

A Declaration of Dependence

Proverbs 14:34 & Jeremiah 18:1-10

📖 Proverbs 14:34 (NIV) "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people."

Righteousness lifts a nation.

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1. Righteousness is not legislated.
2. Righteousness is not inherited.
3. Righteousness is not earned.
4. Righteousness is only imputed.

📖 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV) "God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God."

📖 Ephesians 2:8–9 (NIV) "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast."

Sin disgraces a nation.

📖 Proverbs 14:34 (NIV) "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people."

📖 Proverbs 13:6 (GNB) "Righteousness protects the innocent; wickedness is the downfall of sinners."

Repentance revives a nation.

📖 2 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV) "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

📖 Jeremiah 18:1–10 (NIV) "This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: ² "Go down to the potter's house, and there I will give you my message." ³ So I went down to the potter's house, and I saw him working at the wheel. ⁴ But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him. ⁵ Then the word of the Lord came to me: ⁶ "O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter does?" declares the Lord. "Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. ⁷ If at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down and destroyed, ⁸ and if that nation I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned. ⁹ And if at another time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be built up and planted, ¹⁰ and if it does evil in my sight and does not obey me, then I will reconsider the good I had intended to do for it."

1. God will lead us if we will listen to Him. (1-2)
2. God will use something familiar to teach us something new. (3-6)
3. God will mold us into something beautiful and useful. (4-6)
4. God will alter His response depending on what we do. (7-10)

Hands on Application: Get alone with God and play with the playdough. Where is God leading you? Are you as pliable in God's hands as the playdough is in your hands? What does God want to make out of your mess? What does God want to use you to do?

