

## **Build your house, build a curse**

The American dream has turned into the American nightmare.

When the first few generations of Saxon Christian Europeans arrived to North America during the colonial period they saw this continent as a place where they could advance the Kingdom of God, praise the Savior Jesus Christ in peace without tyrants arresting them for it, and provide a wonderful house and home for their families. That was, and still should be, a noble idea. But above their desire for each family to own their private land and do well with it they realized one thing. Namely, they knew from having to fight for Christian liberty and succeeding only after much prayer and sacrifice, that all they had came from God. They placed Him first beyond all other heart felt ambitions, even above their very homes.

Now – fast forward to the years just after World War II as we witness a change in the generations of Americans of the 1950's through today.

The Christian sacrifice of being diligent for liberty to secure a safe home residence has been corrupted into a competitive lust to forget God and satisfy a compulsion to have a nicer home than one's family members and neighbors. This is the classic example of taking a good blessing from God and trashing it into the dung heap of material obsession. And along with this attitude we see America fast going down the drain on all fronts. But it had been done before in the history of our people and the Bible tells us what God thinks about it.

In the Old Testament book of Haggai when God's house of worship was in disrepair we see that the people were very much energetic to build and adorn beautiful houses of their own.

Yahweh God said to them through the prophet Haggai, *“Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, while this house (of mine) lies in ruins?”* *“Consider your ways on what has come of you. You have sown much but reap little; you eat but don't have enough; he who earns wages has earned them to put them in a bag with holes.”* (Haggai 1:3-6)

Why did this lot fall upon them? God said it was because they forgot God's House and the truth of worship seeing that *“My House lies in waste while each man runs to his own house eager to build and adorn it”* (Haggai 1:9) Surely while the community forgot God the wives were nagging their husbands for “nicer homes” and the men were bragging in town that they each had a better camel than the other fellow parked in the driveway.

But they had “house built” themselves right into a curse. The Almighty told them because of their lust for gilded houses which they put ahead of God *“Therefore the heavens above you withhold the dew, and the earth withholds its produce. And I have called for a drought upon the land and the hill country – and upon all the wearisome toil of men's hands.”* (Haggai 1:10,11) Today, the New Testament House of God is to be a faithful believer in Jesus Christ. We are His “body” and “house” (I Corinthians 3:16; Hebrews 3:6) But the present generation of Americans have become a forgetful bunch and seemingly haven't learned from Scripture history. Putting efforts into a model home before solidifying “God's House” spells disaster.