
Subject: Follow-up to "Our dear America" - Wolfgang and Mercy Simson.



Dear Saints

Countless loving, sugar-coated Christian lullabys roam the internet and are permanent residents of Christian bookstores and bedside pedestals of regular Christians. Many arrive in my inbox in poetic form - accompanied by eye-soothing, heart-warming photographic masterpieces sporting furry animals, smiling babies or water droplets. True - they are beautiful.

But for many years I've heard nothing so accurately formulated - with such surgical precision - as the message below by Wolfgang and Mercy Simson - Wolfgang being the author of the groundbreaking book on House Churches: *Houses that change the World*. For many years, no other Christian message has so spoken to my heart as this one. Although not as affluent as the organised church in the USA, the very same message applies hand-in-glove to the Church in South Africa.

There is a God in heaven Who shall not be mocked, and Who shall not lie.
May God have mercy on us. May we go on our knees and repent for ourselves and our nation.

This message was recently published by Revival List (Andrew Strom). <http://www.revivalschool.com/>

Yours in Christ

Eben Swart

FOLLOW-UP to "OUR DEAR AMERICA" by Wolfgang and Mercy Simson

This follow-up letter is not only for America, but also to all the Western European nations that find themselves in a similar political and economic situation like the US...

The "Our Dear America" message was not sent out as a pacifying, soothing message for all those that wanted Romney to win and Obama to lose. This message is not meant to calm down your troubled spirit, so you can now take a deep breath and think: "God has mysterious ways"! Rather it is a wake-up call to shake those in America that call themselves after Christ from a toxic slumber, and encourage them to seek their true King, and to submit to his rule. Would you therefore please allow us take this to a next level and try to be as clear and concise as we can?

First, our motive. We love the US. My (Indian) wife and I (German/Hungarian/Jewish roots) have been given a passion and burden for the US that we can't really explain. For the past 21 years, we have been praying for your nation and we continue to do so. We bought your flag and have it in our office to remind us to ask God for supernatural love for America. And sometimes, love makes you tell it as it is, without diplomatic language and plan, without scheming for a certain angle, plain - just like that. We know that this can make us a target for undue praise, but also for misunderstanding, anger and criticism - by now, we have been called all sorts of untrue things, good and bad - but we are ready to remain vulnerable.

Secondly, we have cogent reasons to believe that there is a very real hope for a historic, mind-blowing turnaround and a possible re-invention of America - IF Jesus would be accepted as the ruling King of his people with the same or more passionate fervor that people went about electing a new president and spending their hope and money on it. What happened during the election time now is that we felt God said, (in our paraphrase) They are missing it again; they are again looking for another Saul to be King, not me; yet another human Messiah, a political solution for a spiritual problem. The involvement in a process to elect yet another "most powerful man of the most powerful nation in the world" can lead

to a toxic drunkenness of what the Bible calls - The Flesh: 'we-can-do-it' power. It is a symptom of the very same spirit that had people build the Tower of Babylon.

If that continues, it will all come to nothing and yes, all will go down in flames, Christian churches, denominations, ministries, foundations and businesses included, with those in leadership wringing their hands in complete, perplexed despair - unless: Those who claim the name of Jesus would finally emigrate out of a gigantic Babylon (Mammon-driven) Captivity and repatriate into the Kingdom, seen as the domain of God's uncontested rule. Repatriation means we emigrate, decidedly move out of one country into another country, apply for citizenship and diligently keep the laws and regulations of that country out of passionate, obedient love for its King. Then we would no longer be Americans first and Christians second, but Kingdom Citizens who happen to be pilgrims temporarily living in America - or any other nation. That is the right order, anything else is a deception.

Does God judge or blesses us because of our Government? You don't expect sheep to behave like goats. And you don't expect pagans to behave like saints. God knows that even better. Therefore, all nations (political entities) are under Gods general merciful blessing, seen in the fact that he has not yet wiped us all out (Psalm 9:17; Isa 8:9; 40:17 etc). But all nations are not only under his permissive blessing for a shrinking time window of grace, but also under Gods rightful judgment. One of the puppets of God is Satan, to whom God has given a limited but terrible allotment: "The whole world is under the control of the evil one" (1 John 5:19).

A dramatic event is narrated in the Bible that is so sobering that it might heal anyone of all false nationalism or even patriotism. It is Jesus and Lucifer standing on a mountain (Luke 4:5), and Lucifer says, in the face of Jesus: All these Kingdoms and their splendor have been given to me - and I give them to whom I want. This is why, with very few amazing exceptions, power, money and splendor seems to be always bestowed on the wrong people. People whom Lucifer likes, and he definitely always likes the wrong ones. This is why nations - with one exception -the Kingdom of God (Hebrews 12:28) - are all very shakable and fragile. In the coming days, they will all start to face more and more violent and unsolvable problems (Matthew 24) within themselves, through internal strife. And by flexing their muscles like teenagers on too much testosterone, this will lead to more rumors of war, nation at the throat of other nations. We should expect blind nations that they would try to blame someone else for its problems. And what is easier than to blame the others in general, and the neighbor in particular? There is a Kingdom solution to this, but it will simply not fit into such a short letter.

Our point is this: all nations are under Gods rightful judgment, because all of them have long ago removed themselves from under his rule - Israel, Germany, Australia, Sweden and the USA included. The romantic and sugarcoated myth of a Christian nation is just that - a myth (A helpful book here is Gregory Boyd: The Myth of a Christian Nation). Sin is first and foremost a disposition, not the individual acts that result from our disposition. All have sinned - nation-states included. Whether they sin a lot or sin a little, sin they do all the same.

The really big issue, the one we can and should actually do something about, is that God is looking at the level of holiness of his saints in regards to their alignment to the constitution of the Kingdom. Remember - judgment starts at the house of God. That is where the crux is. And may we be blunt? We have done empirical research and statistics all our life. If we would rate the corporate behavior of the collective body of Christians in our Western nations against the normative decrees and commands of the King, we

would be at a catastrophic obedience level of around a 2-5%, out of 100. The Body of Christ in countries like India would be more at a level of 20%; China, the same. My American friend Curtis Sergeant who worked in China, used to describe many Chinese followers of Christ with these three attributes: quick, costly obedience. We in the West replaced those attributes with slow, cheap arguments. This is just one of the main reasons for God to bless his people there - rather than us in the cultural West. Unless we change, this will not change.

The real pink elephant in the room, the problem so big that hardly anyone can or wants to see it, is this: most Christians are not in the Kingdom. They may have knocked at the door, but never entered in. Or they may have entered, said a quick prayer, raised a hand, but quickly walked out of the Kingdom again, unable or unwilling to leave the ways of the world and submit themselves to the King. It really breaks our heart to say this, but we really mean it: if Jesus does not evidently rule our lives, he is not our King.

For us, as your distant lovers and foreigners who come in and go out of the US, one thing hits us in the face like a sledgehammer each time we pass emigration. It is the screaming testimony of the lives of most Christians that we have met in the US, who live an ignorant, shameless, or even violent disobedience, in regards to almost all royal commands of Jesus the King. They are ignorantly or even deliberately trespassing, with their heads kept high, especially in the key areas of sex, money, power and church. Yes, we know a few precious exceptions, but it seems to be more like a modern day group of 7000 who have not bowed their knees to Baal. Christian people, in the four areas mentioned above, simply do whatever they want, if they want, when they want, with whom they want, where they want, thinking this is OK because everybody does it.

In today's America, it is just like in those days when Israel had no king, and everyone did as he pleased. This is why most (not all) church-going, praying, singing, tithing, book-writing, book-buying, conference-addicted, small-group and Bible-study attending Christians with or without a fish sticker on their car are, in fact, illegal aliens, having crept a few meters over the border of the Kingdom without yet being found out that they actually don't belong here (Matthew 22). They actually are in a spiritual no-man's land, people not at home in the Kingdom, and not at home in the world; they have become people with no legal authority, power nor significance in the Kingdom - and the world ignores them anyway. Many of you secretly see and admit this powerlessness, which screams in our faces: divine power cut! Even after (because?) all those years of bible studies, songs, retreats, programs, prayers, laying on of hands, prophesying this and decreeing that, driving out that spirit and driving in another, many don't even have the power to overcome the most basic carnal addictions (lust, porn, work, greed, fear, fun, gossiping, eating, dating, shopping, touring), and compulsions (buying, selling, facebooking- voicing your opinion without being asked, writing endlessly, twittering, preaching, giving and reading "prophetic" words, chasing after what is new), just like the folks in Apostle Paul's Athens (Acts 17:21).

Such a life has not even arrived at Square One of the Kingdom - the denial of self (Luke 14:33), and therefore does not have the power to change the life of our own teenagers, let alone our neighbors, let alone our city, county or country. From the perspective of Jesus and his Kingdom, this describes the life of rebels; nice rebels, maybe, but rebels all the more. Religious versions of any other US-citizen, pursuing as their top priority anything but the Kingdom: money, toys, happiness, life, fun, success, selfish significance of even the religious significance like some of those who export a dysfunctional cultural religion that has completely failed to disciple its own home base, and calling it missions.

The core symptom of an illegal alien from a Kingdom perspective is this: It is all about me. The center of this world is me, my opinion, my church, my ministry, my book, my, my, my. But you are not in the Kingdom if you can't say: Your Kingdom come - my kingdom go! If you have not kicked your ego out of the driver seat of your life, then you run your life, not God. So don't fool yourself and your family. And if you are pledged - signed over - to this group, that entity, the other purpose, then you have sold yourself away to something else than God and his Kingdom. And your heart is divided and torn. And that is idolatry. You serve two Gods; God and Mammon; God and country; God and the NFL. That, however, is no longer a life that Jesus describes like this: Make the Kingdom and life according to its constitution your first priority (Matthew 6:33 in its proper translation). And that is why "everything else" that Jesus talks about in this foundational Kingdom decree is not given to many at all.

But it is not only self-centeredness that keeps us from understanding or entering the Kingdom, it is also the phenomenal delusion that we think far bigger and in unreasonable bias and favor of ourselves than what we really are. Statistics tell us that most Americans, if asked if they are "born again", would say yes, even if they don't even know what that means. Similarly, if Christians hear the word Kingdom, many automatically respond: Kingdom? Oh yes, absolutely, sure thing, aren't we all Kingdom people, somehow automatically when we prayed "the sinners prayer" or when we got baptized? Many truly believe that therefore all they do is Kingdom; Kingdom business, Kingdom worship, Kingdom church, Kingdom conferences. This is a huge deception. It is therefore a very healthy start for all of us to take time out and ask ourselves first, and God very seriously, am I actually a legal citizen in the Kingdom? Jesus saved me by his grace. But, do I keep his commandments?

Our experience in the US has been that, with a very few exceptions, the vast majority of Christians all say "Lord, Lord" - but simply and doggedly do not do what Jesus says, being disobedient to the core, unconstitutional and Kingdom-law-breaking (Matthew 7:21-23). The King is utterly displeased with this, and he will not bless such a disposition. This "lack of blessing", of Kingdom authority is evident in the problem-driven lives many Christians are leading. They have become a product of their environment - and their environment is no longer a product of them...

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