

The Most Mysterious Prophecy of Isaiah 18

The 18th chapter of Isaiah has been grossly mistranslated, Yet provides a great insight into one of the world's great world powers of the End Times. Who is this mysterious people? Where is this enigmatic nation? What is the mystery all about? *Could it be the USA?*

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Minister F. E. Pitts of Nashville, Tennessee, in an address to the Congress of the United States in 1857, declared: "There are very many passages of Scripture which are universally admitted, by the learned and judicious, to foretell the rise of a great nationality in the latter times. These applications cannot by any reasonable construction be applied to the rise of such nationality in the land of Judea; but are most wonderfully descriptive of the United States of America, and of no other country under heaven."

Could such a prophecy be the one presented in Isaiah 18? This chapter is most mysterious. The nation or people are not identified by name, or ancestor, as is usual in most Biblical prophecies. No city or nation in the Middle East is mentioned or alluded to. In fact, the nation is said to be "BEYOND Ethiopia" – that is, much further away from the Holy Land than the nation of Ethiopia. Ethiopia is roughly 1,500 miles from the land of Israel.

Writes E. Raymond Capt, in *Our Great Seal: The Symbols of Our Heritage and Our Destiny*, "This chapter 18, is admittedly a most difficult passage for the interpreter. It is one of the most obscure prophecies; the people to whom it is addressed, the person he sends, the ambassadors, the nations to whom they are sent are extremely doubtful. Most commentators pass it by with brief and inane words showing they have no idea of its meaning. In such translations, without the translator knowing the meaning you may look for poor work in rendering the meaning of unknown words. In this respect chapter 18 of Isaiah is one of the most inaccurate, awkward, and indefinite translations of the Old Testament" (p.71).

The awkwardness begins with the very first word of the chapter. The King James Version begins, "Woe to the land shadowing with wings, which is BEYOND the rivers of Ethiopia" (v.1). In the first place, the word translated "Woe" here is **והי**, pronounced *hoh'-ee*, and means "Ho!" or "Oh!" It is variously translated "ah, alas, ho, O, woe." Whether it should be a positive exclamation, or a negative statement, would generally depend on the context. In Isaiah 55:1 it is translated, "HO, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters."

Says E. Raymond Capt, “The Hebrew word ‘hoi eretz’ with which chapter 18 opens is a mistranslation. It is not an exclamation of ‘woe,’ but hailing for attention, i.e., ‘Ho’ or ‘All hail.’” The whole tenor of Isaiah 18 shows that it should be so translated here, he states. “The nation described is not one that is ‘meted out and trodden down.’ The tense is wrong. It is more accurately translated ‘That meteth out and treadeth down.’ It is not ‘scattered and peeled’ or ‘spread out and polished’ but ‘tall and smooth.’ Its land and rivers have not ‘spoiled’ or ‘divided’ but ‘quartered.’”

Let’s examine this strangle prophecy in more minute detail. The New Revised Standard Version begins the passage, “Ah, land of whirring wings beyond the rivers of Ethiopia.” The Jewish Tanakh has it, “Ah, land in the deep shadows of wings, beyond the rivers of Nubia!”

Since the land addressed in the prophecy is not named, whereas other prophetic messages are addressed to named nations, we can conclude that this particular prophecy is addressed to a land unknown in Isaiah’s time, and not located in the general territory of the Middle East or Africa, lands well known in Biblical times.

The fact that this land is “BEYOND” the rivers of Ethiopia, primarily meaning the Nile which has its origin in Ethiopia, then this land would be further away from the Middle East and ancient Israel than Ethiopia itself – regarded as being very distant. Interesting, E. Raymond Capt points out, “However, the word ‘beyond’ in Hebrew means ‘WEST.’” The ancient Hebrews faced the sunrise, looking eastward, and “before” meant eastward. “Behind” or “beyond” meant WEST. Says Capt, “ ‘Beyond’ the rivers of Ethiopia (land of Cush) meant over his shoulder, west. Let Isaiah stand in Jerusalem, face the sunrise and describe the land beyond (west) the rivers of Ethiopia. Following that line from Jerusalem, west, and you will see no country till you strike America; the coasts of South Carolina and Georgia” (p.73).

“Beyond” the rivers of Ethiopia means further away than the remote origins of the Nile River, which flows from Ethiopia to the Mediterranean Sea. It is 1,500 miles distant from ancient Judea.

Interestingly, the United States of America, lying due west from ancient Judea, is about 6,000 miles from the Middle East – certainly “beyond” the land of Ethiopia and the headwaters of the Nile!

“Shadowing with ‘Wings’”

The prophecy continues: “the land shadowed with buzzing wings” (NKJV), “land of whirring wings” (NRSV), “land in the deep shadow of wings” (Tanakh), and “ye wings of the land of ships” (LXX). This nation is clearly connected with WINGS. It is a nation of WINGS! The great nation today, most identified with WINGS, and famous for its powerful AIR FORCE, and manufacturer of commercial aircraft, such as the Boeing Company, is undoubtedly the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA!

The prophecy speaks of “wings of the land of SHIPS.” America is noted for not only its air power, and commercial aircraft, but also its SHIPS – its powerful Navy, and the amazing aircraft carriers which carry the “wings” of powerful missiles and aircraft around the world, projecting American power!

Interestingly, a large map also shows that North and South America are in the shape of the outstretched wings of a great eagle. “Shadowed” could indicate that this great nation was hidden in the “wings” until God’s time came to reveal its existence and to deliver a message to it!

Interestingly, also, is the fact that the eagle, with outspread wings, is the NATIONAL SYMBOL OF THE UNITED STATES! As Raymond Capt points out, “While other nations have the eagle as their national emblem, *no other country has the eagle with outstretched wings*. Mexico has an eagle with closed wings; Germany has an eagle with closed wings; Russia has an eagle grasping a round globe – representing the whole earth – and an arrow to conquer the earth with war. The United States has an eagle with spread wings and, therefore, it is actually a ‘*land of outstretched wings*’” (p.73).

The bald eagle with outstretched wings was selected as the emblem or symbol of the United States. Interesting it is that John foretells in the book of Revelation, that in the last days, the time of the end, “But the woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she could fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to her place where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time” (Rev.12:14,, NRSV).

Could the Biblical “place of safety” be in the land of the Eagle with outstretched wings”?

From its inception, America has always been noted as a land of refuge, a land where pilgrims and others fled in order to escape religious and political fury and persecution! At the base of the Statue of Liberty is a poem which proclaims the refuge of America for the world’s oppressed, tyrannized, and poor.

No other symbol in the whole world so vividly portrays the hopes and aspirations, the deep human yearning for freedom and liberty, than the Statue of Liberty in New York harbor. Presented to the fledgling United States by France on July 4, 1884, this magnificent emblem of peace and liberty was unveiled and dedicated on October 28, 1886. In 1903 Emma Lazarus wrote a poem which was inscribed on its pedestal. It said:

“Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glows worldwide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.

‘Keep ancient lands, your storied pomp!’ cries she
 With silent lips. ‘Give me your tired, your poor,
 Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
 The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
 Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me,
 I lift my lamb beside the golden door!’”

Says Capt, “The outstretched wings, like a mother bird protecting her brood under her wings also foreshadowed a nation that would serve as a refuge for all oppressed people of the earth. Since the world began there has never been any country that from its beginning offered a welcome and hospitality to the downtrodden and suffering people of every part of the world for the purpose of giving them religious freedom and civil liberty except America” (p.74).

“*Ambassadors by the Sea*”

Continuing the prophecy, we read: “Which sends ambassadors by sea, even in vessels of reed on the waters, saying, Go, swift messengers . . .” (Isa.18:2). “He sends messengers by the sea, and paper letters on the water” (LXX).

The term “ambassadors” refers to men who travel as diplomats, representing their nation’s interests. Says E. Raymond Capt, “For over 150 years all our ambassadors went by water to Europe, Asia, Australia, even to South America, and Central America. Only in two countries, Canada and Mexico, did our representatives not have to cross the sea to arrive at their assignments” (p.74).

The King James translators were very confused by this verse. They translated a compound Hebrew word as “vessels of bulrushes upon the waters” (v.2). This was a woeful error! The Hebrew word literally means “water-drinking vessels,” or “vessels that drink.” Not knowing of any ocean going vessel that ran on water power, by converting ocean water to steam in steam engines, to drive a ship forward, they looked around for something that grew out of water and hit upon the word “bulrushes.” Others, equally in the dark, refer to them as “papyrus.” The Hebrew word is נמנ, *go-meh*, and means literally “an absorbent,” from *gama*, “to absorb, swallow, or drink.” This describes vessels that absorb, “drink,” or swallow *water!*

What better description for a *steamship!*

“Water-drinking vessels upon the waters” describes ocean liners, steamships, something not even dreamed of in Isaiah’s century, 800 years before Christ! A steamship pumps up water, distills it, turns it into steam, and uses steam to drive its propellers to push the ship through the ocean.

The steamship was invented, interestingly enough, by an American – Robert J. Fulton. He was an American inventor and designed and built the *Clermont*, the first commercially successful steamboat. On August 17, 1807, it began its first successful trip

up the Hudson River. America soon became the world leader in the new steam-powered ocean going vessels.

Says Raymond Capt, “Isaiah was looking down the ages and seeing the time when America was exercising a controlling power throughout the world by sending all its ambassadors, its soldiers and its sailors by vessels that ‘drinks up water’ and makes steam to propel it on all the waters of the world” (*ibid.*).

Another Mistranslation

The King James Version continues: “To a nation scattered and peeled, to a people terrible from their beginning hitherto . . .” (v.2). The New King James has this, “A nation TALL and SMOOTH OF SKIN . . .” The NRSV has it, “To a nation tall and smooth, to a people feared near and far, a nation mighty and conquering . . .”

The Interlinear Bible: “To a nation tall and smooth, to a dreadful people from it, and onwards; and a nation stalwart and trampling down . . .”

The Tanakh: “To a nation far and remote, To a people thrust forth and away . . .”

Raymond Capt points out, “The word ‘scattered’ is from the Hebrew ‘mashak’ meaning ‘drawn out’ or tall. The word ‘peeled’ is from the Hebrew ‘marat’ meaning ‘to pluck off hair’ or ‘smooth-shaven.’ It is evident that the prophet had a vision of a land wherein the men were tall like trees with the bark peeled off and the best translation available is ‘tall and clean-shaven’” (p.75).

Consider these points: When America was discovered by the Norsemen, they found a race which was tall and smooth-skinned. The Indians were taller than Europeans or Asians and did not have facial hair/beards. A people “terrible from their beginning” would certainly describe the Indian inhabitants of North America – violent and warlike.

But Isaiah’s words also describe the Europeans who settled in the New Land. Says Raymond Capt:

“In the World War of 1914 America mobilized an army of three million soldiers that averaged five feet, eleven inches in height. *This was the tallest army the world ever saw and there was not a full beard to be seen.* Convinced they were fighting a ‘just war’ they were a ‘terror’ unto their enemy. Even in the process of being born, our nation whipped the mightiest nation of the known world (‘terrible from their beginning’) and fought victorious with Mexico, Spain, Germany and Japan. We have never been defeated in the defense of our own lands or the freedom of the seas. The word ‘onward’ in the prophecy suggests that America will never be conquered from without down to the end of the ages” (page 75).

The prophecy of Isaiah 18 sees to be directed toward the United States of America! Who else could it be? Who else fits the amazing description of this mysterious land and its people?

But there is much more evidence!

“A Nation Meted Out and Trodden Under Foot”

It would seem to be a contradiction for a nation to be powerful and feared and “terrible” and yet to be described as “meted out and trodden under foot.” Again, the problem lies with the poor quality of the translation!

“A mighty and conquering nation,” says the NRSV. “A nation powerful and treading down,” says the NKJV. “A nation stalwart and trampling down” (Interlinear Bible).

Again, in modern times this sounds like the United States of America, the nation which led the fight against the Nazis and Japanese in World War II, fighting on two fronts; which led the nations fighting in Korea, and Vietnam; which led the nations fighting in Kuwait in 1991, and in Afghanistan and Iraq in more recent years.

But Raymond Capt brings another fact to the table. He relates that “The word ‘meteth’ out is from the Hebrew ‘qav-qav’ meaning ‘line-line.’ ‘Treadeth down’ (or ‘trodden down – King James) is from the Hebrew ‘Mebusoh’ which may be rendered ‘trodden under foot.’ Putting them together, a literal translation would be a land ‘measured out under the treading’ – that is a land measured out by lines under feet. This is descriptive of our process of SURVEYING which we began in 1800 and in which our land is literally a checker-board of sections. About the time that Florida and Louisiana were taken into the Union, and Ohio taken in as a state, the Government passed a law that all public lands should be surveyed by the north star, and a base line run east and west and all this land marked up into mile square sections. These sections are subdivided into quarter sections of half a mile squares. *No nation was ever so ‘meted’ out in blocks before.* All the countries of the earth, as in the division of the land under Joshua, surveyed and marked their land by local boundaries” (p.75-76).

Who would have thought? Only the United States, of all the nations in the world, was literally “meted out” and surveyed by the creation of checker-board squares under the foot of surveyors.

“Whose Land the Rivers Have Spoiled”

The NRSV has this, “whose land the rivers divide.” The NKJV concurs. The Tanakh has it, “Whose land is cut off by streams.” The Interlinear Bible: “whose land the rivers have divided!”

Again, we have a flagrant error in the King James Version. The word “spoiled” is from the Hebrew *baza* and means “to cleave.” It is a term used in the sacrifice of animals, where an animal was “quartered” and “divided” upon the altar. Says Raymond Capt, the term should be rendered as “quartered.” He goes on:

“An examination of all nations of the world, shows only one, the United States, that is quartered by rivers. The Mississippi takes its rise near the Canadian border and cuts right down to the Gulf of Mexico dividing our land into halves. In the Pacific Coast side is the Columbia River. Follow it upward to its junction with the Snake River, follow that upward into close proximity with the source of the Missouri River which starts in Montana and meanders eastward into the Mississippi, dividing the west into halves. In the Atlantic Coast side begin with the Ohio River and follow it eastward to Pittsburgh and its junction with the Monongahela River that runs by McKeesport, then follow eastward the Younghiogheny River where, at Glencoe, Pennsylvania, it becomes the Castleman River, go on upstream until Wills Creek branches off and takes its source where the Potomac begins and runs to the Bay and the Atlantic and you have the eastern half of the nation divided in two. Thus the whole land is ‘quartered by rivers.’ One cannot find any other land on earth divided this way, into four sections: Northeast, Northwest, Southeast, Southwest, by rivers” (p.76).

All these signs point to the United States as being the fulfillment of the amazing prophecy of Isaiah 18 – a prophecy for the End Times, of a great and powerful nation beyond the rivers of Ethiopia – that is, a nation thousands of miles removed from the Middle East and Africa – farther away than Ethiopia itself.

It was to be a great and fearsome nation that sent ambassadors across the sea; a nation that used “water-drinking vessels” or steamships; a nation that was powerful and warlike, creating fear in its enemies; a nation “far removed”; a nation that was to be “tall and clean-shaven”; a nation surveyed by being meted out and trod under foot; a nation quartered by great rivers.

What other nation, extant in the end of days, could it be? None other fits the description. What else characterizes this mighty nation?

Lifting up the Ensign and Blowing the Trumpet

Isaiah continues the prophecy: “All inhabitants of the world and dwellers on the earth: When he lifts up a banner on the mountains, you see it; and when he blows a trumpet, you hear it” (Isaiah 18:3).

The “banner” and “trumpet” are symbols of war. Isaiah saw in his vision America lifting up the banner and blowing the trumpet – going to war – with all the world beholding its mighty conflicts. When America went to war, the whole world noticed – the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, the War of 1812, the Mexican War of

1846, the Spanish-American War of 1898, the First World War, 1914-1918, the Second World War, 1941-1945, the Korean War, 1950-1953, the Vietnam War, 1965-1974, the First Gulf War, 1991, the Second Gulf War, 2003 – and in most of these latter wars, it was the United States which took the lead by blowing the trumpet and calling the nations to war, to defend freedom and liberty. In each case, our nation took the leadership, and led the way in settling international disputes.

Jacob foretold of the sons of Joseph, his son, that in the latter days his descendants would be “a fruitful bough, a fruitful bough by a well: His branches run over the wall. The archers have bitterly grieved him, shot at him and hated him. But his bow remained in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the Mighty God of Jacob . . . and by the Almighty who will bless you with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that lies beneath, blessings of the breast and of the womb” (Gen.49:22-26).

Sunshine and Blessings

God declared: “For so the LORD said to me, I will take My rest, and I will look from My dwelling place like a clear heat in *sunshine*, like a *cloud of dew* in the heat of harvest” (Isa.18:4). Here God connects this mysterious people with the blessings of sunshine and the dew of the heavens and harvest.

In other prophecies, the blessings of sunshine and heat, and dew and harvest, are connected with only one tribe of the tribes of Israel, the tribe of Joseph! Jacob prophesied that Almighty God would bless Joseph’s descendants with “blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that lies beneath, blessings of the breast and of the womb” (Gen.49:25-26).

Moses also foretold of the tribe of Joseph, “Blessed of the LORD is his land, with the precious things of heaven, with the DEW, and the deep lying beneath, with the precious fruits of the SUN [sunshine], with the precious produce of the months, with the best things of the ancient mountains, with the precious things of the everlasting hills, with the precious things of the earth and its fullness” (Deut.33:13-16).

Moses also foretold the war-making capacity of this powerful people, saying, “His glory is like the firstborn bull, and his horns like the horns of the wild ox; together with them he shall push the peoples to the end of the earth” (verse 17).

The words of Isaiah are another allusion to the end-time power and blessings of the tribe of Joseph, the son who was “separate from his brothers” (Deut.33:16). Joseph’s inheritance was to be far removed from the Middle East, or with his other brothers. He went to the far west.

The identify of Joseph in the modern world is set forth in our book *America and Great Britain: Our Identity Revealed – Ephraim and Manasseh in the End of Days*.

The Time of the Prophecy

What is the time element of this prophecy in Isaiah 18? Was it merely some obscure discussion of some ancient nation, thousands of years ago? That would be meaningless and pointless. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for correction, instruction in righteousness, and important for our lives (II Tim.3:16).

The time and dating of the prophetic warning of Isaiah 18 is found in the next verse. Notice! God declares, “*For before the HARVEST, when the bud is perfect and the sour grape is ripening in the flower, He will both cut off the sprigs with pruning hooks and take away and cut down the branches. They will be left together for the mountain birds of prey and for the beasts of the earth; the birds of prey will summer on them, and all the beasts of the earth will winter on them*” (Isaiah 18:5-6).

When is the time of “harvest”? Jesus Christ, Yeshua the Messiah, declared, “. . . the harvest is the END OF THE AGE” (Matt.13:39). It is at the “time of the end” that God will “harvest” His people, and the peoples of the earth!

At the time of the end of this age, God says, “Let the nations be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat; for there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations. Put in the sickle, for the HARVEST IS RIPE. Come, go down; for the winepress is full, the vats overflow – for their wickedness is great” (Joel 3:12-13).

In the book of Revelation, we also read: “Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat One like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, ‘Thrust in your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap for the HARVEST of the earth is ripe.’ So He who sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped” (Rev.14:14-16).

The harvest is at the end of the age of man’s misrule of planet earth. We are rapidly approaching that climactic harvest period RIGHT NOW! John goes on, “Then another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. And another angel came out from the altar, who had power over fire, and he cried with a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, ‘Thrust in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for her grapes are fully ripe.’ So the angel thrust his sickle into the earth and gathered the vine of the earth, and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trampled outside the city, and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses’ bridles, for one thousand six hundred furlongs” (about 200 miles)” (Rev.14:17-20).

All these prophecies culminate at the final time of harvesting, when the Messiah returns to planet earth!

Isaiah continues, “In that time a present will be brought to the LORD of hosts from a people tall and smooth of skin [the people of the United States and the tribe of

Joseph, including Great Britain and Canada], and from a people terrible from their beginning and onward, a nation powerful and treading down, whose land the rivers divide – to the place of the name of the LORD of hosts, to Mount Zion” (Isa.18:7).

Seven verses – yet what a punch they pack!

Seven short verses – and yet they spell out the IDENTITY of the United States of America, and foretell its future in the “last days” of this end-time generation!

Punishment and Judgment Coming

God declares that He will, when the time of harvest comes – and it is now at the doors – that He will “both cut off the sprigs with pruning hooks and take away and cut down the branches” of His people, this far removed powerful nation. That is, He will “prune” His people, and cut away the unprofitable, ungodly, wicked, diseased and spiritually sick “branches,” in order to save the tree itself, and purge it that it may bring forth GOOD fruit!

The people of the nation are prophesied to suffer greatly during this pruning process, for there is much wickedness in the land. “They will be left together for the mountain birds of prey and for the beasts [Gentile nations] of the earth” (Isa.18:6).

As Raymond Capt writes, “But a time of cleansing (for our nation) is indicated as ‘afore the harvest.’ Matt.13:39 tells us that the harvest is the consummation of the age. So, at the close of the age, those worthless evil branches are to be pulled off and exposed, and left for the predatory external forces, here called ‘fowls’ and ‘beasts’ to destroy” (page 77).

This is speaking of the time of Great Tribulation soon to engulf the nations! Yeshua declared of that coming time, “But woe to those that are pregnant, and to those who are nursing babies in those days! And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved [alive]; but for the elect’s sake, those days will be shortened” (Matt.24:19-22).

Luke adds, “For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! For there will be great distress in the land and WRATH upon this people. And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled” (Luke 21:22-24).

These days are rapidly approaching us, right now! The time of nation PRUNING is coming upon us very rapidly!

Lost Identity

The sad fact is that our peoples, especially those in America and Great Britain and Canada, have lost the knowledge of our national identities. We no longer realize that we are the people of God, the descendants of the Biblical tribe of JOSEPH, the son who was separated from his brothers – who grew up in the world of Egypt, the world power of that ancient age. Like Joseph, we, his descendants, have become LEADERS of the end-time Gentile world – we have been given dominion and power among the nations of the earth.

But our power and might are soon to become eclipsed and fragmented, destroyed and terminated. Why? Because of our rebellion against the laws of God, and our dismissal of our national heritage!

Isaiah puts it plainly. He wrote:

“Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth! For the LORD has spoken: ‘I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against Me; the ox knows its owner and the donkey its master’s crib; but Israel does not know, My people do not consider.’ Alas, sinful nation, a people laden [heavy, weighed down] with iniquity, a brood [offspring, seed] of evildoers, children who are corrupters! They have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked to anger the Holy One of Israel, they have turned away backward.

“Why should you be stricken again? You will revolt more and more. The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faints. From the sole of the foot even to the head, there is no soundness in it, but wounds and bruises and putrefying sores; they have not been closed or bound up, or soothed with ointment.

“Your country is desolate, your cities are burned with fire [natural catastrophes, terrorism, nuclear explosions]; strangers devour your land in your presence; and it is desolate, as overthrown by strangers” (Isaiah 1:1-7).

God thunders from heaven, and commands His people, to repent of their wicked ways and foolish hearts, and to turn to Him, now, while there is yet time, before the final “threshing” of the earth and its inhabitants. He thunders, “Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes. Cease to do evil, learn to do good [to be obedient]; seek justice, rebuke the oppressor; defend the fatherless, plead for the widow” (verses 16-17).

“ ‘Come now, and let us reason together,’ says the LORD, though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool. If you are willing and *obedient* you shall eat the good of the land; but if you *refuse and rebel*, you shall be devoured by the sword’; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken” (vs.18-20).

“A Present Shall Be Brought to the LORD”

The prophecy of Isaiah ends, saying, “*In that time* a present shall be brought to the LORD of hosts from a people tall and smooth of skin . . .” (v.7). The expression “in that time” invariably means, in prophetic parlance, the days of the “end of the age” and the coming of the Messiah!

God says, “Enter into the rock, and hide in the dust, from the terror of the LORD and the glory of His majesty. The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the LORD alone shall be exalted IN THAT DAY” (Isaiah 2:10-11).

What day is that? “For the DAY OF THE LORD OF HOSTS shall come upon everything proud and lofty, upon everything lifted up – and it shall be brought low . . . Upon all the high mountains [great nations], and upon all the hills that are lifted up; upon every high tower, and upon every fortified wall; upon all the ships of Tarshish [ocean-going vessels and navies] . . . The loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be brought low; The LORD alone shall be exalted IN THAT DAY, but the idols He shall utterly abolish” (Isa.2:12-18).

The time of retribution – the day of judgment – the hour of travail – the day of reckoning – the time of vengeance – is soon going to strike the earth and fall upon the heads of the wicked and rebellious among men.

God warns, “They shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, from the terror of the LORD and the glory of His majesty, when He arises to *shake the earth mightily*. IN THAT DAY a man will cast away his idols of silver and his idols of gold, which they made, each for himself to worship, to the moles and bats, to go into the clefts of the rocks, from the terror of the LORD and the glory of His majesty, *when He arises to SHAKE THE EARTH MIGHTILY*” (Isaiah 2:19-21).

Its Time to REPENT, NOW!

What does God command His people, those who wish to avert His wrath and judgment, to do? He says, “SEVER YOURSELVES from such a man” – the disobedient and wicked – “whose breath is in his nostrils; for of what account is he?” (verse 22).

Literally, this verse means, “CEASE yourselves from the man” being described – the proud and haughty – “in what is he to be esteemed?”

Why esteem highly the wicked and proud of this world, the high and mighty, those who think they hold the world in their hands – the politicians and world leaders, and the ministers and preachers of the world’s vain religions and vast religious empires.? They are all foolishness before God, and will all suffer His divine fury and wrath poured out upon the heads of men and nations in the coming frightful and turbulent years.

Sever yourselves from vain and evil associations, and cleave to what is good – the Word of God and His commandments, laws, statutes, and judgments.

Peter warned in the book of Acts, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, and for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him” (Acts 2:38-39, NRSV). Peter concluded, “SAVE YOURSELVES FROM THIS CORRUPT GENERATION!” (v.40).

Later on Peter admonished, “REPENT therefore, and turn to God that your sins may be wiped out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Messiah appointed for you, that is, Jesus, who must remain in heaven until the time of universal restoration that God announced long ago through his holy prophets” (Acts 3:19-21, NRSV).

Turn to Christ – repent of sin, which is lawbreaking (I John 3:4) – accept Christ as your Saviour, the One who died, paying the penalty of your sins, wickedness, neglect, and shortcomings – and be baptized in the name of Christ, for the remission of sins (Acts 3:38). Then you will receive the GIFT of God’s Holy Spirit which He only gives to those who obey Him (Acts 5:32).

The warning is going out. The time to repent is NOW.

“Seek the LORD, while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him RETURN TO THE LORD, and He will have MERCY on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon” (Isaiah 55:6-7).

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts” (v.8).

The apostle Paul tells us in no uncertain words, “Behold, NOW is the accepted time; behold, NOW is the day of salvation” (II Cor.6:2). To avoid judgment and punishment, NOW is the time to get right with God, and to get serious about it! Tomorrow may well be too late.

As the apostle Paul wrote, “Sleeper awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you. Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, MAKING THE MOST OF THE TIME, because the days are evil” (Eph.5:14-15).

Or, as the New King James has it: “See then that you walk circumspectly [carefully], not as fools but as wise, REDEEMING THE TIME, because the days are evil” (Eph.5:15).

How much time is left? Look at the increasing signs of worldwide instability and turmoil, the threat of biological and chemical attacks, the proliferation of nuclear weapons, the upsurge in terrorism and hatred around the world.

How much time is *really* left?

Can you procrastinate, and put it off till a “more convenient” moment? Don’t become like Felix, the governor of Judea, who listened as Paul spoke in his own defense against the accusations of the Jewish leaders in his day. We read, ‘Now as he [Paul] reasoned about righteousness, self control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid, and answered, ‘Go away for now; when I have a *convenient time*, I will call for you’” (Acts 24:25).

There may be no such “convenient” time. Grab hold of the opportunity when it presents itself. Heed the calling, the word of God.

“Truly these times of ignorance God overlooked, but NOW commands all men everywhere to REPENT, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained” (Acts 17:30-31).

NOW is the time! “Arise, shine; for your light has come!” (Isa.60:1).



America is the land of outstretched wings, the “fearsome” nation from its very inception, and the land whose Ambassadors use the “olive branch” for global diplomacy, as it seeks to establish world peace and freedom.