

Series Title: “Judges: Will You Choose to Walk with God?”

Message Title: “Make God Great Again!”

Message Text: Deuteronomy 7:1-9:6

This week as we celebrate our nation’s birthday we will likely be tempted or encouraged in some way to be proud of our nation, “proud to be an American.” But might this be a contributing factor in our nation’s moral freefall?

- I. Beware of a **GODLESS** effort to make a nation great!
 - A. It will be rooted in human **PRIDE**, Deuteronomy 8:14.
 - This leads to forgetting God.
 - B. It will attribute past success to human **ABILITY**, 8:17.
 - The result is indifference to God’s laws, 8:10-11
 - C. It will end in **DESTRUCTION**, Deuteronomy 8:19-20.
 - This is the consequence of disobedience.
- II. Remember the **LORD** as the only hope for any nation.
 - A. From a humble position **ACKNOWLEDGE** God, Deuteronomy 8:10.
 - Our sustenance is by His sustaining grace! 8:2-5.
 - B. Recognize blessings are the result of God’s **ENABLEMENT**, Deuteronomy 8:18.
 - Any “greatness” or prosperity is to God’s credit!
 - C. Understand **OBEDIENCE** to God is the way to blessing, Deuteronomy 8:1; see also 7:9-15.
 - God’s law was given for man’s success.

A nation will not be or become great by human means alone. Any hope we have for greatness depends on our recognizing God’s greatness. Remember God! We must recognize our absolute dependence on Him, and humbly commit ourselves to **walk with Him**.



Discuss as a family what makes a nation “great.” You might link the concept of America’s greatness to the gospel advance enabled by our prosperity—remember and pray together for those who have shared with us recently: Tim & Cathy Bong, Mike Mai, and Jay & Erin S.. Make a list of at least three things you can do as a family to be part of America being a “great” nation.

For Further Study, Thought, and Discussion:

1. Contemplate Deuteronomy 8:2.
 - Why is humility a necessary part of our relationship with God?
 - What is the link between humility and obedience to God?
 - Have you ever had a thought similar to Deuteronomy 8:17? What can you accomplish without God making it possible?
2. Review Deuteronomy 6:1-3.
 - What is God’s intention behind giving the Commandments (repeated in Deuteronomy 5) to the nation of Israel?
 - What is the promised result of “observing” or obeying the commandments?
 - In what way is obedience to the commandments good for God?
 - In what way is obedience to the commandments good for those who walk with Him (obey Him)?
 - Do you view obedience to God as an obligation, or as a path to life and joy? How does your view impact your attitude toward God and His commandments?
3. Read Judges 2:10-16. Over the past weeks we have tried to set the stage for studying these characters called the “judges.” Describe the situation in Israel when the Lord “raised up judges” and how the nation got to this place. What would make Israel—indeed any nation—“great” (again)?

NEXT WEEK: “This is a test,” Judges 3