

Daily Devotional, September 17, 2020

“Turn us Back”, (Lamentations 5:21-22, NKJV)

“Turn us back to You, O LORD, and we will be restored; Renew our days as of old, Unless you have utterly rejected us, And are very angry with us!” (Lamentations 5:21-22)

Jeremiah wrote Lamentations to express his sorrow over the captivity of Judah, and to express hope that the mercies of God might be activated personally among the remnant of true followers of God and nationally if the nation should repent. The nation had gone down a bad spiritual road, and it needed to find its way back. Sadly, in such national cases, this seldom occurs. It is more common for the rebellious nation which once had a heritage of godly worship, respect, and values, to further entrench itself in idolatry, thus inviting further divine judgment. One wonders—Where is our nation in this regard? The great prayer set to music, ‘God Bless America’, is seldom prayed, and is disparaged even by some professing Christians who have missed the point of **Psalm 33:12** and **1 Timothy 2:1-2**. Yet today we can pray, and we must pray, for restoration and renewal in our nation, that we might not face the divine rejection—a fearful thing. If you will not pray for your nation, who will?

Let us also not fail to make personal application of these verses. The history of Israel as presented in the Bible has many individual applications. What was true of the nation of Israel in various times can be applied to ourselves today. Have you gone into captivity? Have you been caught in a trap of sin? Have you drifted from the fellowship because of laziness, indifference, or the cares of the world? Have you failed to progress in Christian disciplines and service? Are you more focused on political solutions than spiritual ones? Do you only vaguely remember the “**days as of old**” when the Bible and the church house excited you, and you spent all your time reading and praying and would have gone to church eight days a week if you could? If any of these apply, pray the prayer in our text. “**Turn us back.**” Just as a nation won’t get back on track apart from prayer, neither shall you get back on track without beginning with prayer. Let’s go to Jesus Christ to get ourselves “**restored**” and renewed, and repeat these two ‘R’s’ every day! There is no reason why these cannot be “**days as of old**”, and even better than those days. It just takes some resolve and resiliency on our part, to cooperate with our merciful God, who always does His part. For it is “**through the LORD’s mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not**” (Lamentations 3:22).