

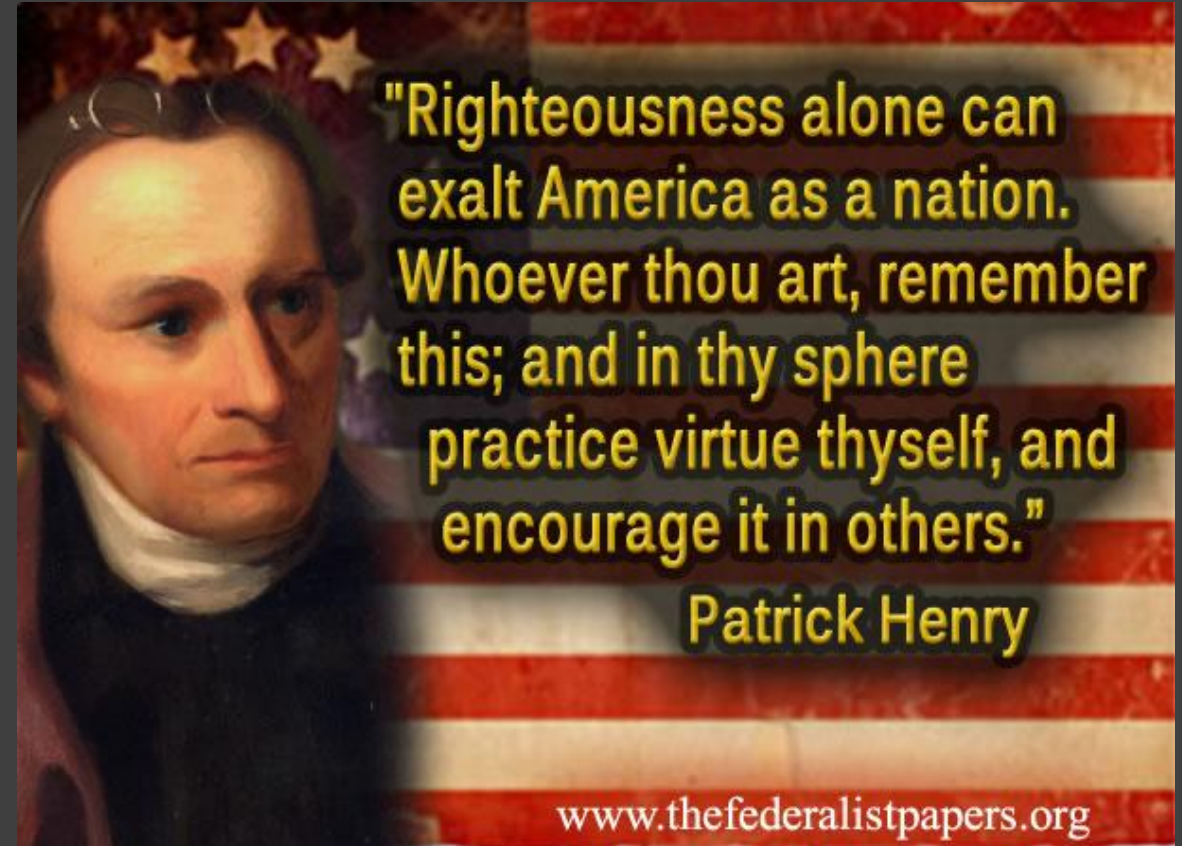
A close-up photograph of a person's hands clasped together in a prayerful gesture. The hands are resting on a surface covered with the stars and stripes of the United States flag. The background is dark and out of focus. The text "Spiritual Warfare at a National Level" is overlaid in white, centered on the image.

Spiritual Warfare at a National Level

Ron Peri

Nations Have Spiritual Personalities

- Proverbs 14:34 - Righteousness exalts a nation, but sins condemn any people
- Proverbs 29:18 - Where there is no vision, the people perish, but blessed is he who keeps the law.



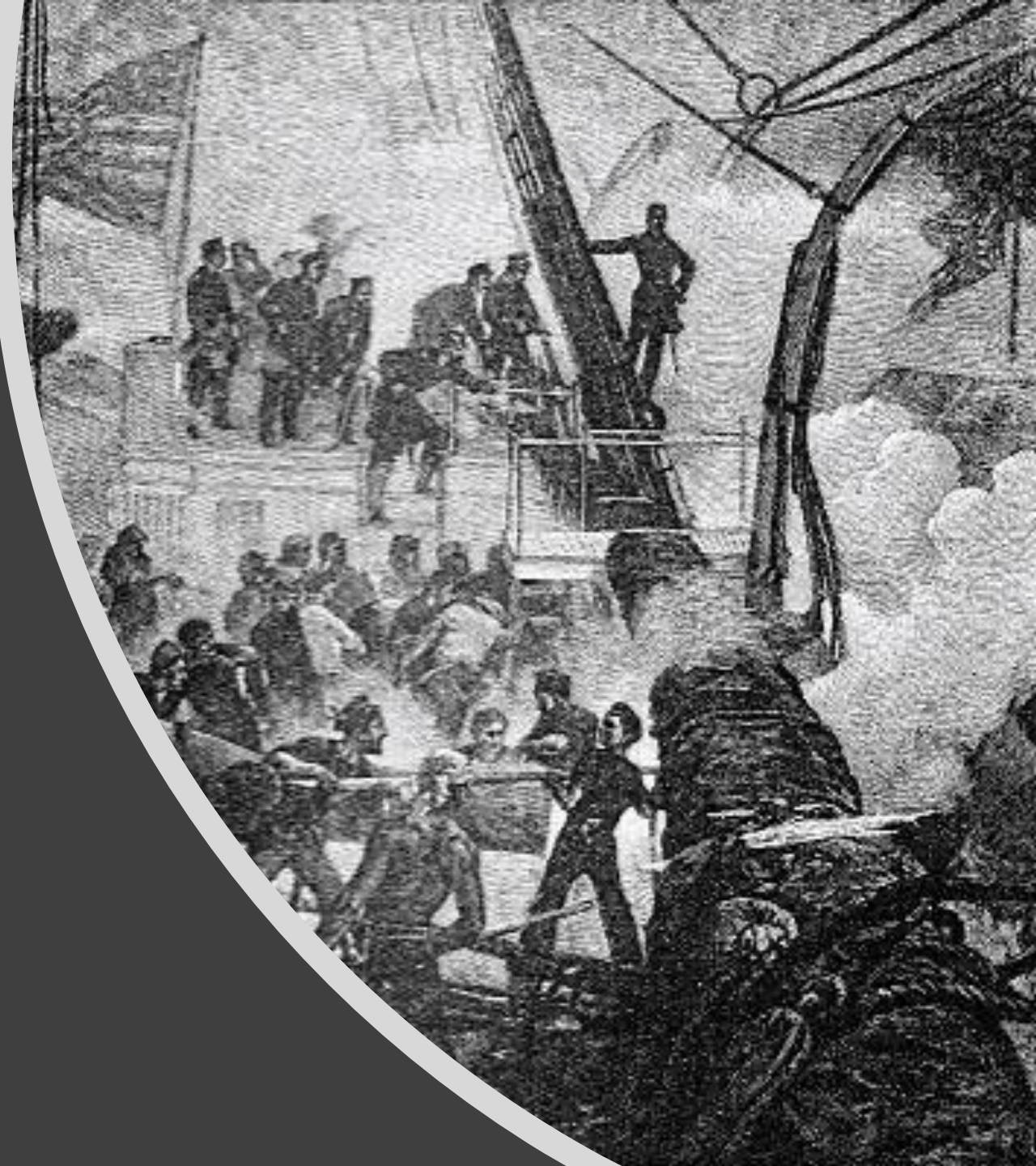
We Think of Spiritual Warfare at the Personal Level

- Eph 6:11-16 - Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Spiritual Warfare is Also at the National Level

- Daniel 10:13 (NIV) But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me [Gabriel] twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia ... 20 So he said, "Do you know why I have come to you? Soon I will return to fight against the prince of Persia, and when I go, the prince of Greece will come."
- Daniel 12:1 - "At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book —will be delivered

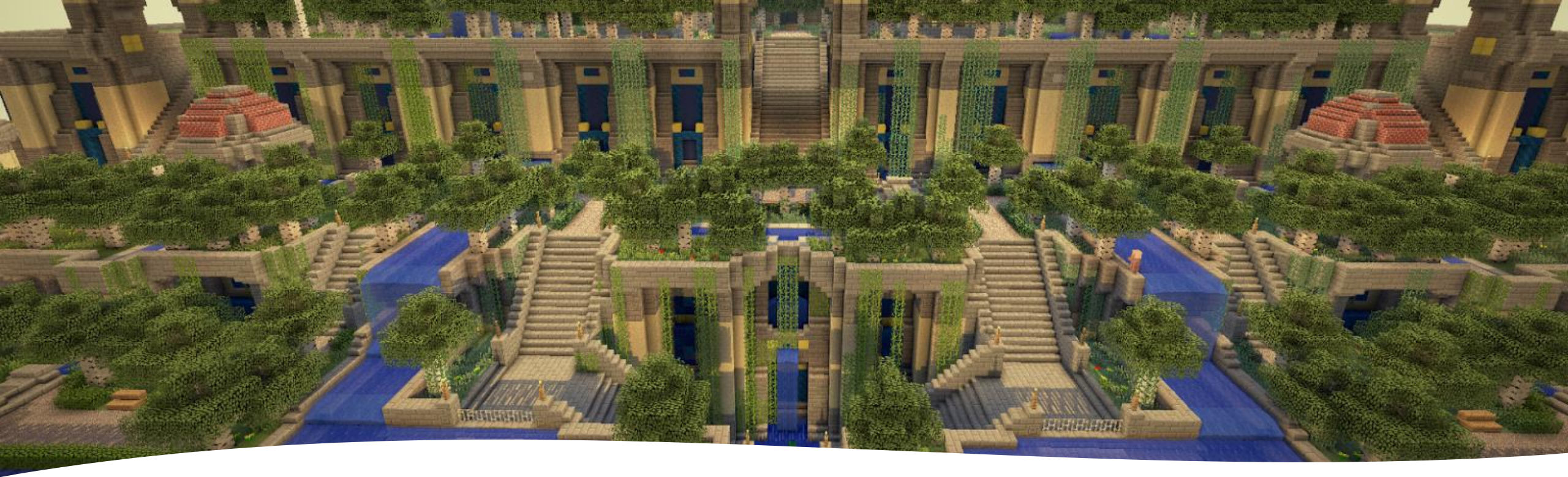


God Works with Nations

- Gen 18:18-19 - Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him. For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just, so that the Lord will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him.”
- Gen 18:20-21 - Then the Lord said, “The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous that I will go down and see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry that has reached me. If not, I will know.”

God is Merciful to Nations

- Merciful to Ninevah
- Merciful to future nations:
 - Isaiah 65:1 (NIV) I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me; I was found by those who did not seek me. To a nation that did not call on my name, I said, "Here am I, here am I."
- Merciful to Any Nation that Chooses Him as Its God
 - Psalm 33:12-13 (NIV) Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people he chose for his inheritance. 13 From heaven the LORD looks down and sees all mankind.



God was Merciful to
Nebuchadnezzar and
Babylon

Daniel 4:24-27 - “This is the interpretation, Your Majesty, and this is the decree the Most High has issued against my lord the king: You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like the ox and be drenched with the dew of heaven. Seven times will pass by for you **until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes.** The command to leave the stump of the tree with its roots means that your kingdom will be restored to you when you acknowledge that Heaven rules. Therefore, Your Majesty, be pleased to accept my advice: **Renounce your sins by doing what is right, and your wickedness by being kind to the oppressed. It may be that then your prosperity will continue.**”

Money Often Shows Nature of A Nation

- Front: picture of Tiberius, with text: “Tiberius Caesar Augustus, Son of the Divine Augustus”
 - Genitive case (“belonging to Caesar Augustus”)
- Rear: picture of a goddess(?) with text: “Pontifex Maximus” (i.e., the chief priest of the Roman religion).
- “Render unto Caesar that which is Caesar’s and unto God, that which is God’s”.

“In God We Trust”

National Motto of the
United States of
America



The background of the slide features a low-angle shot of an American flag waving on a tall pole to the left, and the stone steeple of a church topped with a cross to the right. The sky is a clear, deep blue. The text is overlaid on this image in a white, sans-serif font.

God Ties Righteousness to National Prosperity

- Proverbs 14:34 - Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people.



God Judges National Sin

- Jeremiah 12:17 (NIV) "But if any nation does not listen, I will completely uproot and destroy it," declares the LORD.
- We know about Sodom and Gomorrah, but there are many more...

Amos 1,2 – Some Nations that God Judged

- Syria: for their atrocities against Gilead
- Gaza and Tyre: deporting people to slavery
- Moab: for desecrating body of Edom's king
- Edom: for showing no compassion to Israel
- Ammon: for its atrocities
- Israel: oppressing poor and for sexual sins
- Judah: for rejecting God's laws and for lying



God Promises to Judge Fairly

- Nations reap what they sow: Galatians 6:7 - Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.
- Jeremiah 18 - 7 (NIV) If at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down and destroyed, 8 and if that nation I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned. 9 And if at another time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be built up and planted, 10 and if it does evil in my sight and does not obey me, then I will reconsider the good I had intended to do for it.



Nations Have Testimonies, Too

- Deuteronomy 4:6 - Observe them [God's laws] carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people."
- Proverbs 14:34 - Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people.



The Church is also a Nation

God took 'holy nation' status away from Israel:

- Matthew 21:43 (NIV) Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.
- Romans 10:19 (NIV) Again I ask: Did Israel not understand? First, Moses says, "I will make you envious by those who are not a nation; I will make you angry by a nation that has no understanding." {Deut. 32:21}

And God makes a new nation called the church

- I Peter 2:10 - Once you were not a people (laos=nation), but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

The Church is a Scattered Nation

- God is seeking some from every nation:
 - Acts 10:34-35 (NIV) Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism 35 but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right."
 - Acts 17:26-28 (NIV) From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. 27 God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. 28 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'
- Hence, the "salt of the earth"

The Church is a Holy Nation

- 1Pet 2:9-10 (NIV) But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.
10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.





The Church is Assembled in Revelation

- God will ultimately save some from every nation:
 - Revelation 5:9 (NIV) And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation."
 - Revelation 7:9 (NIV) After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.

Now is the Time of Gathering

- Matt 28:18-20 - Then Jesus came to them and said,
- “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.
- In your going, therefore, **make disciples of all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.
- And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”