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5 MINUTE LESSONS ON THE KINGDOM OF GOD

# How Did We Get to This Place?

As a young boy there was peace in our community. We never locked our house, nobody did. We carried guns in our pick-up trucks, nobody thought it was a big deal. We hunted, ordered our guns from the Sears Roebuck catalogue, and we fished and enjoyed our land.

Going to church and enjoying community church potluck dinners was a custom in our community. When television arrived my sister and I would enjoy Saturday morning cartoons. It was the old black and white TV picture and we got 3 local channels.

My uncle was a very strong Catholic, never missed Mass and also supported a political party that did not protect the unborn. As a young person I did not understand this. I told my uncle I did not understand how we cannot protect the unborn when the Pope said it was wrong to take their life. My uncle did not have an answer to this dilemma. But it did bother me. Oh well, I was young with a full life before me, let the mature grownups figure it out.

As a child we played baseball in an open field next to our house. We played basketball each day after school. We also played football when it was in season. We enjoyed our childhood, worked on the farm and enjoyed the great outdoors.

When I was 14 I was very busy riding my motor bike with my friends. It was the greatest thing to have as a young boy.

In the 1960's the TV commercials were saying, "See the USA in your Chevrolet!" It was a time of rest, prosperity and national pride. The dollar was strong and we could buy a lot of things with a dollar.

I bought my first new motorcycle, a Yamaha 80cc for \$364. A new 1965 Ford Mustang sold for \$2600. The national debt was practically nothing compared to our national debt today. At one time our dollar was backed by gold, instead of paper. Most young people reading this article will never know, nor conceive the USA that I grew up in.

Some of the TV shows in the 60's and 70's were The Flintstones, Happy Days, The Brady Bunch, The Mary Tyler Moore Show, and Little House on the Prairie. A few decades later things started changing with shows like Seinfeld, Sex and the City, and Ghosts.

Fifty years ago Grandma and Grandpa sat on the porch, read Bible stories to the children and neighbors visited each other in the evenings. Today our children have

graduated to violent video games that practice shooting people as the object of their targets.

The Supreme Court Justice, Stephen Breyer, who was replaced because of retirement, stated, "It is yet to be seen if democracy will really work." I was stunned by his statement. After thinking it over, I agreed. Democracy is the rule of the people. If the people have no standards of right and wrong, no moral ethics and are lawless then you will see a lot of what we are seeing today.

The Apostle Paul told Timothy,

*"<sup>1</sup>You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times. <sup>2</sup>For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. <sup>3</sup>They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good. <sup>4</sup>They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God. <sup>5</sup>They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that!" (2 Timothy 3:1-5 NLT)*

If our nation is governed by the masses, and the masses no longer have Biblical ethics, what kind of nation will we have? What kind of nation will we be?

God said,

*"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14)*

## Questions

**7**

Read Proverbs 14:34.

*"Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people."  
- Proverbs 14:34*

Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is:

- A. fun
- B. a reproach to any people
- C. cool

**2** Read Acts 5:28-29.

*“<sup>28</sup>Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man’s blood upon us. <sup>29</sup>Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.” - Acts 5:28-29*

When it comes to man’s standards versus God’s standards, who should we obey?

**3** Read Acts 4:26.

*“The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ.” - Acts 4:26*

The ungodly should not rule a nation.

True or False

**4** Read Psalm 33:12.

*“Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord...” - Psalm 33:12*

If our Nation is governed by the masses, and the masses no longer have Biblical ethics, what kind of nation will we have?

### **We want to hear from you!**

We would love to hear your feedback on these lessons and how you use them in your own study or in discipling others. If you have any thoughts, stories, testimonies, comments, or questions we would love to hear them!

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## Answer Key

**1** Read Proverbs 14:34.

Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is:

A. fun

**B. a reproach to any people**

C. cool

**2** Read Acts 5:28-29.

When it comes to man's standards versus God's standards, who should we obey?

**We ought to obey God rather than men.**

**3** Read Acts 4:26.

The ungodly should not rule a nation.

**True**

***"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly..."***  
***(Psalm 1:1)***

**4** Read Psalm 33:12.

If our Nation is governed by the masses, and the masses no longer have Biblical ethics, what kind of nation will we have?

***"For the nation and kingdom that will not serve thee shall perish; yea, those nations shall be utterly wasted."*** (Isaiah 60:12)