

THE DECLINE OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE OTHER NATIONS OF THIS WORLD

We suggest you carefully read the things we share in this paper since they will affect the quality of our days on this earth as well as the quality of our life in the world to come.

The Last Days

"¹⁶ The Lord himself will come down from heaven. There will be a loud command with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God. And those who have died and were in Christ will rise first.¹⁷ After that, those who are still alive at that time will be gathered up with them. We will be taken up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And we will be with the Lord forever.¹⁸ So comfort each other with these words." 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 (International Children's Bible)

The last days before the Catching Up (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 printed above) will become a time of loss, affliction and trouble for most of the people living on this earth. We will detail how the Lord will bring this about later in this paper. The procedure is listed in the third chapter of the book of Isaiah.

When we read God's messages of coming destruction to the nations, we must ask the question, "Why did the Lord send messages to different nations warning them about the things He was about to do"? The answer is found in Jeremiah 36:1-3. *"¹In the fourth year of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah, this word came to Jeremiah from the LORD:²"Take a scroll and write on it all the words I have spoken to you concerning Israel, Judah **and all the other nations** from the time I began speaking to you in the reign of Josiah till now.³Perhaps when the people of Judah hear about every disaster I plan to inflict on them, each of them will turn from his wicked way; then I will forgive their wickedness and their sin." New International Version*

The Lord's purpose was to get them to return from their evil way so He might forgive them and heal their land. When you read the message God sent to Judah in the

third chapter of Isaiah, please remember His words are applicable to all people of all nations including the nation you are living in.

When the third chapter of the book of Isaiah kicks into high gear, the unrighteous will find those in government will be enacting laws and rules that restrict or deny their rights. Eventually they will see their wealth transferred to the government through taxes and/or inflation or their wealth transferred to others who are manipulating the economy. Even when they go to court because someone cheated them, stole their possessions or stole their wealth, they will get little or no justice from the judges who sit on the bench.

One calamity will follow another as the Lord takes away the things listed in the third chapter of Isaiah and the people will not be able to understand why everything is falling apart. They will not discern that what is happening to them is recompense for their own actions.

“⁷ Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. ⁸ For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. ⁹ And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. ” Galatians 6:7-9 King James Version

*¹ My dear friends, this is the second letter I have written to encourage you to **do some honest thinking**. I don't want you to forget ² what God's prophets said would happen. You must never forget what the holy prophets taught in the past. And you must remember what the apostles told you our Lord and Savior has commanded us to do. ³ But first you must realize that **in the last days some people won't think about anything except their own selfish desires. They will make fun of you ⁴ and say, "Didn't your Lord promise to come back? Yet the first leaders have already died, and the world hasn't changed a bit."** ⁵ They will say this because they want to forget that long ago the heavens and the earth were made at God's command. The earth came out of water and was made from water. ⁶ Later it was destroyed by the waters of a mighty flood. ⁷ But God has commanded the present heavens and earth to remain until the day of judgment. Then they will be set on fire, and ungodly people will be destroyed. ⁸ Dear friends, don't forget that for the Lord one day is the same as a thousand years, and a thousand years is the same as one day. ⁹ The Lord isn't slow about keeping his promises, as some people*

think he is. In fact, God is patient, because he wants everyone to turn from sin and no one to be lost. ¹⁰ The day of the Lord's return will surprise us like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a loud noise, and the heat will melt the whole universe. Then the earth and everything on it will be seen for what they are. ¹¹ Everything will be destroyed. So you should serve and honor God by the way you live. ¹² You should look forward to the day when God judges everyone, and you should try to make it come soon. On that day the heavens will be destroyed by fire, and everything else will melt in the heat. ¹³ But God has promised us **a new heaven** and **a new earth**, where justice will rule. We are really looking forward to that! ¹⁴ **My friends, while you are waiting, you should make certain that the Lord finds you pure, spotless, and living at peace.** ¹⁵ Don't forget that the Lord is patient because he wants people to be saved. This is also what our dear friend Paul said when he wrote you with the wisdom that God had given him. ¹⁶ Paul talks about these same things in all his letters, but part of what he says is hard to understand. Some ignorant and unsteady people even destroy themselves by **twisting** what he said. They do the same thing with other Scriptures too. ¹⁷ My dear friends, you have been warned ahead of time! So don't let the errors of evil people lead you down the wrong path and make you lose your balance. ¹⁸ Let the wonderful kindness and the understanding that come from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ help you to keep on growing. Praise Jesus now and forever! Amen." 2 Peter 3:1-18 (Contemporary English Version)

Our Debt

Each of us will eventually stand before a Living God. Most will stand before Him at the White Throne Judgment. The White Throne Judgment will be to decide how much punishment the person will receive through eternity in order to pay the sin debt they owe. The sin debt they owe depends upon the sins they committed while they lived on this earth. That is why we suggest that if a person is going to reject the only other offer to pay their sin debt, HIMSELF, they sin as little as possible because they will have to pay for every individual sin in Gehenna (the Lake of Fire) for eternity.

"For there is no difference; ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God," Romans 3:23 King James Version

“²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23 King James Version

Please note that according to Romans 6:23 (printed above), a person can avoid paying the sin debt they accumulated if Jesus Christ pays it for them. How and when does Jesus Christ pay our sin debt? When we go to Him in prayer, ask forgiveness for our sins and ask the payment He gave on Calvary, pay the sin debt we owe. Most will not take advantage of Christ’s generous offer and will have to appear before Christ at the White Throne Judgment. Books will be opened which detail every sin they committed while they were on this earth. Again, we suggest that if you intend to reject Christ’s offer, and you intend to try to work for your salvation by living a good life or joining a church or even getting baptized, you sin as little as possible since every sin requires a payment.

“¹Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. ¹²And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. ¹³The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done... ¹⁴Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. ¹⁵If anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.” Revelation 20:11-15 New International Version

“¹Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ²I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” ⁵He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true”. ⁶He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I

*will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life.” Revelation 21:1-6
New International Version*

Each of us chooses where we will spend eternity. How can we drink, without cost, from the spring of the water of life? How can we have our name recorded in the Book of Life? What is God’s plan of salvation from the Lake of Fire? We can know God’s true plan of salvation if we just find the answer to one question.

How Were The People In The Old Testament Days Saved?

They could not have been saved by keeping the Ten Commandments because James 2:10 says that if we only commit one sin during our entire lifetime, God holds us accountable as if we broke all His laws. ¹⁰*“For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all”*. In Galatians 3:11 we find ¹¹*“But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for the just shall live by faith.”*

They could not have been saved because they lived in a different dispensation because we are all living in the dispensation of Grace. Everyone who has been saved or will be saved, will be saved because of the grace (unmerited favor) of God.

⁸*“But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD”, Genesis 6:8 King James Version*

In fact, we find in Galatians 3:8 ⁸*“And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, “In you all the nations shall be blessed.” King James Version*

We find Jesus Christ saying in John 8:56-58, ⁵⁶*“Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad. ⁵⁷Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham? ⁵⁸Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.” King James Version*

Also, Acts 15:1-11 teaches the people of the circumcision (the Jews) were saved by grace just as we are. In Acts 15:11 we find, ¹¹*“No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are”*. *New International Version*

²⁰ *“For no human being can be justified in God's sight by means of the works prescribed by the Law. For through the Law comes the full knowledge of sin. ²¹ But now,*

apart from the Law, God's righteousness is revealed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets—²² God's righteousness through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction,²³ since all have sinned and continue to fall short of God's glory.²⁴ By his grace they are justified freely through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,²⁵ whom God offered as a place where atonement by Christ's blood could occur through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because he had waited patiently to deal with sins committed in the past.²⁶ He wanted to demonstrate at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the person who has the faith of Jesus." Romans 3:20-26 (International Standard Version)

*"⁷ And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them. ⁸ But Noah found **grace** in the eyes of the LORD." Genesis 6:7-8 (King James Version)*

This fact is also taught in Romans 4:1-25 and Romans 5:1-21 just to name a few.

Hebrews 10:1-4 says the blood of bulls and goats cannot take away sins. It did not pay their sin debt nor will it pay our sin debt. Therefore, they were not saved by offering animal or bird sacrifices.

They did not "join a church" because there was no church to join.

They did not "get baptized" because there was no one who had the authority to baptize them. Only John the Baptist and Jesus Christ were given the authority to baptize. John the Baptist could not pass his authority down to his disciples but Jesus Christ could and did pass His authority down to His disciples. At the beginning of His earthly ministry, Jesus Christ authorized His disciples to baptize those who wanted to be members of the local church in Jerusalem that He established. He passed down that authority down before John the Baptist was murdered. "¹ Therefore, when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John ² (though Jesus Himself did not baptize, but His disciples), ³ He left Judea and departed again to Galilee." John 4:1-3 (NKJV)

Their good works did not save them because, in God's eyes, all their good works looked like filthy rags. "⁶ All of us have become like something unclean, and all our

righteous acts are like a polluted garment; all of us wither like a leaf, and our iniquities carry us away like the wind. Isaiah 64:6 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

"⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹not by works, so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2:8-9 New International Version

God had shed the blood of an innocent animal in the Garden of Eden in order to cover the nakedness of Adam and Eve. "²¹ *The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them.*" Genesis 3:21 (New American Standard Bible)

Could Jehovah have clothed their nakedness without sacrificing an innocent animal? Of course, He could. However, God was giving them a reality picture of their need for the sacrifice that His promised Son (the Messiah), Jesus Christ, would give one day in the future. From that day forward, every Patriarch testified about the coming, promised, Messiah each time He offered a sacrifice to Jehovah.

As the innocent animal was dying, the people of the Old Testament went to God in prayer and asked forgiveness of their sins. While looking **forward** in faith, they asked that the sacrifice the innocent Son of God would give one day in the future pay the sin debt they owed God. Every sin has to be paid for by either the Messiah or by each of us. Each time a saved Patriarch was asked by his friends and family why he was sacrificing animals and birds, he was to explain the gospel to them. He was to tell them about the death of the coming Messiah and he was to invite them to repent of their own sins and accept the coming Messiah as their personal Savior. It did not take them any more faith to believe He would die then it takes us to believe He has died. All are saved by faith in Christ because of the grace (the unmerited favor) of God.

"¹ What then shall we say that Abraham, our earthly forefather, has gained? ² For if he was held to be righteous on the ground of his actions, he has something to boast of; but not in the presence of God. ³ For what says the Scripture? "AND ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND THIS WAS PLACED TO HIS CREDIT AS RIGHTEOUSNESS."⁴ But in the case of a man who works, pay is not reckoned a favour but a debt; ⁵ whereas in the case of a man who pleads no actions of his own, but simply believes in Him who declares the ungodly free from guilt, his faith is placed to his credit as righteousness. ⁶ In this way David also tells of the blessedness of the man to whose

credit God places righteousness, apart from his actions.⁷ "BLESSED," he says, "ARE THOSE WHOSE INIQUITIES HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN, AND WHOSE SINS HAVE BEEN COVERED OVER."⁸ BLESSED IS THE MAN OF WHOSE SIN THE LORD WILL NOT TAKE ACCOUNT."⁹ This declaration of blessedness, then, does it come simply to the circumcised, or to the uncircumcised as well? For ABRAHAM'S FAITH—so we affirm—WAS PLACED TO HIS CREDIT AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.¹⁰ What then were the circumstances under which this took place? Was it after he had been circumcised, or before?¹¹ Before, not after. And he received circumcision as a sign, a mark attesting the reality of the faith-righteousness which was his while still uncircumcised, that he might be the forefather of all those who believe even though they are uncircumcised—in order that this righteousness might be placed to their credit;¹² and the forefather of the circumcised, namely of those who not merely are circumcised, but also walk in the steps of the faith which our forefather Abraham had while he was as yet uncircumcised.¹³ Again, the promise that he should inherit the world did not come to Abraham or his posterity conditioned by Law, but by faith-righteousness.¹⁴ For if it is the righteous through Law who are heirs, then faith is useless and the promise counts for nothing.¹⁵ For the Law inflicts punishment; but where no Law exists, there can be no violation of Law.¹⁶ All depends on faith, and for this reason—that acceptance with God might be an act of pure grace,¹⁷ so that the promise should be made sure to all Abraham's true descendants; not merely to those who are righteous through the Law, but to those who are righteous through a faith like that of Abraham. Thus in the sight of God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and makes reference to things that do not exist, as though they did, Abraham is the forefather of all of us. As it is written, "I HAVE APPOINTED YOU TO BE THE FOREFATHER OF MANY NATIONS."¹⁸ Under utterly hopeless circumstances he hopefully believed, so that he might become the forefather of many nations, in agreement with the words "EQUALLY NUMEROUS SHALL YOUR POSTERITY BE."¹⁹ And, without growing weak in faith, he could contemplate his own vital powers which had now decayed—for he was nearly 100 years old—and Sarah's barrenness.²⁰ Nor did he in unbelief stagger at God's promise, but became mighty in faith, giving glory to God,²¹ and being absolutely certain that whatever promise He is bound by He is able also to make good.

²² For this reason also his faith WAS PLACED TO HIS CREDIT AS RIGHTEOUSNESS. ²³ Nor was the fact of its being placed to his credit put on record for his sake only; ²⁴ it was for our sakes too. Faith, before long, will be placed to the credit of us also who are believers in Him who raised Jesus, our Lord, from the dead, ²⁵ who was surrendered to death because of the offences we had committed, and was raised to life because of the acquittal secured for us." Romans 4:1-25 (Weymouth New Testament) The age or Dispensation of Grace will last from the time of Adam and Eve to the last person who will take advantage of God's glorious plan of salvation (before we go back into unmeasured time, that is to say, eternity).

What Must Be Done?

We pray you have taken advantage of God's glorious plan of salvation. However, this paper was prepared with the hope we might observe what is happening around us **right now** and to help us understand what must be done if we expect to postpone the certain destruction that will be brought upon the citizens of this earth in the last days before the Catching Up. We can postpone the destruction a little longer, just as the people of Nineveh postponed the destruction of their city during Jonah's day.

"¹ The LORD spoke his word to Jonah again and said, ² "Get up, go to the great city Nineveh, and preach to it what I tell you to say." ³ So Jonah obeyed the LORD and got up and went to Nineveh. It was a very large city; just to walk across it took a person three days. ⁴ After Jonah had entered the city and walked for one day, he preached to the people, saying, "After forty days, Nineveh will be destroyed!" ⁵ The people of Nineveh believed God. They announced that they would stop eating for a while, and they put on rough cloth to show their sadness. All the people in the city did this, from the most important to the least important. ⁶ When the king of Nineveh heard this news, he got up from his throne, took off his robe, and covered himself with rough cloth and sat in ashes to show how upset he was. ⁷ He sent this announcement through Nineveh: By command of the king and his important men: No person or animal, herd or flock, will be allowed to taste anything. Do not let them eat food or drink water. ⁸ But every person and animal should be covered with rough cloth, and people should cry loudly to (אֱלֹהִים - Eloheem,

The Three Mighty Ones) God. Everyone must turn away from evil living and stop doing harm all the time. ⁹ Who knows? Maybe God will change his mind. Maybe he will stop being angry, and then we will not die. ¹⁰ When God saw what the people did, that they stopped doing evil, he changed his mind and did not do what he had warned. He did not punish them. *Jonah 3:1-10 (New Century Version)*

Jesus Said Destruction Is Coming!

¹Jesus left the temple and was walking away when his disciples came up to him to call his attention to its buildings. ²“Do you see all these things?” he asked. “I tell you the truth, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down.” ³As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. “Tell us,” they said, (1) “when will this happen, and (2) what will be the sign of your coming and (3-what will be the sign) of the end of the age?”

⁴Jesus answered, “Watch out that no one deceives you. ⁵For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Christ (the messiah, your savior),’ and will deceive many. ⁶You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. ⁷Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines (destitution—a scarcity of food) and earthquakes in various places. ⁸All these are the beginning of birth pains. ⁹“Then you (the saved) will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. ¹⁰At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, ¹¹and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. ¹²Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, ¹³but he who stands firm to the end will be saved (be delivered or protected). ¹⁴And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. ¹⁵“So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation spoken of through the prophet Daniel (Daniel 9:27; Daniel 11:36-45; Daniel 12:1-13) — let the reader understand—¹⁶then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. ¹⁷Let no one on the roof of his house go down to take anything out of the house. ¹⁸Let no one in the field go back to get his cloak. ¹⁹How dreadful it will be in

those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! ²⁰*Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath.* ²¹*For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again.* ²²*If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect, those days will be shortened.* ²³*At that time if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or, ‘There he is!’ do not believe it.* ²⁴*For false christs (messiahs) and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect—if that were possible.* ²⁵*See, I have told you ahead of time.* ²⁶*“So if anyone tells you, ‘There he is, out in the desert,’ do not go out; or, ‘Here he is, in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it.* ²⁷*For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.* ²⁸*Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather.* ²⁹*Immediately after the distress of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’* ³⁰*“At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory.* ³¹*And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.* ³²*“Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near.* ³³*Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door.* ³⁴*I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened.* ³⁵*Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.* ³⁶*“No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.* ³⁷*As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.* ³⁸*For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; ³⁹and they knew (perceived or were aware of) nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.* ⁴⁰*Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left.* ⁴¹*Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.* ⁴²*“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.* ⁴³*But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have*

kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him. ⁴⁵“Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? ⁴⁶It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns. ⁴⁷I tell you the truth, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. ⁴⁸But suppose that servant is wicked and says to himself, ‘My master is staying away a long time,’ ⁴⁹and he then begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards. ⁵⁰The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. ⁵¹He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” *Matthew 24 New International Versions*

When The Lord Has Enough

There comes a time in a nation’s life (and sometimes in a church’s life) that the Lord says, “Enough is enough”. When He does, He withdraws the sevenfold blessings of His Spirit (*Revelation 1:4; 3:1; 4:5; 5:6 and Isaiah 11:1-2*) and the **nation** or the **church** begins a downward spiral few survive (*Hosea 4:1-9*). Their only hope is to turn back to the Lord in repentance and to begin to follow and to teach His laws again as King Solomon pointed out in his prayer at the dedication of the Temple.

³⁰“And hearken thou to the supplication of thy servant, and of thy people Israel, when they shall pray toward this place: and hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place: and when thou hearest, forgive. ³¹If any man trespass against his neighbor, and an oath be laid upon him to cause him to swear, and the oath come before thine altar in this house: ³²Then hear thou in heaven, and do, and judge thy servants, condemning the wicked, to bring his way upon his head; and justifying the righteous, to give him according to his righteousness. ³³When thy people Israel be smitten down before the enemy, because they have sinned against thee, and shall turn again to thee, and confess thy name (thy authority), and pray, and make supplication unto thee in this house: ³⁴Then hear thou in heaven, and forgive the sin of thy people Israel, and bring them again unto the land which thou gavest unto their fathers. ³⁵When heaven is shut up, and there is no rain,

because they have sinned against thee; if they pray toward this place, and confess thy name, and turn from their sin, when thou afflictest them: ³⁶Then hear thou in heaven, and forgive the sin of thy servants, and of thy people Israel, that thou teach them the good way wherein they should walk, and give rain upon thy land, which thou hast given to thy people for an inheritance. ³⁷If there be in the land famine, if there be pestilence, blasting, mildew, locust, or if there be caterpillar; if their enemy besiege them in the land of their cities; whatsoever plague, whatsoever sickness there be; ³⁸What prayer and supplication soever be made by any man, or by all thy people Israel, which shall know every man the plague of his own heart, and spread forth his hands toward this house: ³⁹Then hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place, and forgive, and do, and give to every man according to his ways, whose heart thou knowest; (for thou, even thou only, knowest the hearts of all the children of men;) ⁴⁰That they may fear thee all the days that they live in the land which thou gavest unto our fathers. ⁴¹Moreover concerning a stranger, that is not of thy people Israel, but cometh out of a far country for thy name's sake; ⁴²(For they shall hear of thy great name, and of thy strong hand, and of thy stretched out arm;) when he shall come and pray toward this house; ⁴³Hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place, and do according to all that the stranger calleth to thee for: that all people of the earth may know thy name, to fear thee, as do thy people Israel; and that they may know that this house, which I have builded, is called by thy name. ⁴⁴If thy people go out to battle against their enemy, whithersoever thou shalt send them, and shall pray unto the LORD toward the city which thou hast chosen, and toward the house that I have built for thy name: ⁴⁵Then hear thou in heaven their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause. ⁴⁶If they sin against thee, (for there is no man that sinneth not,) and thou be angry with them, and deliver them to the enemy, so that they carry them away captives unto the land of the enemy, far or near; ⁴⁷Yet if they shall bethink themselves in the land whither they were carried captives, and repent, and make supplication unto thee in the land of them that carried them captives, saying, We have sinned, and have done perversely, we have committed wickedness; ⁴⁸And so return unto thee with all their heart, and with all their soul, in the land of their enemies, which led them away captive, and pray unto thee toward their land, which thou gavest unto their fathers, the city which thou hast chosen, and the house which I have built for thy name: ⁴⁹Then hear thou their prayer and their

supplication in heaven thy dwelling place, and maintain their cause, ⁵⁰And forgive thy people that have sinned against thee, and all their transgressions wherein they have transgressed against thee, and give them compassion before them who carried them captive, that they may have compassion on them: ⁵¹For they be thy people, and thine inheritance, which thou broughtest forth out of Egypt, from the midst of the furnace of iron: ⁵²That thine eyes may be open unto the supplication of thy servant, and unto the supplication of thy people Israel, to hearken unto them in all that they call for unto thee. ⁵³For thou didst separate them from among all the people of the earth, to be thine inheritance, as thou spakest by the hand of Moses thy servant, when thou broughtest our fathers out of Egypt, O Lord GOD.” 1 Kings 8:30-53 King James Version

The Lord’s answer to Solomon’s prayer is found in the seventh chapter of 2nd Chronicles. ¹²“Then the LORD appeared to Solomon by night, and said to him: “I have heard your prayer, and have chosen this place for myself as a house of sacrifice. ¹³**When I shut up heaven and there is no rain,** or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people, ¹⁴if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. ¹⁵Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to prayer made in this place.” The New King James Version

Things That Will Drive God From His Sanctuary

There did come a time in Israel’s life when the Lord said, “Enough is enough”. The Lord then called out to the prophet Ezekiel to witness **why** He was about to do what He was about to do. It is recorded in the eighth chapter of the book of Ezekiel.

¹“In the sixth year, in the sixth month on the fifth day, while I was sitting in my house and the elders of Judah were sitting before me, the hand of the Sovereign LORD came upon me there. ²I looked, and I saw a figure like that of a man. From what appeared to be his waist down he was like fire, and from there up his appearance was as bright as glowing metal. ³He stretched out what looked like a hand and took me by the hair of my head. The Spirit lifted me up between earth and heaven and in visions of God; he took me to Jerusalem, to the entrance to the north gate of the inner court, where the

idol that provokes to jealousy stood. ⁴And there before me was the glory of the God of Israel, as in the vision I had seen in the plain. ⁵Then he said to me, “Son of man, look toward the north”. So I looked, and in the entrance north of the gate of the altar, I saw this idol of jealousy. ⁶And he said to me, “Son of man, do you see what they are doing—the utterly detestable things the house of Israel is doing here, **things that will drive me far from my sanctuary?** But you will see things that are even more detestable.” ⁷Then he brought me to the entrance to the court. I looked, and I saw a hole in the wall. ⁸He said to me, “Son of man, now dig into the wall.” So I dug into the wall and saw a doorway there. ⁹And he said to me, “Go in and see the wicked and detestable things they are doing here”. ¹⁰So I went in and looked and I saw portrayed all over the walls all kinds of crawling things and detestable animals and all the idols of the house of Israel. ¹¹In front of them stood seventy elders of the house of Israel and Jaazaniah son of Shaphan was standing among them. Each had a censer in his hand, and a fragrant cloud of incense was rising. ¹²He said to me, “Son of man, have you seen what the elders of the house of Israel are doing in the darkness, each at the shrine of his own idol? They say, ‘The LORD does not see us; the LORD has forsaken the land.’” ¹³Again, he said, “You will see them doing things that are even more detestable.” ¹⁴Then he brought me to the entrance to the north gate of the house of the LORD, and I saw women sitting there, mourning for **Tammuz**. ¹⁵He said to me, “Do you see this, son of man? You will see things that are even more detestable than this.” ¹⁶He then brought me into the inner court of the house of the LORD, and there at the entrance to the temple, between the portico and the altar, were about twenty-five men. With their backs toward the temple of the LORD and their faces toward the east, they were bowing down to the sun in the east.”

Ezekiel 8:1-16 (New International Version)

Please note that among the detestable things God showed Ezekiel, the Lord considered conducting an Ishtar sunrise service the most detestable (Ezekiel 8:15). If you would like to know more about Ishtar sunrise services, we suggest that you read the book, “The Two Babylons” by Alexander Hyslop.

¹⁷He said to me, “Have you seen this, son of man? Is it a trivial matter for the house of Judah to do the detestable things they are doing here? Must they also fill the land with violence and continually provoke me to anger? Look at them putting the

branch to their nose! ¹⁸Therefore I will deal with them in anger; I will not look on them with pity or spare them. Although they shout in my ears, I will not listen to them.”
Ezekiel 8:17-18 *The New International Version*

According to Ezekiel 9:3, 10:18-19 and 11:23, Ezekiel watched in horror as the glory of the Lord (the power and sevenfold blessings of the Spirit of God) departed from Israel. As we shared earlier, when the Lord withdraws the sevenfold blessings of His Spirit, the nation or the church begins a downward spiral few survive. Their only hope is to turn back to the Lord in repentance and to begin to follow His laws again just as the people of Nineveh did.

⁴On the first day, Jonah started into the city. He proclaimed “Forty more days and Nineveh will be overturned.” ⁵**The Ninevites believed God.** They declared a fast, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth. ⁶When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust. ⁷Then he issued a proclamation in Nineveh: “By the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let any man or beast, herd or flock, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. ⁸But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. ⁹Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish.” ¹⁰When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways; he had compassion and did not bring upon them the destruction he had threatened.
Jonah 3:4-10 New International Version

If We Do Not

What about the **nations** and the **churches** that **do not** turn back to the Lord in repentance and begin to follow His laws again? Isaiah was given a complete understanding of the procedure the Lord follows when He withdraws His blessings from a **nation** or from a **church**. It has happened many times in the past and will no doubt happen to many nations and churches that will turn away from the Lord in the future. We know it will happen to most of Christ’s scriptural churches because of the letter He sent to the Laodicean church in Revelation 3:14-22. There were seven churches in existence

to which Jesus Christ sent seven letters in Revelation chapters 2 and 3. However, as we read those seven letters we see those seven churches also represented the progression and conditions of most of Christ's churches during the Church Age. The last church mentioned, the Laodicean church, represented the conditions most of Christ's churches will be in when His Father sends Him to retrieve those who have been saved up until that time (1st Corinthians 15:51-54; 2nd Corinthians 4:14; 2nd Corinthians 5:1-10; 1st Thessalonians 4:13-17). We find in Revelation 3:14-22, Christ will find most of His churches have departed from the solid footing upon which they began. The situation will have become so appalling, Christ will have already departed from most of them. How do we know? Because Jesus had been sending them the invitation to open the door and He would come in and sup with them. *“²⁰Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.” Revelation 3:20 King James Version*

If He is promising to come in, it means He is on the outside of that particular church. In addition, Christ said He would come in and sup with them. When do the members enjoy a supper with Christ? The members of His scriptural churches enjoy a supper with Him when we observe what we refer to as “the Lord's Supper”. That means He is not present when most of the churches in the last part of the Church Age observe what they call “The Lord's Supper”. Please note again, what the Lord said to Ezekiel. *“⁶And he said to me“, Son of man, do you see what they are doing—the utterly detestable things the house of Israel is doing here, things that will drive me far from my sanctuary?” Ezekiel 8:6 New International Version*

Israel drove the Lord from His sanctuary in the Old Testament just as many congregations will drive Jesus Christ out of their churches in the Church Age.

Enough Is Enough

The procedure the Lord follows when He withdraws His blessings from a nation or from a church is found in the third chapter of the book of Isaiah (printed below). Please note that once the Lord says "Enough is Enough" and the procedure begins, prayers by others will not help. The only thing that will halt the procedure is total

repentance of the members of that particular nation or the members of that particular local church. " ¹³ *And now, because you have done all these works," says the LORD, and I spoke to you, rising up early and speaking, but you did not hear, and I called you, but you did not answer,* ¹⁴ *therefore I will do to the house which is called by My name, in which you trust, and to this place which I gave to you and your fathers, as I have done to Shiloh.* ¹⁵ *And I will cast you out of My sight, as I have cast out all your brethren--the whole posterity of Ephraim.* ¹⁶ **"Therefore do not pray for this people, nor lift up a cry or prayer for them, nor make intercession to Me; for I will not hear you."** ¹⁷ *Do you not see what they do in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem?* ¹⁸ *The children gather wood, the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead dough, to make cakes for the queen of heaven; and they pour out drink offerings to other gods, that they may provoke Me to anger.* ¹⁹ *Do they provoke Me to anger?" says the LORD. "Do they not provoke themselves, to the shame of their own faces?"* ²⁰ *Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, My anger and My fury will be poured out on this place--on man and on beast, on the trees of the field and on the fruit of the ground. And it will burn and not be quenched."* *Jeremiah 7:13-20 (New King James Version)*

In addition, once the procedure begins, the Lord takes away the ability of the members to even discern the fact that they are being disciplined by the Lord. " ⁸ *Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"* ⁹ *He said, "Go and tell this people: " 'Be ever hearing, but never understanding; be ever seeing, but never perceiving.'* ¹⁰ *Make the heart of this people calloused; make their ears dull and close their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed."* ¹¹ *Then I said, "For how long, Lord?" And he answered: "Until the cities lie ruined and without inhabitant, until the houses are left deserted and the fields ruined and ravaged,* ¹² *until the LORD has sent everyone far away and the land is utterly forsaken.* ¹³ *And though a tenth remains in the land, it will again be laid waste. But as the terebinth and oak leave stumps when they are cut down, so the holy seed will be the stump in the land. "* *Isaiah 6:8-13 (New International Version)*

ISAIAH, CHAPTER 3-THE PROCEDURE

¹For, behold, the Lord, the LORD of hosts, doth take away from Jerusalem and from Judah the stay and the staff, the whole stay of bread, and the whole stay of water, ²The mighty man, and the man of war, the judge, and the prophet, and the prudent, and the ancient, ³The captain of fifty, and the honorable man, and the counselor, and the cunning artificer, and the eloquent orator. ⁴And I will give children to be their princes, and babes shall rule over them. ⁵And the people shall be oppressed, every one by another, and every one by his neighbor: the child shall behave himself proudly against the ancient, and the base against the honorable. ⁶When a man shall take hold of his brother of the house of his father, saying, Thou hast clothing, be thou our ruler, and let this ruin be under thy hand: ⁷In that day shall he swear, saying, I will not be an healer; for in my house is neither bread nor clothing: make me not a ruler of the people. ⁸For Jerusalem is ruined, and Judah is fallen: because their tongue and their doings are against the LORD, to provoke the eyes of his glory. ⁹The show of their countenance doth witness against them; and they declare their sin as Sodom, they hide it not. Woe unto their soul! For they have rewarded evil unto themselves. ¹⁰Say ye to the righteous, that it shall be well with him: for they shall eat the fruit of their doings. ¹¹Woe unto the wicked! It shall be ill with him: for the reward of his hands shall be given him. ¹²As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths. ¹³The LORD standeth up to plead, and standeth to judge the people. ¹⁴The LORD will enter into judgment with the ancients of his people and the princes thereof: for ye have eaten up the vineyard, the spoil of the poor is in your houses. ¹⁵What mean ye that ye beat my people to pieces, and grind the faces of the poor?" saith the Lord GOD of hosts. ¹⁶Moreover the LORD saith, Because the daughters of Zion are haughty, and walk with stretched forth necks and wanton eyes, walking and mincing as they go, and making a tinkling with their feet: ¹⁷Therefore the Lord will smite with a scab the crown of the head of the daughters of Zion, and the LORD will discover their secret parts. ¹⁸In that day the Lord will take away the bravery of their tinkling ornaments about their feet, and their cauls, and their round tires like the moon, ¹⁹The chains, and the bracelets, and the mufflers, ²⁰The bonnets, and the ornaments of the legs, and the headbands, and the tablets, and the earrings, ²¹The rings, and nose jewels, ²²The changeable suits of apparel,

and the mantles, and the wimples, and the crisping pins, ²³The glasses, and the fine linen, and the hoods, and the veils. ²⁴And it shall come to pass, that instead of sweet smell there shall be stink; and instead of a girdle a rent; and instead of well set hair, baldness; and instead of a stomacher, a girding of sackcloth; and burning instead of beauty. ²⁵Thy men shall fall by the sword and thy mighty in the war. ²⁶And her gates shall lament and mourn; and she being desolate shall sit upon the ground.” Isaiah 3:1-26 King James Version

Hope For The Righteous

Since the Lord lists so many bad things He will do to an ungodly nation or to a church whose members are just “playing church”, we feel it is important to offer some hope to those of you who are saved and who are faithfully serving Him. The Lord offered hope to the righteous in verse 10. *“¹⁰Say ye to the righteous, that it shall be well with him: for they shall eat the fruit of their doings.”* Our Lord promised those whose spiritual bodies were made righteous through the blood of the Lamb (1st John 1:7-10) will be rewarded according to the things we are doing for Him. They are the stumps that the Lord referred to in Isaiah 6:13 (printed above). It is important that we work for our Lord now so the Lord will take care of us during the times Isaiah chapter three describes.

We do not know how the Lord will keep the righteous safe while at the same time punishing the wicked and punishing a nation or a wayward church. Nevertheless, we know He will because He said He would. The Lord has done this many times in the past. He protected Noah and his family while at the same time He destroyed every other human on the face of the earth (Genesis 7:23; Hebrews 11:7; 2nd Peter 2:5-9). God protected the children of Israel while at the same time He brought judgment upon the people of Egypt (Exodus 8:20-23; Exodus 9:1-7; Exodus 9:22-26).

Details Of The Procedure

When we compare what happened to Israel once the Lord began the procedure and what is happening to most of the nations since World War I, the similarity is

alarming. It has already begun within many of Christ's churches also. Let us look at the procedure in detail. We will begin by looking at who is going to be doing this.

Isaiah 3

For, behold, the Lord, the LORD of hosts, doth take away from Jerusalem and from Judah...

We find Strong's Concordance of the Bible defines the Hebrew words which were translated "the Lord" as the Self-Existent, Eternal Sovereign, that is, the Self-Existent, Eternal Controller. Strong's says the Hebrew word translated "Hosts" mean a mass of people.

Isaiah 3

For, behold, the Lord, the LORD of hosts, doth take away from Jerusalem and from Judah ... the whole stay of bread,

The Self-Existent, Eternal Sovereign Controller of all people will take away the blessings of food we have been enjoying. The Lord took the food away from unfaithful Israel (2nd Kings 6:24-29) and He can take food away from unfaithful nations in the future. We will explain how this might be done a little later in this paper.

Isaiah 3

For, behold, the Lord, the LORD of hosts, doth take away from Jerusalem and from Judah ... the whole stay of water

The Self-Existent, Eternal Sovereign Controller of all people will take away the blessings of the abundant supply of water we have been enjoying.

A-The word translated water is also used in the Old Testament to refer to water out of the wells of salvation (Isaiah 12:3). Could this be a fulfillment of Romans 1:18-32?

“⁸For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; ¹⁹Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath showed it unto them. ²⁰For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by

*the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: ²¹Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. ²²Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, ²³And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. ²⁴Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: ²⁵Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen... ²⁸And 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; ²⁹Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, ³⁰Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, ³¹Without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: ³²Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them. ” Romans 1:18-32 KJV*

That would mean people who are turned over to a reprobate mind would no longer have a desire to seek water out of the wells of salvation. They would not have the protection of salvation when they face the Living God at their judgment (Revelation 20:11-15).

B- On the other hand, taking away the blessings of water might mean the Lord will shut up the heavens and there will not be adequate rain upon our land. If so, it would indeed bring about a lack of food as the Lord threatened in Isaiah 3:1.

C-Water is also used in the Old Testament to refer to the blessing of the Lord when He pours out the power of His Spirit upon us (Isaiah 44:3).

For more information about the blessings of the Spirit of the Lord, please read the paper “The Sevenfold Spirit of God” on our website.

Isaiah 3

For, behold, the Lord, the LORD of hosts, doth take away from Jerusalem and from Judah...²The mighty man, and the man of war.

The Self-Existent, Eternal Sovereign Controller of all people will take away the blessings of generals, commanders, and other military men who are capable of bringing victory. They will be killed in battle, they will become discouraged with the defeats they meet, or they will become discouraged with the interference from our government officials. They shall throw up their hands and resign their commissions or possibly resolve to fade into the background until it’s time for their retirement. They might possibly be disabled by sickness, or become so discouraged they become unfit for service. Even the inferior officers (the captain of fifty) shall become ineffective as leaders. Although the United States of America has won many battles, we have not had a decisive victory over the enemies of this nation in a single war since World War II.

Isaiah 3

For, behold, the Lord, the LORD of hosts, doth take away from Jerusalem and from Judah... the judge.

The Self-Existent, Eternal Sovereign Controller of all people will take away judges who are skilled in the laws and who will administer justice fairly and impartially. The Hebrew word is used in the Old Testament to refer to a human judge who makes judgments according to the laws of God. When a nation loses that type of judge, those who are on the bench will not make judgments according to God’s laws.

Isaiah 3

For, behold, the Lord, the LORD of hosts, doth take away from Jerusalem and from Judah... the prophet.

The Self-Existent, Eternal Sovereign Controller of all people will take away ministers who, through devoted study, understand the deeper things of God’s Divine Word and are able to share it with others. The only ones who will be left are ministers who teach milk and fluff (1st Corinthians 3:1-3). They will only preach on subjects the

congregation wants to hear rather than the message the Lord wants them to deliver. They will be very good at “working a crowd” and people will flock to hear them. The people will not desire to be committed to serving the Lord so they will not study on their own and they become willingly ignorant of the deeper things of God’s Word. ³*For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. 4They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.*” 2nd Timothy 4:3-4 NIV

The myths referred to would be supplements to God’s laws such as traditions, symbolic interpretations, and generally, false doctrines.

When the majority of the members do not want to study strong doctrine, they call pastors and elevate teachers who will only say what their itching ears want to hear and it will eventually kill that church. ⁶*My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you as my priests; because you have ignored the law of your God, I also will ignore your children.*” Hosea 4:6 NIV

Isaiah 3

For, behold, the Lord, the LORD of hosts, doth take away from Jerusalem and from Judah... the prudent.

The Self-Existent, Eternal Sovereign Controller of all people will take away the prudent. The prudent were celebrated as men of sense and wisdom above all others. Based upon what God said in other passages, the word translated “the prudent” seems to have a reference to being able to understand and to forecast what was going to happen in the future. Those who predict false things will replace them. The Lord will allow those who replace them to gain control of the news media. They will keep repeating messages of false hope until the general population believes everything is getting better, not worse. Because of this, the people will wander as sheep oppressed for lack of a shepherd. When the Lord brings chastisement upon that nation or upon that church, the citizens of the nation or the members of that church will not have a clue why these things are happening to them.

Isaiah 3

For, behold, the Lord, the LORD of hosts, doth take away from Jerusalem and from Judah... the ancient.

The Self-Existent, Eternal Sovereign Controller of all people will take away the ancient. Based upon what God said in other passages, the word translated “the ancient” is often used in the Old Testament to refer to men who were mature leaders of the nation of Israel, men who the people could depend upon to make judgments based upon the laws of the Lord (Exodus 19:7; Exodus 24:1-9; Numbers 11:16-17).

In a true theocracy, a wise and benevolent God rules a church or a nation. A church is no longer a theocracy when they lose their leaders who make judgments in their church based upon the laws of the Lord. ⁴*You must obey my laws and be careful to follow my decrees. I am the LORD your God.* ⁵*Keep my decrees and laws, for the man who obeys them will live by them. I am the LORD.* *Leviticus 18:4-5 NIV*

The church in Jerusalem began with this type of government. When the members became disciples of Jesus Christ, they put themselves under His authority. Christ’s disciples agreed His laws would govern their lives and actions and they would be sustained by His power. The Holy Spirit of God inspired the recording of these laws in a library of books under one cover, the Bible.

Once a church ceases to be a theocracy, they soon become an oligarchy. An oligarchy is a form of government in which the ruling power belongs to a few, elite people. Satan, the prince of this world, loves an oligarchy when the elite group who controls a church or a nation is composed of his children (*the lost- Matthew 13:24-30*) and the saved who are following his leadership.

Isaiah 3

For, behold, the Lord, the LORD of hosts, doth take away from Jerusalem and from Judah... the honorable man.

The Self-Existent, Eternal Sovereign Controller of all people will take away the honorable man. Based upon how the Hebrew word is used in many other passages in the Old Testament, the word translated “honorable man” is often used to describe a person who will come in and become actively involved in bearing and helping to solve our personal problems, our national problems or our church problems. It is a root word that

is used 654 times and means, “to lift” in a great variety of applications, literal and figurative.

Isaiah 3

For, behold, the Lord, the LORD of hosts, doth take away from Jerusalem and from Judah... the counselor.

The Self-Existent, Eternal Sovereign Controller of all people will take away the counselor. Based upon how the Hebrew word is used in many other passages in the Old Testament, the word translated “counselor” is often used to describe a person who can help to resolve problems, one who is capable of advising and guiding.

Isaiah 3

For, behold, the Lord, the LORD of hosts, doth take away from Jerusalem and from Judah... the wise artificer.

The Self-Existent, Eternal Sovereign Controller of all people will take away the wise artificer. The Hebrew word is used 107 times in the Old Testament and was only translated artificer twice in the King James Translation (Genesis 4:22 and Isaiah 3:3). However, we find it is used 15 times to refer to plowing or farming. The root word means to scratch, that is, to engrave, or to plow. We are of the opinion that when God moves against a nation who forsakes Him and forsakes His laws, He brings about conditions so food produced from the ground is greatly affected (Genesis 41:27-32; 2nd Samuel 21:1; 2nd Kings 6:24-33; 2nd Kings 8:1). In many cases, the small farmer has been replaced by mega farms that often receive government money. We are told that in 2011, the government of the United States had to borrow forty cents of every dollar they spend for anything. If the economy fails, the government will not be able to borrow the money to operate. The government will not be able to send checks to the mega farms nor will they be able to send checks to farmers who are struggling. Without those government checks, many farmers will not be able to produce the food. In addition, many farms must have an abundant harvest just to make a small profit. In order to have that type of harvest, they depend upon using hybrid seeds supplied by an outside source. What do you suppose would happen if a sufficient supply of hybrid seed were not available to raise enough food to feed a nation? Many farms also depend upon pesticides

and herbicides in order to save on their labor cost so they can make a small profit. Even then, we are told that many farms find it necessary to hire people who sneak across the southern border of the United States illegally, in order to keep their labor costs down. What would happen if an adequate supply of pesticides and/or herbicides were not available or were priced so high the farmer could not afford to buy them? How long could the farms operate at a loss? Any or all of these things might partially explain point #1 where we find God saying He would take away the blessings of the food we have been enjoying. We are told that at any given time, there is only about a five-day supply of food in most major cities. We have already seen what people do when the grocery shelves start to become bare. In addition, a “natural disaster” such as a famine (1st Kings 8:37) or some other crisis could also affect the production and/or the distribution of food. Solomon prayed at the dedication of the Temple, " ³³ " *When Thy people Israel are defeated before an enemy, because they have sinned against Thee, if they turn to Thee again and confess Thy name and pray and make supplication to Thee in this house,* ³⁴ *then hear Thou in heaven, and forgive the sin of Thy people Israel, and bring them back to the land which Thou didst give to their fathers.* ³⁵ " *When the heavens are shut up and there is no rain, because they have sinned against Thee, and they pray toward this place and confess Thy name and turn from their sin when Thou dost afflict them,* ³⁶ *then hear Thou in heaven and forgive the sin of Thy servants and of Thy people Israel, indeed, teach them the good way in which they should walk. And send rain on Thy land, which Thou hast given Thy people for an inheritance.* ³⁷ " *If there is famine in the land, if there is pestilence, if there is blight or mildew, locust or grasshopper, if their enemy besieges them in the land of their cities, whatever plague, whatever sickness there is,* ³⁸ *whatever prayer or supplication is made by any man or by all Thy people Israel, each knowing the affliction of his own heart, and spreading his hands toward this house;* ³⁹ *then hear Thou in heaven Thy dwelling place, and forgive and act and render to each according to all his ways, whose heart Thou knowest, for Thou alone dost know the hearts of all the sons of men,* ⁴⁰ *that they may fear Thee all the days that they live in the land which Thou hast given to our fathers." 1 Kings 8:33-40 (New American Standard Bible)*

Isaiah 3

For, behold, the Lord, the LORD of hosts, doth take away from Jerusalem and from Judah... the eloquent orator.

The Self-Existent, Eternal Sovereign Controller of all people will take away the eloquent orator. This one is very, very serious and affects most of the citizens of many nations and the members of many churches. `

Strong's Concordance of the Bible tells us the Hebrew word translated "eloquent" is a root word that means to separate mentally (or distinguish), that is, (generally) to understand. The Hebrew word translated "eloquent" is also used in the Old Testament to refer to a person who is discreet (Genesis 41:33 & 39), wise and understanding (Deuteronomy 1:13 & 4:6). It is also used to refer to a person who considers past experiences (Isaiah 1:3; Deuteronomy 32:7 & 32:29), a nation who receives the instructions of God (Deuteronomy 32:19), or a person who perceives what God is doing (1st Samuel 3:8).

Barnes, in "Barnes Notes on the Old Testament" explains the Hebrew word translated "orator" denotes one who influences another and persuades them in any way, as an orator does by argument or appeal.

When the Lord removed "the Glory of the Lord" from Israel (Ezekiel 10:4, 10:18 and 11:23), He removed from them (1) the ability to perceive the chastisement He was bringing upon them and (2) the ability to receive and understand the instructions of God (Isaiah 6:8-10). No matter how good a person was at persuasion, they were unable to reach the people of that nation (Jeremiah 7:27). The Glory of the Lord or the sevenfold power of the Holy Spirit includes the Spirit of Understanding (Isaiah 11:1-2). The Spirit of Understanding gives a person the ability to understand (1) God's Word, (2) God's will and (3) God's way. Without the illumination of the Spirit of Understanding, the people were unable to comprehend what the person was sharing. Isaiah recorded the results of the Lord taking away the eloquent orator in the sixth chapter.

⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" ⁹He said, "Go and tell this people: "Be ever hearing, but never understanding; be ever seeing, but never perceiving." ¹⁰Make the heart of this people calloused; make their ears dull and close their eyes. Otherwise they

might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed". *Isaiah 6:8-10 (New International Version)*

Jesus Christ experienced the results of this during His earthly ministry even though He operated through unlimited Holy Spirit power (John 3:34).

³⁷Even after Jesus had done all these miraculous signs in their presence, they still would not believe in him. ³⁸This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet: "Lord, who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?" ³⁹For this reason they could not believe, because, as Isaiah says elsewhere: ⁴⁰"He has blinded their eyes and deadened their hearts, so they can neither see with their eyes, nor understand with their hearts, nor turn—and I would heal them." *John 12:37-40 (New International Version)*

Even His own disciples could not understand some of the things Jesus Christ taught (Luke 9:45; Luke 18:34; John 12:16). Those who sat at the feet of Jesus Christ could not comprehend some of the things God, in human flesh, taught until they received special power to do so from the Holy Spirit. " ⁴⁵ **Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,** ⁴⁶ And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: ⁴⁷ And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ And ye are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high. *Luke 24:45-49 (King James Version)*

How did Jesus Christ " **open their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures**"? " ¹⁹ When it was evening on the first day of the week, the followers were together. The doors were locked, because they were afraid of the Jews. Then Jesus came and stood right in the middle of them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The followers were thrilled when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Then Jesus said again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, I now send you." ²² **After he said this, he breathed on them and said, "Receive Holy Spirit power** (there is no Greek definite article—please see "The Power Of The Sevenfold Spirit Of God" on this website). ²³ *If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven. If you don't forgive them, they are not forgiven.* " *John 20:19-23 (New Century Version)*

⁴⁹ "And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high." Luke 24:49 New American Standard Version

⁷ He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; ⁸ but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." Acts 1:7-8 New American Standard Version

Again, if you would like to know more about the seven-fold power of the Holy Spirit and what it can do for you, we invite you to read the paper entitled "The Power of the Sevenfold Spirit Of God" on our website.

We find that before the Jewish nation lost the Glory of the Lord (Ezekiel chapters 8, 9, 10 and 11), they had been the Lord's authorized agency to publish the good news of God's salvation. ³And Moses went up unto God, and the LORD called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel; ⁴Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself. ⁵Now therefore **if ye will obey my voice** indeed, and **keep my covenant**, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: ⁶And **ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests**, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel." Exodus 19:3-6 King James Version

When Jesus **first began** His earthly ministry, He offered to relieve Israel of the terrible chastisement of Isaiah 6:8-10 and to restore them as His authorized agency to publicize the good news of salvation but they refused. ⁵These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: ⁶But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷And as ye go, preach, saying, the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Matthew 10:5. King James Version

¹¹He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. ¹²But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe

in His name: ¹³who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” John 1:11-13 NIV

Israel did not take advantage of the opportunity so Jesus Christ called out (*Matthew 4:18-25 and Mark 1:16-20*), trained (*Matthew 5:1 and 9:37*), organized (*Luke 12:22-32 and Ephesians 4:11-16*), authorized (*Matthew 28:18-20 and Acts 1:1-8*), and empowered (*Luke 24:49 and Acts 1:8*) a third agency to publish the good news of salvation until He comes back. Most of His scriptural churches are composed of non-Jews.

The nation of Israel did not take advantage of the opportunity Jesus Christ offered them so the ability to perceive what God is doing and the ability to receive the instructions of God (*Matthew 13:10-17*) will not be restored to the nation of Israel until they are converted during the Great Tribulation (*Ezekiel chapter 37*). God’s Divine Word tells us this was the reason Jesus spoke to the people of the nation of Israel in parables.

“¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. ²Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. ³Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. ⁸Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. ⁹He who has ears let him hear.”

¹⁰The disciples came to him and asked, “Why do you speak to the people in parables?”

*¹¹He replied, “The knowledge of the secrets of the **kingdom of heaven** has been given to you, but not to them. ¹²Whoever has will be given more and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. ¹³**This is why I speak to them in parables:** “Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand. ¹⁴In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah: “‘You will be*

ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving. ¹⁵ For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.' ¹⁶But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. ¹⁷For I tell you the truth, many prophets and righteous men longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

¹⁸“Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: ¹⁹When anyone hears the message about **the kingdom** and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path. ²⁰The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. ²¹But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away. ²²The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful. ²³But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty, or thirty times what was sown.” Matthew 13:1-23 (New International Version)

The Lord removed from the nation of Israel the ability to perceive what He was doing and the ability to receive and understand the instructions Jesus Christ was sharing. No matter how good Jesus Christ was at persuasion, He was unable to reach most of the people of Israel. The people were unable to comprehend. **That is exactly what will happen to most churches in the last days before the Catching Up.** The members will be busy just “playing church” so the Lord will remove their ability to perceive what He is doing. God will remove the power of the seven-fold Spirit of God including the Spirit of Understanding (Isaiah 11:1-2). The removing of the illumination of this candlestick (Revelation 2:5) will remove their ability to understand the Bible. A few of the churches will have a pastor or a teacher who studies and understands God's plan for man. However, when the pastor or the teacher speaks, most of those in the assembly will look the person right in the eye and not be able to understand what they are sharing. Their main concern will be how soon the pastor or the teacher will shut up so they can go

home. If Christ could not reach that type of person during His ministry on this earth, it is little wonder that the pastor or the teacher cannot reach them either.

Isaiah 3

For, behold, the Lord, the LORD of hosts, will make boys their officials; mere children will govern them.

The Self-Existent, Eternal Sovereign Controller of all people will make children their officials. When the mighty men and the prudent are removed, children shall become government officials. Matthew Henry observes, “Children in understanding and disposition, childish men, such as are babes in knowledge, no more fit to rule than a child in the cradle. These shall rule with all the folly, fickleness, and forwardness of a child.” The government officials will be like children who grab and claim all the toys for themselves. They will publicly proclaim their concern for their constituents but their rules, laws and their actions reveal they really do not care about the plight of others. Their underlying concern is to set up an oligarchy where either they are part of the ruling elite or they reap personal benefits from the ruling elite. The Bible tells us that in the last days they will help to set up the beginning of a confederation of nations under one governing body with one international currency. To achieve that end, of course, it will be necessary for them to help devalue the purchasing power of the present currencies across the world. That will cause the citizens to demand a stable currency backed by precious metals such as gold and silver. When they are able to combine separate nations such as Canada, the United States and Mexico (and perhaps the countries of Central America) into one multi-national nation with one common currency, the world will be a step closer to the coming of the Anti-Christ. They will first combine nations around the world into several multi-national nations and then will begin to set the stage to combine the multi-national nations into one international government with one common currency.

“³⁶ And the king (the Anti-Christ) shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done.³⁷ Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all.³⁸ But in his

estate shall he honor the God of forces (el-o-ah maw-oze - the god and the goddess of fortresses): and a god whom his fathers knew not shall he honor with gold, and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant things. ³⁹ Thus shall he do in the most strong holds with a strange god, whom he shall acknowledge and increase with glory: and he shall cause them to rule over many, and shall divide the land for gain. ⁴⁰ And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over. ⁴¹ He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon. ⁴² He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape. ⁴³ But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps. ⁴⁴ But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many. ⁴⁵ And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him.

¹ And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. ² And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. ³ And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever. ⁴ 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 11:43 through 12:4). King James Version

Isaiah 3

For, behold, the Lord, the LORD of hosts, will cause the people to be oppressed, everyone by another, and every one by his neighbor.

God said He would send an evil spirit among them as He did in Judges 9:23-25. *“²²After Abimelech had governed Israel three years, ²³God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the citizens of Shechem, who acted treacherously against Abimelech. ²⁴God did this in order that the crime against Jerub-Baal’s seventy sons, the shedding of their blood, might be avenged on their brother Abimelech and on the citizens of Shechem, who had helped him murder his brothers. ²⁵In opposition to him these citizens of Shechem set men on the hilltops to ambush and rob everyone who passed by and this was reported to Abimelech.” King James Version*

Matthew Henry, in “Matthew Henry’s Commentary of the Old Testament” pointed out that this would make them injurious and oppressive toward others, even their neighbors. Their governors, in the folly, fickleness, and forwardness of a child would take no care to restrain the oppressors or relieve the oppressed. Consequently, they would bite and devour one another.

When A Nation Drifts

When the people in a nation turn away from the Lord and begin to operate in open rebellion to His laws, God will send evil spirits to afflict them (1 Samuel 16:14; 1 Kings 22:23). Citizens of the wayward nation will find the crime rate and the murder rate soaring out of control. Their fellow citizens will oppress the people. After all, the Lord summed up His laws in the Ten Commandments, not the Ten Suggestions. We ignore them at our peril.

When A New Testament Church Drifts

When saved people are organized into a local, New Testament church, they agree to (1) make disciples, (2) immerse them by the authority of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and (3) to teach them everything Jesus Christ taught us in His Divine Word. When the members of one of those churches allows their church to drift away from the three-point commission they were given (Matthew 28:18-20), they can expect divisions to develop. They can also expect an oligarchy to develop. The pastor, the deacons, committees or some families will begin to make the decisions rather than people in the

pew who are lead by the Holy Spirit. When that happens, it is not long before the ruling elite begins to oppress those who differ with them in order to silence them. *“For, behold, the Lord, the LORD of hosts, will cause the people to be oppressed, everyone by another, and every one by his neighbor.”*

Isaiah 3

For, behold, the Lord, the LORD of hosts, will cause children to act rudely against the adults, and the base will act against the honorable.

When young people are arrogant and disrespectful, and they behave scornfully towards adults, their conduct reveals a weakness in their character. Their behavior has a terrible effect upon our society. Please remember, these are the future leaders of our nation and of our churches. If they find the laws of God offensive now and they fail to curb the desires of their sinful nature now, what will they advocate when they begin to set the agenda of our nation or of a church tomorrow?

Isaiah 3

The Lord, the LORD of hosts, will cause conditions to become so hopeless, no qualified leader will want to run for public office and help heal the nation. Or no qualified pastor will be led by the Lord to help heal a church. An older pastor shared with us one day that some churches do not deserve a good pastor and some pastors do not deserve a good church. So the Lord seems to put both of them on a circuit where pastors who do not deserve a good church end up **every couple of years** going to another church that does not deserve a good pastor. Of course, there are some exceptions. Sometimes some pastors who do not deserve a good church will end up at a church whose members only desire their pastor to feed them fluff and milk as long as the pastor does not upset the status quo and as long as he does not cross the oligarchy that runs that church. In that case, the pastor may end up at that church until he retires or dies.

“⁶When a man shall take hold of his brother of the house of his father, saying, Thou hast clothing, be thou our ruler, and let this ruin be under thy hand: ⁷In that day shall he swear, saying, I will not be an healer; for in my house is neither bread nor

clothing: make me not a ruler of the people. ⁸For Jerusalem is ruined, and Judah is fallen: because their tongue and their doings are against the LORD, to provoke the eyes of his glory.” Isaiah 3:6-8

I Will Not Be A Healer

The few remaining, qualified leaders of a nation will be aware that the people who caused the Lord to bring divine discipline upon their nation have no intention of changing or in being converted. They will recognize those who ask them to run for a government office are just attempting to set up **a scapegoat** to blame when the policies that the oligarchy implemented, cause the nation to collapse. Some might fear retribution against their families and themselves by those in power or by the news media.

I Will Not Be A Healer

This will happen in churches also. The few remaining, qualified pastors will be aware that the leaders who caused the Lord to bring divine discipline upon a church (Revelation 2:5; 2:16 and 3:3) have no intention of changing or in being converted. The few remaining, qualified pastors will recognize that the church members who are calling them as pastor really do not have any use for someone who can and will teach them the truth of God’s Word. They are only looking for someone to marry their children, bury their dead and to visit their sick and elderly. The qualified pastors know they would be kept so busy doing those things; they would not have the needed time for study, communication with God or ministry of the Word of God. *“It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. ³Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of (the power of) the Spirit and (full of) wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them ⁴and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.” Acts 6:2-4 (New International Version)*

Again, some churches who will not follow the leadership of God soon join a circuit of churches who do not deserve a good pastor. All they can get are pastors who do not deserve a good church.

Do you recall what Jesus Christ said about the people of the nation of Israel in Matthew 13:11-15? ¹¹*He replied, "The knowledge of the secrets of the **kingdom of heaven** has been given to you, but not to them. ¹²Whoever has will be given more and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. ¹³This is why I speak to them in parables: though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand. ¹⁴In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah: "You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving. ¹⁵For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.' "*

We shared earlier in this paper that the people of Israel rejected Christ's offers to restore them as His authorized priests to the world. They could have been healed but they postponed their healing and restoration until the Great Tribulation. There are also churches who will never be healed. The Lord, in His foreknowledge, knows the churches who will never come back to Him no matter how many times He knocks on the door and calls to them. ¹⁹ *"I correct and punish those whom I love. So be eager to do right. Change your hearts and lives. ²⁰ Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him. And he will eat with me. ²¹ "He who wins the victory will sit with me on my throne. It was the same with me. I won the victory and sat down with my Father on his throne. ²² Everyone who has ears should listen to what the Spirit says to the churches." Revelation 3:19-22 (International Children's Bible)*

I Will Not Be A Healer

Some churches will never be healed. The Holy Spirit will make the few remaining, qualified pastors aware of whom they are. Most of the members of those churches could, at any time, repent and make Jesus Christ lord of their lives again. Christ would welcome them back just as He welcomed King David back. King David committed adultery (2nd Samuel 11:1-4) and murder (2nd Samuel 11:5-17) and yet, when confronted by God's messenger, he was willing to repent and confess his sins. He had

lost **the joy** of his salvation and he was chastised for his sins but he did not lose his salvation or his place of service because he sought the Lord's forgiveness.

David earnestly prayed, “⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. ⁸ Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. ⁹ Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. ¹¹ Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy Holy Spirit from me. ¹² Restore unto me **the joy of thy salvation**; and uphold me with thy free spirit. ¹³ Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.” Psalms 51:7-13

I Will Not Be A Healer

Another reason why some churches will not be healed is most of the members do not seek and follow the leadership of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will make the few remaining, qualified pastors aware of whom they are. The Holy Spirit will make them aware the church who is calling them as pastor is trying to make disciples through their own power rather than through the power of the Holy Spirit. The churches who are trying to make disciples through their own power do not deserve a good pastor and, consequently, all they can get are pastors who do not deserve a good church.

In the beginning, the church in Jerusalem was filled repeatedly with the seven-fold power of the Holy Spirit (Acts 4:8; 4:31 and 13:52). Please note they were not filled again with the Holy Spirit. They were filled repeatedly with the seven-fold **power** of the Holy Spirit. If you have not read the paper on our website entitled, “The Power Of The Sevenfold Spirit of God”, it is essential you take time to read it right now so you may better understand what we are sharing about the seven-fold power.

The members of the church in Jerusalem were not filled repeatedly with the Holy Spirit. They were filled repeatedly with the seven-fold **power** of the Holy Spirit. One of the proofs is that the scriptures teach once we go to God in prayer, ask forgiveness for our sins and ask that the payment Jesus Christ gave on Calvary pay the sin debt we owe, the Holy Spirit seals our spiritual bodies until the day of redemption. ¹³ *In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also,*

having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.” Ephesians 1:13-14. New King James Version

The church in Jerusalem did not lose the Holy Spirit. If it were possible for us to lose the Holy Spirit as our companion, we would also lose Him as our seal. We find in Ephesians 1:13-14 the Holy Spirit seals the saved until Jesus Christ comes back to receive those He has paid for. Once the Holy Spirit becomes your companion after salvation, He never leaves you. Therefore, the church in Jerusalem did not receive the Holy Spirit repeatedly. They received Holy Spirit **power** repeatedly.

It is absolutely imperative a church operate through the seven-fold power of the Holy Spirit or else they will fail in fulfilling the commission Jesus Christ gave them (Matthew 29:18-20). The seven-fold power of the Holy Spirit is so important to a church’s success that Jesus Christ commanded the first church not to begin to fulfill their commission until they received it. ⁴ *And, being assembled together with them, **commanded them** that they **should not** depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. ⁵ For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized (immersed) with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. ⁶ When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? ⁷ And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. ⁸ **But ye shall receive power**, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. ⁹ And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. Acts 1:4-9 King James Version*

When one of Christ’s churches loses that power, they find themselves trying to make disciples through their own power rather than through the power of the Holy Spirit. They wonder why they are not successful making disciples for Christ. They wonder why they cannot convince the converts they should have scriptural baptism. They wonder why so few people see the need to be faithful in attendance so that they can be taught and prepared to serve.

I Will Not Be A Healer

The members of many churches in the last days will not repent and make Jesus Christ Lord of their lives again. Revelation 3:14-20 tells us that most churches in the last days will try to operate through their own power rather than the power of the Holy Spirit. Because of this, Christ will only send those churches pastors who have also chosen to walk around in a spiritual fog and who are “*ever hearing but never understanding and ever seeing but never perceiving*”. That type of pastor jumps from church to church every few years and uses the churches as stepping-stones. This is the reason some churches are sick and some of them have died. ” ¹ “*Write this letter to the angel of the church in Sardis. This is the message from the one who has the sevenfold Spirit of God and the seven stars: “I know all the things you do, and that you have a reputation for being alive—but you are dead.*” ² *Wake up! Strengthen what little remains, for even what is left is almost dead. I find that your actions do not meet the requirements of my God.*” ³ *Go back to what you heard and believed at first; hold to it firmly. Repent and turn to me again. If you don’t wake up, I will come to you suddenly, as unexpected as a thief.*” *Revelation 3:1-3 (New Living Translation)*

Those churches and those pastors might possess a basic knowledge of the Word of God but they do not desire to learn more. They are satisfied to sit in one class a week where the teacher reads from a lesson furnished by their convention or their association. When they go home, they know little more about the Word of God or His plan for man than when they came. After a time, God discerns they do not intend to learn His Word so He says “enough is enough” and He takes away from them the little knowledge and understanding they had. “¹²*Whoever has will be given more and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him.*” *Matthew 13:12 New International Version*

Perhaps you might think we are being too harsh on churches. Why do you think Jesus Christ said in Revelation 3:16 that when He returned for the Catching Up He would find most of His churches lukewarm? Why would Jesus Christ say in Revelation 3:17 that He will find them to be wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked? Do you believe the following scripture is a description of our world today? If it is, we are living in the days just before Jesus Christ returns for the Catching Up. “¹*This know also, that in the last*

days perilous times shall come. ²For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, ⁴Traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; ⁵Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. ⁶For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, ⁷Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁸Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.” 2nd Timothy 3:1-8 King James Version

Isaiah 3

⁸For Jerusalem is ruined, and Judah is fallen: because their tongue and their doings are against the LORD, to provoke the eyes of his glory.

The Hebrew word translated “ruined” in Isaiah 3:8 is used to define someone who has stumbled, has fallen, is feeble or has been cast down. This is an accurate description of the condition of Jerusalem and Judah when the Lord divorced them.

*“I Thus saith the LORD, Where is the bill of your mother's divorcement, whom I have put away? or which of my creditors is it to whom I have sold you? Behold, for your iniquities have ye sold yourselves, and for your transgressions is your mother put away.”
Isaiah 50:1 King James Version*

In the 14th chapter of Ezekiel God describes how He took a people who were not a nation at the time and became their husband and they became His wife. “⁸ Now when I passed by thee, and looked upon thee, behold, thy time was the time of love; and I spread my skirt over thee, and covered thy nakedness: yea, I swear unto thee, and entered into a covenant with thee, saith the Lord GOD, and thou becamest mine. ⁹ Then washed I thee with water; yea, I thoroughly washed away thy blood from thee, and I anointed thee with oil. ¹⁰ I clothed thee also with brodered work, and shod thee with badgers' skin, and I girded thee about with fine linen, and I covered thee with silk. ¹¹ I decked thee also with ornaments, and I put bracelets upon thy hands, and a chain on thy neck. ¹² And I put a

jewel on thy forehead, and earrings in thine ears, and a beautiful crown upon thine head. ¹³ Thus wast thou decked with gold and silver; and thy raiment was of fine linen, and silk, and broidered work; thou didst eat fine flour, and honey, and oil: and thou wast exceeding beautiful, and thou didst prosper into a kingdom.”

It was not long before the nation began to worship and serve the false gods their neighbors worshiped and served. ¹⁴ *And thy renown went forth among the heathen for thy beauty: for it was perfect through my comeliness, which I had put upon thee, saith the Lord GOD. ¹⁵ But thou didst trust in thine own beauty, and playedst the harlot because of thy renown, and pouredst out thy fornications on every one that passed by; his it was. ¹⁶ And of thy garments thou didst take, and deckedst thy high places with divers colours, and playedst the harlot thereupon: the like things shall not come, neither shall it be so. ¹⁷ Thou hast also taken thy fair jewels of my gold and of my silver, which I had given thee, and madest to thyself images of men, and didst commit whoredom with them, ¹⁸ And tookest thy broidered garments, and coveredst them: and thou hast set mine oil and mine incense before them. ¹⁹ My meat also which I gave thee, fine flour, and oil, and honey, wherewith I fed thee, thou hast even set it before them for a sweet savour: and thus it was, saith the Lord GOD. ²⁰ Moreover thou hast taken thy sons and thy daughters, whom thou hast borne unto me, and these hast thou sacrificed unto them to be devoured. Is this of thy whoredoms a small matter, ²¹ That thou hast slain my children, and delivered them to cause them to pass through the fire for them? ²² And in all thine abominations and thy whoredoms thou hast not remembered the days of thy youth, when thou wast naked and bare, and wast polluted in thy blood. ²³ And it came to pass after all thy wickedness, (woe, woe unto thee! saith the Lord GOD;) ²⁴ That thou hast also built unto thee an eminent place, and hast made thee an high place in every street. ²⁵ Thou hast built thy high place at every head of the way, and hast made thy beauty to be abhorred, and hast opened thy feet to every one that passed by, and multiplied thy whoredoms. ²⁶ Thou hast also committed fornication with the Egyptians thy neighbours, great of flesh; and hast increased thy whoredoms, to provoke me to anger. ²⁷ Behold, therefore I have stretched out my hand over thee, and have diminished thine ordinary food, and delivered thee unto the will of them that hate thee, the daughters of the Philistines, which are ashamed of thy lewd way. ²⁸ Thou hast played the whore also with the Assyrians, because thou wast*

unsatiable; yea, thou hast played the harlot with them, and yet couldest not be satisfied.
²⁹ Thou hast moreover multiplied thy fornication in the land of Canaan unto Chaldea;
 and yet thou wast not satisfied herewith. ³⁰ How weak is thine heart, saith the Lord GOD,
 seeing thou doest all these things, the work of an imperious whorish woman; ³¹ In that
 thou buildest thine eminent place in the head of every way, and makest thine high place
 in every street; and hast not been as an harlot, in that thou scornest hire; ³² But as a wife
 that committeth adultery, which taketh strangers instead of her husband! ³³ They give
 gifts to all whores: but thou givest thy gifts to all thy lovers, and hirest them, that they
 may come unto thee on every side for thy whoredom. ³⁴ And the contrary is in thee from
 other women in thy whoredoms, whereas none followeth thee to commit whoredoms: and
 in that thou givest a reward, and no reward is given unto thee, therefore thou art
 contrary. ³⁵ Wherefore, O harlot, hear the word of the LORD: ³⁶ Thus saith the Lord
 GOD; Because thy filthiness was poured out, and thy nakedness discovered through thy
 whoredoms with thy lovers, and with all the idols of thy abominations, and by the blood
 of thy children, which thou didst give unto them; ³⁷ Behold, therefore I will gather all thy
 lovers, with whom thou hast taken pleasure, and all them that thou hast loved, with all
 them that thou hast hated; I will even gather them round about against thee, and will
 discover thy nakedness unto them, that they may see all thy nakedness. ³⁸ And **I will judge
 thee, as women that break wedlock and shed blood are judged;** and I will give thee
 blood in fury and jealousy. ³⁹ And I will also give thee into their hand, and they shall
 throw down thine eminent place, and shall break down thy high places: they shall strip
 thee also of thy clothes, and shall take thy fair jewels, and leave thee naked and bare.
⁴⁰ They shall also bring up a company against thee, and they shall stone thee with stones,
 and thrust thee through with their swords. ⁴¹ And they shall burn thine houses with fire,
 and execute judgments upon thee in the sight of many women: and I will cause thee to
 cease from playing the harlot, and thou also shalt give no hire any more. ⁴² So will I
 make my fury toward thee to rest, and my jealousy shall depart from thee, and I will be
 quiet, and will be no more angry. ⁴³ Because thou hast not remembered the days of thy
 youth, but hast fretted me in all these things; behold, therefore I also will recompense thy
 way upon thine head, saith the Lord GOD: and thou shalt not commit this lewdness
 above all thine abominations. ⁴⁴ Behold, every one that useth proverbs shall use this

proverb against thee, saying, As is the mother, so is her daughter. ⁴⁵ *Thou art thy mother's daughter, that lotheth her husband and her children; and thou art the sister of thy sisters, which lothed their husbands and their children: your mother was an Hittite, and your father an Amorite.* ⁴⁶ *And thine elder sister is Samaria, she and her daughters that dwell at thy left hand: and thy younger sister, that dwelleth at thy right hand, is Sodom and her daughters.* ⁴⁷ *Yet hast thou not walked after their ways, nor done after their abominations: but, as if that were a very little thing, thou wast corrupted more than they in all thy ways.* ⁴⁸ *As I live, saith the Lord GOD, Sodom thy sister hath not done, she nor her daughters, as thou hast done, thou and thy daughters.* ⁴⁹ *Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.* ⁵⁰ *And they were haughty, and committed abomination before me: therefore I took them away as I saw good.* ⁵¹ *Neither hath Samaria committed half of thy sins; but thou hast multiplied thine abominations more than they, and hast justified thy sisters in all thine abominations which thou hast done.* ⁵² *Thou also, which hast judged thy sisters, bear thine own shame for thy sins that thou hast committed more abominable than they: they are more righteous than thou: yea, be thou confounded also, and bear thy shame, in that thou hast justified thy sisters.* ⁵³ *When I shall bring again their captivity, the captivity of Sodom and her daughters, and the captivity of Samaria and her daughters, then will I bring again the captivity of thy captives in the midst of them:* ⁵⁴ *That thou mayest bear thine own shame, and mayest be confounded in all that thou hast done, in that thou art a comfort unto them.* ⁵⁵ *When thy sisters, Sodom and her daughters, shall return to their former estate, and Samaria and her daughters shall return to their former estate, then thou and thy daughters shall return to your former estate.* ⁵⁶ *For thy sister Sodom was not mentioned by thy mouth in the day of thy pride,* ⁵⁷ *Before thy wickedness was discovered, as at the time of thy reproach of the daughters of Syria, and all that are round about her, the daughters of the Philistines, which despise thee round about.* ⁵⁸ *Thou hast borne thy lewdness and thine abominations, saith the LORD.* ⁵⁹ *For thus saith the Lord GOD; I will even deal with thee as thou hast done, which hast despised the oath in **breaking the covenant.*** ⁶⁰ *Nevertheless I will remember my covenant with thee in the days of thy youth, and I will establish unto thee an everlasting covenant.* ⁶¹ *Then thou shalt*

remember thy ways, and be ashamed, when thou shalt receive thy sisters, thine elder and thy younger: and I will give them unto thee for daughters, but not by thy covenant. ⁶² And I will establish my covenant with thee; and thou shalt know that I am the LORD: ⁶³ That thou mayest remember, and be confounded, and never open thy mouth any more because of thy shame, when I am pacified toward thee for all that thou hast done, saith the Lord GOD.” Ezekiel 14:14-63 King James Version

Now if the Lord did this to “the apple of His eye” because of the sinfulness and unfaithfulness of Israel, do you think our nation is going to escape judgment? Do you think unfaithful churches will escape judgment when most of their membership is only “playing church”?

³⁰ For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. ³¹ It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” Hebrews 10:30-31

Isaiah 3

⁹The show of their countenance doth witness against them; and they declare their sin as Sodom, they hide it not. Woe unto their soul! For they have rewarded evil unto themselves.”

The things the people of the nation brazenly do right out in the open (and what they do not seem to be ashamed for everyone to see) cry out to the Lord as a testimony against them. Their lifestyles openly manifest their opposition to the Lord and to His laws. They are daring Him to do something about their speech and their actions just as the men of Sodom did when they attempted to sodomize the two angels God sent to their city. *⁴ But before they lay down, the men of the city, even the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter: ⁵ And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them. ⁶ And Lot went out at the door unto them, and shut the door after him, ⁷ And said, I pray you, brethren, do not so wickedly.” Genesis 19:4-7 King James Version*

“⁷ Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.”. Jude 1:7 King James Version

Pity the part of them that can never cease to exist because in the next life the payment for what they are doing right now will earn them affliction and great sorrow as they pay their sin debt.

Isaiah 3

¹¹Woe unto the wicked! It shall be ill with him: for the reward of his hands shall be given him.

There will only be two types of people walking the face of the earth when Isaiah chapter three kicks into high gear. We shared a little earlier in this paper that you will be able to find some who are righteous because of the blood of the Lamb and because they are serving Him. They will enjoy the fruits of their labor for Christ. The other type will be the unrighteous. God refers to them as the wicked. Unfortunately, the wicked are going to be in for a rough ride during the time of Isaiah chapter three. These people already stand condemned. There never was a time in their life when they went to God in prayer, asked forgiveness for their sins and requested Jesus Christ pay their sin debt by His sacrifice on the cross.

“¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. ¹⁷For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. ¹⁸He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. ²¹But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.”
John 3 16-21 (New International Version)

“⁴Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. ⁵But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. ⁶All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. ⁷He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. ⁸He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken” Isaiah 53:4-8 NIV

Isaiah 3

¹²As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths.

Do you know of any women who are having a devastating effect upon the citizens of the United States? Right off hand, we can think of at least eight. Some of those eight have announced that they would like to be elected as President of the United States so that they can lead in changing the policies of our nation. Some of them were a part of the government in the past and some of them are a part of the government right now. **Is that just a coincidence or is the Lord allowing this to happen for a purpose?** Does the procedure the Lord revealed to the prophet Isaiah happen only in the last days or has this also been the procedure the Lord uses to cause the decline of every nation who turned away from Him in the past also? Now the Lord's Divine Word is filled with the names of godly women He used to advance His work. Those are not the type of women to whom Isaiah 3:12 is referring.

As we look at this particular verse, the first part, "*children are their oppressors*" reminds us of the young people in the year 2019 who are leading in open defiance of authority and who are leading in these marches and vocal demands for socialism. It seems that that part of the verse ties in with Isaiah 3:4, " ⁴ *"I will make youths*

their leaders, and the unstable will govern them.” Isaiah 3:4 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

”¹⁶ It is very bad for a country if the king is like a child. And it is very bad for a country if its rulers use all their time eating.” Ecclesiastes 10:16 (Easy-To-Read Version)

As we shared earlier, this prophecy was recorded by the prophet Isaiah according to what the Living God revealed to him over 2,800 years ago and we are seeing it being fulfilled today. Again, we are seeing many of our young people in the year 2019 who are leading in open defiance of authority and who are leading in these marches and vocal demands for socialism or other forms of government rather than a republic. In our opinion, the Lord will allow women to be placed into positions of leadership who will lead in changing the policies of our nation.

This has happened in some of Christ's churches also. When one of Christ's churches drifts away from the Lord and the members begin to "play church", it will not be long before the Lord allows a woman or a few women to become, to use an old country expression, a "bell cow" within the church who, over time, lead that church in a direction that will eventually cause their demise. *”¹⁹ "I know your works, your love, faith, service, and endurance, and that your last works are greater than the first.²⁰ Yet I hold this against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, who teaches and misleads my servants to play the harlot and to eat food sacrificed to idols.” Revelation 2:19-20 (New American Bible-United States Conference of Catholic Bishops)*

As we shared in the beginning, when Isaiah chapter three kicks into high gear, it will become a time of loss, affliction and trouble for the unrighteous. They will find those in government will be enacting laws and rules which restrict or deny their rights. Eventually they will see their wealth transferred to the government through taxes and inflation or to others who are manipulating the economy. Even when they go to court because someone cheated them or stole their possessions or their wealth, they will get little or no justice from the judges who sit on the bench.

One calamity will follow another as the Lord takes away the things listed in Isaiah chapter three. They will never be able to understand why everything is falling apart. They will not discern that what is happening to them is recompense for their own actions.

³⁰ For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. ³¹ It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” Hebrews 10:30-31

THIS PAPER IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION AND WILL BE CONTINUED. SOME OF IT WILL PROBABLY BE REVISED FROM TIME TO TIME. PLEASE CHECK AGAIN SOON SINCE THE THIRD CHAPTER OF ISAIAH WILL AFFECT THE QUALITY OF OUR DAYS ON THIS EARTH AS WELL AS THE QUALITY OF OUR LIFE IN THE WORLD TO COME.

WE WELCOME YOUR COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS. YOU MAY VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT <http://www.bayourouge.net> .

Robert Tanner

roberttanner@bayourouge.net