

Buller "
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Introduction:- History is largely a record of the rise and fall of empires. The pages of history are sprinkled with the dust and ashes of these empires.

These kingdoms have had their heyday and have sunken into oblivion. Illustrious names that once ruled the world are now known no more. The iron sway of kings whose word was law over teeming millions of subjects has been broken. These kings rest amid damp and dreary sepulchres or their bodies have been stolen for booty or mutilated by bandits.

Some of the kingdoms long since buried beneath the debris of time were thought in their day to be eternal. In the onward march of the centuries mighty Rome was made to bite the dust of humiliating defeat. Her boasted legions of iron men met their Waterloo and at last Rome, the "eternal city" became a kingdom of the past.

A long list of emperors and mighty warriors might be mentioned whose names dazzled with commanding brilliance and power in their day. Such names as the Pharaohs, Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne, Bismarck and Napoleon are familiar to every school boy who studies history.

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The question may be properly be raised, "Why do mighty kingdoms crumble and fall? The answer is well known to the careful students of history. The answer is short, consisting of one word spelled with only three letters, "Sin." Sin ate away like a cancer of deadly disease until the foundations were destroyed and the kingdoms crumbled and went down.

There are many sins that enter into the destruction of kingdoms and empires, but there are some in particular which are so ravaging in their death dealing blows that they may be ranked

preeminently as, "Sins That Lose Kingdoms!"

The life of Saul, King of Israel, is summarized in the words, "So Saul died for his transgressions which he had committed against the Lord. Even against the word of the Lord, which he kept not and also for asking counsel of one that had a familiar spirit, to enquire of it; And inquired not of the Lord; therefore they slew him, and turned the kingdom unto David, the son of Jesse." (1 Chron. 10:13).

When we consider Saul, we are presented with a medley of emotions and estimates of this unique, remarkable, and at the same time, disappointing man. Such characters are still with us today, as are typed by King Saul of Israel. If ever a man was made for the position of king, it was Saul, who in physique and physical endowment measured every expectancy that might be cherished for a king.

He stood head and shoulders above his brethren. He commanded attention as he walked among his people. Israel pointed with no uncertain degree of pride to her king. The early chapters of his life are full of things that are manly for the highest and best, and the last chapters are full of the and disappointing. "Saul died for his transgression which he had committed against the Lord. Saul sinned against God. He became self-willed and chose a course independent of God. He left God out. He thought he could run his own affairs and direct his own destiny with safety.

In this decision Saul played the part of a fool. And so does every man play the part of a fool, who endeavors to live his own life without God, without publically acknowledging God and taking his stand for God in the church. This is the great sin of our nation today. The men who have been holding the reins and destiny of our nation have not acknowledged God. The grafters and vice barons have trampled upon his laws. They have winked at a God of judgment, and have ignored the certain retribution which he sends upon men.

Saul committed a sin against the word of "the Lord which he kept not." He forsook God's law. The decrease of Bible reading and Bible study in America has been accompanied by an appalling increase

OF CRIME AND CORRUPTION. God has given a book for the guidance of nations and for our individual lives.

The history of mankind reveals that when nations and individuals keep the law of God's book, they fare well, but when they violate it they meet the woes of the judgments which this book pronounces against sin. We need a great turning back to the Bible in this country. But instead of turning back to the Word of God, we find that the children of our nation are growing up in numbers to the extent of twenty millions who are receiving no religious training whatsoever.

What may we expect in the future of this nation where twenty million of youth grow up to assume the reins and responsibilities of citizenship without any knowledge of God, his law, or his teachings concerning the way that men should live. Can such a nation endure? If history of the past teaches us anything, it teaches us that the nation whose God is not the Lord, cannot endure.

When nations ripen from iniquity to iniquity, the judgments hand of God falls in due time. A nation without God becomes vulnerable at so many points, that the unexpected and even unforeseen enemies let fly the darts and arrows of death, and the nation that goes down to be buried underneath the debris of time. And what is true of nations, is also true of individuals.

No individual can endure who defies the law of God. He must eventually go down to ruin and destruction. The scythe of God's judgment is sure, sooner or later, to mow him down and level him with the mighty who have fallen through sin, throughout all of the ages that are past and gone.