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THE BIBLE VIEW

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Irreparable Damage

Bill Brinkworth

One reads in I and II Kings that after King Solomon's death, the kings that succeeded him were often less than desirable. At least 26 leaders were remembered as: "…they walked in the sins" of another person, "… sinned and made Israel to sin …", "… did evil in the sight of God…", or "… did worse than all that were before him." Poor leadership has always been a problem for any country, including Israel.

Sadly, at that time, only six leaders were recorded as doing "… right in the eyes of the Lord …", "right in the sight of the Lord," or even "… according to all his father (a godly man) did." Further investigation of those six reveals that not all of them did all that was right. They tolerated some sin to continue in their country and did not halt all that was plaguing the nation. Early Israel showed that godly leadership is rare.

Of all the kings that wanted to lead their country in the direction God commanded, Josiah (II Kings 22-23) was the most determined to please God and have Him bless his country. King Josiah rebuilt the temple so the country could return to proper worship of the one God and urged the priests to inquire of the Lord what must be done. When Josiah heard God's truths from the Word of God, he was convicted, repented of his sins, and was even more determined to remove sin from his country so God's hand would be on it.

The young king committed himself, and the people also agreed, to obey God. He cleaned out idolatry from all over the country. Even the places of false worship were destroyed. Priests of false religions were killed. Houses of sodomites (II Kings 23:7) were destroyed. Witchcraft and occult practices (II Kings 23:24) were also "put away," along with many other practices that were abominable in the sight of God.

After all the "good" this king brought about in Israel, I expected to read that God would spare the country His due wrath, as He had done graciously many times in the past. Although there "… was no king before him, that turned to the Lord with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might …" (II Kings 23:25), God did not stay His hand of vengeance on the land, all because of the great wickedness of a previous king, King Manasseh (II Kings 21).
*"Notwithstanding the LORD turned **not** from the fierceness of his great wrath, wherewith his anger was kindled against Judah, because of all the provocations that Manasseh had provoked him withal." II Kings 23:26*

Horrified, I related that time in history to what is happening in so many countries today. Leaders, like the wicked King Manasseh, are also ignoring God's laws. They allow false worship to continue, and in many ways even give it preferential treatment. There is no effort to turn to God. Abominations that are forbidden by God are allowed and encouraged to continue. God is mocked, ignored, or forgotten.

Even more frightening is that if a godly leader did take the reins of a country and do all he could to turn the country to God and even have results, it might be too late! Irreparable damage may have been done that has angered a Holy God! The sins of past leaders may have angered God so much that no matter what moral and biblical changes are made, it may be too late!

What can one do when God is so angered at what was done by previous leaders and the people? There is nothing that can be done if it is anything like what happened before King Josiah's reign. A nation will reap what was sown by wicked rulers. Only God can turn His wrath away. We certainly cannot make Him.

If a nation finds itself in the hopeless situation Israel faced in II Kings 23, individuals still must not give up and succumb to what everyone else is doing. Christians must still stand for what is right, live righteously, and do all they can to change what is going on around them.

Although nations may crumble, individuals must still determine in their heart to do what is right according to God's Word. We must do right, no matter what happens around us.
"So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God." Rom. 14:12 Also: Eph. 6:13.

"No one gets away with sin!" *— B. B.*

The Damage They Have Done

Bill Brinkworth

A liberal philosophy has existed throughout history, but rarely has it done as much damage to society as it has done in the last fifty years. Many boast and are not ashamed of having such a philosophy, but its destruction to individuals and the populace is far-reaching.

Webster's dictionary (1828) defines "liberal" in many ways. The definitions applied to a liberal philosophy include "not literal or strict, licentious, lacking decorum, unseemly beliefs, favoring changes, progressive, tolerant of other views."

Liberal thinking is usually a value system that deviates from what is traditionally considered normal and moral. From a Christian's perspective, it includes beliefs that reject and want to change moral truths preserved by God in His Word, the Bible.

Any variance from how God wants man to believe and live will only lead to an individual or society becoming more immoral and living a lifestyle further from God's demands. The outcome of accepting biblical immorality has never been good for past cultures. Societies deviating from following God's guidelines have suffered, whereas those abiding by His commandments have flourished.

Over the years, we have not discouraged these philosophies contrary to God's Word. In too many cases, liberal thinking has even been encouraged.

Liberal philosophers, politicians, preachers, professors, and teachers, whose beliefs kept them from being employed in the past, are now sometimes given preferential treatment in getting a job. Although their thinking is often accepted, the price it has cost society is immeasurable.

Here are some of the negative changes liberalism has caused in our society:

- Where the morality of the majority of society was in line with scriptural teachings, the Bible has been banned in many institutions, societies, and even in conversation. In doing so, the standard that says lying, stealing, taking of lives, adultery, homosexuality, worshipping other gods, and other moral limitations has been removed.

  Without God's standards, it is acceptable to tell "little" white lies, take things that do not belong to you if you are needy, kill unborn babies because they are unwanted, commit homosexuality, and worship anything you want because you feel better when you do so. Without God's measuring tool, the Bible, anything goes.
- Leaders who once could not get a job or be elected if their character or beliefs strayed from biblical teachings are now elected to positions that make decisions that alter society's morals. Elected leaders in the United States have passed laws that allow over 4,000 murders of unborn babies every day. They have also removed mentions of anything about God or His Word in public situations (including the Ten Commandments that were posted in many public buildings), encouraged public acceptance of homosexuality, making it a crime if anything is said contrary to their beliefs ("hate crimes"), and countless other anti-scriptural laws.
- Liberal religious schools have produced preachers and leaders brainwashed to question and doubt God's Word. When they preach, they instill those doubts in their congregations, and now few under their preaching know what the Bible says, believe it, or follow His Word. Because of the liberal infiltration of pulpits, "thus saith the Lord" is no longer instilled in minds. The "fear of God" has been removed from many churches!
- Tolerance of anything, including others' beliefs, has allowed unscriptural, damaging lifestyles to breed. Humanity's depravity is now laughed at and accepted most times, as there are no longer any standards that say that anything is wrong.
- Teachers and professors with little biblical character and standards are allowed to guide and direct young minds during most of their students' day. How do you think a student's thinking will be after 12 years of liberal propaganda?

As an old ad said, "We have come a long way, baby." Unfortunately, the way we have gone is morally downhill, and it is not good — in God's eyes!

Just because the liberals are confused, have few biblical standards, and, in many cases, are rebellious against God does not mean that we have to follow and conform to their way of life that we are forced to live! We, as Christians, know where the Truth is.

Our responsibility is to be examples many will want to follow. Christians are to be a light in this dark, sinful world. We need to lead biblically, not follow unscriptural pathways. If, one by one, we each live our lives according to what God has preserved in His written Word, it will again be unpopular to think and live contrary to what God's Word says to do.

"Usually, the liberal tries to camouflage his true identity." — *Dr. Harold Sightler*