

Only record of remarks at President's Prayer Breakfast

Mayflower Hotel,

Washington, D.C.

February 7, 1963

Other copies may turn up later.

For now, will assume this is his sermon (since it has his handwritten notes on it).

Although it could also be a preliminary draft and the notations are changes to be made in a later draft.

7/86

BILLY GRAHAM ADDRESS

MAYFLOWER HOTEL, FEBRUARY 7, 1963

PRESIDENT'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

Fourth
DAMACLES, WHO LIVED IN THE ~~FIRST~~ CENTURY B. C., ONCE INSULTED THE KING
OF SYRACUSE DURING A ROYAL BANQUET. HE WAS CONDEMNED TO SIT BENEATH A
NAKED SWORD SUSPENDED BY A SINGLE HAIR.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY HAS REMINDED US THAT THE WHOLE WORLD NOW SITS IN THAT
CHAIR WITH TOTAL DESTRUCTION HANGING BY A HAIR ABOVE IT'S HEAD. NOR CAN
WE ESCAPE BY TURNING OUR HEADS AND WISHING IT WOULD GO AWAY-----THE
BLADE KEEPS ON SWINGING AND THE THREAD THAT HOLDS IT GROWS THINNER AND
MORE FRAYED WITH EACH PASSING DAY.

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EVEN THE MOST NAIVE AMONG US MUST NOW RECOGNIZE THAT WE WILL EVENTUALLY
FACE A CRISIS THAT WILL MAKE THE RECENT CUBAN AFFAIR PALE INTO INSIGNIFICANCE.

-----THE DRIFT OF PUBLIC MORALITY THAT CAUSED WALTER LIPPMAN TO SAY IN A
RECENT ARTICLE THAT "AMERICA IS BEGINNING TO ACCEPT A NEW CODE OF ETHICS THAT

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ALLOWS FOR CHISELING AND LYING: "

-----THE PERSONAL EMPTINESS, FRUSTRATION, AND FUTILITY OF MILLIONS IN
AN AFFLUENT SOCIETY THAT WAS DRAMATIZED BY THE TRAGIC DEATH OF MARILYN
MONROE.

-----THE CONTINUAL PRESSURE OF EXTERNAL FORCES SEEMINGLY BEYOND OUR
CONTROL -----ANY ~~MANY OTHER~~ FACTORS LEAD US TO RECOGNIZE THAT WE STAND
ON THE THRESHOLD OF UNPRECEDENTED EVENTS THAT WILL TEST THE MORAL AND
SPIRITUAL TOUGHNESS OF THIS NATION AS IT HAS NOT BEEN TESTED SINCE THE
CIVIL WAR.

IN THE PICTURESQUE LANGUAGE OF HIS TIME, THE PROPHET JEREMIAH, SPEAKING
FOR GOD, REBUKED THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL FOR HOLDING BROKEN CISTERNS. HE
SAID "FOR MY PEOPLE HAVE COMMITTED TWO EVILS. THEY HAVE FORSAKEN ME, THE
FOUNTAIN OF LIVING WATERS, AND HEWED THEM OUT, (HEWED THEM OUT CISTERNS),
BROKEN CISTERNS THAT CAN HOLD NO WATER".

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ISRAEL STOOD AT THE CROSSROADS OF HER NATIONAL LIFE. A WAY OF DELIVERANCE
AND VICTORY WAS OFFERED BY GOD, BUT THEY PREFERRED TO GO THEIR OWN WAY.
IT SEEMED MORE REASONABLE TO TRUST IN PLANS WHICH THEY THEMSELVES HAD DE-
VISED. BUT THEIR PLANS FAILED AND THE HIGH HOPES THEY HAD WERE DRAINED
AWAY THROUGH THE CRACKS IN THESE WORN OUT CISTERNS.

THE PSALMIST SAID "SOME TRUST IN CHARIOTS AND SOME IN HORSES BUT WE WILL
REMEMBER THE NAME OF THE LORD OUR GOD".

TODAY, WE AS A NATION ARE BEING OFFERED A CHOICE. WE STAND AT THE CROSS-
ROADS OF OUR NATIONAL DESTINY.

ONCE AGAIN WE CAN HEAR THE VOICE OF MOSES AS HE STOOD BEFORE THE PEOPLE OF
ANCIENT ISRAEL AND CHALLENGED "WHO IS ON THE LORD'S SIDE. LET HIM COME
UNTO ME".

ONCE AGAIN WE CAN HEAR THE VOICE OF JOSHUA AS HE HURLED AN ULTIMATUM TO THE

His Day
 PEOPLE OF ~~ISRAEL~~ "CHOOSE YOU THIS DAY WHO YOU WILL SERVE-----AS FOR ME AND
 MY HOUSE, WE WILL SERVE THE LORD".

~~-----ONCE AGAIN WE CAN HEAR THE VOICE OF ELIJAH, THE PROPHET, AS HE
 CALLED ON THE PEOPLE. HE ASKED "HOW LONG HALT YOU BETWEEN TWO OPINIONS.
 IF THE LORD BE GOD, FOLLOW HIM".~~

take the your own choosing
 WE CAN ~~CHOOSE OUR OWN ROAD~~ BUT THE BIBLE WARNS THAT "THERE IS A WAY THAT
 SEEMETH RIGHT BUT THE END THEREOF ARE THE WAYS OF DEATH" AND WHEN THE
 STORM BREAKS IN ALL OF IT'S FURY, WE CAN RUN FOR OUR SEDATIVES, BUT IT
 WILL BE TOO LATE.

~~-----OR, WE CAN CHOOSE GOD'S WAY THAT AT TIMES MAY SEEM MYSTERIOUS AND
 STRANGE BUT WITH SHEER TRUST IN HIM WE COULD THIS DAY COMMIT THIS NATION
 TO A PATH OF NATIONAL RIGHTEOUSNESS. POPE LEO XIII IN HIS FAMOUS MESSAGE
 ON LABOR SAID "WHEN A SOCIETY IS PERISHING THE TRUE ADVICE TO GIVE THOSE
 WHO WOULD RESTORE IT IS TO RECALL IT TO THE PRINCIPLES FROM WHICH IT SPRANG".~~

WE HAVE ON OUR COINS "IN GOD WE TRUST". LET'S SHOW THE WORLD BY OUR
 COURAGE, BY OUR DISCIPLINED LIVING, BY OUR EXAMPLE THAT WE MEAN IT. LET
 US, AS A PEOPLE AND AS LEADERS, ^{*By an Angel*} REDEDICATE OURSELVES ^{*This Day*} TO THE MORAL AND
 SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLES THAT HAVE UNDERGIRDDED THIS NATION FROM BEGINNING.
 I CHALLENGE YOU HERE TO LEAD THIS NATION BACK TO THE GOD OF OUR FATHERS.

WHAT IS THE FORMULA?-----HOW CAN WE DO IT?-----THE BIBLE TELLS US
 "IF MY PEOPLE WHICH ARE CALLED BY MY NAME SHALL HUMBLE THEMSELVES AND
PRAY AND SEEK MY FACE AND TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS, THEN WILL I HEAR
 FROM HEAVEN AND FORGIVE THEIR SIN AND HEAL THEIR LAND".

DURING THE CIVIL WAR, PRESIDENT LINCOLN DEEMED IT NECESSARY TO CALL THIS
 NATION TO NATIONAL REPENTANCE. SO THE NATION ONCE AGAIN IS IN NEED OF RE-
PENTANCE OF IT'S SINS AND A RENEWAL OF A FAITH IN GOD. HOW CAN IT START?----
 WHERE MUST IT BEGIN? IT CAN BEGIN WITH YOU AS AN INDIVIDUAL. THE GREATEST
 CONTRIBUTION YOU CAN MAKE TO THE NATION'S STRENGTH AT THIS HOUR IS YOUR
 OWN PERSONAL FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST. CHRIST DIED ON THE CROSS TO BRING ABOUT

A RECONCILIATION BETWEEN GOD AND MAN. HE STANDS READY TO FORGIVE AND TO
CLEANSE. HE WILL MAKE THE CROOKED PATHS STRAIGHT. HE COULD GIVE A NEW
DIMENSION OF LIVING TO THE ENTIRE NATION. ~~THROUGH IT'S INDIVIDUALS WHO~~
~~COME TO HIM BY FAITH.~~ THIS IS THE PATH WE MUST FOLLOW. THIS IS THE ROAD
WE MUST TAKE. OTHERWISE WE SHALL SURELY MEET THE FATE OF OTHER NATIONS OF
HISTORY.

(DURING THE NAPOLEANIC WARS, THE LITTLE TOWN OF FELDRICH, AUSTRIA WAS UNDER
ATTACK BY THE ARMIES OF NAPOLEON. THE ARMIES WERE ONLY A FEW MILES OUT OF
TOWN AND THE ~~FIGHTING~~ ^{RIGHTENED} PEOPLE HAD GATHERED ON AN EARLY ~~EASTER~~ ^{SUNDAY} MORNING IN
THE CENTER OF THE CITY TO DISCUSS THEIR FATE. THE BISHOP STOOD BEFORE THE
PEOPLE AND CHALLENGED THEM. HE SAID, "WE CAN GO OUT AND FIGHT BUT WE WILL
PROBABLY LOSE, OR WE CAN ALL GO TO CHURCH AND WORSHIP GOD AND LEAVE THE
CONSEQUENCES IN HIS HANDS". THE PEOPLE VOTED TO GO TO CHURCH. ALL THE
CHURCH BELLS BEGAN TO RING CALLING THE PEOPLE TO CHURCH. NAPOLEON'S GENERALS
HEARD THE RINGING OF THE BELLS AND THOUGHT THAT THE AUSTRIAN ARMIES HAD COME
UP DURING THE NIGHT AND THAT THE PEOPLE WERE REJOICING. ^{They} ~~HE~~ ORDERED A STRA-
TEGIC RETREAT. AS A RESULT OF THE RINGING OF THOSE CHURCH BELLS, FELDRICH

NEVER FELL TO THE ARMIES OF NAPOLEON. LET US RING THE BELLS OF FAITH
at Home & abroad
 IN GOD SO LOUD THAT THE ENEMIES OF OUR NATION ¹WILL BE FORCED BACK.)

THE KING OF SYRIA ONCE SENT AN ENTIRE ARMY TO CAPTURE ONE PROPHET OF GOD
 BY THE NAME OF ELISHA. HE WAS IN HIS HOME ON THE TOP OF A HILL AT DOTHAN.
 AT SUNRISE, ELISHA'S SERVANT SAW A HUGE ARMY COMPLETELY AROUND THE CITY
 WITH THEIR HORSES AND CHARIOTS. FRIGHTENED AND RINGING HIS HANDS, HE
 WENT INTO HIS MASTER AND SAID "WHAT SHALL WE DO". CALMLY THE PROPHET
 ANSWERED "FEAR NOT FOR THEY THAT BE WITH US ARE MORE THAN THEY THAT BE
 WITH THEM" AND ELISHA PRAYED AND SAID "LORD, I PRAY THEE, OPEN HIS EYES
 THAT HE MAY SEE" AND THE LORD OPENED THE EYES OF THE YOUNG MAN AND HE SAW
 AND BEHOLD THE MOUNTAIN WAS FULL OF HORSES AND CHARIOTS OF FIRE ROUND ABOUT
 ELISHA. AND ON THAT DAY GOD CAUSED ONE OF THE GREATEST MILITARY ^{VICTORIES} ~~DEFEATS~~
Israeli
 OF HISTORY. IT WAS BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE FAITH AND PRAYERS OF ONE MAN
 THAT BELIEVED GOD. THE SCRIPTURE SAYS "BLESSED IS THE NATION WHOSE GOD
 IS THE LORD". IF WE WILL PUT OUR TRUST, FAITH, AND HOPE IN HIM, WE NEED
 NOT HAVE ANY FEAR THAT ANY ENEMY, HOWEVER STRONG, CAN OVERWHELM US.