

The United States in Joel and Zephaniah

by C. O. Stadslev

Joel Chapter 1 Time Indicators

The book of Joel starts by revealing that this is a prophecy of *“The word of the LORD that came to Joel...”* To begin with, let us look at some time indicators, which point out the time when this prophecy was to be fulfilled. Let us, also, note some characteristics of the people Joel foresaw in his prophetic revelation.

In **verse 2:** we read: *“Hear this, ye old men, and give ear, all ye inhabitants of the land. Hath this been in your days, or even in the days of your fathers?”*

Joel indicates that what he sees in his vision from God is something different, something that has not been in the days of the fathers nor in his time.

Verse 3: *“Tell ye your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children another generation.”*

This verse definitely suggests a long-range prophecy, one which would not have an immediate fulfillment, but would be fulfilled many generations hence. And here we are today in the generation when Joel's prophecy is being fulfilled!

In **verse 5:** of this first chapter, Joel foresees something very interesting: *“Awake, ye drunkards, and weep; and howl, all ye drinkers of wine...”* Can

you imagine a prophet envisioning the United States of America today without noticing the drunkenness in our nation? One of the first things he sees as he beholds this land is the preponderance of drunkards and drinkers of intoxicating liquor. This really needs no further comment.

Verse 6: prophecies: *“For a nation is come up upon my land, strong, and without number, whose teeth are the teeth of a lion,....”*

In other words, Joel foresees the threat of World Communism; he sees the subversives swarming over our nation infiltrating every department.

He continues to describe this condition in the following **verses (7 through 13)** and gives in symbolic language what it has done and what it is doing to our land. **Verses 14 and 15** bring out another time indicator: *“Sanctify ye a fast, call a solemn assembly, gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land into the house of the LORD your God, and cry unto the LORD,”*

Here is a call to a nation of Christendom to pray to their God for intervention, deliverance and help. None other than a nation of Christendom could be addressed in this manner. *“Alas for the day! For the day of the LORD is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come.”*

This prophecy is to be fulfilled in the day of the Lord. Every student of Bible prophecy knows we are now in the day of the Lord.

Some people imagine this “destruction from the Almighty” will come upon the good people, but let me reassure you it is to be a destruction of the wicked — the anti-Christ forces.

Joel

Chapter 2

The Threat Against The U.S.

As I mentioned earlier, this prophecy deals almost exclusively with our nation, the great Zion nation that was to arise in the last days. The second chapter opens this way: **Verse 1:** *“Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain:....”*

The trumpet symbolizes trouble and danger, the gathering and the building up of military forces. The prophet Joel calls to the civil leaders of this nation to alert and prepare the people.

The words “holy mountain” or “holy nation” do not mean a nation that is sinless any more than the phrase “holy men of old” signifies that these men were sinless. One would not say that Solomon and David were sinless, yet they were called “holy” because they were set aside, used and blessed of God. This great nation, the United States of America (symbolized here by a mountain), is spoken of as being holy because it, too, has been set aside, blessed, favored and used of God.

“...let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand;”

The threat that Joel foresees is one which involves all the people. It is not, merely, a conflict of one army against another, affecting only the military forces. All the inhabitants of the land are involved. This verse also gives the time

indicator: **“the day of the LORD.”** This term identifies the particular period in which we live, the closing of the church age and the ushering in of the kingdom age. Some prophets call it the **“great and dreadful day of the Lord”** while others simply call it **“the day of the Lord.”**

Verse 2: *“A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness,....”* We have here phrases which indicate Joel actually foresaw the tremendous, literal clouds which have been created by atomic and nuclear explosions. He, also, saw the gloominess and fear of the people.

Verse 3: speaks again of the threat of World Communism: *“A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them.”*

The prophet foresaw the desolation, the terrible destruction, bondage and misery that would follow the spread of World Communism. All one need do is to remember (compare) East and West Germany; the first a wilderness in every sense of the word — literally, spiritually and physically. Note what is described in **Verse 4:** *“The appearance of them is as the appearance of horses; and as horsemen, so shall they run.”* Joel does not say these men mount horses — he says they look like they are running to mount horses.

In **Verse 5:** he tells us they crawl into chariots, which fly or heap on the tops of the mountains. In other words, Joel saw men running to their planes, crawling into the cockpits and then describes these planes as leaping over the mountains. He even heard the noise. He says the noise is

“...like the noise of a flame of fire that devoureth the stubble, as a strong people set in battle array.”

Joel, of course, had never heard the roar of a plane, but in his vision and revelation from God, concerning our nation and the threat of World Communism, he actually heard the noise. He calls it the noise of a stubble fire, with which he was familiar.

Verse 6: *“Before their face the people shall be much pained: all faces shall gather blackness.”*

We are constantly hearing the warning that a nuclear war means total warfare, involving not only the military forces of the nation but all of the people. Joel foresaw this threat of a great air armada coming to attack the entire nation.

In verses 7, 8, 9 and 10, he, again tells of the infiltration of the satanic, anti-Christ Communistic forces, but beginning in verse 11, through the balance of the chapter, he relates how God will intervene and deliver this great Kingdom nation, the United States of America.

Joel Chapter 2

Israel's* Turning Divine Intervention Deliverance And Restoration

(*Pastor Stadslev teaches that America is the Israel of Joel's book, not Israeli in Palestine.)

Joel 2:11: *“And the lord shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp is very great: for he is strong that executeth his word: for the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?”* Although the armies of the Anglo-Saxon or Israel people are spoken of as the armies of the Lord

throughout Scripture, God's armies are not limited to men; God also has angels, a heavenly army. This may be what is referred to in verse 11.

To my mind the most important verse in the entire book of Joel is verse 12 of this chapter. Here we are given the reason from God's viewpoint for all that threatens and afflicts us from the Communists and the hordes of heathendom and from all the subversive and anti-Christ forces within our land. The Almighty is allowing these tremendous troubles for just one reason. Would to God His people would understand His hand and purpose and see His working.

Verse 12: *“Therefore (in other words, because of all that we find in chapter 1 and 2 up to verse 12) also now, saith the LORD, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning:...”*

Who is to turn and repent? The good people, the conservatives, the rightists, the fundamentalists and the full-gospel people. God insists these people must turn to the Word of God for this nation in this hour. The only way to turn to God is to turn to His Word, and today we must do more than turn to Christ for personal salvation. We must honor the national message of the Scriptures and turn to God's will and ways for the nation. God will compel us to do this.

What will happen when we do? *“... for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.”*

Joel 2:13

Someone may ask why God allows distress to be poured upon our nation and other nations of Christendom if He is gracious and merciful and of great kindness.

Why has He allowed World War I, World War II, the great depression, Korea, Vietnam?

The answer (and the cure) is simply this: “Therefore also now. . . turn ye even to me.” God will turn the Communists (our enemies) upside down and inside out forever when we do what He desires and decrees that we shall do. We will turn to Him — that is turn to the gospel of the Kingdom, for the Kingdom Age is moving in upon us.

Still another call is addressed to the Zion nation (the U.S.A.) in verses 15 through 17: “Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly... .” These are the very same words that opened the second chapter. However, while verse 1 is addressed to the civil authorities, these three verses are addressed to the religious leaders, to the church. Many of our civil and political leaders have done a much better job of alerting, informing and warning the citizens of the threat of World Communism than have the clergymen.

Verses 15-17: very clearly describe this Zion nation as one that has congregations, elders, priests, ministers and altars — in other words, a Christian nation (not a nation of Christians). And the people are told what to pray for in **verse 17:** “*....Spare thy people....*” Spare the United States of America from what? “*....Spare thy people, O LORD, and give not thine heritage (the Israel people) to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them:...*” The whole program and goal of World Communism (whether the work is done through the United Nations or other avenues) is to subjugate, subvert, undermine and rule over the United States of America. The Lord through the prophet Joel calls upon

Zion to gather the people in their churches to pray and turn to the Word of God.

Verse 18: is very comforting because it states, “*Then will the LORD be jealous for his land, and pity his people.*” When we do what? When we do as we are told in verse 12 — turn to the Word of God for the nation. And I repeat, the only way the nation can turn to God is to turn to the national message of the Bible. It is one thing for an individual to turn to the Lord for personal salvation. It is something else for a nation to turn. All that God asks us to do, indeed all we can do, is to turn and receive the Gospel of the Kingdom. As a nation we can do no more about our national sins of the past than individuals can do about personal sins of the past. All God demands of us as individuals is to turn to Him for mercy and forgiveness, and that is all He asks of us as a nation.

Verses 19 and 20: contain one of the most fascinating revelations of all Bible prophecies. They state that God will intervene and destroy the great heathen horde, mustered by World Communism, to come with their all-out attack against the United States of America. He will destroy them and wipe them off the face of the earth.

Our enemies are busy disarming us now, but according to Bible prophecy they will be led (in the providence of God) to move against us. God's purpose in it is very similar to His purpose in hardening Pharaoh's heart and causing him to attack our forefathers at the Red Sea. That event was the greatest demonstration up to that time of God's power, dominion and faithfulness. God used it as an example throughout history. As we come to the end of this age, we will have an experience similar to that of the Israelites at the Red Sea but on a much larger scale.

(Isaiah 10:26 after the manner of Egypt") The Israelites were helpless and hopeless then, but there was Divine intervention.

Note **verse 20 of Joel 2:** *“But I will remove far off from you the northern army, and will drive him into a land barren and desolate, with his face toward the east sea, and his hinder part toward the utmost (or the western) sea....”* The prophet Joel in his vision of our day saw a great air armada coming between the east and the western seas (the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans) and down over the barren, desolate, waste lands of the Canadian Rockies and Alaska. According to the prophecy of Ezekiel 38 and 39, this is the location where they will, actually and literally, be brought down. God promises to meet them, rout them and defeat them using the elements.

Verse 21: *“Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice; for the LORD will do great things.”* This is addressed to our land, the United States of America, this great Zion nation. This will be the greatest Divine intervention in all human history, a demonstration of God's power that will frighten and turn the whole heathen world. It will mark the ushering in of the kingdom age.

Verse 22: *“Be not afraid, ye beasts of the field, for the pastures of the wilderness do spring, for the tree beareth fruit, the fig tree and the vine do yield their strength.”* This verse seems to be the answer in Bible prophecy to the scare propagandists who insist that nuclear warfare will be the result if we arm and make a stand against World Communism. And if there is nuclear warfare they insist it will mean the destruction of pasture lands and vegetation —

that all life will be destroyed. However, this is not true; it is not in the purpose of God.

Verse 23: (still speaking to the people of the United States): *“Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God:....”* If we were going to be subjugated, annihilated and enslaved, there would be little to be glad about. But we are not going to be subjugated; we are not going to be overcome and overwhelmed. We will be punished and frightened; we will be made to stand helpless and hopeless; and we will be placed in a position where we as a nation must pray. When we pray and turn to the Word of God then God will undertake.

One cannot rejoice today over what the politicians or the clergy are doing; but one can be glad and rejoice if he knows the Gospel of the Kingdom, if he believes that the United States is Zion and sees God's promises and purposes for Zion.

“... for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.” In other words, Joel addresses himself to a nation that has been greatly blessed, since rain symbolizes the blessing and favor of God. Again, this nation is the only one that fits this prophecy. God's blessings in the realm of the material and physical, as well as the spiritual, have been ours to a greater degree than any other nation in all history.

And this is just the beginning. God is going to give this the latter rain, the greatest outpouring of the Holy Spirit that any nation or generation has ever experienced. The promises continue in **Verse 24:**

"And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the fats shall overflow with wine and oil." This country already has this abundance in a great measure and it will increase progressively; it will not come in the twinkling of an eye. Christ comes in the twinkling of an eye, but the Kingdom comes over a period of time. (Mark 4:26-29)

Verse 25: contains another very interesting prophecy: *"And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you."* If we are to see the meaning and significance of this scripture, we must refer to what we find in the first chapter, verse 4. For while great beasts (such as the lion, the leopard and the bear) symbolize great heathen monarchies and heathen systems of government, locusts, cankerworms, caterpillars and palmerworms symbolize the bureaucrats, the commissars with whom we are afflicted in this nation. We are troubled with appointed people who take over the authority and responsibility of our elected representatives.

They have taxed us and taxed us. Just like worms, they work in the dark behind the scenes, and they undermine and weaken the nation. However, their work comes to a sudden end, and God promises He will make restoration. I believe the restoration will take place when we adopt and institute a scriptural medium of exchange which pays money into circulation at the bottom, interest-free and debt-free. Our citizens will have returned to them, that which the bureaucrats have taken away through their debt money system. They have taken our sons, our money, our wealth and our resources; and they have built up Communism and Socialism all over the world. There has

been little we could do about it. Not until we turn to the Word of God and accept, preach, teach and conform to the Gospel of the Kingdom will we have the Lord's deliverance, intervention and restoration.

Verse 26: *"And ye shall eat in plenty, (this has already begun in a measure) and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, that hath dealt wondrously with you: and my people shall never be ashamed."* This is addressed to our great Zion nation; and this glorious, marvelous, prophecy will be fulfilled and realized when we do the one thing we have repeatedly referred to in verse 12 — when we turn unto the Word of the Lord for our nation and for our time.

In **Verse 27:** we read: *"And ye shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the LORD your God,..."* God is in the midst of the United States of America by His Spirit, His blessing and His inspiration more than in any other nation in all history. But in the great final crisis, we will all know that our deliverance and our protection come from the Almighty. We will all realize then that God's hand and purpose is in the United States and that this country is, literally, the beginning of the restitution spoken of by the prophets, the beginning of the new order that will develop into the kingdom of God on earth.

Verse 28: *"And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,...."*

Those who insist that all light has been given years ago are mistaken, because God's revelations are progressive. This does not mean we depart from the

fundamentals of the Christian faith — it means that more light and truth is revealed as we come closer to the end of the age. This is prophesied in Daniel, and throughout the Scripture.

“...your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:” This prophecy is already being fulfilled. Some limit this promise to spiritual dreams and spiritual visions, but I believe that some of the almost human machines that God, in His mercy and His kind providence, has allowed men to discover, devise and manufacture come from the quickening of God's Spirit upon the minds of these men. Our nation is full of new things — they are coming in as a flood upon us in this particular generation. The reason is that we have come to the end of the church age and to the beginning of the kingdom age when the curse of heavy toil is to be lifted, bringing leisure and abundance. Some of the inventors are not born-again, but the Spirit of God uses them in whatever way He sees fit, as He has used people all through history.

Verse 30: ***“And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke.”*** Joel undoubtedly foresaw (as we mentioned earlier in connection with verse 2) some of the atomic and nuclear explosions; he saw the clouds; he saw the bloodshed of World War I, World War II and of today.

In **Verse 31:** he, again, gives the time indicator: ***“...the great and dreadful day of the Lord....”*** **Verse 32:** ***“And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said...”***

Mount Zion is the United States of America (— but you ask, what about Jerusalem?) When we come to the word "Jerusalem" we must always ask ourselves if it is the old Jerusalem or the new Jerusalem that is referred to. The Bible speaks of the New Jerusalem and it, also, speaks of the daughter of Jerusalem. The daughter and the mother are not the same and neither are the new and the old. **Our great nation is the new Jerusalem**, the nation that the Apostle John saw coming down from heaven, the same being built upon the Old and the New Scriptures. (When you read the book of the Revelation remember it is written in symbols.)

Who built this United States of America? None other than the descendants of ten-tribed Israel, who, came from Europe. How did they build it? They built it upon the writings of the prophets and the apostles. The United States, then, is Mount Zion; it is the daughter of Zion, the daughter of Jerusalem and the New Jerusalem. All of these terms refer to our nation.

Will our land be destroyed, taken over, annihilated and subjugated? No, we will be so harassed and find ourselves in so much difficulty and distress that we will be forced to turn to the Word of God. We are the same Israel people today as the days of the Old Scripture, and when things got bad enough, the Israel people turned to the national message of God's Word. They turned to the Gospel of the Kingdom, and when they did, God intervened and delivered them. Peace and prosperity, tranquility and security then came to the nation.

Two Great Camps

Let us now turn to **Joel 3:9** which states: *“Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up”*

Immediately one recognizes that this describes what the Communists and anti-Christ forces are doing all over the world: they are stirring up hatred and animosity against one particular nation, the United States of America. Communism is inspired by Satan, and Satan certainly knows by this time the identity and the significance of our nation. Consequently, there is a satanic hatred against us.

Verse 10: *“Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruning hooks into spears; let the weak say, I am strong.”* Small, weak heathen nations hate and defy our great nation. There are also many satanic forces, within our nation, binding, sabotaging and hindering our effort. However, there is comfort and hope in the following words from the Almighty, as He speaks through the prophet Joel.

In **Verse 11:** we read: *“Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen, and gather yourselves together round about: thither cause thy mighty ones to come down”* In other words, he prays for Divine intervention.

Verse 12: *“Let the heathen be awakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about.”* The valley of Jehoshaphat is not the name of a geographical location, but the description of a world condition. It simply means a valley of judgment and a valley of deliverance, judgment upon the heathen and upon Communism but deliverance for the nations of Israel or Anglo-Saxondom.

Verse 13: *“Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: (You will remember that Jesus said the harvest is the end of the age.) come, get you down; for the press is full, the fats overflow; for their wickedness is great.”*

This nation has plenty of wickedness so far as individual sins are concerned, but the wickedness of Communism and heathendom far exceeds the national evil in our nation.

Verse 14: *“Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.”*

Two great multitudes are mentioned here; one multitude on the side of freedom, righteousness and liberty and the other multitude on the side of Communism and heathendom. Both are in the valley of decision. As we go into the day of the Lord, the Almighty will decide who will win this war and who will take over the world — Communism or Christianity. Thank God, Christianity will be victorious.

Verse 15: *“The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their singing.”*

Verse 16: *“The LORD also shall roar out of Zion....”* In symbolic language this means that in this great Zion nation the Almighty will demonstrate Himself as King and Lord over all the earth. Indications are, too, that the Lord will actually speak in an audible voice to His kingdom people in this end time.

“...and utter his voice from Jerusalem;...” What happens in the old Jerusalem after Christ comes is one thing; what happens here in the United States of

America (the new Jerusalem) before the revelation of Christ, is something else.

“...and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the Lord will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel.”

Please note the contrast here: God's judgment is poured upon the people of Communism and heathendom, but His Holy spirit and intervention comes to the people of Christendom, especially this great Zion nation.

The United States in Zephaniah

Chapter 1 The Great Day of the Lord

In the balance of this book we shall consider the prophecy of Zephaniah, which is very similar to the prophecy of Joel. As mentioned previously, both Joel and Zephaniah are short prophecies of three chapters and both deal with our particular time and nation. Zephaniah gives some history and short-range prophecy, also, but it is primarily an end-time prophecy and largely devoted to the United States of America.

Zephaniah in the first two chapters sets forth his vision and revelation of the evils, wickedness and corruption of our day and our nation. But, in the last part of his book he reveals the same truth that Joel does: namely, that there will be Divine intervention when this great Zion nation turns to God. This new order of the ages will be cleansed, and there will be a tremendous demonstration and manifestation for the heathen world of God's faithfulness and reality, as He delivers us from both internal and external enemies.

Let us begin by reading from **Verse 14**: *“The great day of the LORD is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly...”*

In other words, everything is speeded up — more happens now in a week than previously happened in perhaps 10 or 12 years. Again, may I mention that the expression “the great day of the LORD” refers to the time in which we now live, the closing of the church age and the ushering in of the kingdom age. *“...even the voice of the day of the LORD: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly.”* This is a very challenging statement because there is no question that mighty men throughout the world today, have wept bitterly as they have seen their nations one after the other, being subverted, betrayed, double-crossed and taken over. I can well imagine that some of our military leaders have certainly wept on the inside. Perhaps, many have shed literal tears as they realized how our boys were being sacrificed, and as they have had to send precious, young men into battle with their hands tied. Perhaps this is what the prophet saw.

Verse 15: *“That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness...”*

God is angry with the United States of America because we are not turning to His Word. Zephaniah speaks of “wasteness and desolation” and one thinks of the desolation poured upon Germany, Great Britain and France, and now upon other parts of the earth. The prophet, also, sees great clouds arise, a result of atomic and hydrogen explosions. All of these things, concerning our day and time, were seen by Zephaniah in his vision and revelation.

Verse 16: *“A day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers.”* The words: “trumpet and alarm” give the same thought that Jesus brought out when He said there would be wars and rumors of wars. “Fenced cities” and “high towers” are symbolic terms referring to military might.

Note **Verse 17:** The Almighty speaking through the prophet says, *“And I will bring distress upon man, that they shall walk like blind men... .”* When one sees the negotiations, agreements and concessions we make to our enemies, one must agree that we certainly are blind.

Here is the reason for all of the difficulty we are in: *“...because they have sinned against the LORD: and their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as the dung.”* Many good people seem to imagine that God does not care any more; some act as though God is dead; others seem to think He is not what He used to be, that He can no longer handle the evil forces as He did in the days of the Egyptians and Babylonians and Israel's other enemies. According to some people, we must rally and save God. No, my friend, God is still sovereign.

God's hand of judgment is upon us because we will not turn to His Word for our nation and for our day. We continue to insist that the Jews are Israel and that the church is the kingdom. These teachings cancel out, completely, everything the Bible actually teaches concerning our nation. If the Jews are Israel and if the church is the kingdom, then the prophecies of Joel and Zephaniah are not what Joel and Zephaniah claimed they were. May I emphasize that this 17th verse says “they have sinned,” referring not to our enemies and the Communists but to the

good people of this nation. One would think after reading a passage like this, we would begin to ask ourselves if we are sinning against God.

We are the people with whom God is now dealing with. God will make quick work of our enemies, (the Communists) when they have accomplished their purpose in His plan to turn the United States to the Gospel of the Kingdom. Speaking of this time of world upheaval and the judgment of the nations in which we are in, Zephaniah prophesies:

Verse 18: *“Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD'S wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land.”*

This does not mean that God will destroy all human life in the particular land that Zephaniah foresaw. It means He will make a speedy riddance of certain people. Who are these people? It says of them, “Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD'S wrath.”

If you are familiar with the history of money and the history of wars, you know that those who have manipulated and cornered the silver and gold (especially the gold) have generally been able to hide, protect and shield themselves in past times of distress, war and judgment. They have been able to take advantage of war, violence, upheaval and emergency, but not at this time when the age is closing and we are moving into the day of the Lord. Thank God they have had their day and their days are numbered.

According to the prophecies of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Zephaniah and Ezekiel, gold and silver will no longer be used as a means and method whereby a handful of people can control and dictate the policies of an entire nation. Gold and silver will no longer be the basis for issuing money. Money will be issued on the wealth and goods and services of the nation. It will be issued to match the population and the increase in the population. Gold and silver will have nothing to do with the amount of the medium of exchange the people of a nation may have.

Using gold and silver as a basis for issuing money is an old pagan fetish; it is something that is forbidden, condemned and cursed throughout the entire Scripture. This is brought out in the writings of Moses and Joshua and throughout the historical books of the Bible. All of the prophets and apostles condemn, what we know today, as the gold standard money system.

Do not become frightened and do not panic. What we have said does not mean that your money and wealth will have no value. Goods and services maintain their value no matter what happens to gold and silver.

There will come the greatest physical and material release that mankind has ever known, when we have a change in our money system. Isaiah prophesied that gold and silver would be cast to the moles and to the bats. One does not throw real money and real wealth to the moles and bats. What did Isaiah mean?

He meant that the day will be gone forever, when gold and silver will be used as a basis for money and as a medium of control. There will no longer be a system whereby people can be enslaved and

starved, where money can be made scarce. The judgments of God will bring this to pass.

Zephaniah 2

**"Seek Ye The Lord,
All Ye Meek Of The Earth."**

Let us turn now to the 2nd chapter of Zephaniah, where we find something very interesting in view of current events throughout the earth.

Verse 1 reads: *"Gather yourselves together, yea, gather together, O nation not desired..."* Recall that in the original Old Scriptures there were no chapter divisions, so this verse immediately follows verse 18 of Chapter 1. As we read in the margin, this verse speaks of a people who have no shame, no feeling or regard for people in distress. No matter how many home-owners these money powers foreclose upon, no matter how many businesses or institutions they take over or how many banks they are harming by tight money, they have no shame. No matter how many people go without adequate food and clothing, no matter what happens to the aged or to the youth, "we must have tight money and high interest." This is satanic — and God's judgment is upon it.

Incidentally, the 5th chapter of James brings out the same truth. Please remember the judgment is not upon industrial capitalism. Industrial capitalism is a god-send and a blessing. Zephaniah is prophesying against financial capitalism and the manipulators of money.

Verse 2: *"Before the decree bring forth, before the day pass as the chaff, before the fierce anger of the LORD*

come upon you, before the day of the LORD'S anger come upon you." I have called your attention to this before, but I repeat it again for emphasis. According to Bible prophecy, when God pours out His judgment and wrath upon the antichrist forces and World Communism, upon the haters of the Lord Jesus Christ and those who are opposed to His kingdom principles, then He also pours His Holy Spirit upon His kingdom people, the Isaac sons.

Verse 3: *"Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth..."* There are millions of people in this nation who are meek and humble, who desire only to live and let live. And God does make a difference — He did in the days of Noah and Lot, and thank God He will again. So He admonishes the meek to "Seek ye the LORD." Seeking the Lord simply means to seek His Word. The only place one can find God and the will of God is in His Word. One does not walk around and try to seek the Lord physically — we seek Him when we turn to His Word.

"... which have wrought his judgment; (those who desire the judgments of God pertaining to the nation; that is, a scriptural, righteous civil administration) *seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the LORD'S anger."* This is the teaching of Bible prophecy, of the Apostles and of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord said, *"as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man."* Who were destroyed in the days of Noah? Were Noah and his family destroyed? No the wicked were destroyed and taken away.

What happened when God poured judgment upon Sodom and Gomorrah? Was Lot destroyed? No, Lot remained and lived through the destruction; he was pro-

tected and spared. The wicked were destroyed, and so it will be at the end of this age.

Zephaniah 3

"My Determination Is To Gather The Nations."

In the first several verses of chapter 3, the prophet Zephaniah sees the corruption, the oppression, the wickedness and the evil in Christendom in this end time.

Verse 1 reads: *"Woe to her that is filthy and polluted, to the oppressing city!"* A city here does not refer merely to some local city — it refers to the religious, political and economic systems. When he speaks of "her" he is speaking to a nation and people who are officially Christian.

Verse 2: *"She obeyed not the voice; she received not correction; she trusted not in the LORD; she drew not near to her God."* This is the condition of Christendom as a whole. We have not received correction in spite of all the judgment that has been poured upon us. Neither have we drawn near to the Lord nor turned to His Word.

Verse 3: *"Her princes within her are roaring lions; her judges are evening wolves; they gnaw not the bones till the morrow."* In other words, the condemnation is upon the leadership. God does not condemn the people, but rather the leadership in Christendom. He condemns the princes and the judges for the iniquity, oppression and wickedness in the realm of religion, politics and economics.

Verse 4: *"Her prophets (that is, the clergy or preachers) are light and*

treacherous persons: (They are neither students of Bible prophecy nor diligent men in the Word of God) her priests have polluted the sanctuary, they have done violence to the law. And certainly this generation of preachers have done violence to the law by teaching that there is no national message and that God's laws set forth through Moses for civil administration are not for us today. Just the opposite is true — they were given primarily for us today.

We read in **Verse 6**, as God speaks through the prophet, ***“I have cut off the nations....”*** Scores of nations in our lifetime have actually been cut off. Their rulers, dynasties and administrators have been overthrown as the Communists have taken over one nation after the other.

Continuing with this verse we read: ***“their towers are desolate....”*** In other words, their defenses crumbled; they were not adequate. Nation after nation has found itself unable to stand against the hammer and the sickle, God's judgment upon the wickedness and corruption in Christendom today.

The verse further says, ***“I made their streets waste....”*** And He certainly did. One thinks of the cities of Germany and Great Britain and other nations - they certainly were made waste and desolate and were destroyed.

Verse 7: ***“I said, surely thou wilt fear me, thou wilt receive instruction; so their dwelling should not be cut off, howsoever I punished them: but they rose early, and corrupted all their doings.”***

This has been our reaction. In spite of Korea and Vietnam, in spite of all the judgments, distress, anxiety and trouble

that the nations of Christendom are in, we are not receiving instruction. We are not turning to God; we do not see the hand of God; we do not see His purpose because we will not study the Scriptures in the light of what is taking place, in the light of Bible history and prophecy.

In view of all of this, the Almighty declares in **Verse 8:** ***“Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the LORD, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my determination is to gather the nations....”*** This, my friend, is what the Almighty is doing and what He has already, largely, accomplished. He has gathered representatives from over 100 nations here in this great kingdom nation. Their strategy and design is to take over the United States of America, but the strategy and design of the Almighty is to bring them together for a dreadful and terrible judgment.

This same thought is brought out in **Mathew 25**, where the judgment of the nations is foretold. The Lord gathers the nations and then separates the sheep from the goats, the left from the right. He separates the nations who have fed and helped those in distress and need, and He tells these people to go into the kingdom.

Continuing with **Verse 8 in Zephaniah 3:** ***“...that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation even all my fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured (or cleansed) with the fire of my jealousy.”*** As the Lord has gathered the nations, we find the world divided into two great kingdoms: **(1)** the kingdoms under Communism and heathendom and **(2)** the nations under Christendom. These are the two great kingdoms. Please rid yourself of the idea that some antichrist will come and take over the kingdom of

the Lord. This, my friend, is not true — it is not the teaching of the Scriptures. The antichrists, thank God, have had their day and we are now moving into the day of the Lord when He gathers the nations to pour upon them “all **His** fierce anger.”

Beginning in **Verse 9**, we have the contrast between God's dealing with the nations of Communism and heathendom and His dealing with His covenant kingdom people. As we found in Joel (and as brought out, also, in Isaiah, Jeremiah and the other prophets) at the time of the judgment upon the anti-Christ camp, God pours His Holy Spirit upon His Israel people. It will be the greatest outpouring of the Holy Spirit this old world has ever seen.

Verse 9: *“For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to serve him with one consent.”* One of the things God will do for His people is to give them a pure or common language. It is phenomenal the way the English language has now become the universal language. Note that the purpose is “that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to serve him with one consent.” The Lord has already begun to make English the common language throughout the earth in order that the truth and light of the gospel of the kingdom might go out to all nations of the earth.

Verse 10: *“From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia my suppliants, even the daughter of my dispersed, shall bring mine offering.”* This is a tremendous scripture with a startling revelation. There are three identification marks here that identify the United States of America as the nation that Zephaniah foresaw.

First of all, we have the phrase “From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia.” Standing where the prophet stood as he looked beyond the rivers of Ethiopia, his gaze would fall upon the United States of America in the region of North and South Carolina.

Next the people are called “my suppliants” by the Lord Almighty. This is the only nation in at least 2500 years that was established by people who were suppliants, people who prayed. The Pilgrims, the founding fathers, the Puritans were people of prayer. They prayed before they left the Mayflower; and as they landed on our shores, the first thing they did was to pray.

The third identification phrase is “even the daughter of my dispersed.” This, too, is very meaningful because the people of this nation are the descendants of the Israel people who were dispersed. Ten-tribed Israel, the Isaac sons of the northern kingdom, were dispersed into Europe. They became the Germanic tribes, moving on into Britain, Scandinavia, Scotland, France, etc. They became the peoples of Christendom.

What does the prophet mean when he says, “they shall bring mine offering”? Perhaps it is the same prophecy that we have in **Isaiah 18:7** where we read, *“In that time shall the present be brought unto the LORD of hosts of a people scattered and peeled,...”* I believe the prophets saw in vision that this nation (located beyond the rivers of Ethiopia and founded by praying men and women, by the descendants of the people of Europe) would do something that no other nation in all history has done. It has spent billions of dollars as an offering, as a gift to people in distress all over the world.

It is a phenomenal thing. Every other great world power has used its power to demand tribute and to enslave and oppress people. We have spent billions of dollars to do just the opposite. Why? We are the beginning of the new order of the ages. We as a nation certainly have not had our cleansing nor our baptism of fire; but we are on our way. Look at the next **Verse 11: “*In that day (the great and dreadful day of the Lord) shalt thou not be ashamed for all thy doings, wherein thou hast transgressed against me: for then I will take away out of the midst of thee them that rejoice in thy pride, and thou shalt no more be haughty because of my holy mountain.*”**

The expression "them that rejoice in thy pride" is a strange one. What does it mean? It means that the subversives, corrupters and anti-Christ forces, who appeal to pride and carnality and to the lower instincts of a human being, will be taken out of our midst. There will be a real cleansing in this nation, as set forth in the kingdom parables and in the prophecies of Jeremiah, Isaiah, and Ezekiel. It is coming! The pendulum will swing just as far in the positive direction as it has swung in the evil, negative direction.

Verse 12: “*I will also leave in the midst of thee an afflicted and poor people....*” We are already an afflicted and poor people. Consider your indebtedness. Consider the indebtedness of this whole nation. Consider the deficit spending, where we are actually mortgaging and selling into bondage our children in order to have a medium of exchange. As a people we have not yet had sufficient distress to cause us to turn to the Lord and to His Word. But we will.

The verse continues: ***“...and they shall trust in the name of the LORD.”*** We will shortly discover that we have nothing else in which to trust. We will realize we have been betrayed to the extent that we are completely disarmed and helpless before our enemies. That discovery will be God's opportunity to give us and the whole world a demonstration of His own power and reality.

Psalm 2 tells us that God sits in the heavens and laughs. Why do you suppose He laughs at what is going on? Simply because what the Communists are doing to us will drive us to our God. And when we turn to our God, we will see the end of World Communism and of all the anti-Christ forces.

Verse 13: “*The remnant of Israel shall not do iniquity, nor speak lies; neither shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth: for they shall feed and lie down, and none shall make them afraid.*”

“The remnant” refers to the people who are left, those who survive this ordeal and those who are not deported nor executed (and there will be many executions and deportations from this nation when the cleansing of the kingdom comes). We will no longer be troubled with all the lying propaganda now being poured upon us.

Starting with verse 14 of this third chapter of Zephaniah, we come to one of the most beautiful and precious portions of Scripture in the entire Bible. And it is addressed to our nation, the United States of America. If our nation were going to be destroyed and taken over and if the enemy were going to communize and socialize us, these next several verses would make very little sense. Thank God this will not be the case.

Verse 14: “Sing, O daughter of Zion; (the United States is the daughter of Zion) shout, O Israel (this nation is the land of Israel's regathering); be glad and rejoice with all the heart, O daughter of Jerusalem.” Why does this verse speak of the United States as the "daughter of Zion" and the "daughter of Jerusalem"? The answer is very plain and simple when one knows Bible history. And I must mention that those who do not know Bible history cannot possibly understand Bible prophecy.

This nation is spoken of as the “daughter of Zion” because Zion was David's civil headquarters. Our nation has patterned its civil administration closer to that of King David than any other nation in 2500 years.

And we are spoken of as the “daughter of Jerusalem” because David's religious center was in Jerusalem. David was a believer in Christ; he was a Christian and had the joy of salvation. Our nation is a Christian nation. All of the citizens are not born-again believers, but neither were they all born-again believers in the days of Moses and Joshua. The religion of the nation, however, is Christian; and our civil laws and the Constitution come closer to the laws of God than those of any other nation since the time of Ezra and Nehemiah. This 14th verse quoted above tells us we are to sing, to be glad and to rejoice. The reason is given in **Verse 15: “The LORD hath taken away thy judgments, he hath cast out thine enemy...”** This is the great cleansing that will come to the United States of America. The awakening will come when we begin to understand the Gospel of the Kingdom and the national message of the Bible.

“...the king of Israel, even the LORD, is in the midst of thee: thou

shalt not see evil any more.” The Lord by His Spirit has been in the midst of this great, phenomenal nation. His blessings are here (spiritually, materially and physically) more than in all nations of history combined. This, my friend, is the beginning of the kingdom and of the restitution. This Divine intervention and deliverance is possible because Christ died not only for the personal salvation of "whosoever will," not only for the church, the body of Christ. He died also for the redemption of Israel; and we here in this great land are, literally, the regathering of the Israel people.

Before we leave the thought brought out in verse 15 that “the LORD, is in the midst of thee,” let me call your attention to **Verse 5 in Haggai chapter 2:**

“According to the word that I covenanted with you when ye came out of Egypt (and we came out of Egypt as Isaac Sons hundreds of years before there were any Jewish people) so my spirit remaineth among you: fear ye not.”

What was the covenant that God made with the Isaac sons, our forefathers, when they came out of Egypt? Let me quote from **Exodus 29:45 and 46: “And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will be their God.” — “And they shall know that I am the LORD their God, that brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, that I may dwell among them: I am the LORD their God.”**

Do you see any significance in these verses? The Anglo-Saxon people have recognized, honored and worshiped the true and living God. What is the reason? As God covenanted, His Spirit has been in the midst of the Isaac sons, the Anglo-Saxon people, more than in any other peo-

ple all through history -in fact, we have had more of the light and illumination that comes from the Spirit of God than all other peoples of history combined.

Let me give one more reference relative to the Spirit of God dwelling in the midst of the Isaac sons.

1 Kings 6:11,13: *“And the word of the LORD came to Solomon, Saying. . . And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake my people Israel.”*

Let us now go back to **Zephaniah 3 Verse 16:** *“In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem, (and this is not the old literal city in Palestine, but the new Jerusalem right here in this great American wilderness) Fear thou not: and to Zion, (the United States) Let not thine hands be slack.”* We are spending billions of dollars and sacrificing thousands of our best young men in an effort to maintain peace and order throughout the earth, but we are not acting in harmony with the Word.

The Almighty speaks further to us in **Verse 17:** *“The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty: he will save....”* This is not personal salvation; this is the deliverance of a nation that is threatened as we are.

“.... he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, lie will joy over thee with singing.” This is beautiful. In verse 14, we are told as a people to sing, to be glad and rejoice. And in this verse we are told that God, Himself, will have joy and rejoicing over what He will do and what He has already done in this great nation.

Here is God's promise in **Verse 18:** *“I will gather them that are sorrowful for the solemn assembly, who are of thee, to whom the reproach of it was a burden.”* There will be much sorrow before the final showdown is over. What is the “solemn assembly” spoken of here? Perhaps it is a scriptural United Nations Organization. Bible prophecy makes it very plain that the Isaac Sons will come together into a solemn assembly as we come up to the end of this age.

Verse 19: *“Behold, at that time I will undo all that afflict thee....”* This short sentence speaks volumes. We are being afflicted not only by the Communists throughout the world, but by satanic forces in our own nation. These enemies will have an “undoing.”

Reading on: *“....and I will save her that halteth, and gather her that was driven out; and I will get them praise and fame in every land where they have been put to shame.”* The prophet, Zephaniah, foresaw in his vision and revelation the shame, the insults and accusations hurled against this nation from all over the world. But, he notes that this situation will be changed to “praise and fame in every land.”

The prophet closes with this marvelous promise from the Almighty in **Verse 20:** *“At that time will I bring you again, even in the time that I gather you: for I will make you a name and a praise among all people of the earth, when I turn back your captivity (fortunes) before your eyes, saith the LORD.”*

By the late
C. O. Stadskev

The United States

as Prophesied in

Joel and Zephaniah

by C. O. Stadskev