot really distinguish between what is of temporal importance and, therefore, short-lived of value, and what is of eternal importance and, therefore, of long-range consequence.

The pursuit of Bible doctrine to be stored in one's soul is to take precedence over the pursuit of money to be stored in one's bank. That's the whole story. When the pursuit of doctrine is edged out by the pursuit of money, you know that you're in trouble, and you have entered the realm of financial economic reversionism.

**Arrogance**

Financial reversionists, as indeed all reversionists, become arrogant people. The quality of arrogance and of self-exaltation is at the heart of reversionism. We touched upon this briefly last time, but I want to stop here to fill that out a little more in view of some questions which followed.

Arrogance is a consequence of reversionism. Arrogance is the product of abnormal self-esteem. When we speak about arrogance, we mean abnormal self-esteem. Romans 12:3 puts it this way: "For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly according as God has dealt to every man the measure of faith." That means to the degree that you have progressed spiritually with the intake of the faith; that is, the doctrinal contents of the Word of God. You should be able to have a picture and an evaluation of yourself that is indeed compatible with reality. It is a terrible thing to think of yourself more highly than is really the case with you. That leads to arrogance.

The same principle is touched upon in Galatians 6:3: "For if a man thinks himself to be something when he is nothing, he deceives himself." The arrogant reversionist doesn't kid anyone else. He is only deceiving himself.

Reversionists usually gradually lose touch with reality. That's why they slip into blind arrogance. This quality is a direct result of Satan's own sin of pride. Pride was Satan's sin. Arrogance was born out of Satan's own sin of pride. We follow in that pattern when we have a self-esteem that is all out of proportion to reality. When we think of ourselves more highly than we ought to think, then we think that we can make decisions; we can pass opinion; we can exercise judgment; and, that we have an understanding of truth that we do not have.

Arrogance expresses itself, when we have this kind of self-esteem, in a spirit of vengeance. Reversionists have about them the quality of thinking that they are the custodians of everybody's virtue and of everybody's righteousness. They don't mind walking around with their machetes: verbal; social; economic; and, otherwise, and slashing and cutting up people in order to bring them into line, because they view themselves as those who have a clear cut idea as to how they should conduct themselves. They don't mind entering and invading another person's privacy to bring them in line in one way or another. That is arrogance.

**Mind your own Business**

The core principle of the Word of God is, "Mind your own business; live unto the Lord; and, live and let live." Arrogance expresses itself in the spirit of taking vengeance and of putting people in their place.

**Jealousy**

The arrogance of jealousy is another expression. This is considering yourself more important than some rival. So, arrogance expresses itself in jealousy. You think you are more important than some person that you see as a competitor. So, so you have the quality of jealousy toward this individual.

**Legalism**

There is also the arrogance of legalism – the concept that your self-efforts are more capable than God's efforts in leading you into salvation; in keeping you in salvation; and, in maintaining your own spiritual development. You have your own programs for spiritual development that you consider superior to God's programs. The arrogance of legalism absolutely knows no bounds. There are no limitations within a preacher who has the arrogance of legalism. You will find the quality of inquiring: how many Scripture verses did you memorize this week? How many people did you witness to this week? How many tithes did you provide during this past month? And they will go right down the line in the arrogance of the invasion of your personal private relationship with God, and the suggestion that this is the measure of spirituality and of your walk with the Lord.

**Religion**

There is also the arrogance of religion. This is very easy to spot because these people are always spouting off about religious matters. They are spouting off about God, and they're spouting off about spiritual things. And after you listen to them a little bit, you discover that they are absolutely totally in ignorance of Bible doctrine and what the Bible actually has to say.

1 Timothy 6:3-5 put it this way: "If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ into the doctrine which is according to godliness, he is proud (arrogant), knowing nothing, but doting about questions and disputes of words of which come envy, strife, railings, evil suspicions, perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth." Oh, God, what a terrible statement to make about a person – destitute of truth: "Supposing that gain is godliness, from such withdraw yourself."

**Losing Salvation**

There is also the arrogance of those who think they can lose their salvation. What kind of arrogance is this – that somebody thinks that they have a sin that God cannot handle, and that God cannot come up with a plan of salvation that is not dependent upon your making it work? You, in your fallen sinful old sin nature and capacity – that is the height of arrogance.

**Charismatics**

There is the arrogance of the charismatics who have a feeling for God, and through their feelings have come into something more with God than that which is gained through the knowledge of the doctrines of the Word of God. So, they speak with that arrogant contempt that a man who has had an experience is not at the mercy of a man who has a doctrine.

**Mental Attitude Sins**

There is the arrogance that gives vent to mental attitude sins in various verbal forms – those mental attitude sins that we looked at in some detail last time, and which express themselves in verbal and overt forms. "What is it," James has asked, "that causes wars and fightings among you?" Do you ever get into a fight with a group? Do you ever get into contention with a group? Do you ever do battle with anybody? The Bible says you do it because of mental attitude sins which then express themselves in verbal forms, and then express themselves in overt actions. Your arrogance, makes you think that those sins are acceptable, and that those mental attitudes are acceptable, and that permits you to impose those upon the people around you, and to become a source of contention and violent activity.

**Youth**

Arrogance is evidenced in youth. There is the arrogance that youth reflects – the arrogance of rejection of parental viewpoints and of parental decisions. This is a problem the teenagers have. Teenagers who reject (who have the arrogance to reject) their parents' viewpoints, and who have the arrogance to reject the decisions that their parents make for them, are the teenagers who grow up and whose lives usually come apart at some point.

**Ingratitude**

There is the arrogance of ingratitude. This is the concept of having it coming. Instead of being grateful for what God provides, there is the spirit, "Well, I had it coming, and it's mine, and you should have given it to me."

**Subjectivity**

One of the worst expressions of arrogance is the arrogance of subjectivity. Decisions are based upon your personal preferences and your personal hang-ups. That is one of the greatest arrogances. Talk about friction within marriages? Talk about friction within social relationships? Talk about frictions in business relationships? Talk about frictions in any area of life? Here is the arrogance of personal hang-ups. It takes a lot of arrogance when you've got some hang-up that you are willing to impose upon other people, and that you are willing to come down on other people because you happen to have a personal preference and hang-up, and you treat it as if that were the frame of reference from which God thinks also. God thinks in terms of objective facts. That's how God thinks. God thinks objectively. People who think subjectively are the yo-yos that Satan manipulates. That is an arrogance beyond imagination – the arrogance of subjectivity. That is the arrogance of imposing on other people how you happen to feel about something, apart from the fact that it may be an objectively false attitude.

**Anti-Biblical Economic Systems**

Then there is the arrogance of anti-biblical economic systems. This is the arrogance and the ludicrousness of systems that are contrary to biblical economics: socialism; communism; and, so on.

**Human Viewpoint**

Then there is perhaps the ultimate arrogance – the arrogance of human viewpoint. Romans 1:22 gives us a name for the arrogance of those who function on human viewpoint, and that's the only outlook and understanding they have: "Professing themselves to be wise, they become fools." Economic reversionism produces arrogance and expresses itself in these and many other ways.

**Verbal Reversionism**

We also began looking last time at verbal reversionism. Verbal reversionism uses human speech to express mental attitude sins. The Bible forbids using the tongue for both praising God and for evil speaking. James says that's wrong – morally wrong. Believers are to avoid associating themselves with verbal reversionists so as not to be influenced by their evil words.

A classic passage I'd like you to turn to now on verbal reversionism is in James 5:9. Here, James says, "Murmur not one against another, brethren, lest you be judged. Behold, the judge stands before the door." The word "murmur" refers to sins of the tongues as exercised in reversionism. Believers are constantly attacking and cutting down other believers. Do not exercise sins of the tongue against one another (against other members of the royal family of God), lest you be judged, because indeed the judge (Jesus Christ) is standing at the door. Here is where that expression originated: "Here comes the Judge." It is right here in James 5:9 that that principle has been established. James is telling these people, in the royal family of God, you better straighten out and square away your nose, because here comes the Judge, and you are going to come under His jurisdiction and His judgment. Believers are attacking and cutting each other down, trying to build their own superiority by belittling others. This is an unmerciful lack of patience and of helpfulness with the weaknesses and foolishness of others.

Indeed, Christians are weak. They're foolish; they're incompetent; and, they have monumental poor judgment. It takes the patience of a stable Christian not to be slashing away and cutting them to ribbons, but instead seeing how they cannot become part of the problem, but become part of the solution that helps them overcome their incompetence; their slovenliness; their lack of poor judgment; their weakness; their lack of initiative; and, everything else that may irritate you in dealing with other believers. Verbal reversionism – cutting them down is not the biblical way. Verbal reversionism is certain to be judged by the Lord Jesus Christ who is going to exercise the discipline of the loss of rewards at the Judgment Seat of Christ (at the "Bema"). He is standing at the door about to do that. The divine judgment goes from warning, therefore; to pressure; and, to death. That's the order in which God deals with this sort of attitude. God first brings warning through the Word of God and various means. Then He brings pressure because you get reaction and problems as a result of your murmuring. And then He brings the ultimate discipline of death itself.

In verses 10-11, James interjects something here that is comforting. Verses 10-11 simply say that you are not to make the mistake of thinking that all personal adversity for what you have said is divine discipline. You will experience suffering for what you have said, but it is not to be always viewed as divine discipline. Verse 10 says, "Take, my brethren (my members of the royal family), the prophets who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering, affliction, and of patience. The prophet spoke, and they suffered for telling the truth. Behold, we count them happy who endure. You have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord, and the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy." Sometimes you will suffer just because you have become God's representative of the truth. Because you are the spokesman of God's divine viewpoint, you will also be the object of the resentment and the attack of those who have been wounded by the truth. You will endure suffering because of divine viewpoint truth.

Spiritual believers are able to act with patience, while they are waiting upon God to exercise vengeance. In that condition, don't ever take vengeance upon yourself. God acts in mercy in trying to correct the evil tongue.

One time a man told me that he had been witnessing to some of his business associates, and they just made fun of what he said about the gospel and about salvation, and they just rejected it. His response to them was to say, "OK. That's alright with me. You can just go to hell." He felt that this was what they deserved, and he was swinging a little vengeance there on his own, and maybe they indeed did have that coming. While that's going to happen, that's a spirit of vengeance that must be left with the Lord.

So, you do suffer sometime because you have been a spokesman for the truth, but avoid falling into the trap of reversionism by exercising vengeance.

In verse 12, he gives one example of verbal reversionism in taking false oaths: "But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by earth, neither by any other oath. But let your 'Yea' be 'Yea,' and your 'Nay' be 'Nay,' lest you fall into condemnation." Do not use God's word to cover a lie. How many lies have been covered by people who make a statement and say, "So help me God. Honest to God. I cross my heart." All of these ways are taking an oath before God that you're telling the truth, when indeed, very often, you're telling a lie. That's serious business.

What he is saying here is that a Christian's speech is to be without subterfuge or calculated deceit. Lying is a sign of verbal reversionism, and there are strong warnings against it, therefore, in the Bible. I don't care who you are or what you are – whether you're running for public office; whether you're in business; or, whatever you're in, when you resort to lying, just say to yourself, "Oh oh. There's the sign of verbal reversionism." And get yourself straightened out. Back off, and get back on the track of truth.

Verse 13: In contrast to verbal reversionism, the spiritual Christian enjoys happiness and the capacity to meet the trials of life: "Is any among you afflicted? Let him pray." He's got that capacity to change. "Is any merry? Let him sing psalms."

Verbal reversionism has a destructive effect also on the physical body, and interestingly enough, on the lifespan. James 3:2 says, "For in many things we all stumble. If any man offends not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body." That means to control the whole functioning of the physical body.

Psalm 34:12-13 in the Old Testament brought the same relationship between the status of one's physical body and the practice of verbal reversionism: "What man is he who desires life, and loves many days, that he may see good? Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking guile." That's very interesting, isn't it? Do you want a body that will live long and that will function long? The psalmist said, "Keep your tongue from evil (from verbal reversionism), and keep your lips from speaking guile (verbal reversionism).

**The Autonomic Nervous System**

Verbal reversionism creates an emotional reaction upon the physical body, and it has a destructive effect. It creates emotional instability, and it upsets the functioning of what is called the autonomic nervous system. The autonomic nervous system are elements within your body that are control centers that you have no control over – that you cannot stop. They function automatically and without your control. However, they can be influence indirectly with adverse emotion – emotional instability.

Verbal reversionism is something we have to be on guard against in a variety of expressions. We've touched on some of them. It's a deceit that is destructive to the soul. When you find yourself playing that kind of verbal deceit (that kind of verbal abuse), let a red flag fly up in your mind and say, "Hey, I'm on the road to reversionism."

**Sexual Reversionism**

Another one that is a signal is sexual reversionism. The Bible, of course, lays down specific divine viewpoint rules for the use of sex. It is to be exercised within the bounds of the marriage relationship. It should be exercised with one's own husband or wife. It is not to be used outside of marriage, nor is it to be abused in some perverted form. There are severe penalties (spiritual and physical) for breaking the divine rules for the use of sex. Those penalties are exercised both now and in the consequences of eternity.

One of the interesting results and sad results of the great current of sexual freedom that has been imposed again by liberal thinking upon this nation is a new venereal disease of a very virulent type that they find extremely difficult to cure and to control. Again, God, in His judgments, is making statements and exercising warnings.

Sexual violations in ancient times was commonplace. Sexual immorality was at the heart of the worship of pagan gods. This practice led to the divine direction to Israel to execute the entire Canaanite population that they found when they entered the Promised Land. That meant that they were to kill every man, woman, and child. Israel was to do this without any mental attitude of bitterness. They were to do it indeed with mental attitude love. The same mental attitude love (the same "agape" love) that we are called upon to exercise as believers, they were called upon to exercise in executing God's judgment upon the Canaanites for their sexual practices. Leviticus, in the description within the Word of God, says that they were to go into the Promised Land, and they were to remove the population because of their sin. And it was not a matter of a brutality. There was no mental attitude bitterness. This was the execution of the judgment of God.

The Jews, however, failed to wipe out the Canaanites. Very quickly, the very thing that God warned them against (the reason God said that He was doing this – in order to preserve them from the contamination of these even nations) actually took place. Exodus 34:15-16: "Lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they play the harlot with their gods and do sacrifice unto their gods, and one call you, and you eat his sacrifice, and you take their daughters unto your sons, and their daughters play the harlot with their gods, and make your sons play the harlot with their gods." That was the warning. That was the thing that God was trying to avoid, and why he told them to execute and to remove that population completely.

In Deuteronomy 31:16, God told Moses what was ahead for this people: "The Lord said unto Moses (Moses was about to die), 'Behold, you shall sleep with your fathers, and this people will rise up and play the harlot after the strange gods of the land to which they go to be among them, and will forsake Me and break My covenant which I have made with them.'" That is exactly what God warned them of, and it is exactly what they did.

So, Israel, in time, suffered the divine judgment of military defeat and captivity for sexual reversionism. That is the divine penalty, ultimately, for sexual revisionism. It is military defeat and national destruction. We have already seen in Revelation 2:14 that in the church at Pergamos, the pagan practice of illicit sex in worship was indulged. We've seen in Revelation 2:20 that in the church at Thyatira, there was a group which also followed the Jezebel-like female leader into sexual perversion.

Sexual reversionism is very easy to fall into today because of the social rejection of biblical standards of morality, and because of the downplaying of what the Bible condemns in sexual matters. We see the treating of those things as innocent little practices, and of treating those, again, as the viewpoints that must be determined by society and not by the Word of God.

So, sexual revisionism (mental – don't forget that – that's where it all starts; as well as overt) is one of the first key signs that you are on the road to reversionism.

**National Reversionism**

Then, we have one more: national reversion. National reversionism is the result of a maximum number of citizens in a nation going into personal reversionism. When a maximum number of citizens in the nation are in reversionism, the nation is in that status. One of the examples of the prophets of old fighting national reversionism is Elijah. As God's spokesmen, he confronted the people of Israel (the northern kingdom) with its evil as was perpetuated by Jezebel and her husband Ahab. Elijah used prayer, first of all, to bring economic catastrophe by praying for a three-and-a-half year drought in order to focus the nation on its status of reversionism. That is one of the ways that God, in dealing with a nation, gives it a warning. He brings economic disaster. That's what happened to Israel. They had an agricultural economy with a three-and-a-half year drought that was devastating. It was all because of the prayer of this man, Elijah, who was not only bringing this condition about, but was also constantly preaching and warning concerning what they had fallen into in their practices – their Baal worship under Jezebel.

Finally, the people found themselves in such fantastic, great distress and misery that they were now ready to listen. That's how it goes. People finally find themselves in a position of misery, then they say, "We've got to listen to somebody." In 1 Kings 18:21, when they were in this position of misery, Elijah made his declaration: Elijah came unto all the people and said, 'How long will you hesitate between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him. But if Baal, then follow him.' And the people answered him not a word." Elijah gets up before the people and says, "You're hurting economically. You've been pursuing the course of national reversionism. How long are you going to do it? Have you not had enough of that philosophy yet? Choose which one – one side or the other. If God is God, then follow Him. If Baal is god, then follow him." What did the people say? They stood there and they glowered, and they looked at him. You can imagine what they were thinking, but they did not respond.

So, he sets up a confrontation with the priests of Baal to establish that Jehovah is the only true God. 1 Kings 18:37 give us the results: "'Hear me, O Lord. Hear me that this people may know that You are the Lord God, and that You have turned their heart back again.' Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces, and they said, 'The Lord, He is God. The Lord, He is God.' And Elijah said unto them, 'Take the prophets of Baal. Let not one of them escape.' And they took them, and Elijah brought them down through the brook Kishon and slew them there." Here again, he had no mental attitude bitterness, but he execute the judgments of God.

The people had a demonstration. They were forced by Elijah to try the other side. Lo and behold, they now found that a short prayer from Elijah brought economic recovery as it had brought economic disaster. Until this point in time, Elijah could not pray them back into economic recovery. He could pray them into their economic misery because they were in reversionism. But until you come back out of reversionism, you cannot be prayed back into economic prosperity and into personal well-being. That's a point you want to remember. Until you're back out of reversionism, don't think that anything is going to change. That is very unrealistic. It is very juvenile for you to think that until you're out of your reversionistic condition, that things are going to change for the better.

James 5:17-18 summarize the situation: "Elijah was a man subject to like passions as we are. He prayed earnestly that it might not rain, and it didn't rain on the earth by the space of three years and six months. Three-and-a-half years later, he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit, and prosperity (economic prosperity) returned to the people of Israel."

Then there is the case of Hosea. Turn to Hosea 4:1. This is another example of this problem that Israel faced in national reversionism: "Hear the word of the Lord, you children of Israel, for the Lord has a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, no mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land." No divine viewpoint truth was being taught. That's what this is saying, with the result that there was no divine good being produced, and there was spiritual ignorance among the people of Israel. The condition was set for national reversionism. These people were negative to Bible doctrine. When a nation is negative to (or ignorant of) doctrine, it causes people to follow satanic thinking. That's what liberalism is in its various expressions. It is satanic thinking. God's holiness leaves them no alternative but to remove an unrepentant society from existence. That's what verse one is saying: "You better listen to doctrine, children of Israel. The Lord has a problem with you (a contention) with the inhabitants of the land." What is it? There's no truth. Because there's no doctrine, there's no mercy being exercised. There's just no knowledge of God in the land.

Verse 2: "By swearing and lying and killing and stealing and committing adultery, they break out, and blood touches blood." National reversionism is evidenced here by what was going on among the people. They were pronouncing curses on one another. The land was full of deceivers so nobody could trust anybody. Murder abounded because life was not sacred, before or after birth. The crime of stealing was prevalent. So, one could get what he had not labored for. Stealing was occurring by individuals. Stealing was occurring by government in inflation and redistribution, and in the various ways by which government steals. Adultery was prevalent because the biblical sexual norm was rejected. There were no restraints exercised toward evil and toward self-indulgence, and bloodshed was everywhere. That is the evidences of national reversionism. We could go far in taking these things one-at-a-time and applying them in our own circumstance, but we'll let you do that on your own.

Verse 3 says, "Therefore shall the land mourn, and everyone that dwells in it shall languish, with the beasts of the field and with the fowls of the heavens. Yea, the fish of the sea also shall be taken away." Here, reversion results in anti-free enterprise and private property attitudes so that national prosperity is destroyed. The land dries up its productivity. The people are not working. The wildlife decreases as the environment itself is affected by evil. The government stifles incentives, and it corrodes personal character with a loss of self-respect as the individual becomes dependent upon the government.

Verse 4: "Yet, let no man strive nor reprove another, for your people are as they strive with the priests." Here, the communicators of divine viewpoint are rejected. The priests who are telling people the truth are being rejected. Their teaching authority is rejected, and the biblical laws for the establishment of government consequently, are rejected. People cannot learn divine viewpoint to any degree on their own. If you cut off your communicators, you have cut your jugular vein spiritually. When you reject the communicator of the Word of God that God has provided for you, you have committed national suicide. So, the gifted teachers of doctrine were being shuffled off as being a bunch of nuts; as being a bunch of fundamentalists; and, as being a bunch of people who are out of touch with modern thinking and with modern development.

That's all over the United States. Suddenly there is a respect and a dignity and an awe – not a love, but an awe toward the Moral Majority type of orientation, because there has been seen that there is a power base here that can strike at the very ambitions of the people who have been rejecting these men as sources of divine viewpoint understanding. The rejection of the Bible doctrine teachers' instruction leads to liberalism and to satanic concepts of human good.

Jonah, in 754 B.C. came to Assyria, a nation that lacked divine viewpoint understanding. He came under duress of God and said, "Here's your condition, and I'm warning you before God. Turn around before it's too late. And, lo and behold, from the king on down, Assyria repented. Instead of destroying the nation, God turned it around and gave it a new burst of national power and dignity and of opportunity – something like almost 145 years of national power again, when they were on the verge of going to national destruction. This was because they listened to the communicators of the Word of God. They did not just throw Jonah out. They did not ridicule him. They did not call him a fanatic. They didn't discount him.

On the other hand, we're reading here in Hosea 4 about the condition that existed in Israel. Israel rejected its teachers of the Word of God. In 721, B.C., God said, "That's it. It's over. You've had your opportunity." And He pulled those ten northern tribes into captivity. Guess what nation took them into captivity? Ironically, it was Assyria. It was Assyria that Jonah fished out of the burning, because Assyria went with God, and it did not abuse the communicators of the truth. No matter what he said, he spoke God's word, and they respected it as God's word. The Israelites had the same opportunity and more, and they did not respect it. That is fantastic. The pagan nation accepts, and God's theocracy rejects. So, God's theocracy goes into captivity to the pagan nation.

Verse 5: "Therefore, you shall fall in the day, and the prophet also shall fall with you in the night, and I will destroy your mother." Here are the consequences of negative volition to doctrine and the authority of divine viewpoint teachers. The false religious teachers are stumbling in their blindness. The blind are leading the blind. They told people what was popular to hear about peace, and a peace which was not possible. Yet, they kept reassuring. This was one of the problems with Israel at this time. It was in a bad condition militarily, but the leaders kept saying, "No, we're okay. We're strong. We've got no problem militarily. We can handle the Assyrians. There's nothing to worry about." They gave the nation tranquilizers while the nation was headed for ruin, because they would not listen to men like Hosea who were saying, "Hey, no, it's not alright. We are in a bad position militarily; we are in a bad position economically; and, we're violating all the divine principles. If you don't stop it, God is going to judge us."

Well, the last verse, verse 6, has that dramatic statement: "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I will also reject you. And you shall be no priest to me. Seeing that you have forgotten the Lord your God, I will also forget your children." "My people Israel are nationally destroyed because of a lack of divine viewpoint knowledge." Why? Because they didn't have it given to them? No. It says it was because they rejected knowledge. So, God said, "I'm going to reject you. You will not be a priest nation to me anymore." That was a pathetic thing. Israel was God's priest nation at this time. It was the nation which was the source of divine viewpoint proclamation to the rest of the world. Other nations have followed Israel as priest nations, and they have defaulted. The current priest nation in the world today that is representing the divine viewpoint access to all the world is the United States of America. And we are in the process of national reversionism because we have our people, as individuals, caught up in reversionism. Those who seek to teach them, and those who seek to warn them, and those who seek to call their attention to what is happening, are being made fun of, and are being cast off as being some kind of ignoramuses who do not have the stature and the insights that the men who have been rejecting God's word have secured for themselves.

So, we are in the same position where God says, "You will no longer be a priest nation to me. You have forgotten my principles. I'm also going to forget your children. I'm going to forget your nation." Our role as believers, when we face national reversionism as certainly we face it in this nation, is spelled out for us in Mark 9:50: "Salt is good, but if the salt has lost its saltiness, with what will you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace one with another." We, as believers, are the preserving salt of American society today, and of this priest nation today. However, national reversionism is something that you can handle as Elijah did with prayer, and as Hosea did with sounding forth to everybody that you can what God thinks, and what the principles are for the laws of the establishment of government. We need to get enough people who know that. This is the issue.

I'm going to write the president ... a letter, and I'm going to urge upon him that he follow the role of being the nation's teacher; that he follow Franklin Roosevelt's fireside chat concept; and, that he get up on television regularly and frequently, and he tell the American people where we stand in various ways; why we have gotten there; how the philosophy of government has brought us there; what we're trying to do to change it; and, why it's going to be tough and painful to change it. Who knows? As with Esther, perhaps he has been raised up for the kingdom for this hour. Perhaps this is, for us, the Jonah experience. Perhaps there's going to be a turn-around. Perhaps there's going to be a day of grace. Perhaps we're going to have time to edit a few more tapes and get the word out a little farther. I hope so.

Dr. John E. Danish, 1977

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