

THE LAST DAYS OF AMERICA?

SHANE WARREN

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THE DREAM AND THE VISION

It was on a Monday night, just a few months ago.

I went to bed, fell fast asleep, and immediately entered a dream state. I'm not a dreamer by nature, so for this to happen to me was a big deal.

In this dream I saw myself going into a television studio, holding a microphone in my hand, and I heard myself say "Turn to Judges, chapter 19:22-30." And then for the next hour I listened to myself preach what I will share with you in the first chapter of this book. The message was titled, "Dying on the Threshold."

At one point I was preaching with such fervor that I was ripping out the pages of my Bible and throwing them at individuals, saying, "You don't believe this! You don't believe this!"

When I woke up it was about two o'clock in the morning. I immediately jumped out of bed, picked up a pen and wrote down, verbatim, the six points the Lord gave me.

Then God said, "I am going to open a door for you and I want you to preach this all over the nation."

Within a few days I received a phone call from evangelist and Bible teacher, Perry Stone. He said, "I felt like the Lord told me to call you. I will be hosting a show on the Trinity

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Broadcasting Network in a couple of days and I need you in Atlanta. I feel you have a word from God to share on TBN.

When I walked onto the set of the studio, Perry turned to me and commented, "I'm not supposed to do this, but I'm only going to ask you one question, then I'm going to turn you loose."

I replied, "Well, it's going to be a rather hard word for some to understand."

Perry said, "It makes no difference. Just go ahead and preach what's on your heart."

What a privilege. When I shared the message concerning the threshold and America, I was surprised and gratified at the tremendous response.

THE VISION

A few short months after this, God gave me a vision concerning the future of our country unlike anything I could have imagined. I saw a hurricane tearing through the middle of America, an earthquake dividing the nation, riots in the streets, international plots and intrigue, plus much more. Once again, the Lord told me to share this with the world.

This entire vision is detailed in chapter two.

The day after this amazing experience, I was fearful, even trembling. I said to myself, "Who am I to tell people about all this? I'm just a local pastor in the middle of nowhere."

God promised me, "I am going to open a door for you, and when I do, walk through it."

Within 24 hours, I received a phone call from TBN: "We

need to schedule you to be on our program. Can you be in Atlanta the day after tomorrow?"

In the green room prior to the broadcast, host Jesse Duplantis greeted me and I told him, "Tonight, I want to share a word from the Lord that He has given me." He had no idea what it was about because I had only told the vision to my congregation.

The music started and the program began. And, as I was getting ready to walk onto the set, God clearly said to me, "You are not supposed to share this vision on television yet. This is not the time. This is not the door."

What a shock, because I really thought this was what the Lord wanted me to do. After God changed my direction, I switched gears and spoke on a different theme He spontaneously placed on my heart.

Another guest that evening was Sid Roth. He is an amazing man of God, a Messianic Jew who hosts his own television show, "It's Supernatural," seen by millions worldwide.

Riding back to the hotel with him, Roth began asking me about my background. Then, suddenly, he paused and said, "Shane, I operate in the word of knowledge and the Lord just told me that He has revealed something to you about America."

I was flabbergasted and answered, "Yes, He has, but I am afraid to share it with you because you'll think I am crazy."

Reluctantly, I told him just a small portion of what I saw.

Instantly, Roth replied, "I feel that God wants you to be on my program and tell this to our entire audience."

When the show aired, I was humbled at the response. His

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phones, and mine, were ringing off the hook.

In the days and months that followed, I began writing the book you are holding in your hands.

It is my earnest prayer that God will use this to awaken you to where America stands as a nation and prepare you for the events that are about to unfold.

CHAPTER 1

DYING ON THE THRESHOLD

God literally wrote this message—one of the easiest that has ever come to me, but also one of the most prophetic.

In the introduction of this book I told you how the Lord showed me a dream in the middle of the night and I saw myself preaching a message from Judges 19. When I woke up about two o'clock in the morning, I jumped out of bed, picked up a pen and wrote down the six points the Lord gave me.

While this account from the Bible may not be easy to digest, and may offend some, it is *God's Word*.

The passage the Lord asked me to preach is perhaps one of the strangest in Scripture:

As they were enjoying themselves, suddenly certain men of the city, perverted men, surrounded the house and beat on the door. They spoke to the master of the house, the old man, saying, "Bring out the man who came to your house, that we may know him carnally!" But the man, the master of the house, went out to

them and said to them, "No, my brethren! I beg you, do not act so wickedly! Seeing this man has come into my house, do not commit this outrage. Look, here is my virgin daughter and the man's concubine; let me bring them out now. Humble them, and do with them as you please; but to this man do not do such a vile thing!"

But the men would not heed him. So the man took his concubine and brought her out to them. And they knew her and abused her all night until morning; and when the day began to break, they let her go.

Then the woman came as the day was dawning, and fell down at the door of the man's house where her master was, till it was light.

When her master arose in the morning, and opened the doors of the house and went out to go his way, there was his concubine, fallen at the door of the house with her hands on the threshold.

And he said to her, "Get up and let us be going." But there was no answer. So the man lifted her onto the donkey; and the man got up and went to his place.

When he entered his house he took a knife, laid hold of his concubine, and divided her into twelve pieces, limb by limb, and sent her throughout all the territory of Israel. And so it was that all who saw it said, "No such deed has been done or seen from the day that the children of Israel came up from the land of Egypt until this day. Consider it, confer, and speak up!" (Judges 19:22-30).

In reading Judges 19 you will discover that this story is about a priest who married a concubine who committed the act of adultery.

This concubine made her way back to her father's house, which was in Bethlehem (Judges 19:2). We know that the priest must have been in love with this woman because after four months he left his house to go to the home of his father-in-law, hoping God would reconcile the relationship between him and his concubine.

One of the most unusual things in this account is the priest's affection for this woman because, in Bible days, concubines had no legal rights as a regular wife. In those times, such a woman was there to satisfy her partner, have children and raise them, and to tend to the house. Other than that, she had no rights or benefits (except protection and provision as long as she remained in her master's house).

Normally, a priest under the law of Moses would have had this woman stoned because she committed the act of adultery. Yet, this priest loved her so much that he left everything he owned in order to pursue her.

As we learn, the relationship was reconciled—God reunited them. In fact, the father-in-law was enjoying the company of his son-in-law so much that he begged him to stay several days (verse 4).

Scripture tells us they were eating, drinking, and making merry—not a care in the world. Then, when it was time to return home, the priest and the concubine rose early. He had his servant get the donkeys ready for the journey, only to find out that his father-in-law had prepared a breakfast for them (verse 5).

The woman's father persuaded them to stay for just one more day and night—which they did. The next evening, at dusk, the priest insisted that they must leave. He didn't seem to be anxious or afraid of a nighttime journey.

Soon it was late and the servant, knowing how dangerous it was to be on the road at night, suggested, "Let's find a hotel here and get some sleep." They had reached the town of Jebus, near Jerusalem (verse 10).

The priest, however, wanted to keep moving on since Jebus was a non-Jewish community. So they continued on to Gibeah, which belonged to the tribe of Benjamin. It was the middle of the night when they arrived and no one would take them in for shelter. So they decided to sleep in the town square.

Even though Gibeah was Jewish, it was an extremely wicked city—much like Sodom and Gomorrah. Yet, the priest was firm in his decision to camp in the square. He felt totally comfortable there, discarding the fact that it might put his concubine, his servant, and his goods in jeopardy.

About that time, an old man walked up to them and, knowing the risks they faced, gave them an invitation to come to his house: "*Let all your needs be my responsibility*" (verse 20).

A SHOCKING RESPONSE

We pick up the story at verse 22 in our Scripture passage. They were relaxing, resting from their arduous travels and having a good time, when all of a sudden "*perverted*" (the

actual translation says *sons of Belial*, or “sons of the devil”), demon-possessed men showed up and started banging on the door. They yelled, “Bring the man out so we can rape him all night long and have our way with him.”

Their host resisted: “Please don’t do this wicked thing to my guest.” But in a shocking response, he offered them his young, virgin daughter.

In Old Testament days, girls were married at very early ages, so his daughter was probably 10, 11, or 12 years old. As a father, I can hardly wrap my mind around his decision, knowing they were about to molest and prostitute this child. In addition, he offered to send out the priest’s concubine.

But the evil intruders would have nothing to do with it; they wanted the man. The priest, fearing for his life, took his concubine and pushed her out into the street where she was gang-raped all night long.

Then, as the sun was rising, the concubine, beaten, bruised, and bloody, crawled back to the place where the priest was staying. On the porch, in her desperate state, she reached out her hand to the threshold of the house.

The priest, who was ready to continue on his way, opened the door and saw his collapsed concubine with her hands on the threshold. Immediately, with no thought of her condition, he said, “Get up! Let’s go!”—but there was no response. She was dead!

He and his servant picked up her body, placed it on a donkey and rode back to the hills of Ephraim.

Then, when he arrived home, he did the unthinkable. He brought her body into the kitchen, took out a knife, and cut her into 12 different pieces. Next, he placed each part into

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separate packages and sent them via the FedEx or UPS of the day out to the 12 tribes of Israel.

Why did he do this? Because he wanted to incite the leaders of the 12 tribes to come and make war against the Gibeons.

SIX MISTAKES

There are a many unusual details in this account, but I want to share with you the six things God said to me concerning this story.

Mistake #1: The priest was totally comfortable in the darkness.

This man knew that the nation was on the verge of civil war. He also understood that the most perilous time to be out and about was when it was dark. Yet he was so comfortable in the darkness that he waited until it was nighttime before he began his journey. Then, when his servant said, "Let's find a room. It is getting late and it's dangerous outside," he would not listen. Why? Because he had no fear of the night.

Mistake #2: The priest was a coward in the midst of danger.

Here was a man of the cloth, a progenitor of righteousness, who had taken a vow before God to protect the innocent and defend the defenseless. But when danger came knocking at the door, he pushed his own concubine out, knowing full well these men were going to rape and abuse

her. This priest had a yellow streak running from the top of his neck to the bottom of his tailbone. He was a coward who showed no courage.

Mistake #3: The priest's concern was totally displaced.

Since this priest had a servant, he could have sent his slave out to satisfy these abusers. According to Scripture, they wanted a man, didn't they?

Here's what I heard in the dream. God said the reason the priest did not send out his servant was because if he had, he would no longer have someone to wait on him hand and foot—to turn down his sheets for him that night, to fluff his pillow, or make coffee for him in the morning. He was self-absorbed; his concern was totally displaced.

Think of it. Supposedly, he loved his concubine so much that he traveled many miles to recapture her, yet he willingly thrust her out into the street instead of his servant. Something was terribly wrong with this priest.

Mistake #4: The priest was comatose in the midst of duty.

When his abused concubine, his lover, crawled up on the porch and reached out her hands to the threshold, what was the priest doing? Since the Bible says he "*arose in the morning*" and opened the door to leave, he must have been sleeping.

After the priest put his concubine out into the night, he probably heard her screaming as she was being violated. Yet

he had the audacity to lay his head down on a pillow and fall asleep through the entire ordeal. A man is supposed to defend the woman he loves, but not this priest. He was comatose in his duty.

Mistake #5: The priest was careless in the midst of difficulty.

Scripture records that when he saw his concubine laying on the ground, he said, “Get up! Let’s go!” A normal, caring person would fall to his knees, start weeping, caress the woman he loved, wipe the matted hair from her face and the blood off her brow. Not this priest. He didn’t kiss her bruised lips or hold her in his arms. He didn’t open the door and exclaim, “Oh, baby! What have they done to you? I am so sorry!”

Instead, with a cold heart, he ordered her, “Get up! Let’s go!”—only to find that this woman was already dead. How careless can a man be?

Mistake #6: The priest was totally callous in the midst of his deed.

A Jew is not supposed to desecrate a body—never. But instead of giving his concubine a proper burial, he mutilated and dismembered her body. This man was extremely callous. His thinking was totally wrong.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Now that I have shared what the Lord *showed* me, permit

me tell you what He *told* me.

There is so much more to this story than just the priest and his concubine. In the New Testament we read that *“whatever things were written before [in the old covenant] were written for our learning”* (Romans 15:4).

In my dream, I heard God say, “This priest represents the church and the concubine represents America.” The Lord told me to tell you that the dead and dying hand of our nation is stretched out right now upon the threshold of the church—and He is concerned that the ministers are going to be asleep and not open the door. Plus, if we don’t move quickly, the dead and dying hand of America, our concubine, is going to die on our doorstep.

Something is wrong with the church today. I believe the Bible when it says, *“If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land”* (2 Chronicles 7:14).

Without question, God wants to pour out His Spirit on America—from the east coast to the west coast, from north to south. The Lord desires to visit our nation again with the greatest revival the world has ever seen.

But I must honestly tell you I fear that America will never see revival. I fear that the outstretched hand of the world that is reaching out toward the church will only die on our front porch.

The reason I say this is because we have grown far too comfortable and complacent in our darkness. We live like the world lives; we talk like the world talks; we walk like the world walks; we see and watch the same things that the

world sees. Yes, we are much too familiar and “at home” in the night that surrounds us.

We know there is danger in the darkness, yet we will not come into the light.

The Apostle Paul saw these days approaching when he wrote, *“Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons”* (1 Timothy 4:1).

In other words, darkness will come into the church. God has never had a problem with the carnal world; but He certainly has a problem with His church. We are far too contented in our present state.

We need to stop and ask once more, *“What fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?”* (2 Corinthians 6:14). We are called to be the light of the world, a city that is set on a hill (Matthew 5:14). People everywhere should know who we are because of our shining witness.

The problem, however, is that the body of Christ is asleep—and the light’s not on! We are still playing church, going through the motions and rituals. We may have moments of emotion, but the light of the glory of God is not brightly shining.

How will we ever see revival if we behave cowardly in the midst of danger. When one atheistic woman was able to rid our schools of prayer and Bible reading, where was the church?

In the midst of the charismatic renewal, we were too busy experiencing Pentecost to stand up and be counted.

Where are the believers when politicians prostitute our

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money, when there are perverts in our pulpits, when our government is erasing the name of God from our institutions? The church is not standing up because we are cowards. We're "yellow" from head to tail.

It is time for a good dose of courage to be stirred up in our souls; something that rises within us which boldly says, "I know there is danger knocking at the door, but devil, if you think you're getting what's in my house, forget it! I'll come out and fight you if that's what you want, but I am not going to be a coward in the midst of danger."

SOMETHING MUST CHANGE

Another reason I fear America will never see revival is because our concern is totally displaced. We do not have a passion for the presence of God. Let's be honest and quit deceiving ourselves. If we enter the sanctuary and the lights, the atmosphere, or the music are not just to our liking, we can't seem to worship.

If the pastor doesn't tickle our ears, we'll find another church to attend. We will flee from truth and run to error because we don't want to hear somebody tell it like it is and declare what is required for revival. Why is this happening? Because our concern is displaced.

We want our needs served—someone to turn down our sheets, fluff our pillow, shine our shoes, and make our cup of coffee!

Something has to drastically change in the church. Instead of our personal comfort, we should be focused on welcoming

the presence of the Ancient of Days—the Great I AM—God Almighty.

If we are truly concerned we would say with David, *“I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go into the house of the Lord’”* (Psalm 122:1).

Far too many enter God’s house grumbling and complaining, thinking only of themselves instead of the King of Glory.

I fear that America will never see revival because we are comatose in our duty. The church of Jesus Christ is asleep. It is time for us to arise and awaken from our slumber, to shake ourselves and let God use us as an instrument in the earth.

Can’t you see that the world is crawling up to our doorstep? Its hand is stretched out on our thresholds, only to find we are still in bed, asleep.

We hear the screams of a nation, the cries of hurting children, and the moans of the homeless. Yet the church sleeps on.

We are like Father Abraham. The Bible says the fowls of the air came to eat the covenant and at first Abraham did the right thing. He starts fighting away the fowls (in Scripture these represent evil spirits)—the demons that were coming to eat the covenant. Then we are told that *“when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, horror and great darkness fell upon him”* (Genesis 15:12).

That is where I see the church. We have the potential for an awesome spiritual outpouring, but we will never experience it because we are no longer alert and awake to the voice of God. The Bible we hold in our hand has over 2,000 promises—and every one is *“Yes, and in Him, Amen”*

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(2 Corinthians 1:20). *“God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent”* (Numbers 23:19). If He declared it, He will watch over His Word to perform the covenant promises that have been made to every believer.

Yet the church is sick and apathetic. Something is wrong. We are dozing off while the demon spirits of this world are eating the promises of God right out from under us.

We are careless in the midst of our difficulties. In a nation that was founded on biblical principles, the church is responsible for prostituting America. We won't believe this until our nation is totally lost—and by then it will be too late.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

America. Founded on the Word of God. Birthed by Puritans who came to our shores so they wouldn't have to be under the religious structure of the Church of England. They wanted revival. So if anybody is responsible for corrupting this nation, for perverting America, it's not the sons of the devil— they're doing what's natural to them, what Satan inspires. They are not the ones to blame.

Who put our beloved concubine out? It was us, the royal priesthood, a chosen generation, called forth to show the praises of His name. We are guilty of morally bankrupting America—and for the last few hundred years our nation has been whoremongered and gang-raped by the demons of this world.

What has the church done about this? Nothing. She slept while America was going down the tubes. We realize that our

nation is dying, that she is hurting, and our response is, "C'mon, let's go. Get yourself up!"

Where is the concerned church? Where are the Christians who are filled with loving compassion, who look at the bleeding, abused body of a nation that has drifted into error? Where is the church who will come to the door, fall upon her knees, hold America in her arms and say, "Oh, I am sorry that I was so foolish and pushed you out."

But I am thrilled to report that there is a Healer in the house today. Almighty God is able to mend every wound and heal your broken places.

When we stand before the King, we, as the church, will have to give an account of ourselves.

It's difficult for me to comprehend that we would put America out and let the world debase her. Yet, in these dangerous days, I see her inching her way back to the very thing that pushed her into abuse. Thankfully, there are signs that the world is coming back to the church.

But how are we responding? What help are we offering? I watched a prominent evangelical preacher being interviewed on a national television talk show. He was asked, "Sir, do you believe there is only one way to heaven?"

I was shocked when he answered, "I believe there are many ways to reach heaven."

What happened to the words of Jesus, who said, "*I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me*"? (John 14:6).

What is wrong with the church? As the world is crawling back to us, beaten and bloody, our response is to scream and yell, showing little care.

IS THERE HOPE?

I was recently listening to Mike Huckabee on the radio talking about 9/11. He was honoring the victims who were killed when Islamic extremists flew planes into buildings and murdered over 3,000 individuals. He said, "As the Twin Towers collapsed, in the wreckage stood steel girders in the form of a cross. I believe God was speaking to America that in their greatest days of crisis, the answer for this nation can only be found in the cross."

The secular media has seen the church drift away from what it was called to do, but now the world is in trouble—and it is returning to the only place they remembered a touch of hope and love. Today our nation, almost at the point of death, is slowly finding its way back. She is laying herself prostrate upon our porch, her dying hand is on the threshold of our church.

I shudder to think that we might not see America restored because we are calloused in our deeds. I see the church dismembering the very thing that she is responsible for killing. We're guilty of pushing her out and now she is at our feet. How can we have the audacity to pick her up and cut her into pieces and spread her across the nations of the world as a mockery to our own shame?

Men, women, and young people are waiting to see if we're going to be the priests that God called us to be. They are anxious to know if we're going to rise to the occasion. They're waiting to see if we still love them, if we are more concerned about them than we are about ourselves.

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My fear is that we are just going to let America die because we're fast asleep.

I can share this message to gang members and they will weep and cry and run to an altar for salvation. But when I preach to a so-called Spirit-filled church, the people fold their arms and stick out their chins. There are no tears. Yes, we are a *"stiff-necked people"* (Exodus 32:9).

If we fail to judge ourselves, God will do it for us. Where does it start? *"The time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God"* (1 Peter 4:17).

The key to revival is repentance. It's humility before God, abandonment to self, crucifying every human desire, the forsaking of our every longing except His presence. Oh, how I am praying for a mighty spiritual outpouring.

At the end of my dream, the Lord told me, "I want you to preach this message all over the nation."

This is why I feel compelled to write this book.

CHAPTER 2

OH, AMERICA!

Kids in school are taught that Christopher Columbus discovered America and they memorize the poem, “In fourteen hundred ninety two, Columbus sailed the ocean blue.”

Historians, however, give credit to Leif Erickson, a Viking from Norway, who reached the shores of our continent nearly 500 years earlier. He built a settlement in Newfoundland, Canada. There is even some evidence that his father sailed to this area earlier, and that inspired Lief to follow in his footsteps.

We like to celebrate the Pilgrims who arrived from England on the Mayflower in 1620 and formed the Plymouth Colony in what is now Massachusetts. But there were many who set foot on our land in the previous century—including Ponce de Leon, Verrazano, Cartier, De Soto, and Drake.

There has been much written about black slavery in America, however, the first slave was actually an Indian named Squanto of the Patuxet tribe. In the early 1600s he was kidnaped by the British explorer, George Weymouth, and taken to England, where he learned to speak English and was converted to Christianity. Then he was returned to his

native people in America.

The Mayflower made its 66-day voyage across the Atlantic with 102 passengers and another 50 crewmen. Upon arrival, since it was bitter cold in November and no settlement had been built, the people remained on board, anchored in the harbor of Cape Cod until springtime. Sadly, there was an outbreak of a contagious disease on the vessel, described as a mixture of scurvy, pneumonia, and tuberculosis. When it was over, only 53 of the passengers were alive—and half the crew had died.

After the snows finally melted and the Pilgrims disembarked, an Indian came to meet them. They were shocked when he spoke perfect English. Yes, it was Squanto, who became a negotiator with the local Indian tribes and taught them how to plant corn, draw sap from trees, and survive on the land. That fall, they enjoyed their first Thanksgiving meal.

These early settlers were religious separatists who journeyed to America for one reason—to discover a land where they could pursue God with freedom and not be under a state-controlled government and the tyranny of England.

The closer I examine the beginnings of our nation, the more I am convinced that God had a specific plan for America—to use this land as launching pad to raise up missionaries who would spread the gospel to the four corners of the earth.

Throughout the years, we have done just that. For centuries, America has shed the blood of its martyrs on

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foreign soil. But today, we need the seed of those brave men and women who fulfilled the Great Commission to produce a harvest in our own country. Just as we have taken revival to Africa and Asia, we need God to visit America once more.

Please don't think this book is just about doom and gloom. As you will discover, it is just the opposite. As I like to say, it's about power and *boom!*

I want you to be fully aware of where America is at this very moment so that you will know how to pray and seek God for a revival that our forefathers came here to experience.

I know you love this country and are thankful for the brave soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines who have shed their blood to keep us free and make us strong. Yet, as we face the facts of the internal and external forces that are threatening our future, we need to be deeply concerned.

Do I believe there is still hope for America? In the natural I would have to say, "No." But in the *super*-natural, the answer is "Yes!"

THE SIGNS

We cannot ignore what Scripture says regarding the "signs of the times"—and where we are at this point on God's calendar.

One day, as Jesus walked this earth, *"The Pharisees and Sadducees came, and testing Him asked that He would show them a sign from heaven. He answered and said to them, 'When it is evening you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the*

sky is red”; and in the morning, “It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.” ‘Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times’” (Matthew 16:1-3).

This wasn't the first time that the religious leaders of Jesus' day asked for a sign. They brought up the topic on at least four additional occasions (Matthew 12:38; Mark 8:11-12; Luke 11:16; John 2:18).

There are two Greek words recorded in your Bible for the word “time.” One is *chronos*, from where we get “chronological.” When I look at my watch it is counting time in a sequence—chronologically.

The other Greek word is *kairos*, meaning an appointed time. We know that it is going to be two o'clock soon because of chronological time. But if I told you we were going to meet at two o'clock for a specified purpose, we would call that a *kairos*—a set time.

In the passage above, when Jesus speaks of the signs of the times, He is referring to a set, appointed hour—a *kairos*. And by mentioning “signs,” it lets us know that God will not do anything in the earth without first alerting His people, or pointing us in a certain direction.

The first mention of a set time in Scripture is found in Genesis 1:14-19, referring to God's creation of the sun, moon and stars, given to us to establish times and seasons. The Hebrew word for *kairos* is *mow'ed*. It tells us that what God placed in the sky will determine the seasons and allow us to calculate specific, set times.

This is the reason Jesus declared that there would be signs

in the sun, moon, and stars before the return of the Lord (Matthew 24:29). They speak of the season in which we are living.

In Matthew 16, Jesus was chiding the Pharisees and Sadducees because they could look at the sun and sky and forecast the weather, but they could not recognize the time—the set moment of God—they were living in. In fact, Jesus was speaking of Himself because the religious leaders had been talking about a Messiah who was to appear, but now the Messiah was standing right before them. Still, they were more concerned about reading the weather than discerning that Jesus, the son of God, was looking them in their eyes.

That was an amazing moment. Nearly five thousand years of prophecy was standing before them in the flesh, but even with all their knowledge, they couldn't discern the hour in which they were living.

In another passage we read, *“He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him”* (John 1:11).

Yet God had given set times and multiple signs that Jesus was the Messiah. For many centuries the rabbis had taught that they would know the Promised One because there were four miracles that only the Messiah could perform:

1. Raising a man who had been dead for three days.
2. Healing a man who had been blind from birth.
3. Casting the devil out of a man who was mute.
4. The healing of a leper.

In the Old Testament there were prophets in the land who performed miracles, but they didn't pass the specific test required by the rabbis. Yet when Jesus did exactly what they demanded, they rejected Him as their Messiah and Savior.

Jews believed that the spirit from above hovered over a body for approximately 24 to 36 hours after death, then returned to its eternal abode. When Lazarus died (John 11), Mary and Martha wanted Jesus to come immediately and raise him from the dead. But He waited until after the third day as a Messianic sign to the rabbis. Then Jesus said, "Come forth!"—and Lazarus walked out of the grave.

Jesus healed a man blind from birth (John 9), who testified, *"Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind. If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing"* (verses 32-33).

Jewish rabbis performed exorcisms to cast out devils, but they would first talk to the demons: "Who are you? What is your name?" But if the demon-possessed person could not speak, there would be no communication and they could not proceed. Yet, Jesus did what was thought impossible; He cast a demon out of a deaf mute (Luke 11:14).

The Son of God also passed the fourth test, healing a leper (Matthew 8:1-4).

In order to be a Sadducee, you had to be able to trace your lineage to Issachar (the ninth son of Jacob and leader of one of the 12 tribes of Israel). According to 1 Chronicles 12:32, *"the sons of Issachar...had understanding of the times,"* and knew what direction to point the people of God.

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However, when their descendants reached the years when Jesus lived on earth, they were so religious that they could predict the weather, but couldn't live up to their Issachar roots.

These men were face to face with the Messiah, yet they would not believe.

THE FOUR WINDS

Today, we can no longer ignore the “signs of the times” —especially as they relate to America and our future.

Let me ask you to take a close look at what John saw in his vision, as recorded in the last book of the Bible.

Revelation 7 speaks of events that will take place in the middle of the tribulation period, but are meaningful for our day and age.

John writes:

After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree.

Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God. And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, saying, “Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads” (verses 1-3).

Here is what I want you to focus on in this passage: there are four angels standing at the four corners of the earth and they are holding back four winds. Evidently, these are not natural winds, but prophetic—and have the ability to shake the earth.

If you look at world history there have always been four winds that have shaped civilization:

Number 1: The Wind of War

For the last 6,000 years, war has destroyed nations exterminated cultures, redrawn boundaries, and has given birth to new societies. Great battles have formed the ownership of entire continents. When this wind of conflict blows, there are major changes on earth.

Number 2: The Wind of the Economy

Economy controls how civilizations are born. For example, the Aztec Indians were wealthy with gold until the Spaniards came and overtook them. Economy has established world empires and determined who rises and who falls.

The communist Soviet Union collapsed because of economic conditions, and America became a super-power because of financial strength. But now this is being threatened.

Number 3: The Wind of Religion

Take a look at Christian, Jewish, Buddhist, or Muslim faiths and you can see how religion has established boundaries and determined the control of nations. It has

always been a powerful force.

Number 4: The Wind of Politics

Whether you study Babylon or the Roman Empire, world-shaping movements were altered by political systems. Authority rested in the hands of a king—and kingdoms have risen and fallen because of its leadership. This wind is still influencing events on our planet.

A GREATER WIND

I believe that the closer we move to the coming of the Lord—the end of the age—the more these winds will escalate. Right now, America is experiencing a whirlwind of war, economics, religion, and politics. And as these forces collide into each other, they produce the perfect storm.

These four winds are blowing at the same time, shaping our nation and moving it in the wrong direction. They are pushing us away from the Word of God and the gospel of Christ.

At the same time, I believe there is another force that only God controls—the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. This wind will blow in the last days because the Bible tells me, *“When the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him”* (Isaiah 59:19).

One of the most fascinating aspects of the wind of the Holy Spirit is that it is omni-directional. Concerning this, Jesus said, *“The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where*

it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit” (John 3:8).

We are in the midst of a monumental storm, but take comfort in these facts:

- When the wind of war is blowing from one direction, the wind of the Holy Spirit will raise up a standard against it.
- When the wind of economics is blowing from another direction, and there are foreclosures and financial loss, the wind of the Holy Spirit will put the wealth of the wicked into the hands of the righteous.
- When the wind of politics is blowing, trying to exalt an anti-Christ king or an anti-Christ government, the wind of the Holy Ghost will begin to lift up a Holy Kingdom manifestation in the midst of that nation.
- When the wind of religion is blowing and the prophets of Baal (in the form of Islam) are trying to establish their religion around the world, I believe the prophetic winds of Elijah and the Holy Ghost will lift up a standard against the prophets of Baal.

Right now, the world is reeling and shaking because of these four winds, yet the church is distracted and busy just “having church.” We pay closer attention to the weather than we do to the real forces that are swirling around us.

It’s as if we don’t want to be bothered talking about “end times” or “the last days.”

Can’t we see that in the midst of this turmoil the Son of the Living God wants to manifest Himself to a people who

are looking for Him?

WHAT ABOUT JUDGMENT?

There is another issue we must not ignore. We cannot avoid the topic of judgment.

In the Old Testament, the real prophets were the ones who spoke about judgement. However, in the New Testament, the “false prophets” were those who didn’t address the topic. Yet Jesus declared, *“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! See! Your house is left to you desolate”*(Matthew 23:37-38). In other words, judgment was on the way.

I’ve heard people say that after the cross, Jesus removed judgment and there would no longer be any poured out on man. Well, they failed to read the book of Acts because, not long after the resurrection, judgment fell on Ananias and Sapphira. It also came to Rome because of what they did to the Jewish people.

Personally, I focus more on God’s mercy than His judgment, yet we cannot ignore the facts.

I believe there is a point a nation can reach where it offends God—and I feel America is on the brink.

From my perspective, the country we love is slowly dying, and some of its maladies seem incurable. At times I even wonder if our disease is terminal.

Who would have ever thought that a great nation like America could crumble? Yet everywhere you turn in this world, countries are falling apart, and we are on the verge of doing the same.

In their era of greatness, it was unthinkable that the heralded empires of Babylon, Rome, or Greece would have ever collapsed. But when you take a close look, every empire in history has come to its demise because of the same disease: they forgot God.

Here is another fascinating fact. Major empires crumble between the 200 and 250 year mark—which is where America is right now.

There are limits to God's patience. Scripture speaks of a time when you can pray and the Lord will no longer answer. In Ezekiel 15:13-14 we read, *"When a land sins against Me by persistent unfaithfulness, I will stretch out My hand against it; I will cut off its supply of bread, send famine on it, and cut off man and beast from it. Even if these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they would deliver only themselves by their righteousness."*

The day will dawn when God has had His fill of sin and rejection, and His wrath will descend on a land that has forgotten its Creator.

I believe the Lord gives us signs for the times we are in, so we can repent and turn toward Him—so the wind of the Holy Spirit will sweep over our culture. But if we continue in rejecting our Maker, we will suffer the consequence.

America needs to wake up!

However, there is good news. While the Almighty will

judge some people, He will bless others—those who are faithful and love Him.

BLESSINGS AND CURSES

If you want to know about God's blessing, read Deuteronomy 28. Specifically, it speaks of heaven's favor to those who do the works of the law. Some reject the very idea of Old Testament "law," but the word in Hebrew means *instruction* about right living—on how to be blessed.

The Old Testament contains 613 instructions, and we need to study and apply them to our lives. The Bible not only tells us to keep God's words, but to "*write them on the tablet of your heart*" (Proverbs 7:3). This is essential, because the man or woman whose heart is right will naturally live by those instructions. It's not legalism; it is a Spirit-led life.

Jesus was the only one who was able to keep all of the laws without fail—which is the reason we need His mercy and grace in our lives.

The first 14 verses of Deuteronomy 28 detail the promises and blessings of God for living right. Then for the rest of the chapter He lets us know the consequences for disobedience—He uses the word "curse."

This has nothing to do with salvation, rather it's about right living and wrong living. We know that an individual can live right and be blessed, yet not be saved. On the other hand, there are men and women who can be saved, yet they live in disobedience and are not blessed.

Of course, the ultimate blessing is being born again and

living a righteous life—which is much easier to do when you have given your heart to Christ.

Everyone would prefer to enjoy favor and blessing, yet there are consequences for a nation who forgets God. Here are the signs that tell us we are on the wrong track.

Sign #1: There is a curse on our cities.

In Deuteronomy 28:16 we read, *“Cursed shall you be in the city.”*

Right now, the infrastructure of every major city in America is falling apart. They are borrowing millions to pay unfunded retirement packages, while the roads, bridges, and utility systems are rapidly deteriorating. In addition, many of our urban areas have become violent war zones. We see demonstrations, even anarchy, and it could become much worse—with neighbor against neighbor.

Sign #2: There is a curse on our economy.

God said, because of disobedience, *“Cursed shall be your basket and your store”* (verse 17).

In Bible days, their basket and store was their economy—how they bought, sold, and traded. In today’s terms this refers to gross national product, our banking system and Federal Reserve. In Leviticus 26:26, God said if you forget Him, He will *“cut off your supply of bread.”* This is certainly one way for Him to get our attention!

When you see the economy struggling, it is so much more than politics. Just look at our national debt and you can see that America is practically bankrupt. We are headed in the wrong direction.

Sign #3: There's a curse on our futures market.

“Cursed shall be the fruit of your body and the produce of your land, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks” (verse 18). You only have to look at the cash register total when you check out of the grocery store to know that food prices are skyrocketing. Our commodities are in trouble.

Sign #4: There is a curse on foreign negotiations.

“Cursed shall you be when you come in, and cursed shall you be when you go out” (verse 19). If you believe our relationships with other nations are improving, you and I are not receiving the same information! Fewer and fewer counties accept us or are willing to be our partners. I shudder to think what would happen if China suddenly decided to ask us to repay all of our financial debt to them.

Sign #5: There is a curse and a plague of incurable illnesses.

“The Lord will make the plague cling to you until He has consumed you from the land which you are going to possess. The Lord will strike you with consumption, with fever, with inflammation, with severe burning fever, with the sword, with scorching, and with mildew; they shall pursue you until you perish” (verses 21-22).

This speaks of diseases that cannot be cured by doctors—and they will increase in the last days.

Sign #6: There is a curse of unusual weather patterns.

“The Lord will change the rain of your land to powder and dust; from the heaven it shall come down on you until you are destroyed” (verse 24). Weather patterns are in turmoil; not just here but around the globe.

We also know that in the last days there will be an increase in earthquakes (Matthew 24:7). Let me share some facts. From 1900 to 2000 there were 200 major earthquakes. From 2000 to 2010 there were 200 major earthquakes. In 2011 there were 200 major earthquakes! The signs of the times are accelerating.

I believe God is telling us, “If you want to do things your own way, here will be the result.”

Sign #7: There is a curse of smaller armies putting our mighty army to shame.

“The Lord will cause you to be defeated before your enemies; you shall go out one way against them and flee seven ways before them; and you shall become troublesome to all the kingdoms of the earth. Your carcasses shall be food for all the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and no one shall frighten them away”

(Deuteronomy 28:25-26).

God is speaking of the armies of other nations—forces not as powerful as ours that embarrass us on the field of battle. We will engage in conflicts we cannot win. Does this sound familiar? Our military power is strong, yet we fall short. What has gone wrong?

Sign #8: There is a curse and an epidemic of dysfunctional families.

“You shall betroth a wife, but another man shall lie with her; you shall build a house, but you shall not dwell in it; you shall plant a vineyard, but shall not gather its grapes” (verse 30).

God is letting us know that we will have such twisted relationships that we will never see the results of our work, because the family is torn apart. America is a poster child for dysfunction in the home.

Sign #9: There is a curse resulting in a wave of bankruptcy.

“Your ox shall be slaughtered before your eyes, but you shall not eat of it; your donkey shall be violently taken away from before you, and shall not be restored to you; your sheep shall be given to your enemies, and you shall have no one to rescue them” (verse 31).

In Israeli and Oriental cultures, the creditor can take everything from the debtor for restitution. So this verse is referring to bankruptcy. In our nation, with people buying far more than they can afford, and a government spending far more than it receives, it is a natural sign with spiritual significance.

Sign #10: There is a curse resulting in the loss of an entire generation of young people.

“Your sons and your daughters shall be given to another people, and your eyes shall look and fail with longing for

them all day long; and there shall be no strength in your hand” (verse 32). In addition, “You shall beget sons and daughters, but they shall not be yours; for they shall go into captivity” (verse 41).

Think of the parents who are not able to enjoy their children because of alcohol, drugs, and other vices. Church historians are pointing out that we are into the second generation of children who have not been raised in the house of God. Slowly, we are losing our young people.

Sign #11: There is a curse resulting in the prosperity of other nations becoming our responsibility and expense.

“The alien who is among you shall rise higher and higher above you, and you shall come down lower and lower” (verse 43).

Please pay close attention to this. God says that one of the ways you will know you’re in trouble is that foreigners will come to this land and will prosper more than you do. Sound familiar?

Sign #12: The curse of becoming a debtor nation rather than a lender.

“He shall lend to you, but you shall not lend to him; he shall be the head, and you shall be the tail” (verse 44).

In the last five years America has become the world’s biggest debtor nation. As I write this, our national debt is over 16.5 *trillion* dollars—and is increasing at the rate of \$2.5 million every minute. Even with a balanced budget, the

interest we owe will keep us bogged down in debt. Printing more money is not the answer. Again, what has gone wrong?

This is not what the Pilgrims signed up for!

THE SECRET MEETING

I am not a prophet, nor the son of a prophet, but let me share something God showed me in a vision.

I was asleep when I saw myself sitting on my couch and, suddenly, my large screen television changed channels to a current weather forecast. I was shocked as the newscaster showed a picture of what appeared to be the largest hurricane I had ever seen.

Normally, hurricanes form in the ocean as stormy winds collide and then they make their way toward land. However, this storm was completely different; it was already on land, specifically over America.

As they zoomed in on the satellite image, I noticed that it spread from the American-Canadian border all the way to the Mexican border. This was a huge storm and it was plowing through the heartland of our nation.

Then, all of a sudden, the news anchor exclaimed, "We have a correspondent on the ground in the middle of the storm. Let's switch to him to see what's going on."

I watched a young man dressed in protective rain gear, struggling to hold a microphone to his lips. He was being tossed by the violent winds. I could see some sort of debris that was swirling around his head. The young man suddenly

uttered these words: "This is a most unusual storm. It's not raining like it normally does. It's raining money!"

I saw \$100 bills flying around. The reporter was picking them up, saying, "Look, this is a storm of \$1 bills." \$100 was printed on them, yet he said they were only worth one dollar.

Immediately the scene diverted back to the news anchor and I was stunned as I sat there and heard him say, "Ladies and gentlemen, there has been another catastrophe. I have just received word that a major earthquake has hit the Niagra fault."

In the vision, pictures began to flash before my eyes of devastation. Cities had crumbled from the shaking, and as I watched, I heard a voice behind me sternly saying into my right ear, "They have divided my land; now I will divide theirs."

I knew this was the voice of God. He was telling me that He was judging America because of her reckless policies concerning the nation of Israel.

As the vision unfolded, I saw the collapse of the dollar bill and inflation spike through the roof. I saw riots in the streets. People were waving large picket signs. One that stood out to me had big red letters that read, "I want my entitlements!"

At that point I was picked up and translated to a room somewhere in the Middle East. Around the table were seated leaders from China, India, Russia, Japan, other Asiatic countries, plus several from European and Arab nations. They were discussing strategy on how they could devalue the American dollar.

All over the world, the value of oil is based on our dollar. I watched them sign a compact to revalue oil based on another currency. As a result, it drove the American dollar so low that it became practically worthless.

People were hoarding silver, not gold—and I saw the value of silver skyrocket. It was because they could no longer afford the exorbitant price of gold.

As these leaders gathered together, I heard the voice of the Lord say, “America is not prepared, even though I gave them a sign.”

One week after I shared this on Sid Roth’s television program, the BBC reported on a meeting of world economic leaders discussing the trading of oil in some other currency than the American dollar.

In that same vision, I was shown the other side of this coin. I saw the church I pastor, and others like it, thriving. These congregations were flourishing in the awesome presence of God. It was as if a glory cloud from heaven enveloped our building and property. People who were hurting came running to us, and, thankfully, we had finances to help the poor and needy.

One grateful man asked, “Why are we able to find help here?” I responded, “Because we heeded the signs of the times we are living in.

As I look back on this vision, I believe the Lord was telling me all this because our nation is off course—and violent winds are blowing.

Sadly, we are not alone. Europe, Russia, and many nations are in trouble. The existence of Israel, the only stable

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democracy in the Middle east, is being threatened by Arab countries as never before.

Yes, what we see on the horizon is the perfect storm.

A GREATER KINGDOM

At the same time, however, as the world struggles, it is the church's finest hour for an unprecedented demonstration of God's power!

- When the world is in poverty, the church ought to be in prosperity.
- When the world doesn't know where to turn, the church can turn to the heavens.
- When the world is in trouble, greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world.

My Bible clearly states that the kingdoms of this world are coming to nothing. Why is this true? Because there is another Kingdom that's coming to *something!* Scripture declares, "*The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!*" (Revelation 11:15).

I believe there is a manifestation of this greater Kingdom invading the earth right now.

In the days of prophet Elisha, when a famine hit Samaria, there were four lepers sitting outside the city gate. They asked

each other, *“Why are we sitting here until we die?”* (2 Kings 7:3) Then the word of the Lord spoke to them, saying, *“Position yourselves!”*

Instead of wallowing in their self-pity, they stood to their feet and started walking—and God led them to food, wealth, and the blessings of heaven.

The Lord is speaking the same words to you: *“Position yourselves—physically, spiritually, economically. Get yourself and your family in a place where you can become a demonstration of My power to a world that is hurting.”*

This is our finest hour. God is not going to let the winds of evil, trouble, and struggle blow without raising up another wind—*“a rushing mighty wind”* of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:2).

The Bible promises that where sin abounds, grace much more abounds (Romans 5:20).

- The worse it gets in the world, the better it becomes for the church.
- The worse it gets for the economy, the better it gets for your finances.
- The worse it gets for unbelievers, the better it gets for you.

Hallelujah!

Regardless of what happens to America, God is preparing His people to receive favor and abundance beyond anything we have ever known.

CHAPTER 3

SEVEN END-TIME ATTACKS

One of the most intriguing topics in Bible prophecy is determining the meaning of the “seven heads and ten horns” mentioned in Revelation—and their relationship to the end of the age.

“Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars. Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth. And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads” (Revelation 12:1-3).

The dragon is Satan, but in Genesis he is described as a serpent: *“Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made”* (Genesis 3:1). Remember, this was after the fall of Lucifer because of his rebellion against the Almighty described in Isaiah 14. So, without question, we know this is Satan.

But in the final book of the Bible, Satan has progressed from being a serpent and is now a “great dragon”—with

seven heads. This leads me to ask: “Who has been feeding the snake?”

Here are just a few of the conclusions biblical scholars have proposed regarding the dragon mentioned in Revelation.

- Some feel the dragon represents the Roman Empire and the ten horns are the ten kings or kingdoms that will arise out of the revived Roman Empire—which will become the seventh empire of world history; the Antichrist empire.
- Other commentators say that these seven heads could represent seven forms of government that the Roman Empire was ruled by: from dictatorships, a senate, to the papacy and leadership of the Pope.
- Some conclude that the seven heads of this dragon could portray the Seven Hills of Rome on which the city is set.
- Still others suggest the seven heads could represent seven cities, because there were seven capitol cities of the Roman empire.

One thing everyone will agree on is that this depicts Satan’s agenda in the last days and how he will work his evil plans.

However, the view I want to share with you is that these seven heads represent seven former empires.

We know from history that six empires have existed up to now. There will be a total of seven if you include the

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Antichrist Empire—which is on the horizon. In fact, the Antichrist may already be alive today.

The reason I want to focus on this is because of what I read in Isaiah 27:1; 51:9; and Ezekiel 29:3.

Pharaoh, the kings of Egypt, and many other kings or imperial leadership throughout world history have been referred to as dragons.

Please understand, prophecy is multilayered and so powerful that it can interpret the seven heads being the seven hills, the seven capitol, and the seven empires of world history. The “empire” view is what we are dealing with here. And, as we will discover, each kingdom has a spiritual characteristic.

Ephesians 6 speaks of the principalities and powers we wrestle against. We also know from Daniel 10 that there was a prince of Greece and a prince of Persia, so over these different empires there were “prince spirits” which seemed to guide them.

THE SEVEN ATTACKS

Here’s what is amazing. When you study these empires of world history (which I believe make up the seven heads of the Revelation 12 dragon), we find seven ways the enemy attacks believers—and the church.

End-Time Attack #1: The Spirit of Bondage

After Adam, the first kingdom in world history was the Egyptian Empire.

Remember, Joseph came to Egypt and rose up into leadership to be second in command under Pharaoh. Not long after, when the Hebrew people (the children of God) arrived in Egypt they entered as free people, not as slaves.

An interesting characteristic of the Egyptian Empire is that it despised shepherds. It is recorded in Scripture that when Joseph's family reached their new home, since they were keepers of livestock, they were given a separate area to live: *"...in the land of Goshen; for every shepherd is an abomination to the Egyptians"* (Genesis 46:34).

A subsequent Pharaoh made the children of Israel slaves. So the spirit of Egypt is one of bondage.

During almost two decades as a pastor, over and over I have watched a person come to the altar, give his or her heart to the Lord, become radically saved and on fire for God. Then comes the first attack of the devil on their lives. He attempts to lure them back into the terrible bondage of the world they came out of.

What a blessing to know that you and I are not called to be slaves; we are called to be free. The Bible says, *"If the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed"* (John 8:36). Yet I see many still living under subjection.

According to God's Word, the only way to destroy this attack is with the anointing of heaven. This is why I encourage every Christian to get under a Spirit-led ministry, because *"the yoke [burden] will be destroyed because of the anointing"* (Isaiah 10:27).

If you yield yourself to bondage, you will become its servant. As Scripture declares, *"To whom you present*

yourself slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey" (Romans 6:16).

The enemy's objective is to keep your hands tied, binding you with immorality, iniquity, or anything that will keep you from being totally free and living in God's favor.

Just as the first empire of world history is Egypt, representing the spirit of bondage, this will be the first attack on your life.

End-Time Attack #2: The Spirit of Division

The second kingdom of world history was the Assyrian Empire. This represents the spirit of division.

What we are talking about is progressive. So that you have a context for what I am sharing, the first four attacks are personal and the last three are corporate.

After trapping you into bondage, the enemy wants to bring division into your life. The reason I say this is because originally, under the spirit of the Assyrian kingdom, there were 12 tribes of Israel.

As you study the life of David, you find that he reunited all of Israel under his leadership—and this also continued during Solomon's reign. However, Solomon began to lose his leadership ability because, as the Bible records, he not only loved his wives, but he also loved their idols (1 Kings 11:1-13).

When King Solomon died, his son Rehoboam became king. This son was an arrogant, dominant, rude individual who said to the children of Israel, *"My father hath chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions"*

(1 Kings 12:11 KJV). He placed a heavy yoke on God's people.

Then came a huge split in the kingdom. Between Solomon's sons, Jeroboam and Rehoboam, there came a spirit of division that entered into the camp of Israel, dividing them into 10 tribes and two tribes. In Jerusalem there were the tribes of Judah and Benjamin, and the rest were in the northern kingdom—which became the lost tribes of Israel living under a brutal captivity.

Today, I see the same pattern at work. People in the church get their priorities out of kilter and suddenly their marriage is being torn apart. Even at the church level, a congregation can fall under bondage because they don't have the right kind of leadership. Before long, a spirit of division creeps in and destroys the church.

Remember, the enemy wants to divide our homes, our churches, our cities, and our nation.

There are seven things God despises (Proverbs 6), including *"one who sows discord among the brethren"* (verse 19). This is a spiritual strategy of the devil because he knows that if he divides you, then you become a weak and easy target.

So the second kingdom, Assyria, represents division.

End-Time Attack #3: The Spirit of Confusion

In Sunday School we learned the story of the Tower of Babel. It took place in the world's third empire—the kingdom of Babylon.

Babel is actually two words: *Bab*—meaning opening or

gate, and El—another name for God. Literally, it means “The gate of God.”

Under the leadership of King Nimrod, these people were trying to build a tower that would reach to heaven. If not literally, then by divination, because history tells us that on top of this tower were Zodiac charts. They thought this would show them how to find the gate of heaven through witchcraft.

When you trace the false religions of the world, all the way back to Babel, you find people rambling on even though they have nothing to say; they just *babble*.

The spirit of Babylon is the spirit of confusion. Read Genesis 11 and you will see how God came down and confounded the language of the people and they spread out to different lands. This is how we have the many language groups on earth.

Under Babylon, King Zedekiah was taken captive (2 Kings 25) and there were three things the Babylonians did to him. First, they gouged out his eyes. Second, they took his sons captive. Third, they stole their song—or their desire to worship.

You will know you are under the attack of confusion when these same things begin happening to you. First, the enemy will try to steal your vision. Your eyes represent your insight, your discernment, your ability to find direction.

Second, when spiritual confusion hits you, not only do you lose vision, but it begins to affect your children—just as Zedekiah’s sons were taken captive. You may have problems with a son or daughter and are not sure what you are dealing

with; this is a spirit of bondage, division, and confusion trying to stop you from being spiritually successful.

Finally, you will know that you are under the spiritual attack of confusion when you lose your desire to worship.

We read in Psalm 137, *“By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept when we remembered Zion. We hung our harps upon the willows in the midst of it”* (verses 1-2). Harps were their instruments of worship. The psalm continues, *“For there those who carried us away captive asked of us a song, and those who plundered us requested mirth, saying, ‘Sing us one of the songs of Zion!’ How shall we sing the Lord’s song in a foreign land?”* (verses 3-4),

In times of warfare, how did the Lord confound the armies of the enemies of God? He sent them out with a song on their lips, and their praise would confuse the adversary (2 Chronicles 20). So when the enemy attempts to bring chaos, he reverses the process and tries to steal your song.

What I am speaking of is more than just your worship. What does a baby or a young child do when he is happy? He laughs and sings. Sometimes adults do the same in the shower—even if they can’t carry a tune!

Since your song represents your joy, don’t allow confusion to rob you of your blessing.

End-Time Attack #4: The Spirit of Frustration

The fourth kingdom is the Medo-Persian Empire, which came from a uniting of the Meds and Persians. It represents the spirit of frustration.

It was during this reign that the Jews left Babylon and

were returning to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls and the temple. You can read about this in the books of Ezra and Nehemiah. Of course, *“The people of the land tried to discourage the people of Judah. They troubled them in building, and hired counselors against them to frustrate their purpose”* (Ezra 4:4-5).

The “people of the land” were not the Medo-Pesians, rather they were Samaritans and other Jews living under this rule.

In Nehemiah’s day, the only objective of the enemy was to stop the building project—to get him to come down from that wall. But it didn’t succeed. Nehemiah just kept working harder.

Frustration can cause you to miss the will of God. If you don’t believe me, talk to Moses! He became so annoyed with the people that he struck the rock and missed the Promised Land (Numbers 20:7-12).

Often, your greatest frustration will come from those who are closest to you—family members, friends, people you work with.

You will also experience this emotion during a building project. Take it from someone who knows. I laughed to one friend, “I think there must be demons in wood, nails, and shingles!”

One of the ways you know your marriage will survive and thrive is if you can build a house together and live through the process. Plus, whether you are building a business, a church, or a family, there will be an attack of frustration attempting to

foil your plans. These onslaughts come to sabotage your purpose.

Let me share a secret. You can capture all the demons that have ever existed and every fallen angel that's been created, and put them in one big sack—and together, they can't overcome you. Every mad, angry person trying to do their evil work, cannot attack you and win because inside you is the greatest champion of all history: *"He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world"* (1 John 4:4)

Stop giving into the Medo-Persian spirit of frustration. Nobody can stop you but YOU!

End-Time Attack #5: The Spirit of Persecution

The fifth kingdom is the Grecian Empire.

You've no doubt heard of Alexander the Great, but you may be surprised to learn that he was actually very kind to the Jews. However, when Alexander the Great died, his kingdom was divided into four sections and each territory was given to one of his four generals.

After the division, a man named Antiochus Epiphanes rose up in 168 BC and began to attack the people of God. His method was sly. Instead of persecuting them or cutting off their heads, he simply had the laws changed. For example, he passed a law that Jews could no longer circumcise their sons. That was a major deal because circumcision for a Jew is the seal of their covenant with God.

Next, he passed a law that Jews could no longer worship on the Sabbath day, another that forbid them from reading

their Bible in Hebrew, and an edict was issued to shut down synagogues.

Soon after, Antiochus Epiphanes entered the temple, and because he was a worshiper of Zeus, he offered a pig as a sacrifice. This was during the time of the Maccabees, and such an act was considered to be a desecration and a sacrilege.

Then, sitting in the temple, he declared himself god. This man is a type, a forerunner, of the Antichrist which is to come.

The Grecian Empire is the spirit of persecution.

As I mentioned earlier, the first four attacks were personal—and these final three are corporate.

The Grecian spirit is the passing of laws to persecute and silence believers—and there are many who see this happening in America at this very moment. For example, publicly funded abortion procedures are being written into health care legislation—even though the majority of Americans are against abortion. Yet you and I will be paying for the slaughter of millions of children.

This is why I say we are on the verge of the greatest curse America has ever known.

Satan is inspiring the changing of our laws. Daniel 7:25, which speaks of the Antichrist, says he *“shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law.”*

The ACLU tries to tell us that our forefathers desired freedom *from* religion. That’s a lie. They came to our shores because the tyranny of England was trying to control their

worship, and the Pilgrims were fighting the battle of freedom *for* religion.

Whether it's a manger scene at the mall, a cross on a soldier's grave, or "In God We Trust" written on our coins, there are forces at work that are doing their best to erase Christianity from society.

We can no longer just "play church" and pretend nothing is going on. The spirit of Satan is penetrating our nation, attempting to silence believers through intimidation and persecution.

I am happy to tell you that these tactics didn't work in New Testament days, and they won't work now. The more they oppressed the church, the more it reproduced and increased.

Thousands of years earlier, when Pharaoh tried to put the children of Israel under bondage, their numbers multiplied to the point that the king was afraid of them.

Today, the church is being silenced because the world fears us—it doesn't understand the glory of God that rests on our lives.

End-Time Attack #6: The Spirit of Tolerance

The sixth kingdom is the Roman Empire. This was the government and rule in Israel during the time of Jesus.

The key fact to remember is that the Romans were tolerant of all religions and all sin—except Christianity. They worshiped a variety of gods, including Saturn, Venus, pagan gods, and even Greek deities from Aphrodite to Zeus.

Why all these strange gods? Because you could worship

any of them and still acknowledge Caesar.

Their problem with Jesus was that, as the Son of God, He demanded that you worship no one else but Him.

The Romans were also tolerant of same-sex relations (historians have detailed that Nero was homosexual and schizophrenic). This was overlooked, and they didn't complain when he fed Christians to the lions. They would dip followers of Christ in tar and light them as torches in the streets. There are horrific accounts of how they created slides filled with sharp razors and, as the believers were forced to slide down, they would, little by little, be shaved to death.

The Romans permitted the slaying of children under two—even worse than abortion.

One of the most deceptive practices of Satan in America is the preaching of the tolerance of sin. Oh, how we need a prophet like Elijah who will stand up and tell us we must make a choice between Almighty God or Baal's god. *"Whoever answers by fire, let Him be God."* (1 Kings 18:24).

Sadly, while the world is promoting tolerance into the church, pastors are watering down the message. The church is minimizing prophecy and pushing the gifts of the Spirit out the back door—afraid visitors will be uncomfortable if the Spirit begins to move.

Friend, *"God is not the author of confusion"* (1 Corinthians 14:33).

Confrontation demands me to let people know that there is only one way to heaven, through God's Son, Christ Jesus.

Close your ears when Satan wants you to adopt the Roman Empire's spirit of tolerance.

End-Time Attack #7: The Spirit of Weariness

The seventh kingdom is taking shape right now. It is the Antichrist Empire. Scripture tells us, *“He shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints”* (Daniel 7:25 KJV).

This attack is the spirit of weariness.

Take a close look at the devil’s tactics; they are ones of slow, steady progress. Look at it this way: in the eternal struggle between the water and the stone—water will always win. For example, a dripping faucet will eventually bore a hole right through stone.

Satan, nor the Antichrist, is rushing to cut off your head. Yet little by little, through books, media, and our educational system, the water is dripping and tearing a hole in your heart. The sad part is that millions in America are totally unaware this is happening. The devil is wearing them down. He knows you will become so tired that you will eventually fall asleep.

In the Parable of the Ten Virgins (Matthew 25), while the bridegroom waited, the Bible says they slept—even the wise ones.

Also, in the Parable of the Wheat and Tares (Matthew 13), while the master was away and everyone slept, the enemy crept in and sowed tares—weeds among the wheat.

Are we awake? When Jesus was in the garden of Gethsemane He said to His disciples, *“Watch and pray”* (Matthew 26:41). But while He was fighting the enemy, they were fast asleep.

While Satan’s agenda is to slow the church down, he is doing his best to agitate and speed you up! The devil would

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like nothing more than to have you so busy running here and there that you miss your time of prayer and reading God's Word. Little by little, his polluted water is dripping on your very foundation.

One day you will reach the place where Satan attacks you with full force, and you have nothing solid to stand on. He has worn you out!

Is there a safe haven, a place of refuge? Yes. There is a *"path no bird knows, nor has the falcon's eye seen it. The proud lions have not trodden it, nor has the fierce lion passed over it"* (Job 28:7).

This path is called righteousness, which is accredited to you by faith in the atoning work of Christ. No demon knows that path and no wicked spirit can see it. This is why, as a believer, *"your life is hidden with Christ in God"* (Colossians 3:3).

YOUR REFUGE

The end-time attacks may rage and America will be in the cross-hairs, but you will still be protected. Demons spirits can try to bind, divide, confuse, frustrate, persecute, cause you to be tolerant and weary. But there is a place in God where you can abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

With the psalmist you can proclaim, *"He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, in Him will I trust"* (Psalm 91:2).

CHAPTER 4

THE SIGNS OF THE LORD'S RETURN

While Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem, His disciples came to Him and asked, *“What will be the sign of Your coming, and the end of the age?”* (Matthew 24:3).

After the Son of God told them there would be false prophets, wars, rumors of wars, nations rising up against nations, famines, pestilences, and earthquakes, He made this statement: *“As the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be”* (verses 37-39).

In other words, at the end of the age, people would be going through life totally oblivious that they're living in a set time.

Let me share three passages of Scripture I believe are

significant to your life today and tomorrow. In Malachi 3:1 God declares, *“Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight. Behold, He is coming.”*

This is speaking about the Lord’s first arrival, as a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes. God was telling the people that before His Son comes to die for their sins, they needed to know that there would be a messenger sent to prepare the way.

That person was revealed in Malachi 4:5: *“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and dreadful day of the Lord.”* The last part of this verse speaks specifically to the tribulation period.

The Bible tells us of a time when seven years of hell on earth is going to be unleashed—the tribulation. We also know that at the end of those seven years, Jesus is going to descend to the Mount of Olives and set up His kingdom—where you and I will rule with Him for a thousand years.

However, before this happens, Scripture informs us that God will send a messenger who is going to *“turn the hearts of the fathers to the children to their fathers lest I come and strike the earth with a curse”* (verse 6).

In the days of Jesus, this messenger was John the Baptist, who preached in Judea, saying, *“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: ‘The voice of one crying in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord; make His paths straight’* (Matthew 3:1-2).

Now Christ Himself was telling His disciples of the events that were to occur before His return.

Today, with the greatest season of history upon us, we need to wake up and be aware of these prophetic times.

You may say, “Why should I be concerned? Preachers have been saying for hundreds, if not thousands, of years that the Lord is coming back soon.” It’s true. Even in the days of Paul the Apostle they were looking for Christ’s return.

So you ask, “How can we say for certain that we are closer to His return now, and that we are in the last days of this age?”

The answer is that there are seven signs that are upon us—and we are the only generation in 3,500 years where all of these are happening simultaneously.

Sign #1: The Rebirth of the Nation of Israel

In 1948, God performed a miracle according to a question asked by the prophet Isaiah: “*Can a country be born in a day or a nation be brought forth in a moment?*” (Isaiah 66:8 NIV).

There is a passage in Matthew 24 where Jesus says, “*Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. So you also, when you see all these things, know that it [the coming of the Son of Man] is near—at the doors!*” (verses 32-33).

In other words, there is a change in the season we are living in. In Scripture, the fig tree represents the nation of

Israel and the branch is Jerusalem. The fruit signifies the fruitfulness of this state and city.

The Lord was letting us know, “When you see Israel become a nation again, it is a clear sign of My return.”

When Jesus spoke these words, Israel was a nation, but under Roman captivity. In reality, it was not a sovereign entity. However, in 1948, after Israel had been under the occupation of the Jews, Philistines, Romans, Christians, Muslims, and ended up in the hands of the British, something amazing took place.

On May 14, 1948, with the backing of world powers, Israel was officially declared a sovereign state.

There were many who wanted the name to be Palestine. But the Jews disagreed: “Let’s use the name God said it should be called.” In Old Testament days, Jacob’s name was changed to Israel (Genesis 35:1)—which means “a prince with God and people.”

According to the divine timetable, Israel literally became a nation overnight. So if you want to understand the times in which we are living, keep your eyes fixed on Israel. What physically happens there always takes place spiritually in the church.

At the announcement of Israel’s rebirth, a powerful healing movement swept across America, with Oral Roberts and many others leading the way.

When Israel is under the attack of the enemy, there will be spiritual warfare in the body of Christ. We are intricately connected together.

Sign #2: The Rebirth of Jerusalem as the Capital of Israel

The control of Jerusalem has changed hands over 27 times. The city has even been burned and destroyed on eight different occasions, yet it continues to rise from the ashes.

Thousands of years ago, the psalmist wrote, *“You will arise and have mercy on Zion. For the time to favor her, yes, the set time, has come”* (Psalm 102:13). Zion is another word for Jerusalem.

This tells us there is an appointed hour when God is going to favor Jerusalem and lift her up. But notice these words: *“For the Lord shall build up Zion; He shall appear in His glory”* (verse 16).

It was not until 1967 that Jerusalem became the official capital of Israel once more. Again, what happens physically in Israel happens spiritually in the church. It is no coincidence that at the same time Jerusalem became the capital of Israel, the charismatic movement swept America. Baptists, Presbyterians, and Catholics were being filled with the Holy Spirit.

This is one more signal that we are in the last days.

Concerning the city of Jerusalem, Scripture also tells us this is *“written for the generation to come, that a people yet to be created may praise the Lord”* (verse 18).

The Almighty showed David prophetically that Israel and Jerusalem would be destroyed—which lasted for thousands of years. Then the Lord set a time to revisit these places, in *“a generation to come”* that would be different than all others. He spoke of a people who would *“praise the Lord.”*

Why do you think there is such an emphasis on praise and

worship in our churches today? It is a sign of our generation.

In God's Word, when *"the veil of the temple was torn in two"* (Matthew 27:51; Hebrews 10:19-20) and the Lord rearranged the furniture, He took the altar of incense (which represents worship) and moved it beside His throne (Revelation 8:3).

This took place because the final generation will be one of worshiping and praise that will usher in the coming of the Lord in the clouds of glory.

Sign #3: The Return of the Jews to Possess the Land

In 70 AD, the Roman legions marched into Jerusalem, confiscated the treasures and burned the temple and the city walls to the ground. Then something happened called the "diaspora." This is when they scattered the Jewish people across the world.

However, when Jesus spoke of the last days, He described how God *"will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other"* (Matthew 24:31).

In chapter 2, we discussed the four angels of Revelation 7 who are holding back the four prophetic winds of war, economics, religion, and politics. The harder these winds blow, the more it tells us of the season we find ourselves in.

When Israel once again became a sovereign nation in 1948, God issued a call for the descendants of those who were dispersed in 70 AD to come back home.

Suddenly a stream of Jews from Iraq, Syria, northern Africa, Ethiopia, Europe, America, and many other nations, were returning to their homeland. There are now over one million Russian Jews who have resettled in the Holy Land.

The influx from other nations would be the equivalent of 40 million people moving to America in the next 12 months.

God knew this was going to happen because in the book of Jeremiah we read, *“The days are coming...that it shall no more be said, ‘The Lord lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt,’ but, ‘The Lord lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north and from all the lands where He had driven them.’ For I will bring them back into their land which I gave to their fathers”* (Jeremiah 16:14-15).

Instead of discussing fleeing Egypt after 400 years of captivity, the Jews would one day be talking about another exodus, when the angels would give the signal and they would return to Jerusalem from the four corners of the earth.

Sign #4: Reaching the World with the Gospel

Jesus said, *“This gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come”* (Matthew 24:14).

This is supposed to transpire during the millennium, but we are seeing it unfold before our very eyes—which excites and tells me how close we are to the end of the age.

A recent study concluded that 70 percent of all the gospel that has been preached to the world has been during the past

100 years. It gets even better: in the last seven years, more of God's Word has been preached worldwide than in the last 2,000 years combined!

As I write this, in China alone, over 40,000 people a day are being saved. In South America, hundreds of thousands are accepting Christ as their personal Savior and being filled with the Holy Spirit.

The amazing move of God that is spreading throughout the earth is a sign of the times we are living in.

Sign #5: The Alignment of the Nations

There are prophecies in Ezekiel concerning countries that didn't even exist in those days! For example, biblical scholars tell us that "Magog" is Russia (Ezekiel 38:2), "Persia" (verse 5) is Iran, and "Gomer" (verse 6) is Turkey—and there are several more included.

The prophet said that the nations mentioned in Ezekiel 38 and 39 will gather together in an attempt to destroy Israel.

Also, Psalm 83 speaks of war in the Middle East. *"For behold, Your enemies make a tumult; and those who hate You have lifted up their head. They have taken crafty counsel against Your people, and consulted together against Your sheltered ones. They have said, 'Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation, that the name of Israel may be remembered no more. For they have consulted together with one consent; they form a confederacy against You"* (verses 2-5).

I believe this is a precursor to the war described in Ezekiel

38 and 39. At this moment, these nations are gathering together with one objective: to drive Israel into the sea.

Russia, the king of the north, will attempt to invade, but God says, *“I will turn you around, put hooks into your jaws, and lead you out, with all your army, horses, and horsemen”* (Ezekiel 38:4).

I rejoice in the fact that we serve a God who never sleeps or slumbers. He will not allow Israel to be destroyed. When the Russian bear meets the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, I can tell you in advance who is going to win!

Sign #6: The End-Time Acceleration of Signs

The Apostle Paul writes, *“We know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together”* (Romans 8:22). It is eagerly awaiting *“the revealing of the sons of God”* (verse 19).

In recent months, many have reported hearing “strange earth sounds”—and people are even recording them. I believe God is waiting on the church (*“sons of God”*) to stand up in these last days to be what He has called us to be.

In the devastating March 2011 earthquake in Japan, geologists tell us the entire island moved 8 inches toward America (eight is the number of new beginnings). It also shifted the earth on its axis 10 centimeters, which actually sped up the earth slightly—shortening the days (Mark 13:20).

We are so used to the natural that we rarely pay attention to the *super*-natural—the acceleration of signs.

Sign #7: The Outpouring of the Holy Spirit

The Antichrist will try to spread chaos and havoc, but when he does, God will send a prophet to call down fire. The Lord always frustrates the kingdom of darkness.

I believe all of these signs will climax with an outpouring of the Holy Spirit such as this planet has never before witnessed.

At the beginning of this chapter I focused your attention on Malachi 3, where God promised to send a messenger (the prophet Elijah), to prepare the way. Then the Lord will suddenly appear in His temple.

During the “first coming,” the birth of Christ, God raised up John the Baptist to prepare for the appearance of Jesus. Scripture tells us “He [John] will also go before Him [Christ] in the spirit and power of Elijah” (Luke 1:17). This is called, “The anointing of Elijah the prophet.”

John was constantly being asked, “*Are you Elijah?*” (John 1:21). However, John the Baptist never performed a single miracle, so we know it couldn’t be him.

Elijah, however, is scheduled to make one more appearance on earth. At the end of the tribulation period, when God sets up His kingdom, you and I are going to descend from heaven with Him, riding white horses.

The Lord will destroy the Antichrist “*with the brightness of His coming*” (2 Thessalonians 2:8). In other words, he will have a heart attack!

Bible scholars conclude that Elijah will be one of the two

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witnesses" (Revelation 11:3) who will appear in the middle of the street, calling fire down from heaven.

Between the first coming and the last, the rapture will take place, and it could happen at any moment.

These seven prophecies tell us we are at the end of the age. Are you ready? Is God's anointing resting on you?

CHAPTER 5

SEARCHING FOR AMERICA IN SCRIPTURE

When I looked at the deteriorating condition of the world and, specifically, about the direction of our nation, I began an intensive search of God's Word to see if I could find America mentioned in Bible prophecy.

There is a multitude of opinions on this topic. Some say that America is not referred to in Scripture at all, while others are convinced that it is suggested numerous times.

Regarding the name itself, I can tell you that in Hebrew, Greek, or any translation, there is nothing even remotely close to the terminology of America or the United States.

The Bible says that if a country or kingdom rejects the Lord, it will be destroyed. And for many decades, America has been turning it's back on divine principles. As a result, our future is looking bleak.

I felt that if there was any hope for our nation, it would be found in God's Word.

LEADING THE WORLD

There are numerous reasons Almighty God would be

concerned over the land we love:

1. America is the greatest Gentile nation on the face of the earth.
2. America has more prosperity per capita than any other nation on this planet. The poorest of our poor would be rich by the economic standards of many other countries.
3. America has the strongest military on the globe.
4. America is the world leader in technology and research.
5. Americans read their Bibles more than any other people on the planet.
6. Americans give of their resources to help hurting countries more than any other nation you can name.
7. America leads the world in publishing and preaching God's Word.

For these reasons, it is a legitimate question to ask if our nation is found in Bible prophecy. Is it referred to in any of the 66 books, 1,189 chapters, 31,103 verses, and 783,137 words of Scripture? More important, what is our future when it comes to God's agenda in the last days?

A DEEPER REVELATION

Since America is not directly referred to, I began looking for other ways we could possibly be mentioned in prophecy. Jesus loved to use parables and there were many He

shared with the multitudes. For example, in Mark 4:3-9, He told the story of the sower who went out to sow seeds. Some fell by the wayside, some on thorny ground, and some on fertile soil.

But when the crowds dispersed, Jesus gathered His disciples and others around Him and gave them the deeper meaning. There were 70 who walked with Jesus almost everywhere He went (Luke 10:1). When you add the 12 disciples there were 82 present.

It had to be expensive to feed all these mouths, so Jesus had a treasury and a ministry budget. Remember, Judas kept the *“money bag”* (John 12:6 NIV).

These 82 individuals meant more to Him than the masses. The crowds flocked to Jesus because of the miracles, but the relationship He had with His real followers, demanded that a deeper revelation needed to be given.

After sharing the Parable of the Sower with the multitude, He privately told three more parables on the same topic to the smaller group: The explanation of The Parable of the Sower is found in verses 13-20. Then he told them of The Growing Seed (verses 26-29), and The Mustard Seed (verses 30-32).

This lets us know that the closer we are to the Lord, the more insight and wisdom we will receive. The key to revelation is relationship.

BEHIND THE PLEATS

The powerful Word of God is multi-faceted and is shared to the reader in layers. The Apostle Peter speaks of *“the*

manifold grace of God" (1 Peter 4:10). In other words, it is many-pleated—unfolding revelation upon revelation.

There are many facets of prophecy to be discovered. It resembles the pleats in a drape or curtain. Behind each one another truth can be found.

Scripture tells us that angels are gathered around the throne of God, crying "Holy, Holy, Holy" day and night (Isaiah 6:3) In my human, limited way of thinking, this would grow boring after 10,000 years unless, as they circle the throne, they discover new facets of God's glory. Paul called it "*the manifold wisdom of God*" (Ephesians 3:10).

We serve a *big* God, and in His Word are layers upon layers waiting to be peeled away, revealing truth. For instance, in Ezekiel 28 there is a prophecy against the King of Tyre, but in the midst of the message it shifts direction and presents a prophetic revelation about Lucifer before the fall as he walked in the garden of God (in Eden).

It's as if Ezekiel pulls back another pleat of God's wisdom and the Lord reveals to him that this isn't just concerning Tyre, it is about doom and the fall of Lucifer.

So when I study America and its future in Bible prophecy, I draw back the pleats of God's wisdom.

I believe our country *is* mentioned in the Bible—not directly, but indirectly. Its prophetic role can be found in historical context, symbolism, and the specific patterns of two nations—Israel and America.

There is a direct connection between our two countries, so what happens to Israel will affect us, and what affects us will impact Israel. For example, if we move in a political

direction that weakens our resolve to stand strong with Israel, we both are harmed since we are her primary ally.

This unique relationship affects our future because we are connected governmentally. We both come out of the Roman system and are democratic nations.

THE EAGLE

Historically, near the close of the first century AD, an unknown Palestinean Jew wrote about a vision he experienced. It was revealed to him by an angel named Uriel. In the rabbinical tradition and Jewish teaching, Uriel is one of the four major archangels presiding over one of the four corners of the earth.

In the vision, the angel showed him an eagle with 12 feathered wings and three rising up out of the sea. He described how the eagle spread his wings over all the earth as all four winds were released at the same time when this eagle came to power. It ruled over the earth as the most prominent nation of the world at the end of time.

Many say this vision was referring to America because our national symbol is an eagle.

You can read this prophecy for yourself in chapters 11 and 12 of Esdra, a part of what we call the Apocrypha. It is not considered inspired Scripture although it was translated from Greek to Latin and placed in the appendix of the New Testament by the Council of Trent in the 16th century. It was also part of the original 1611 King James translation—but later removed because of controversy that surrounded it.

SHANE WARREN

THE ISAIAH PROPHECY

Please understand, I believe with all my heart that the Bible is the final rule of authority and we need nothing else. Historically, however, regarding the prophecy of America, the above account is fascinating.

But what *is* written in God's Word that could refer to America? There are several major portions of Scripture we need to examine.

First, let's look at Isaiah 18:1-3: *"Woe to the land shadowed with buzzing wings, which is beyond the rivers of Ethiopia, which sends ambassadors by sea, even in vessels of reed on the waters, saying, 'Go, swift messengers, to a nation tall and smooth [bright] of skin, to a people terrible from their beginning onward, a nation powerful and treading down, whose land the rivers divide.'" 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."*

When this nations speaks, everybody pays attention. Some Bible scholars are convinced that this is a prophecy directly concerning America.

They have come to this conclusion because:

- It is a nation with *"buzzing wings."* Again, our national symbol is the eagle.
- It is a nation that "sends ambassadors by sea" to other countries. We have embassies worldwide.
- It is a nation that is *"tall and smooth of skin."* This description certainly fits.

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- It is a nation “*beyond...Ethiopia.*” At the time, neither the prophets or anyone else had any knowledge of people beyond those borders.

The Berkley translation says this nation would be “dreaded near and far that conquers and treads down.” This does not mean it takes advantage of people, but that they have the power and strength to exert authority. And the Moffatt translation describes “a sturdy race of conquerors.”

Many have ascribed this passage to being about America. In speaking of a land the rivers would divide. What could possibly separate and tear down this strong country? Could it be rivers of racism, politics, or economic collapse?

THE JEREMIAH PROPHECY

Many Bible scholars writing about end-time events feel there are cryptic references to America in Jeremiah 50 and 51—specifically pertaining to its future. However, I am not one who subscribes to this theory.

Since this is preached in many pulpits, I want you to have an understanding of these passages.

Jeremiah is prophesying against the nation called Babylon—that captured Jerusalem and held the people of God captive for 70 years. There are those who believe Babylon to be a type or shadow of America. But when you study in context and in comparison of other related passages to these two chapters, it is obvious that this is not about America at all. It strictly concerns Babylon at the time.

Yes, we are guilty of the sins mentioned, but again, this refers to a time of captivity; it's about Babylon.

Why do some say Jeremiah is referring to America? Let's examine a few key scriptures.

"Babylon was a golden cup in the Lord's hand, that made all the earth drunk. The nations drank her wine; therefore the nations are deranged. Babylon has suddenly fallen and been destroyed" (Jeremiah 51:7-8).

Because America is prosperous, are we are that golden cup? But what about verse 8? Have we suddenly fallen? It couldn't be referring to the terrorist attack on 9/11 because we are still functioning as a nation.

In this prophecy, *"Babylon shall become a heap, a dwelling place for [dragons], an astonishment and a hissing, without an inhabitant"* (verse 37). God warns, *"My people, go out of the midst of her! And let everyone deliver himself from the fierce anger of the Lord"* (verse 45).

Since you and I are God's people, this cannot be speaking of America, because we are still *"in the midst of her."* It is talking about Israel in Babylonian captivity, and how the Lord would bring deliverance.

However, as you will see later in this book, there *are* passages that refer to America.

THE REVELATION PROPHECY

There is an amazing statement about Babylon made by John in his revelation. He heard the voice of an angel: *"And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, 'Babylon the great*

is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!” (Revelation 18:2).

Two specific times, the angel says Babylon “*is fallen*”—which means it had to be rebuilt before that vision would come true. Babylon is the modern day Iraq, and I believe that the hundreds of thousands of troops America sent, many who shed blood on that soil, was to fulfill Bible prophecy.

What God says will always come to pass and nothing can stop it—no religion, no devil, not even the Antichrist. Yes, Babylon will be rebuilt before its final fall.

Concerning the Antichrist, according to Scripture, he will come out of the land to the north (Daniel 11)—which could include Syria or Turkey—and make his headquarters in Babylon. How could that happen if the city is reduced to rubble? It has to be rebuilt.

This implies that the Antichrist is a Muslim, since he will rule from modern day Iraq.

The church needs to be aware. While the kings of the earth are plotting their own futures, God is completing His divine plan.

While Revelation speaks of the tribulation period—after the rapture of the church—and we see Babylon being rebuilt now, it should tell us how close we are to hearing the sound of the trumpet.

What Jeremiah and John both wrote about Babylon is identical. It’s as if God is going to repeat the past.

- Babylon was built on the Euphrates, but they were invaded and destroyed when the river dried up (Jeremiah 50:38; Revelation 16:12).
- There was a command to flee Babylon (Jeremiah 51:6; Revelation 18:4).
- The “golden cup” is mentioned in both Jeremiah 51:7 and Revelation 17:4.
- It is inhabited by dragons and demons (Jeremiah 51:37; Revelation 18:2).

This depicts Babylon—past and future.

THE MYSTERY BABYLON PROPHECIES

Here is something totally different from what I have been sharing with you—and why some think it refers to America. Revelation 17:1-6 tells us:

Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, “Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication.”

So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. The woman was arrayed in

purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. And on her forehead a name was written:

*MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT,
THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF
THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.*

I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.

John the Revelator was awe-struck by this dramatic scene in his vision.

There are some who preach that the *“harlot who sits on many waters”* is the Statue of Liberty (a goddess from France) erected on the waters of New York City and located near the world’s financial center. It is referred to as a *“mystery Babylon,”* since it is not literal.

I’m not convinced this is about America since the Statue of Liberty holds a torch in her hand, not a golden cup. Plus, the statue is standing, not sitting. Yet I want to share this because we need to be up to speed on some of the current prophetic teaching.

Personally, I believe this *“mystery Babylon”* to be a false religious system. Remember, the Antichrist will have with him a false prophet (Revelation 19:20)—which means there will be a deceitful religion connected to a specific country.

As we continue reading Revelation 17 we find, *“The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits”*

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(verse 9). In John's day this place would have been immediately identified as Rome, since it sits on seven hills. But since Rome was controlling the Holy Land at the time, the prophecy is hidden and referred to as the "mystery Babylon."

The Bible, at one point, also speaks of Jerusalem being Babylon because of the sin that was so rampant in that city (1 Peter 5:13).

It is interesting that Jerusalem was invaded by both Babylon and Rome on the 9th of August—one of the most dreaded days in Jewish history.

THE COPPER CONNECTION

In my search for America in prophecy, I learned that one of the largest copper mines ever discovered in Michigan had been mined around 1000 BC—yet no one knows what happened to all the precious metal.

Nearby, they found a smelting process more sophisticated than ours today. There is only one other location in the world that has a copper mine with that same exact smelting process. And it's located just south of Jerusalem

Here is what is even more fascinating. In 1860, a stone was discovered in Newark, Ohio, with the Ten Commandments etched in ancient Hebrew. It has been widely written about.

The conclusion of many historians is that when Solomon was building the temple, he entered into an agreement with

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the Phoenicians (great sea dwellers) to teach them how to build a navy.

Since there was not enough copper in Israel for the construction of the temple, it had to be found elsewhere. You can draw your own conclusion regarding where it came from.

Other stones have been discovered in America with ancient Hebrew inscriptions. How did they get here?

Regardless of how people interpret Bible prophecy, we cannot avoid the truth that there is a strong, historic connection between Israel and our nation.

CHAPTER 6

AN UNBREAKABLE LINK

Throughout this book I keep coming back to America's prophetic connection with Israel. It's that important.

Here is a prayer from the heart of David: *"If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget its skill! If I do not remember you, let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth"* (Psalm 137:5-6).

Abraham, who birthed this great land, was told by God, *"I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you"* (Genesis 12:3).

As a nation and as a church, it is vital that we discover our Jewish roots, because if we do not honor our heritage we will come under an unimaginable curse.

Almighty God was speaking of Jerusalem when He said through the prophet Zechariah, *"He who touches you touches the apple of His eye"* (Zechariah 2:8) This refers to the small black dot located in the center of your eye.

What a warning! If a president or a nation does anything to dishonor Israel, they are in essence putting their finger in

the eye of God. And you can be assured there will be consequences.

The Lord has charged His archangel, Michael, to protect this hallowed, consecrated land (Daniel 12:1).

The nations of the world need to think twice before laying a hand on Israel, of whom God said, *"You are a holy people to the Lord your God, and the Lord has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples who are on the face of the earth"* (Deuteronomy 14:2).

The love of God for this land goes far beyond simple concern. It is written in the Bible that He has taken her as His wife. *"Return, backsliding Israel,' says the Lord... 'for I am married to you'"* (Jeremiah 3:12,14).

If there's one thing I know, it's this: you do not touch another man's wife.

Whether it is a foreign country, a world leader, an elected representative of our congress, or a member of the clergy, the man or woman who takes any action against Israel is doing so at an eternal risk.

Through the centuries enemies have threatened to exterminate the Holy Land (Psalm 83:3-5). It is still happening today. But somehow, God will foil their plans.

It may take an army of angels, or one dedicated individual, but the Lord will not abandon the people He so deeply loves.

I have visited Israel during the Jewish holiday called the Feast of Purim. It is a celebration of an event that took place in the fourth century BC.

In Persia, a wicked official named Haman plotted to

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slaughter the Jews. But the Lord used a young Hebrew woman named Esther, who convinced the king to thwart Haman's plan.

God will always find a way to deliver His chosen people!

COVENANT BORDERS

Since Israel became a sovereign entity in 1948, there has been a constant drumbeat to drive a wedge through its boundaries and create a separate Palestinian state. What most world leaders fail to realize is that the original borders of Israel were not created by man, but established long ago by Almighty God in His Word. It's part of the covenant God made with Abraham (Genesis 15:18-21; Exodus 23:31; Numbers 34:1-15).

I fear that what we are trying to divide in Israel will result in dividing America.

THE FOUR BEASTS

There is an amazing prophecy in the book of Daniel that gave a foresight into forces that would shape our world and lead to the Antichrist and the invasion of Israel.

In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head while on his bed. Then he wrote down the dream, telling the main facts. Daniel spoke, saying, "I saw in my vision

by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea. And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other. The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings. I watched till its wings were plucked off; and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand on two feet like a man, and a man's heart was given to it.

"And suddenly another beast, a second, like a bear. It was raised up on one side, and had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. And they said thus to it: 'Arise, devour much flesh!'

"After this I looked, and there was another, like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird. The beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it.

"After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words" (Daniel 7:1-7).

As a student of Bible prophecy, I have read many commentaries, interpretations, and theories of what all this

could possibly mean.

Concerning the four animals (beasts), it is concluded that they symbolize empires that would rule in succession to each other.

The question many have raised is whether these were powers that would rise during and after the time of Daniel, or would they be nations of our world today.

Those who hold the first view believe: (1) The lion represents Babylon; the city had winged lions on its gates. (2) The bear is the Persian Empire since bears once roamed its mountains and devoured people as described in this passage. (3) The leopard represents Greece since it signifies the quick, conquering ability of Alexander the Great. Also, the leopard had four wings and four heads. When Alexander died, the kingdom was divided into four parts. (4). The beast with iron teeth and two legs speaks of The Roman Empire. It had two capitals, Rome and Constantinople (modern day Istanbul, Turkey).

This interpretation is held by many, however, since prophetic scriptures can have dual application (as we discussed in the previous chapter) I believe Daniel 7 also refers to the four modern empires that have risen to world dominance in just the past 300 years

AN "END OF THE AGE" VIEW

In Daniel 7:17 (KJV) we read, *"These great beasts, which are four, are four kings which shall arise out of the earth."*

The key words are “*shall arise*.” Since this was written during the Babylonian captivity and Babylon is listed as the first beast, it has to mean that four other beasts will rise up at some future time.

If you look at this in context with Daniel 2, 7, and 8, you find the prophet is dealing with a series of end-time empires.

If one of these kingdoms is to give birth to the Antichrist, then he is prophesying of what is happening now—in our time. So it’s not necessarily about just Persia or Greece.

Let’s look at the four beasts with an “end of the age” view of Daniel’s vision:

The Lion

This animal—with wings—represents Great Britain. And Daniel “*watched till its wings were plucked off*” (Daniel 7:4). One by one, the colonies of Great Britain broke away and became nations standing on their own feet. This includes the United States through the Revolutionary War and the Declaration of Independence.

The Bear

This represent Russia—a formidable foe in the earth. This bear had “*ribs...between its teeth*” in order to “*devour much flesh!*” (verse 5). Think of the nations that have been consumed and people who have died of poverty and persecution because of communism.

The Leopard

This represents Germany, that conquered swiftly under

Hitler, whose goal was to annihilate the Jewish race.

The Final Beast

Daniel saw a creature that had ten horns with another, smaller horn, *“coming up among them.”* The last horn is the Antichrist who will develop a 10-nation union to eventually battle Israel.

OUR JEWISH HERITAGE

As one of the wings of the lion (Great Britain) that was plucked off, America, also has its place in end-time events. We became the nation that would *“stand on [its] two feet like a man, and a man’s heart was given to it”* (Daniel 7:4). No country in history has had such a compassionate heart to help those who are suffering.

In the long view of history, we cannot escape the fact that even though we were birthed out of England, from the beginning there has always been an unbreakable link between America and the Jewish people.

It was a Polish-born Jewish immigrant who played an important role in financing the Revolutionary War. He was a financial broker in New York when the conflict broke out, and was able to funnel huge sums of money to the Patriot side—even though he was once arrested by England as a spy. This Jewish man became a hero, because without his support we could still be under British rule.

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THE SEAL

Immediately after the Declaration of Independence was signed, a committee was formed to design the official seal of the United States. As documented in early Federalist records, there was much discussion as to what symbolism would be used.

Thomas Jefferson suggested a seal depicting the children of Israel being led with a pillar of cloud and a pillar of fire across the wilderness into the Promised Land.

Benjamin Franklin had another idea, which is preserved in his own handwriting. He proposed: "Moses standing on the Shore, extending his Hand over the Sea, thereby causing the same to overwhelm Pharaoh who is sitting in an open Chariot, a Crown on his Head and a Sword in his Hand. Rays from a Pillar of Fire in the Clouds, reaching to Moses, to express that he acts by Command of the Deity."

There are numerous examples of Hebrew and Jewish threads woven into the fabric of our nation.

Eventually, the committee settled on the eagle as being the centerpiece of our seal—representing freedom.

The Almighty was not forgotten by those who forged our nation. If you look at the back of a \$1 bill, you will see the words "In God We Trust" above the large letters, ONE. Every time I see this I think, "In ONE God We Trust."

As written in Deuteronomy 6:4: "*Hear, O Israel: the LORD our God, the LORD is one!*"

The God America is built on is none other than the Great

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Jehovah. He gave His Son Jesus to redeem our sins and has sent the Holy Spirit to be with us on earth today.

I believe America has been blessed for all these years because we have been a nation under God—the same God worshiped by both the Jews and founding fathers.

AN UNLUCKY NUMBER?

If you look closely at our seal, one claw is holding an olive branch and the other holds 13 arrows. The arrows represent war, the olive branch means peace. Why is the eagle looking toward the olive branch? It is because America is a nation who desires peace, but if war is needed, its arrows are in her hands.

You will also notice that the eagle has no crown. This was far different than the seal of Great Britain with a coat of arms topped by a crown, representing royalty. Our nation was formed “by the people and for the people.”

Above the head of our eagle are 13 stars surrounded by a circle of clouds. The stars are arranged in a Magen David (Star of David) pattern. It is the same star that is on the flag of Israel.

Some men and women believe that 13 is an unlucky number, but in our case this is certainly not true. There are 13 stripes on our flag representing the 13 original colonies, 13 signers of the Declaration of Independence, and in the claws of the eagle, the olive branch has 13 leaves and there are 13 arrows. The pyramid on the back of our printed currency has

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13 steps leading to the all-seeing eye of God.

The letters above the pyramid say, in Latin, “Annuit Coeptis”—meaning, “God has favored our undertakings.”

BLOOD, SWEAT, AND TEARS

The cry of my heart is to see America return to the One God on which it was founded.

I get emotional when I see our flag, “Old Glory,” waving in the breeze. I think of the blood, sweat, and tears that have gone into that banner. The flag represents who we are and what we stand for.

This is not a symbol to be worn on a tattered t-shirt or made into bathing suits and baby diapers. It should be considered sacred.

We are the eagle that was plucked from tyranny to become a great man—the eagle who is standing tall with a heart for those who are hurting.

Just as Israel is guarded by God, I long to see America reclaim its heritage and fulfill the promise of our founding fathers.

CHAPTER 7

THE VINEYARD

I have often been asked, “Did Jesus ever speak about America in prophecy—either directly or indirectly?”

I believe He *did*, and in this chapter I will show you why I have come to this conclusion.

However, looking at the words spoken by the Son of God, I want you to read a passage from the book of Isaiah:

Now let me sing to my Well-beloved a song of my Beloved regarding His vineyard: my Well-beloved has a vineyard on a very fruitful hill. He dug it up and cleared out its stones, and planted it with the choicest vine.

He built a tower in its midst, and also made a winepress in it; so He expected it to bring forth good grapes, but it brought forth wild grapes.

“And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge, please, between Me and My vineyard. What more could have been done to My vineyard that I have not done in it? Why then, when I expected it to bring forth good grapes, did it bring forth wild grapes? And now, please let Me tell you what I will do to My

vineyard: I will take away its hedge, and it shall be burned; and break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. I will lay it waste; it shall not be pruned or dug, but there shall come up briers and thorns. I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain on it."

For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are His pleasant plant. He looked for justice, but behold, oppression; for righteousness, but behold, a cry for help (Isaiah 5:1-7).

The prophet begins by speaking of a vineyard, but immediately attaches Jerusalem and Judah to the fruitful place (verse 3). Then, in verse 7, he specifically says *"the vineyard....is the house of Israel."*

I agree with the Bible scholars who believe that this winepress represents Israel. Not only does the passage say so, but because Jews reject the Messiah, it will *"be trampled down"* (verse 5) and made *"waste"* (verse 6).

That is exactly what happened four decades after Christ was crucified. In 70 AD, the Roman Army, under future Emperor Titus, besieged Jerusalem, which at the time was occupied by Jewish defenders. (The Jews had recaptured the land from the Romans four years earlier and formed the state of Israel).

The city was burned to the ground. The 1st century writer Josephus claims that over one million were killed and nearly 100,000 were captured and enslaved. He describes "indiscriminate carnage" where "the number of slain exceeded that

of the slayers. Legionaries had to clamber over heaps of dead to carry on the work of extermination.”

It became a desolate place, overgrown with “*briers and thorns*” (verse 6). Over the centuries, rebuilding efforts took place, but the history of the Holy City is one of invasions, purges, and political chaos.

Finally, when the British Mandate ended, Israel became a nation again—for the first time since 70 AD.

This is the reason the Isaiah passage is believed to be a prophecy about the destruction of Jerusalem.

THE VINEYARD OF A “NEW NATION”

Now I’d like you to read “The Parable of the Wicked Vinedresser” in Matthew 21. Jesus was talking to a group of priests and scribes in the temple, who had questioned Him after He chased out the money changers.

As you read this story, notice how close many of the words and phrases are to what we found written in Isaiah 5.

Jesus said:

There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another.

Again he sent other servants, more than the first,

and they did likewise to them. Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, "They will respect my son."

But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, "This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance."

So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him. Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers? (verses 33:40).

Being a Jew, Jesus knew the Torah very well, and reached back to the writings of Isaiah. In essence, He was giving prophecy in the form of a parable. But now, as the son of the owner of the vineyard comes to collect the fruit, he (Jesus Himself) is killed.

After sharing this parable, Jesus asked the question: *"When the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?"* (verse 40).

They answered, *"He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons"* (verse 41).

Note those words, *"in their seasons."* We will come back to them shortly.

Following this, Jesus reminded them of a scripture from the Old Testament: *"The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone"* (Psalm 118:22). Then He made this profound statement: *"Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it"* (Matthew 21:43).

What nation was Jesus referring to?

Remember, Isaiah 5 deals with the vineyard (Israel) that is supposed to be producing fruit—but is not. The Jesus comes along and interjects Himself as being killed as the son of the lord of the vineyard.

When Jesus asked what should be done to those who failed to take care of the plants, they answered that such men should be destroyed. And that's what happened in 70 AD.

Jesus was crucified, but before this took happened, He told those who would listen, "When they destroy this place, God will take this vineyard to another nation that will bring forth fruits in its seasons."

I can only think of two nations that have made an effort to produce "fruits"—to spread the gospel—around the world. Those two would be England or America.

England colonized most of the globe, and in the process preached the message of Christ to many lands. Great revivalists and missionaries were birthed out of Great Britain, including George Whitfield, John Wesley, and Hudson Taylor.

America, too, produced passionate preachers who called men and women to Christ—Jonathan Edwards, Charles Finney, and Dwight L. Moody, among others.

Today, however, because of the reach of international media, and the vast number of evangelists and missionary enterprises, there is no question that America is reaching more of the world with the gospel than any nation that has ever existed.

Please don't interpret this as replacement theology. I am

not saying that Jesus is teaching that America will replace Israel. Only that the work of the vineyard will be taken from Israel and *“given to a nation”* that is *“bearing the fruits”* of it. (Matthew 21:43).

I also believe the Apostle Peter could have been speaking about America when he wrote, *“[You] who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy”* (1 Peter 2:10)

AMAZING PARALLELS

Whether we realize it or not, our country not only holds a unique place in history, but I am convinced it is precious in the sight of God. When you discover some of the facts of our early days, we could easily be the vineyard Jesus spoke about.

There are some amazing parallels between Israel and America.

- Israel came out of 400 years of Egyptian bondage to reclaim the Promised Land. America came from the religious bondage of England to form a brand new nation.
- Both Israel and our founding fathers journeyed by faith, trusting God to guide them to their new land.
- Between Egypt and the Promised Land, the children of God had to cross the Red Sea. Water also separated the Pilgrims from their future.
- Both nations had to possess the land from the original inhabitants.

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- The governmental documents of Israel and America are based on Scripture. Israel is founded on the Torah. The United States has The Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights, and the Constitution—all of which contain principles found in the Torah and the New Testament.
- America started with 13 colonies. Israel was formed with 13 original tribes, but one, Levi, was set aside for the priesthood.
- Israel existed for a long time before a king, Saul, was chosen. Colonial America existed for many years with no president until the formation of the United States.
- Israel did not have a capital until David seized what was named the City of David—now called Jerusalem. After the United States was formed, a new capital was built and called Washington in honor of our first president, George Washington.
- Jerusalem belonged to no tribe; it was an independent city. Washington, D.C., belongs to no state; yet it is our capital.
- Both nations have been terrorized by the Babylonians (historical and modern day).
- May 14 is significant to both countries. On that date in 70 AD the Jews were scattered throughout the world, and at midnight, May 14, 1948, it became a nation again. And on May 14, 1607, the first colony was formed in America (Jamestown, in Virginia).

For these reasons, and many more, I believe we, too, are a chosen people.

SIGNS OF THE TABERNACLE

A man by the name of Clarence Larkin, a noted Bible teacher and dispensationalist of the early 20th century, looked at the furnishings of the Old Testament Tabernacle and believed they were significant in relationship to both Israel and America.

The Tabernacle of Moses was a large rectangular tent, approximately 45 feet long and 15 feet wide. The only entrance was through the east. It had three areas: Outer Court, the Inner Court, and the Holy of Holies.

In the Outer Court were two pieces of furniture: the Brass Altar where three fires burned on it continually, and a Brass Laver (washing basin) which was filled with water.

When you walk through the veil to the Inner Court there were three pieces of furniture. To your right was a small Table of Showbread with 12 loaves of bread on it. On the left was a seven-branch candlestick, the Menorah, which was filled with oil and produced light. In front of these was the Golden Altar. It had incense made from 11 spices. Alongside were coals of fire which they used to keep the incense burning continually.

Next you would go through a second veil, which has been described as being so thick that teams of oxen couldn't tear it apart. This was the entrance to the Holy of Holies—the most sacred part of the Tabernacle. Here was only one piece

of furniture—the Ark of the Covenant. It was made of acacia wood (which does not decay) and covered with pure gold. Resting on it was the Mercy Seat.

THE MAP

This is what is fascinating. If you take a map of America and overlay in over the furniture of the Tabernacle of Moses, here is what you will find. The Brass Altar covers the states of North Carolina, Kentucky, and Tennessee. It just so happens that the Great Awakening approached America from the east—and these three areas were responsible for the fires of revival spreading across our continent.

Remember on that altar in the Tabernacle were three fires. And from these three states the fires of Pentecost exploded and finally reached the Los Angeles Azusa Street outpouring in 1906.

The revival swept across the hills of the Appalachian Mountains with a group of people called “Stumpers.” The reason they were given this name is because they were loggers and farmers who lived in the woods. And when the power of Pentecost would fall upon them, they had no idea what it was. Since they had no teaching on the matter, they started reading their Bibles and saw what took place in the Upper Room as described in Acts 2.

They prayed, “God we want everything You have!” The power of the Spirit would come on them so strong that they didn’t know what to do. Their bodies would start vibrating to such an extent that in order to stop shaking they would find

a tree stump and hug it! They became known as “Stumpers.”

Again, superimposing the map of America over the Tabernacle, the Brazen Laver would fit over the area of the Mississippi River—the main waterway of our country. What is the key ingredient of the laver? Water.

The Menorah is on the left—sitting exactly over the area of Texas and Oklahoma, the two huge oil states of America. What is the ingredient that lights the Menorah? Oil.

To the north you have the Table of Showbread. The bread that sat on that table in Bible days came from the wheat that was grown in Bethlehem (which means “house of bread” in Hebrew). On the map overlay it rests over Kansas and Nebraska, known as the “breadbasket of America.”

In front of this table is the Golden Altar of incense, which is positioned over Colorado. Remember, on the altar were coals to provide the fire for the 11-spice incense. When mixed together, those spices made the color red. Colorado is known both for its coal mines and the Red River.

The thick veil protecting the Holy of Holies rests over the Continental Divide, then you come to where the Ark of the Covenant sits—over Nevada and California. These states were the site of the famous America Gold Rush. In the Tabernacle, the Ark of the Covenant was covered in gold.

On the Ark was the Mercy Seat. During the Azusa Street revival in California, even though there was a Pentecostal outpouring, the main emphasis of preaching was repentance and the mercy of God.

I believe this is more than a curious coincidence, since the only nation this overlay would remotely relate to is America.

Just as the Tabernacle was designed as a place of redemption for Israel and the meeting place for the Almighty and His people, I believe that America was founded to proclaim the redemptive plan of God to the four corners of the world.

A PROPHETIC DISCOVERY

As Israel was a dwelling place for the covenant people of God, America has been a safe haven for the Christian faith. But throughout history, and specifically recent history, it has also become a place of safety for Jewish people—especially in times of global disasters.

The prophet Isaiah said that when Zion is at her weakest point, *“there will be a covering. And there will be a tabernacle for shade in the daytime from the heat, for a place of refuge, and for a shelter from storm and rain”* (Isaiah 4:5-6). I believe I know who the prophet was talking about.

As you will see, that exact passage was referred to by one of the most famous people of all time.

Our early history includes the journey of Christopher Columbus to the Indies—which proved to be one of prophetic destiny. Columbus was born in Italy, but many noted researchers believe his parents were Jewish refugees who had moved to Spain. He is said to be a Jewish Christian and boasted in his journal of being a direct descendant of King David.

The word Columbus is derived from the name Colon, a commonly used name among the Jews in the days when he

lived in Spain.

In 1642, he spoke of the Jewish temple in the time of Christ as being the “second house” which was Jewish terminology for the temple in the time of destruction—a term only a Jew referred to.

In his diary, Christopher Columbus wrote, “It was the Lord who put into my mind; I could feel His hand upon me. The fact that it would be possible to sail from here to the Indies all who heard of my project rejected it with laughter, ridiculing me. There is no question that the inspiration was from the Holy Spirit because he comforted me with the rays of marvelous inspiration from the Holy Scriptures. I did not make use of intelligence, mathematics, or maps. It is simply the fulfillment of what Isaiah had prophesied. And there will be a tabernacle for shade in the day time from the heat and for a place of refuge and for a shelter from the storm and the rain.” (From *America’s God and Country* by William J. Federer.)

Why is Christopher Columbus the explorer quoting Isaiah, the prophet?

At the time of the sailing, the Spanish inquisition had taken place which was forcing the Jews out of Spain.

In the logs of his crew, it is recorded that the ships and men were ready to cast off, but to everyone’s surprise, Columbus postponed the departure. The reason, according to British Jewish historian, Cecil Roth, was because August 2, coincided with Tisha B’av, the Jewish fast of mourning. So they sailed the following day.

Two important members of the team were Jewish

—including Abraham Zakuto, who made charts, and Joseph Vecinho, a nautical engineer.

The first names of these men are interesting because Abraham was the man God sent to found a new nation, and Joseph helped the people provide so they could be delivered out of the tyranny of Egypt. And now Columbus was about to sail to a new territory that would eventually protect Jewish people.

After 70 days at sea, Columbus' crew turned mutinous and wanted to take over the ship. In his journal he wrote how he prayed for God to help him find land. On the 71st day, as the sun was rising, they spotted an island in what is now the Bahamas.

It was the same date on the Jewish calendar when they celebrate Moses and the children of Israel escaping the mutiny of Pharaoh's armies who were coming to destroy them at the Red Sea.

The official interpreter for Columbus' fleet was a gentleman named Luis de Torres, a Christian Jew. He was chosen specifically because he spoke Hebrew and Arabic. According to Lawrence Bergreen in *Columbus: The Four Voyages*, he was selected because Columbus thought the people they might find could be the descendants of the lost tribes of Israel.

When writing letters to his son, Columbus would sign his name with an unusual triangle. Scholars tell us that form of signature was known to be used by Jews of the day—and the letters which shape this Hebrew mystic symbol mean “With the help of God.

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A NEW PROMISED LAND

Later, when America was being formed, William Bradford, governor of the Plymouth Colony, wanted to make Hebrew the official language of this new territory. The early settlers considered themselves “spiritual Jews” who were settling in a new Promised Land.

When I look at all these events, I can see the hand of God on our great country. I truly believe the Lord has allowed the fruits of His vineyard to be placed in our hands for this season.

I pray we have not squandered the harvest.

CHAPTER 8

THE WARNING

We have examined a number of passages in Scripture as they relate to America and end-time prophecy. I believe you will agree with me that we, as a country, *are* referred to several times.

This brings us to today.

In recent years I have heard many preachers and Bible teachers make the statement, “America is not a Christian Nation.” I do not hold that opinion.

According to the American Religious Identification Survey (ARIS), which was cited by the U.S. Census Bureau in their 2012 Statistical Abstract, 76% of the American adult population identified themselves as Christians. And a recent Gallup poll found 92% of Americans said yes to the question “Do you believe in God?”

I am also heartened by the fact that a 2012 Pew Research reported that nearly 40 percent of Americans say they attend church services at least every week—or more. They are being ministered to by the hundreds of thousands of churches scattered across the country.

So I happen to view America more favorably than some of the antagonistic preaching and teaching heard today.

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Are we a Christian nation? Yes. But are we losing ground? Absolutely—and at a frightening, rapid pace.

While people say they believe in God, their behavior doesn't always reflect it. When men and women were asked, "What is the most important thing in your life?" money and career surpassed God two to one!

This should not come as a shock. Jesus said that at the end of the age, "*Because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold*" (Matthew 24:12). And Paul the Apostle spoke of a falling away: "*In the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils*" (1 Timothy 4:1).

So while America calls itself a Judeo-Christian nation, there are dire warnings in God's Word regarding the direction in which we are headed.

IS DESTRUCTION ON THE HORIZON?

As you read what the Almighty said through Moses, ask yourself, "Does this apply to us today?"

When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good land he has given you. Be careful that you do not forget the Lord your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day. Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you

have is multiplied, then your heart will become proud and you will forget the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

He led you through the vast and dreadful wilderness, that thirsty and waterless land, with its venomous snakes and scorpions. He brought you water out of hard rock. He gave you manna to eat in the wilderness, something your ancestors had never known, to humble and test you so that in the end it might go well with you.

You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.

If you ever forget the Lord your God and follow other gods and worship and bow down to them, I testify against you today that you will surely be destroyed. Like the nations the Lord destroyed before you, so you will be destroyed for not obeying the Lord your God (Deuteronomy 8:10-20 NIV).

What strikes me about this passage is that God constantly brings up a nation's prosperity as a sign of His blessing. Yet the Lord also warns that this same abundance could become their greatest spiritual hindrance. This is why He cautions us again and again, *"Do not forget the Lord your God"* (verse 11).

I feel this is a prophetic word that describes where America is materially and spiritually at this very moment. Even with our enormous debt per capita, we are still the richest nation in the world.

The tragedy is that the blessings God has bestowed on this land are now being taken for granted. It's what Moses prophesied long ago. At some point we began to say to ourselves, "It's *my* power, *my* intelligence, and *my* might that has given me this prosperity." But in the midst of such erroneous thinking, we are told, "*Remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth*" (verse 18) that He may establish His covenant.

If we reach the place where we fail to recognize the source of our strength, and instead "*follow other gods and worship and bow down to them*" (verse 19), there will be a hefty price to pay.

The danger for America today is not that we have ceased being a Christian nation; it's that we have stopped worshiping the God of our forefathers and are increasingly paying homage to other gods—including entertainment, fashion, materialism, money, sex, self, and the list goes on.

We are forgetting Jehovah and selling out to everything else. Without question, we need to put on the brakes for just one moment and read the first of the Ten Commandments: "*You shall have no other gods before Me*" (Exodus 30:3).

What will be the result if America continues down this path? Total destruction. In absolute terms God states, "*Like the nations the Lord destroyed before you, so you will be*

destroyed for not obeying the Lord your God” (Deuteronomy 8:20 NIV).

AMERICA IS GOING TO DIE!

The title of this book is in the form of a question: *The Last Days of America?*

I can tell you with one hundred percent assurance that America is going to die! Yes, you read that right. We are going to die!

This is when, *“The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ”* (Revelation 11:15). One day soon we will no longer be known as America. We will be swallowed up into the kingdoms of God.

There will be no more president, senators, or congressmen to campaign for, elect, or worry about. Christ will sit on the throne and He will represent us to our heavenly Father. In fact, *“At the name of Jesus every knee [shall] bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and...every tongue [shall] confess that Jesus Christ is Lord”* (Philippians 2:10-11).

Here is my concern. America could die ahead of its time. Scripture declares, *“The wicked shall be turned back [headlong into premature death] into Sheol (the place of the departed spirits of the wicked), even all the nations that forget or are forgetful of God”* (Psalm 9:17 AMP).

There is no need for this mighty country to succumb to an untimely death. So we must find a solution—and find it quickly.

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What is the answer to death? Life! This is why I know that the only hope to restore America at this point is a revival that will rain down heaven on our country.

We desperately need to find once more a deep, spiritual connection to what we are doing as individuals and as a society.

Let's compare the present-day apathy with the burning passion for Christ in the hearts of those who established America.

THE CROSS AND THE COMPACT

The first colony at Jamestown was named after King James, who authorized the Bible into the English language. In fact, when the vessel landed in Virginia on April 26, 1607, the ship's carpenter and two soldiers on board walked to the beach and erected a large wooden cross on the sand. They humbly bowed and prayed, "We dedicate this land to our sovereign Lord Jesus Christ and to the Queen of England."

A few years later, when the Mayflower was bringing Pilgrims to Cape Cod, they wrote and signed on board what is called the "Mayflower Compact," declaring their intentions. Here is an excerpt from that document: "In the name of God, Amen. We whose names are underwritten, the loyal subjects of our dread Sovereign Lord King James, by the grace of God, of England, France, and Ireland, the King, defender of the faith, etc. Having undertaken, for the glory of God, and advancements of the Christian faith and the honour of our King and Country a voyage to plant [this] colony."

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So, according to the early settlers, their only reason for sailing to our shores was for God's glory and to establish a Christian nation.

This flies directly in the face of today's American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) who wants to convince us that we were never a society based on the teachings of Christ or divine principles.

Not only were we birthed as a Christian country, but our founders intended for America to remain so throughout its existence.

While people today scream for "separation of church and state," the original intent was freedom of the church *from* the state.

In one of the early Atlantic crossings (1620), 250 Christians traveled from England on two ships which they named The Ark and The Dove. The reason for these names is because they saw themselves as a prophetic group of people journeying to a new world to establish the Christian faith. They landed in what they called Maryland. Some say it was named after the wife of Charles the First of England, others believe it was in honor of the Virgin Mary.

Most important, these settlers dedicated the land to God and the Christian faith. Later, in 1649, the Maryland Toleration Law was passed by the Colonial government. It read: "No person or persons...within this providence, professing to believe in Jesus Christ, shall from henceforth be anyways troubled, molested or discountenanced for or in respect of his or her religion nor in the free exercise thereof." (In David Holmes, *The Faith of Our Founding Fathers*.)

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Compare that with Maryland today—one of the most liberal states in our entire nation. Oh, how far we have fallen from grace.

WHAT HAPPENED TO BROTHERLY LOVE?

A man by the name of William Penn (founder of the province of Pennsylvania), wanted to conduct something he called a “Holy Experiment.”

The King of England owed Penn a large amount of money, so William told him, “If I had a colony of my own, I would make it a place of true Christian faith and civil liberty.” So in lieu of repayment, he was given the land known today as Pennsylvania.

William Penn declared that the leading city of the colony would be called Philadelphia (city of Brotherly Love), one of the most blessed churches mentioned in the Bible (Revelation 3:7).

Penn and his group prayed it would be the kind of place, where the love of Christ could be felt. In fact, they saw themselves as setting a pattern for others to plant communities with the objective of extending the Christian faith across America.

If you want to know what has happened to brotherly love, pick up a copy of today's *Philadelphia Inquirer* and look at the crime report! For many, the vision of a better life has passed them by.

DISEASE IN THE IVY

Think about our early educational institutions. Virtually every “Ivy League” school was founded for Christian purposes.

Dartmouth was started by a preacher, Eleazar Wheelock. He began the institution because he was evangelizing the American Indians, and there were so many accepting Christ that he needed to train them to reach more native tribes with the gospel.

Princeton was launched by Reverend John Witherspoon, a signatory of our Declaration of Independence. The primary objective of the curriculum was to train ministers. He once said, “God grant that in America true religion and civil liberty may be inseparable.”

Witherspoon was eminently successful as president of Princeton for 26 years. He graduated over 478 students: one became a U.S. president, one a vice president, 10 were presidential assistants, 13 became state governors, 3 were U.S. Supreme Court judges, 21 were U.S. senators, and 39 were congressmen. Most important, all of them were men who called on the name of Jesus Christ. Witherspoon saw them not just as preachers in a pulpit, but as missionaries who invaded the offices of government to keep the Christian faith alive and well.

What a contrast to the outcry of the “progressive” media when an avowed born again believer runs for any public office.

Oberlin College in Ohio was barely surviving until Charles

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Finney, one of the dynamic evangelists of history became involved. He was the first clergyman in America who preached in a congregational setting where blacks and whites sat right beside each other. He won many blacks to Christ, but the universities would not take them in because they refused to allow mixed races studying together.

An official from Oberlin College asked Finney to join their faculty. He agreed, "As long as you will let me teach the students how to be missionaries." So Oberlin became the first college to train blacks and whites together during the days of slavery. He served 15 years as the school's second president.

Yale and Harvard were both started as training institutes for ministers with the sole purpose of evangelizing America. It's a far, far cry from the teaching in their classrooms today.

THE DRUMS OF WAR

Earlier we spoke of the Great Awakening, a spiritual revival that criss-crossed America. Actually there were several waves of these spiritual movements between the early 18th century to the late 19th century.

One early preacher, George Whitfield, personally led over 300,000 people to Christ in 30 years. When the final break came between the Colonies and England, America sent Whitfield to Britain as a liaison between the two nations. He preached the gospel to the king and spoke about the new territory that was founded for the perpetuation of the Christian faith.

And during the Revolutionary War, a clergyman named

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John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg, pastor of the Woodstock Lutheran church in Virginia, stood before his congregation one Sunday morning and began preaching. According to a biography written by his great nephew, he took his text from Ecclesiastes 3, which begins, "To everything there is a season." After reading verse 8, which says, "A time of war, and a time of peace," he announced, "And this is the time of war."

Suddenly, Muhlenberg ripped off his black clerical robe and revealed that underneath it he was wearing the uniform of the Continental Army. Then he announced, "I am going to fight for America's independence!"

It is recorded that outside the church door, "the drums began to roll as men turned to kiss their wives and then walked down the aisle to enlist, and within half an hour, 162 men were enrolled. The next day he led out 300 men from the county to form the nucleus of the 8th Virginia Regiment." Pastor Muhlenberg eventually became a major general.

THE "BLACK ROBE REGIMENT"

It is difficult for some people to accept the fact that from the early days of our history, during the Civil War and later, ministers were allowed to preach their conscience about both moral and governmental matters from the pulpit.

Try that now and the Internal Revenue Service will take away your 501(c)(3) non-profit status, which specifically states that such organizations (including churches) "may not intervene in political campaigns."

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In my view, to ban men and women of God from speaking of matters that affect America is ludicrous. It has long been in our heritage that we should herald the cause of Christ and declare what Scripture says on contemporary matters.

During the America Revolution, England was so fearful of the clergy and their message of freedom that they called preachers the “Black Robe Regiment.” These men of the cloth never carried a gun or fired a cannon, but they possessed a weapon far more powerful—the Word of the Living God. They stirred the hearts of the people to liberty.

THE REBIRTH OF A NATION

In 1829, Jonathan Edwards, a clergyman from Northampton, Massachusetts, began preaching a very unpopular message in America: “You must be born again.” Most of the people had never heard anything quite like this—even though the words were printed in every Bible.

America had an abundance of churches, but its pastors had been raised in rather staid denominations such as Lutheran or Anglican. They knew nothing of being “born again.”

When God revealed to Jonathan Edwards that in order to make it into the kingdom of God you needed a spiritual rebirth, he began to preach the message everywhere without fear or favor.

Observers described how he would stand behind the pulpit, with his thick glasses perched on his nose and his

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manuscript five inches from his face. In a monotone voice, Edwards would read his sermon, "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God."

He never raised his voice, but before the message was finished, sinners would actually run out of the church and grab the pillars in fear that God's judgment would descend and collapse the sanctuary and destroy everybody inside.

Edwards' message was that the church membership and baptism was secondary to first having a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. His persistent preaching in New England was infectious and sparked a revival that burned brightly across America.

Many believe that these early spiritual awakenings led to the wording in the Declaration of Independence that states, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

Those who signed the document had no doubt that our rights come from God, and God alone. This is why I can't give up on America. It is still our declaration and I believe God will pour out a revival on our parched, thirsty soil once more.

WHAT'S IN THE MUSKET?

I still smile at the story recorded by Thomas Fleming in his book, *The Forgotten Victory: The Battle for New Jersey*.

During the June 23, 1780, Battle of Springfield (NJ), at the

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Galloping Hill Bridge, the Continental Army was bombarded by the British with six cannons—which the Americans answered with their only available gun. When they ran low on paper wadding to stick in the musket, the army chaplain, Reverend James Caldwell, brought out a load of hymn books published by the English clergyman, Isaac Watts to use instead. He asked them to tear out every page necessary to fill the barrel. Then he yelled, “Give ‘em Watts, boys!” That’s where we got the phrase, “Give ‘em a Watts for.”

Those clergymen didn’t just preach about liberty, they bravely fought for it.

WASHINGTON AND WEBSTER

Those who would have you convinced that we were meant to be a secular society need to read what our first President, George Washington, said in his farewell address: “Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim to the tribute of patriotism who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness. These are the firmest props of the duties of men and citizens.”

So according to Washington, a person who doesn’t believe in religion and morality is not even a man! Then he added, “And let us with caution indulge in the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion.” In other words, man cannot live righteously unless God is involved in their lives.

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We also need to reflect on the thoughts of Noah Webster, who has been called the “Father of American Scholarship and Education.” He wrote in 1828, “In my view, the Christian religion is the most important and one of the first things in which all children under a free government ought to be instructed. No truth is more evident into my mind than that the Christian religion must be the basis of any government intended to secure the rights and the privileges of a free people.”

Why aren’t his words being echoed in the halls of academia today?

WHY ARE WE SILENT?

There is no question that America was established on Judeo-Christian values. We have been lied to by the media and secular educators far too long. And, sadly, many Christians have accepted this deceit as truth.

As a kid in public school, I received the traditional information about our founding fathers. I knew that George Washington admitted to his father that he cut down the cherry tree because he couldn’t tell a lie. But I was never told of the deep passion for Christ held by the early leaders of our country.

However, in Bible college, I was taught it was God who established the three great institutions on earth: the home, the church, and our government.

First, the Creator instituted the family with Adam and Eve—and today our homes must be built on the Holy Bible,

with Christ as the center.

Second, I learned how Christ established the church to be based on the teaching of Scripture. To these two factors, I'm sure every believer would say, "Amen."

It's the third thing I learned that many have trouble with: God Himself established human government. When I share that thought, even some preachers harbor their doubts. But let's see what the Bible states on the topic.

Immediately after Noah and his family stepped out of the ark, God set in motion a dispensation called "government." It began with laws against taking the life of another man (Genesis 9:6). And later the Lord declares, *"By me kings reign and rulers decree justice. By me princes rule, and nobles, even all the judges and governors of the earth"* (Proverbs 8:15-16).

It stands to reason that human government must be built on the Word of God and centered on Christ.

If our founding fathers believed this, why do the clergy of our day remain silent? Perhaps we have it too easy and have no appreciation for the fact that we are living in one of the few societies in history where true Christianity has not been openly persecuted.

Beginning with the first church in Jerusalem, believers in Christ have faced torture and from the Sanhedrin, the pagan Roman Empire, Stalin's Russia, Hitler's Germany, and even today in the communistic, atheistic, and Islamic nations of the earth.

According to International Christian Concern, more than 200 million Christians are being tortured or oppressed in our

world *every year!* If you want to know what is happening at this very moment, visit their website, www.persecution.org

Only by the grace of Almighty God has He worked through the lives of our patriot pastors and faithful founding fathers to bring us the blessing of liberty most of America is taking for granted. If we are not careful, we will greatly suffer because of our indifference.

My heart breaks when I hear of ministers who tell their congregations that the kingdom of God is mythological, only a metaphor. However, Jesus said, *“The kingdom of God is within you”* (Luke 17:21). And there is coming a day soon when God the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit will set up their kingdom upon this earth. It won’t be a metaphor; it will be a real, literal kingdom.

As I look at the events surrounding Jerusalem and the Middle East, I believe we are closer to the imminent return of the Lord than ever before. But what if Jesus tarries for 10 more years? Or even 50? Will our children and grandchildren face martyrdom for our faith in a socialistic, atheistic America? Or, heaven forbid, under Sharia Muslim law?

Never forget the warning given to Israel if they forgot who they were as a people and who their Creator was: *“You will be destroyed for not obeying the Lord your God”* (Deuteronomy 8:20 NIV).

America is guilty of the same ignorance the children of Israel possessed in the days of Moses. It’s time we remember who God is—and face the truth of where we are headed without Him.

CHAPTER 9

THE STAGES ARE SET

Just a few days ago I heard a minister say, “If God does not pour out his wrath on America, He will have to repent to Sodom and Gomorrah on the Day of Judgment.”

Yet Scripture tells us that if there were just ten righteous people living in Sodom, God would have spared the city (Genesis 18:32). It seems to me that there are many more than ten such believers in this country. America has sown too much seed for the gospel’s sake to be totally abandoned by the Almighty.

While it is true that a nation who forgets God will be destroyed, this is not the time to throw in the towel. As I will share in the conclusion of this book, there is a path that can lead to our escape. But first, America must change.

THE MISSING ELEMENT

On these pages we have examined several Bible prophecies concerning the end of the age. And the Apostle Paul tells us, “*Do not despise prophecies*” (1 Thessalonians 5:10). However,

the most important thing I have learned is that words concerning the future should be pointing us to one person—the Lord Jesus Christ.

A missing element in the church today is that it has stopped exalting Jesus. Its focus seems to be on programs, finances, growth, social services, and anything else. But if you examine the early church, the power of the Holy Spirit rested on it mightily because the Son of God was constantly being glorified.

In Luke 17, when Jesus was prophesying about the last days, He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would arrive. The Lord answered, *“The kingdom of God does not come with observation”* (verse 20).

Then He said to the disciples, *“The days will come when you will desire to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see it. And they will say to you, ‘Look here!’ or ‘Look there!’ Do not go after them or follow them. For as the lightning that flashes out of one part under heaven shines to the other part under heaven, so also the Son of Man will be in His day”* (verses 22-24).

Next, Jesus spoke specifically about His crucifixion: *“But first He must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation”* (verse 25).

Then came the heart of His prophecy. *“And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they*

bought, they sold, they planted, they built; but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed" (Luke 17:26-30).

Again, the core of this prophecy is centered on the Son of Man and describes the day of His return.

Notice how the people continued on their merry way, eating, drinking, buying, selling, planting, and building. It's not that there was anything wrong with being prosperous and acquiring material possessions, but Jesus was describing how in the last days men and women would be just going through their regular routine of living—not paying attention to the signs of His return.

Jesus added, "*they married wives, they were given in marriage*" (verse 27). He is implying that a sign of the last days will be a breaking of the marriage covenant, remarriage, and multiple divorces—and this would be accepted by the culture. With over 50 percent of the marriages in America ending in divorce, we need to wake up and see the handwriting on the wall!

The Lord said the end times would be like the days of Noah before he and his family entered the ark—then God shut the door and destroyed the earth. Noah was a preacher of righteousness who was telling all who would listen, his friends and neighbors, what was about to happen. But no one would listen. Instead, they laughed and made fun of him.

Then Jesus compared the last days to the time Lot lived on earth. In the city of Sodom, sin was everywhere: sexual perversion, pride, gluttony, and laziness (Genesis 19:4-7;

Ezekiel 16:49-50). Most of us are familiar with what happened next: the wrath of God rained fire and brimstone down from heaven.

Jesus concludes this prophecy by saying the same ungodly conditions will be prevalent on earth *“when the Son of Man is revealed”* (Luke 17:30).

THE FOUR LIVING CREATURES

Now let’s look at the vision of John the Revelator. God pulled back the curtain of eternity and allowed him to see the throne room in the heavenly temple, surrounded by living creatures.

John writes, *“The first living creature was like a lion, the second living creature like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle. The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: ‘Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!’”* (Revelation 4:7-8).

These six-winged seraphim, angels that were closest to the Almighty, had only one responsibility—to worship God.

This is almost exactly what the prophet Isaiah saw hundreds of years earlier: *“In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one cried*

to another and said: 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!'" (Isaiah 6:1-3)

In both Isaiah and Revelation, the prophecies were given in order to point people to the Lord.

THE SYMBOLS

As you read John's vision, you may wonder about the four living creatures: the lion, the calf, the man, and the eagle.

When Moses established the Tabernacle in the wilderness, God told the 12 tribes to divide into four groups of three tribes each and position themselves in a particular order around the Tabernacle: Judah to the east, Ephraim to the west, Reuben to the south, and Dan to the north.

In addition, God instructed, *"Everyone of the children of Israel shall camp by his own standard, beside the emblems of his father's house"* (Numbers 2:2).

So four major tribes flew flags bearing their special symbol:

- Judah's symbol was a lion (Genesis 49:8-9; Revelation 5:5).
- Ephraim's symbol was a calf or ox (Deuteronomy 33:17; Hosea 10:11).
- Reuben's symbol was a man, because he was the firstborn son (Genesis 49:3).
- Dan's symbol was the eagle. The name Dan means judgment (Genesis 30:6), and the mark of the eagle

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is connected with judgment (Deuteronomy 28:49;
Proverbs 30:17).

You may say, "That's interesting, but how does this connect to America?" I'm glad you asked!

THE TRIBES IN OUR CAPITAL

Like the children of Israel built the Tabernacle, our founding fathers established our capital, Washington, as a central place where God could meet our nation. It hardly resembles that today, yet this was the original intent.

If you look closely at a diagram of Washington, you'll see that it is built around a large rectangle called the National Mall. To the north, beyond the Washington Monument, is the White House, where our president lives. To the east is the Capitol Building where elected officials gather to enact legislation. To the South is the Jefferson Memorial, and to the west the Lincoln Memorial.

Now think how the location of the four major tribes of Israel and their emblems relate to this.

To the east you have the tribe of Judah (lion) and the Capitol—both law givers. The Capitol has a fountain outside with four stone lions representing authority.

To the west is Ephraim (calf or ox) and the Lincoln Memorial. Lincoln's first name, Abraham, is that of the founder of Israel. Plus, the first major battle of the Civil War was fought near Manassas, Virginia. The battle was called Bull

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Run. In the Bible, the tribe of Manasseh was camped west of the Tabernacle beside the tribe of Ephraim.

To the south is Reuben (man) and the Jefferson Memorial. Thomas Jefferson was considered to be a deist, believing in God, but that man has been given total authority on earth. In the Bible it was the tribe of Reuben who tried to forget God and act on their own strength (Joshua 22:10-34).

Finally, to the north is Dan (eagle) and the White House. When the president makes a speech, on the podium is displayed the U.S. seal with none other than an eagle.

ETCHED IN STONE

The next time you visit our nation's capital, look around and you will see quotes extolling God and His Word everywhere. Here are just a few:

- On the capstone of the Washington Monument is carved the Latin phrase, *Laus Deo*—which means “Praise be to God.”
- Inside the monument you will find carved tribute blocks with inscriptions such as, “Holiness to the Lord” (Exodus 28:26) and “Search the Scriptures.” (John 5:39).
- Engraved on the bronze doors of the Supreme Court are the Ten Commandments.
- Inside the Jefferson Memorial are carved Jefferson's own words: “God who gave us life gave us liberty.”

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- The Lincoln Memorial contains many Bible inscriptions, including, “The Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together” (Isaiah 40:5).

The name of God etched in marble and stone will not will be removed from the very heart of our nation. It is forever inscribed there.

TWO EMPIRES

In this book I have detailed the historic and spiritual connection America has to Israel. But there is another government which parallels our path—one which suffered a tragic ending.

Here are some of the similarities between our nation and the early Roman Empire.

- Rome and America began as republics (only a few have started this way).
- Both became empires in a very short period of time.
- Both became leading voices in the world to whom everyone looked for decisions.
- Both had extremely strong leaders.
- Both had a capitol hill and a senate.
- Both pledged allegiance to the flag by standing and placing their hand over their heart.
- Both built huge stadiums and poured large sums of money into sporting events.

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- Both enjoyed watching races. Rome loved chariots and we love NASCAR!
- Both became obsessed with luxury.
- Both became filled with sexual perversion.
- Both promoted homosexuality and allowed abortions.
- Rome invented the welfare state.
- As their empire grew, Rome started overtaxing the rich to pay for entitlements.
- Rome went into decline when it tried to wage war on several fronts.

What I see taking place in America today is the creeping threat of Roman culture clashing with our Hebraic foundation. If we are not careful, a book will one day be written: *The Decline and Fall of the American Empire*.

In truth, there are many authors detailing our downward spiral. In *When Nations Die*, by Jim Nelson Black, and *The Decline of a Nation*, by Kerby Anderson, the major causes of decay are what takes place in sexuality, marriage, and the family.

Decades ago, a British writer, Joseph Daniel Unwin, wrote *Sex and Culture*, that chronicled the historic downfall of several cultures, mainly the Roman Empire. He found that societies which held to a strong sexual ethic thrived and were more productive than cultures that became sexually free.

In the book, *Our Dance Has Turned to Death*, Carl Wilson also identifies a common pattern of family decline and civilizations. He lists several stages that led to the collapse of Rome. Let me summarize:

Stage One:

Men ceased to lead their families in worship. Spiritual and moral development became secondary, their view of God became naturalistic, mathematical, and mechanical.

Stage Two:

Men senselessly neglected the care of their wives and children to pursue material wealth, political ambition, military power, and cultural development. Material values began to dominate their thoughts and minds, so they started working excessively to acquire greater wealth. In doing so, they denied their families.

Stage Three:

When stage two happened, a change in men's sexual values occurred. Being preoccupied with business and war, they either neglected their wives sexually or became involved with lower class women and with homosexuality. Ultimately this led to a double standard of morality within the fabric of the nation.

Stage Four:

Because of the actions of men, the role of women raising children at home lost value and status. They were pushed aside and their roles devalued. Soon the women revolted to gain access to material wealth and also freedom of sex outside of marriage. They began to minimize having sexual relationships to conceive children, and they emphasized sex for pleasure.

Stage Five:

Husbands and wives started competing against each other for money, home leadership, and the affection of the children. This resulted in hostility and frustration and was said to attribute to homosexuality in children. Marriages started ending in separation and divorce.

Stage Six:

Selfish individualism grew. It fragmented society into smaller and smaller group loyalties and carried over into the culture. Thus, the nation was beset by internal conflict. The decrease in the birth rate produced an older population who had less ability to defend itself and were less willing to do so—making the nation more vulnerable to its enemies.

Stage Seven:

Finally, unbelief in God became widespread. Parental authority was diminished. Ethical and moral principles disappeared, affecting the economy and the government. Because of internal weakness and fragmentation, the society eventually fell apart and the nation failed.

Here is the question. Are these seven stages prominent in American culture?

A WARNING TO THE ROMANS

The moral breakdown just described is a direct result of

ignoring what God's Word says regarding the role of men as leaders, women raising children and running the home, and the family unit as the foundation of society.

Regarding the spiritual decline, in the New Testament there is a letter that was sent to the very people we have been talking about. It's called the book of Romans, written by Paul the Apostle.

It was penned during the time Rome was on its downward path. Read this carefully and you will see how Paul addresses many of the same issues we have been discussing:

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies

among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them (Romans 1:18-22).

The Apostle Paul saw stages of development that led to the spiritual decline and ultimately the anarchy of the nation. The first problem begins when people turn from God toward idolatry. Even though the Almighty reveals Himself in nature,

they start worshipping *“the creature rather than the Creator”* (verse 25).

Paul explains that as a result of this idolatrous spirit, there grows a lack of thankfulness (verse 21).

I was recently at a Walmart store and watched the reaction of a child who couldn't have the toy he wanted. The kid literally threw a tantrum on the spot and began cursing at his mother. On his feet he was wearing a \$100 pair of Nike sneakers, yet he was fussing over a \$2 toy. I felt like saying to the mom, “I know it's none of my business, but if you need to borrow my belt, it's okay!”

Before straying too far, let's get back to Paul's letter to the Romans. The second stage includes sexual perversion: *“...women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful”* (verses 26-27).

In the third stage, anarchy takes over the culture. Read again how society responds. They are *“filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful”* (verses 29-31).

Both Paul and the secular writers are saying the same thing. The reason the Roman Empire unraveled is because men stopped leading their families spiritually, which led to sexual perversion and eventually anarchy.

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But there is one final stage: judgment. This happens when God steps back and gives a nation over to its sinful practices. And I see this same decay taking place in America right now.

WILL THE LORD FIND FAITH?

We cannot bury our heads in the sand and avoid what Jesus said would take place at the end of the age. He will return during an atmosphere that mirrors the days of Noah and Lot we read about earlier (Luke 17).

Before the great flood, immorality was unbridled and out of control. God saw *“that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually”* (Genesis 6:5).

Judgment was close at hand, but the nation played on and refused to pay attention to a preacher of righteousness. There could have been a national revival had they listened to Noah and repented of their sin, but instead they continued eating, drinking, and living their perverted lifestyle.

Today, when you see the acceptance of sin in our society and these same things happening, make sure you are exalting Jesus and are found worthy of escaping what is ahead. God is still asking, *“When the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?”* (Luke 18:8 NIV).

Our spirits are heavy as we see the heart-wrenching changes taking place in our country, but we serve a God who has far more power than any man-made institution. Regardless of how hopeless it may seem, I believe the

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Almighty has His fingerprint on America and the final chapter has not been written.

That's what I want to share with you next.

A FINAL WORD

When you read the headlines that Iran is building nuclear weapons, that the Arab spring has turned into an Islamic storm, and pressure from all sides is squeezing Israel like a vise, instead of trembling in panic and terror, this is the time to pray!

It is imperative that the body of Christ awaken from her slumber. While she has been asleep in the bed of religion, the enemy has crept into America and has sown weeds of discord to entangle us. It's time to fall on our knees and ask for God's help.

- We must pray for mercy.
- We must pray for more time.
- We must pray for the peace of Jerusalem.
- We must pray that the Lord will speak to our leaders.
- We must pray that the eyes of the nation will be opened to the truth.
- We must pray for God to visit America with another Great Awakening.

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This is our only hope.

The economic, political, and social condition of our world looks grim, but we still have a promise from heaven that will not be broken.

The answer for America will not come from Pennsylvania Avenue, the halls of Congress, the wizards of Wall Street, or our educational institutions. It will arise from the pulpits scattered throughout this great land. As the Bible says, *“The time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God”* (1 Peter 4:17).

Please hear me when I say that God’s will is not judgment or wrath—it is blessing. His burning desire is to pour out favor on His people.

But we must take responsibility for our actions. The Apostle Paul tells us, *“If we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged”* (1 Corinthians 11:31).

If the body of Christ will humble itself, pray, and turn from its wicked ways, we *will* hear from heaven and God *will* heal our land (2 Chronicles 7:14). On the other side of that coin, if we fail to touch the throne of God for something to drastically change in our churches and nation, judgment will be ours.

FEAR? OR FAITH?

Trust me when I tell you that there is never going to be a revival until there is a rebirth in the pulpits of America. I pray that God the Holy Spirit will begin to stir in the hearts of

pastors and their congregations, inspiring them to stand and declare, “Thus saith the Lord.”

Sermonettes, clever sayings, or entertaining programs are not going to bring a new awakening. We need the Word of God to be delivered as a two-edge sword that prophesies what lies ahead.

The message must be about the Great Redeemer, His eternal love, and the fact that there is no other way to heaven except a heart and soul that is cleansed by the blood of Christ Jesus.

When the gospel is preached, the Holy Spirit will demonstrate Himself with signs, wonders, and miracles in these last days.

Let me offer this encouragement. As believers, the Lord is not trying to frighten us, *“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind”* (2 Timothy 1:7)

So no matter what we read in the headlines, we know that God is in control and those who are born again will be protected and provided for—regardless of what happens in the earth.

Prophetic days are happening now and we are quickly approaching the coming time of *“distress of nations, with perplexity”* that Scripture refers to as the great tribulation period (Luke 21:25).

There has never been a generation that has seen more significant end-time signs than today. The prophetic winds are blowing as never before, creating the perfect storm. We

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can now read the words of Jesus and fully understand what He said concerning *“men’s hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth”* (Luke 21:26).

But that doesn’t have to be a description of you and me. It’s exciting to be a believer as we stand in the crosshairs of prophecy. Without question, you and I have been born for such a time as this. We do not need to be afraid of what is approaching if we have the wind of the Holy Spirit moving on our lives.

STAND TOGETHER

The church of Jesus Christ must come together. We’ve been divided far too long. The hour has come to remove the walls of separation between Jews and Gentiles, and between different denominations and philosophical backgrounds. With all of my heart I believe we can be distinctive, yet not divided.

Thankfully, there is a level playing field; it is at the cross of Christ.

It’s time to stop following the world’s systems and the divisiveness of governments.

Remember, we are not driven by politics—we are driven by the Word of the living God. We are not party affiliated—we are prophetically affiliated.

Democrat, Republican, liberal, conservative, Tea Party, progressive; all of these labels are going to fade into oblivion.

But Jesus assures us, *“My words will never pass away”* (Luke 21:33 NIV).

Regardless of the color of your skin, your culture, education, or your economic background, when you stand before the King of Glory, He will ask you how you handled the Word of the Living God. Were you faithful and obedient to His testimony?

SOLD OUT!

There is no denying that at the time of Christ’s return there will be wars, rumors of war (Matthew 24:6), and signs in the moon and stars (verse 29). But if you are living for the Lord, you won’t have to face these events alone or be left behind.

The time for playing games is over. One of the biggest lies the devil ever sold the church was when he took away the doctrine of the imminent return of the Lord Jesus Christ. We have placed the Second Coming somewhere on the back burner of our thinking. It is rarely preached and seldom discussed. Yet it is truth.

Many Christians shrug their shoulders and say, “I’m not sure I believe that.” Yet, the Word of the Almighty is eternally settled in heaven (Psalm 119:89). *“The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever”* (Isaiah 40:8).

The only option we have is to make sure our hearts are right with our heavenly Father, through His Son. If there is

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anything hidden in your life that's keeping you from the Lord Jesus, bring it to the cross. Commit everything you have to Him—body, soul, spirit, family, career, finances—everything. Give Him 100 percent.

A NEW DAY

When will the clouds roll back and the Lord make His glorious appearance? Jesus said, *"But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only"* (Matthew 24:36).

This we do know: *"The Son of man is coming at an hour you do not expect"* (verse 44). So be ready. Jesus can appear at any moment—even today.

How will it happen? The Bible tells us, *"In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye...the trumpet will sound* (1 Corinthians 15:52-53).

Then, suddenly, *"The Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord"* (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).

This should not give us cause for anxiety or worry. Instead, we are to *"comfort one another with these words"* (verse 18).

Starting at that moment, there will be no more sickness, disease, or broken relationships. God will wipe away every

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tear from your eyes. *“There shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away”* (Revelation 21:4). The Lord says, *“Behold, I make all things new”* (verse 5).

With great anticipation, I can hardly wait for The Last Days of America—and The First Days of Eternity.

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