



A republic, if you can keep it.
 "...if you can keep it." Who is the "you?" How can it be kept? Perhaps part of the answer is found within the Declaration of Independence, "with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence."

"The steps of a *good* man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way."
 (See *Psalms 37:23*).

Daniel Series, Twelve: A Republic, If You Can Keep It

"Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?"

"Seek and ye shall find." A map has been written.

Be advised, twelve men turned the world upside down. "And one of you shall chase a thousand."

The Psalter, the hymn book of heaven, is designed to connect emotion with intellect. Carefully and cautiously, a calloused and scarred hand thumbs to the 137th psalm, a lyric of lament.

*"By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion. We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof."
 -Psalm 137:1-2*

Minor chords in the sound of a dirge. From the secret parts of a man springs forth sadness, enough for a physical reaction...moistened eyes. The spring issues further, to tears falling, carving grooves upon the dirty face of flint. We sat down and just wept. Grown men scarcely cry, but at the thought of the homeland, iron restraints give way, and the floodgates burst.

*"For there they that carried us away captive required of us a song; and they that wasted us required of us mirth, saying, Sing us one of the songs of Zion. How shall we sing the LORD's song in a strange land."
 -Psalm 137:3-4*

The Lord's musicians survived the Babylonian axe, but were taken captive. They were asked to perform, but the

Lord's true Levites do not perform, they partake and lead worship towards the most High. As part of their response they make a few peculiar statements.

"If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning. If I do not remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth; if I prefer not Jerusalem above my chief joy." -Psalm 137:5-6

In the U.S. there is a saying, for some it is cliché...9/11 "Never Forget." But it will fade, and more and more will forget. Time heals the wounds to scars, and over time scars fade. The psalmist makes a severe statement if forgetfulness sets into "let my right hand forget her cunning," let my hand forget its skill. To escalate the severity he prefers the suffering death of dehydration, "let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth." Why does he care? He is a zealot, he is a patriot, he is a man of God and country, but many leave the homeland and reside elsewhere. Why does he care? Why do others not care? Why do men give up their careers and livelihoods, families, and friends, for the care of the Lord and the Lord's work, and others care not? This is a mystery, and this is at hand in the prophecy.

Daniel is the seasoned man in his eighties. He is wealthy, he has acquired more wealth than he needs. He has been head of state through two global superpowers, through several administrations. He has prestige, he has power, he has everything, yet he sets his face toward Jerusalem and openly prays, despite the royal edict making it a capital crime punishable by death.



“And I prayed unto the LORD my God, and made my confession, and said, O Lord, the great and dreadful God, keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love him, and to them that keep his commandments; We have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgments: Neither have we hearkened unto thy servants the prophets, which spake in thy name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land. O Lord, righteousness belongeth unto thee, but unto us confusion of faces, as at this day; to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and unto all Israel, that are near, and that are far off, through all the countries whither thou hast driven them, because of their trespass that they have trespassed against thee. O Lord, to us belongeth confusion of face, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against thee. To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against him; Neither have we obeyed the voice of the LORD our God, to walk in his laws, which he set before us by his servants the prophets. Yea, all Israel have transgressed thy law, even by departing, that they might not obey thy voice; therefore the curse is poured upon us, and the oath that is written in the law of Moses the servant of God, because we have sinned against him. And he hath confirmed his words, which he spake against us, and against our judges that judged us, by bringing upon us a great evil: for under the whole heaven hath not been done as hath been done upon Jerusalem. As it is written in the law of Moses, all this evil is come upon us: yet made we not our prayer before the LORD our God, that we might turn from our iniquities, and understand thy truth. Therefore hath the LORD watched upon the evil, and brought it upon us: for the LORD our God is righteous in all his works which he doeth: for we obeyed not his voice. And now, O Lord our God, that hast brought thy people forth out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, and hast gotten thee renown, as at this day; we have sinned, we have done wickedly. O Lord, according to all thy righteousness, I beseech thee, let thine anger and thy fury be turned away from thy city Jerusalem, thy holy mountain: because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and thy people are become a reproach to all that are about us. Now therefore,

O our God, hear the prayer of thy servant, and his supplications, and cause thy face to shine upon thy sanctuary that is desolate, for the Lord’s sake. O my God, incline thine ear, and hear; open thine eyes, and behold our desolations, and the city which is called by thy name: for we do not present our supplications before thee for our righteousnesses, but for thy great mercies. O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, hearken and do; defer not, for thine own sake, O my God: for thy city and thy people are called by thy name.” -Daniel 9:4-19

Daniel acknowledges their sin, and that they deserve what they get. But he prays for Jerusalem. He does not live in Jerusalem but at Shushan, the palace. He is an aristocrat in the Persian Empire but he is concerned for the homeland.

Notice, two specifics are addressed in his prayer. “All Israel have transgressed thy law . . . therefore the curse is poured upon us, and the oath that is written in the Law of Moses.”

Be advised, Daniel was taken captive as a young boy, yet the importance of the knowledge of the Word of God, instilled in him by his mother and father blossoms. The prophet has had scrolls delivered to him. As he studies the Mosaic Law he finds a blistering fact, the very statute located in Deuteronomy chapter 28 that was broken, along with the penalty, the curse. “The Lord shall bring a nation against thee . . . A nation of fierce countenance . . . And he shall besiege thee . . . And thou shalt eat the fruit of thine own body.” And his study of the scriptures widens:

“In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the seed of the Medes, which was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans; In the first year of his reign I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.” -Daniel 9:1-2

Wise men have a dawning moment. That the word of God is The Word of God. As when one who is reading the Bible, thinking he is looking at Jesus, and you realize . . . He is looking at you. That which is “quick, and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword,” it is “quick,” it is alive. So Daniel sends for the scroll of the prophet Jeremiah and searches with all zeal.

“And it came to pass in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, that this word came



unto Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, Take thee a roll of a book, and write therein all the words that I have spoken unto thee against Israel, and against Judah, and against all the nations, from the day I spake unto thee, from the days of Josiah, even unto this day.” -Jeremiah 36:1-2

This is new material for Daniel. He was carried away captive at a young age while Jeremiah was preaching. He likely was sheltered by his parents of the rampant sin and the corruption of government, but as he reads it dawns on him...

Oh my God, this is what happened. And it happened to me. Immediately the flashbacks begin. People were starving, screaming, crying, eating their own young, as the Babylonians came on a rampage, slaughtering with the axe; a scene of grotesque terror, violence and horror. And as he reads, it dawns... Oh my God, God was giving us another chance.

“It may be that the house of Judah will hear all the evil which I purpose to do unto them; that they may return every man from his evil way; that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin.” -Jeremiah 36:3

We could have survived. If we would have just repented, we would have lived. Right up until the end, God was looking to forgive.

“Then Jeremiah called Baruch the son of Neriah: and Baruch wrote from the mouth of Jeremiah all the words of the LORD, which he had spoken unto him, upon a roll of a book. And Jeremiah commanded Baruch, saying, I am shut up; I cannot go into the house of the LORD: Therefore go thou, and read in the roll, which thou hast written from my mouth, the words of the LORD in the ears of the people in the LORD’s house upon the fasting day: and also thou shalt read them in the ears of all Judah that come out of their cities. It may be they will present their supplication before the LORD, and will return every one from his evil way: for great is the anger and the fury that the LORD hath pronounced against this people.” -Jeremiah 36:4-7

The prophet was “shut up” under arrest by the government for telling the truth. “Principalities and powers, spiritual wickedness in high places,” for they are in the crosshairs always. So he commands his assistant to proclaim the Word of God to the people, and to repent. But he must go up the governmental ladder. He must confront the ranks.

To “Shaphan the scribe, in the higher court.” Then to the king’s house where “all the princes sat,” and declared the Word of God.

“Now it came to pass, when they had heard all the words, they were afraid both one and other, and said unto Baruch, We will surely tell the king of all these words.” -Jeremiah 36:16

Whether in fear or in anger, the word of God causes men to tremble.

“And they went in to the king into the court, but they laid up the roll in the chamber of Elishama the scribe, and told all the words in the ears of the king. So the king sent Jehudi to fetch the roll: and he took it out of Elishama the scribe’s chamber. And Jehudi read it in the ears of the king, and in the ears of all the princes which stood beside the king. Now the king sat in the winterhouse in the ninth month: and there was a fire on the hearth burning before him. And it came to pass, that when Jehudi had read three or four leaves, he cut it with the penknife, and cast it into the fire that was on the hearth, until all the roll was consumed in the fire that was on the hearth.” -Jeremiah 36:20-23

“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.” -Jesus Christ. Despite the wickedness of the king, God has Baruch pen another copy. But the axe will fall.

Be advised, God is not mocked. In the country of the red, the white, and the blue, the gospel is proclaimed and it’s still received by the commoners. But as in the days of Jeremiah, up the ranks of government is the test, for the people that sit in Moses’ seat are held to the standard. “Unto him that much is given, more shall be required.” It was the Sanhedrin that chose the destruction upon Israel in 70 AD for the rejection of the offer by Stephen the deacon. (See Acts 7.) It will require repentance on Capitol Hill and the White House along with the common citizenry or another axe will fall. America has existed a little over 200 years, but may have turned a deaf ear. “He that hath an ear to hear, let him hear.”

“Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Because ye have not heard my words, Behold, I will send and take all the families of the north, saith the LORD, and Nebuchadrezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and will bring them against this land, and against the inhabitants thereof, and against all these nations



round about, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, and an hissing, and perpetual desolations. Moreover I will take from them the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones, and the light of the candle. And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.” -Jeremiah 25:8-11

“I will take from them the voice of mirth,” very much sounds like the Psalmist, by the rivers of Babylon. As Daniel reads...again “that’s me, that is us.” So the

Psalmist, “let my right hand forget her cunning,” “let my tongue cleave unto the roof of my mouth,” and Daniel hits his knees in prayer despite a death sentence.

It is not he who believes the word of God, or he who cares. But it is he who believes and cares...enough to defy the system.

“A republic, if you can keep it.” -Ben Franklin

“With a firm reliance on the Protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.”

-Declaration of Independence

