

**NEWS AND VIEWS**  
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*“Southern Baptists with the Full  
Gospel for the Whole World”*

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There are some scenes that are deeply engraved in my memory bank. As the smoke billowed out of the Twin Towers in New York City that September morning of 2001, I could not get my mind around what my eyes were seeing. As the towers began to crumble and crash, I was watching destruction on a satanic scale. In the days to follow, spiritual leaders warned of God removing his protective shield over America. As they said these things, scoffers scoffed and mockers mocked. And at that gigantic killing ground in the most powerful city of the most powerful nation in the world, signs of life were few. For our nation, the realization that we were not invincible began to sink in. Today I see a nation of people who are living in fear, unrest, and uncertainty. And I'm looking into the eyes of many of God's people. 911 is not just a phone number you dial when you are in trouble and need help...it is a date engraved in our psyche.

Some of these words are borrowed from the May 2012 newsletter that are worthy of reprinting in my opinion. During the years prior to 911 and the years since, our descent into a place of judgment has continued and accelerated. We are living in a land that has lost its blessing. Hear once again the word of the Lord.

*Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom He has chosen for His own inheritance. The LORD looks from heaven; He sees all the sons of men; From His dwelling place He looks out on all the inhabitants of the earth, He who fashions the hearts of them all, He who understands all their works. The king is not saved by a mighty army; a warrior is not delivered by great strength. A horse is false hope for victory; nor does it deliver anyone by its great strength. Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him, on those who hope for His lovingkindness, to deliver their soul from death and to keep them alive in famine.*  
(Psalms 33:12-18)

Only a few short years later, the campaign slogans of men who would be kings have resonated with many in our land. But the words *we can make America great again* only echo the sentiment of hollowed out nationalistic pride and mirror the pride of the natural human heart. As a nation, we have sung the refrain of *America the Beautiful* in the words... “God shed His grace on thee...” while hardly stopping to consider the grace of God that has been shed on our nation. We have sowed rebellion and pride and the crop is bearing fruit but not the kind anyone had ever imagined. We are in trouble...it's time for another MAYDAY message from us to God. We need to be delivered...we need to be protected...the enemy of our souls is in the midst of us.

Israel knew all about living under God's protective custody. When they would stray from worship of the Living God Jehovah and begin to serve idols of their own making, their habitation would become such a terrible place to live that the people would cry out to God to deliver them. Many times God would have mercy on His chosen people. The cry to be delivered is something He has always wanted to hear from the people He had chosen. God yearns for His people to realize that He is always enough for them. The goal of any chosen people should be to choose to serve the one who has saved them and blessed them. So let us examine ourselves and see who or what it is that we worship and choose to serve. Consider the following proclamation:

**THE BLESSINGS OF A BLESSED NATION BEGIN WITH A GOD...**

**...WHO CHOOSES THEM.** ...*the people whom He has chosen for His own inheritance.*

**...WHO SEES THEM.** *The LORD looks from heaven; He sees all the sons of men.*

**...WHO DELIVERS THEM.** ...*to deliver their soul from death and to keep them alive in famine.*

**... WHO IS TO BE FEARED AND WORSHIPPED.** ...*the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him.*

It is time we repeat this message of repentance...it is time once again for this **MAYDAY** Message:

**Have mercy on us Lord...we repent...please deliver us and restore us according to Your purpose.**

**MAYDAY!! MAYDAY!! We are going down...But You, Oh Lord, are the One who can save...**

Blessings to you,  
Pastor Sam