

I think that is important and we realize that God has a purpose for each of us. We should fulfill that purpose, and whether we have or not, He knows we do not. But we can judge our motives. We can see what objectives we are working for.

Now as I thought about this passage and thought about this truth the thought occurred to me it would not be at all improper to consider if it might be applied to a nation as well as to a person. A nation tries to get ahead, tries to accomplish, tries to become something tremendous. And then the end. No nation has lasted very long in the whole history of the world.

I think of my own ancestors living up there in Scotland. There in Scotland living up in the hills, living in a way that most of us would think to be the most abject poverty -- but they didn't know enough to realize it was poverty -- they felt very comfortable. Their plans flocked the one with the other. They tried to make a living out of the area there. The English decided they wanted to conquer Scotland. They sent armies there, and the Scotch fought them back time after time, and time after time the English would win the great battles, but they could not hold the Scotch in subjection. They would retire into their mountain fastnesses, and then when most of the English troops went away they would come out and massacre the ones that were left, and they would be free again. Finally the English thought --- I don't know whether the English thought of it or whether it was accident but a very clever thing occurred -- a Scotch kind was invited to become king of England. So King James left Scotland and moved down to London and became king of both countries. After 100 years the people got so used to it they passed a law uniting them into one nation. But still they have different laws even to this day.

The Scotch nation died as a nation and became just a part of the British empire, even though I had an Englishman tell me what a sorrow it was in his family when his daughter married a horrible(?) Scotchman. The feeling was same among many of the people of Scotland. Nations rise and fall. In the case of just every one of them until our Lord comes, the time comes when God says, Soul thou hast much goods laid up for many years. Some may have and some may not have, but they probably all think they have. At least they have a great tradition laid up that is worth keeping. Thou hast laid up much goods for many years. Thou fool this night thy soul shall be required of thee. Then whose shall these things be which thou hast provided.?

We in the U.S.A. like to think of our nation as something that is unique. Certainly it is something that is unique in history so far as material progress is concerned. The way our nation is constituted most of us don't realize the progress that we have made. Conditions change so gradually and we get used to things. When I was a boy, our family had electric lights in the house but we were the only ones on the block that did. My father was a physician and he was able to afford electric lights. But all the other houses on the block had kerosene lamps and if you did not get that turned just right or if a little breeze came in the smoke would come up and cover the glass with blackness and you would have to take another one or spend some time fixing that one up!