

Lesson Notes:

## **The Grapes of Wrath**

In the book of Leviticus God warned Moses what would occur if the children of Israel turned away from God and failed to keep his commandments. God deals with individual believers and nations in much the same way. Below is a discussion of the perils which befell Israel and the parallels with God and the United States.

### **Scriptural Principles**

#### **1) You shall not make idols and Graven Images**

In **Exodus 20:4-5** God tells us that we are to have no Gods before him. In **Matthew 4:10** Jesus rebuked Satan with these same words. And in **Leviticus 26:1** God warns Israel about graven images. In the United States we live in a nation of plenty. What do we focus on in our lives that takes precedent over God?

#### **2) You shall remember the Sabbath and Honor my Sanctuary**

In **Exodus 20:8** God tells Israel to honor his sanctuary and keep it holy. In **Mark 2:28** Jesus tells us that he is the Lord of the Sabbath. In **Leviticus 26:2** God tells the children of Israel to keep his Sabbaths. In Europe and in America we see the developing Apostasy as church attendance dwindles and the rise of Unitarianism and the New Age movement.

#### **3) If we keep his commandments he will**

- bless our harvest & provide safety
- he shall give us military victories and protect our land from war

God tells this to Moses in **Leviticus 26:3-13**. The Civil War was fought in large part over the slavery issue. Was this war fought on America soil the result of the sin of slavery in America?

#### **4) If we do not keep his commandments**

In **Exodus 20:12-18** God gives us the Ten Commandments. In **Leviticus 26:14-17** Israel was told that as a nation they will be defeated by their enemies if they do not keep these commandments. America certainly was not successful in Vietnam. Could this have been God's retribution for sin in America (Removal of prayer and the 10 Commandments from our schools, Rowe vs.Wade)?

#### **5) Further Retribution.**

In **Leviticus 26:18-22** God tells the nation of Israel that their roads will be desolate for continued rebellion against his commandments. Will America's high gas prices lead to desolate highways?

#### **6) Your cities will be waste**

In **Leviticus 26:33** God tells the nation of Israel that prolonged sin will result in her cities laid to be waste. Could Hurricane Katrina be a result of America's decline of morality?

**7) If we repent**

In **Leviticus 26:40-42, 46** God tells the nation of Israel that if they repent and turn from their wickedness he will remember his covenant with them. Could the same be true for the United States?