

## **Pluck-off The Stars, Preserve The States**

The progress of history has clearly indicated to us: “Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.” (Proverbs 14:34) The abundance of sin attracts destruction. This is a self-evident truth. Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome went down the path of destruction as a result of despising God; greed, flagrant transgression, brutal conquest and invasion eventually lead to destruction. I’m hoping the United States of America (USA) would reduce its errant and sinful acts, maintain peace and be exalted.

Human civilisation started with a common interest in star gazing at the faraway galaxy with the aspiration to understand. From Babylon to the South American Maya and Chinese civilisations, much were recorded about the galaxy; and apparently the construction and facing of the Egyptian pyramids were also star centric.

Closer to us, the study of the society and research on systems is about 200 years. As for the research on psychology it’s barely 100 plus years.

Recently with the rapid advancement of science and technology, man again started to gaze at and ponder about the vast universe, followed by attempted exploration. As for those stars trillion of miles away from our galaxy, may I boldly say, it’s simply out of reach.

Ancient cities, not equipped with effective public lighting system, were excellent for star gazing and tracking, not surprisingly astrological ideas flourished then.

Ancient Chinese believed historical heroes were stars which descended to mortal realm with noble missions and faded to anonymity when missions were fulfilled. It’s metaphorical, for we know the number of stars did not alter by any count.

Stars, are looked upon as glorious, and at times worshipped.

The brilliant morning stars usher the rise of the righteous sun and fade away without a flash.

How you are fallen from heaven,  
    O Day Star, son of Dawn!  
How you are cut down to the ground,  
    you who laid the nations low!  
You said in your heart,  
    ‘I will ascend to heaven;  
above the stars of God

I will set my throne on high;  
I will sit on the mount of assembly  
in the far reaches of the north;  
I will ascend above the heights of the clouds;  
I will make myself like the Most High.'

(Isaiah 14:12-14)

Babylon, the glorious “golden head”, God granted it unchallenged power as an admonishment to a rebellious kingdom, but it aspired to rise to the heavens, it wanted to be God and pressed on with its proud, boastful and bloody conquests. Although it did not shout, “Babylon, number one!” but its heart whispered. God had the final say.

The national flag of the USA, crammed full of stars, 50 to be exact, is the ugliest flag of all flags.

The most logical design should be the original 13 horizontal stripes and 13 stars, rich with historical meaning, faith and aspiration. Additional star? One star for one immigrant group, more than sufficient. In fact, it's not necessary.

Why are there so many stars? It's because a star represents a state, with every new state a star is added. Hence, the many stars is actually a testament to its history of invasion, a record of brutality, nothing to be proud of. Invade to expand is evil, shameful in fact. Soon Puerto Rico would be added; Saipan, Guam, Ryukyu... and more would be lining up and asking for inclusion; who knows maybe even Ukraine would too! What in the world would this lead to?

Banners are symbols of inclusion and belonging. In the bible: “Now in the days of Ahasuerus, the Ahasuerus who reigned from India to Ethiopia over 127 provinces” (Esther 1:1). The Persia Empire was expansive and wide, the tyrant Persian king, brutal, conceited though unlearned, also did not cram the Persian flag with 127 stars!

In our current times, the European Union flag is decorated with 12 stars, no addition nor reduction of stars with subsequent inclusion and withdrawal of countries. Flags denote ideological aspiration; the number of stars is symbolic, nothing more.

But, the arrogant and uninformed boasted: “America First!” Out of the 200 or so countries in this world, not less than 127 countries are oppressed by USA. USA, just like the fading United Kingdom, is oppressing neighbouring states and territories as if they are one of its

states. The slogan “America Only!” is a slogan of disguised extortion and coercion, financially and via weaponry. A moral disgrace!

Mexico, south of USA, with mild and peaceful residents, naturally became a target of exploitation. Much of Mexico territory was siphoned away – Texas is the largest piece of loot; Nevada is a gamble stake; California became Baja California, a pitiful little tail; saddest is New Mexico, the former owner is now outside the high erected wall! As for the native residents - the American Indigenous Indians - what has become of them? The land they had inhabited for hundreds of years, was snatched from them, now they barely live like prisoners on restricted designated territories. Why not add hundreds more stars to record this brutal subjugation? “They glory in their shame” (Philippians 3:19), that’s what it is.

Once in a while a competent government came along to black the red overspent budget with relatively peaceful internal and external policies. The best is in 1993, USA apologised to the Native Hawaiian people for annexing Hawaii as part of USA’s territory by killing, snatching and robbing the people of their freedom, only short of reversing history and returning the land and freedom to the Hawaiians. As for Philippines, other countries and territories, the humiliation, brutality and killing were never mentioned nor acknowledged. By the grace of our Lord, USA has been given time to right its wrongs, before its final destruction.

Into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we witnessed instances of dubious quality candidates being elected, short-sighted and questionable policies implemented, disgraceful wars fought for no justifiable reasons, there are ample warnings from God above. My hope is for those in power to pause and reflect, repent and recalibrate the steps forward, halt the production of weapons of mass destruction, stop instigating wars and hatred for selfish gains and benefits. The return of annexed territories would take some time, but at least take the first step to remove the extra stars from the national flag, return to the original 13-star flag which denotes honesty and compassion, then progressively return occupied territories, liberate the oppressed citizens and compensate the affected accordingly and justly. Hopefully God will be merciful to not bring forth the like of destruction of Babylon onto the land.

It's my hope that God-loving citizens who treasure their countries and people based on justice, righteousness and mercy, stop blasting empty human rights rhetoric but really start protecting and upholding human

rights, practice truth, sincerely humble themselves and repent. Remove the excessive stars, revert to the original 13-star-and-stripe flag, reinstitute faith; be self-independent, allow others to be independent and uphold world peace. Hopefully this could circumvent the wrath of God and bring blessings to the country.

Some may view the above as wishful thinking, senseless talk and mindless babbles; truth is I've penned this message for the followers of Christ after prayers, sincere washing of hands, with wholehearted and careful thoughts and reflection.

In the holy name of Jesus Christ, I pass on this message, and sincerely hope all followers of Christ be watchful, pass on and practice this message. Amen.

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