



table talk

7/5/26

"When A Nation Forgets God"

About 15 years ago our bookstore bought a copy of a book for every member of the Christian Life Family. The book had rattled me to my core, and I asked everyone who was willing to pick up a free copy and read it, preferably on our knees!

The book is titled *When A Nation Forgets God: 7 Lessons We Must Learn from Nazi Germany*. The author is Erwin Lutzer who is now Pastor Emeritus of Moody Church in Chicago.

He cites seven similar trends that were beginning to emerge in American Culture in 2010 that were also manifested in Germany before World War II.

(Disclaimer: Lutzer is not anti-American on any level. He is not a doomsday proponent or a crazed zealot. He is a proven pastor, and student of history and theology. Pastor Lutzer loves God and is not afraid to ask difficult questions.)

Some of his observations were not as obvious in 2010 as they are now. I recently re-read the book as part of my intercessory prayer time, and I believe much of what he wrote in 2010 is now understood to have been prophetic. In fact, it may have affected me as much on my third reading as during my first.

Let me give a little background so you can understand my perspective. In 1995 or so (I'd have to dig through my journals to find the exact date), the Holy Spirit gave me a prophetic encounter (lets call it a vision) that I believe was significant for America and the Church in America. Space will not allow me to go into detail, but the last and shortest part of the vision took me to a place I recognized in New York City. It was a location I had visited just months before. As I stood in front of this place of business the scene shifted from present day to what

I instinctively knew was the late 1930s (the time of the Great Depression and just before World War II). In another part of the vision, the year 1938 was on a calendar. As the surroundings seemed to roll back to another era, the countenance of the man with whom I was conversing changed to an expression of anger and maliciousness. I was stunned, because before he was like his surroundings – “as American as apple pie.”

His thoughts became clear to me. He was angry because of “THOSE JEWS!”

Then I believe the Spirit spoke to me and said essentially these words: “The spirit of anti-semitism that fueled the war in Europe is alive and well and gaining strength even in America.”

As I prayed over this later I heard: “Pray and watch. Remember that a day is coming in which love will grow cold because iniquity will abound. The Anti-Christ spirit will try to wear down the Saints of God.”

I’m embarrassed to say that my first response was a combination of faith and great doubt. I did not tell anybody for a long time because I didn’t think the spirit I saw coming upon us in that dream and vision was possible. Not here! Not in America! Fast forward to 2012-2026. I was proved wrong. Everything that was encapsulated in that prophetic experience has sprouted.

Lutzer details seven things that almost always occurs when a nation forgets God.

- 1. When God is separated from government, judgment follows.**
- 2. The economy suffers or even collapses.**
- 3. Things long recognized as evil suddenly become legal.**
- 4. The propaganda machine peddles lies.**
- 5. The government, not the parents, become responsible for a child’s training.**
- 6. God will raise up heroes...and martyrs.**
- 7. The church is faced with a choice – who is Lord?**

I’d like to share those things in detail during the next few Table Talks.

I love you,
Pastor Stephen