
WHAT DOES AMERICA CELEBRATE?

Contributed by Jim Jordal
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By Jim
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Thus says Yahweh, Don't let the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, don't let the rich man glory in his riches; but let him who glories glory in this, that he has understanding, and knows me, that I am Yahweh who exercises loving kindness, justice, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, says Yahweh.
Jeremiah 9:23-24 WEB

Even a cursory look at history reveals the truth that human beings need to venerate, celebrate, or glory in something they either achieve or own, even though they may have done little to deserve their good fortune. The need for recognition is always there, the differences arise over what we choose to glory in or be recognized for. Jeremiah says above that the trend is for wise men to glory in their wisdom, mighty men in their strength, and rich men in their wealth. And if you view the news very often you won't have any difficulty realizing the truth that we glory in transitory earthly things rather than in the timeless verities of God.

But Yahweh (the true biblical name for God) sees things differently. Whereas hubris (excessive arrogance) often characterizes our response to successful accomplishments in wisdom, strength, and wealth, God counsels humble thanksgiving for the inestimable blessings that come from knowing him and accepting his great blessings to those who exercise kindness, justice, and righteousness during their brief sojourn on earth.

So where have we gone wrong? Where did our moral compass go astray? When did the baubles of pleasure and possessions become more vital than the verities of God? One of Satan's most destructive activities is to question the word of God. In our inborn desire to know more than God we fall prey to Satan's blandishments because they seem to indicate the path to fame and fortune. And it's been downhill ever since as rulers set themselves over God, people fell into physical and social debauchery, and the seemingly simple process of making and selling necessary goods and services became the playground of vast global

corporations willing to sacrifice the welfare of both man and earth in their relentless search for profit.

And where

will it end? Despite the promises of world leaders and the possibilities of improved technology to deliver us from the toils of life, we seem never to learn the sources of true meaning in life. The text above reveals that the real source of life and meaning lies in the simple things associated with believing and doing "kindness, justice, and righteousness."

Human

philosophy has attempted to capture this nirvana through various mantras, meditations, spiritual practices, and so on. But the world seems to be steadily moving toward conflict, war, moral decay, and dissolution of humanly-created institutions of politics and economics. So what can turn this around?

God speaks

through circumstances. Bible history records scores of instances when an erring people turned their rudder toward truth and justice following God's corrective application of the torments of war, famine and disease. We realized God was angry and turned out loyalty back to him. Can this happen again?

It can, but

if it's like before it will be only temporary. This time, however, it will be permanent since it is accompanied by something far transcending puny human efforts. This time it will be accompanied by something called the New Covenant, found in Jeremiah 31 and Hebrews 8. It says: "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel. After those days," says the Lord; "I will put my laws into their mind, I will also write them on their heart. I will be to them a God, And they will be to me a people. They will not teach every man his fellow citizen, Every man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' For all will know me, From the least of them to the greatest of them..."
Heb. 8:10-11 WEB