

What Makes a Nation Great?

By Daniel Deininger

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On Inauguration Day last Monday we again heard the phrase “make America great again”. It is a phrase that motivated many to vote to make Donald Trump the 47th President of our nation.

What is meant by the word “again”?

When were we great before?

- When we put a man on the moon July 20th, 1969?
- After World War 2?
- After World War 1? Before the stock market crash and the Great Depression?
- After the Civil War and slavery was abolished?

To say “again” indicates we are no longer “great” if we need to become “great” again, doesn’t it?

Is greatness something that we can claim as a nation or decide to give ourselves?

What makes a nation great?

Specific Purpose of this Message Today:

Today I want us to consider what it takes for a nation to be great, and to see what we need to do to become great again. We will see the answer is that God is the one that makes a nation great, and to be great in His eyes, we need to be living godly lives. If we are not living Godly, righteous lives we need to repent of our shortcomings and sins.

I addressed this in my weekly Friday night Sabbath Update letter:

Greetings from Kalispell,

This past week we witnessed a smooth transition of power as Donald Trump replaced Joseph Biden as President of the United States. In the days that followed he has made many changes to achieve his stated agenda to "Make America Great Again". The problem is that God is the one who makes nations great.

Genesis 12:2 NLT - I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others.

And that nation must live in a Godly manner to be great:

*Proverbs 14:34 NLT - **Godliness (righteousness) makes a nation great**, but sin is a disgrace to any people.*

So to be a truly great nation, we need the help of God to be righteous, living by His commandments. If we continue to break God's commandments, ie sinning, we will NOT be a great nation. No matter how hard our new president tries.

To be a truly great nation we need to repent of our sins and become Godly. We must do right instead of wrong (sin).

We must pray and, first, ask for God to help us individually to be Godly and forgive us of our sins. Then, second, we need to pray and ask God to grant repentance to our nation as a whole.

if we want to truly be great, we need God's help to do it. We cannot do it on our own. And we can't become great if we continue to sin.

AskGPT: what does the bible says makes a great country?

The Bible outlines various principles that can contribute to the greatness of a country. Key themes include justice, righteousness, and the treatment of the poor and marginalized. For instance, Proverbs 14:34 states, "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people." Additionally, Micah 6:8 emphasizes the importance of acting justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly with God. A society that values these principles is often seen as a great nation in biblical terms.

The Bible emphasizes the importance of moral integrity and social justice in building a great country. In addition to Proverbs 14:34 and Micah 6:8, other verses such as Isaiah 1:17 encourage the pursuit of justice: "Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed." Furthermore, Romans 13:1-4 speaks about the role of governing authorities and their responsibility to uphold good and punish wrongdoing. These teachings collectively suggest that a nation's greatness is rooted in its commitment to righteousness, justice, and ethical leadership.

Micah 6:6 NKJV - With what shall I come before the LORD, [And] bow myself before the High God? Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, With calves a year old?

Micah 6:7 NKJV - Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, Ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn [for] my transgression, The fruit of my body [for] the sin of my soul?

Micah 6:8 NKJV - He has shown you, O man, what [is] good; **And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?**

Isaiah 1:10 NKJV - Hear the word of the LORD, You rulers of Sodom; Give ear to the law of our God, You people of Gomorrah:

Isaiah 1:11 NKJV - "To what purpose [is] the multitude of your sacrifices to Me?" Says the LORD. "I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams And the fat of fed cattle. I do not delight in the blood of bulls, Or of lambs or goats.

Isaiah 1:12 NKJV - "When you come to appear before Me, Who has required this from your hand, To trample My courts?

Isaiah 1:14 NKJV - Your New Moons and your appointed feasts My soul hates; They are a trouble to Me, I am weary of bearing [them].

Isaiah 1:15 NKJV - When you spread out your hands, I will hide My eyes from you; Even though you make many prayers, I will not hear. Your hands are full of blood.

Isaiah 1:16 NKJV - **"Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; Put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes. Cease to do evil,**

Isaiah 1:17 NKJV - Learn to do good; Seek justice, Rebuke the oppressor; Defend the fatherless, Plead for the widow.

Isaiah 1:18 NKJV - "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the LORD, "Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.

Isaiah 1:19 NKJV - If you are willing and obedient, You shall eat the good of the land;

Isaiah 1:20 NKJV - But if you refuse and rebel, You shall be devoured by the sword"; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

Isaiah 1:21 NKJV - How the faithful city has become a harlot! It was full of justice; Righteousness lodged in it, But now murderers.

Isaiah 1:22 NKJV - Your silver has become dross, Your wine mixed with water.

Isaiah 1:23 NKJV - Your princes [are] rebellious, And companions of thieves; Everyone loves bribes, And follows after rewards. They do not defend the fatherless, Nor does the cause of the widow come before them.

Romans 13:1 NKJV - 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.

Romans 13:2 NKJV - Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.

Romans 13:3 NKJV - For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? **Do what is good**, and you will have praise from the same.

Romans 13:4 NKJV - For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to [execute] wrath on him who practices evil.

Romans 13:5 NKJV - Therefore [you] must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake.

Our founding fathers knew the value of God's word and living it. From an article entitled "Making America Godly Again":

It was none other than the Father of America, George Washington, who [said](#), "The blessing and protection of Heaven are at all times necessary..." and that "to the distinguished character of patriot, it should be our highest glory to add the more distinguished character of Christian."

Put simply, Washington believed a nation's success was contingent upon the endowment of God's favor and protection and that every patriot's "highest glory" should be to exemplify Christlikeness.

Washington's sentiment is echoed by one Founder after another. Succeeding Washington in the presidency, founder John Adams [said](#), "The general principles on which the fathers achieved independence were the general principles of Christianity."

Patriot and creator of the first American dictionary [Noah Webster](#) concurred. "Every civil government is based upon some religion or philosophy of life," he said. "In America, the foundational religion was Christianity. And it was sown in the hearts of Americans through the home and private and public schools

for centuries. Our liberty, growth, and prosperity were the result of a Biblical philosophy of life. Our continued freedom and success are dependent on our educating the youth of America in the principles of Christianity."

Was this the Founders' recipe for success? Recognizing the transformational influence of Christianity, they stamped the inherent wisdom and goodness of God's law onto her birth certificate, conforming her for "good." The Founders recognized that God's goodness at work within a nation's boundaries would enable her to be great.

The article also cites Deuteronomy 6:

Deuteronomy 6:4 NKJV - "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD [is] one!

Deuteronomy 6:5 NKJV - "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

Deuteronomy 6:6 NKJV - "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.

Deuteronomy 6:7 NKJV - "**You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.**

Recent polls indicate the majority of young people do not feel abortion is wrong. They have NOT been taught the values of God.

Deuteronomy 6:10 NKJV - "So it shall be, when the LORD your God brings you into the land of which He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give you large and beautiful cities which you did not build,

Deuteronomy 6:11 NKJV - "houses full of all good things, which you did not fill, hewn-out wells which you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant--when you have eaten and are full--

Deuteronomy 6:12 NKJV - "[then] beware, **lest you forget the LORD** who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

As Rick Shabi (UCG President) has pointed out in his recent Biblical Worldview presentation, we need to **REPENT of our sins** and turn back to God.

2 Chronicles 7:13 NKJV - "When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people,

2 Chronicles 7:14 NKJV - "if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and **turn from their wicked ways**, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

...

2 Chronicles 7:19 NKJV - "But if you turn away and forsake My statutes and My commandments which I have set before you, and go and serve other gods, and worship them,

2 Chronicles 7:20 NKJV - "then I will uproot them from My land which I have given them; and this house which I have sanctified for My name I will cast out of My sight, and will make it a proverb and a byword among all peoples.

2 Chronicles 7:21 NKJV - "And [as for] this house, which is exalted, everyone who passes by it will be astonished and say, 'Why has the LORD done thus to this land and this house?'

2 Chronicles 7:22 NKJV - "Then they will answer, '**Because they forsook the LORD God of their fathers**, who brought them out of the land of Egypt, and embraced other gods, and worshiped them and served them; therefore He has brought all this calamity on them.'

Mark 1:14 NKJV - Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,

Mark 1:15 NKJV - and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. **Repent, and believe in the gospel.**"

Luke 13:1 NKJV - There were present at that season some who told Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.

Luke 13:2 NKJV - And Jesus answered and said to them, "Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all [other] Galileans, because they suffered such things?

Luke 13:3 NKJV - "I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.

Luke 13:4 NKJV - "Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all [other] men who dwelt in Jerusalem?

Luke 13:5 NKJV - "I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish."

Acts 2:37 NKJV - Now when they heard [this], they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men [and] brethren, what shall we do?"

Acts 2:38 NKJV - Then Peter said to them, "**Repent, and let every one of you be baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:39 NKJV - "For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

2 Peter 3:9 NKJV - The Lord is not slack concerning [His] promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, **not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.**

2 Corinthians 7:9 NKJV - Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing.

2 Corinthians 7:10 NKJV - For **godly sorrow produces repentance [leading] to salvation**, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.

2 Corinthians 7:11 NKJV - For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, [what] clearing [of yourselves], [what] indignation, [what] fear, [what] vehement desire, [what] zeal, [what] vindication! In all [things] you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter.

Psalms 51:10 NKJV - Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Psalms 51:11 NKJV - Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

Psalms 51:12 NKJV - Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me [by Your] generous Spirit.

Psalms 51:13 NKJV - [Then] **I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners shall be converted to You.**

Psalms 51:14 NKJV - Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, The God of my salvation, [And] my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness.

Conclusion:

To be a great nation again, we need to repent and live godly lives. We have a job to do. To live godly lives, and proclaim a message of repentance!

Luke 24:46 NLT - And he said, "Yes, it was written long ago that the Messiah would suffer and die and rise from the dead on the third day.

Luke 24:47 NLT - It was also written that this message would be proclaimed in the authority of his name to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem: 'There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent.'

Additional Resources:

Internet article on Wisdom Hunters: God Makes A Nation Great

<https://www.wisdomhunters.com/god-makes-a-nation-great/>

UCG Worldview - video & related articles:

Inauguration Day 2025: Should There Have Been A Call for National Repentance? Reflecting on the 2025 U.S. Presidential Inauguration, in this discussion United Church of God president Rick Shabi speaks of the many references to God and His blessings. The oath was taken in His name, prayers and hymns offered as the theme of the inauguration was turning the nation in a new direction. But if there is the real desire to "turn the nation around" and back to God, then the opportunity to emphasize that genuine, heartfelt repentance is the foundation for turning to God and building a brighter future. What is true biblical repentance, which Jesus Christ commanded of His disciples? Discover what true repentance means according to the Bible, how it leads to forgiveness and a renewed relationship with God, and why it's essential for personal and national restoration. Learn from biblical examples like King David and the teachings of Jesus Christ, and begin your journey to peace, purpose, and salvation.

<https://ucg.org/repent>

Article from The Christian Post: Make America Godly Again: The MAGA America needs now

<https://www.christianpost.com/voices/make-america-godly-again-the-maga-america-needs-now.html>

Bring the Bible Back to America - Donald J Trump Bible Endorsement:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tnuplSwtEB0>