

1 *The Judgments of the Lord*



Manhattan seen from New York Harbor¹

The path of the righteous is level;
O upright One, you make the way of the
righteous smooth.
Yes, LORD, walking in the way of your
laws, we wait for you;
your name and renown are the desire
of our hearts.
My soul yearns for you in the night; in
the morning my spirit longs for you.
When your judgments come upon the
earth, the people of the world learn
righteousness.
(Isaiah 26:7-9)

Reading these verses while praying recently, I realized that they are directly connected to the theme of revival and to the opening of doors for which we have long prayed. We have been asking the Lord for revival in New York City, as well as in our nation. We are asking for revival, not just because it would be marvelous to see God move again with power from on high, but because we desperately need “times of refreshing...from the Lord.” (Acts 3:19) With the growing moral darkness around us, there is also an urgent need for “the people of the world [to] learn righteousness,” beginning with ourselves.

Our country is rapidly wandering away from its Judeo-Christian foundations, the chief source of the many blessings Americans have long enjoyed. Educators, among others, are rewriting American history as taught in schools and universities, and our children are deprived of a thorough and accurate knowledge of their roots. A nation in which most citizens were once familiar with the Bible is raising generations of children who are ignorant of the most influential book in the development of our society. From all too many professorial lecterns, the call goes out for freedom *from* religion in a land founded on freedom *of* religion.

Most Americans today do not understand their historical roots, let alone value their religious ones. It is our Judeo-Christian heritage that taught us that every life has value, including that of children. As Jesus declared in Matthew 19:14, “Let the little children

come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” The Bible also states that women are “heirs” together with their husbands “of the gracious gift of [eternal] life” (1 Peter 3:7). Even more radical in light of human history, the Scriptures state that there “is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” (Galatians 3:28)

In fact, despite the history of racism and even pseudo-science in our country, the Scriptures are clear that there is *only one human race*. As Paul states in Acts 17:26, “And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth...”—a verse which was a powerful weapon in the hands of American and English abolitionists.

The concept of universal education would not exist apart from Christianity and the schools and universities which it founded—including places like Harvard, Yale, Princeton, and many others. The entire theory of ‘just war’ is also distinctly Christian. Anyone who studies ancient cultures and even some modern ones will realize that the valuing of life in general and of individuals in particular—of women, of children, of the weak and infirm, of the elderly, let alone loving your enemies—are distinctly Judeo-Christian concepts. *Is this the heritage we are so rapidly discarding and walking away from?*

It is no wonder then that evils of every variety, including perversions and violence that would have been unimaginable a few decades ago are flooding