



The United States in Prophecy



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Introduction



Is the United States in Prophecy?

Time does not permit an exhaustive study but we are led with others to believe the United States is mentioned in the Scriptures. Although the continent of the United States was not discovered when the Scriptures were written we can't help but believe an omniscient God may have led those who penned the inspired Word to make mention of America.

A passage some Bible students refer to in asserting the United States is mentioned in prophecy, is Ezekiel 38:13 where reference is made to "Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof." Tarshish is believed to refer to England and the young lions are believed to speak of British possessions and some believe it includes the United States in the group of nations which in the Endtime are seen resisting the attempted invasion of Israel by Gog of Magog. (Russia)

Some Bible expositors also suggest that some references to Babylon could have a dual meaning and be applicable to the United States.

The word 'Babylon' literally means confusion. Political Babylon represents the confusion resulting from national unity while religious Babylon speaks of the amalgamation of religion in the Endtime.

That the city of Babylon should never again be rebuilt is emphasized in Isaiah 13:19-20. "And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. It shall never be inhabited, neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation..."

However, Babylon is in view from the beginning of this same chapter where reference is made to the Day of the Lord. Isaiah describes the noise of a multitude in the mountains, coming from a 'far country', from the end of heaven. Could this represent the raptured saints seen coming back to earth as described so vividly by John who sees them on white horses. Prior to this we read, "I have commanded my sanctified ones. I have also called my mighty ones" which are the saints which constitute this multitude. Then described is the coming destruction of the wicked upon earth, with the sun, moon and constellations affected."

Later, in Isaiah 47 a prophecy is given concerning the daughter of Babylon which represents womanhood losing her glory and her splendor. We read, "Thou shalt no more be called tender and delicate. Take the millstones, and grind meal; uncover thy locks, make bare the leg, uncover the thigh, pass over the rivers. Thy nakedness shall be uncovered, yea, thy shame shall be seen..."

Again what a description of modern womanhood. And again desolation is promised such utter abandonment of virtues which should characterize womanhood.

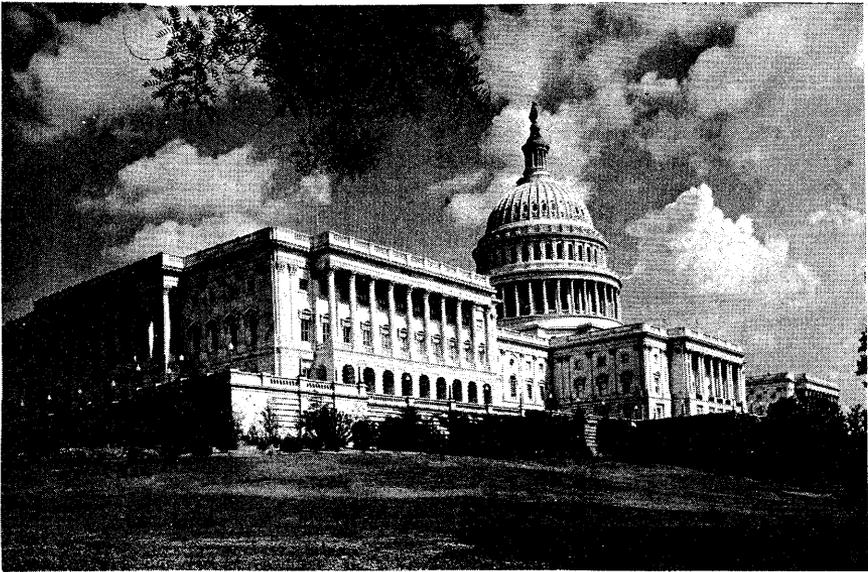
Many other Scriptures could be given to indicate the reference could be to the United States as related in such passages as just given. While we cannot be dogmatic in making such assertions, we must note the similarity to conditions predicted and those presently prevailing in America. And as original Babylon became as Sodom and Gomorrah, we're reminded even thus shall it be in the day of the coming of the Son of man.

In order that we may take warning and heed the admonitions of Scripture this booklet is printed with the hope that it will indicate something of the judgment that we believe is ahead for America on account of our gross wickedness. And believing as God offered escape to Sodom before the fires of judgment fell, so there is the promise of escape from coming wrath for the United States if we will make such preparation so as to be ready for our Lord's soon coming.

"Be ye ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."

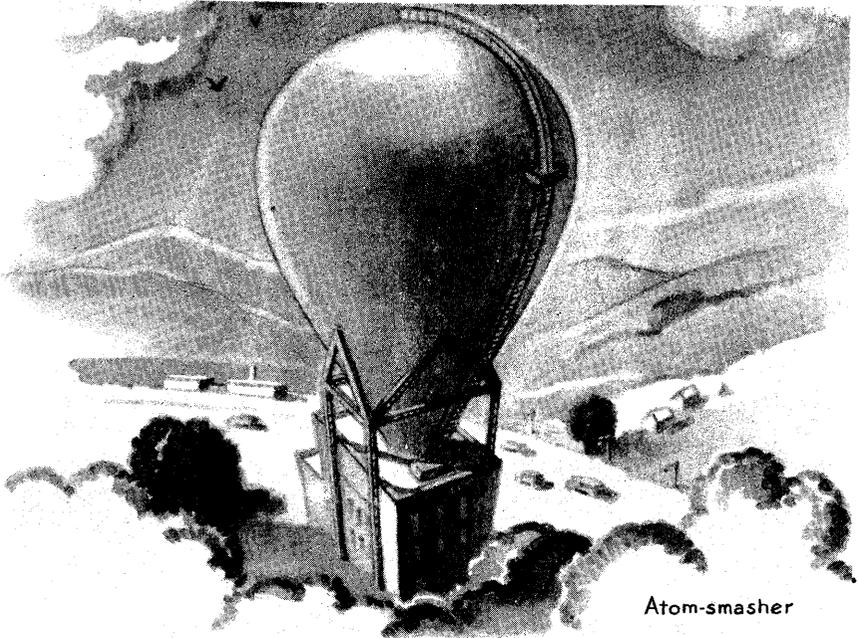


THE **F**uture OF **A**merica



It was 25 years ago that a U.S. plane dropped an atomic bomb on the city of Hiroshima, Japan, killing close to a hundred thousand. I recall how chills ran up and down my spine as I announced this event while news director of a Chicago radio station. The book of Revelation no longer bordered on fantasy but suddenly became alive with its portrayal of horrible Endtime events.

At that time we were living comfortably in an apartment within a block of Lake Michigan in the Gold Coast of Chicago. Newly married, with a little one on the way, it was as though the Lord spoke definitely to leave the job I loved and take to the highways and byways to warn men everywhere to 'prepare to meet God'. On a program I had originated at the station called GOD'S NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS I related how the Lord had directed us to leave my position in radio to launch the Cathedral Caravan ministry. With the dawn of the atomic era we had reached the Age of the Apocalypse and we sensed our calling was to warn men everywhere to 'flee from the wrath to come!'



Atom-smasher

TIME magazine noted with the coming of the Nuclear Age that 'Christians have been poring over the book of Revelation, searching for portents and parallels.' It noted that the term "APOCALYPTIC" had become an easy and overworked word.

However, NEWSWEEK, earlier this year, stated: "Never before have the makers of movies been so absorbed with the details of impending apocalypse". Declared this magazine: "...things can't go on much longer as they're going...It doesn't take much to get with the spirit of apocalypse these days!"

Well, if Hollywood is exploiting the theme of the Apocalypse with all its deadly fascination, why doesn't someone seize the initiative to relate what the Bible says on the subject? The world's image of the Apocalypse is that of Doomsday and that the world will end in one big BANG!

While we believe awful great tribulation is just ahead for the whole world we cannot but believe there is the possibility of escape from coming woes and judgments seen poured out upon the earth. Thus, we feel the time has come to put in writing GOD'S MESSAGE as it relates to these last days. We believe the cup of man's iniquity is full, and the winepress of God's wrath is waiting to execute judgment because of our many sins.

Thus, we have felt led to prepare a series of messages relating to Endtime judgments seen poured out upon an unsuspecting world. We're calling this series of broadcasts being put into booklet form - THE UNITED STATES IN PROPHECY. And we would hope for distribution of thousands of copies that every man, woman and child may hear these messages and come to know what lies ahead.

In addition, we have set a goal of a thousand radio stations to herald this Endtime Message.

There was a time when we joined those who said that "God will destroy the earth...and not man". However, we have changed our position to believe that man will set in motion such forces of destruction such as were unleashed at Hiroshima and Nagasaki with their undreamed destructive potential. As we are reminded in Psalms 110:5, "The Lord at thy right hand shall strike through kings in the day of his wrath," so we see nations beginning the holocaust that will end in Armageddon, whereas God steps in to control and end this mass annihilation. When Christ returns to earth we read how He will "destroy them which destroy the earth" (Rev. 11:18) which tells us again that man will bring on much of this endtime destruction.



William Lawrence in his book, THE HELL BOMB, quotes a nuclear chemist who relates the possibility of dropping a series of bombs and allowing the radioactive dust to sweep along with the wind current, polluting the atmosphere with death-dealing-dust as it travels along. Professor Harrison Brown of the University of Chicago relates if bombs were dropped a thousand miles off the coast of California in a north-south line in the Pacific, the radio-active dust would reach California in about a day, and New York in four or five days, killing most life as it traverses the Continent.

While in this series of broadcasts we seek to show from the Scripture that America faces coming destruction, we would like to point out God steps in to prevent utter and complete annihilation of the earth. For instance, in Revelation 7 we see where He withholds the four winds, possibly to prevent radioactive fallout from destroying the earth in a future holocaust.

Our Lord has reminded us concerning the coming tribulation period, "Except those days be shortened there would no flesh be saved, but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened." Matt 24:22.

Why do we believe America faces destruction?

Donald Gray Barnhouse, well-known Broadcaster who originated the BIBLE STUDY HOUR, once wrote: "I am convinced that by not mentioning America, the Bible infers that great judgments will come upon our nation. For the U.S. is not included in the list of nations that will be the most powerful at the end of the age and during the brief period of the Great Tribulation which will follow the removal of the Church!"

Did you hear it?

In Ezekiel 38 and 39, which describes an Endtime invasion of Israel by Gog, of the land of Magog, which Bible scholars have longtime agreed represents Russia, we read among other things where God says: "I will send a fire on Magog, and among them that dwell carelessly in the isles." The word 'isles' as used here is a Hebrew word meaning 'great coastlines'. So, if we understand this Scripture correctly, a fire will fall on Russia and also upon the land with great coastlines which could very well represent the United States with both its Atlantic and Pacific coasts.

With Israel back in her land after 2500 years of her dispersion, the time seems ripe for such an invasion. First, there is evidence of a proclamation of peace in the offing. But it is when they shall say Peace and Safety that sudden destruction will come.

While the United States has been spared the bombing of our cities in two World Wars, in a third world war we can expect retaliation from those who are out to destroy us.

General Omar Bradley once predicted: "If a third world war should start, it would start with an attack upon the United States."

Government officials have also warned: "The threat of a surprise attack upon us is an ever-increasing threat."

The Soviet Union similarly has warned time and again that in the event of attack by the West they will hurl atomic weapons, including guided missiles, upon our cities.

Party-Chief Brezhnev made a speech in which he asserted the Russians have 'orbital rockets.' Thus, rockets with nuclear warheads could already be orbiting the earth that could be detonated by the throw of a switch in Moscow.

In view of the Scriptural forecast of a day coming when one-fourth of the earth is seen being destroyed by a great sword, famine and death, we must be realistic and believe our destruction to be a possibility.

Air Force General Thomas Powers once warned that Americans may "wake up one morning" and find a number of nuclear-armed Soviet satellites "floating in stationary orbits over every part of the United States."

General Curtis LeMay, retired Air Force Chief of Staff has also declared a nuclear war is not only a possibility but 'inevitable'.

In view of such declarations we cannot but believe grave responsibility rests upon those who sense danger ahead, and are willing to sound the alarm, calling men everywhere to turn to God in this hour.

We often quote from Luke, chapter 17, to indicate fiery judgment is ahead for this world. For our Lord testified saying His coming would be like it was in the days of Noah, and in the days of Lot. Concerning Lot, we read: "the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed."

We believe in the possibility of a surprise attack. And the possibility likewise exists that before such devastation pictured here as fire rained down upon our cities, that Christ will come to rapture His own - removing the saints from off the earth before this coming holocaust.

Thus, there is the warning given by our Lord who urged us saying: "Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man." Luke 21:36

Beloved, these are days to prepare for the coming of our Lord. The only hope for this world is Christ's Return. Describing Endtime events forecast for the day of His coming our Lord declared: "when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh."

Again the important question we leave with you today is -- Are you ready for our Lord's Return? Have you truly repented of sin to trust the Saviour? And are you living in obedience to His will, and in eager anticipation for His soon coming?

For remember He hath said, "Be ye therefore ready also for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh." (Luke 12:40)

The Age of the Apocalypse

George Wald, Harvard Biology Professor and Nobel Prize Winner, expresses concern for the youth in this atomic age. He asks the question - Will ours be the 'apocalyptic generation'?

It was a snowy, blustery day in Chicago ..December 2, 1942...when the atomic age dawned, and we may have entered into an era that will end in apocalyptic judgments. For on that day, just a short distance from Moody Bible Institute where I was then a student, scientists were conducting an experiment under the abandoned stadium at the University of Chicago's Stagg Field. A nuclear chain reaction was set off that could have turned the city into an atomic wasteland had it not been controlled.

Later, the power of the atom leveled Hiroshima and Nagasaki, bringing death to over a hundred thousand.



Will there ever be a nuclear war? What of the future of the United States? Will atomic missiles one day be detonated over our cities bringing agonizing death and untold destruction?

The Scriptures portray God as all-powerful. However, we often fail to see Him in this majestic role.

On the occasion when God gave to Moses the ten commandments we read how man and beast were warned not to come near the mount lest they be stoned or shot through for the Lord was appearing in the presence of man. One writer suggests it was the radiant energy from God Himself that would have destroyed man or beast in close proximity to the Lord's presence.

Look for a moment at the account which reminds us - "on the third day, in the morning, there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount....And Mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the Lord descended upon it in fire...and the whole mount quaked greatly."

What a description of God's presence and power!

Some years ago the newspapers told of an experiment being conducted in southern areas of the United States. Planes were carrying aboard atomic reactors. These were not actually supplying power to the plane but carried for experimental purposes only. In the event of a crash we were informed the reactor would be parachuted from the plane to the ground. Then immediately ten civilians flying in another plane would also parachute to earth to stand guard and protect the public from being injured by invisible, yet deadly radioactive rays.

So it would appear that warning was given to Moses to keep both man and beast from getting too close to the mount where the Lord was seen appearing from heaven amidst thunder and lightning, fire and smoke.

Incidentally, on another occasion God is seen appearing in a 'pillar of fire'.

It's interesting to note a description of TIME magazine of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. TIME described the exploding bomb as a 'pillar of fire.' (Aug. 10, 1970 TIME ESSAY).

At Mount Sinai the Lord gave Moses further instructions which might indicate the tremendous energy radiated on that occasion. Recall how God told Moses to stand upon a rock. And the Lord said: "It shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a cleft of a rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by."

In other words, to protect Moses the Lord made provision to hide him in the cleft of a rock when His glory would be made known.

The United States Government has issued a pamphlet entitled, SURVIVAL UNDER ATOMIC ATTACK. In that pamphlet we are instructed to seek shelter behind massive structures of masonry, concrete or steel. If caught in the open it is suggested dropping down instantly behind a huge boulder or behind a masonry foundation.

And in the Book of Revelation there is given a description of what I believe is just ahead. The coming Day of Wrath finds awful devastation that sounds like an atomic holocaust. We read, "Lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; and the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind."

Now, when this happens - when the heavens become the scene of cataclysmic judgments, we read: "the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains:"

Did you hear it?

Several survival towns are now being constructed underground. The Little Pentagon and other government offices are already built into the rock-hewn mountainside for this day described in Scripture when the chief captains and the mighty men will seek a hiding place in the day of coming tribulation.

Is the United States in prophecy? Surely this description of those in the Endtime seeking shelter in the rocks and caves is most descriptive of what I believe is ahead.

Getting back to Moses whom the Lord hid in the cleft of a rock until He passed by him. We read: "And it came to pass, when Moses came down from Mt. Sinai with the two tables of testimony...the skin of his face shown..." In fact, the glow was so strong that Moses had to put a veil over his face when talking to the people.

Dr. Byron Butler reports having witnessed a glow on human bodies through use of a Kilner Screen. This is an invention that enables one to see a certain glow about the human body. It is said that a doctor can watch a dying person through a Kilner Screen and as the patient grows weaker the glow fades away. There is an explanation that the soul of man sets off a series of positive electrons referred to as POSITRONS. So what must have happened to Moses was that he was so close to the source of God's power that he literally radiated luminous energy. For his face shown so that man could not look upon him, and we read how the people were afraid to come near him.

The modern nuclear physicist, in order to detect the presence of neutrons uses a scintillation counter. Neutrons, when caused to scintillate, are known to give off tiny beams of light.

Actually, radio activity is harmful to human flesh so what happened to Moses must have been the appearance of some of the Shekinah glory which fastened itself upon his countenance. But there should be a glow to the child of God, wrought by the Holy Spirit, which comes upon our faith in Jesus Christ.

Finally, I feel there is still another lesson to be learned from our study of the appearance of the Lord to Moses. The Lord had told Moses to tell the people: "Be ready against the third day; for the third day the Lord will come down in the sight of all the people upon Mount Sinai." Exodus 19:10-11

Now you have to listen closely.

How often do you read in Scripture concerning the third day? Christ arose the third day. Why not the fourth day or the fifth day?

The Bible tells us we are not to be ignorant concerning God's reckoning of time - that a thousand years is as one day, and a day as a thousand years. Actually, it's almost two thousand years since Jesus went back to heaven after fulfilling our redemption. As far as God is concerned this is just two days. So the third day approaches. It will be the millennial day of a thousand years when our Lord will come to reign upon the earth.

Now, the Lord told Moses: "Be ready against the third day." So that is our message - BE READY!

Three things Moses was told to do. He was told to sanctify the people. That is, they were to separate themselves from all that would defile them. They were not to allow the pleasures of life, nor material things, to dim their hope of coming face to face with God.

Then the children of Israel were told to 'wash their clothes.' This is symbolic of the robes of righteousness that are ours by faith in Christ. The moment we place faith in Christ we are clothed in His righteousness. Sin is what stains our garments and which will keep many from being ready for the rapture. In Revelation we see described a great multitude which no man can number, of all nations and kindreds, and people, and tongues. The question is asked, WHO ARE THESE? The answer comes back - listen to it! "These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

Beloved, the Scriptures make it clear that now is the time to come clean for Jesus Christ, walking in purity, waiting expectantly for His soon coming.

Then Moses gives a final admonition to the people: "Be ready against the third day; come not at your wives."

It would appear that we are in the midst of a sex-mad culture that is fast creating impure and unholy relationships even between husbands and wives. The Scripture reminds us, "Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled; but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge." Hebrews 13:4. In view of the soon coming of the Lord the call is for living a pure and holy life. In order for a man not to be obsessed with the impurity all around him may necessitate separation from all that defiles including normal physical relationships. Surely in the midst of growing perversity we must make sure we are not influenced by lustful exhibitions of sex which is fast becoming the god of this world. In view of the coming of the Lord we need all of the fulness of God's Holy Spirit to keep us from the defilement of this world.

Then we read, "it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the VOICE OF THE TRUMPET EXCEEDING LOUD...and Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet with God!"

Hear me, one of these days the trumpet shall sound, and the dead in Christ shall rise first, and we who are alive and remain shall be caught up to meet the Lord in the air. As Moses led the children of Israel forth to meet God, so Jesus is coming to take us to the Father.

The thunder and lightning and the thick cloud speak of the judgment that simultaneously will befall this earth. For we are told: "the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all, even thus shall it be in the day when the son of man is revealed."

Thus we see atomic-like devastation coming to America and the world. And it is our personal conviction that the coming of the Lord will precede this coming day of destruction. We would like to believe the Scriptures provide the promise of escape from the coming awful great tribulation providing we are faithful in loving and serving the Lord.

What a challenge! Here in the Old Testament is an object lesson of how it will be like when the Lord comes, with the challenge to "Be Ready."

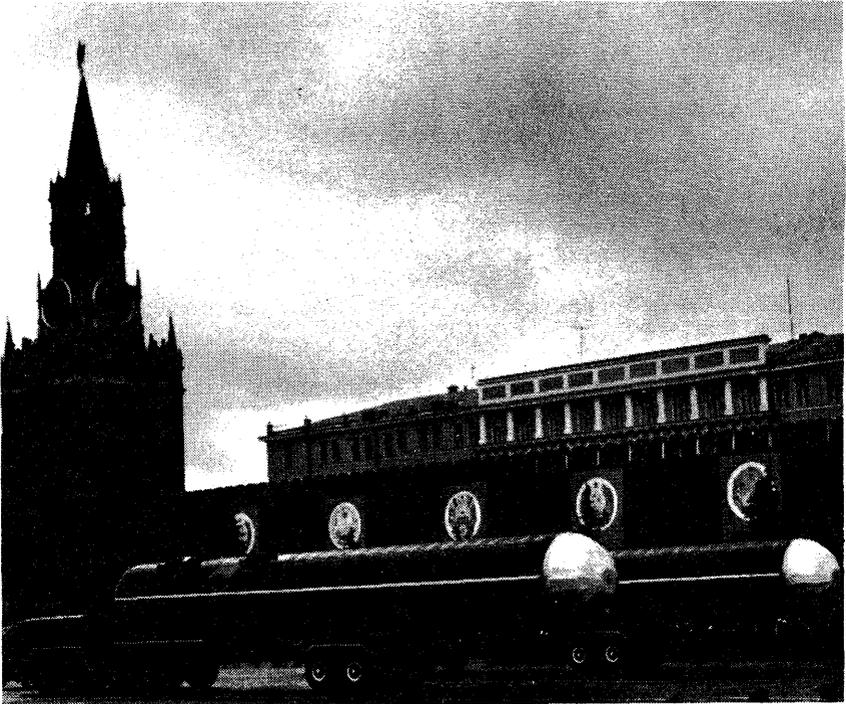
Today while there is still time...why not surrender to the Saviour. Ask His forgiveness for your many sins. Study your Bible and pray daily and live for Jesus until He comes.

For He hath said: "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the son of man cometh."

Are We Facing Atomic Holocaust ?

In Helsinki, talks between the United States and Russia are aimed at limiting nuclear weapons.

What will happen? Will the arms race continue and man ultimately succeed in bringing about his own destruction. What is the future of the United States in prophecy?



SOVIET ABMS ON PARADE IN MOSCOW

U.N. Secretary-General U Thant warns that the threat of nuclear warfare increases with each passing day.

Milton Burton, one of the scientists at Oak Ridge who helped produce the first atomic bomb has warned: "If enough bombs of the right size are set off, it will light the nitrogen chain and the entire world will go up in flames. And if other planets are inhabited, they would look and cry, 'Ah! A Nova. A new star!'"

Dr. William G. Pollard also from Oak Ridge has described the sun and every star in the Milky Way as being a natural hydrogen bomb in the process of fission. As director of the Institute of Nuclear Studies Pollard has observed: "It is a sobering thought that God made more hydrogen bombs than anything else!"

What is God like? Is He glorious in power, fearful in praises, doing wonders? - as we read in Exodus 15. Does He inhabit eternity and dwell amidst the majesty of molecules and atoms? What is meant in both old and new testaments where we read 'our God is a consuming fire'!

WHAT IS GOD LIKE?

In Deuteronomy, chapter 4, verse 24 and in Hebrews 12:29 we read: "For the Lord thy God is a consuming fire..."

There was a time when God commanded the people to be gathered together. For said the Lord, "I will make them hear my words, that they may learn to fear me all the days that they shall live upon the earth, and that they may teach their children". (v.10)

Then the account is given as to how the people drew near into the presence of the Lord. And we read, "the mountain burned with fire unto the midst of heaven, with darkness, clouds, and thick darkness." And the Lord spake unto the people out of the midst of the fire. They saw no similitude of man but only heard his voice. (v. 11-12)

Some wonder when man invaded the area of the atom whether or not he actually entered God's territory. Scientists who developed the first atomic bomb replied this new invention was "a harnessing of the basic power of the universe." And since all power belongeth unto God has man stepped into forbidden territory when he developed atomic power?

And although atomic power has produced powerful energy for peaceful purposes it is with the knowledge that man continues to develop an arsenal of these powerful weapons that we wonder about the future and the threat of total and complete annihilation. It seems to us that there should be more information released, and more warning given, concerning the possibility of Endtime destruction unparalleled in history, should a nuclear holocaust be rained down upon our cities.

Anyone who reads the Bible knows this to be a possibility. For in Revelation, chapter 6, we read of future destruction that will affect 1/4 of the entire earth.(v.4-8)

And we're reminded of the words of Lieut. General James Gavin, Chief of Research and Development for the U.S.Army who warned: "Several hundred million deaths would result from large-scale use of atomic weapons and hydrogen weapons." Gavin notes: "Casualties will be largely affected by the way the wind blows."

Isn't it rather amazing in the book of Revelation, following this description of what could be interpreted as atomic warfare, to read: "After these things I saw four angels...holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree." (Rev. 7:1)

Surely it is God's goodness to step in and try to stop man's wreckless use of powerful, destructive weapons seen unleashed during the tribulation period. He is even seen withholding the wind, possibly to prevent the spread of deadly radio activity.

The Bible tells us what's ahead! Our Lord reminds us, "Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth; FOR THE POWERS OF HEAVEN SHALL BE SHAKEN." Luke 21:26

Did you hear it?

It's of further interest to point out that the word for 'heaven' is the Greek word OURANOI from which we get the word 'uranium'.

Beloved, don't tell me that the Bible is not a scientific book.



The Apostle Peter likewise reminds us, "The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the ELEMENTS shall melt with fervent heat..." (2 Pet. 3:10)

What did Peter know about ELEMENTS? Uranium is an element.

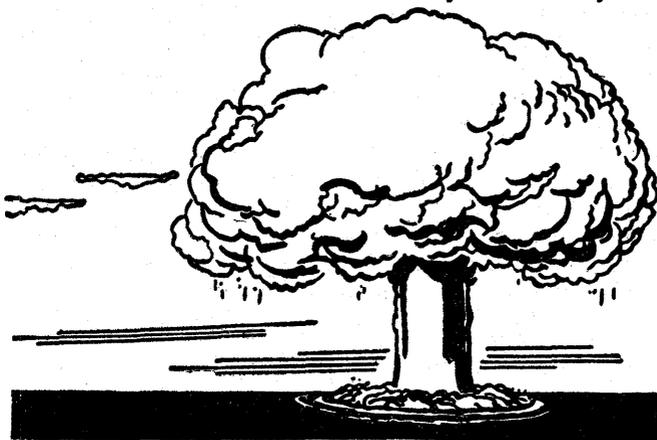
In the case of a 100 Megaton Bomb we are told the fireball would produce a temperature of about 18 million degrees Fahrenheit. You can't begin to imagine such fervent heat as would be produced by modern rockets with the explosive force many times more powerful than ones we exploded over Japan.

Peter goes on to say: "Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought we to be..."

Hear it! The word DISSOLVED is the Greek word LUO meaning to 'unloose' or 'untie'. How characteristic of atomic fission as the chain reaction produces a nuclear explosion. Billions of neutrons suddenly hitting other neutrons at tremendous velocities of 18,000 miles a second suddenly shatter the atom and additional billions of neutrons are born in a chain reaction that could destroy the earth.

In fact, Isaiah describes the day when the earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard. (Isa. 24:18-20)

What greater convincing proof is there from the Scriptures than this that man may eventually and ultimately



bring nuclear destruction upon this earth.

As one of our congressmen once warned: "A concussion of H-Bombs is sufficient to blow the earth off its axis."

Too long I have heard men say, including well-meaning clergymen, that we will not destroy ourselves. But there are too many Scriptures which indicate the contrary.

Scientists tell us we are headed for an atomic war. In their annual bulletin they feature an atomic clock showing us only minutes away from midnight! Why don't we heed their warning and prepare for the day that is just ahead! For either we face a holocaust that will destroy millions and leave other millions helpless cripples or if we are true believers in the Lord Jesus Christ there is offered the possibility of escape.

Some preach that there is no escape from this coming great awful tribulation ahead. But Jesus encouraged us to pray that we might escape all the things seen coming to pass, and to stand before the Son of man. (Lu. 21:36)

It doesn't seem that our Lord would offer the promise of escape unless there was escape from this coming holocaust.

Notice again, Jesus said: "The same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all, even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed."

What a tremendous verse tying the Lord's Return for His own with fiery destruction rained down upon the earth. And as Lot escaped just moments before fire fell upon Sodom, so I believe the saints seen looking for the Saviour will escape the fiery destruction ahead.

Some think of the coming of the Lord as occurring on a beautiful moonlit night when all is serene and quiet. But the Scriptures portray His coming as the 'lightning'.

And again we read: "the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in FLAMING FIRE taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Nothing serene about that event. In FLAMING FIRE Christ will appear. Those who know not God will suffer, along with those who obey not the Gospel.

Do you know God? We read in John 17:3, "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent!"

And we also ask: Are you obeying the Gospel? You reply, "I believe the Gospel! I believe that Jesus died for my sins and that I'm ready to meet Him!"

But are you walking in obedience to His will, or are you living in willful disobedience?

In this day of easy believism, with its loose, shallow profession, we need to be shaken loose from such lethargy and challenged to holy living. The hour is late and Christ's coming hastens.

Notice, the Apostle Peter, after referring to the destruction of the heavens, with the elements melting, and the earth being burned up, writes: "Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness."

In other words, in view of what's ahead, in view of these judgments seen coming, we should be living holy lives. Our behaviour should be affected.

In fact, the Apostle goes on to warn: "Be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot and blameless."

Does this characterize your life? Are you living all-out for Jesus Christ?

Then Peter warns: "Beloved,...beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

When all around you there are those who yield to temptation, and even some who call themselves Christians who may be turning to drugs and illicit sex, or following the pattern of the world with its materialism -- warns Peter: "BEWARE...lest you fall into the error of the wicked."

May God help us in this hour to surrender all to Jesus Christ. It will be worth it to hear Him say "WELL DONE" at His coming, rather than face His wrath!

Which will it be - WRATH or RAPTURE!

Remember, you can be ready for Christ's Return if you want to be!

Why not repent of sin to receive the Saviour. Then surrender your life to Him in loving obedience to His will and be ready when He comes.

For He hath said, "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."

Is destruction our destiny?

A black and white illustration of a globe with a grid pattern. A pen nib is shown writing on the globe, with a curved line representing the path of the pen nib. The pen nib is positioned over the Americas.

A Washington newspaper reporter has noted: "The world is not only coming to an end of a year; it is coming to the end of an era."

As Professor W. Burnet Eastor, Jr. observes: "According to the New Testament and according to the facts of history, there is nothing in the Christian religion which guarantees the permanence of any civilization. Rather, according to the New Testament, not only are all civilizations under the judgment of doom, but the world itself must come to an end."

The Bible does say eventually, Heaven and earth shall pass away but for the believer in Christ, life is eternal and a new heaven and a new earth await those truly saved.

Dr. Vance Havner comments: "Our country is not yet 200 years old, but it is dying before our eyes, not intellectually, nor scientifically, but morally with cancer of the soul." Notes Dr. Havner: "Deceived into thinking that we are on the verge of a new era with poverty and ignorance abolished and the brotherhood of man brought in by government decree, what we do not know is that we are at the bedside of a dying America!"

Did you hear it?

A publication called **THE KING'S BUSINESS** points out that "The average age of the world's great civilizations has been 200 years!" And then mention is made that the United States is now approaching 200 years of existence!"

All about us we are seeing rebellion, violence and unrest. As Congressman James Utt has declared: "Fantastic though it may seem, this great Republic is threatened with anarchy!"

Today we might ask -- Is America facing destruction? What about the future of America?

There are many reasons why we believe we might be facing destruction.

Reason Number 1 - We have forgotten God.

As the late George Sokolsky, news commentator, stated: "We have deserted God...we have forgotten Moses, Christ...and toyed with Marx (and) Lenin!"

"It is when a people forget God that tyrants forge their chains", noted Patrick Henry.

The Bible says: "The wicked shall be cast into hell, and all the nations that forget God!" (Psa. 9:17)

Reason Number 2 - Why we face destruction? We have become grossly materialistic.

Theodore Roosevelt once remarked: "The things that could destroy America are prosperity at any price, peace at any price, safety-first instead of duty first, the love of soft living, and the get-rich-quick theory of life."

Some educational programs propagate the idea that the making of money is the main goal in life with its accompanying benefits of pleasure and security.

The Bible warns, however: "They that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts; which drown men in destruction and perdition." (I Tim. 6:9)

The 3rd reason why we face destruction is our failure to keep God's commandments.

Disrespect for law and order is increasing. America is already the crime capital of the world. As Dr. Thorsten Sellin, foremost crime authority, reports: "The United States has the worst criminal statistics of any country in the Western World."

Inquires former Supreme Court Justice Charles Whitaker: "Can anyone reasonably believe that a disorderly society can survive?" He replies: "In all recorded history none ever has..." And he notes, "History also shows, that, in each instance, the first evidence of the society's decay appeared in its toleration of disrespect for, and violation of, its laws."

The Bible warns: "Beware that thou forget not the Lord thy God, in not keeping His commandments....As the nations which the Lord destroyeth before your face so shall ye perish..." (Deut. 8:11 & 20)

Reason Number 4. Failure to thank the Lord for our many blessings. We have grown fabulously prosperous. Our business boom is unprecedented. As Congressman James M. Ashbrook has noted: "We have the most favored nation in all history!" Yet, instead of giving thanks to God we tend to become selfish and unappreciative of our blessings!

What saith the Scriptures? "Because thou serveth not the Lord thy God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things, therefore shalt thou serve thine enemies which the Lord shall send against thee...until he have destroyed thee." (Deut. 28: 47-48)

Reason Number 5. On account of our Sexual Immorality we face destruction. It appears that every media of communication has gone all-out to glorify depravity and illicit sex. A leading sociologist declares: "Unless this mad obsession with sex is reversed, America is doomed!"

Did you hear it?

God destroyed past civilizations largely on account of sexual sin. As we're reminded in 2 Peter 2:6, Sodom and Gomorrah stand as examples of what will happen to all who afterward should live ungodly.

Reason Number 6. We face destruction on account of religious apostasy. Modernism has crept into our churches, taking the form of unbelief, with a denial of the Scriptures, replaced by worldliness and lukewarmness.

A survey of ministerial students found more than half of them convinced the virgin birth was a myth. Three-fourths of the students evidenced disbelief in either a heaven or hell.

A British rector suggests that for the Church to operate in the modern world - "its buildings would have to be psychedelic pads, its choir girls topless, its hymn baldy, the Scriptures omitted and replaced by pot and the vicar a well-known sportsman or rock singer." (Rev. Wm Metcalfe, rector of Bottsford, England)

The Bible warns of those in the last days who shall privily bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them and bring upon themselves swift destruction." (2 Pet. 2:1)

Reason Number 7...we face destruction because of our failure to help provide for the world's needy.

Though we have been a great philanthropic nation ready to share with victims of tragedy we have spent billions on atomic weapons, and billions more on reaching the moon, while millions are starving. According to a South Dakota senator: "Half a billion people go hungry every day. Another billion are undernourished."

As Raymond Ewell, former advisor to the government of India declares: "The world is on the threshold of the biggest famine in history." Says Ewell, "It is hard for us sitting in rich, comfortable, overfed America to realize that the greatest disaster in history of the world is just around the corner."

That calamity is coming is predicted by the Apostle James who writes: "Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you...Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days..." James 5: 1 & 3b

America has been a generous land opening its doors and becoming a haven for many without regard for color, creed or race. It has also been a great missionary-sponsoring land and for that reason up until now we may have been spared judgment.

Surely recognizing God's preservation of our country should find us bowing humbly and giving thanks for our great American heritage, along with our many established freedoms. How long we shall enjoy them remains to be seen. But of this we are sure - "The goodness of God (should) lead men to repentance!"

This is an hour when we should realize we are faced with destruction on account of our many sins. While there is opportunity we should turn to God for forgiveness and salvation.

Billy Graham, in a recent interview, declared: "Unless we have revival and repentance in North America and Western Europe, we will experience God's wrath!"

This is the only hope for America.

If our hope is in the Saviour, and we are looking for His soon coming, we have the promise of escape from coming wrath. As we read in 1 Thess. 1:10, we "wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come!"

Are you waiting for Christ's Return? Are you living for Him daily? Or are you facing the wrath of God seen coming upon this earth in a day of destruction just ahead followed by eternal perdition.

Today, trust Christ as your Saviour and Lord. And be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh!

Perils of Peace and Prosperity

Declaring the world is "at a crossroads", Pres. Nixon has called on the Soviet Union to join the United States in leading the nations of earth down the pathway of peace and prosperity.

Whether the world is to live at peace depends largely on relations between the nuclear powers he told delegates meeting at the United Nations recently.



Associated Press

A magazine that comes to my desk calls attention to the scriptural forecast of perilous times for the Endtime, quoting 2 Tim. 3 where we read, "In the last days, perilous times shall come."

Notes this religious journal: "The Bible teaches unequivocally that as the age progresses toward its end, sin will wax worse, morals will crumble, the world will become more forgetful of God, and the professing Church will be more and more self-satisfied and impotent - perilous times shall overtake the world in its every department."

Let's look at some of these perils....

First, there is the peril of RICHES.

While it is true that all of us engaged in any enterprise desire success it is also true that linked with this desire can be the most disastrous of all carnal ambitions. For the Bible firmly declares - "the love of money is the root of all evil!"

We have been warned - "a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of things which he possesseth." Some wrongfully suppose that wealth is an indication of God's blessing. Rightfully used it can be, but unless it is lovingly shared in service for God it can be a curse instead of a blessing.

Especially as we consider the days in which we live. Believing these are what the Scriptures call the LAST DAYS, we would be reminded of divine judgment that is coming because we have not shared the gospel with a world waiting to hear our message, nor have we shared the world's goods entrusted to our stewardship.

James writes: "Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted... Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days."

Surely we believe Prosperity has been a result of God's blessing. And the further we go from God the more problems we will have and the greater will become our financial dilemma.

Our days of prosperity should find us placing greater emphasis on missionary endeavor - reaching the lost for Christ in lands seen awakening where many are responding to the message of the Gospel. We should be making an all-out attempt to 'preach the Gospel to every creature' as our Lord commanded us. And we should be reminded that America is as needy a mission field as are the heathen lands abroad.

God looks upon the Laodicean Church of the End-time and what does He see? We read... "thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing!"

This is what many of our young people are protesting - too much money spent on fine buildings, latest furnishings, and a world goes to perdition untouched and unreached with the vital, saving Gospel of the love of Jesus.

May God help us to see that when we become comfortable, enjoying soft living, and literally 'have everything' we outlive our usefulness. And it may become necessary for us to lose everything in order to gain divine favor and blessing. For in the midst of persecution there is purging, thus to the Laodiceans our Lord urges, saying: "I counsel of thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire." Ah, the sad news for all such pro-

fessing Christians who have lived lavishly around golden altars is that faith may have to be tested - tried as by fire - to prove what sort of faith it is. Our Lord declares, "As many as I love I rebuke and chasten, be zealous, therefore and repent." Did you hear it!

Is it not true that in the midst of prosperity we may have become lukewarm in our profession, careless and indifferent to the needs of others, and pocketed our riches rather than to reach out and touch a lost world with the Gospel message.

May God inspire us in these remaining days before Jesus comes...to accelerate our giving inspired by the thought that Christ will reward us for our faithfulness when he returns. If there are any regrets in heaven they will be regrets that we did not live for Christ as we should, did not witness, did not love, did not serve, did not give.. in order that a world may have been reached with the good news of salvation.

Let us become alive for God, on fire for souls, with vision and purpose that finds us putting our prosperity to work for the salvation of the lost. If lukewarm in our profession, and shallow in our experience, we have only the promise of being 'spued out' into the awful, chastening time of tribulation that is just ahead. So let us arouse ourselves, awaken to opportunities we still have, and shake loose the lethargy and indifference that has come to characterize these times of prosperity which have become a peril to so many.

Then, there is the peril of PEACE leading to our own destruction.

Surely all of us want peace.

General William Sherman, during the siege of Atlanta in the days of the Civil War, declared: "War is cruel, and you cannot refine it!" Today war has become more terrifying than ever as we are confronted with weapons that could bring about total annihilation.

Then why isn't there thoughtful planning for peace and the achievement of such a worthy goal?

Montaigne, French Essayist, once noted: "The souls of emperors and cobblers are cast in the same mold. The same reason that makes us wrangle with a neighbor causes war between princes."

Did you hear it?

The reason we have war in the world is because we can't live with each other. And unless we have the love of Jesus implanted in our hearts that makes us love even our enemies there cannot be peace - world peace, or peace at home.

Why the unrest, the hatred and violence? It is because men are not at peace with God. Thus Sigmund Freud was right when he said he did not believe war could be

abolished. At least until Christ is recognized as prince of peace there will continue to be wars and rumors of wars.

A clergyman was praying for world peace when he was interrupted by a member of his own congregation who replied that God couldn't answer that prayer. For Jesus declared there would be wars and rumors of wars until His return.

The peril of peace is simply this. As Paul writes of a day coming, referred to as the DAY OF THE LORD, he warns: "For when they shall say, Peace and Safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child, and they shall not escape."

A day will surely come when peace will be proclaimed, when a peacemaker will appear, and the peace symbol will be accepted! But this is a sign of coming destruction. Catastrophe will follow this proclamation of peace just as surely as awful birth pangs upon an expectant mother.

It was George Marshall who once testified: "If man ever does find the solution for world peace it will be the most revolutionary reversal of his record we have ever known."

These are perilous times. Peace without the Prince of Peace is only a false peace!

In 1849, Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote: "War is on its last legs, and a universal peace is as sure as the prevalence of civilization over barbarism."

We repeat - not until Christ returns and all resistance to His rightful authority is forever put down, will there be peace.

President Nixon, addressing the United Nations, has challenged the countries of earth to put down their arms and settle their differences at the peace table.

Willy Brandt, West German Chancellor who met with Pope Paul VI declared prospects for peace in the foreseeable future were dim. The Pope replied that the Holy See lends its full moral support to the cause of a United Europe and said he personally blesses all efforts for peace in Europe and the world."

What the Bible makes clear is that one will arise who will eventually succeed in uniting the nations of earth in the pursuit of peace. He is seen in Revelation, Chapter six, riding a white horse - symbol of peace. A crown is given him, and he goes forth conquering and to conquer. This is a picture of what is ahead as a world peacemaker will shortly appear on the stage of time and peace will seem to be a reality.

But according to the Scripture this peace will be short lived. The rider on a red horse goes forth. And I think it is clear who is riding the red horse today! Who are the nations we refer to as 'red'? Anyway, we read:

“There was given unto him a great sword.” What a description of powerful atomic rockets that could burst asunder and reduce our world to mere fragments of destruction and death. We read concerning this rider on the red horse - “power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another.” Did you hear it?

Thus, the rider on the white horse is followed by the rider on the red horse, who is seen taking peace from off the earth, and in his hand is a great sword.

Finally, there is the rider on the black horse symbolizing famine that follows; and the rider on the pale horse which is death.

The Bible tells us how much of the earth will be affected - one fourth of the whole earth will feel the power of the sword, along with the pestilence, famine and death.

Not a pretty picture, but it is a prophetic one letting us know what is just ahead.

Make no mistake about it there are those who are out to destroy us. When Christ comes, we read, He will “destroy them which destroy the earth.” So nations will one day bring on this day of destruction described so vividly in the Bible. As we read in the Psalms: “The Lord at thy right hand shall strike through kings in the day of his wrath.” Psa. 110:5

Ah, my friends, don't lose sight of the blessed hope. The only hope of escape from this coming holocaust as I see it, is the coming of the Lord for His saints - those who love Him and are found living for Him at His coming.

Some see the Rapture as occurring at the end of the tribulation, but what would be the purpose of being caught up from the earth when Christ is seen coming to reign upon the earth? Let's not lose sight of the blessed hope - to be caught up to meet the Lord in the air just moments before this Endtime holocaust described as a time of great tribulation such as the world has never seen nor shall ever see again.

Today, turn to Christ. Repent of sin and live for Him. Be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.” Matthew 24:44

IS THE UNITED STATES



in *Prophecy*



In December of 1968, the STARS AND STRIPES, publication of the U.S. Armed Forces in the Far East, featured an article by a well-known religious writer who pictured Jesus as a 'hippie' and a 'drop-out.'

The article began: "Once upon a time there was a young man who wore sandals, a beard, and long hair." The article continues: "He left home, and dropped out of respectable society...He wasn't choosy about the company he kept....Some people - mostly the poor, the sick and the outcast - thought he was a great guy, because he was clearly on their side. He had the nerve to say they were closer to God, in their misery and acknowledged sin, than self-righteous types who made a big deal out of public performance of their religious duties. Leaders of the religious Establishment were irritated by this kind of talk....So the Establishment framed him on a sedition charge and he was executed like a common criminal."

The article concludes by asking: "Could any good possibly come from a life like that?" and then notes: "On December 25 each year, more than a billion people around the world stop work and decorate their homes and prepare festive meals and sing happy songs to celebrate his birthday."

While it is to be admitted that Jesus Christ had a unique birth - for He was conceived of the Holy Spirit, though He lived as a friend of the outcasts of society, publicans and sinners, yet He was no sinner but the divine Son of God.

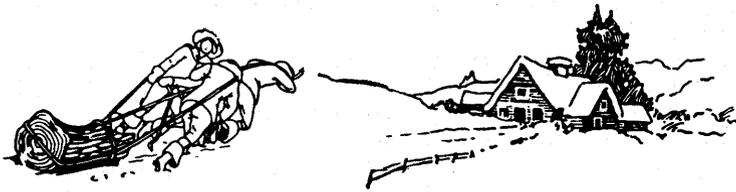
As one writer comments on this article: "To totally ignore His Divine act of atonement for sin in a Christmas message and instead represent His accomplishments in the line of what the hippies may do and are doing in our day to destroy good order, is among the greatest of offenses to Christians...who worship Him."

If you agree, say "AMEN".

Is the United States mentioned in prophecy?

As we see the Christmas trees lit up and hear familiar sounds of this Yuletide season we're reminded of a Scripture which seems to apply to us today.

In Jeremiah, chapter 10 we read: "For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe. They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not."



I'm sure if I were to read that passage to any child he would say, "Oh, that is the Christmas tree!" On the other hand, you would be surprised how many adults would say, "No, that can't be a reference to the Christmas tree."

Now, there are those who point to this passage in the Bible to suggest that all observance of Christmas is wrong and that there should be no celebration of any kind.

While it is true that there is much about Christmas that is pagan and linked to idolatry, I'm sure we can observe the day of Christ's birth without being idolatrous.

For example, while we recognize Thursday we are not thinking of THOR, the god of thunder in mythology. And by recognizing Wednesday we are not paying respect to the god WODEN. So our recognition of Christmas need not be a pagan observance. As Christians we should love the thought of Christ's birth. For the gospel message is that Jesus came to earth, that He died on the cross for our sins, and rose again for our justification.

But what about having a Christmas tree?

Well, the Bible doesn't actually say this is sin. Rather, the cutting of a tree in the forest and decking it with gold and silver is referred to as a 'vain custom.'

I'm sure there are other customs that many of us might be guilty of just as vain as having a Christmas tree.

For instance, to repeat the Lord's prayer rather than to actually pray it is a vain custom. Our Lord reminds us, "when ye pray, use not vain repetitions as the heathen do!"

Again James reminds us if anyone seem to be religious but bridleth not his tongue...this man's religion is vain! Some of the most pious persons can be harsh, critical and unkind with their tongue. Their religion is as vain as any other custom we might mention.

Then, too, we can have correct doctrine, and uphold all the commandments, but like the pharisees, be going through the motions of religion without true meaning. This, too, is vain. Jesus noted: "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouths and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in VAIN do they worship me, teaching for doctrine the commandments of men."

Did you hear it?

So the decorating of what sounds like a Christmas tree is described along with other religious observances as a 'vain custom.'

Now, what people are primarily guilty of following such a vain custom? I think it is of interest to read - O KING OF NATIONS? FOR TO THEE DOTHTH IT APPERTAIN! Is the United States the King of Nations? And does this custom apply primarily to us? Some think here is a reference to the United States and that this vain custom pertains primarily to our country where 40-million Christmas trees are cut annually at a cost of over 50 million dollars.

Or, is this a reference to Christ as king over all the nations?

Well, let's look at some other verses here in Jeremiah to see if there is any direct reference to the United States.

In Chapter 25 we read of a day when God has promised to pour out the wine cup of His fury and cause all nations to drink of it. (v. 15)

We read where the Lord says, "I will call for a sword upon all the inhabitants of the earth...a noise shall come even to the ends of the earth; for the Lord hath a controversy with the nations, he will plead with all flesh; he will give them that are wicked to the sword, saith the Lord."

Now the notes in the Scofield Bible say this is a prophecy relating to the very end of this age which ends in Armageddon.

Listen as we read further: "Behold evil shall go from nation to nation, and a great whirlwind shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth." When we think of a land with coasts we think of our own Atlantic and Pacific coasts.

However, this endtime destruction will not be confined solely to our land. For we read, "the slain of the Lord shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth; they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried; they shall be dung upon the ground."

What a terrific picture of destruction! It certainly sounds like atomic-type devastation.

Now, to what people does it apply primarily? Could this possibly be a reference that takes in the United States?

We continue to read: "Howl, ye shepherds, and cry; and wallow yourselves in the ashes, ye PRINCIPAL of the flock: for the days of your slaughter and of your dispersions are accomplished; and ye shall fall like a pleasant vessel."

If the nations are likened to a flock of sheep could the United States be called the principal of the flock? Are we not recognized as the leading nation upon earth?

Let's look at another reference in Jeremiah, chapter 30, where there is a prophecy of the regathering of Israel back to her land from all the nations of earth. Concerning Israel we read, "For I am with thee, saith the Lord to save thee, though I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee."

Jews have returned back to the land of Palestine from all over the world, including the United States.

The Scripture goes on to say: "Therefore all they that devour thee shall be devoured." That is, all nations that have harbored Jews will witness destruction. The chapter ends by saying: "in the latter days ye shall consider it!"

These we believe to be the latter days and our country along with every other nation that has forgotten God faces judgment.

Finally, in view of Israel's revival as a nation and the prospect of Christ returning as her Messiah, there is this encouraging note; "For thus saith the Lord; Sing with gladness for Jacob, and shout among the chief of the nations; publish ye, praise ye, and say, O Lord, save thy people, the remnant of Israel."

Did you notice, reference is here made to the chief of the nations? Again I'm patriotic enough to believe this to be a reference to the United States. We are still the 'chief' of the nations and it is our responsibility to publish the glad tidings as well as to pray for the salvation of Israel.

A star in the sky announced the first coming of Christ, so a six-pointed star in the flag of Israel flies bravely signifying His soon return. What responsibility is ours to herald this announcement of Christ's coming and the need of readiness for this all-glorious event.

For believing Israel in her land to be the key of Bible prophecy to reveal Christ's Return is very near, we hasten to call men everywhere to repentance - turning from sin to place faith in the Saviour from sin.

Remember the promise of Psalms 102:16, "When the Lord shall build up ZION, he shall appear in his glory!" Israel, we believe, is a true sign revealing our Lord's Coming is verily at the door.

In view of his soon appearing for His own, He reminds us - "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh!"



RAY BRUBAKER

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