

## Malachi 3:12

### Nine Eleven

*“And all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a delightful land,” says the Lord of hosts.*

I'm writing this devotion 2,446 days removed from September 11, 2001, the day that the United States of America was attacked by 19 foreign terrorists. At least 2,998 people were killed, and not just Americans. Over 80 different countries mourned their own nationals who were among the casualties. It was a tragic and telling day in world history.

The United States of America stands tall as the land of the free and the home of the brave. We will never back down from that nor apologize for it. We stared tragedy in the face and solemnly reacted when war was declared on us. For the safety of all Americans and in defense of freedom, we transferred that war from our turf to the sands from which it emerged. Now, brave men and women wage the battle there. My brother is currently among them, as are others I personally know. Tomorrow will be day 2,447 since 9-11 and we've yet to be attacked again in the homeland. It's a testament to our military's philosophy of fighting a war as far from our shores as possible.\* God bless our warriors and keep them safe.

Throughout our nation's history, we have won freedom for millions, both here and abroad. We stand in the line of fire against tyranny. We sacrifice uncountable numbers of our own for liberty and justice around the world. We embrace and lift up impoverished nations. We establish democracy where no one thinks it's possible, much less dares to do. We are truly a blessed nation, a delightful land. Our enemies know this. Too many nations loathe it. But some do, indeed, recognize it and gladly call us friend.

In the Scripture above, God gives a promise to those who fully trust in Him. It's actually part of a series of promises God makes after He challenges people to “bring all the tithes into the storehouse... and try Me now in this, if I will not... pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it” (Malachi 3:10, in part). May we as a nation keep God truly the One in whom we trust.

**TIP:** Keep copies of The Declaration of Independence, The Constitution, and The Bill of Rights near your reading area or with your Bible. Read them often. Christians should be on the front line of knowing the contents of these precious documents.

\*As stated by 4-Star General James T. Conway, Commandant of the United States Marine Corp., in his speech at the commencement service of Campbellsville University (Kentucky), May 10, 2008.

## Malachi 3:12 (Study Guide)

### Nine Eleven

#### HOOK

1. Where were you on September 11, 2001, and what were you doing?  
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2. In your view, how has the September 11, 2001, attack on the U.S. affected our nation?  
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3. Write the preamble to the Constitution of the United States, or at least as much as you know.  
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#### LINE

Throughout our nation's history, we have won freedom for millions, both here and abroad. We stand in the line of fire against tyranny. We sacrifice uncountable numbers of our own for liberty and justice around the world. We embrace and lift up impoverished nations. We establish democracy where no one thinks it's possible, much less dares to do. We are truly a blessed nation, a delightful land. Our enemies know this. Too many nations loathe it. But some do, indeed, recognize it and gladly call us friend.

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In your view, how has God blessed the United States of America, and how has this blessing affected you personally?

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Why do some nations hate the United States? Why do some nations call us friend?

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#### SINKER

Take a few minutes to write your thoughts on this devotional. Reflect on your own experiences. Key words:  
blessed nation      delightful land      freedom

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