

Key Prophecies of the Major Prophets

# KEY PROPHECIES OF THE MAJOR PROPHETS

ave you ever wanted to know what will happen in the future? Have you wondered what life will be like ten, twenty or even fifty years from now?

In this lesson, you will learn about important events that will occur in the near future events which God inspired His Old Testament prophets to record in His Word, the Bible.

Three of the books of the Old Testament— Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel—contain many prophecies. The writers of these books are called the *major prophets*. They were inspired by God over 2,500 years ago to write about world events in advance. That is the definition of prophecy: "God's advance news of what will happen in the future," or "history written in advance under divine inspiration."

As we study this lesson, we'll learn the vital key that unlocks the prophecies of these books to our understanding. We'll also discover that the descendants of ancient Israel exist as separate nations today! We will also learn about catastrophic events soon to occur to these and other nations, and about the exciting, good *news* on beyond this time of world chaos!

#### THE PROPHETS

Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel were men called by God to warn the nations of Israel and Judah of severe punishment, if they refused to repent of their sins and obey the true God.

#### ABOUT OUR COVER . . .

Bible prophecy gives God's advance news of the use of nuclear weapons in modern warfare.

Courtesy U.S. Air Force

The prophet Isaiah had a vision (revelation from God) concerning Judah and Jerusalem and the spiritual condition of the nation. He prophesied for over forty years from about 740-700 B.C., in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

Jeremiah prophesied to the nation of Judah from about 625 to 585 B.C., during the reigns of Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin and Zedekiah—a period that covered the last tragic forty years of the kingdom of Judah to the destruction of Jerusalem and the deportation of its inhabitants to Babylon.

Ezekiel prophesied from about 592 to 572 B.C. God called him to be His prophet while a prisoner in a slave camp near the ancient city of Babylon. His prophecies deal primarily with the nation of Israel. But as we will see, his prophecies were intended for their modern-day descendants!

#### A LOOK INTO THE FUTURE

Let's take a look into the books of Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel to see what God inspired these prophets to write about the years just ahead. Using the Bible as a time machine to project us into the future, let's take a brief look at just part of what is prophesied to occur.

Our time machine brings us into a prison camp. It is very large. Armed guards patrol the barbed wire fences surrounding it. The guards, clad in unfamiliar uniforms, are stern in appearance.

In a clearing between several large dirty buildings are two women huddled around a fire. One of them is stirring a large cauldron of boiling soup. A long line of thin, sickly prisoners trudge slowly by as the other woman pours soup into a metal cup held by each prisoner.

These tired and weak prisoners have worked all day in the prison workshop, where they were mistreated by cruel guards. For months they have worked in the same clothing, eaten thin and tasteless soup and rested only a few hours each night.

As we take a closer look, we begin to recognize some of these people. They are Americans, Britons, Canadians, Australians, South Africans and other English-speaking peoples. Then we learn that there are many other prison camps like this one!

But how could this be? How could people from such powerful countries have ended up in prison camps?

Our time machine now moves us across an ocean to the shores of North America. The United States and Canada look completely different! The major cities of both countries are laid waste! The big cities of other countries such as Britain, Australia and South Africa are desolate also.

Instead of cities full of homes, humming factories and freeways, there is nothing but *rubble!* And the city suburbs, formally filled with friendly neighborhoods, have been charred by fire. The green trees, grass and bushes are all burned up!

What could possibly have happened? Are these scenes from some science fiction movie? Unfortunately not!

The major prophets recorded these and other future events in vivid detail. And they will happen because God's Word is true. Thankfully, however, this is only part of the story. There is also much good news beyond this terrible time of death and destruction!

#### THE KEY THAT UNLOCKS PROPHECY TO OUR UNDERSTANDING

The book of Isaiah contains 66 chapters, Jeremiah 52 and Ezekiel 48. In none of these

chapters will you find the United States or Britain ever mentioned by name.

How, then, can we know that the scenes just depicted from the prophecies of these prophets involve these countries?

The vital key that unlocks prophecy to our understanding is knowledge of the astonishing *identity* of the American and British peoples in Biblical prophecies. God has revealed this key to Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, Pastor General of the Worldwide Church of God.

In his book, *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, Mr. Armstrong explains that the United States and Britain have actually descended from the tribes of Manasseh and Ephraim, which at one time were part of the ancient nation of Israel. The United States and Britain, along with certain other nations in the world today, are often collectively referred to as the "house of Israel" in Biblical prophecies. Let's briefly review their history.

The patriarch Jacob, whose name God changed to Israel (Genesis 32:28), was the father of twelve sons. The families of these sons grew large in number and became known as the Twelve Tribes of Israel. Later, after the death of King Solomon, the twelve-tribed nation of Israel split into two separate nations.

The southern nation, with its capital at Jerusalem, became known as the house of Judah. And the people of the house of Judah became known as Jews.

The northern nation, with its capital at Samaria, was called the house of Israel. It consisted of ten tribes, headed by Ephraim and Manasseh. These two leading tribes were descended from Joseph, son of the patriarch Jacob (Genesis 46:20).

Because of the sins of Sabbath-breaking and idolatry, God allowed the nation of Israel (the northern ten tribes) to be conquered by the Assyrians. The Assyrians conquered these tribes in the years 721-718 B.C. and took them captive from the land of Palestine to Assyria. But not until God had warned them by His servants the prophets, as II Kings 17:22-23 shows:



After the death of Solomon, ancient Israel became divided into the houses of Israel and Judah.

"For the children of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he did; they departed not from them; Until the LORD removed Israel out of his sight, as he had said by all his servants the prophets."

As Mr. Armstrong's book explains, the people of the house of Israel migrated west and northwest into Western Europe, settling in the areas now known as France, Belgium, Holland, the Scandinavian countries and the British Isles. From there, many later journeyed to North America and to the areas around the world that became British colonies. About 130 years after the ten-tribed nation of Israel had been taken captive, the nation of Judah went into captivity. This occurred in stages, during the years 604-585 B.C. when the Babylonian army, under King Nebuchadnezzar, invaded and conquered the nation. These people, the Jews, were later allowed to return to Palestine, where many of their descendants live even to this very day. They are of the house of Judah, *not* the house of "Israel," as the name of the modern Jewish state implies.

#### THE SABBATH COVENANT—A SPECIAL SIGN OF IDENTIFICATION

In the days of Moses, God made a special, eternally binding *covenant* (agreement) with the children of Israel (Exodus 31:12-17). Read verses 12-13 and fill in the blanks: "And the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ spake unto Moses, saying, Speak thou also unto the children of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, saying, Verily my \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ye \_\_\_\_\_\_; for it is a \_\_\_\_\_\_ between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that I am the LORD that doth \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ you."

God commanded the Israelites to keep His Sabbaths. The seventh day Sabbath is a *sign* identifying the Creator God. The Sabbath, which God's people keep today, is a memorial or reminder that points back to the creation and its Creator. Those who properly observe it are kept in the true knowledge and true worship of the true God. Sabbath-keeping is also a *sign* identifying the true people of God.

The children of Israel agreed to keep the Sabbath. But what did they do? Let's notice what God inspired Ezekiel to write: "Wherefore I caused them to go forth out of the land of Egypt, and brought them into the wilderness. And I gave them my statutes, and shewed them my judgments, which if a man do, he shall even live in them. Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the LORD that sanctify them" (Ezekiel 20:10-12). Now notice verse 13: "But the house of Israel rebelled against me in the wilderness: they walked not in my statutes, and they despised my judgments... and my sabbaths they greatly polluted."

Then God pleaded with their children, a generation later: "But I said unto their children in the wilderness, Walk ye not in the statutes of your fathers, neither observe their judgments, nor defile yourselves with their idols: I am the LORD your God; walk in my statutes, and keep my judgments, and do them; And hallow my sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I am the LORD your God. Notwithstanding the children rebelled against me . . . they *polluted my sabbaths* . . . and their eyes were after their fathers' idols" (verses 18-21, 24).

So, generations later, God finally scattered the people of Israel in captivity as punishment for their sins, primarly Sabbath-breaking and idolatry.

#### EZEKIEL'S MESSAGE FOR THE MODERN-DAY HOUSE OF ISRAEL

The prophet Ezekiel was commissioned by God to go to the house of Israel with an important message. "Go speak unto the house of Israel," said God (Ezekiel 3:1). And again: "Go, get thee unto the house of Israel" (verse 4).

But when Ezekiel received the message from God, he was one of the many Jews who had been taken captive by Nebuchadnezzar and deported to Babylonia. Ezekiel was in a slave camp by the River Chebar, near the ancient city of Babylon (Ezekiel 1:1). He was far from the area where the northern ten tribes of the house of Israel had been taken captive about 130 years earlier, and still farther from where many of the Israelites had since migrated.

Ezekiel never took that message to the house of Israel. He couldn't. He was a prisoner.

Thus the message God gave to Ezekiel is a prophecy intended primarily for the *modern*-

day house of Israel—especially the British and American peoples today!

### Do You Remember?

- 1. What books of the Bible are called the major prophets? \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_,
- 2. What is the vital key that unlocks Bible prophecy to our understanding? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. For what two major sins did God punish the house of Israel?
- 4. When was the house of Israel taken into captivity by the Assyrians?
- 5. How long after the house of Israel went into captivity was the house of Judah taken captive? \_\_\_\_\_\_.
- 6. Whom did God use to conquer the house of Judah? \_\_\_\_\_.
- 7. To whom were the prophecies of Ezekiel primarily addressed?

#### THE U.S. AND BRITAIN TO BE PUNISHED

The United States and Great Britain began rapidly growing into great national powers at the beginning of the 19th Century. These two nations became the richest and most powerful the world had ever seen. But such wealth and power were not accidental.

They came about as a result of the promises God made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Because of Abraham's faithfulness and obedience to God, God promised to greatly bless him and his descendants. God later reconfirmed these promises to his son Isaac, and then to his grandson Jacob.

Recall that Joseph was one of Jacob's sons. It was upon Joseph's sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, that the patriarch Israel (Jacob) placed his name, and to whom the birthright promises of national greatness and wealth were



God fulfilled His promises to obedient Abraham by greatly blessing his modern-day descendants.

bestowed (Genesis 48). And as a careful study of history shows, the modern-day descendants of Ephraim and Manasseh—formerly the leading tribes of the house of Israel—are Britain and the United States today.

Although greatly blessed materially, the people of the United States and Britain have not acknowledged God as the source of their blessings. They have not been grateful. Instead of thanking God, they have rejected Him and His law. The same is true of the descendants of the other tribes of Israel.

In describing the people of ancient Israel and Judah, the prophet Ezekiel foretold of <i>their</i> <i>descendants today:</i> "Then said he [God] unto me, The of the house of
and is
, and the land is, and the city
full of: for they say, The
LORD hath forsaken the earth, and the LORD seeth not. And as for me also, mine eye , neither will I
have, but I will
upon their head"
(Ezekiel 9:9-10).

The northern ten tribes of Israel went into captivity and lost their identity because of idolatry and Sabbath-breaking. And prophecy shows that the United States, Britain and other descendants of the tribes of Israel will soon suffer a much worse captivity and punishment because of these and other terrible sins. Modern-day Judah (the state of Israel) will also be punished.

#### PROPHETS ACT OUT THE FUTURE

As we have learned, God used His servants, the prophets, to warn the houses of Israel and Judah of coming punishment. A number of times He had His prophets perform unusual tasks to get the people's attention and to emphasize the importance of His warning messages. Let's notice a few of the strange things God required Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel to do.

In Ezekiel 5:1-2 we read of the prophecy of thirds: "And thou, son of man, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, take thee a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and cause it to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ upon thine \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and upon thy \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: then take thee \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to weigh, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the hair. "Thou shalt \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ part in the midst of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, when the days of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are fulfilled: and thou shalt take a \_\_\_\_\_\_ part, and \_\_\_\_\_\_ about it with a \_\_\_\_\_\_: and a \_\_\_\_\_\_ part thou shalt \_\_\_\_\_\_ in the wind; and I will draw out a \_\_\_\_\_\_ after them."

Ezekiel's actions were to picture what would happen to the descendants of the tribes of Israel, especially the United States and Britain, *in the very near future*. According to the interpretation of the prophecy of thirds in verse 12, one third of the people will die of famine and disease. Another third will perish in a military attack. The remaining third will be taken captive as slaves into all parts of the earth.

There will be *no escape* for those who continue to rebel against God and trample His law. There will be no place of refuge or safety—no hiding place from the punishment of God. "He that is \_\_\_\_\_\_ off shall \_\_\_\_\_\_ the mean off the \_\_\_\_\_\_; and he that is \_\_\_\_\_\_ by the \_\_\_\_\_\_; and he that \_\_\_\_\_\_ and is \_\_\_\_\_\_ shall die by the \_\_\_\_\_\_; thus will I \_\_\_\_\_\_ my \_\_\_\_\_ upon them" (Ezekiel 6:12).

Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel not only prophesied the future of Israel and Judah, they also foretold what would happen to many other nations. Most of these nations are referred to in the Bible by their ancient names, though a few have retained their original names to this day. A number of these prophecies concern Assyria or modern Germany (Isaiah 14:25), Egypt and Ethiopia (Isaiah 19 and 20), and other nations. (Read in Isaiah 20:2-4 what God required Isaiah to do in prophesying against the nations of Egypt and Ethiopia.)

Let's notice another unusual task God commanded Ezekiel to perform. God told him to lie on his left side for \_\_\_\_\_\_ days, and then to lie on his right side for \_\_\_\_\_\_ days (Ezekiel 4:4-6). This was to impress on the prophet Ezekiel, and those who saw him, the seriousness of Israel's and Judah's years of rebellion against God's rule and His law. God also had a strange task for the prophet Jeremiah. God told him to take off his girdle (undergarment) and bury it. After many days, God told Jeremiah to dig it up. Notice in Jeremiah 13:7 the condition in which he found it: "The \_\_\_\_\_\_ was \_\_\_\_\_\_ [ruined], it was \_\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_\_." What did this symbolize? Notice verse 9: "After this \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will I \_\_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_\_, and the great \_\_\_\_\_\_ of

God was showing that He would punish the house of Judah for its sins!

#### THE PURPOSE FOR THIS PUNISHMENT

Notice again why God will allow the modern-day descendants of Israel to be punished. Turn to Ezekiel 5:6 (second half): "For they have \_\_\_\_\_\_ and my \_\_\_\_\_\_, they have not \_\_\_\_\_\_ in them." Then continuing in Ezekiel 6:11: "Alas for all the evil \_\_\_\_\_\_ of the house of Israel! for they shall fall."

The modern descendants of all the tribes of ancient Israel have refused to obey God. They have turned their backs on the commandments of God. They have refused to live according to God's *law* which produces peace and prosperity in the lives of those who keep it.

As a result, they will be severely punished. This time of great punishment is called the *great tribulation* in Matthew 24:21. In Jeremiah 30:7, God inspired His servant to prophesy of this time: "Alas! for that day is \_\_\_\_\_\_, so that \_\_\_\_\_\_ is like it: it is even the \_\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_\_.

Notice in Ezekiel 6:6 how God describes the condition of their once-great cities during this time of trouble: "In all your \_\_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ shall be \_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_, and the high places shall be

Sounds like nuclear destruction, doesn't it?



Cities will be "laid waste"-totally destroyedduring the great tribulation.

This could never have happened until the discovery of the hydrogen bomb!

God will send this punishment upon the modern-day descendants of Israel not because He hates them but because of His great love for His people. "For whom the \_\_\_\_\_ he \_\_\_\_\_' (Hebrews 12:6).

Although this punishment will be difficult to endure, it will produce good results in the end, as Hebrews 12:11 shows: "Now no \_\_\_\_\_ for the \_\_\_\_\_ seemeth to be \_\_\_\_\_; but \_\_\_\_\_: nevertheless afterward it \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ fruit of \_\_\_\_\_\_ unto them which are \_\_\_\_\_ thereby."

After this correction or chastening, those left of the nations of Israel will turn to God and begin to reap the blessings of obedience to Him!

#### DELIVERANCE FROM CAPTIVITY AT **CHRIST'S RETURN**

When the modern-day descendants of

ancient Israel repent, they will cry out to God for deliverance (Psalm 126:4). He will hear their repentant prayers and will send Jesus Christ to the earth to deliver them from captivity.

At Christ's return, there will be a great battle between Christ and the nations that will be holding the people of Israel as slaves (Zechariah 14:12; Revelation 17:14; 19:19). Jesus Christ will win that battle and begin His rule on earth. He will then free the people of Israel and Judah from their captivity (Jeremiah 30:10).

Notice what Isaiah 11:11 says about this time of deliverance: "And it shall \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_, that the Lord shall set his \_\_\_\_\_ again the time to \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of his people, which shall be left, from \_\_\_\_\_, and from \_\_\_\_\_ and from Pathros... and from the islands of the sea."

God will greatly bless those who survive the captivity and live on into the World Tomorrow (Jeremiah 23:3). There will be joy and singing when God brings His people to the land of their ancient ancestors (Isaiah 51:11).

The prophecies in Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel give us a glimpse of what the wonderful World Tomorrow will be like. It will be a time of peace, not just for Israel and Judah, but for Egypt, Assyria and the entire world because the Government of God will have been established over the nations! All nations will become submissive and obedient to Christ (Isaiah 2:1-4).

Speaking of the Millennial rule of Jesus Christ, Isaiah declared, "The earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea" (Isaiah 11:9). During the Millennium, God will teach mankind His laws that produce happiness, joy and great abundance.

The devastated cities will be rebuilt and inhabited (Ezekiel 36:33-35). And people will be happy in these cities (Jeremiah 33:10-14). Young children will be able to play in the streets unsupervised, without fear of being hurt or kidnapped.

Everyone will enjoy good health. People will no longer suffer from the diseases that are so common in today's society (Isaiah 35:3-6; Jeremiah 30:17).

In the World Tomorrow there will be great prosperity and abundance. There will be great rejoicing. No longer will people suffer from hunger or die from malnutrition. Notice what Isaiah 35:1 says about the deserts: "The desert shall rejoice, and \_\_\_\_\_\_." Thus, there will be a superabundance of food for all people everywhere to enjoy! (Jeremiah 31:12; Amos 9:13.)

God will even change the natures of wild animals, as we find in Isaiah 11:6: "The



The devastated cities will be rebuilt after Jesus Christ returns to earth.

also shall w	ith
the, and the sh	all
lie down with the; and the;	
and the young and the	
together; and a little shall le	ad
them."	

#### **PROPHECY OF THE SAVIOR**

Along with the prophecies of war, captivity and world peace, God inspired a special prophetic message to be written. In Isaiah 7:14 we read: "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a \_\_\_\_\_\_; Behold, a \_\_\_\_\_\_ shall \_\_\_\_\_\_, and bear a \_\_\_\_\_\_, and shall call his name

This was a prophecy about the first coming of Jesus Christ. In order for God to bring about the many wonderful things He has planned for mankind in the Millennium and beyond, a Savior had to first come.

Man has sinned greatly against his Creator. Sin exacts a terrible penalty. Not only does it cause unhappiness, it also carries with it the penalty of eternal death—unless repented of (Acts 2:38; Romans 6:23).

Jesus Christ (the "Word" of John 1:1) came to earth to pay the penalty of the sins of all mankind. His willingness to do this shows His great love for humanity.

God inspired the prophet Isaiah to foretell
the brutal death of our Savior. Notice Isaiah
52:14: "As many were [aston-
ished] at thee; his [appearance]
was so more than any
, and his more
than the of men."
than the of men."

In Isaiah 53:3 we find a further description of the way our Savior would be treated: "He is \_\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_; a with \_\_\_\_\_: and we \_\_\_\_\_ as it were our \_\_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_; he was \_\_\_\_\_\_, and we

The gruesome sacrifice of Christ shows that

God takes sin very seriously. Some may think that sending people into slavery is cruel punishment for breaking God's commandments. But God wants us all to learn the grave consequences of sin, and that the ultimate penalty of sin is *eternal death*. The second member of the very God Family became a human being to pay that penalty for us!

In future lessons you will learn more about the prophecies concerning Christ and the penalty He willingly paid for the sins of mankind. Because of Jesus Christ, all who have ever lived, including the people of ancient Israel, will have had an opportunity to experience the glorious future foretold in Isaiah chapters 2, 4, 11, 65 and elsewhere.

#### YOU CAN ESCAPE THE COMING CAPTIVITY!

As we have seen in this lesson, the major prophets—Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel—deal mainly with prophecies of war and captivity. But, just as Noah and his family were divinely protected from the Flood that erased all life from the face of the earth, God promises to spare all those who individually turn from their sins and live God's way of life.

Those who yield to God's will by trusting and obeying Him can be *spared* the corrective punishment that will come in the days just ahead! Let's notice an important characteristic of those who will be spared from these frightful calamities.

God gave the prophet Ezekiel a vision (recorded in chapter 9) regarding the fall of the ancient city Jerusalem, which is a *type* of the fall of the modern-day houses of Israel and Judah. In the vision Ezekiel saw six men bearing weapons of slaughter in their hands. Another man held a writing implement. God instructed the man with the writing implement to go through the midst of Jerusalem and, "\_\_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_ upon the

of	the .	 t	hat
and	that	 	for
the		 that	be

in the midst thereof" (verse 4). To the six armed men God instructed: "Go ye after him [the man with the writing implement] through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity...but come not near any man upon whom is the mark" (verses 5-6).

In this passage, Ezekiel is showing that those who "sigh and cry" (lament) over the abominations (terrible sins) of the world will be protected!

You personally can escape God's correction upon this world! If you heed God's warning and are sincerely trying to obey Him and honor your parents to the best of your ability, you will be spared. For God is aware of young people as well as adults. He can see your earnest desire to please Him and obey His law. As Solomon, king of Israel, wrote in Proverbs 20:11: "Even a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_\_ by his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, whether his \_\_\_\_\_\_ be \_\_\_\_\_\_, and whether it be

God promises protection from the coming great tribulation to the members of His Church and their children. His Church is composed of people who keep His commandments and love one another. In fact, the present era of God's Church is called Philadelphia, which means

#### COMPLETE THE WORD OR PHRASE

Use all the letters of the alphabet, except "x," to complete the following words or phrases. Use each letter only once. After filling in the blanks, write a short paragraph about each subject on a separate sheet of paper.

S\_\_bbath is a si\_\_n

Ma\_or \_\_roph\_ts

Pr\_\_phec\_\_ o\_\_ hi\_\_\_s

E\_\_\_e\_\_iel

I \_\_ill \_\_a\_\_e t\_\_ee fro\_\_ afar (Jer. 30:10) Ja\_\_o\_\_ shal\_\_ return, and shall be \_\_n rest, a\_\_d be \_\_\_iet (Jer. 30:10) "brotherly love." This era of God's Church keeps God's Word and does not deny His name (Revelation 3:8).

Read God's promise of protection to the Philadelphia era of His Church in Revelation 3:10: "Because \_\_\_\_\_\_ hast kept the \_\_\_\_\_\_ of my \_\_\_\_\_\_, I also will \_\_\_\_\_\_ thee from the \_\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ [the great tribulation], which shall come upon all the \_\_\_\_\_\_, to \_\_\_\_\_\_ them that \_\_\_\_\_\_ upon the \_\_\_\_\_\_."

Britain and America and other descendants of ancient Israel will not be the only nations to suffer God's corrective punishment. The rest of the world will be punished with the plagues during the "day of the Lord" because all mankind has rejected God and His ways. But the modern-day houses of Israel and Judah will be the first to receive correction—and later be the first to be delivered (Ezekiel 36:7-11).

In the end, all the news is good! All nations will eventually learn the lesson God is teaching—that His way of life is the only way that produces peace and prosperity! The end result will be the utopian World Tomorrow with global peace and abundance for all!

#### Do You Remember?

- 1. Why did God have some of His prophets perform unusual tasks \_\_\_\_\_\_
- 2. In the prophecy of thirds, what does each third represent? \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_,
- 3. Why are the United States and Britain powerful nations today?
- 4. What is prophesied to occur to the modern-day descendants of ancient Israel?
- 5. Why will God punish these nations?
- 6. What will Jesus Christ do after returning

to the earth? \_\_\_\_\_

7. What will conditions be like in the Millennium?

8. What must young people be doing in order to receive God's protection from the coming great tribulation?

\_\_\_\_\_

- 9. What is the principle discussed in Proverbs 20:11?
- 10. What is God's promise to those in the Philadelphia era of His Church?

BREAK THE CODE
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"TH3 H32RT 4S D3C34F6L
2B5V3 2LL TH4NGS, 2ND
D3SP3R2T3LY W4CK3D: WH5
?'' C2N KN5W 4T?'' (Jeremiah 17:9.) (CODE: A-2, E-3, I-4, O-5, U-6)
" <u> </u>
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CEEPA HETER HALLS EB ON

#### EDITOR IN CHIEF: Herbert W. Armstrong

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#### BIBLE MEMORY Micah 4:1-5



ETHIOPIA SAVIOR SIGN

BABYLON JUDAH JEREMIAH ISRAEL EGYPT EZEKIEL GIRDLE ASSYRIA ISAIAH

## WORD SEARCH

Find the words listed below in the word search puzzle. Then, on a separate sheet of paper, write a short paragraph about each of these words.

	A	L	N	0	L	Y	В	A	в	D
		S	A	ŀ	Α	н	В	С	G	н
	P	L	н	A	I	М	Е	R	Е	J
J	ο	S	Α	v	I	0	R	L	Ι	U
	1	С	т	Ρ	Y	G	Ε	J	к	D
	н	I	М	F	Е	Α	D	Q	Е	Α
	т	F	L	Ρ	R	S	н	R	D	н
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	т	в	Е	L	D	R	1	G	0	G
	s	Е	z	Е	К	I	Е	L	Х	D
	Р	0	I	Z	U	A	Ν	G	I	S