

Stop, Start, Stay!

THE SEQUENCE FOR THE FALL OF A REPUBLIC

- (1) From bondage to spiritual faith;
- (2) From spiritual faith to great courage;
- (3) From courage to liberty;
- (4) From liberty to abundance;
- (5) From abundance to complacency;
- (6) From complacency to apathy;
- (7) From apathy to dependence;
- (8) From dependence back into bondage.

Psalms 42:11 - Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

Psalm 139:1-6

1. O LORD, you have searched me and you know me.
2. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.
3. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.
4. Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD.
5. You hem me in--behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me.
6. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

1. STOP FRETTING!

Psalms 37:1-2 - Do not fret because of evil men or be envious of those who do wrong; for like the grass they will soon wither, like green plants they will soon die away.

The root for "fret" = "being annoyed or burning with anger because of jealousy toward others."

Psalms 37:25 (NLT) Once I was young, and now I am old. Yet I have never seen the godly abandoned or their children begging for bread.

Psalms 73:1-28

1. Surely God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart.
2. But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold.
3. For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.
4. They have no struggles; their bodies are healthy and strong.

5. They are free from the burdens common to man; they are not plagued by human ills.
6. Therefore pride is their necklace; they clothe themselves with violence.
7. From their callous hearts comes iniquity ; the evil conceits of their minds know no limits.
8. They scoff, and speak with malice; in their arrogance they threaten oppression.
9. Their mouths lay claim to heaven, and their tongues take possession of the earth.
10. Therefore their people turn to them and drink up waters in abundance.
11. They say, "How can God know? Does the Most High have knowledge?"
12. This is what the wicked are like-- always carefree, they increase in wealth.
13. Surely in vain have I kept my heart pure; in vain have I washed my hands in innocence.
14. All day long I have been plagued; I have been punished every morning.
15. If I had said, "I will speak thus," I would have betrayed your children.
16. When I tried to understand all this, it was oppressive to me
17. till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny.
18. Surely you place them on slippery ground; you cast them down to ruin.
19. How suddenly are they destroyed, completely swept away by terrors!
20. As a dream when one awakes, so when you arise, O Lord, you will despise them as fantasies.
21. When my heart was grieved and my spirit embittered,
22. I was senseless and ignorant; I was a brute beast before you.
23. Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand.
24. You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory.
25. Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you.
26. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.
27. Those who are far from you will perish; you destroy all who are unfaithful to you.
28. But as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign LORD my refuge; I will tell of all your deeds.

2. START TRUSTING!

Psalms 37:3a (NKJV) Trust in the Lord, and do good;

Vs.7 - Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.

Vs.12 - The wicked plot against the righteous and gnash their teeth at them;

Vs.14 - The wicked draw the sword and bend the bow to bring down the poor and needy, to slay those whose ways are upright.

Vs.16 - Better the little that the righteous have than the wealth of many wicked;

Vs.35 - I have seen a wicked and ruthless man flourishing like a green tree in its native soil,

Psalms 23:1 - The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want (lack, neediness)