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## Part 2



# A World In Transition

A Prophetic Seasonal Change?

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*(A Prophetic Seasonal Change?)*

## Part 2

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## CHAPTER ONE

# *Voices From Two of the Prophets*

*With all that is presently going on throughout the world, could the Old Testament prophets have any message of substance for our modern-day nations? Do these clarion voices have any value in such a highly developed time of technology and communication? Oddly enough, it is quite astonishing, when one realizes just how contemporary their warning messages are for us today!*

**A**fter receiving one of the longest and most detailed prophecies in the Bible, Daniel was told, "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased" (Daniel 12:4). Most of us would agree, the present day and age we are living in could certainly be described as "running to and fro," while surrounded by prodigious amounts of knowledge. Frankly, since the Internet's inception, and now with the amount of information so conveniently made available, it's almost too much information, or "TMI." It's understandable how some might think it's an accurate observation we are indeed living in a time that seems to match the description prophesied by Daniel.

It was also plainly stated, "The words are closed up and sealed *till* the time of the *end*. Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried [tested via tribulations]; but the wicked shall do wickedly [wickedness shall continue]: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand" (Daniel 12:9–10). The prophet explains the understanding and recognition of these prophecies would be made available during a time when things would be fast paced and knowledge would be increased. It will also be during a time of trouble, like never been before, since there was a nation (Daniel 12:1). It's quite stunning to realize how compelling the prophet Daniel cap-

tures the essence of our present time—and to think this was *written about 2,600 years ago!*

Here is an important item to keep in mind: if we are honest with the text, we would think there is no way any Christian layperson or scholar could deny this is talking about a future time—that it's prophetic! However, as hard as it may be to believe, there are *Christians* who will insist it's only historical—that regardless of the terms used, which clearly pertain to the “end times,” Christian “preterists” will claim these prophecies have all *been fulfilled!* They will debate and contend that *most* of the messages from the prophets are nothing more than Israelite history that has already been completed during the time of the original nation of Israel. Incredibly, you can't help but wonder in stark amazement, how can this be, in the face of such plain terminology?

Yet, this is what the plain *truth* of the Bible is up against. This is a prime example of how some will attempt to obfuscate and “spin” the plain spoken Word of God, and is very typical among some *liberal* Christian scholars, pastors, and lay members. Regardless of this reckless approach to Scripture, conversely, there is real present-day *value* in the *warning messages* of the prophets—if we allow them to speak from their *context*.

Let's take some time to consider their “warning voices” in the context and timeline of *when* they wrote, and overlay them onto our day and age, using the kaleidoscopic prophetic principle of *duality*. As incredible as it may sound, this will help answer the question about what *happened* to and *why* the United States and Britain will *not* be able to protect the Israeli Jews in Palestine when they are attacked by the king of the north “at the time of the end,” as was presented in our last chapter.

### Consider the Warning of Micah

Surprisingly, the prophet Micah has a prophecy worth pondering. But, before we consider his words, let's put him in *context* with his *time*. Remember, it's important to do this with *all* the prophets. Otherwise, you can occasionally miss a major dimension in prophetic insight and/or significance—and this is especially true if viewed only from a textual preterist's historical outlook.

Micah makes an extraordinarily interesting statement regarding Israel, especially when we understand that at the time of this writing, ancient Israel was under siege by the Assyrians. That's right—the northern sector of Palestine, *known as Israel* at that time, 750–685 BCE, was being ravaged, conquered, and occupied, with its citizenry being captured and exiled out of the country—their homes, families, and lifestyles being totally disrupted and destroyed, never to be restored again. This was a very devastating time for the people of the northern ten tribes who were considered and called by the

name of “Israel.”

Notice this peculiar statement—peculiar because it doesn't seem to fit the context of the time of the writing. Even modern *liberal* scholars will consider this section part of an “interpolation”—an insertion—but they don't explain anything about this interruption in the context. Regardless of this mitigation, notice: “And the *remnant* of Jacob [Israel] shall be in the midst of many people as dew from the LORD... And the *remnant* of Jacob [Israel] shall be among the Gentiles in the midst of many people *as a lion* [king of the forest] among the beasts of the forest [other nations], *as a young lion* among the flocks of sheep [gentle and harmless]: who, *if* he [this lion] goeth through, both treadeth down, and teareth in pieces, and none can deliver” (Micah 5:7–8). In other words, he could easily have his own way with any nation or “beast” of the earth or “forest” if he chose to do so.

Incredibly, this nation Israel is described as the gentle young lion, soft, playful, and harmless, but it could also be powerful when needed toward the other “beasts of the forest.” It was profiled as this “Israelite lion of a nation,” and is both gentle as well as powerful—so powerful and mighty that if it wanted to, it could annihilate all the other “beasts of the forest,” which *figuratively speaking* is the nations of the world.

However, this is important to keep in mind: the original nation of Israel at the time of this writing *did not match* the profile described! It was under siege and being taken down and conquered by the Assyrian Empire. Also, keep in mind, world history proves the Jews, or the nation of Judah, never achieved such national status that could be described as a powerful worldwide “lion of a nation” since their demise by the Babylonians, approximately 120 years later.

Now, take a moment and remember: at the time of this writing, Israel was a divided nation. The two divisions were defined as Judah to the south, with its capital city, Jerusalem, and the ten-tribe nation called Israel to the north, with its capital city, Samaria. Four books in the Old Testament are dedicated to the chronicling of the divided kingdom period. They are 1 and 2 Kings and 1 and 2 Chronicles. Both nations were very affluent at this time and were territorially as large as they were during the reign of King Solomon.

The northern nation, called *Israel*, was now under siege by the Assyrian Empire. The Assyrians had commenced invasions from as early as about 745 BCE into the northern territories, beginning with Tiglath-pileser III, who conquered multiple cities, occupying the land, and carried away many Israelites into captivity. This siege lasted for approximately sixty five years, lead by a variety of Assyrian Kings that finally culminated with Sargon II, who ultimately conquered and occupied the capital city of Samaria.

Though Judah to the south was entangled to a lesser degree, the pro-Assyrian policies of King Ahaz kept them fairly secure during this time (see

2 Kings 15–19). This was the environment of the time and conditions surrounding Micah's life during his prophecy (740–687 BCE)—and whose warnings had emphasis primarily directed toward the northern kingdom of Israel—not necessarily Judah in the south.

With this in mind, reread Micah 5:7–8, and then ask yourself: how does this make any sense—when this writing occurred while the nation was being overrun by enemy troops and invading Assyrian hordes who were burning, pillaging, raping, and killing everything in sight? It makes *no sense* in the context of Micah's life, since at this time the northern ten tribes of Israel—not Judah—were being conquered and overrun by these Assyrian invaders! It was in the process of being “taken out” as a nation, which resulted in Israel—not Judah—becoming a vassal state for Assyria (2 Kings 17:23–24).

So, what is Micah saying? What does this writing mean? What is he thinking? How does it make sense within the context? Read it again, please, and consider the conditions—the “*real time*” circumstances of Micah's day! Clearly, either this is some cruel, idealistic “psycho-babble” to make everyone feel good, because it definitely wasn't a good time for the people of the northern ten tribes; or it was, indeed, a “prophetic interruption/insertion” portraying a future time, which would apply to a latter-day culture of people considered or profiled as—cultural descendants of, or a remnant of—Israel; and characterized, *at that time* in the future, as a *powerful lion* among the Gentiles of the “forest,” or world, that had the potential to be both dominantly ferocious, and gentle among the “beasts,” or nations of the world.

Considering the conditions at the time of the *original writing*, this portion of the text wasn't *intended* for those particular Israelites during Micah's lifetime. It just couldn't have been, *because it makes no sense!* Remember, they were about to be exiled out of the territory as captives, losing their nation, *never to return!* For all intents and purposes, this *was the end of the northern nation of Israel. Only Judah remained* (2 Kings 17:18).

Therefore, we have no other option but to look elsewhere for those *remnant descendants* who are the recipients of the birthright promises and were to *become* a powerful company of nations and nation of people (Genesis 48:19), characterized as a lion among the beasts and also profiled as gentle, as a lion among the flocks of sheep. However, unlike what was happening to them at the time of Micah's writing—at this time in the future, they would become so overwhelmingly powerful, if they decided to have their way with any nation, the capability was within their power to conquer them. Notice, “Thine [these birthright people] hand shall be lifted up upon thine adversaries, and all thine enemies shall be cut off” (Micah 5:9). The Jews never achieved this kind of national power! They have always been a subjugated people, or a people without a nation, wandering among the nations, relegated to regional communities and/or neighborhoods—that is, of

course, *until 1948.*

Clearly, at the time of Micah's writing, the *original* ten-tribe nation of Israel was *not* the one described either! The reason is unmistakable—they were under siege and losing their nation to the Assyrians who were overrunning the country and turning them into a vassal state for the Assyria Empire. Far from being characterized as a lion, the result was they were conquered, occupied, and *cut off!* They went down without much of a whimper according to the historical and archeological records of the Assyrian conquests. It wasn't a difficult invasion and occupation for the very brutal and merciless Assyrian war machine.

Therefore, we're left with no alternative but to consider it a *prophetic insertion* from God. He was encouraging Israel, the ten-tribe nation, assuring them the time would come when they as a nation again, made up from a “remnant” of Israel, Jacob, but *at a later time*, out into the future—would indeed *match the profile* described—because they certainly *didn't* match it at this time when Micah *originally wrote* these statements.

Keep in mind, oddly enough, the United States, together with the Commonwealth Empire of Britain, *did* match that profile throughout the twentieth century. But sadly, that time has passed, and it's becoming discernable by virtue of the current political decisions and cultural proclivities within the United States and England's decline and loss of its Commonwealth nation network, that God is beginning to leave these cultures to their own lusts, humanistic appetites, and secular idolatries: as He did to original ancient Israel. As a culture of people, we are becoming reprobate—noticeably void of judgment, calling that which is right, *wrong*, and that which is good, *bad*—unequivocally, engaged in debates that *should not be debated*, and yet they are!

Many would agree with Hosea (another prophet who lived right before Micah), who said, “For Israel slideth back as a backsliding heifer: now the LORD will feed them as a lamb in a large place [they will become the dinner for others: conquered]. Ephraim [Israel] is joined to idols: let him alone” (Hosea 4:16–17). In other words, God was pulling Himself back and removing His hedge of protection.

“Their drink is sour: they have committed whoredom continually: her rulers with shame do love [they love shame], Give ye. The wind hath bound her up in her wings, and they shall be ashamed because of their sacrifices [they will be blown away]” (Hosea 4:18–19). And that's exactly what the Assyrians did; they took them all away and displaced them into the cities of Assyria and the Medes (2 Kings 17:5–6, 20–24).

Now, back to Micah who continues to say, in context, to those profiled as this “leftover,” this *remnant of Jacob* that would become powerful, yet gentle: “And it shall come to pass in that day [not Micah's day, because ancient

Israel was under siege. This was for another time, many centuries from the time of the original writing, when a portion, trace, leftover, remnant of these cultures would come to dominance], saith the LORD, that I will *cut off* thy horses out of the midst of thee, and I will *destroy* thy chariots [the remnant of Israel's military]: And I will *cut off* the cities of thy land, and *throw down* all thy strong holds: And I will *cut off* witchcrafts..." (Micah 5:10–12). Notice, this is *after* this same "remnant of Jacob" achieved "lion" status, or dominance, among the nations of the world.

Remember, you can't be a *remnant*, a *residue*, a *leftover*, or *surviving portion*, until you have been reduced or eliminated from the original size and condition of your nation; and this was exactly what was happening while this was being written. The northern ten tribes, *the original nation*, remember, were very wealthy at this time. It was a good time during the eighth century BCE for the ten tribes of Israel. They achieved a superior regional status for a time, commencing with King David of Israel in about 1,000 BCE, until Assyria began its invasions some 250 years or so later. However, due to their sins, God allowed them to lose everything during this corrective invasion/occupation (2 Kings 17:13–18).

Therefore, the context of Micah 5:7–15 has to be for *another* time, many years in the future, and *after* this downfall, which was executed by the Assyrian Empire over four sieges that lasted 65 years and culminated in the total removal of all those Israelites during the years of about 750 through 685 BCE (2 Kings 17:23–24). This section of the text is clearly inserted for a time when the surviving portion/remnant that had escaped and migrated, would regroup and become like a lion among the nations of the world *many generations later*.

It would develop into a powerful yet sensitive combination of nations, and God would assure all their enemies would be cut off (Micah 5:9). But let's not forget: "It shall come to pass in *that day*, saith the LORD, that I will cut off thy horses out of the midst of thee, and I will destroy thy chariots" (Micah 5:10). This is "that day" when this remnant would abandon the living God *again*, resulting in the removing of the hedge of protection *again*, thereby allowing *history to be repeated*—assuming of course, this future modern-day Israel—the United States of America and the British Commonwealth nations—*doesn't nationally repent*.

The point is emphatically made: these texts are warning a people considered to be the remnant of Jacob, or "Israel," that they would be at risk *again* of losing everything after regaining a world status, profiled as a "lion" among the nations of the world. If you understand the profiles of the birthright nations of Israel (Genesis 48:17–22; 49:1, 22–26; Deuteronomy 33:13–17), and recognize this as a description of an unmatched *worldwide status* that would eventually be accomplished—then it should be obviously

evident that WORLD HISTORY MATCHES AND CONFIRMS THE BIBLICAL PROFILES to be the national cultures of the United States of America and Britain's Commonwealth Empire who are actually carrying Jacob's name, and *are* this remnant of Israel (Genesis 48:16) "in the *last days*" (Genesis 49:1).

### The Voice of the Prophet Jeremiah

Though this might be too incredible for some to believe, let's continue and consider what the prophet Jeremiah says as well. If we put him in context, we must advance approximately 100 years or so, to about 625–586 B.C.E. His ministry was conducted during the period of Babylon's rise to world dominance. At this time Egypt, Assyria, and Babylon were all contending for world power in this region. It was also during this time that Judah tried to make an alliance with Egypt, hoping to strengthen its position against Babylon. However, in the end it proved useless, and Babylon ultimately succeeded in conquering both Assyria and Judah, while Egypt went back to its homeland.

Jeremiah's ministry was designed to warn *Judah*, not Israel, that God was not pleased with the idolatry, corruption, and lack of moral fiber within the society of Judah. And it was at this time Jeremiah warned Judah that if the nation didn't repent and turn back to God, it would go the way of its backsliding sister, Israel (Jeremiah 3:6–8). Babylon's rise to power provided God the *instrument of correction* He would use to destroy this last remaining tribe of Israel—the southern nation called Judah. Remember, Israel no longer existed. The Assyrians conquered it about 100 years or so previously. There was *no nation of Israel* during the ministry of Jeremiah—only Judah remained (2 Kings 17:18)!

Yet surprisingly, Jeremiah discusses Israel at times, *as if it still exists!* Now some will argue he was using the terms generically, as a common, general reference, with no distinction intended. They will claim Jeremiah made no issue regarding the distinction of terms, and really didn't concern himself with the divided kingdom. Though this may seem plausible at first, once you read the texts, it becomes obviously clear that he *did* understand the distinctions and separation, and indeed, plainly used the terms for *clarity* of certain prophecies that were specific to both Israelite nations—plural—of Judah and Israel.

The prophet claims, "And the LORD said unto me, The backsliding Israel hath justified herself more than treacherous Judah" (Jeremiah 3:11). Unmistakably, Jeremiah clearly indicates he knew the difference. He's making comparisons between them to make specific and distinctive points of warnings from God. He goes on, "Go and proclaim these words toward the north [where Israel had been taken and migrated to], and say Return, thou backsliding Israel, saith the LORD; and I will not cause mine anger to fall

upon you: for I am merciful, saith the LORD, and I will not keep anger forever. Only acknowledge thine iniquity [lawlessness], that thou hast transgressed against the LORD thy God..." (Jeremiah 3:12–13). Clearly, God is appealing for the remnant peoples of *Israel*, not Judah, who were taken up into the northern areas of the Caspian and Black Sea, Caucas Mountains, and the cities of the Medes, to repent of their wickedness. His appeal continues, "Turn, O backsliding children, saith the LORD; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion: ... At that time they shall call Jerusalem the throne of the LORD; ... In those days the *house of Judah* shall walk with the *house of Israel* [notice the differentiation], and *THEY* [both] shall come together out of the *land of the north* to the land that I have given for an inheritance unto your fathers" (Jeremiah 3:14–18). See also Jeremiah 5:11–31; 23:5–8; 31:29–33).

Here is a well-defined, sharp statement that *confirms* Jeremiah knew very accurately there were *two* separate sections making up the nation of Israel. They are the *House of Judah* and the *House of Israel*—and furthermore, will be reunited in the *last days*, which plainly proves *both* would exist in the *end times*. Now keep in mind, all Jews are Israelites, but not all Israelites are Jews! Don't forget, there were twelve tribes of Israel, and the Jews, from the tribe of Judah, were only *one* of those tribes (Genesis 49). Jeremiah knew this very well and understood the significance of being specific concerning these two Israelite nations because God had different purposes for each. One would be used for the *scepter* promise, assuring the King of kings would come from the tribe of Judah. In other words, Jesus Christ would be Jewish (Hebrews 7:14)—while the tribe of Joseph, comprising his sons, Manasseh and Ephraim, would retain the *birthright* promise (1 Chronicles 5:1–2; Genesis 48:18–20). There is no doubt about Jeremiah's awareness, accuracy, and purposeful reasons for articulating *distinctive verbiage of separation* when describing Judah and Israel. He was *not* using the term generically!

### Jeremiah's End-Time Prophetic Warning

Jeremiah continues to warn Judah by making comparisons with what happened to the northern *ten-tribe nation of Israel*. Notice: "For the house of Israel *and* the house of Judah [both, plural] have dealt very treacherously against me saith the LORD. They [both] have belied [falsely, feigned, lied to] the LORD, and said, It is not he; neither shall evil come upon us [we're untouchable, invincible; we have a hedge of protection]; neither shall we see sword [war] nor famine: And the prophets shall become wind [meaningless, irrelevant] and the word is not in them: thus shall it be done unto them" (Jeremiah 5:11–13).

Much like the nation of the United States today, the notion is that it's all powerful; and considering its economy, military, and alleged benefit to the

world, many will say it's too big and significant to fail—but is it? Some would say *yes*—and up until now, history has proved this to be true. Through two world wars and multiple conflicts since then, along with a terrorist attack in 2001, it would appear the United States has been relatively preserved and protected from any major calamity, at least due to war. However, the archers are sorely grieving him—the USA and the UK—and shoot at him and hate him (Genesis 49:23). And up until now, his bow abode in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong *by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob* (Genesis 49:24). *How long* will the mighty God of Jacob tolerate and continue to "enable" the secular, humanistic, and epicurean social system that has emerged over the last 400 to 500 years, before He determines *enough is enough*? That is a question for all of us to seriously consider!

Jeremiah continues, "Wherefore thus saith the LORD God of hosts, Because ye speak this word, behold, I will make my words in thy mouth fire [destruction] and this people wood [fodder], and it shall devour them. Lo, I will bring a nation upon you from far, O house of Israel, saith the LORD: it is a mighty nation, it is an ancient nation, a nation whose language thou knowest not, neither understandest what they say. Their quiver is as an open sepulcher, they are all mighty men. And they shall eat up thine harvest, and thy bread, which thy sons and thy daughters should eat: they shall eat up thy flocks and thine herds: they shall eat up thy vines and thy fig trees: they shall impoverish [demolish] thy fenced [protected] cities, wherein thou trustedst, with the sword [military]. Nevertheless in those days, saith the LORD, I will not make a full end with you" (Jeremiah 5:14–18).

Obviously, this is describing a military invasion God is warning Israel about (Jeremiah 5:15). **The question is:** does it apply *only to Judah*, who was about to be invaded by Babylon, *or does it go beyond that*, literally intending to include Israel, too? And if it does collectively and/or separately include Israel, how can this be, since Israel, as a nation, *didn't exist at the time of this writing*? Remember, they were conquered, occupied, and dispersed over 100 years *before* this was written! Israel is *history* at this point—unless, of course, it's understood that this prophecy has a dual—double, or apotelesmatic—meaning to it, and the "Israel" in this context is in fact the *end-time* nation(s) carrying the name *Israel* in the last days.

Most will contend and say it is specific only to the Babylonian invasion of Judah, the last remaining tribe of Israel at the time. This is an acceptable and plausible understanding, considering the circumstances surrounding Judah. But consider what Jeremiah says next: "Wherefore [why] doeth the LORD our God [do] all these things unto us? ... Like as ye have forsaken me, and served strange gods in your land, so shall ye serve strangers in a land that is not yours" (Jeremiah 5:19). In other words, this will happen when you forsake the God of Israel.



Remember, like it or not, its fair to say the historical record proves the United States and the British adopted the Old and New Testaments to represent the God of whom they accept as their God. They did not adopt the Islamic, Buddhist, or Hindu gods of the East—to the contrary, it was the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, including Jesus Christ as the Savior of the world. So, regardless of whether we believe these cultures to be remnants of Israel or not, the fact is, we have been immensely and enormously blessed as a nation and culture of people and rightly so—because the God of our Bible is the reason why we above all nations of the world have been provided this wealth. **But sadly, this is changing—we as a nation are, indeed, forsaking the God of our forefathers: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob!**

What's happening now and becoming frightfully exponential is the obvious results that these cultures have drifted into a secularized and hedonistic condition that is fast becoming similar to neo-paganism. And since Jeremiah does in fact say, "Declare this in the house of *Jacob* [Israel], and [that's in addition to] publish it in *Judah* saying [and we do as a people, a culture, accept the God of our Bibles to be our God; therefore], Hear now this, O foolish people, and without understanding; which have eyes, and see not; which have ears, and hear not: Fear ye not me?" (Jeremiah 5:20–22). Don't you think we



**"Lo, I will bring a nation upon you from far, O house of Israel, saith the LORD: it is a mighty nation, it is an ancient nation...."**

as a God-fearing Christian nation of people have a clear and legitimate reason to consider the *strong possibility* of a "prophetic parallel application"—an overlay—a *kaleidoscopic view* peering down through the corridors of time for our day and age that this prophetic narrative applies to us?

Notice what Jeremiah goes on to describe. "But this people hath a revolting and a rebellious heart; they are revolted and gone. Neither say they in their heart, Let us now fear the LORD our God... Your iniquities have turned away these things, and your sins have withholden good things from you. For among my people are found wicked men: ...As a cage is full of birds, so are their houses full of deceit: therefore they are become great, and waxen rich [by this culture of duplicity and corruption]. They are waxen fat, they shine: yea, they overpass [overlook] the deeds of the wicked: they judge not the

cause, the cause of the fatherless, yet they prosper; and the right of the needy do they not judge [defend, plead]" (Jeremiah 5:23–28). Now notice what God says through the prophet about all of this wickedness and what He will do about it. "Shall I not visit [intervene] for these things? saith the LORD: shall not my soul be avenged [punish, take vengeance] on such a nation as this?" (Jeremiah 5:29). Undeniably, this is a daunting indictment to a corrupt nation of people and *sadly, we as a nation, mirror this description!*

Without a doubt, during Jeremiah's lifetime, Judah was taken out by the Babylonians and for seventy years held captive as a nation until they returned to Palestine under the leadership of Nehemiah and Ezra, who were emancipated by Cyrus the Mede. But with that said, the message remains clear: "Declare this in the house of *Jacob*...[that is distinct from Judah, who's mentioned separately]" (Jeremiah 5:20)—*but why?*

Remember, Israel, or Jacob, doesn't exist as a nation at the time of this writing! So, *could it be* this information is targeted for the populace of the United States and the British Commonwealth countries that carry the name "Israel" and who match the description/profile of people that have eyes and ears but don't see or hear the evil that surrounds them? The obvious answer to that question is a resounding *YES*, if we remain true to the context. Sadly, due to the lack of some of this knowledge, the people of these specific countries are being destroyed. They don't want to hear the truth because they *can't handle the truth!* And unfortunately, so many prophets, ministers, priests, and pastors remain irrelevant, because they don't make these connections with the valuable warnings contained in the voices of the prophets that are so specific and personal to the hegemony of these particular nations who carry the name of modern-day Israel.

It's painful to think that if we as a nation don't repent and turn back to God our Father, through Jesus Christ, destruction and captivity await us; and yet, unfortunately, this is exactly what Jeremiah appears to be saying. This is *not* a pleasant message to be associated with. But then, announcing the good news, the gospel of God's coming world-ruling kingdom, never was intended to be an easy job. As a matter of fact, Jesus Christ Himself expressed this warning: "Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the *false prophets*" (Luke 6:26).

Jeremiah has much more to say on this subject concerning *both* Israel and Judah, irrespective of the fact Israel *didn't exist* at the time of Jeremiah's writings. It will become much clearer in our next chapter regarding Jeremiah's *duality* and *parallel warning* to his day's nation of Judah *and* its contemporary application for an existing *end-time* nation called *ISRAEL*.



## CHAPTER TWO

# The Warning Voice of Jeremiah

*Jeremiah has much to say about a nation named Israel, but curiously, at the time of his prophetic writings, Israel didn't exist as a nation—only Judah remained! So to whom is he writing? Why is he warning the nation Israel, when it didn't exist?*

**I**n our last chapter, we reviewed what Micah and Jeremiah had to say about the Israelite nations of Israel and Judah. We were reminded that Israel, the northern section of the once divided kingdom, had not existed as a nation for over 100 years at the time of Jeremiah's writing! Obviously, this presents a dilemma if we're going to be contextually correct with his writings.

Remembering to put Jeremiah into his *contextual timeline*, we recognize one of his primary objectives was to warn *Judah* about the impending invasion and perils the Babylonian Empire posed to this last remaining tribe of Israel. However, in addition, it appears he had a message for Israel. Remember, the Assyrians had conquered the nation *Israel* over 100 years prior to his writings—yet surprisingly, he writes to them *by name* as though they were a legitimate nation existing alongside Judah. What are we missing here?

Perhaps the best way to approach this is by reviewing some of the more prominent scriptures pertaining to *Israel and Judah* in this *parallel context*. Doing this will help us see if it makes any sense when putting it into the timeline of Jeremiah, or if it makes better sense to use the principle of “prophetic duality” and overlay it on the end times, extending it out into the future. Let's resume exploring the book of Jeremiah and pick up where we left off.

## Exploring Jeremiah's Writings

Jeremiah's ministry lasted over a period of about forty years. Most scholars will conclude his prophecies commenced in about 626 B.C.E. and continued until the fall of Jerusalem in about 586 B.C.E., when the Babylonians successfully completed their invasion and occupation of Judah, the southern sector of Israel. It was over this duration of time that Jeremiah's prophetic warnings took place, directed primarily to *Judah*. However, this does not dismiss the fact that throughout the course of his writings, he occasionally included prophetic warnings to the “house of Israel,” which, again, *did not exist at the time of his writings*.

Clearly, the larger part of his book is dedicated to *historically chronicling* the prophetic warnings to the original nation of Judah, explaining their failure to please God and His consequent dissatisfaction with them as a nation. Through Jeremiah, God warns Judah *specific for that time*. They were going the way of “backsliding Israel” (Jeremiah 3:7–8). However, as was pointed out in Jeremiah, chapters three and five, we see Israel mentioned during Jeremiah's lifetime as though they were a contemporary nation alongside of Judah—and incredibly, also extended and carried out into the end times!

For example, consider this future event: “Therefore, behold the days come, saith the LORD, that it shall no more be said, The LORD liveth, that brought the children of Israel [all twelve tribes] out of the land of Egypt [remember, it wasn't *just* the tribe of Judah that left Egypt during the exodus]; But, The LORD liveth, that brought up the children of Israel [all twelve tribes] from the land of the north, and from all the lands whither he [God] had driven them: and I will bring them *again* [all twelve tribes, Judah included] into their land that I gave unto their fathers” (Jeremiah 16:14–15).

Here is a perfect example of an event plainly described that *did not happen* during the timeline of Jeremiah's writing. We're told in this description a *future* Israelite exodus will marginalize the historical *original* Israelite exodus from Egypt. This one will be *different* and much *larger* because it portrays both houses of Israel returning *together* from the “land of the north and from all the lands whither He [God] had driven them,” back to the land of Palestine—and is described as happening *again*, and *let me emphasize*: at the *time of the end!*

In other words, this is a *repeat* of what was done originally when they left Egypt approximately 3,500 years ago. However, please keep in mind: Judah, presently in Palestine, and Israel, the remnants of the ten northern tribes, have *not* returned *together* to the land of their fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. This has *not happened*—so it must be yet for the future! Therefore, this statement is not meant for Jeremiah's time, but for a *future* time when Israel will be gathered with Judah and *both* will be brought back *again* to the land of Palestine, or Israel.

Some may argue that since the Jews are already in their homeland of Palestine and presently enjoying the international status of a recognized sovereign Israeli nation state, this qualifies as a fulfillment of this particular prophecy. But remember, according to Daniel 11:40–43, a *future* end-time Greco-Babylonian/Roman system will invade and subdue *present-day* Palestine, apparently attacking the Jews and conquering and/or occupying them a *second* time, as did the Romans 2,000 years ago and the Babylonians before them. Even Jesus warned us of an end-time *abomination of desolation* that would occur, marking the commencement of the *beginning of the last days*.

So, here's the point: it appears the Jews will be displaced and militarily overwhelmed or occupied *again* by this future invading king of the north. Keep in mind, this event described in Daniel 11:40–43 could never have happened until a Jewish nation-state was reestablished, which was accomplished in 1948—making possible the *obvious prophetic fulfillment* of an invasion of a latter-day “Judah” in the end-time! So, it's fair to say this portion of the “prophetic stage” is set, and they will be *invaded and occupied* at some time in the future once more, as per Daniel's prophecy!

Surprisingly, in Jeremiah 23, this latter-day exodus is mentioned once more, except this time it plainly explains *when* it will happen and *who* it includes. Notice: “Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days [this is *when*: in the days of this Branch] *Judah* shall be saved, and [meaning *in addition*] *Israel* shall dwell safely [this is *who* it includes: both houses of Israel]: ...Therefore, behold the days come, saith the LORD, that they shall no more say, the LORD liveth, which brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt [the first exodus]: But [instead] the LORD liveth, which brought up and which led the seed of the house of Israel [both nations, all twelve tribes included] out of the north country, and from all the countries whither I [God] had driven them [the second exodus, yet future]; and *they* [plural] shall dwell in their own land” (Jeremiah 23:5–8).

Here again, we are reminded this exodus, the regathering of the survivors of *both* houses of Israel, will marginalize the original exodus of Israel leaving Egypt. And it will occur when the *Branch of David* (Jesus Christ, Isaiah 11:1; Zechariah 3:8, 6:12) returns to execute judgment and set up justice on the earth.

Obviously, this will be at the *beginning* of the Millennium, when Christ returns and lands on the Mount of Olives (Zechariah 14:9). Therefore, it clearly proves there will be *physical survivors of the tribulation*, representing an end-time *Israel* AND *Judah*—both the northern (Israel) and southern (Judah) portions of Israel are described as *existing at the time of the end*.

This *second* Israelite exodus happens when Jesus Christ, the Branch, returns to set up His government! The Bible describes this regathering and establishment of the nation *Israel* as one of the first major “nation building” reconstruction projects at the commencement of the Millennium, and includes all the physical people/cultures of nations formerly connected to the twelve tribes of Israel, who were conquered and *put into captivity a second time, in the latter days*. Essentially, the international conversion of all nations at that time will begin with a physical nation-state of Israel finally becoming the “light upon the hill” for the entire world to look upon as an *example nation*, approved and managed by the laws of God, *governed by* Jesus Christ as King of kings!

### Jeremiah 30: Jacob's Trouble?

Admittedly, before that second exodus can occur, enormous geopolitical adjustments, rearrangements, and acts of war will likely cause the neutralization and captivity of *modern-day* Israel and Judah. Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom, causing a time of trouble that ultimately will threaten the very existence of mankind. *These events are still out ahead of us!* What leads up to this? Let's explore Jeremiah's description of the circumstances he claims will drive this future invasion and captivity of these latter-day, modern *Israelite* cultures.

Chapter after chapter throughout the book of Jeremiah, present time-specific explanations of events are introduced with statements like, “The word, which came upon Jeremiah from the Lord, saying...” or “Thus saith the Lord...” Time after time, these introductory and qualifying announcements are used to clarify separate and distinctly different warnings contained thereafter in each chapter that generally are time specific to a select audience of Jeremiah's day—*until* we come to chapter 30.

In this chapter, we are faced with what appears to be an insertion, or as some would describe it, a *digression*. It's as though he's writing completely off his time line, or out of context, compared to the previous chapters, and describes it as a condition he labels “Jacob's trouble.” What is this about? Why does he interrupt himself from the previous continuum and then includes “Israel” in the narrative and distinctly *identifies them separate* from Judah? Remember, at the time of this writing the nation Israel didn't exist—they were long gone and the northern territory of Palestine was occupied by gentiles. So, why is he talking to the nation of Israel?

Typical to the opening of a specific revelation, the chapter opens with: “The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD God of Israel, saying...” (Jeremiah 30:1). God proceeds to tell Jeremiah to write all the words that He spoke in a book. He then explains this particular vision and specific prophecy is *definitely for both* Israel and Judah.

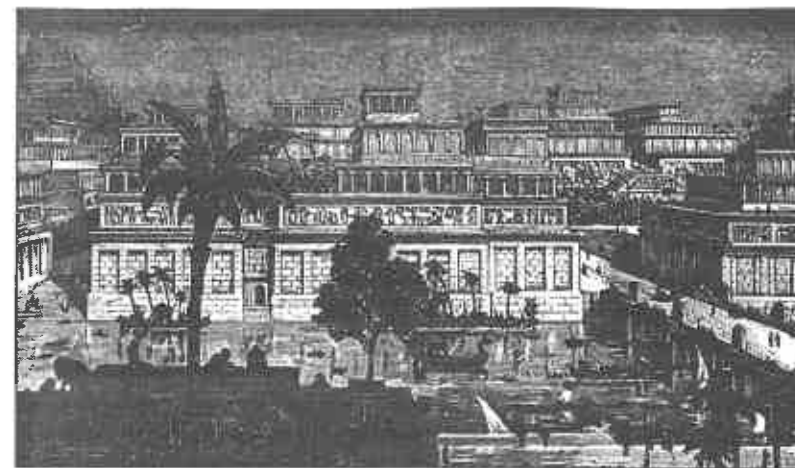
Understandably then, it can only mean it's for the *future*; because he includes Israel with Judah, and we know Israel didn't exist at the time of this writing—yet Jeremiah includes them in this chapter as though they did exist—and furthermore mentions that they too will share in the trouble reserved for *both* of these houses of Israel. This is very odd and curious at best, unless of course we understand this warning is in fact, reserved for the future.

Now notice: "For lo, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will bring *again* [return, restore, retrieve, bring back] the captivity of my people Israel *and* Judah, saith the LORD: and I will cause them [plural] to *return* [bring again, recover, send back] to the land that I gave to their fathers and they [plural] shall possess it" (Jeremiah 30:3). God, through the prophet, claims He will bring captivity upon *them*, both houses, *again*, and secondly, He will restore, or bring *again* the people of Israel and Judah from captivity and *they*, plural, will return to the land of their fathers via the second exodus as previously mentioned. He then continues with: "And these are the words that the LORD spake concerning Israel *and* concerning Judah" (Jeremiah 30:4). He plainly states these words concern *both* groups of Israelite people or cultures—both sections/nations of the divided kingdom of Israel.

In addition, keep in mind Israel was *already* in captivity, and Judah was *about* to be conquered by the Babylonians and *put into captivity*—yet Jeremiah is talking about bringing them both into captivity *again*, or *returned* to captivity. What's he talking about? How can he say this, when essentially they're in captivity at the time of this writing? What are we to make of this? How should we understand him?

It becomes clear if you consider this as the plausible perspective: Jeremiah is speaking of *future* days, *beyond* his time, describing a subsequent captivity of a people considered to be the remnants of Judah and Israel, but out in the *future*, in the latter days, who will be put into captivity *again*, or *returned* to captivity. Clearly, you cannot put someone into captivity "again," or "return them" to captivity until you have put them into captivity *first*—then you can *return* them to it *later*. It was in *Jeremiah's* time when the *original* captivity of the *Jews* took place; and more than 100 years previous was the time for *Israel's* captivity, by the Assyrians. The Jews and Israel have *not* been put into captivity "again" since then—or at least not yet! Therefore, it's reasonable to consider: we are presently *between* captivities of these end-time cultures who carry the present day identities of Israel and Judah.

Jeremiah continues to describe a very traumatic and tumultuous time of travail, which will cause men to tremble with fear and pain, like a woman with child, illustrating they are pale or white with fear, because this is a time *like no other*—never before, a first—a time of Jacob's trouble! But, who is *Jacob*? Jacob was called Israel (Genesis 32:28). He then placed his name,



**Babylon conquered Judah over 100 years after  
the Assyrians conquered Israel.**

Israel, on his grandsons, Ephraim and Manasseh, the sons of Joseph (Genesis 48:15–16). It is *these* two birthright tribes or cultures that are being talked about in this context also. They are the ones carrying Jacob's name, Israel. However, remember the original nation of Israel did not exist at this time. They were taken into captivity over 100 years before and *never returned* to Palestine.

Therefore, where the nations of "Jacob" are NOW, including the Jews is where the *target of trouble* is expected and located. If we can determine what modern-day nations fit the descriptions of Judah and the birthright nations of Israel, we will be able to identify this modern-day house of Jacob, or Israel. Keep in mind, Jacob was the father of the Jews also—so it's consistent with the context to understand, recognize, and accept that this trouble will include the Jews as well.

As mentioned in Chapters 3 and 4 of this booklet, please keep in mind: the "Israelite worldview paradigm" we are speaking from identifies the United States of America and the Commonwealth nations of Britain's once global empire to be the "Jacob" of Jeremiah 30, along with the Israeli Jews (Judah) presently in Palestine. These are the *present-day nations of modern Israel* mentioned prophetically as "Jacob" in these writings.

*When and if one accepts this*, and combines that understanding with the present difficult social, political, and religious circumstances these cultures are currently contending with, it becomes very clear: the *present trouble* these birthright nations are facing is just the beginning of what will develop into the very demise of these countries as we know them today. Our days are



**The Old Testament prophets have a warning voice for our time.**

numbered in the United States and other Commonwealth nations associated with the United Kingdom according to the prophetic voice of Jeremiah.

Notice, going back to Jeremiah 30, verse 8: "For it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD of hosts..." and then God, through the prophet, assures Israel and Judah they will be saved out of this trouble. But the *time* is when King David is raised up from the dead in the resurrection. When is that? It's at the beginning of the Millennium! This is the same time when the "Branch," Jesus Christ, will return to set up a world-ruling government! This is when the resurrection of the dead occurs (1 Corinthians 15:22-23).

Read Jeremiah 30:8-10. God explains that at that time, during the Millennium, the "yoke" and "bonds" of *strangers* will no longer be characterized as leeches, selfishly benefiting off Israel. Instead, Israel will be free from this servitude and saved from afar, out of "the land of their captivity; and Jacob shall return, and shall be in rest [the second exodus], and be quiet, and none shall make him afraid" (Jeremiah 30:10).

As previously mentioned, they will be collected and brought back to their home-

land in a mass exodus at the beginning of the Millennium, exceeding the size and scope of the original exodus from Egypt (Jeremiah 16 and 23). Even the prophet Isaiah mentions this second exodus and describes it as a future prophecy some hundred years *before Jeremiah lived*. Please read it: Isaiah 11:10-16.

Let me plainly state: *this has never happened yet!* The northern ten tribes of Israel have *never returned* from the original captivity of the Assyrian Empire back when it occurred in the eighth century BCE. They were hauled off as a conquered people and moved into the cities of the Medes, the Caucasus Mountains, and migrated westward, out from beyond the Caspian and Black Sea area. This is why they're labeled in history as the "lost ten tribes of Israel."

However, ultimately these people continued westward taking on different

names, like *Sacha*, which comes from Isaac, or *Gimri/Cumri*, which comes from King Omri of Israel. The Greeks called these migrating people *Cimiria*, or *Gimira* and *Kimmerior*. The Persians called them *Sacae*, which later was corrupted to *Saxons*. The Assyrians, Babylonians, and Elamites called them *Kumri*.

These tribes of people finally settled throughout Western Europe, England, and ultimately North America. History has proved they matured into the greatest company (commonwealth) of nations the world has ever seen. Keep in mind, at the peak of the United Kingdom's Empire, it flew the Union Jack Flag over two and a half times the geographical landmass of China—approximately 14 million square miles of Planet Earth had been colonized by Britain. Along with the greatest nation in the history of the world, the United States, these two great world powers combined their military strength and social leadership throughout the world, like the sands of the sea (Genesis 21:17-18; 48:19-20).

The birthright promise made originally to Abraham was fulfilled and passed down to his sons (Genesis 12:1-3; 49:22-26; Deuteronomy 33:13-17). But it's becoming apparent the day of their zenith has passed, and the rest of the world is now socialistically emerging, and quickly surpassing these once very dominant "free market" Judeo-Christian "birthright" and God-blessed societies/cultures.

The world's nations are now on a collision course with what formerly was considered the model government that many people on earth have literally risked their lives to come to—the United States of America, the only true free-market republic. It's becoming more obvious that unless the governments of today's nations control many of their own assets—natural resources and corporate entities—countries whose governments *don't* subsidize their assets will find it more difficult to compete on the international level. A new "government model" is becoming more politically correct, acceptable, and successful. Disguised as democracy, it's called *state capitalism*. It's a more neutral term, and more palatable, and politically correct, than using the more accurate term, which plainly stated is *socialism*!

Clearly, the world is moving toward a global socialistic coalition that is described as becoming dominant in the last days. The Bible calls it "Mystery Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots." Eventually, it will become a combine of ten nations, operating as one, directed by an autocrat (the beast) and fueled by a religious leader (the false prophet), who is actually possessed with spirits of devils, working miracles and going forth unto the kings of the earth throughout the whole world (Revelation 16:12-14). It will be this government and system that will eventually invade the Middle East as the king of the north, pushing back against the king of the south as it attempts to rule the world, and finally meets its fateful destiny upon Christ's return

(Revelation 17:9–18; Daniel 11:40–43; 7:23–24). Essentially, that is how it ultimately plays out.

But let's get back to our question: how could this coalition of nations (Greco-Babylon, the king of the north) invade the Middle East, as Daniel 11:40–43 portrays, when it's obvious the present geopolitical condition would *not allow this*, without the United States and Britain rising up to defend the Jewish Israeli state? Unquestionably, something must have happened to cause the United States and Britain not to be a factor—but what? Perhaps Jeremiah can answer that. Notice: “Though I make a full end of all nations yet will I *not make* a full end [not totally destroy] of thee [Israel]; but [however] *I will correct thee* [Israel and Judah] in measure and *will not leave thee altogether unpunished*” (Jeremiah 30:11).

### Modern-Day Jacob Will Be Punished

Did you notice what He said through the prophet? “But I [God] will correct you in measure and *will not leave you altogether unpunished*.” What's the *meaning* of this? Clearly, this end-time Jacob *will be punished in measure* for correction—correction from what? “For the multitude of thine iniquity: because thy sins were increased, I [God] have done these things unto thee” (Jeremiah 30:15).

This modern-day Israel, understood to be the United States, Britain, and some of its commonwealth nations, are in disarray. They are unraveling in many areas: politically, militarily, economically, socially, morally, and religiously. There are so many things that could be listed to illustrate how far these cultures have drifted from the original tenets of their Judeo-Christian origins. It's very disappointing that so many of their present-day leaders and people have become so secular, hedonistic, and void of proper judgment (reprobate), and refuse to recognize how much, as a culture of people, they have failed God's expectations.

Perhaps Paul says it best when describing the end of days: “This know also, that in the *last days* perilous [dangerous] times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, truce-breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, high minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away” (2 Timothy 3:1–5).

Unfortunately, this says it all. Paul encapsulates in these five verses precisely what we are witnessing today in our Western society. As a culture, we have been weighed in the balances and found wanting. God is not amused by our misappropriated values and misguided standards. Notice again what He says: “For thus saith the LORD, Thy bruise is incurable, and thy wound is



**The Assyrians invaded and exiled the ten tribes over 100 years before Jeremiah the prophet lived.**

grievous. There is none to plead thy cause, . . . thou hast no healing medicines. All your lovers [allies] have forgotten thee; they seek thee not; for I [God] have wounded thee with the wound of an enemy, with the chastisement [correction] of a cruel one . . . Why criest thou for thine affliction? Thy sorrow is incurable for the multitude of thine iniquity: *because thy sins were increased*, I [God] have done these things unto thee” (Jeremiah 30:12–15).

The reason for the correction and future destruction and captivity is plain: our sins have caused the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to remove His *hedge of protection* from the United States, Britain, and ultimately the Jews, making us vulnerable to our enemies. Unfortunately, the demise of the United States and Britain, as we know them today, will contribute to producing world conditions that will essentially lead to and allow for the invasion and occupation of Palestine by the king of the north, displacing and capturing the Jews while destroying their current Jewish Israeli state.

The present trends are making it obvious: the United States and Britain are on a trajectory that will lead to more weakness economically, socially, politically, and militarily. The eve of destruction is closer now than ever before. There are so many potential perils threatening the liberties, freedoms, and sovereignty of the United States, England, and the Jewish Israeli state in Palestine.

Without a doubt, it's just a matter of time before a domestic terrorist attack happens again, or some international event ignites a series of incidents that

cause some kind of panic and alarm leading to a global condition of destruction and chaos, sending the world into a tailspin that generates the circumstances for this Greco-Babylonian Mystery government to coalesce and emerge onto the geopolitical stage for all to “wonder,” healed from its “historical wound,” as it begins to dominate the world, playing out the role of its incredible horrific destiny (Revelation 13:3–9).

These conditions result, and frankly could only happen in a world *void of the balance of power* the United States and Britain bring to the table for the benefit of the rest of the world. A world *without* the United States and Britain will secure the “*times of the Gentiles*.”

This will prove to be a time of such great tribulation, that unless those days were shortened, no human being would remain alive (Matthew 24:21–22; Mark 13:19–20). It will be like no other time in the history of mankind. Notice: “And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles [a prophetic statement of Jewish displacement and captivity *again*, in our *present* day], until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled” (Luke 21:24).



This corroborates exactly with Daniel's description of the end-

**The birthright promise to Abraham commenced fulfillment with the British Empire, ultimately including the USA.**

time: “And at the *time of the end* shall the king of the south push at

him [the king of the north]: and the king of the north [Babylon the Great] shall come against him [king of the south] like a whirlwind... and he [king of the north] shall enter into the countries... He shall enter also into the *glorious land* [Palestine, Jerusalem, occupying the *present-day* Israeli nation, putting the Jews back into captivity], and many countries shall be overthrown” (Daniel 11:40–42). Remember, this happens at the *time of the end*, just as Jesus Christ described in the Gospels. Yes, armies will surround Jerusalem again!

Regardless of the fact that God will save Israel and Judah out of this woe-ful distress and devastation and, additionally, Christ setting up His kingdom, reestablishing Israel and Judah as a model nation when the Millennium commences (Jeremiah 30:22)—the point of all this is very clear: what's *most disturbing* in this time *between* captivities is the decline and devastation prophesied to happen *between now and then* to *modern-day* Israel and Judah! This

plainly illustrates why the voice of Jeremiah deserves serious examination as a very timely and contemporary *warning* to the cultures of the Jews, the United States, Britain, Canada, and Australia, as well as a few others!

Additionally, here is another remarkable reason we should acknowledge this thirtieth chapter of Jeremiah so seriously—it's because of this matter-of-fact statement. Notice: “The fierce anger of the LORD shall not return, until he [God] have done it, and until he [God] have performed the intents of his heart: *IN THE LATTER DAYS YE* [you and me] *SHALL CONSIDER IT*” (Jeremiah 30:24). Consider *what?* The *prophetic words* of the Lord that are written by Jeremiah in Chapter 30!

The reason we are told to consider this in the “latter days” is because there is an incredible “parallel duality” and/or “kaleidoscopic connection” reaching out beyond Jeremiah's time that is undeniably appropriate to *connect this dot* with the last days. Therefore, the prophet himself *encourages us to apply this information* when it's understood by the generation who recognizes it through the paradigm of an “Israelite worldview.” WHY? So we can comprehend with *affirmative validation* the significance and urgency of our times.

And additionally, *very importantly*: we who have the heart and courage to warn the people of these great nations that *their house is burning* should understand because we know these things—that there is a *responsibility* to warn of the perils of chaos, calamity, destruction, and ultimate collapse building momentum and beginning to swarm around these specific cultures (Ezekiel 33:1–20)!

If you have eyes that see and ears that hear, then you must admit: world history *is what it is*, and the *present reality* surrounding us does indeed fit and therefore prove, the trends described in our Bible, labeled as the *signs of the times* for Jacob's (the USA, the UK, and the Jews) coming trouble are in fact real—and are becoming more plainly apparent to all who are watching (Mark 13:33–37)! ***The clock is ticking!***

## CHAPTER THREE

# Why and How Does This Happen?

*Jeremiah and a variety of other prophets have much to say concerning the end time. Many of their writings are very timely for the present; yet the majority of people today do not accept their "warning voices" to be specifically applicable for our contemporary times, or the cultures of the British Commonwealth nations, the United States, or the Jews in Palestine.*

**T**he world is fast approaching its appointment with destiny. It's on a prescribed course to achieve worldwide socialistic hegemony. The Bible is very clear about a ten-nation coalition that *combines* their power as though they have one mind with the Beast (the autocrat), for "one hour." This characterization illustrates that this "socialistic globalization" will last for only a short period of time (Revelation 17:12-13).

During this period, the Bible describes this Babylonian system as being extremely lucrative. The world will be beneficiaries of the massive size and scope of its huge social and economic reach. The whole chapter of Revelation 18 is dedicated to explaining the "effect of endowment" this system of commerce will have and the worldwide *satisfaction* it will produce.

While in the course of John's description concerning the *destruction* of this Greco-Babylonian Roman Mystery system, we learn just how economically beneficial it is for the people of the world who received its "mark." Here's how John describes it: "How much she [the Babylonian system] hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously..." (Revelation 18:7); "And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication [political, economic, and religious intercourse] and lived deliciously with her..." (verse 9); "The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her..." (verse 15); "...Alas, alas, that great city [Babylon], wherein were made rich all that had ships in

the sea by reason of her costliness..." (verse 19)!

All these scriptures speak to the *economic benefits* this system produces for the "global village." It is a system that, when it falls, the kings and merchants of the earth bemoan its destruction (Revelation 18:9-11).

## How Does This Happen?

Since the beginning of mankind, *organization* has been the natural by-product of growth generated by the *performance* of humanity's work. To *organize* is the "consequence by necessity," or the *natural evolution* from results produced through the working efforts of people and cultures, individually or collectively. With this in mind, the Bible illustrates and chronicles mankind's additional and specific penchant for needing to *politically* organize, also. However, this unfortunately has led to consistent injustices, abuse, suffering, anguish, and distress throughout history. Clearly, man's selfish and narcissistic nature has handicapped him from achieving the utopian results he desires so badly.

In Genesis 6, we are told God saw that mankind was very wicked and continually evil. It was so bad, God was grieved and regretted He made mankind. He decided to destroy humanity with a flood, saving only Noah and his family. However, it wasn't more than two generations this side of the flood before mankind began to repeat the patterns of evil that *originally* caused God such regret and disappointment. The Bible explains Noah's great grandson, Nimrod, from the line of Noah's son Ham, turned against God. We are told, "He was a mighty hunter before the LORD..." (Genesis 10:9). When reading the Hebrew language, we understand that "mighty" means he was an insolent leader, a tyrant of sort, a powerful warrior, and champion of the people; while the word "before" in the Hebrew means against, sassy, disrespectful, or impudent.

Upon closer examination, it becomes apparent that not more than two generations after the flood, this man named Nimrod, great-grandson of Noah, a *political and community organizer/builder*, because he was reputed to have built many city-states, began to repeat the patterns of evil that led God to flood the earth years before. It's plain to see Nimrod was a disrespectful, insolent-acting brazened tyrant, whose will was set *against* God and everything He stands for.

Interestingly enough, we see this attitude of rebellion and ego egregiously illustrated in the story of the tower of Babel. After recognizing this biblical background about the attitude and spirit of Nimrod being one who is bodacious and in *rebellion against God*, we should now be able to clearly understand the tower of Babel was nothing more than an expression of contention, audacity, and arrogance toward God. It was all about mankind combining his power and influence through the socialization of his hegemony



in an attempt to make a unified statement of *opposition* toward God and what He stood for, which is really what was behind this effort to build a tower to heaven. However, God was not going to have anything to do with this, and proceeded to confound the languages, thereby *humbling* humanity and *setting back the progress* of man's technological and social unification (Genesis 11:1-9).

The point is, it's illustrative that man has been trying to achieve *world control* and *dominance* since the beginning. The problem is, he's been attempting to do this *apart from God*. As so often is the case, when something first begins, like the nation of Israel, or when the church initially started, it commences with the best of intentions—but often, over time, the original intent of the mission drifts, and the abandonment of God is the sad result.

We see this coming to fruition today. The world's community of nations is coming "full circle," beginning figuratively to speak "one language" via technology and commerce. What was recognized as something *not to be allowed* by God during mankind's early history, the tower of Babel, is now upon us once more, metaphorically—and this has caused the world to realistically pursue with renewed vigor the hope of political, social, and economic *globalization*! Ironically, Babylon, which represents mankind's original impudent antagonism; arrogance, and opposition toward God, the genesis of his *organized rebellion*, is exactly what humanity revisits as his destiny in the last days. Remarkably, mankind *completes the circle* with this repetitious system that God labels "Mystery Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots and Abominations of the Earth."

Paradoxically, this Babylonian system is being repeated again, evolving "out of necessity" because the world is becoming so interdependent and codependent upon each other's technologies, economies, trade, and currency. Clearly, over the millennia of human history, we can see repeated attempts for this kind of achievement has failed time after time. Whether we're looking back in history to Assyria, Arabia, Egypt, Babylon, Persia, Mongolia, Greece, or Rome—Alexander the Great, Caesar, Napoleon, Ghengis Khan, Hirohito, or Hitler—the truth is, man is in constant pursuit of world dominance.

Yet the Bible assures us, mankind's final effort to accomplish this will result in failure once more—although this time it will be like no other time! Instead, this time there will be such tribulation and destruction that if the days weren't shortened, no human being would be left alive (Daniel 12:1; Matthew 24:22)!

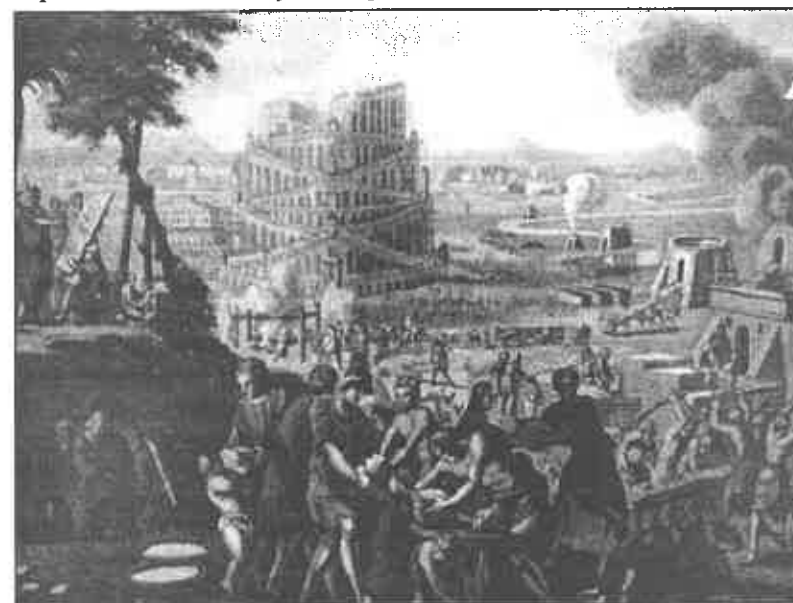
#### The Times They Are A'Changin'—Again

Mankind's scientific, technological, economic, political, religious, and social development is in constant progression. It's consistently and relent-

lessly fluid and dynamic. Therefore, the inclination for "change" in these fundamental categories generates an *evolution to organize*, which repeatedly leads to an effort to *centralize power*. This is what happened right from the start, two generations this side of the deluge. And true to this trend today, we have a history that proves there's nothing more permanent than *change*—and the lust for power *through war* is relentless (James 4:1-3)!

Today, the world's economic problems are forcing a "worldwide social evolution," or simply stated, *change*. But this time it will be managed politically by implementing technology and science. This will result in changing the relationships of sovereign nations within the world community. The Bible describes a globalization that will be knitted together politically, religiously, economically, and scientifically by technology and commerce, resulting in changing—or evolving—the social order and conditions around the world.

Though many don't realize it, these "changes" are already in the making and being explored by international organizations that are trying to stay "ahead of the curve" to provide policies of economic, political, and, of course, social stability within the international community. Unfortunately, the Bible outlines a very painful and destructive future for much of the world's nations in the course of their attempt to achieve these changes they hope will eradicate the cycles of political and economic destabilization so



A depiction of the ancient tower of Babel

often repeated.

Because the pursuit of centralizing much of the world's economic wealth, including currencies, commodities, and eventually religious as well as political power—which all lead to structuring a *socialistic world governance*—the government of the United States, as we know it today, governed by its own separate sovereign constitution, would no longer be compatible in such a geopolitical arrangement. Therefore, this incompatibility is bound to lead to a world *without the United States and Britain* in their present position of power and influence. This will cause the world to be considerably different. The “balance of power” they strategically provided to the international community, in a general sense, for over 500 years will be at least minimized, going forward, leading to ultimate elimination.

Consequently, the “evolution by necessity” to serve the needs of a *globalized commercial system* in the fundamental categories mentioned previously will likely serve to dissolve the usefulness of sovereign nations, including the United States. The Bible seems to corroborate this condition of *progressive social evolution* when it warns of a coming world dominant government destined to be driven by a tyrant and false prophet, who are demon possessed, and will attempt to “mark” the masses for providing this Babylonian system a *degree of control* over the lives of the people. At the same time, it will attempt to *eliminate* those who refuse this “mark.” This will be a very perilous and devastating era in mankind's history—and an especially *brutal trying burden* upon those in God's church (Daniel 7:21–25; 12:6–7; Revelation 6:9–11)!

#### Events and Trends That Will Make the Transition Possible

We have already started down the slippery slope leading to the series of events and circumstances resulting in world conditions that will make possible the emergence of what the Bible calls the “Beast”! This Greco-Babylonian Mystery system, the Mother of Harlots and Abominations, causes the world to socialize into a globalized community of nation-states who will for a short time mutually prosper off the commerce generated from each other (Revelation 18).

However, in the course of accomplishing this objective, there will be some major adjustments, developments, and, unfortunately, *forcefully violent restructuring* of the present arrangements of nations and work force throughout the world; and this is bound to be especially disturbing and destructive for those nations prone to be more independent and lean toward free markets, like the United States, Canada, Australia, Great Britain, and a few others.

As mentioned before, the present geopolitical circumstances are being scrutinized by many international organizations. Currently, a handful of

major world institutions have been instrumental in exploring alternative methods of considering a better way of managing this *progressive* interdependent *global village* the world is “maturing” or “*evolving*” into. They are the United Nations (UN), European Union (EU), Arab League, World Court, and World Trade Organization (WTO), in combination with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). These are just a few of the more prominent ones that have already had an effect on this “world order” we now are beginning to see emerge.

It's difficult to believe world conditions have come to this, but you cannot ignore or dispute the *facts of reality*. To help illustrate how some of these shifts have already occurred, consider what has happened to the United States. Today, it is virtually impossible to find something as simple as a toy that is made here domestically. Automobiles, electronic goods, appliances, and so much more are currently made and assembled in many different countries. If you look on the manufacturing sticker of an automobile for example, you may find it was assembled in one country, while many of the parts were made in a few others. Name brand or not, clothes and/or shoes in most cases are made outside of what was once the greatest *product manufacturing* nation in the world, the United States. Whether it's in the categories of steel, mining, computers, automobiles, motorcycles, aerospace, shipbuilding, oil production, or chemical manufacturing, much of the production capacity has been greatly reduced and moved off shore outside of the US.

As a matter of fact, since 2001 the United States has lost over 42,000 factories. Of these, 36 percent employed over 1,000 people; 38 percent employed 500 to 999. Dell Computers and Ford Motor Company have announced the closing of more factories. In addition, approximately 90,000 more industrial and small commercial plants are presently at risk of closing their doors over the next few years due to a myriad of reasons, not the least of which is government legislation for business regulation and corporate taxation. This unfriendly approach toward business is literally driving the manufacturing base out of the United States. And sadly, there doesn't seem to be any serious initiatives from the United States' leadership to reverse these trends!

Additional statistics show the United States has lost in excess of seven million manufacturing jobs since the present recession commenced in 2008. Manufacturing employment within the US computer industry was actually lower in 2011 than it was in 1975. With over one billion cell phones manufactured worldwide, the stunning fact is, the United States manufactured *none*! Even the Apple I-phone is not American made—a Chinese company makes them in Southeast Asia.

A once thriving and dominant position in the circuit board manufacturing sector within the United States is today controlled by Asia. They also pro-

duce 84 percent of all circuit boards, worldwide. Industrialized cities like Kansas City, St. Louis, Detroit, Pittsburgh, Chicago, Cleveland, Buffalo, Rochester, New York, Boston, and Baltimore are today a shadow of what they once were in steel, automotive, chemical, and electronics manufacturing. The United States has enormous problems in these manufacturing sectors. It is far past the time and long overdue when the "wake-up call" should have been heard and answered! Instead, the "can" continues to be kicked down the road.

As we have seen large amounts of manufacturing leave the United States, we are also presently experiencing the unparalleled increase of national debt in combination with the debasing and decline of the American dollar. Recently, China has been quoted as saying that *the time has arrived; the dollar is a product of the past* and needs to be replaced by a global currency that is more secure and "neutral friendly." Moody's credit evaluators have cautioned the United States on its credit rating while Standard and Poors (S&P) downgraded it. It's a known fact the US has printed literally trillions of dollars over the past four years, tripling the money supply as well as generating more debt in the first three and one-half years of Barak Obama's administration than all the debt generated from George Washington through George Bush. The rating agencies are now beginning to consider the negative impact, which simply means *a downgrading of US bonds, is likely to occur at some time in the future!* It has become plain to most of the world, it is *highly improbable* the United States will ever pay off its debt. The financial community is now beginning to sound the alarm. There is growing concern the United States could, very possibly, default on its debt!

This attention regarding the decline of the dollar's value is driving the global village, out of necessity, to seriously consider a shift—*another change*—to a *world currency* that will *replace* the American dollar as the world's reserve note. If, or should we say *when* this happens, this international currency would be independent of all financial currency denominations and become the new substituted safe-haven reserve denomination for stabilizing world commerce, with the long term goal of eliminating currency exchanges—a *one-world global currency!*

Obviously, it has been advantageous for the United States to be in the position of having its money considered the world's reserve currency. It has allowed the United States to print prodigious amounts of dollars without substantive bases for justifying it, while attracting huge amounts of money from all over the world to fund our trade and budget deficits without having to balance our account, simply because of the favor the dollar has enjoyed since this side of World War II as a safe haven and secure investment (60 percent of all world banking reserves are constituted by the US dollar). Unfortunately though, this has led to running up huge amounts of deficit

spending and associated unfunded liabilities that some say, now *exceeds an accrued debt of over 90 trillion US dollars* today.

Fortunately for the present, the United States government controls the printing of its money and is now monetizing its own debt through the US Federal Reserve Central Bank. They are now buying US Treasury Bonds and mortgages to *finance that debt* (approximately 70 percent of the debt is being



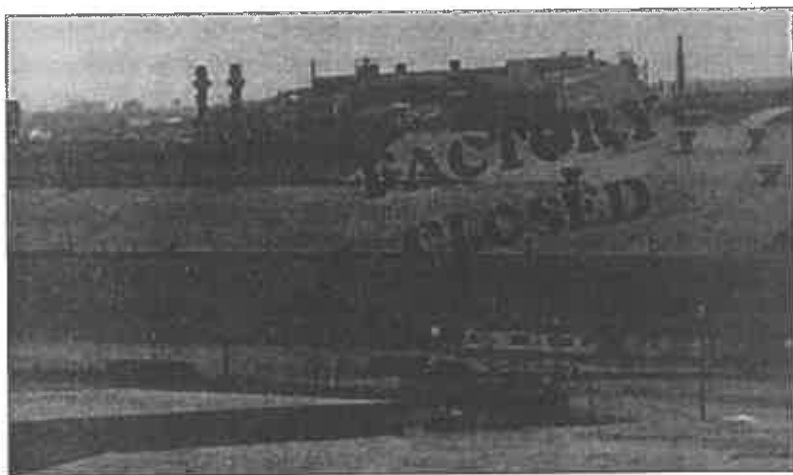
**IMF: Symbol of the International Monetary Fund:  
The Future World Central Bank?**

bought up by the US Federal Reserve Bank). In other words, they are now using borrowed funds from *themselves* to pay down their *own debt*, along with paying yields owed to *other* nations from previous borrowing! This additional "QE3" borrowing clearly generates *more* debt (interest debt due to charges from the Federal Reserve) to pay down existing debt, which unequivocally is *absurd* and completely *irresponsible*. It has become a vicious cycle!

Obviously, this is a recipe for disaster, and our "lovers" (allies) know it. This is a major reason why other nations no longer are buying our debt, or treasuries, at the same levels they were some years ago. This was a con-

tributing factor to what caused the United States Federal Reserve Central Bank to step in and buy their own treasuries; they had to subsidize the lack of foreign countries that are no longer willing to loan the U.S. more money. This continued "debt service economy" has also led to the *habitual routine* of annually raising the national "US debt ceiling" at the end of every year, which clearly reflects the ongoing malfeasance of our leaders to employ austerity programs for controlling our spending and debt! It has yet to stop, and appears it won't any time soon. This simply goes to illustrate how the leadership of the United States refuses to hold themselves accountable and force the nation to *live within its own means*. The United States' political leadership just won't do it!

Unquestionably, borrowing from *yourself* won't pay down the debt—this generates *more* debt! Basic economics tells us the United States is *BROKE!*



**Factory closed! An unfortunate reality of the  
USA's declining manufacturing base**

Much of the rest of the world knows this, and is now beginning to distance themselves by stopping the "enabling." For so many years these foreign nations, such as China, Japan, Korea, South America, Europe, the Middle East, etc., bought up the debt, which secured the ability for the United States to continue purchasing their goods and services. Instead, however, these *foreign nationals* (the Bible calls them "lovers") are *now exploring alternative options* for a new standard reserve world currency (perhaps the Euro, Chinese Yuan, or something designed by the UN in combination with the IMF), while investing their nation-state sovereign funds into hard assets, like commodities, real estate, electric power plants, production companies, aero-



**Shanghai**

space, mining, etc. This includes hard assets *inside* the United States, too!

For example, China is now looking to develop *economic zones* within a "host nation," where they buy up local corporations for the purpose of turning their debt into actual business interests and assets. Presently, China is doing this in Nigeria. They simply buy up huge tracts of land in foreign countries and *establish special economic zones* in those host nations. Under these plans, financial guarantees—as inducements—would afford, for example, China to convert their US debt into Chinese direct equity investments. China has been working on programs like this *with the United States since 2009*. These are very *serious economic altering programs* that will, if allowed to proceed as designed, *change* much of what we know defines the United States of America.

Remember, China has now become the second largest economy in the world, surpassing Japan. It has also become the world's largest exporter of foreign goods, and is well on its way to becoming the biggest national consumer of energy as it aggressively pursues its plans for urbanization. Currently, China's economy is about one-third the size of the United States, but many are saying that if China's present economic growth rate is maintained, they will exceed the United States' GDP by 2020, or sooner.

In addition, China is also on target to "urbanize" 400 million more Chinese within its borders by 2030. Literally tens of billions of dollars are earmarked to develop "green" environment-friendly cities with infrastructure as well. This urbanization includes the intent to build 20,000 to 30,000 skyscrapers in the coming decades—this is no exaggeration. For example, future plans project Shanghai to be surrounded by ten additional satellite

cities that will accommodate about half a million people each. Many are saying China is positioned as the United States was in the early twentieth century, but with *state capitalism* as their *government model* for securing their economic future and superiority!

Additionally, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has been utilizing an international reserve asset called a *Special Drawing Right* (SDR). This has proven fairly effective in limited ways, and though it's not a currency, it *does* have a value based on a "basket" of four currencies: presently, the yen, euro, sterling, and dollar. A special allocation of these SDRs was approved in August of 2009, increasing the amount from \$21.4 billion to \$204 billion (based on current value of the "basket of four"). Keep in mind, these are convertible, or exchangeable, into actual hard currencies of member countries belonging to the IMF network, which are, by the way, "interest chargeable" by the IMF. This illustrates the principle of how easily the IMF, or something similar, could be converted into a *World Central Bank*. Whether this specifically happens or not with these SDRs is not important. Instead, what's poignant is the illustration of how the *evolution* of the world community of nations is being *motivated by necessity* to consider alternatives to create an economic/currency change that will soon affect the world in ways it never has, *especially for the United States*.

The world community is approaching "unchartered waters" as the Bible calls it—the *times of the Gentiles* (Daniel 12:7; Luke 21:24–26). The implication is clear. The birthright nations of the world will no longer possess the power or leverage of influence that has been theirs to exercise for about the last 400 to 500 years. Their ability to be the balance of power will be *neutralized*—they have become the tail to those they have borrowed from, which are now the head (Deuteronomy 28:43–44). They will become vulnerable to the "measured punishment" God deems necessary from those nations He raises up as His rod of correction (Jeremiah 30:11–15). This will render the United States, this "lion" among the Gentiles, a *non-factor*, as obviously illustrated by *omission* in the writings concerning the last days from Jeremiah, Daniel, and John's book of Revelation.

It should become clear as to why the United States and Great Britain *won't be able to protect* the Israeli Jewish state in Palestine. God will wound His birthright cultures with the wound of an enemy. Notice: "I have wounded thee with the wound of an enemy, with the chastisement of a cruel one" (Jeremiah 30:14). Why would God do this? Why would He allow this to happen to these modern-day affluent, materially blessed, and wealthy Israelite cultures? Listen to what Jeremiah says: "for the multitude of thine iniquity; because thy sins were increased. Why criest thou for thine affliction? Thy sorrow is incurable for the multitude of thine iniquity: because thy sins were increased, *I have done these things unto thee*" (Jeremiah 30:14–15). Unless

we *repent as a nation* and turn back to our Lord, Jesus Christ, we will *not avoid* the "measured correction" which is the punishment of Almighty God, reserved for these cultures!

### Where Do We Go From Here?

We are on course for some really rough waters! There are storm clouds ahead that portend some very difficult and painful times are in store for many of us, specifically in the West. Figuratively speaking, there are sounds of thunder in the distance along with lightening in the sky, forewarning us there is an approaching "hurricane" like no other in our recent history, this side of World War II. For many of us, it will be a lesson in *humility*, when the hoofs of the four horsemen remove the *idols of affluence* (the first four seals, Revelation 6:1–8).

Many of the pundits believe we will cycle out of this again, only to break through out into the blue, flying high, fancy free, and footloose once more. And perhaps that will be true for a while longer, *but long term*, there are different trends and facts to ponder that present some very potentially disturbing results. Why is this? Simply because this time the world and circumstances we find ourselves contending with are enormously and overwhelmingly *unlike any other time* in human history! There are particular circumstances building for the "perfect storm" that are coming together and gaining momentum.

As Daniel portrayed, understanding the end times would be reserved for a generation that would be living in a *time of increased travel* and a tremendous *acceleration in knowledge and information*. Paul mentioned it would be a time of intense self-absorption and secular humanism with a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof—like a neo-pagan society. Peter warned there would be scoffers walking after their own lusts, saying, *where is the promise of His coming?* Jesus claimed many would come in His name saying He was, or they were, the Messiah. He added there would be rumors of wars, nations rising against each other, earthquakes, famines, and pestilence in different places, while the love of *many* would wax cold. These, He said, would be the *beginning of sorrows*, but remember—this is just the *beginning!*

Sadly, we are seeing this confirmed every day! You can't help but to agree, there appears to be plenty of rumors of war and natural disasters, and the *love of many* has indeed waxed cold, especially after hearing multiple stories in the news about such gruesome and macabre acts of violence that human beings do to each other! It's incredible what things people do to each other—like mothers killing their own children in cold, premeditated murder, or young people killing children, parents, and brothers and sisters—over some of the most insignificant issues. It's as though mankind has lost respect for

the value of human life itself, including our children! It's downright sick and maddening, all at the same time!

Adding to this fact is the *saber rattling* from Iran, which is aggressively pursuing its nuclear goals. Speaking to this point, 89-year-old Henry Kissinger said, "The danger is that we could be reaching a point where nuclear weapons would become almost conventional, and there will be the possibility of a nuclear conflict at some point.... That would be a turning point in human history." Also, North Korea continues to test its missiles while adding *public threats of nuclear aggression* targeted toward the United States. Syria, and multiple régime changes and terrorist groups throughout the Middle East and around the world continue to forge, with determination, an effort to set up an Islamic Confederation/Caliphate (a king of the south?) with the objective of tearing down the "free market system"—and in particular, annihilate the Jewish State of Israel and the United States of America.

Unfortunately, many nations around the world are growing very suspicious toward the United States. They are becoming concerned our "house" is unstable, disabled, and conflicted; and there is anxiety among many with regard to our deplorable social, economic, moral, and present-day political gridlock and the *duplicity of foreign policy* we openly engage in. Much of the international community views the United States as untrustworthy, with a political and economic dysfunctional model, driven by a very self-centered, self-absorbed political agenda that is becoming extraordinarily dangerous for the stability of the rest of the world.

Many of us reading this are well aware of these things. So it's natural to ask, what is it we can do during these times, as we begin to see so many troubling things closing in around us. Jesus Christ has much to say about what we—both Christians and non-Christians—should be doing. Our Lord was very clear about His advice and what He expects of us. We will explore His instructions in more detail in the final chapter.

## CHAPTER FOUR

# What Can We Do To Prepare?

*Our world is different today. Many nations are very troubled. There is a lot of uncertainty, from politics to economics and all points in between—and for some, it's very disturbing because it's finally beginning to personally affect us. Is there something we should do that could help us cope with this approaching global train wreck? Jesus Christ said, "I will give you rest" and "Be of good cheer." What exactly did He mean by these statements?*

I can assure you, every time I consider what I'm paying for a movie, a gallon of gas, or a loaf of bread; for milk, butter, or eggs; or for a suit, cotton shirt, or tie, I shake my head in disbelief at just what these items cost and how much the world has changed. When I find myself going through an airport, I realize how different the world is. When I walk through a shopping mall and see armed police on occasion, or in the halls of an elementary school, I recognize the world is not like it once was.

Knowing also there are varying degrees of national turmoil—regime overthrows, terrorist alerts, and assassination risks for leaders throughout the world and, from time to time, the general public—I'm reminded we live in perilous times. When I watch television or go to a movie, it's a far cry from *Gone With the Wind*, *Father Knows Best*, *Leave It to Beaver*, or *Gunsmoke*—obviously indicative of a much simpler time. Even cartoons and video games today are in considerable contrast when compared to *Pac-Man*, *Galactica*, *Mickey Mouse*, *Mr. Magoo*, and *Tom Terrific With His Mighty Dog Manfred*.

When I hear of crime, like the Green River serial killer in Seattle, Washington, who allegedly killed as many as eighty people, or the Kensington strangler, who may have killed as many as seven or eight women, or Anthony Sowell, who killed eleven or more women in Cleveland,

Ohio, I'm in shock! Combine that with mothers *killing their own children* in gruesome ways, while at the same time occasionally committing suicide, compounded by the *shootings in schools*, like Columbine, or Newtown, Connecticut, along with shootings in malls and movie theaters—it's all so disturbing! Abuses of young children, involving a horrible number of pedophiles, sadly including people of *trust*, such as teachers, coaches, priests, and yes, even policemen—it's enough to tear your heart out!

Most of us would agree the world is quite different today and has gone through some very remarkable and shocking changes in just the last twenty-five to thirty years. As was said at the outset of this booklet, we are now having debates about issues that shouldn't even be debated! They range from legalizing marijuana for both medical and recreational use to normalizing homosexuality, which plainly leads to redefining marriage. Additionally, we contend with whether we should be allowed to kill an unwanted baby, while *disguising* it all under the broad category of human or civil rights. Clearly, we are also losing the art of civility that comes with the responsibility of free speech. The rhetoric and name calling of leaders from opposition parties, as well as some of the organizations pushing or resisting the political and/or social engineering that is going on, is simply ruthless and "uncouth" at times. We have finally come to a place that can honestly be described as *reprobate* in behavior and judgment!

The apostle Paul makes it brutally plain that the loss of our moral compass is simply due to the fact that "they did not like to retain [acknowledge] God in their understanding." Notice the context of this statement from Paul: "Professing themselves [mankind in general] to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man.... Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness.... Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature [creation] more than the Creator.... For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections.... And even as *they did not like to retain God in their knowledge*, God gave them over to a *reprobate mind*, to do those things which are not convenient" (Romans 1:22–28).

Read this whole passage—it's a stunning indictment against homosexuality and how this is a reflection, or an effect, of improper judgment. But more importantly, with respect to the broader scope of his point, it illustrates mankind's desire to circumvent and undermine God's influence in their lives as a guiding force for *defining* right from wrong! That's what Paul really wants us to comprehend. Unfortunately, this resistance and indifference to God underscores the variety of issues, movements, and attitudes we find ourselves wrestling with—be it in our personal lives or in the bigger picture of what's driving geopolitical initiatives on a global scale.

Clearly, mankind's problems stem from the reality that he does not have a

relationship with the *living God* of *Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob*, the spiritual "fathers" that we, His creation, need to remember, lest the world be cursed with a curse (Malachi 4:6). If mankind would recognize these men represent the lineage, the connection that leads to the *true* God, then humanity would eventually be turned to the Messiah and Savior of mankind, *Jesus the Christ!* This would lead to worldwide repentance, which would cause us to avoid the troubles we have been outlining throughout the course of this booklet. However, call me a realist, or perhaps a pragmatist, but considering the worldwide trajectory that humanity seems to be on, the "curse" that *could* be avoided appears to be *unavoidable!*

*I hope I'm wrong*—but if I'm not, be assured; *the script has been written*, and we are on course to collide with a destiny that is presented in no uncertain terms as viciously horrific! As a matter of fact, Christ Himself said, "For then shall be *great tribulation*, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be [there has *never been* a time like what's coming]. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved [the world would end as we know it]: but for the elect's sake [those called-out ones, the church] those days shall be shortened" (Matthew 24:21–22). This is quite a chilling warning from our Lord.

### What Can We Do to Prepare?

This question has been at the forefront of every generation confronting difficult times. Throughout history, mankind has faced troubled periods, which unfortunately have resulted in a great deal of destruction, pain, anguish, and suffering. We can cite civil rebellion and international wars, and natural disasters such as famines, drought, starvation, earthquakes, tornados, and hurricanes, along with murder, corruption, extortion, and thievery. Man's history is loaded with it—so much so, that God has conceded the notion that there is no end to the evil man can cause. The evil that mankind has perpetrated has been relentless! Jeremiah confirms this when he claims that man's heart is "deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it" (Jeremiah 17:9)? This has been man's legacy. His track record is littered with injustice, malfeasance, depravity, fraud, violence, and dishonor. Naturally, this has led to the downfall of many empires, nations, families, and individuals throughout the eras of time, including our own!

The Bible tells us, "The ways of peace they know not." Also, "the heart of the sons of men is full of evil, and madness is in their heart while they live, and after that they go to the dead." Regrettably, mankind has not learned the conclusion of the whole matter of life. Solomon wrote and identified it in the book of Ecclesiastes. He said, "Let us hear the whole matter: Fear God and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man" (Ecclesiastes 12:13). This is key to the success of man's existence, but sadly, he has failed



to recognize it, and insists on doing things *his* way!

Therefore, it becomes important we *prepare*, since it's evident our world is about to repeat a cycle of *immense devastation* as it geopolitically shifts into the "times of the Gentiles."

It's becoming more obvious that the stranger (foreigner) has risen up and is now making the modern-day Israelite cultures the tail, while they (the Gentiles) become the head (Deuteronomy 28:43–44). The emerging markets of Asia, the Middle East, South America, and Russia's recovery attest to this fact: they have become beneficiaries of the affluence of the United States and Britain's material wealth and international leadership that has influenced the community of nations for the last 400 to 500 years, and especially since World War II. The exploitation of Western markets for goods and services, and the prodigious amount of borrowing that went with it, has run its course and now weighs especially heavily on the United States, Britain, and the European Union as well! The days of "kicking the can down the road" are finally beginning to *generate pain* that many of us are now personally experiencing!

Western money has given rise to what will become the "Frankenstein factor" for much of the world as the American dollar continues its debasing and the United States becomes militarily, economically, politically, and socially derailed. It's erroneous to think the United States is a superpower any longer, when it is the world's largest debtor country! We are only kidding ourselves, and our allies know we are delusional.

The United States is well on its way, going the same direction its "brother" nation, England, has gone. It appears the dollar will go the way of the sterling, losing its status as the world's reserve currency at some time in the future! Hosea the prophet said to the people of his nation Israel, prior to the time of the Assyrian invasions (about 770–760 BCE): "Ephraim [an inclusive term in this context for the US and Great Britain] is joined to idols: let him alone. Their drink is sour: they have committed whoredom continually: her rulers with shame do love [or her rulers love shame, confusion, ignominy, dishonor]. Give ye [let them have it]. The wind hath bound her up in her wings [the nation will be taken away], and they shall be ashamed because of their sacrifices" (Hosea 4:17–19).

Admittedly, this is a statement for Israel in Hosea's time; but when applying it in parallel as "prophetic duality" to the modern-day cultures of the remnants of Israel today, it's a stunningly cryptic *warning* for the cultures of the United Kingdom and its loosely associated Commonwealth nations and the United States!

So, how do we prepare for the inevitable? What is it that Jesus Christ would want His followers doing to prepare for this coming international storm—this "time of the Gentiles"? Interestingly enough, in Matthew 24 this

same topic was on the disciples' minds. They asked Him, "Tell us, when shall these things be? And what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the age" (Matthew 24:3)? He proceeded to explain some "signs of the times," but then became rather specific and personal about how to get ready for the coming times of trouble.

### Jesus Said: Now Learn a Parable

Consider what Jesus said after He listed these signs of the times: "Now learn a parable of the fig tree." He then went on to describe an example, likened to what He suggests we do to prepare for the changing yearly seasons. And the very first thing He suggests is to eschew "denial." Accept that the season is changing!

Notice, after explaining that summer can be foretold by means of *recognizing the evidence* of leaves budding on the fig tree, He then appeals to those listening: "when you shall see all these things, KNOW [be resolved, be sure] that it [the time of the end and Christ's return] is near, even at the doors" (Matthew 24:33). This word "know" is the same as in the previous verse that mentions we should "know," with equal surety, that summer is *near* when the leaves on the fig tree begin to bud. That's how confident and sure we should be about the *prophetic times* in which we are now living. In other words, *have the courage* to recognize things for what they are, so you don't lose heart and become discouraged when conditions accelerate and become increasingly more disturbing in this *changing prophetic season*.

With this in mind, it's obvious that the sooner we begin to *accept* things for what they are and concede the "times of the Gentiles" is fast approaching, we will be better for it. This should help us to clearly understand that the marginalization of the United States and the United Kingdom's worldwide influence and military/political power will soon be upon us. Therefore, upon realizing an enormous downturn and reduction of personal wealth, coupled with rising costs for the staples of life and the loss of purchasing power, due to inflation and a declining dollar coming our way—along with additional social decay, followed by more political disappointment/gridlock and potential anarchy increasing in the United States and much of the world—we must be determined to be more emotionally mature, focused, and firmly established in our minds and hearts about what our Lord continued to say in this portion of Scripture.

Let's listen to what He says: "Watch therefore: for you know not what hour your Lord does come.... Therefore be you also ready: for in such an hour as you think not the Son of man comes. Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord has made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season" (Matthew 24:42–45)? This is the question we need to answer in light of the coming social, political, and global unrest. What is it we can

do that will assure us to be profiled by our Lord as a *faithful and wise servant*? This is a very poignant question for all Christians to face and answer!

Now notice: "Blessed is that servant, whom his Lord when he comes shall find *so doing*. Verily I say unto you, that he [Christ] shall make him [you] ruler over all his goods" (Matthew 24:46-47). But what is it that Jesus Christ considers "so doing"? This needs some definition. As this theme continues, we pick it up in the next chapter. Notice: "When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left" (Matthew 25:31-33). Jesus is describing the Day of Judgment, and He is about to detail why those who were awarded entry into the Kingdom of God were considered acceptable, while others were rejected. This is a very significant disclosure He's about to reveal; and what is it that He explains? He describes certain acts of charity, and claims those who gain entry did these things (Matthew 25:35-37). He then proceeds to detail and identify these individuals participating in particular acts of charity, which obviously is what He expected, because it results in rewarding them with the promise of entry into the Kingdom of God.

It is surprising His statement stuns those who are rewarded for the many acts of charity they allegedly performed. They didn't quite understand what He meant, so they asked: "When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee" (Matthew 25:38-39)? He simply answered them by making it plain that when they served their fellow man, they were doing it equally to Him (Matthew 25:40). This should be at the foundation of our Christian way of life. At the end of the day, a Christian with no evidence of charity is *not a Christian*. We read this same lesson in James 2:15-26. There must be a level of love (care and affection—*agape* in the Greek) that generates behaviors of charity—actual giving, which results in real benefit to others. This is what Jesus claims makes the difference between His true followers and those who are just pretending. This is the kind of love that Jesus was talking about when He said, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples" (John 13:35).

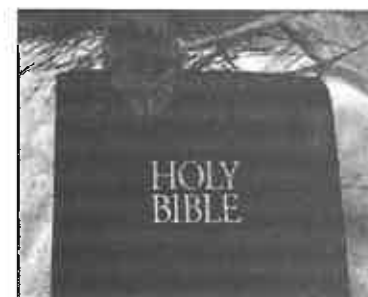
On the other hand, He says to those on the left, whom He rejects: "Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, you cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was an hungered, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink" (Matthew 25:41-46). The point of this is simple: those of us who are not developing a way of life that exemplifies "giving" are missing the lesson concerning the foundational premise that underscores the Christian way, which simply is built on charitable works. This is at the *heart* of the teach-

ings of Jesus Christ. This is an important fundamental if we are going to be found "so doing"—because that is the definition of what "so doing" is! For some of us, this will become a harder characteristic to express as we become more entrenched in the tumultuous trials of circumstances coming our way. But regardless, it remains an expectation from our Lord, no matter how hard times may get, because this is what we are being called for—to become servants to mankind.

### But, Is That All There Is?

Going back to Matthew 24, we find there is an additional precautionary observation mentioned that warns us about a few things. Jesus describes the latter days as being as it was in the days of Noah. In other words, it would be rather typical, comparably speaking. People would be going about with their daily lives doing what they would normally do within the society of the

**"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14).**



time (Matthew 24:37-38). However, He illustrates an interesting point of consideration: those who were *taken away* by the flood were completely clueless, oblivious, and ignorant of the times they were living in. Notice: "And [they] knew not until the flood came, and *took them all away*; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be" (Matthew 24:39).

What didn't they know? The "buds on the fig tree" were budding. Figuratively speaking, they were totally unaware of the significance of the times—of the prophetic season they were living in. They didn't see the buds, or perhaps they wouldn't *accept* what they saw, and therefore refused to place any significance on the signs of the times they were surrounded by—they simply dismissed them and went about their daily business.

The point is, for whatever reason, they allowed their lives to consume them. They became distracted with the secular, humanist, and materialistic interests of life in general. They allowed their lives to get away from them, causing themselves to drift from the more important objective of why they were born. This caused them to get blindsided. They weren't prepared spiritually to deal with "the event"! And so, some were taken away as the flood did to those who were caught unawares, while others were *left behind to be*

with God as Noah's family was, upon entering the ark (Matthew 24:40–41).

Jesus recommends we *watch* to remain vigilant. He likens it to a "good-man" watching his house, protecting it from the thief. He explains if we watch and remain prepared, staying motivated because we understand being urgent and ready at all times will prevent the loss of our goods—which figuratively references our salvation (Matthew 24:42–44)—it is this individual who is considered to be the faithful and wise servant, because it's this servant who *remains motivated* to be charitably "so doing"—even in times of trouble (Matthew 24:45–47).

As the chapter concludes, we discover a warning against complacency (Matthew 24:48–51). This theme is carried through on into chapter 25, and is again characterized in the parable of the ten virgins (Matthew 25:1–13). But interestingly enough, this subject is then expanded upon with the additional instruction of growing in grace and knowledge as illustrated in the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14–30). It then concludes with the graphic narrative of Christ's expectations of charity, accentuated with specific explanations of particular acts considered acceptable by God's standards, covered previously, which fall in the category of *charitable works*.

#### Are You Building Your "Ark"?

The Pharisees asked Jesus when the Kingdom of God would come. He cautioned them that it was not by observations, or by outward show, but rather *through Him*, because He claimed it was "among them." In other words, He was among them, and in that respect, the Kingdom of God had finally come to earth—however, first to suffer, *then* to rule. Unfortunately, the Pharisees didn't understand that (Luke 17:20–21).

He then proceeds to continue this conversation with His disciples and explains a similar story as recorded by Matthew. He warned them that the day would come "when you shall desire to see one of the days of the Son of man, and you *shall not see it*" (Luke 17:22). Now some would argue He was referencing and prophetically speaking of the invasion and destruction of the temple by Titus in AD 70—and admittedly, that was a horrible time for those Jews. It was a time when many of those victims greatly desired the Kingdom of God to come, but it didn't. However, clearly the context goes beyond the more immediate future and on out into the last days and Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

With that said, again we find ourselves reminded by the words of Jesus Christ to be ready at all times and busy about building our "ark of salvation," not looking back as Lot's wife did. We are being warned continually that *many* will be surprised by the *finality* of events, which will bring suffering and destruction of such magnitude that we, too, will hope the Kingdom of God would come, *but it won't*—at least, not just yet. Why? Because our Lord

is on a mission! He is not purposely delaying His return. Remember, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, *but that all should come to repentance*" (2 Peter 3:9).

This is what underpins our Lord's timing. He wants to know how many of us are really committed to this way of life. How many of us are willing to lose our lives to gain eternal life? This is what He needs to know from us. That's why we are told, "Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it" (Luke 17:33).

The momentum of the world's trends is now unstoppable unless mankind repents in wholesale, which is highly unlikely! Instead, it appears we have begun to move up onto the threshold of the "times of the Gentiles." Those "buds" are fast becoming apparent by many economic, political, and military conditions, along with various coalitions, regime changes, and the relentless efforts for global unification, as further portrayed by the United Nation's *Agenda 21*. The "government models" of the United States and British Commonwealth of nations are in decline—currently they are being replaced by the more popular form of government called "state capitalism" (socialism). The stranger indeed, is rising up and becoming more of the head (the trend setters), while the birthright nations are fast becoming the tail, indebted beyond their GDP and strapped in debt to those they have borrowed from. American "exceptionalism" is fast becoming a thing of the past!

We are beginning to see prophetic warnings playing out before our very eyes, consequently defining the season we are in; and it certainly appears that a *prophetic seasonal change is emerging*. Notice what is said in the Torah about the nation of Israel if they don't heed the instructions of God. "The stranger that is within you shall get up above you very high; and you shall come down very low. He shall lend to you, and you shall not lend to him: he shall be the head, and *you shall be the tail*" (Deuteronomy 28:43–44).

I don't need to belabor the point about China owing over \$1 trillion of US debt. Presently, the United States borrows 40 cents on every dollar spent. Additionally, our total unfunded debt liabilities, which include pensions, mortgages (Freddie Mac and Fanny Mae), Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security, some say, are now in excess of approximately \$90 trillion—and we are accruing additional debt liabilities at the rate of \$1.5 to \$2 trillion per year. The present US administration has spent more money in the first four years in office than what was spent in over 220 years of American history! It's pathetic! And regrettably, there doesn't seem to be any cooperative leadership from any of the political parties to date that seems to have any answers to the gridlock presently blanketing the political stage. As Pogo once said, "We have met the enemy and the enemy is us."

### It Is Time to Make a Real Commitment to God

This is a time of salvation (2 Corinthians 6:1–2). It is a time when we should be working out our own salvation by building a strong relationship with God through Jesus Christ (Philippians 2:9–13). We are told in Hebrews, “God, who at various times and in different manners spoke in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Has in these last days spoken unto us by a Son, whom he has appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; Being made so much better than the angels, as he has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they” (Hebrews 1:1–4).

We have such an awesome destiny, and it’s hard to believe it’s ours if we will only believe in faith and obey our Lord’s instructions about “so doing.” Paul affirmed, “The sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory [eternal life, as a *born again* spirit being], which shall be revealed in us [upon the resurrection]” (Romans 8:18).

Conditions are building that portend to become intensely difficult. There will be many reasons for attempting to justify pulling back, recoiling, and not expressing the kind of affection and care for one another that is mandated by Christ for proving we are His disciples (John 13:33–35). The prices of goods and services will underscore some of our perceived limitations, but we must be careful not to allow the surrounding difficulties to hamper our service to God and our fellow man—*within* the church, or *outside* of the church. Remember, all human beings are potentially sons of God and will have their opportunity sooner or later to be part of the God Family. Therefore, it’s important we *recognize our sense of obligation* to the *unconverted also*, especially as the times become more disturbing and people become more inquisitive for answers as to why things are happening the way they are. We need to be there for them, too, as lights in the surrounding darkness.

The answer that Jesus provides over the course of Matthew 24:32 through Matthew 25 speaks to the formula for successful achievement and entrance into the Kingdom of God! It is *framed in the context of the last days* for a very important reason, and it’s critical we recognize it. The warnings against complacency, selfishness, and hard-heartedness, and our vulnerabilities to these characteristics during times of trouble, is a point well taken. Clearly, it’s apparent that as difficulties become more personal, we become more withdrawn and attentive to our *own personal needs* rather than those of God’s and/or other people. This can be dangerous for preserving our relationship with God and the assurance of entering into God’s Kingdom as one who has maintained a “so doing” attitude and *Christian work ethic*.

With all the accelerated conditions of rumors of war, extreme weather, and

the dismal political, economic, and social realities presently faced by so many nations around the world—at some point these circumstances will touch us, and in some way affect our *personal* lives, if they haven’t already. We *must be ready to embrace* the stress that will be upon us in the coming years (i.e., loss of employment, retirement funds, pensions, health, homes, etc.) and not allow these losses to cause us to become “dysfunctional Christians.” Regardless of the negative forces we may face, remember: all things are possible through Christ Jesus. Paul further reminds us, “If God be for us, who can be against us?” And Jesus says, “Come unto me, you who are heavy burdened, and I will give you relief.”

So, with all that’s been said throughout the course of this booklet, keep in mind the solution to successfully coping with the world we find ourselves in, can simply be stated: *Get right with God!* Follow the instructions of Peter, and do what he said when he was asked, “What shall we do?” Peter stated very assuredly and candidly, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:37–38).

It’s time for all of us to consider our relationship with God the Father and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Those of us who are baptized need to understand that God has certain expectations of us. Therefore, it’s incumbent upon all Christians to rise to the calling we’ve been given and achieve the profile described as one who has been found “so doing” in the work of serving charitably to God and mankind in general—within the church and/or outside of it as well.

Those of us who are *not* baptized need to begin to seriously consider a relationship with God the Father, through Jesus Christ, because they are the keys to a life *beyond* the pains and worries of this world—and time is moving on! They offer quality of life, presently, in the short term, if we will believe and obey—but more importantly, in the long term—eternal life with them literally, *as born immortal sons*, in the Family of God!

### **About the Church of God International**

*This literature is published by the Church of God International, based in Tyler, Texas. Incorporated in 1978, the CGI has ministers and congregations scattered throughout the United States and Canada. We also have churches in Jamaica, the Philippines, and Australia.*

*The CGI's mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world (Matthew 28:19). We are blessed with four basic tools to accomplish this:*

- 1. Personal and local church evangelism.*
- 2. Television and radio broadcasting.*
- 3. Booklets, brochures, and study tapes.*
- 4. The Internet.*

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***Thank you for the opportunity to serve you!***