

A Day of Reckoning Looming

American Financial Armageddon!

“How lonely sits the city that was full of people!
How like a widow is she, who was great among
the nations! The princess among the provinces
has become a slave! She weeps bitterly in the night,
her tears are on her cheeks; among all her lovers
she has none to comfort her, all her friends have
dealt treacherously with her; they have become
her enemies.” -- Lamentations 1:1-2.

William F. Dankenbring

“To those who think that buying food in the corner deli is becoming a luxury, we have five words: you ain't seen nuthin' yet. U.S. consumers face ‘serious’ inflation in the months ahead for clothing, food and other products, the head of Wal-Mart's U.S. operations warned Wednesday talking to USA Today.

“Inflation is ‘going to be serious,’ Wal-Mart U.S. CEO Bill Simon said during a meeting with USA Today's editorial board. ‘We're seeing cost increases starting to come through.’”

“If Fed Keeps Printing, Dollar Will Be Worth Less Than Toilet Paper, Says Peter Schiff” – so writes Stacy Curtin (Daily Ticker, *Yahoo Finance*, March 28, 2011).

Investment counselor Martin Weiss is shouting from the rooftops, warning of a financial disaster and train wreck that is coming – a fiscal hurricane of historic proportions..

Says Weiss, “**Hurricane Flags Flying: Can Your Money Survive?**”

“Earlier today, the dollar fell out of bed ... gold exploded higher ... silver took off like a scalded cat ... and oil soared to \$106 a barrel, the highest since 2008! Meanwhile, even as I write these words, corn is up 4.52% ... wheat is up 2.9% ... soybeans are up 3.8% ... and oats are up 5.6% ... NOT in a month or even a week — ALL IN A SINGLE DAY!”

Declares Weiss, “These events are HUGE warnings — like giant hurricane flags — that tell you the world's investors are lowering their sails and headed for every safe port they can find. **I've said it many times before and I'll say it again:** In a time like this, the LAST thing you want to do is get caught in the storm.”

In “Money and Markets,” March 25, 2011, Martin D. Weiss headlines, “**White House Economists Predict Crisis to ‘Dwarf’ 2008.**”

Asserts Martin, “**I have great confidence in mankind's ability** to ultimately overcome even the most extreme of challenges. But at this juncture, America has yet to begin that arduous process. We live an unrealistic lifestyle on borrowed money and borrowed time.

“That's why, we have long been warning you about a looming crisis with the power to crush the U.S. economy. Unless Washington makes a 180-degree turn, we face a catastrophe that could end our way of life as we know it.

“Now, just as we predicted, America's massive debt crisis is exploding into the headlines. Our warnings -- the same ones for which we were scoffed at earlier -- are now being echoed by many among the political elite.

“Consider that for a moment: In 2008, Wall Street came within a whisker of a financial meltdown. Financial monoliths like Citigroup and Bank of America nearly went bust. And Lehman -- one of the giants of Wall Street -- simply ceased to exist.

“Now, these top economists and Congressmen are saying, in effect, That was NOTHING. Just wait until you see what happens NEXT!

“For the last week, I've been renewing my warnings to you nearly every day. I've told you that unlike the credit crisis that triggered the last major stock market collapse . . .

“The *‘Fiscal Armageddon’* that could 'dwarf 2008' will be intensely personal. Millions of Americans will face the specter of lost incomes . . . lost savings . . . lost buying power . . . lost homes . . . lost liberty.”

Is an economic “Armageddon” at our door? Is America teetering on the brink of national insolvency? How long will the growing indebtedness continue to pile up by the trillions, before other nations call our “national bluff” and pull out their support for the U.S. dollar and trade with the U.S.?

Are we headed pell mell down the road to disaster in the next few years?

What does Bible prophecy say?

America in Prophecy

In the book of Genesis we read the astounding statement, and prophecy, made by God to Abraham and his descendants:

"By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and *thy seed shall POSSESS THE GATE OF HIS ENEMIES*; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice" (Gen.22:16-18).

This prophecy was later repeated to Rebekah by her brothers, who said to her when she accepted the proposal of marriage on Isaac's behalf made by Abraham's servant:

"And they blessed Rebekah, and said unto her, Thou art our sister, be thou the mother of thousands of millions [literally, billions], and *let thy seed possess the gate of those which hate them*" (Gen.24:60).

One of the most important, astonishing truths of Biblical prophecy is that the Anglo-Saxon people -- the founders of the United Kingdom, and the United States of America -- are descended from ancient Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Our forefathers are descended from the fabled "Lost Ten Tribes" of ancient Israel.

The United States in Prophecy

Many Biblical prophecies speak of the fate of the leading nation of "Israel" during the last days -- that is, the United States of America. In Bible prophecy, we are the tribe of "Ephraim," the leading birthright tribe, the younger of the two sons of Joseph. God inspired the patriarch Jacob to prophesy of the two brothers, Ephraim and Manasseh: "The Angel which redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads; and let my name be named on them, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a *multitude in the midst of the earth*" (Gen.48:16). Jacob later said that Manasseh would be "great," but added, "but truly his younger brother shall be *greater than he*, and his seed shall become a *multitude of nations [or, states]*" (v.19).

Ephraim was set before or above Manasseh in rank and power and blessing. They were to become a "multitude of STATES," as the original Hebrew says -- and truly the "*United STATES of America*," comprised of FIFTY SOVEREIGN, INDIVIDUAL STATES, *fulfills this prophecy to the*

"T"!

Ephraim was to become a united company or assembly of peoples. Isn't it interesting that the United States is famous around the world for being the "melting pot" of the nations? The United States has more emigrants from more diverse locations, than any other nation on earth! This is both a strength, and a fatal weakness. The prophet Hosea foretold this condition would describe Ephraim in the last days! Hosea wrote, "Ephraim MIXES with the nations; Ephraim is a flat cake not turned over [white on one side, baked black or brown on the other side!]. Foreigners sap his strength, but he does not realize it. His hair is sprinkled with gray, but he does not notice" (Hosea 7:8-9).

The United States began with thirteen colonies, and a flag of thirteen stripes and thirteen stars. Ephraim was the "thirteenth tribe" of ancient Israel! Mere coincidence?

Ephraim's very name means "double fruit." It is the United States which exploded onto the world scene, becoming a world power in the days of Theodore Roosevelt at the turn of the century, and the twentieth century has been hailed as "America's Century," and world peace "Pax Americana." In a very short time, historically speaking, the United States grew, burgeoned, with rippling muscles, and grew past his older brother Manasseh, yet they are united by language and cultural ties unlike that of any other separate nations on the face of the earth! They are true brothers, sometimes arguing, squabbling, fighting, but back-to-back against any common enemy from the outside!

The Greatness of Ephraim

Jacob prophesied that the younger brother, Ephraim, was to be greater than his older brother, Manasseh. Manasseh, the firstborn, was the older brother. Which nation is older -- the United States or Great Britain? That fact alone should tell us that Great Britain was the older brother, Manasseh, which was to be "great," and even has the word "great" in its name, unlike any other country on the earth today!

But what about the United States? Is it greater than Great Britain, even as Ephraim was to be greater than Manasseh?

Let's face this question honestly and squarely, without pride, pretense, or hypocrisy. The United States is the wealthiest nation in the world in terms of resources, business and assets, and gross national produce -- although we have also become the world's biggest debtor nation by far due to our sins and living beyond our means during the past decade. We comprise only six percent of the world's population, and yet we control over 40 percent of the world's wealth! We are the breadbasket of the world. Our gross national product is over \$7 trillion dollars annually. Either California or New York could be the world's fifth or sixth richest nation in the world. The state of Illinois produces more than the entire continent of Africa! The eight industrial states from New York to Illinois produce as much as the Common Market, the Soviet Union, or all of Latin America, Africa, most of Asia except Japan, and the Middle East *combined!*

When Jacob, or Israel, blessed Joseph's two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, he knew what he was doing. He deliberately blessed the YOUNGER son with the primogenital blessing of the firstborn, making him the son of the right hand. The older son, Manasseh, shared in the blessing -- but a double portion went to Ephraim! When Joseph protested this sudden switch from the expected, saying that Manasseh was the firstborn, Israel refused to change the blessing, and said:

"I know it, my son, I know it: he also shall become a people, and he ALSO shall be GREAT: but truly *his YOUNGER BROTHER shall be GREATER THAN HE, and his seed shall become a MULTITUDE of nations.* And he blessed them that day, saying, In thee shall Israel bless, saying, God make thee as Ephraim and as Manasseh: and he set *Ephraim before Manasseh*" (Gen.48:19-20).

Let us notice two things about this verse -- this prophetic blessing. The younger brother, born last, would rise up and become greater than the older brother, in time. The older would also become great -- but not as great as the younger!

Who Was to Be the Greatest?

Notice carefully the verses we just covered, once again. Manasseh was prophesied to become GREAT. The British people, today, are known as GREAT Britain. They have truly been a great nation, in history, forging the links of a mighty empire, which formerly it was boasted that the sun did not set on the British Empire -- it was global in extent. However, Britain is not so great and powerful today. It has a population of about 57,000,000.

On the other hand, Ephraim was prophesied to become "a multitude of nations."

The Jewish Tanakh has this: "Yet his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his offspring shall be *plentiful enough for nations.*" Compared to the British, the population of the United States of America, which was a paltry few millions in 1776, today stands at 256,000,000 -- over four times the population of Great Britain!

The British *never became* a "*multitude* of nations." This prophecy did not state that Ephraim would "RULE" a multitude of nations, but that he would "BECOME" a multitude of "nations." If you count all the Anglo-Saxon members of the British Commonwealth, you have only five nations, most of them with very small populations -- Canada, the largest, population 27,000,000, followed by Australia, 17 million, New Zealand, 3,400,000, and South Africa, where the predominant population is black.

The Hebrew word for "multitude" in this verse is #4393 in Strong's Exhaustive Concordance. It is *melo* and literally means "fullness," or "full." *Gesenius Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon* explains it as "fullness, hence that which is full," as "fullness of hands," "a basin full of water." It also means "a multitude, crowd."

The Hebrew word translated "nations" here is actually *goy*, which is the Hebrew word for "Gentile," also. The plural, *goyim*, can mean "nations, Gentiles," "a troop," in the sense of *massing*, "a flight of birds," "a flight of locusts," "a troop of animals," etc. It is variously translated "Gentile, nation, heathen, people."

Carefully looking at these definitions, then, we see there is no proof in this verse whatsoever that The British Commonwealth are Ephraim, and that Manasseh is the United States. Rather, the FULLNESS OF PEOPLES dwells in the United States -- 256 million, to be exact! *Gesenius* defines *goy*, "a people, a confluence of men," and adds: "Prop. it would seem *body, corpus*, from the root [*gah*] which see; and then transferred to a *body politic*, or whole people." In other words, it could also be translated as "STATES" -- as in "*united STATES of America*"!

The *United States* of America fit this description, or definition, perfectly. America is a union of FIFTY STATES, comprised of many different peoples from different racial stocks, but primarily northern European and Anglo-Saxon.

America's Future

Hosea is a book of Biblical prophecy which is written for the "last days," the "end of days," the "time of the end." It is filled with prophecies referring to "Ephraim," "Israel," "Jacob," and "Judah." It shows Ephraim and Judah as being separate nations, and yet united together. It also reveals a great deal about their national characteristics.

The first time Ephraim is mentioned in Hosea, God says of her, "Ephraim is joined to idols, let him alone. Their drink is rebellion, they commit harlotry continually" (Hos.4:17). Indeed, our nation is FILLED with idols -- from automobiles, Hollywood actors and actresses, "movie idols," rock-and-roll idols, music idols, images worshipped in churches, people prize, esteem, "worship" the works of their own hands. Secondly,

our nation is famous for “rebellion” – it was *born in rebellion!* It suffered the “Civil War,” a war fought over the rebellion of the southern states. Thirdly, our nation is filled with “harlotry” – prostitution, pornography, sexual abandon! We truly possess the identifying “marks” of Ephraim! “For now, O Ephraim, you commit harlotry; Israel is defiled” (Hos.5:3). “The pride of Israel testifies to his face; therefore Israel and Ephraim stumble in their iniquity; Judah also stumbles with them” (Hos.5:5). All Israel is guilty as charged – but the worst of them all is Ephraim, the ringleader of rebellion!

Because of this, God says, “Ephraim shall be desolate in the day of rebuke” (Hos.5:9). Why? God says, “I have seen a horrible thing in the house of Israel: There is the *harlotry of Ephraim; Israel is defiled*” (Hos.6:10). This also refers to *spiritual harlotry, going after false gods, false religions, PAGAN customs and beliefs of PAGANIZED churches.*

Racial Mixing

“Ephraim has *mixed* himself among the peoples; Ephraim is a cake unturned. Aliens have devoured his strength, but he does not know it” (Hos.7:8-9). The United States has been rightly called a “melting pot.” It has more immigrants and peoples from other nations than any other nation. It prides its tolerance. Yet it is also a “cake unturned” – that is, white on one side, black or brown on the other. “Half baked,” as they say. The mixing of the races and nationalities also causes racial prejudice, racial antagonisms, and unfair practices. Racism is a real problem. This will ultimately result in weakening the nation, as “aliens devour his strength.”

Foreign Entanglements

“Ephraim also is like a silly dove” (Hos.7:11). God compares Ephraim with a “silly dove” which seeks allies in the world. Even today, the United States seeks to build a “coalition against terror,” and tries to make “allies” of its enemies – including Syria, Iran, and even the Palestinians – to combat the threat of international terrorism. This strategy has already back-fired, as Iran coddles and helps terrorists to escape from Afghanistan. Truly, a “silly dove” is a very apt description of the foolishness of American foreign policy!

“Ephraim has hired lovers” (Hos.8:9). The United States makes alliances and pays foreign nations to co-operate in its fight against terror. Back-room deals were struck with the Russians, and Pakistan leaders, to gain their support in the war on terror, the Taliban, and Al Qaeda. This is much more true of the United States than any other nation on earth – including Great Britain.

Before I go on, one writer claims that the term “Ephraim” includes ALL the nations of the ten tribes which were carried into captivity, and later re-settled in western Europe. This statement, however, is patently false, when it is applied to the prophecies of the book of Hosea. When ALL the tribes of Israel are mentioned in Hosea, they are plainly referred to as “Israel.” In Hosea 5:3 they are clearly distinguished from each

other. We read: “I know Ephraim, and *Israel* is not hid from Me. For now, O Ephraim, you commit harlotry; *Israel* is defiled.” “Therefore Israel AND Ephraim stumble in their iniquity” (Hos.5:5).

God calls nations and things that which they are! He calls Ephraim “Ephraim,” because that is their tribal name! On the other hand, He calls “Israel” by their name, and He clearly distinguishes between the two!

Agricultural Wealth and Recklessness

Almighty God also tells us of Ephraim: “Ephraim is a trained *heifer* that loves to *thresh grain*; but I harnessed her fair neck, I will make Ephraim pull a plow” (Hos.10:11). Isn’t it interesting that America is the greatest AGRICULTURAL NATION in all the world? We love big farms, of rolling fields of wheat, corn, rye, millet, barley, and all kinds of grain. Our country is the most agriculturally blessed of all lands.

But God adds, “You have plowed wickedness; you have reaped iniquity. You have eaten the fruit of lies, because you trusted in your own way, in the multitude of your mighty men. Therefore tumult shall arise among your people, and all your fortresses shall be plundered” (Hos.10:13-14). Although we are a mighty agricultural nation, America has led the way in abandoning the tried and true principles of agriculture, and has embarked on a scary, horrific program of agricultural disaster, based on using genetically modified organisms or GMOs – mixing the genetic pools of plants and animals to expand production, not knowing how these things will effect human health, the ecosystem, and the ultimate well-being of mankind. Violating the laws of God, which tell us God made EACH living creature to reproduce “after its own kind” (Gen.1), America is leading the way in crossing Genesis kinds and manipulating the genes in plants and animals, to make them “pesticide resistant,” and thus polluting the earth and environment and the nation’s food supply. This will lead, God says, to “tumult,” chaos, and serious national problems.

Wealth and Fraud

Ephraim also was to become a very wealthy nation. “And Ephraim said, ‘Surely I have become rich, I have found wealth for myself’” (Hos.12:8). How true! The United States is by far the wealthiest nation on the earth; there is none comparable. Our gross domestic product is the envy of every nation on earth.

Yet at the same time, God says, “When I would have healed Israel, then the iniquity of Ephraim was uncovered, and the wickedness of Samaria. For they have committed fraud; a thief comes in; a band of robbers takes spoil outside” (Hos.7:1). Fraud! Massive business corruption! I read a book years ago called *The Robber Barons*, the story of the massive fraud committed by early American industrialists, bankers, railroad builders, and entrepreneurs, such as Jay Gould. America is famous for its industrial, commercial, and corporate GREED. Recently, the greatest bankruptcies in America have occurred, the result of rampant and uncontrolled fraud, greed,

manipulation, and corruption – the Enron disaster, the greatest corporate failure in the history of America, may well pave the way for a host of similar business failures – all due to inordinate greed, avarice, and unbridled lust for profits! Truly, America fulfills this vivid Biblical description of “Ephraim”!

America has been lifted up to the top of the nations. But God says, “When Ephraim spoke, trembling, he exalted himself in Israel; but when he offended through Baal worship, he died. Now they sin more and more, and have made for themselves molded images, idols of their silver” (Hos.13:1-2). When our nation was humble, in our beginnings, God blessed us abundantly, and intervened on our behalf. But now we have grown proud, self-sufficient, and have forgotten God, our Maker, and Redeemer. Now we sin, “more and more.” Truly, judgment is coming!

We are being “weighed in the balances,” and found wanting!

When Will Judgment Fall?

God warns in the prophecies of Isaiah, “The fortified city will disappear from Ephraim . . . In that day the glory of Jacob will fade; the fat of his body will waste away. It will be as when the reaper gathers the standing grain and harvests the grain with his arm – as when a man gleanes heads of grain in the Valley of Rephaim [the dead]. Yet some gleanings will remain

“You have forgotten God your Saviour; you have not remembered the Rock, your fortress” (Isaiah 17:3-5, 10).

We are bringing God’s wrath upon ourselves, as a people. God thunders, “But if you do not obey Me, and do not observe all these [My] commandments . . . I will set My face against you, and you shall be defeated by your enemies. Those who hate you shall reign over you [those who do not love America’s heritage, respect the founding fathers, the Constitution, and despise American “exceptionalism”], and you shall flee when no one pursues you. . . . I will BREAK THE PRIDE OF YOUR POWER . . .” (Lev.26:17-19).

When will punishment be exacted upon us?

The Enigmatic “65 Years”

Another very interesting prophecy is found in the seventh chapter of Isaiah. God tells the prophet, “In *sixty five years, Ephraim will be broken* [lit., “shattered”], so that it will not be a people” (Isa.7:8, NKJV). What is this mysterious “sixty five” years? When would it be counted from?

If we count 65 years from 1947, the year the United Nations voted to partition Palestine and create a Jewish state in the Middle East, we come to the year 2012 A.D.! If we count from the date of Israel’s independence as a state, May 14, 1948, then we come

to 2013!

Could this prophecy be a prediction of the fall of end-time Ephraim, the United States of America? Could it be the year we are toppled economically from our high perch among the nations, and lose our independence and lose our sovereignty and are merged into the end-time “Babylon the Great,” the Biblical name for the “New World Order”?

Will another WAR occur soon in the Middle East? Will its worldwide consequences lead to the devastation of Damascus, Syria, and its ruination?

Isaiah foretold, “See, Damascus will cease to be a city, and will become a heap of ruins” (Isa.17:1).

Isaiah prophesied for Ephraim – modern America, “The fortress will disappear from Ephraim, and the kingdom from Damascus. . . . On that day the glory of Jacob will be brought low, and the fat of his flesh will grow lean” (Isa.17:3-4, NRSV).

When will this occur? Isaiah also declared, regarding Ephraim, “Within sixty five years Ephraim will be shattered, no longer a people” (Isa.7:8). He then adds, “If you do not stand firm in faith, you shall not stand at all” (v.9).

The “shattering” of America – America’s own “Armageddon” – is staring us right in the face – like a horrifying spectre, a ghostly image of doom!

The handwriting is on the wall. God in heaven thunders, “

“MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN.

“This is the interpretation of each word: MENE: God has numbered your kingdom, and finished it; TEKEL: You have been weighed in the balances, and found wanting; PERES: Your kingdom has been divided . . .” (Dan.5:25-28).

Are you prepared? Are you ready for America’s own Apocalypse and date with “Armageddon”?

“Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?” (Ezekiel 33:11).

“Now, therefore, says the LORD, Turn to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning. So rend your heart, and not your garments; return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness; and He relents from doing harm. Who knows if He will turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind Him—a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD your God?” (Joel 2:12-14).