

The Amazing ORIGIN of US Symbols

The Eye in the Pyramid – A Masonic Symbol?

Is the “eye” in the Great Pyramid on the U.S. dollar and on the U.S. Seal a proof that a great Masonic conspiracy is behind the creation and origin of the United States of America? What is the TRUTH about our national signs, symbols and Seal? Here is the plain and irrefutable truth which will boggle your mind and amaze you!

William F. Dankenbring



Says S. Brent Morris, “Historians must be cautious about many well-known ‘facts.’ George Washington chopped down a cherry tree when a boy and confessed the deed to his father. Abner Doubleday invented the game of baseball. Freemasons inserted some of their emblems (chief among them the eye in the pyramid) into the reverse of the Great Seal of the United States. These historical ‘facts’ are widely popular, commonly accepted, and equally false.”

He continues, “The eye in the pyramid (emblazoned on the dollar bill, no less) is often cited as ‘evidence’ that sinister conspiracies abound which will impose a ‘New World Order’ on an unsuspecting populace. Depending on whom you hear it from, the Masons are planning the takeover themselves, or are working in concert with European bankers, or are leading (or perhaps being led by) the Illuminati (whoever they are). . . .” Claims Morris, “**The Great Seal of the United States is not a Masonic emblem, nor does it contain hidden Masonic symbols.** The details are there for anyone to check, who’s willing to rely on historical fact rather than hysterical fiction.

- Benjamin Franklin was the only Mason on the first design committee, and his suggestions had no Masonic content.
- None of the final designers of the seal were Masons.
- The interpretation of the eye on the seal is subtly different from the interpretation used by Masons.
- The eye in the pyramid is not nor has been a Masonic symbol.”

Is Morris right? What are the facts? Conspiracists today make a huge deal about this issue, but is it true?

The Facts As They Are

On Independence Day, 1776 a committee was created to design a seal for the new American nation. The committee consisted of Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and John Adams, with Pierre Du Simitière as an artist and a consultant.^[1] Of the four men involved, only Benjamin Franklin was a Mason, but he contributed *nothing Masonic* to the committee’s proposed design for a seal.

Du Simitière, who was the committee’s consultant and a non-Mason, contributed several major design features that made their way into the ultimate design of the seal, including the shield, E Pluribus Unum, MDCCLXXVI, and the eye of providence in a triangle.^[2] Note that he was NOT a Mason. Therefore, the eye of providence on the American Seal cannot be traced to the Masons, at all!

Says Morris, “The single eye was a well-established artistic convention for an ‘omniscient Ubiquitous Deity’ in the medallion art of the Renaissance. Du Simitière, who suggested using the symbol, collected art books and was familiar with the artistic and ornamental devices used in Renaissance art.”^[3]

In other words, this symbol was the same cultural iconography that Masons later copied, when they added the all-seeing eye to their own symbols. The Masons did not originate it – they COPIED IT!

History shows that the American Congress declined the first committee’s suggestions as well as those of its 1780 committee. Francis Hopkinson, consultant to the second committee, had several lasting ideas that eventually made it into the seal: “white and red stripes within a blue background for the shield, a radiant constellation of thirteen stars, and an olive branch.”^[4] Hopkinson’s greatest contribution to the current seal came from his layout of a 1778 50-dollar colonial note in which he used an unfinished pyramid in the design.

Says Morris, “The third and last seal committee of 1782 produced a design that finally satisfied Congress. Charles Thomson, Secretary of Congress, and William Barton, artist and consultant, borrowed from earlier designs and sketched what at length became the United States seal.

“The misinterpretation of the seal as a Masonic emblem may have been first introduced a century later in 1884. Harvard Professor Eliot Norton wrote that the reverse was ‘practically incapable of effective treatment; it can hardly, (however artistically treated by the designer,) look otherwise than as a dull emblem of a Masonic fraternity.’”^[5]

States Morris, “The ‘Remarks and Explanations’ of Thomson and Barton are the only explanation of the symbols’ meaning. Despite what anti-Masons may believe, there’s no reason to doubt the interpretation accepted by the Congress. “The Pyramid signified Strength and Duration: The Eye over it & the Motto allude to the many signal interpositions of providence in favor of the American cause.”^[6]



Says Morris, “The committees and consultants who designed the Great Seal of the United States contained only one Mason, Benjamin Franklin. The only possibly Masonic design element among the very many on the seal is the eye of providence, and the interpretation of it by the designers is different from that used by Masons. The eye on the seal represents an active intervention of God in the affairs of men, while the Masonic symbol stands for a passive awareness by God of the activities of men.”

The first “official” use and definition of the all-seeing eye as a Masonic symbol seems to have come in 1797 with *The Freemason’s Monitor* of Thomas Smith Webb—14 years after Congress adopted the design for the seal. Here’s how Webb explains the symbol. ‘[A]nd although our thoughts, words and actions, may be hidden from the eyes of man, yet that *All-Seeing Eye*, whom the *Sun*, *Moon* and *Stars* obey, and under whose watchful care even comets perform their stupendous revolutions, pervades the inmost recesses of the human heart, and will reward us according to our merits.’^[7]

Besides the subtly different interpretations of the symbol, it is notable that Webb did not describe the eye as being in a triangle. Jeremy Ladd Cross published *The True Masonic Chart or Hieroglyphic Monitor* in 1819, essentially an illustrated version of Webb’s *Monitor*.

In this first “official” depiction of Webb’s symbol, Cross had illustrator Amos Doolittle depict the eye surrounded by a semi-circular glory.

The Conclusion of the Matter

Morris concludes, “The all-seeing eye thus appears to be a rather recent addition to Masonic symbolism. It is not found in any of the gothic constitutions, written from about 1390 to 1730. The eye—sometimes in a triangle, sometimes in clouds, but nearly always surrounded by a glory—was a popular Masonic decorative device in the latter half of the 18th century. Its use as a design element seems to have been an artistic representation of the omniscience of God, rather than some generally accepted Masonic symbol.

“Its meaning in all cases, however, was that commonly given it by society at large—a reminder of the constant presence of God. For example, in 1614 the frontispiece of *The History of the World* by Walter Raleigh showed an eye in a cloud labeled ‘Providentia’ overlooking a globe. It has not been suggested that Raleigh’s *History* is a Masonic document, despite the use of the all-seeing eye.

“The eye of Providence was part of the common cultural iconography of the 17th and 18th centuries. When placed in a triangle, the eye went beyond a general representation of God to a strongly Trinitarian statement. It was during this period that Masonic ritual and symbolism evolved, and it is not surprising that many symbols common to and understood by the general society made their way into Masonic ceremonies. Masons may have preferred the triangle because of the frequent use of the number 3 in their ceremonies: three degrees, three original grand masters, three principal officers, and so on. Eventually the all-seeing eye came to be used officially by Masons as a symbol for God, but this happened towards the end of the eighteenth century, after congress had adopted the seal.

“A pyramid, whether incomplete or finished, however, has never been a Masonic symbol. It has no generally accepted symbolic meaning, except perhaps permanence or mystery. The combining of the eye of providence overlooking an unfinished pyramid is a uniquely American, not Masonic, icon, and must be interpreted as its designers intended. It has no Masonic context.”

Morris, himself a Mason, declares, “It’s hard to know what leads some to see Masonic conspiracies behind world events, but once that hypothesis is accepted, any jot and tittle can be misinterpreted as ‘evidence.’ The Great Seal of the United States is a classic example of such a misinterpretation, and some Masons are as guilty of the exaggeration as many anti-Masons.

“The Great Seal and Masonic symbolism grew out of the same cultural milieu. While the all-seeing eye had been popularized in Masonic designs of the late eighteenth century, it did not achieve any sort of official recognition until Webb’s 1797 *Monitor*. Whatever status the symbol may have had during the design of the Great Seal, it was not adopted or approved or endorsed by any Grand Lodge. The seal’s Eye of Providence and the Mason’s All-Seeing Eye each express Divine Omnipotence, but they are parallel uses of a shared icon, not a single symbol.”

Morris’ article debunking the eye in the pyramid as being a Masonic symbol first appeared in *The Short Bulletin* for September 1995, published by the Masonic Service Association of

North America, Silver Spring, Maryland. Its factual merit is clear to those who are not hobgoblined in their minds about the American national symbols.

Once we put the conspiracists' opinions and dogmas to rest, let's look at the REAL hidden origin of America's ancient symbols and seals!

The American Flag

The American flag was designed by George Washington, father of our country. As leader of the Flag Committee (together with Col. Ross and Robert Morris), he went to the home of Mrs. Betsy Ross and drew for her a sketch of the "stars and stripes." The first flag, containing 13 stars in a circle on a blue field, together with the red and white stripes, was adopted by Congress on June 14, 1777.



The Washington family tree has been traced back to Judah. The red, white and blue of our flag were also the colors of ancient Israel. Red is the color of sacrifice and redemption; white is the color of purity, the color of the garments worn by the Levites and priests of Israel, in the service of the sanctuary of God; the blue represents the color of water, the color of the sky, and the universe -- representing love and devotion. The vail of God's Temple was wrought in the colors "blue, and purple, and crimson [red], and fine linen [white]" (II Chron.3:14; Exodus 26:31).

George Washington's own coat of arms for his own family showed a white shield with 2 red bars and 3 red stars. Thus our flag is of ancient Israelitish origin. The Sachi flags and symbols carved on the walls of the rock temple of Ajanta in Bhopal, India, dating to the 4th century B.C. reveal the astonishing fact that our Israelitish ancestors had flags similar to our British and American flags, today.

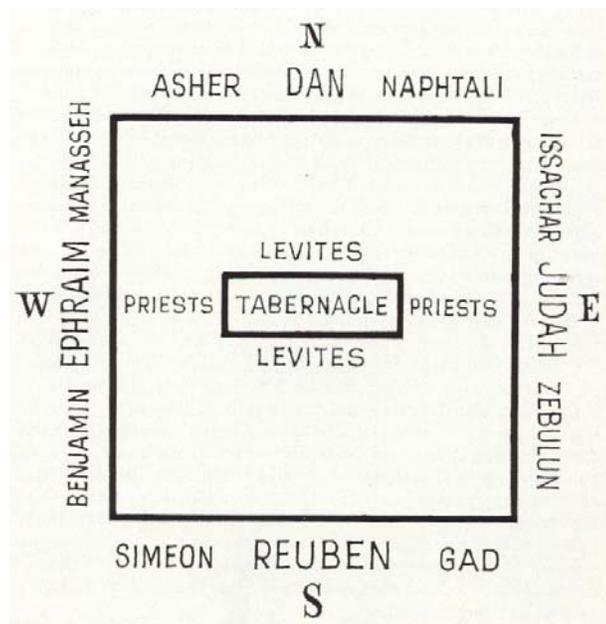
The Great Seal of the United States

On the day the Declaration of Independence was signed, a committee was appointed to design a national seal. The committee consisted of Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson. Concept after concept was rejected, as artists and others contributed their ideas. The present seal was formally adopted June 20, 1782. As the Revolutionary War involved great sufferings, trials, and loss of life, the colonies looked to God and His Word for spiritual guidance. Both sides of the United States seal have been printed on the one dollar bill, allowing us to determine the full meaning of the seal.



When ancient Israel marched out of Egypt under Moses, they marched under the four standards bearing the figures of the Lion, Bull, Eagle, and Man. There were three tribes under each standard or flag – and they marched or camped in the form of a hollow square, positioned around the Tabernacle of God which was at the center of their camp and marching formation. This "hollow square" was a form of fighting used by the British for years, until the development of high explosives.

We read of these four figures in Ezekiel: “As for the likeness of their faces, they four had the face of a man, and the face of a lion, on the right side; and they four had the face of an ox on the left side; they four also had the face of an eagle” (Ezek.1:10). These were the cherubim (Ezek.10:1-14).



The American Eagle

The eagle in the American seal has its face turned to the right – or westward. It is in full flight, indicating the American march to the western horizon. The motto of early America, coined by Horace Greeley, was, “Go west, young man,” and generations of Americans followed



that advice, settling the entire continent from the east to the west coasts.

The eagle is an illustration of God's guardianship over Israel. “As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings: so the LORD alone did lead him [Israel], and there was no strange god with him. He made him to ride on the high places of the earth, that he might eat the increase of the field; and he made him to suck honey out of the rock, and oil out of the flinty rock; butter of kine [cattle] and milk of sheep, with fat of lambs, and rams of the breed of Bashan, and goats, with the fat of kidneys of wheat; and thou didst drink the pure blood of the grape. But Jeshurun waxed fat, and kicked: thou art waxen fat, thou art grown thick, thou art covered with fatness; then he forsook God which had made him, and lightly esteemed the God of his salvation” (Deut.32:11-15).

God brought Israel out of Egypt on "eagle's wings" (Exodus 19:4). Thus the eagle is a symbol for God – and His loving protection. Interestingly, the eagle is noted for its keen



eyesight, its powerful flight, its soaring aloft, and its nest amidst the towering crags where its young are protected. The eagle mates for life. It is also a very clean bird, keeping its nest clean

with “maidenhair,” a special herb. It raises only two or three eaglets a year, and when the time comes, does not permit its young to remain near the nest, but forces it out of the nest, teaching it to fly, and then forcing it to seek other regions to dwell in.

The British seal has two of the ancient standards or flags of Israel – the lion and the unicorn (or bull). On the front side of the British seal is a lion, symbol of the tribe of Judah, which was to bear the kingship (I Chron.5:1-2), and the unicorn.

The obverse side of the Royal Seal of Britain shows the Sphinx of Egypt. The obverse side of the American Seal pictures the Great Pyramid. Both of these objects are close to each other in Egypt. I have visited them, with my family, and like so many other tourists, marveled at their majesty and profound visual impression to all the major senses. We enjoyed a spectacular “light show” at the base of the Great Pyramid and the Sphinx, depicting some of the history of Egypt in the time of its original glory.

Interestingly, the British are commonly known as “John Bull,” showing their Manasseh heritage, being linked with the unicorn on their Royal Seal. On the other hand, the United States is commonly known as “Uncle Sam.” Where does this name or title come from? Could this be a direct and distinct reference to the fact that our ancient capital, in the northern kingdom of Israel, was “Samaria”? Thus “Uncle SAM” derives from SAMaria, the land of our forefathers!

Similarly, American soldiers are commonly call “G.I.s,” and a nickname for an American soldier is “G.I. Joe.” Where does this term come from? The “G.I.” stands for “Government Issue.” Joe, of course, is a shortened form of JOSEPH, the name of our illustrious ancestor!

The Escutcheon or Shield

In Deuteronomy we read: “Happy art thou, O Israel: who is like unto thee, O people saved by the LORD, the SHIELD of thy help, and who is the sword of thy excellency! and thine enemies shall be found liars unto thee; and thou shalt tread upon their high places” (Deut.33:29).

Over the breast of the eagle on the United States seal is a shield – the shield of FAITH. It has thirteen stripes or bars, red and white, signifying the number “13” – the number of the tribe of Ephraim, which was the “13th tribe” of Israel (being the youngest of all). God is our shield. He said to Abraham, “I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward” (Gen.15:1). David cried, “But thou, O LORD, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head” (Psa.3:3). David prayed, “For thou, LORD, wilt bless the righteous; with favour wilt thou compass him as with a shield” (Psa.5:12).

The 13 paleways or stripes on the shield represent the 13 original colonies. The shield is not fastened to the eagle, but spread across in front of it, as if held there by the unseen Hand of God.

In the eagle’s beak there is a scroll, representing the proclamation of liberty and freedom, and justice for all – the Constitution of the United States, based on the laws of God and the Torah which God gave to ancient Israel.

The motto “E Pluribus Unum” means “One from Many,” or “Out of many, One.” It represents the UNITY of Israel, and the states of Ephraim – FIFTY united States of America! This One nation combines the peoples and ethnic groups of many different nations and peoples from around the world – out of many, ONE. And if we remained faithful to the laws of God, this national UNITY would be preserved forever. But if we BREAK God’s laws, then the very unity we possess will become a relic, a shallow memory, a distant dream, forgotten in the onrushing calamity and cataclysm.

American is a COMMONWEALTH of fifty states. At our national political conventions, members from each state rise to address the chair, saying, “Mr. Chairman, we the Commonwealth of Maine,” or, “The commonwealth of Massachusetts,” etc., etc.

Notice that in the eagle's right claw is clutched an olive branch. This olive branch has 13 leaves, and 13 olives. Joseph is compared in prophecy to a fruitful bough – of an olive tree (Gen.49:22). The olive tree is supreme among trees. The first tree the other trees asked to reign over them was the olive tree (Judges 9:8). But the fruit of the olive honors God and man (v.9). It seeks not to reign but to bear fruit. It is a sacred tree, and a symbol of the Holy Spirit of God, and of the Torah – the life-giving Law and Revelation of God. The olive branch is the greatest symbol also of Peace – Shalom.

The Bundle of Arrows

“Joseph is a fruitful bough . . . The archers have sorely grieved him, and shot at him, and hated him: But his bow abode in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob” (Gen.49:22-24).

Joseph – Ephraim and Manasseh – America and Britain – are famous therefore for their military prowess. Their “bow” is strong – they are powerful archers. The “bow,” today, is a symbol of AIR POWER. It was largely U.S. air power that defeated the Axis during World War II; that devastated Saddam Hussein in the Gulf War; that wreaked havoc in North Vietnam during the Vietnam War. The arrow is a symbol of war-making power. The ancient Anglo-Saxons were excellent archers. Who hasn't heard of Robin Hood and his merry men of Sherwood forest?

In the eagle's left claw are 13 arrows – representative of Ephraim, the 13th tribe. They symbolize national readiness and preparedness to fight and to safeguard the truth, the liberty, the freedoms which God has given us to enjoy. “Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty.” The arrows of the Almighty will protect His people so long as we obey Him; but woe unto us, if God Himself sends His arrows to punish us for our disobedience (Deut.32:23; Ezek.5:16).

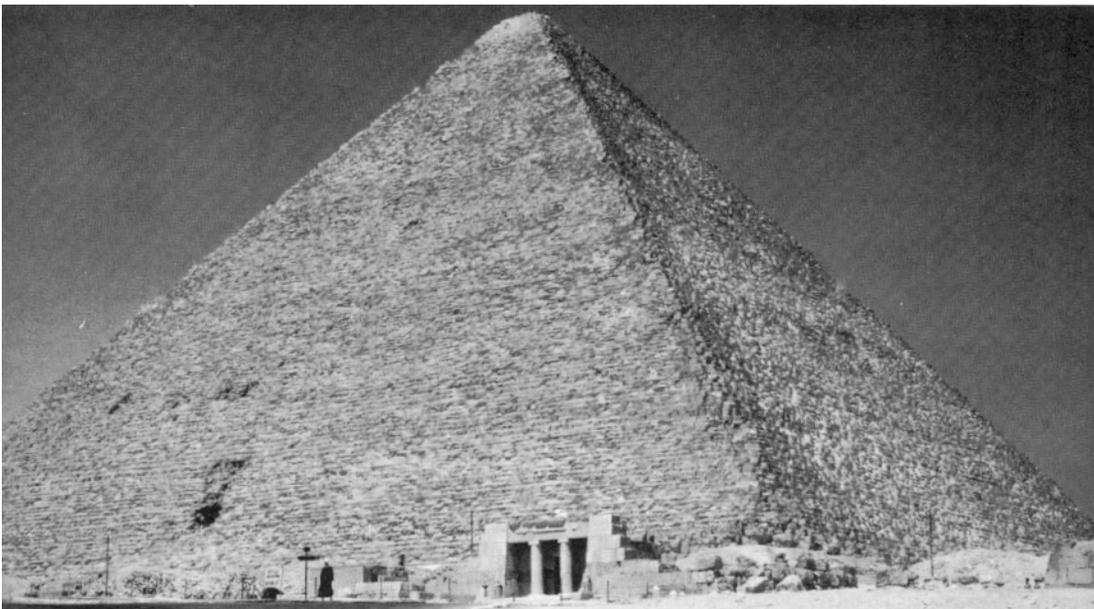
On the Seal of the United States of America, there are 13 olive leaves, 13 olives, 13 arrows, 13 paleways or stripes on the shield, 13 letters in “E Pluribus Unum,” 13 stars above the eagle's head. Interestingly, there were 13 original colonies, 13 ships in the original American Navy, 13 letters in “Fourth of July.” In World War I, 13 ships were sent to Europe, and took 13 days to cross the Atlantic, landing on Friday the 13th; the American troops on board fought in 13

battles in France. On the obverse side of the U.S. Seal, there are 13 tiers of stone in the Great Pyramid!

Over the eagle's head is a cloud or crest – a glorious scene of the Glory of God shining through and breaking up a cloud, shining upon 13 stars. The statute of endorsement stated, “A glory breaking through a cloud.” It was a pillar of fire and a cloud of the Presence of God that led ancient Israel out of Egypt (Exo.13:21-22; 14:24). The Divine Glory breaking through the cloud shows that it is the power and glory of God, shining upon Israel, that keeps her safe and makes her great, and gives her deliverance. So long as we acknowledge our God, and His Presence, and obey His Laws, our nations will be great. But if and when we forget God, then our punishment and doom is assured (Isaiah 1:1-21; Prov.1:22-32; Hosea 4:6-8).

The 13 stars in the cloud above the eagle represent two truths: 1) the number 13 reveals the 13 tribes of Israel, in total; and 2) the scene depicts 12 stars below (bowing down before) the highest star -- the star of Joseph. This was in fulfillment of Joseph's amazing dream, where he said, “behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me” (Gen.37:9; see also verses 10-11).

The Great Pyramid of Gizeh



The statute adopted by the Seal Committee declared, “A Pyramid unfinished.” Above the unfinished pyramid – remember, the great pyramid of Egypt at Gizeh has no capstone and was never finished, yet it remains the most perfect building ever built by man – hovers a capstone surrounded by glory. This is the stone rejected by the builders, but which becomes the chief corner stone – the Messiah, Jesus Christ, returning soon to complete the pyramid and to usher in the Messianic Age and Kingdom of God! (I Pet.2:6-8; Isa.28:16; Psa.118:22-23).

Underneath this pyramid is the Latin phrase, “NOVUS ORDO SECLORUM,” which means, “New World Order.” But this refers to the TRUE New World Order which will be brought to this earth by the returning Christ when He comes in power and glory to establish His Kingdom (Matt.25:31-32; Rev.19:11-16). The fact that the symbol shows the capstone hovering over the pyramid, not yet finished, depicts the fact that Christ has not yet returned to complete His program and the plan of God on the earth. We are now awaiting with bated breath, breathlessly, that awesome, and for many ominous, Day!

It is a fact that many of the later pyramids in Egypt were built by the Israelites, who were master builders. Joseph himself built ancient Lake Tanis, and a tremendous water irrigation system for the desert, bringing immense wealth and prosperity to Egypt. Isaiah the prophet speaks of the Great Pyramid in these words: “In that day there shall be an altar to the LORD in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a PILLAR at the border thereof to the LORD. And it shall be for a sign and for a witness unto the LORD of hosts in the land of Egypt” (Isa.19:19-20).

Modern Cairo, capital of Egypt, stands in the land of Goshen, land given to Israel and belonging to Israel, and which will be returned to Israel in the Millennium. The Great Pyramid lies at the true border of Israel and Egypt, according to this passage of Scripture!

The “Eye of God”

The “eye” depicted in the cornerstone of the Great Pyramid in the American Seal, represents the eye of God who sees all our human undertakings, and beholds all the activities of the sons of men. “The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God” (Psalm 14:2). “The LORD looketh from heaven; he beholdeth all the sons of men. From the place of his habitation he looketh upon all the inhabitants of the earth” (Psalm 33:13). The eyes of God behold the righteous, and their suffering – He is the “God who sees,” and who provides – Yahveh-Yireh (Gen.16:13-14). “For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him” (II Chron.16:9).

Above the pyramid we see the motto, “ANNUIT COEPTIS,” which is Latin for “He has prospered our undertakings.” In Genesis we read about Joseph: “. . . the LORD was with him, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand” (Gen.39:3). How fitting that this very motto reminds us of our forefather Joseph, who lived by the commandments of God, and who was blessed for his obedience, even as Abraham was before him (Gen.26:5). The implication of course is that if we also obey God and keep His commandments, as a nation, today, we also will achieve success in all our undertakings, be successful in all our endeavors, and prosper in all our ways. But if we disobey the Divine will, and disregard His laws, we will suffer the consequences of disobedience (Lev.26; Deut.28; Ezek.5:12).

How amazing that the Great Seal of the United States tells such a vivid story in Biblical history and prophecy! Truly, the tribe of Joseph has been recognized and FOUND! The tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh now stand IDENTIFIED on the face of the earth!

They most assuredly could not be the Chinese, or the Japanese, or the Eskimos of Greenland and Alaska. They most assuredly could not be the Russians, the Mongols, the Arabs, or the blacks of Africa, or the aborigines of Australia, or the Central Europeans.

No other peoples on earth could be the recipients of heaven's choicest blessings, and the promises of God made to our Fathers, but the United States and Great Britain, and the English-speaking peoples of the earth! Just look at a world globe -- look up the national statistics in any almanac, encyclopedia, or history book. Truly we bear the heritage of Joseph, son of Jacob, son of Isaac, son of Abraham!

Truly we bear, as Rudyard Kipling wrote so eloquently, “the white man’s burden” – an awesome responsibility to carry Salvation and the knowledge of God to the ends of the earth – to repent of our sins and serve the Most High purposes of God – and to bear the message of the truth of our Messiah Yeshu Notzri – Jesus the Nazarene – throughout the Earth, with the truth of the Torah and LAW of God!

A Latter Day Prophecy

Minister F. E. Pitts of Nashville, Tennessee, in an address to the Congress of the United States in 1857, declared: “There are very many passages of Scripture which are universally admitted, by the learned and judicious, to foretell the rise of a great nationality in the latter times. These applications cannot by any reasonable construction be applied to the rise of such nationality in the land of Judea; but are most wonderfully descriptive of the United States of America, and of no other country under heaven.”

Could such a prophecy be the one presented in Isaiah 18? This chapter is most mysterious. The nation or people are not identified by name, or ancestor, as is usual in most Biblical prophecies. No city or nation in the Middle East is mentioned or alluded to. In fact, the nation is said to be “BEYOND Ethiopia” – that is, much further away from the Holy Land than the nation of Ethiopia. Ethiopia is roughly 1,500 miles from the land of Israel.

Writes E. Raymond Capt, in *Our Great Seal: The Symbols of Our Heritage and Our Destiny*, “This chapter 18, is admittedly a most difficult passage for the interpreter. It is one of the most obscure prophecies; the people to whom it is addressed, the person he sends, the ambassadors, the nations to whom they are sent are extremely doubtful. Most commentators pass it by with brief and inane words showing they have no idea of its meaning. In such translations, without the translator knowing the meaning you may look for poor work in rendering the meaning of unknown words. In this respect chapter 18 of Isaiah is one of the most inaccurate, awkward, and indefinite translations of the Old Testament” (p.71).

The awkwardness begins with the very first word of the chapter. The King James Version begins, “Woe to the land shadowing with wings, which is BEYOND the rivers of Ethiopia” (v.1). In the first place, the word translated “Woe” here is **הוי**, pronounced *hoh'-ee*, and means “Ho!” or “Oh!” It is variously translated “ah, alas, ho, O, woe.” Whether it should be a positive exclamation, or a negative statement, would generally depend on the context. In Isaiah 55:1 it is translated, “HO, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters.”

Says E. Raymond Capt, “The Hebrew word ‘hoi eretz’ with which chapter 18 opens is a mistranslation. It is not an exclamation of ‘woe,’ but hailing for attention, i.e., ‘Ho’ or ‘All hail.’” The whole tenor of Isaiah 18 shows that it should be so translated here, he states. “The nation described is not one that is ‘meted out and trodden down.’ The tense is wrong. It is more accurately translated ‘That meteth out and treadeth down.’ It is not ‘scattered and peeled’ or ‘spread out and polished’ but ‘tall and smooth.’ Its land and rivers have not ‘spoiled’ or ‘divided’ but ‘quartered.’”

Let’s examine this strangle prophecy in more minute detail. The New Revised Standard Version begins the passage, “Ah, land of whirring wings beyond the rivers of Ethiopia.” The Jewish Tanakh has it, “Ah, land in the deep shadows of wings, beyond the rivers of Nubia!”

Since the land addressed in the prophecy is not named, whereas other prophetic messages are addressed to named nations, we can conclude that this particular prophecy is addressed to a land unknown in Isaiah’s time, and not located in the general territory of the Middle East or Africa, lands well known in Biblical times.

The fact that this land is “BEYOND” the rivers of Ethiopia, primarily meaning the Nile which has its origin in Ethiopia, then this land would be further away from the Middle East and ancient Israel than Ethiopia itself – regarded as being very distant. Interesting, E. Raymond Capt points out, “However, the word ‘beyond’ in Hebrew means ‘WEST.’” The ancient Hebrews faced the sunrise, looking eastward, and “before” meant eastward. “Behind” or “beyond” meant WEST. Says Capt, “ ‘Beyond’ the rivers of Ethiopia (land of Cush) meant over his shoulder, west. Let Isaiah stand in Jerusalem, face the sunrise and describe the land beyond (west) the rivers of Ethiopia. Following that line from Jerusalem, west, and you will see no country till you strike America; the coasts of South Carolina and Georgia” (p.73).

“Beyond” the rivers of Ethiopia means further away than the remote origins of the Nile River, which flows from Ethiopia to the Mediterranean Sea. It is 1,500 miles distant from ancient Judea.

Interestingly, the United States of America, lying due west from ancient Judea, is about 6,000 miles from the Middle East – certainly “beyond” the land of Ethiopia and the headwaters of the Nile!

“Shadowing with ‘Wings’”

The prophecy continues: “the land shadowed with buzzing wings” (NKJV), “land of whirring wings” (NRSV), “land in the deep shadow of wings” (Tanakh), and “ye wings of the land of ships” (LXX). This nation is clearly connected with WINGS. It is a nation of WINGS! The great nation today, most identified with WINGS, and famous for its powerful AIR FORCE, and manufacturer of commercial aircraft, such as the Boeing Company, is undoubtedly the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA!

The prophecy speaks of “wings of the land of SHIPS.” America is noted for not only its air power, and commercial aircraft, but also its SHIPS – its powerful Navy, and the amazing

aircraft carriers which carry the “wings” of powerful missiles and aircraft around the world, projecting American power!

Interestingly, a large map also shows that North and South America are in the shape of the outstretched wings of a great eagle. “Shadowed” could indicate that this great nation was hidden in the “wings” until God’s time came to reveal its existence and to deliver a message to it!

Interestingly, also, is the fact that the eagle, with outspread wings, is the NATIONAL SYMBOL OF THE UNITED STATES! As Raymond Capt points out, “While other nations have the eagle as their national emblem, *no other country has the eagle with outstretched wings*. Mexico has an eagle with closed wings; Germany has an eagle with closed wings; Russia has an eagle grasping a round globe – representing the whole earth – and an arrow to conquer the earth with war. The United States has an eagle with spread wings and, therefore, it is actually a ‘*land of outstretched wings*’” (p.73).

The bald eagle with outstretched wings was selected as the emblem or symbol of the United States. Interesting it is that John foretells in the book of Revelation, that in the last days, the time of the end, “But the woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she could fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to her place where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time” (Rev.12:14., NRSV).

Could the Biblical “place of safety” be in the land of the Eagle with outstretched wings”?

Says Capt, “The outstretched wings, like a mother bird protecting her brood under her wings also foreshadowed a nation that would serve as a refuge for all oppressed people of the earth. Since the world began there has never been any country that from its beginning offered a welcome and hospitality to the downtrodden and suffering people of every part of the world for the purpose of giving them religious freedom and civil liberty except America” (p.74).

“Ambassadors by the Sea”

Continuing the prophecy, we read: “Which sends ambassadors by sea, even in vessels of reed on the waters, saying, Go, swift messengers . . .” (Isa.18:2). “He sends messengers by the sea, and paper letters on the water” (LXX).

The term “ambassadors” refers to men who travel as diplomats, representing their nation’s interests. Says E. Raymond Capt, “For over 150 years all our ambassadors went by water to Europe, Asia, Australia, even to South America, and Central America. Only in two countries, Canada and Mexico, did our representatives not have to cross the sea to arrive at their assignments” (p.74).

The King James translators were very confused by this verse. They translated a compound Hebrew word as “vessels of bulrushes upon the waters” (v.2). This was a woeful error! The Hebrew word literally means “water-drinking vessels,” or “vessels that drink.” Not knowing of

any ocean going vessel that ran on water power, by converting ocean water to steam in steam engines, to drive a ship forward, they looked around for something that grew out of water and hit upon the word “bulrushes.” Others, equally in the dark, refer to them as “papyrus.” The Hebrew word is **גומא**, *go-meh*, and means literally “an absorbent,” from *gama*, “to absorb, swallow, or drink.” This describes vessels that absorb, “drink,” or swallow *water!*

What better description for a *steamship!*

“Water-drinking vessels upon the waters” describes ocean liners, steamships, something not even dreamed of in Isaiah’s century, 800 years before Christ! A steamship pumps up water, distills it, turns it into steam, and uses steam to drive its propellers to push the ship through the ocean.

The steamship was invented, interestingly enough, by an American – Robert J. Fulton. He was an American inventor and designed and built the *Clermont*, the first commercially successful steamboat. On August 17, 1807, it began its first successful trip up the Hudson River. America soon became the world leader in the new steam-powered ocean going vessels.

Says Raymond Capt, “Isaiah was looking down the ages and seeing the time when America was exercising a controlling power throughout the world by sending all its ambassadors, its soldiers and its sailors by vessels that ‘drinks up water’ and makes steam to propel it on all the waters of the world” (*ibid.*).

Another Mistranslation

The King James Version continues: “To a nation scattered and peeled, to a people terrible from their beginning hitherto . . .” (v.2). The New King James has this, “A nation TALL and SMOOTH OF SKIN . . .” The NRSV has it, “To a nation tall and smooth, to a people feared near and far, a nation mighty and conquering . . .”

The Interlinear Bible: “To a nation tall and smooth, to a dreadful people from it, and onwards; and a nation stalwart and trampling down . . .”

The Tanakh: “To a nation far and remote, To a people thrust forth and away . . .”

Raymond Capt points out, “The word ‘scattered’ is from the Hebrew ‘mashak’ meaning ‘drawn out’ or tall. The word ‘peeled’ is from the Hebrew ‘marat’ meaning ‘to pluck off hair’ or ‘smooth-shaven.’ It is evident that the prophet had a vision of a land wherein the men were tall like trees with the bark peeled off and the best translation available is ‘tall and clean-shaven’” (p.75).

Consider these points: When America was discovered by the Norsemen, they found a race which was tall and smooth-skinned. The Indians were taller than Europeans or Asians and did not have facial hair/beards. A people “terrible from their beginning” would certainly describe the Indian inhabitants of North America – violent and warlike.

But Isaiah's words also describe the Europeans who settled in the New Land. Says Raymond Capt:

“In the World War of 1914 America mobilized an army of three million soldiers that averaged five feet, eleven inches in height. *This was the tallest army the world ever saw and there was not a full beard to be seen.* Convinced they were fighting a ‘just war’ they were a ‘terror’ unto their enemy. Even in the process of being born, our nation whipped the mightiest nation of the known world (‘terrible from their beginning’) and fought victorious with Mexico, Spain, Germany and Japan. We have never been defeated in the defense of our own lands or the freedom of the seas. The word ‘onward’ in the prophecy suggests that America will never be conquered from without down to the end of the ages” (page 75).

The prophecy of Isaiah 18 seems to be directed toward the United States of America! Who else could it be? Who else fits the amazing description of this mysterious land and its people?

But there is much more evidence!

“A Nation Meted Out and Trodden Under Foot”

It would seem to be a contradiction for a nation to be powerful and feared and “terrible” and yet to be described as “meted out and trodden under foot.” Again, the problem lies with the poor quality of the translation!

“A mighty and conquering nation,” says the NRSV. “A nation powerful and treading down,” says the NKJV. “A nation stalwart and trampling down” (Interlinear Bible).

Again, in modern times this sounds like the United States of America, the nation which led the fight against the Nazis and Japanese in World War II, fighting on two fronts; which led the nations fighting in Korea, and Vietnam; which led the nations fighting in Kuwait in 1991, and in Afghanistan and Iraq in more recent years.

But Raymond Capt brings another fact to the table. He relates that “The word ‘meteth’ out is from the Hebrew ‘qav-qav’ meaning ‘line-line.’ ‘Treadeth down’ (or ‘trodden down – King James) is from the Hebrew ‘Mebusoh’ which may be rendered ‘trodden under foot.’ Putting them together, a literal translation would be a land ‘measured out under the treading’ – that is a land measured out by lines under feet. This is descriptive of our process of SURVEYING which we began in 1800 and in which our land is literally a checker-board of sections. About the time that Florida and Louisiana were taken into the Union, and Ohio taken in as a state, the Government passed a law that all public lands should be surveyed by the north star, and a base line run east and west and all this land marked up into mile square sections. These sections are subdivided into quarter sections of half a mile squares. *No nation was ever so ‘meted’ out in blocks before.* All the countries of the earth, as in the division of the land under Joshua, surveyed and marked their land by local boundaries” (p.75-76).

Who would have thought? Only the United States, of all the nations in the world, was literally “meted out” and surveyed by the creation of checker-board squares under the foot of surveyors.

“Whose Land the Rivers Have Spoiled”

The NRSV has this, “whose land the rivers divide.” The NKJV concurs. The Tanakh has it, “Whose land is cut off by streams.” The Interlinear Bible: “whose land the rivers have divided!”

Again, we have a flagrant error in the King James Version. The word “spoiled” is from the Hebrew *baza* and means “to cleave.” It is a term used in the sacrifice of animals, where an animal was “quartered” and “divided” upon the altar. Says Raymond Capt, the term should be rendered as “quartered.” He goes on:

“An examination of all nations of the world, shows only one, the United States, that is quartered by rivers. The Mississippi takes its rise near the Canadian border and cuts right down to the Gulf of Mexico dividing our land into halves. In the Pacific Coast side is the Columbia River. Follow it upward to its junction with the Snake River, follow that upward into close proximity with the source of the Missouri River which starts in Montana and meanders eastward into the Mississippi, dividing the west into halves. In the Atlantic Coast side begin with the Ohio River and follow it eastward to Pittsburgh and its junction with the Monongahela River that runs by McKeesport, then follow eastward the Younghiogheny River where, at Glencoe, Pennsylvania, it becomes the Castleman River, go on upstream until Wills Creek branches off and takes its source where the Potomac begins and runs to the Bay and the Atlantic and you have the eastern half of the nation divided in two. Thus the whole land is ‘quartered by rivers.’ One cannot find any other land on earth divided this way, into four sections: Northeast, Northwest, Southeast, Southwest, by rivers” (p.76).

All these signs point to the United States as being the fulfillment of the amazing prophecy of Isaiah 18 – a prophecy for the End Times, of a great and powerful nation beyond the rivers of Ethiopia – that is, a nation thousands of miles removed from the Middle East and Africa – farther away than Ethiopia itself.

It was to be a great and fearsome nation that sent ambassadors across the sea; a nation that used “water-drinking vessels” or steamships; a nation that was powerful and warlike, creating fear in its enemies; a nation “far removed”; a nation that was to be “tall and clean-shaven”; a nation surveyed by being meted out and trod under foot; a nation quartered by great rivers.

What other nation, extant in the end of days, could it be? None other fits the description. What else characterizes this mighty nation?

Lifting up the Ensign and Blowing the Trumpet

Isaiah continues the prophecy: “All inhabitants of the world and dwellers on the earth: When he lifts up a banner on the mountains, you see it; and when he blows a trumpet, you hear it” (Isaiah 18:3).

The “banner” and “trumpet” are symbols of war. Isaiah saw in his vision America lifting up the banner and blowing the trumpet – going to war – with all the world beholding its mighty conflicts. When America went to war, the whole world noticed – the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, the War of 1812, the Mexican War of 1846, the Spanish-American War of 1898, the First World War, 1914-1918, the Second World War, 1941-1945, the Korean War, 1950-1953, the Vietnam War, 1965-1974, the First Gulf War, 1991, the Second Gulf War, 2003 – and in most of these latter wars, it was the United States which took the lead by blowing the trumpet and calling the nations to war, to defend freedom and liberty. In each case, our nation took the leadership, and led the way in settling international disputes.

Jacob foretold of the sons of Joseph, his son, that in the latter days his descendants would be “a fruitful bough, a fruitful bough by a well: His branches run over the wall. The archers have bitterly grieved him, shot at him and hated him. But his bow remained in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the Mighty God of Jacob . . . and by the Almighty who will bless you with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that lies beneath, blessings of the breast and of the womb” (Gen.49:22-26).

Sunshine and Blessings

God declared: “For so the LORD said to me, I will take My rest, and I will look from My dwelling place like a clear heat in *sunshine*, like a *cloud of dew* in the heat of harvest” (Isa.18:4). Here God connects this mysterious people with the blessings of sunshine and the dew of the heavens and harvest.

In other prophecies, the blessings of sunshine and heat, and dew and harvest, are connected with only one tribe of the tribes of Israel, the tribe of Joseph! Jacob prophesied that Almighty God would bless Joseph’s descendants with “blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that lies beneath, blessings of the breast and of the womb” (Gen.49:25-26).

Moses also foretold of the tribe of Joseph, “Blessed of the LORD is his land, with the precious things of heaven, with the DEW, and the deep lying beneath, with the precious fruits of the SUN [sunshine], with the precious produce of the months, with the best things of the ancient mountains, with the precious things of the everlasting hills, with the precious things of the earth and its fullness” (Deut.33:13-16).

Moses also foretold the war-making capacity of this powerful people, saying, “His glory is like the firstborn bull, and his horns like the horns of the wild ox; together with them he shall push the peoples to the end of the earth” (verse 17).

The words of Isaiah are another allusion to the end-time power and blessings of the tribe of Joseph, the son who was “separate from his brothers” (Deut.33:16). Joseph’s inheritance was to be far removed from the Middle East, or with his other brothers. He went to the far west.

The identify of Joseph in the modern world is set forth in our book *America and Great Britain: Our Identity Revealed – Ephraim and Manasseh in the End of Days*.

The Time of the Prophecy

What is the time element of this prophecy in Isaiah 18? Was it merely some obscure discussion of some ancient nation, thousands of years ago? That would be meaningless and pointless. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for correction, instruction in righteousness, and important for our lives (II Tim.3:16).

The time and dating of the prophetic warning of Isaiah 18 is found in the next verse. Notice! God declares, “*For before the HARVEST, when the bud is perfect and the sour grape is ripening in the flower, He will both cut off the sprigs with pruning hooks and take away and cut down the branches. They will be left together for the mountain birds of prey and for the beasts of the earth; the birds of prey will summer on them, and all the beasts of the earth will winter on them*” (Isaiah 18:5-6).

When is the time of “harvest”? Jesus Christ, Yeshua the Messiah, declared, “. . . the harvest is the END OF THE AGE” (Matt.13:39). It is at the “time of the end” that God will “harvest” His people, and the peoples of the earth!

At the time of the end of this age, God says, “Let the nations be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat; for there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations. Put in the sickle, for the HARVEST IS RIPE. Come, go down; for the winepress is full, the vats overflow – for their wickedness is great” (Joel 3:12-13).

In the book of Revelation, we also read: “Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat One like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, ‘Thrust in your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap for the HARVEST of the earth is ripe.’ So He who sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped” (Rev.14:14-16).

The harvest is at the end of the age of man’s misrule of planet earth. We are rapidly approaching that climactic harvest period RIGHT NOW! John goes on, “Then another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. And another angel came out from the altar, who had power over fire, and he cried with a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, ‘Thrust in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for her grapes are fully ripe.’ So the angel thrust his sickle into the earth and gathered the vine of the earth, and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trampled outside the city, and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses’ bridles, for one thousand six hundred furlongs” (about 200 miles)” (Rev.14:17-20).

All these prophecies culminate at the final time of harvesting, when the Messiah returns to planet earth!

Isaiah continues, “In that time a present will be brought to the LORD of hosts from a people tall and smooth of skin [the people of the United States and the tribe of Joseph, including Great Britain and Canada], and from a people terrible from their beginning and onward, a nation powerful and treading down, whose land the rivers divide – to the place of the name of the LORD of hosts, to Mount Zion” (Isa.18:7).

Seven verses – yet what a punch they pack!

Seven short verses – and yet they spell out the IDENTITY of the United States of America, and foretell its future in the “last days” of this end-time generation!

Punishment and Judgment Coming

God declares that He will, when the time of harvest comes – and it is now at the doors – that He will “both cut off the sprigs with pruning hooks and take away and cut down the branches” of His people, this far removed powerful nation. That is, He will “prune” His people, and cut away the unprofitable, ungodly, wicked, diseased and spiritually sick “branches,” in order to save the tree itself, and purge it that it may bring forth GOOD fruit!

The people of the nation are prophesied to suffer greatly during this pruning process, for there is much wickedness in the land. “They will be left together for the mountain birds of prey and for the beasts [Gentile nations] of the earth” (Isa.18:6).

As Raymond Capt writes, “But a time of cleansing (for our nation) is indicated as ‘afore the harvest.’ Matt.13:39 tells us that the harvest is the consummation of the age. So, at the close of the age, those worthless evil branches are to be pulled off and exposed, and left for the predatory external forces, here called ‘fowls’ and ‘beasts’ to destroy” (page 77).

This is speaking of the time of Great Tribulation soon to engulf the nations! Yeshua declared of that coming time, “But woe to those that are pregnant, and to those who are nursing babies in those days! And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved [alive]; but for the elect’s sake, those days will be shortened” (Matt.24:19-22).

Luke adds, “For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! For there will be great distress in the land and WRATH upon this people. And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled” (Luke 21:22-24).

These days are rapidly approaching us, right now! The time of nation PRUNING is coming upon us very rapidly!

“A Present Shall Be Brought to the LORD”

The prophecy of Isaiah ends, saying, “*In that time* a present shall be brought to the LORD of hosts from a people tall and smooth of skin . . .” (v.7). The expression “in that time” invariably means, in prophetic parlance, the days of the “end of the age” and the coming of the Messiah!

God says, “Enter into the rock, and hide in the dust, from the terror of the LORD and the glory of His majesty. The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the LORD alone shall be exalted IN THAT DAY” (Isaiah 2:10-11).

What day is that? “For the DAY OF THE LORD OF HOSTS shall come upon everything proud and lofty, upon everything lifted up – and it shall be brought low . . . Upon all the high mountains [great nations], and upon all the hills that are lifted up; upon every high tower, and upon every fortified wall; upon all the ships of Tarshish [ocean-going vessels and navies] . . . The loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be brought low; The LORD alone shall be exalted IN THAT DAY, but the idols He shall utterly abolish” (Isa.2:12-18).

The time of retribution – the day of judgment – the hour of travail – the day of reckoning – the time of vengeance – is soon going to strike the earth and fall upon the heads of the wicked and rebellious among men.

God warns, “They shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, from the terror of the LORD and the glory of His majesty, when He arises to *shake the earth mightily*. IN THAT DAY a man will cast away his idols of silver and his idols of gold, which they made, each for himself to worship, to the moles and bats, to go into the clefts of the rocks, from the terror of the LORD and the glory of His majesty, *when He arises to SHAKE THE EARTH MIGHTILY*” (Isaiah 2:19-21).

Its Time to REPENT, NOW!

What does God command His people, those who wish to avert His wrath and judgment, to do? He says, “SEVER YOURSELVES from such a man” – the disobedient and wicked – “whose breath is in his nostrils; for of what account is he?” (verse 22).

Literally, this verse means, “CEASE yourselves from the man” being described – the proud and haughty – “in what is he to be esteemed?”

Why esteem highly the wicked and proud of this world, the high and mighty, those who think they hold the world in their hands – the politicians and world leaders, and the ministers and preachers of the world’s vain religions and vast religious empires.? They are all foolishness

before God, and will all suffer His divine fury and wrath poured out upon the heads of men and nations in the coming frightful and turbulent years.

Sever yourselves from vain and evil associations, and cleave to what is good – the Word of God and His commandments, laws, statutes, and judgments.

Peter warned in the book of Acts, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, and for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him” (Acts 2:38-39, NRSV). Peter concluded, “SAVE YOURSELVES FROM THIS CORRUPT GENERATION!” (v.40).

Later on Peter admonished, “REPENT therefore, and turn to God that your sins may be wiped out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Messiah appointed for you, that is, Jesus, who must remain in heaven until the time of universal restoration that God announced long ago through his holy prophets” (Acts 3:19-21, NRSV).

Turn to Christ – repent of sin, which is lawbreaking (I John 3:4) – accept Christ as your Saviour, the One who died, paying the penalty of your sins, wickedness, neglect, and shortcomings – and be baptized in the name of Christ, for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38). Then you will receive the GIFT of God’s Holy Spirit which He only gives to those who obey Him (Acts 5:32).

The warning is going out. The time to repent is NOW.

“Seek the LORD, while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him RETURN TO THE LORD, and He will have MERCY on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon” (Isaiah 55:6-7).

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts” (v.8).

The apostle Paul tells us in no uncertain words, “Behold, NOW is the accepted time; behold, NOW is the day of salvation” (II Cor.6:2). To avoid judgment and punishment, NOW is the time to get right with God, and to get serious about it! Tomorrow may well be too late.

As the apostle Paul wrote, “Sleeper awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you. Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, MAKING THE MOST OF THE TIME, because the days are evil” (Eph.5:14-16).

Or, as the New King James has it: “See then that you walk circumspectly [carefully], not as fools but as wise, REDEEMING THE TIME, because the days are evil” (Eph.5:15-16).