

Moving The Ancient Boundaries

Text : **Proverbs 22: 28 , Jeremiah 6: 8-20**

INTRODUCTION :

A. Every Generation is certain the world is falling apart. (*Sometimes it was.*)

1. "The Earth is degenerating today. Bribery and corruption abound. Children no longer obey their parents, every man wants to write a book, and it is evident that the end of the world is fast approaching."
 - a. Who do you think penned this quote ?
 - b. When would you say this was written ?
 - c. It came from an ancient Assyrian tablet written in 2800 B.C.
2. I see no hope for the future of our people if they are dependent on the frivolous youth of today, for certainly all youth are reckless beyond words. When I was a boy, we were taught to be discrete and respectful of elders, but the present youth are exceedingly wise and impatient of restraint.
 - a. This is a much more modern quot.
 - b. It was written by Hesiod in the Eighth Century B.C.
 - c. Hesiod was a Greek oral poet thought to have been active between 750 and 650 B

** Even though this is typical of the older generation ... great nations crumble from within.*

B. It is typical of youth to think they are the all-wise, the be-all, and the end-all.

1. Young people don't have enough life experience to realize the consequences of that will result from their desires.
2. Whatever they feel, they feel it strongly. (*Desire to possess, Passion, Fear*)

C. Because their desire is strong, youth hates to be denied anything they want.

1. Because their desire is so strong, they feel every desire is a need.
2. Thus, (*in their eyes*) no limitation can be justified .. how can their "need" be denied

D. THEREFORE ... boundaries are essential for young people and also for the old.

1. We all need boundaries to keep us from going astray.
2. It is human nature to test the boundaries. (*If they don't exist, they keep on going.*)
3. Boundaries provide security. (*They know when they are within area of approval.*)

E. The socialization process involved teaching young people and old alike :

1. To recognize the boundaries. (*Children who grow up w/o boundaries stay that way*)
2. We have not properly taught our young to accept and respect the boundaries.

I. Boundaries are essential to the smooth operation of all aspects of society.**A. The United States has fought wars to establish its borders.**

1. We fought the war of 1812 to establish our northern border.
2. We fought the Mexican War in 1846-1848 to establish the southern border.

B. One state or another was in court over border disputes for at least 100 years.

1. The dispute between North & South Carolina resolved in 1815.
2. The dispute between New Jersey & Delaware wasn't settled until 1934.

C. There is no end to the disputes between land owners over property lines.

1. A man we knew in Ohio sold his house and lot, but it was discovered that his neighbor's garage was partially on his lot.
2. Farmers in Kentucky were constantly in court disputing boundaries because the original deeds were written with physical descriptions rather than surveys.

D. We can't even play sports without boundaries.

1. The rule book establishes boundaries.
 - a. All of the players agree on the same boundaries ... rules.
 - b. The game can only be played if everyone respects the rules.
2. There are referees to make sure that everyone obeys the rules. (*respects boundaries*)
 - a. No one agrees with all of their calls, but everyone yields to them.
 - b. Sandlot games very often end in disputes because of unclear boundaries.

E. Currently in the U.S.A., our society is undergoing major stress because some are changing the rules and others are resisting. (*but not enough*)

1. Our constitution establishes a set of boundaries.
 - a. It establishes that our government must "*provide for the common defense.*"
 - b. Aside from requiring defense, it restricts what the government can do to us.
2. Our nation is unique in history.
 - a. It was founded by Christian men who came seeking the right to worship God.
 - b. It's founding documents were written by Christian men, mostly preachers.
 - c. They wrote the basic moral code of Christianity into the founding documents.
3. In the early years of our country, congress authorized a bible "*for use in schools.*"
4. The building that was used by the congress was also used as a church on Sundays.
 - a. From 1793 until at least 1867 (*Pres. Thomas Jefferson attended every week.*)

- b. In 1865 the first black preacher preached there. (*Preached the bible to congress.*)
- c. In 1867 there were in excess of 2000 people worshipping there.

F. Now men are moving those ancient boundaries. (*Christian orientation disappearing*)

- 1. Prayer was at the heart of our founding, but not it is out of our schools, public view.
- 2. The reading of the bible was once required school reading, but is now forbidden.
- 3. Many schools once taught the Ten Commandments; now they're forbidden in public.

II. It behooves all Christians to defend God's ancient markers / boundaries.

A. All of God's children are commanded to seek out the true paths and follow them.

- 1. **Jer. 6:16** Thus says the LORD, "Stand by the ways and see and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; and you will find rest for your souls. But they said, 'We will not walk *in it*.'"
- 2. The entire theme of the book of Jeremiah is to call the nation back to the standard.

B. John the baptizer lost his head because he called the king back to the standard.

- 1. **Mark 6 : 12-29** .. King Herod had John's head removed because he preached truth.
- 2. It was not lawful for one man to take another man's wife just because he wanted her.
- 3. It **still** isn't lawful and men **still** don't want to hear it.

C. Jesus called the leaders of His nation back to the standard. (*replace the markers*)

- 1. **Matt. 5: 21- 22** You have heard that the ancients were told, 'You shall not commit murder' and 'Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.' **22** But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, 'You good-for-nothing,' shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, 'You fool,' shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell.
- 2. **Matt. 5: 27-28** You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery'; **28** but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

D. Apostle Paul called Felix, the Roman procurator of Judaea, back to the standard.

Acts 24: 25 – But as he was discussing righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix became frightened and said, "Go away for the present, and when I find time I will summon you."

- * We must be calling others back .. **Matt. 5: 14ff** .. Light dispels darkness.
Jesus declared that we are a light that must not be hidden. (*Not silenced voice*)

E. Christians do not fight with weapons or rebel against the government, but we dare not refuse to stand up for the standards that God has set.

1. **John 18: 36** – Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm.”
2. **Eph. 6: 10-17 (esp. 17)** Christians are armed for a spiritual battle and sent out to take territory for the kingdom of God.
 - a. **Eph. 6:17** – And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.
 - b. A sword is an offensive weapon.
“The sword of the Lord is not for spreading butter.” We use truth against evil.
3. Even bad government is of God so Christians do not rebel against the government.
 - a. **Rom. 13: 1-2** Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. ² Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves.
 - b. This isn’t to say that everything a government does is sanctioned by God. (**Amos**)
4. Being respectful and submissive to the government does not mean unquestioned obedience to every law. **No government can require you to sin against God.**
 - a. No person has the right to pick and choose which laws he likes to obey.
Our opinion does not count. God ordains it; we obey it.
 - b. *Christians submitted even to martyrdom, but they ran when they could.* (**Acts 8**)
5. **HOWEVER** ... When ordered to do so the apostles refused to stop proclaiming truth.
 - a. **Acts 5: 29** – Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men.
 - b. Even those Christians who fled for their lives did not stop proclaiming truth.
Acts 8: 4 – Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word.

F. God did not present this to us as an option ... it is a command.

1. **Matt. 28: 19** – ... Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, ...
2. **Mark 16: 15** – Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.
3. One’s relationship with God is directly correlated with his obeying His commands.
 - a. **John 14: 15** – If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. (**15:14** .. friend)
 - b. John preached this link his entire ministry.
I John 5: 2-3 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. ³ For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdens....

III. The kingdom of God in the U.S.A. is under strong attack by the forces of Satan.**A. This nation was founded by Christians for Christians, but we are presently being pushed out and made second class citizens.**

1. We have been kicked out of our own public schools. (*Not even holidays*)
2. Our military chaplains are being forbidden to pray in Jesus name.
3. The Ten Commandments are no longer supposed to be publically displayed.
4. Their stated goal is to first get us completely out of public view and then gone.

B. For more than 50 yrs. they have been working on our children.

1. They started at the college level and are working their way down.
2. By starting at the college level, they were able to groom a generation of leaders.
 - a. Teachers are directed by administrators who believe religion to be foolishness.
 - b. Increasing numbers of teachers believe religion is foolishness and teach that.
 - c. Consequently, the official curriculum teacher our children that religion is a myth.
3. A homeschooling mother was forced to send her children to a school when she refused to teach the unproven theories of evolution and of “the big bang.”
 - a. She was ridiculed for teaching her children “myths” instead of “real science.”
 - b. With financial assistance, she sent them to a private religious school where creation was taught and the ACLU tried to force that school to teach the “state approved” science curriculum. (*ACLU is a bully and we are letting them.*)

C. They’ve controlled our media ever since it became readily accessible to masses.

1. Programming is specifically designed to promote their immoral view of society.
2. Successful actors often refuse roles if they have no “social significance.” (agenda)
 - a. Advocating the acceptance of immoral and degenerate behavior.
 - b. Advocating that we must accept “alternate lifestyles.”
3. Children’s programming presents mystical characters as correlations to God.
 - a. Superheroes with magical powers.
 - b. Characters who are suppose to be gods and goddesses who can give powers.

D. The civil authorities are increasingly hostile toward Christian values.

1. The wholesale murder of children still in the womb subsidized and protected.
 - a. *The most dangerous place in this entire country is a mother’s womb.*
 - b. They are now killing children even after they are born. (*What is next ?*)

2. With the increased cost of medical care, discussion of euthanasia is in progress.
 - a. Terminally ill patients will soon be given the option of “assisted suicide.”
 - b. The new healthcare bill starts limiting healthcare to seniors as they age.
3. Perverted sexual practices are being promoted in schools and by laws. (ACLU)
 - a. Most TV series have perverts and same sex couples in the cast of characters.
 - b. There is an attempt to redefine marriage as any union between people “in love.”
 Definition: **marriage** : *the state of being united to a person of the opposite sex as husband or wife in a consensual and contractual relationship recognized by law.*
How can two people of the same sex form a relationship that is “opposite sex ?”
4. By actual statistics show that in some areas divorce is more common than marriage.
 - a. Few couple who get married still view it as a lifelong commitment.
 - b. Many couples choose to just live together without being married. (*life about sex*)

IV. Christians must fight back against the savage attack.

A. Christians must repent and get back in the fight. No war is won on defense !!!

1. We have retreated into the walls of our church buildings like retreating to a fort.
2. We wring our hands and lament at the condition while being defeated by attrition.
3. Churches all over this country are dwindling or turning into entertainment centers.

B. Increasingly congregations have come to view themselves as a denomination.

1. Increasing numbers of Christians are so in love with the things of this world that they no longer recognize the old markers. (*We've fit in rather than remain aliens.*)
2. Some Christians now go to other religious organizations as if they were the church.

CONCLUSION :

A. We must wake up and begin crying out before it is too late.

1. Our children and grand children are victims in this war. *And judgment is coming.*
2. When our nation is judged, we won't escape !! *Our grandchildren won't escape.*

B. Are you “vexed” by all of the unrighteousness surrounding us ? Speak out !!

1. Lot was vexed, but he still lost his whole family.
2. We must live in this world, but we must build the community between ourselves.
3. We must be assertive in speaking out against evil. (*TV, gov. reps., neighbors, all*)

Lesson Texts :**Jeremiah 6: 8-20**

8 “Be warned, O Jerusalem, Or I shall be alienated from you,
And make you a desolation, A land not inhabited.”

9 Thus says the LORD of hosts, “They will thoroughly glean as the vine the remnant of Israel; Pass your hand again like a grape gatherer Over the branches. **10** To whom shall I speak and give warning That they may hear? Behold, their ears are closed and they cannot listen. Behold, the word of the LORD has become a reproach to them; They have no delight in it. **11** But I am full of the wrath of the LORD; I am weary with holding *it* in. Pour *it* out on the children in the street And on the gathering of young men together; For both husband and wife shall be taken, The aged and the very old. **12** Their houses shall be turned over to others, Their fields and their wives together; For I will stretch out My hand against the inhabitants of the land,” declares the LORD. **13** For from the least of them even to the greatest of them, everyone is greedy for gain, And from the prophet even to the priest everyone deals falsely. **14** They have healed the brokenness of My people superficially, Saying, ‘Peace, peace,’ But there is no peace. **15** Were they ashamed because of the abomination they have done? They were not even ashamed at all; They did not even know how to blush. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; at the time that I punish them, They shall be cast down,” says the LORD.

16 Thus says the LORD, “Stand by the ways and see and ask for the ancient paths, Where the good way is, and walk in it; and you will find rest for your souls. But they said, ‘We will not walk *in it*.’ **17** And I set watchmen over you, *saying*, ‘Listen to the sound of the trumpet!’ But they said, ‘We will not listen.’ **18** Therefore hear, O nations, And know, O congregation, what is among them. **19** Hear, O earth: behold, I am bringing disaster on this people, the fruit of their plans, because they have not listened to My words, and as for My law, they have rejected it also. **20** For what purpose does frankincense come to Me from Sheba and the sweet cane from a distant land? Your burnt offerings are not acceptable and your sacrifices are not pleasing to Me.”

Proverbs 22: 28

Do not move the ancient boundary which your fathers have set.

Authorizing of Bible

The entire Congressional resolution reads as follows: "Whereupon, Resolved, That the United States in Congress assembled, highly approve the pious and laudable undertaking of Mr. Aitken, as subservient to the interests of religion as well as an instance of the progress of arts in this country, and being satisfied from the above (chaplain's) report, of his care and accuracy in the execution of the work, they recommend this edition of the Bible to the inhabitants of the United States, and hereby authorize him to publish this recommendation in the manner he shall think proper."

ACLU

Established in 1920 by Roger Nash Baldwin

Self acknowledge Communist

He wrote book glorifying the Soviet Union as "a shining beacon of human rights."

He became disillusioned with the Soviets under Stalin.

In 1940 another member of the board was expelled for being a communist.

The original purpose was to seek the repeal of the "Sedition Acts"

The organization grew significantly under his successor.