

THE SLIPPERY SLOPE

They are a nation without sense.... If only they were wise and would understand this and discern what their end will be! (Deut. 32:28-29)

Before he died, Moses wrote a song for the people of Israel (see Deuteronomy 32). He wanted God's people to remember the past and anticipate the future. *The Song of Moses*, however, is not just for Israel. It is a reminder to all nations of the blessings that come to those who trust in God and the destruction that awaits those who don't.

*Jeshurun (Israel) grew fat and kicked;
Filled with food, he became heavy and sleek.
He abandoned the God who made him
and rejected the Rock his Savior....
The Lord saw this and rejected them.... "I will hide my face from them," (God) said,
"And see what their end will be...."
(vv. 15, 19-20).*

History is littered with the ruins of once great civilizations that prove the truth of Moses' song. From ancient Greece and Rome to the Soviet Union, nations that ignored God and refused to submit to his laws invariably found themselves on the slippery slope to oblivion. In his book, *When Nations Die* (Tyndale, 1994), author Jim Nelson Black identifies ten warning signs of a culture in crisis. These symptoms of cultural dysfunction are clear warnings that the foundations are crumbling. In sufficient combination, they announce that a civilization is on the eve of destruction.

1. An increase in lawlessness throughout the culture.
2. The loss of economic discipline and self-restraint.
3. Rising bureaucracy, government regulation and taxes.
4. A decline in the quality and relevance of education.
5. A weakening of the foundational principles that contributed to the greatness of the nation.
6. A loss of respect for traditions.
7. An increase in materialism
8. A rise in immorality.
9. The decay of religious belief and the lure of alien gods
10. A decline in the value of human life.

Sound familiar? Thankfully, the Bible contains more than warnings of coming judgment on those who turn their backs on God. It also reminds us of the coming revival on those who return to him! It is not too late. But America will not escape the fate of other empires by waiting for some government solution! The only way to move our Nation back from the brink is to follow the pattern laid down in II Chronicles 7:14.

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.