

4. *What contributed to the lawlessness and violence of the mining towns in California during the gold rush?*

One factor was the absence of established government in California; each man had to take care of himself. Another factor was the greed of the miners, who would do almost anything to achieve their desire. Still another was the character of many who came; they were not industrious citizens with families, but often the dishonest, lawless, and unattached. This was not true of all forty-niners, of course, but the many unscrupulous men did contribute to the lawless environment. When man's baser passions rule without restraint, as in the desire for quick wealth and strong drink, lawlessness and violence are sure to follow.

5. *Using a topical Bible, look up New Testament references to gold and riches. How should the Christian relate to a gold rush?*

According to passages such as 1 Timothy 6 and Matthew 6, the Christian is not to trust in material riches, which will pass away. He is rather to trust in God, seek first the kingdom of God, and be content with what he has. The Bible also describes covetousness as idolatry; a gold rush is the epitome of covetousness. Instead of taking part in a gold rush, the Christian awaits a crown in heaven that will not fade away.

F. Chronology and Geography

1. *On your map entitled "Territorial Growth of the United States," draw lines showing the Texas Annexation, the Mexican Cession, the Gadsden Purchase, and the Oregon Territory. Label these areas, and color each a different color. (Individual work.)*

2. *On a large map of the United States, follow the route of the Oregon Trail through the present states. (A map in an encyclopedia or a road atlas may help.) Note also the California Trail, as well as the alternate routes at various places. Do modern highways follow the same routes? Over what kind of terrain did the Oregon Trail pass?*

Modern highways often do follow the old trail routes. One is Interstate 80, passing by the Great Salt Lake and going through the Great Salt Lake Desert and through the Sierras. U.S. Route 30 also follows part of the Oregon Trail. The land was certainly difficult to travel across, with rugged terrain, steep mountains, and dry deserts.