

# The King's Highway

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### WORLD CONDITIONS ARE A MORAL AND SPIRITUAL ISSUE—NOT A POLITICAL ONE

By James DeForest Murch

Evangelical Christians are bound to be deeply concerned about the present world conflict. We cannot, ostrich-like, put our heads in the sand and ignore the storm.

We are citizens of two worlds. While we owe primary obedience to the Kingdom of God, we cannot take lightly our obligations to earthly governments. Our Lord made it clear that we should render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's as well as unto God the things that are God's. And the Apostle Paul admonishes us to be subject to the higher powers rendering to governments proper tribute, custom, fear and honor, while remembering that there is no power but of God.

The present situation is one of change and transition. Within the lifetime of most of us we have witnessed the destruction of practically all the traditional dynasties of Europe and Asia. America, a comparatively young nation, has been catapulted by world events into dominant political and economic leadership only to have that leadership challenged and threatened by the grim menace of Red Communism and the even younger nation of Soviet Russia. Despite efforts for world security through the League of Nations and the United Nations mankind finds itself being drawn into a maelstrom of destruction the like of which history has never known.

#### World Leaders Without Spiritual and Moral Compass

Under such circumstances Christians are forced to realize more than ever before that God, His law and His judgments are supreme and determinative in the affairs of men and nations. Those who ignore or oppose God are doomed to destruction. Christians are beginning to understand that national and international goals of brotherhood, freedom, prosperity, security and peace will never be achieved apart from the counsel of God. It is only when "righteousness shall cover the earth as the waters cover the sea" that "swords shall be beaten into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks" and man shall not make war any more.

Our attitude toward specific problems in the present world conflict should be determined by that basis consideration. The international situation is primarily a moral and religious situation, not a social, economic or political one. The reason our world leaders are in such a state of confusion, drifting hopelessly, is because they are without moral or religious compass, sextant or map and have no

deep, unshakable convictions as to what is right or wrong.

When World War II was fought, Christian Americans were led to believe that it was a holy crusade against godless totalitarianism for the preservation of our God-given liberties. Yet, through immoral diplomacy, it eventuated in the preservation and the perpetuation of the most godless and dangerous totalitarian government the world has ever seen.

#### Tampering with God's Moral and Spiritual Law

Still talking in terms of freedom and security these same diplomats summoned the nations to San Francisco to lay the ground work for the United Nations. Those who came represented a curious hodgepodge of godless totalitarian states and more or less God-fearing democracies. To placate the godless and the heathen, God was ignored. By the same token there was no diplomatic stand on the basic law of God. From the very inception of the U. N., violations of that law were condoned, despite the fact that history has proven over and over again that there can be no peace or security under such circumstances.

This society of nations was mutually pledged to protect and preserve the security of all regardless of their attitude toward God and His righteous law.

As a result of all this trifling with moral and religious principle we are now rushing headlong into World War III. The stage set for the conflict reveals the opposing forces as godless totalitarianism, led by atheistic Russia and the more or less God-fearing democracies, led by America.

#### Righteousness Exalteth a Nation

Had world leadership come to America some three or four generations ago, Christians could have had greater faith in her ability to lead the nations to victory. Until the latter part of the 19th century Americans guarded as their most precious treasure the heritage of Christian conviction and high moral principle which distinguished her leadership in the decades following the Revolution. There is now a moral weakness at the nation's heart. An idealism founded on "liberalism," materialism and secularism has robbed us of our virtue.

It is righteousness, truth, honor, and Christian ideals which give strength and pride to a free people and which steel their will to adequate defense. These are not present in much of the leadership in Washington or in our educational, religious, industrial, social or political structure across the nation. In fact, the same basic materialistic philosophy of life which is held by the men of the Kremlin pervades our high places. Though we profess a

different political and social doctrine, our heart is not right with God. And what is true of America is true to an even greater degree of her allies.

#### Render Unto Caesar the Things that are Caesar's, and Unto God the Things that are His

As Christian citizens it is our duty to work assiduously for a just and durable peace based on a strict adherence to the law of God. We must oppose all compromise with the godless Marxist philosophy of society and government. The time has come to demand that America break off diplomatic relations with all aggressively atheistic nations and refuse to negotiate further with godless elements in the United Nations. We should oppose economic and political imperialism wherever we find it. We should be alert to discover the spirit of Anti-Christ, especially in all organizations and devices which call for centralized international authority, and resist the very appearance of Babylonish world order. We should prepare to defend our God-given liberties and those of every God-fearing nation against the threats and onslaughts of the enemy.

It may be that there are still enough righteous men in the free nations to withstand the Red hordes of Russia and her satellites but the outlook is dark.

It is entirely possible that the real hope of the world lies in the prayers of evangelical Christians and their zeal to evangelize the lost; that there is more strength and security to be found in a return to God than in all the A-bombs, guns and armament that we may amass.

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing; our Helper He amid the flood, of mortal ills prevailing."—United Evangelical Action.

The law of sacrifice is the greatest law in earth and heaven. The law of sacrifice is God's great law. God gave Himself in His Son. "God so loved the world that He gave." He gave His only begotten Son. He loved until He gave all. Sacrifice is the law of Christ. He came through God's sacrifice and He came to sacrifice. His whole life was a continual refusing of Himself.

Sacrifice is the law of Christianity. It is the law of the saint. From the beginning it has been so. It was on Mt. Moriah where Abraham gave up his Isaac. Sacrifice reached its climax on Mount Calvary. Sacrifice is opposite to Selfishness. It is—"Not I, but Christ." Not only your old Self but the new man with all his self-assertion, egotism and self-confidence must die. Not only Ishmael must go out and be an outcast but Isaac must be yielded.—A. B. Simpson.