

O Israel, Prepare to Meet Your Maker

Fred R. Coulter—August 11, 2012

We have just viewed a short video on the founding of the nation and the use of the buildings concerning the Bible, Protestantism, and also concerning about the United States.

Let's understand something very important from a Biblical point of view. First of all, we received our country, our lands, because of Abraham and the promises by God, and because God was dealing with the people. Even in among the mix, at that time, there were a good number of Sabbath-keepers. Once the Bible was printed in English and the people could read it, God began raising up Sabbath-keeping groups. Those Sabbath-keeping groups were persecuted by the Sunday-keepers so they went over to Holland where they had freedom of religion.

Half the pilgrims came from Holland and they were Sabbath-keepers and half the other pilgrims that came on the Mayflower were from England. They all believed in God. Of course, that's reflective in our Constitution. This is important to understand for what we're going to cover today. So let me read the Preamble to the Constitution of the United States. Understand that we're the recipients of the blessings of Abraham, plus whenever anyone takes God into their life, regardless of the level of understanding that they have, God is going to hold them responsible for what they tell God that they're going to do.

Preamble to the Constitution of the United States:

We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Let me read you the First Amendment. Keep this in mind because this will become more important in the days in the future that we're living in. Especially now, in some quarters, they are trying to kill any gatherings of people in homes, even for a Bible study. So you need to keep this handy.

First Amendment

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...

No city council, county commission, city police or anyone has greater authority than Congress. They cannot forbid us from having Bible studies and fellowship groups in our homes. I think the mistake that some people make, they let it get too big and then it bothers the neighborhood. It should not get to that point.

...or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

Everything that we have here in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights is all based upon that. Now let's add to it this:

The Declaration of Independence— Introduction

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

All the men who founded the nation were Bible readers. It's evident from here and being Protestants, plus the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and God giving to this country its inheritance that was promised, God was pleased with what they did with this. It was not based totally on the laws of God, because that would be establishing a religion but many of the laws that were enacted were similar to laws that you find in the Bible.

What we have is this: Here we see that not only did God fulfill His promise to Abraham, but He also fulfilled the prophecies of Gen. 49 and Deut. 33 to Joseph's sons Ephraim and Manasseh, and gave them the choicest lands of the earth. They were only 240 years removed from the beginning of the Protestant Reformation in England.

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The Bible that they had at the beginning of the United States was the Geneva Bible, which was 95%-plus the Bible of William Tyndale. That's why every Bible we send out we send out a tribute to William Tyndale.

Even though they kept Sunday, and this is no endorsement of Sunday-keeping, remember, these men were not called to salvation. They were called to lead the carnal descendants of Ephraim and Manasseh. That's different. However, in Luke 9 we find something which shows us that even those people who follow and teach the laws of God, though they haven't been called to salvation, God does not reject. There's a difference to receiving the blessings of God because you teach the laws of God so that people can have knowledge on how they need to live and being called to salvation. That's entirely different.

Here we have in Luke 9:49, we have where Jesus recognizes those people who are not against Him. This becomes very important to understand. "Then John... [That was the one who became the Apostle John.] ...answered *and* said, 'Master, we saw someone casting out demons in Your name, and we forbid him because he does not follow with us.' But Jesus said to him, 'Do not forbid *him*, because everyone who is not against us is for us'" (vs 49-50).

That's why when the Protestants preached the laws of God, and I think that they were—many of them—completely blinded to the Sabbath. But even with some of those coming over to the U.S. there were Sabbath-keepers, because God has always had His Church and His Sabbath-keepers.

What you have seen on this short video demonstrates those two things that I just covered here. It was God's intent to bless Ephraim and Manasseh. Now let's come back here to 2-Samuel 7. We're going to see a statement here that God made to David. David was the first king over all twelve tribes of Israel. He was 7 years over Judah and then 33 with the rest of the tribes because they came down and said, 'You're king, you be over us.' When David wanted to build a house for God, there's God's answer to him concerning this.

2-Samuel 7:1: "And it came to pass when the king dwelt in his house, and when the LORD had given him rest round about from all his enemies, The king said to Nathan the prophet, 'See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells within curtains.' Then Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that *is* in your heart, for the LORD *is* with you.' And it came to pass that night the word of the LORD came to Nathan saying, 'Go and tell My servant David, "Thus says the LORD, 'Shall you build Me a house for My dwelling? For I have not dwelt in a house since the day that I brought up the children out

of Egypt until this day, but have walked in a tent, and in a tabernacle. In all *places* in which I have walked with all the children of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the tribes of Israel, *those* whom I commanded to feed My people Israel, saying, "Why do you not build Me a house of cedars?"'" (vs 1-7).

Verse 8: "Now therefore, thus shall you say to My servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts: "I took you from the sheeppcote, from following the sheep, to be prince over My people, over Israel. And I was with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies out of your sight, and have made you a great name like the name of the great ones in the earth. Moreover, **I will appoint a place for My people Israel...**"'" (vs 8-10).

This is a prophecy of how this nation and Britain came to be, because all the people of Israel were already under the suzerainty of David as king. They were dwelling in the land, all twelve tribes. Remember the ten tribes are called the House of Israel.

So God says, v 10: "Moreover, I will appoint a place for My people Israel, and will plant them so that they may dwell in a place of their own, and move no more...." What we are living in is the fulfillment of that. God has given us, as Abraham Lincoln said: *'the choicest places of the earth.'* Right now God's hand of judgment is upon us because of our sins.

Remember: *Whenever you take God's name in your compact and ask Him to rule over you and bless you*, especially under the circumstances that we have been, *God holds the whole country responsible*—all of its leaders, judges, governors, all of the rulers and all of the people to follow God; holds them responsible to do it

How are we responsible? *In our personal lives we are responsible to live according to God's will, according to God's laws!* You ask concerning voting. Today there are so many evil people involved in America than any other place on earth. So, with more Bibles than any place on earth, we're really responsible because we have the Word of God given to us.

Let's read the last part of that v 10 again here: 2-Samuel 7:10: "...Neither shall the sons of wickedness afflict them any more, as before." That is until we reach the point of sinning that God must correct us. And we're at that point.

Now let me read a few headlines here for you and I'll pass this out. We are right now in the midst of a drought that's going to affect everybody and everything here in the United States. The corn crop is going to be down at least 30%.

Isn't it interesting that they authorize, because of the ethanol push for the ethanol to replace petroleum products, they said you can plant record amounts of corn. So, here's the drought. We actually had the ground laid for us in the years 2000-2004. It never recovered from that. Here are some pictures of what happens to the forest. The forests are no longer able, because it's so dry, to take the carbon dioxide out of the air and use it and put back oxygen, so the trees are dying.

The drought is really a tremendous thing. It has cut the carbon sequestration by 51%, which means that smog will become more of a problem. That will lead to other diseases.

Half the nation's counties are considered disaster areas: More than half of all U.S. counties, 1584 in 32 states have been designated primary-disaster areas this growing season. The vast majority of them are mired in a drought that is considered the worst in decades.

I got an email from Laurence Burchfield in Oklahoma, and at the conference he said, when are you going to come to Tulsa. I said, 'I'll try and come in June.' He said, 'You better hurry before it gets hot.' I just made it. It was 102 degrees the day I left, but they've been having 111, 112, 115. He says it is the driest since the Great Depression.

All of this is right in the middle of the breadbasket of the United States. It's going to affect corn, wheat, barley and soybeans. That means it's going to affect the cattle. They're going to have to slaughter the cattle. It's going to result in inflation—***because of the sins of the people!*** You take God into your life and you go back on your word, God is going to correct you to bring you back.

Nearly half the nation's corn crop was rated as poor to very poor.

I bought some oranges down at the fruit stand and they had corn six for a dollar. I've been hearing about the drought so I thought I would buy those six ears of corn for a dollar. They were small ears and I got them home, Dolores had to throw away two of them because they weren't any good. The four that were left, I ate one of them and it really wasn't good at all.

Another thing about corn and drought: The corn that they use for ethanol can't be used to be eaten in case of drought because it develops a deadly toxin. How did they get that super-sweet corn? *Genetic engineering; sinning against God!* Thirty-seven percent of the soybeans are in the same category. So, all prices are going to go up. Along the Mississippi River it's drying up. Here's a picture.

Trade down along with the Mississippi

There it is! What happens when the river gets so low, the middle of the river is running faster and that picks up all the silt that settled when it was broad and going slow. Now they're having to get out there an dredge in many of the cities downstream, otherwise all that silt is going to build up and it's going to block off the river.

Not only affecting us. I want you to think about this. How many countries when they had droughts and when they had famine did we send emergency supplies to help them? You think anyone's going to send anything to us if we need it? Even if they wanted to, they probably can't. Look at India:

Delayed rains strained India economy

The monsoons are all messed. That's affecting their crops. They won't be able to send anything to us. Corn is going up and it'll go up a whole lot more.

We're facing some gigantic problems. Let's see from the Bible why these things come about. Let's come to Isaiah 5. God also likens the nation of Israel to a vineyard and Jesus also likens Himself to the vine and we are the branches.

As we're going through this, let's think about the nation and then let's think about the Church. There are brethren who are fasting for both the Church and the nation. I think that's a very good idea; I mentioned it in my letter last month and this month.

Isaiah 5:1: "Now I will sing to my Beloved a song of my Beloved concerning His vineyard. My Beloved has a vineyard in a very fruitful hill. And He dug it up, and cleared it of stones, and planted it *with* choice vines, and built a tower in its midst, and hewed out a wine vat in it; and He looked *for it* to produce grapes. But it produced worthless fruits" (vs 1-2).

This is just the nation. Think about the Church. Think about what happens when the Church takes the Word of God and then they change it and then produce worthless converts.

So God says, v 3: "'And now, O people of Jerusalem, and men of Judah, I ask you to judge between Me and My vineyard. What more could have been done to My vineyard that I have not done in it?...'" Ask that about the United States of America. Could anything more have been done to make this nation any greater than it is? *or* How about the United Kingdom when they had the British Empire? He said:

“...Who knows? I looked *for it* to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes.... [unfit for wine] ...And now I will tell you what I will do to My vineyard... [this is what God is doing to us as a nation] ...I will take away its hedge and it shall be consumed; *and* break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down; And I will lay it waste; it shall not be pruned nor dug; but briars and thorns shall come up. And I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it” (vs 4-6).

We’ve experienced that quite a few times here. Dolores and I would look out at the clouds and say, ‘Looks like rain clouds.’ I said, ‘No, they’re going to go.’ The wind blew, the clouds came, no rain. That’s what’s happened back in the Midwest and now the temperature is really hot. You look at those pictures that I passed around and you will see those corn crops are in terrible shape.

Verse 7: “For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts *is* the house of Israel, and the men of Judah His pleasant plant; and He looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; for righteousness, but behold, a cry *of distress*.” Let’s see what’s going to happen because of that.

What’s going to happen if you add this on top of it? Let’s come to the prophet Joel. What are you going to do with this? What are you going to do when all of the insects cannot be affected by the poisons? *Think about it!*

Joel 1:1: “The Word of the LORD that came to Joel, the son of Pethuel. Hear this, you old men, and give ear, all you inhabitants of the land. Has this been in your days or even in the days of your fathers?” (vs 1-2). We’re going to enter into times that we have not seen. It may not be exactly like this, but what if they’re ready to harvest the corn crop and now there is an outbreak of locusts? Possible! Don’t know! If not, *thank God for His mercy!*

Verse 3: “Tell your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children another generation. That which the creeping locust has left, the swarming locust has eaten. And that which the swarming locust has left, the locust larvae has eaten. And that which the locust larvae has left, the destroying locust has eaten. Awake, drunkards...” (vs 3-5). There are different forms of drunkenness:

1. alcoholism
2. lust for power
3. of the false religious systems of this world

That’s what we have and I need to give a sermon on it written by this woman, Bass is her last name. The title of it is *Christianity After Religion*. In the back of the book: ‘What should we do?’ *We should*

recognize other religions, so go to their worship services.

Think about that in relationship to how this nation began. I even heard Rush Limbaugh talk about it. We have children that know nothing about God, nothing about the history, nothing about the Constitution. They’ve trained to be good socially-adjusted people to have fun and games and sex. That’s their life. ***They are blank-minded!*** That’s virtually what Rush Limbaugh said. He said what they used to have for kids going to school were the McGuffey Readers that taught them about God, taught them how to pray, taught them how to be nice to their neighbors. Even though the Protestants didn’t keep the Sabbath, not being called to salvation, God still honored what they did ***because of His pledge to Abraham***. But He’s going to judge the children.

Verse 5: “Awake, drunkards, and weep; and howl, all you drinkers of wine because of the new wine; for it is cut off from your mouth, For a nation has come up on My land, strong and without number, whose teeth are the teeth of a lion, and he has the jaw teeth of a great lion. He has laid My vine waste and splintered My fig tree. He has stripped it and cast *it* away; its branches are bared white” (vs 5-7).

What’s going to happen when all the debt is due? The entitlement generation frankly does not care, just as long as they have their freebies! This current administration has done everything it can to buy the votes of everyone. So, now we have 106-million who are on welfare. We have an increase of 3-million on disability. That’s just in the past four years. We have 46-million receiving food stamps. We have indeterminable unemployment benefits. Then you have the young air-headed people who know nothing and they’re all going to vote for Obama.

If Obama is not re-elected, *it’s going to be a miracle*, because he has bought and paid for every one of them. They’re all so stupid and blinded and dumb and greedy and lustful! Granted they may have needs, but they have all been bribed by a liar to get their vote. ***You better pray for this nation!***

We’ll spend a little time in some of these minor prophets. Remember the vineyard, Micah 7:1: “Woe is me! For I am like the gatherings of summer fruits, like the grape gleanings of the vintage. There is no cluster to eat; *but* my soul desires the first-ripe fruit.” In other words, now they have to eat a bunch of no-good food. I think that depicts that cob of corn that I ate. I did soak it in butter and I did put salt on it and it was still no-good wood. I could have had a bowl of sawdust, put butter and salt in it. That would have been just as good.

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Here's why, v 2: "The good man has perished from the earth, and there is none upright among men, for they all lie in wait for blood; each one hunts his brother *with* a net. They use both hands diligently to do evil. The ruler asks for a bribe, and the judge for a reward; and the great man speaks the evil desire of his soul. Thus they weave it together. The best of them *is* like a briar; the most upright *is sharper* than a hedge of thorns. The day of your watchmen and your punishment comes; now they shall be confused.... [it's going to get so bad] ...Put no trust in a friend; put no hope in a guide; keep the door of your mouth from her who lies *in* your bosom" (vs 2-5). Most people are not married today, they just shack up and as soon as it's inconvenient and little trouble, BANG! they are out the door.

Verse 6: "For the son dishonors the father; the daughter rises up against her mother, the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. A man's enemies are the men of his own household" (v 6). Jesus used that—didn't He—to describe what Christianity would really do.

Verse 7: "Therefore, I will look to the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation. My God will hear me!" Instead of going along with what is out there. That's pretty tough stuff, indeed.

Amos 3:1: "Hear this word that the LORD has spoken against you, children of Israel, against the whole family which I brought up from the land of Egypt, saying." Think about this! What these nations have done, look at Northwestern Europe. What have they done? Holland and Belgium have become just nothing but dens of dope. France is going insane with socialism. The new president has proposed 75% tax hike on the rich. So what are they doing? They're getting their passports and money and getting out of there. That's exactly what will happen. That's what Obama really wants to do.

God says this of these people, v 2: "You only have I known of all the families of the earth..." "I gave you My laws. I sent My prophets. I gave you the land, the best lands in the world." Look at the other nations and how they are. But God says through Jeremiah, He says: "Jeremiah, you go to any of these other nations. Has the nation changed its gods for that which is no god?" And God says, "My people have changed their glory for ignominy.

"...therefore, I will punish you *for* all your iniquities.... [you bring God into the equation, He's going to take you up on it] ...Can two walk together unless they be agreed? Will a lion roar in the forest when he has no prey? Will a young lion cry out of his den if he has caught nothing? Will a bird fall into a trap *on* the ground, when there is no bait for it? Will a trap spring up from the ground, and nothing at

all be caught? If a ram's horn is blown in a city, will the people not also tremble? If there is a calamity in a city, has the LORD not also done it? Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing unless He reveals His secret unto His servants the prophets" (vs 2-7).

That's why even in some of the Sunday-keeping churches there are still a few who are not against Christ, who are preaching that this nation needs to be repent. In the Churches of God there needs to be a cry out, too. Let all the Churches of God repent and get back to the Word of God and the true Christ and quit mingling in the religion of Protestantism into the Truth of God. Have we not seen that God has judged the Church because of that once in our lifetime? Think you not that He's going to do it again?

This is quite a chapter. This is quite a challenge, Amos 4:1: "Here this word, cows of Bashan who *are* in the mountain of Samaria—who oppress the poor, who crush the needy, who say to their husbands, 'Bring in *wine* that we may drink.'"

Isn't that interesting. All of those women on the housewives serials that they have, and they get all of these nice good-looking women and so forth. God calls them cows and I think that's pretty interesting.

Verse 2: "The Lord GOD has sworn by His holiness, 'Behold, the days shall come upon you when they will lift you up with meat hooks, and your posterity with fishhooks. And you shall go out at the breaches *in the walls*, each woman straight before her. And you shall *be* cast off to Harmon,' says the LORD. 'Come to Bethel and transgress... [What was Bethel? *That's where the golden calf was!* What was between the horns of the golden calf? *The sundial!*] ...to Gilgal and multiply transgressing at Gilgal. And bring your sacrifices for the morning, your tithes for three years; and offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving from that *which is* leavened, and cry out; call out the voluntary offerings, for so you love *to do*, O children of Israel!' says the Lord GOD 'And I also have given you cleanness of teeth in all your cities, and lack of bread in all your places, **yet, you have not returned to Me, says the LORD**' (vs 2-6).

What is it going to take for this nation? There are a few men who are trying to do what is right as far as economics is concerned. But they're not calling people back to the true God.

Verse 7: "And I have also withheld the rain from you, when there were yet three months to the harvest.... [What's happening in corn belt?] ...And I caused rain to fall on one city and caused it not to rain on another city... [Did we have floods in cities? 8-10 inches of rain.] ...one field was rained on, and

the field on which it did not rain dried up. So, two or three cities wandered to one city to drink water, but they were not satisfied; **yet, you have not returned to Me,' says the LORD**" (vs 7-8). I want you to really remember that phrase!

God isn't doing this and the correction that is coming because He doesn't love people. He loves them, but they don't love Him. They claim His name and have made an agreement with Him. How many times have they said, 'This is God's country'?

Verse 9: "I have stricken you with blasting and mildew. When your gardens and your vineyards, and your fig trees, and your olive trees increased, the creeping locust devoured them; **yet, you have not returned to Me,' says the LORD**. I have sent the plague among you after the manner of Egypt..." (vs 9-10).

Think about all the sicknesses and diseases that we have today. Very interesting. There's a young lady, the daughter of one of our members up north, she has a very nice baby boy about a year old now or a little less. Never had any shots, never been sick. All of her friends of her age who have had babies have had their babies get all the inoculations and they have all been sick. So, she asked her mother, 'Should I take my baby to the doctor to find out why he hasn't been sick?' And she said, 'No! No!' Same thing here. Look at the sickness. Look at the disease. Then you're going to get all of this medication which is going to take care of it? You can die of bleeding, shortness of breath, go blind, have a heart attack. 'But all of this is good medicine for you and everyone who takes it smiles.' All you have to do is just look at the ad. I'm being very factious here.

"...I have slain your young men with the sword... [six killed just this week trying to help the Afghans] ...and have taken away your horses..." (v 10). With the increase of gasoline price and diesel price, could take away our cars. How's he going to do it? *Park them!* What are you going to substitute? *Find a bicycle!* You have leg power.

Isn't it something that some of the Democrat candidates say, especially this dim-witted woman up in Massachusetts, 'Oh, we ought to follow the Chinese example. They used to have bicycles. Now they're getting cars.' So we are following their example. We're going to end up getting bicycles.

"...And I have made the stench of your camps to come up into your nostrils; **yet, you have not returned to Me,' says the LORD**. I have overthrown some among you as God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah... [Remember 9-11? Was that not a fireball? *Yes, indeed!*] ...and you were like a firebrand plucked out of the burning..." (vs 10-11).

That's exactly what the people looked like that escaped it. Remember running away from it and here's this big billowing cloud of dust and debris because the building collapsed and people are running and screaming. Those who got through it and were able to even survive, though it came upon them, you looked at them and they were like walking ghosts, just white. Notice what God says. 'Oh, yes, everybody go to church this coming Sunday. Go to your synagogues. Go to your mosques.' And in the mosques they said, 'Thank you, Allah.' Two weeks' later attendance was back to where it was.

"...**yet, you have not returned to Me,' says the LORD**. Therefore, I will do this to you, O Israel... [Everything that He's mentioned here. He's given warning.] ...and because I will do this to you **prepare to meet your God, O Israel!**'.... [He describes Himself]: ...For lo, He forms the mountains and creates the wind, and declares to man what his thought *is*. He who makes the morning darkness, and treads upon the high places of the earth—the LORD, the God of hosts, *is* His name." (vs 11-13).

His judgment is coming and is now upon us. How many will repent?

(go to the next track)

I want you to remember what we read: ***'Yet, you return not to Me.'***

Deuteronomy 28:1: "And it shall come to pass, **if** you shall hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD your God..." We have something better than the voice of God. We have God's voice written down so we can confer with it anytime we need to. They didn't have that blessing. They didn't have that privilege.

"...to observe and to do all His commandments which I command you today, the LORD your God will set you on high above all nations of the earth" (v 1). That's what everybody wants. Everybody wants all the blessings, but 'God, don't tell me what to do.'

Someone is going to say, 'Which commandments?' *God said all His commandments.* Which are the important ones that He's stressing? (Lev. 26 is parallel to Deut. 28.)

Leviticus 26:1: "You shall make no idols to yourselves; and you shall not set up for yourselves graven images, or a standing pillar. And you shall not set up any image of stone in your land in order to bow down to it, for I am the LORD your God." No idolatry. We read on that in the sermon series *The Seven Proofs of God*, what God thinks about those

who make images and then bow to it and say, 'Save me,' when they made it with their own hands.

Verse 2: "You shall keep My Sabbaths... [plural—the Sabbath and Holy Days] ...and reverence My sanctuary. I *am* the LORD." Now think on this: One man said, "The prayer that Solomon gave there in Kings and Chronicles at the dedication of the temple, that prayer doesn't apply any longer because it said *if Your people worship toward this place and cry out to Me*. The temple is no longer there, so you can just avoid reading that."

However, what sanctuary are we invited into as Christians? *The one in heaven above!* So think of the sanctuary here, reverencing God's sanctuary, and think about the Protestants who disdain God's Sabbath and disdain the sanctuary of God in heaven above by saying, 'We're delivered to do all of these things.' Now even though they might not be hostile against God, but what is it that they are doing.

Verse 3: "**IF** you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments and do them, **Then** I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. And your threshing shall reach to the vintage, and the vintage shall reach to the sowing time. And you shall eat your bread to the full and dwell in your land safely.... [Have we not had that for decades? *Yes, indeed!*] ...And I will give peace in the land, and you shall lie down and none shall make *you* afraid... [We don't have that today—do we? *No!*] ...And I will cause evil beasts to cease out of the land; neither shall the sword go through your land" (vs 3-6).

We're all worried about terrorism—right? *Yes!* Instead of turning to God, what they're doing, they're developing high-tech detection machines. They can reach out 600 feet and it can analyze your blood pressure, your heart rate, how your adrenals are pumping. If your adrenals are going 100 miles a minute, you are a suspect of being a terrorist, especially if you are approaching a line to come into the airport. They will have those everywhere: baseball games, football games, basketball games, theatres, especially after the shooting in Colorado. ***Anything instead of turning to God!***

Verse 7: "And you shall chase your enemies, and they shall fall before you by sword.... [Now we make friends with them and hug them and kiss them and they shoot us.] ...And five of you shall chase a hundred, and a hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight. And your enemies shall fall by the sword in front of you"(vs 7-8). Quite different today—right? *Yes!*

Verse 9: "For I will have respect to you, and make you fruitful, and multiply you, and establish

My covenant with you. And you shall eat of the old provision, and clear away the old because of the new. And I will set My tabernacle among you. And My soul shall not abhor you. And I will walk among you and will be your God, and you shall be My people" (vs 9-12). Now you can't have anything better than that—right? *Yes, you can.* Be converted and have the abode of the Father and Christ spiritually in your mind.

Verse 13: "I am the LORD your God Who brought you forth out of the land of Egypt from being their bondmen. And I have broken the bonds of your yoke, and made you go upright. But **IF** you will not hearken to Me and will not do all these commandments, and if you despise My statutes, or if your soul hates My judgments, so that you will not do all My commandments, so that you break My covenant; I will also do this to you: I will even appoint over you terror, consumption, and burning fever, consuming the eyes and causing sorrow of heart. And you shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it. And I will set My face against you, and you shall be slain before your enemies. They that hate you shall reign over you...." (vs 16-17). Sound like what's coming out of Washington, D.C. today?

"...And you shall flee when none pursues you. And if you will not yet for all this hearken to Me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins" (vs 17-18).

God says if you will obey, you'll be blessed in the city, in the field, in your body, fruit of your ground, livestock, cattle, sheep, basket, store. You'll be blessed when you come in, be blessed when you go out. That would be something. Walk in the door and there's a blessing. You set that in the house and then you go out the door—here's another blessing.

Deuteronomy 28: God will take care of the enemies (v 7) command a blessing (v 8)

Verse 9: The LORD shall establish you a Holy people to Himself, as He has sworn to you, **IF** you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God and walk in His ways. And all the people of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of the LORD, and they shall be afraid of you" (vs 9-10).

It's was reported that years ago one of the ambassadors from a South American country was remarking about how the United States was really blessed and its government was really good. He said, 'The difference between our country and your country is that your country has God has their Ruler.' Now we no longer do! That's why we see all the things that are here. That's why, ***take the time to fast and pray for the country.*** Maybe there will be

enough people who will repent and God will honor that. Pray for the churches that the churches will not get devoured in satanic deceptions again. That is a real strong possibility.

Verse 13: “And the LORD shall make you the head, and not the tail...” Then He gives a warning. Let’s see what happens and then ask: Are these things taking place today?

Verse 14: “And you shall not go aside from any of the words which I command you today, to the right hand or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them. And it shall come to pass, **IF** you will not hearken to the voice of the LORD your God to observe and to do all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you” (vs 14-15).

If there are blessings, there have to be curses. Today this nation as official government policy is *doing away with God* in every one of its institutions, in its education, and even in its churches.

- You’re going to be cursed in the city and in the field (v 16). **Is that taking place?**
- You’re going to be cursed in your basket and your store (v 17). **Is that taking place?**
- How about all these GMO foods which is causing all kinds of sickness, disease, and obesity? **Is that part of our store?**
- You’re going to be cursed in the fruit of your body, the fruit of your land, increase of your livestock, flocks and sheep (v 18).

Verse 19: “Cursed *shall* you be when you come in and cursed *shall* you be when you go out. The LORD shall send on you cursing, vexation, and rebuke in all that you set your hand to do until you are destroyed, and until you perish quickly because of the wickedness of your doings **by which you have forsaken Me**” (vs 19-20).

They can return back to God. When there was a drought in Georgia and they were down to three days’ water supply in the reservoir and we’ve got this on one of our Church at Home half-hour segments. The governor of Georgia—and he was ridiculed by the press—called a special meeting. Of course, the press was there. He explained the situation with the drought and he says, ***‘This is because of our sins. So we are here to confess our sins to you, Lord, that we have not done Your commandments, we have not done Your word. Please forgive us and send rain.’*** Rain came, filled up all the reservoirs; the reservoirs overflowed. Rain

came and the rivers were flowing good because one man in a very short prayer said, ‘Lord, forgive us our sins and send some rain.’ So, you see what could happen if people would really turn to God. Then

- He’s going to make the pestilence cling to you (v 21).

Verse 22: “The LORD shall strike you with lung disease and with a fever, and with an inflammation, and with an extreme burning, and with the sword, and with blasting, and with mildew. And they shall pursue you until you perish. And your heavens over your head shall be bronze, and the earth that is under you iron” (vs 22-23).

I think if you walked in some corn fields back in the Midwest that’s exactly what it would be, temperature 110 degrees beating down on your heavily, all this humidity, but no moisture in the ground. The ground cracked, the reservoirs drying up, the Mississippi River going down. I’m astonished!

Verse 24: “The LORD shall make the rain of your land powder and dust...” Remember the special that they did concerning the Dust Bowl in the 30s? When Dolores and I were watching that, here comes this 2-mile high cloud of dust that originated over in southern Colorado. These were pictures taken in Oklahoma and here it comes. This is after they had wind and dust and there was no way you could keep the dirt out. The wind blew incessantly. People died of lung disease. No one could sleep. It was a horrible, horrible thing that they went through.

That dust cloud was so big and so massive and. I guess, God did this deliberately, have to be to go that far. Because the Congress was debating whether to send money and relief to those people in the drought-stricken areas and they didn’t know whether it would be a vote that would pass to send the funds or not. But then that big dust cloud came right over Washington, D.C., and all of the senators and congressmen went out and looked and saw that and scooted back inside and voted *yes*, we’ll send them funds. That’s a true story.

Verse 25: “The LORD shall cause you to be stricken before your enemies. You shall go out one way against them, and flee seven ways before them. And you shall become abhorrent unto all the kingdoms of the earth.” That’s exactly what has happened.

Then if you’re not going to take care of that, v 27: “The LORD will strike you with the boils of Egypt, and with the hemorrhoids, and with the scab, and with the itch, of which you cannot be healed (v 27) They have an ad for Preparation-H for hemorrhoids on television. You ever seen that one? Here’s an airplane seat and the guy who has got

hemorrhoids is coming in there. He looks at the airplane seat and it shows a cactus coming up through the bottom of it. Can't get rid of these things.

Verse 28: "The LORD will strike you with madness... [Was the shooting in Colorado madness? I think they've already done that to Congress, and some of the leaders there in Congress.] ...and blindness and astonishment of heart. And you shall grope at noonday, as the blind gropes in darkness, and you shall not prosper in your ways. And you shall always be pressed down and spoiled forever, and no man shall save you" (vs 28-29).

Verse 33^[transcribers correction]: "The fruit of your land and all your labors shall be eaten up by a nation which you do not know. And you shall only be oppressed and crushed always."

Verse 37: "And you shall become an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword among all nations where the LORD shall lead you. You shall carry much seed out into the field and shall gather little in, for the locust shall eat it. You shall plant vineyards and dress *them*, but shall neither drink the wine nor gather, for the worm shall eat them. You shall have olive trees throughout all your coasts, but you shall not anoint *yourself with the oil*, for your olive *tree* shall drop off *its fruit*" (vs 37-40).

Here's where we are right now, v 43 "The stranger *dwelling* among you shall get up above you very high, and you shall come down very low.... [We see that happening—don't we?] ...He shall loan to you, and you shall not loan to him..." (vs 43-44). We have a President who increased the debt in four years more than all the borrowed money of all the Presidents from George Washington down to the current one.

"...He shall be the head, and you shall be the tail. And all these curses shall come on you, and shall pursue you and overtake you, until you are destroyed because you did not obey the voice of the LORD your God to keep His commandments and His statutes which He commanded you.... [lest someone say, 'This is in the Old Testament and it's the Old Covenant and it doesn't apply to us today.' What are you going to do with]: ...And they shall be on you for a sign and for a wonder, and on your seed forever. Because you did not serve the LORD your God with joyfulness and with gladness of heart for the abundance of all *things*, therefore, you shall serve your enemies, which the LORD shall send against you in hunger, and in thirst, and in nakedness, and in the want of all *things*. And he shall put a yoke of iron your neck until he has destroyed you" (vs 44-48). Where is this nation coming from?

Verse 49: "The LORD shall bring a nation against you from far, from the end of the earth as the eagle flies, a nation whose language you shall not understand, A nation fierce of countenance who shall not regard the person of the old, nor show favor to the young" (vs 49-50). I invite you to look around the world and you will find one such nation like that which God is raising up to great heights and it will become our number one nemesis—*China!* Anybody here understand Chinese?

Remember the sermon that I gave about these 272 economic zones? The Chinese are going to buy them up; free trade. It may work for a while, but guess what? What a sneaky way to have an unseen army come into your land that could break out and take it over in nothing flat. There's more time for that to happen, but I'm just saying, don't think that that is an exaggerated statement that I have just made. God says He's going to do it. I've already read His Word. I don't have to ring the cowbell here.

In all of this *God wants repentance!* God has given warning. We will see that it blends into the Millennium when God is going to take care of all of these things.

Hosea 13:1: "When Ephraim spoke there was trembling. He exalted himself in Israel; but when he offended in Baal *worship*, he died." That's what's happened to the U.K. today. In the U.K. today gas prices are so high that they're advising people to get bicycles. Amazing, isn't it?

Verse 2: "And now they sin more and more, and have made themselves a molten image of their silver, and idols according to their own understanding, all of it the work of the craftsmen. They say of them, 'Let the men who sacrifice kiss the calves.' Therefore they shall be as the morning cloud and as the early dew that passes away, as the chaff storm driven from a threshing floor, and as the smoke out of the chimney" (vs 2-3). It's just vanity and will end up as nothing.

Verse 4: "Yet, I *am* the LORD your God from the land of Egypt, and you shall know no God, but Me, for there is no Savior besides Me. I have known you in the wilderness, in the land of great dryness.... [God has made Himself known with His Word today] ...When they were fed, they became full. They were filled and their heart was exalted. Therefore they have forgotten Me. Therefore, I will be as a lion to them; as a leopard by the way I will watch. I will meet them like a bear that is bereaved of her cubs, and will tear open their chests. And there I will devour them like a lion—as the wild beast would tear them" (vs 4-8).

This next verse is most important. ***Don't accuse God of evil!*** If you do, that's shows you do

O Israel, Prepare to Meet Your Maker

not understand that as human beings, the only way we are going to be successful even in the world, but especially within the Church, is to understand that we literally have nothing we didn't receive. The only way we are going to function is if we totally yield to God. That's how important it is. Also think of it this way. If that weren't important, why would God bring these punishments and penalties upon them? As you think about it, also remember the second resurrection.

Verse 9: **“O Israel, you have destroyed yourself; but in Me is your help.”** That's the message that God gives.

Hosea 14:1: “O Israel, return to the LORD your God...” That's all God wants. Doesn't matter who you are in the world, if you're sinning against God, God doesn't delight in the death of the wicked. He says turn, change.

“...for you have fallen because of your iniquity. Take with you words, and return to the LORD. Say to Him, ‘Take away all *our* iniquity, and receive us graciously, that we may repay *with* the sacrifices of our lips’” (vs 1-2). That is by praise and prayer to God. That's what God wants.

“Assyria shall not save us; we will not ride on horses. Nor shall we say any more to the work of our hands, ‘Our gods’... [look at what we've made.] ...for in You [God] the fatherless finds mercy.... [God replies back to them]: ...‘I will heal their backslidings; I will love them freely; for My anger has turned away from him. I will be as the dew to Israel; he shall blossom as the lily and cast out his roots like Lebanon. His branches shall spread, and his beauty shall be as the olive tree, and his smell as Lebanon’” (vs 3-6). God is going to restore the people of Israel. Think about it for the Church. Think about how we need to come back to God.

Then He finishes by saying this, v 7: “Those who dwell under his shadow shall return; they shall revive like the grain, and grow like the vine. Their scent *shall be* as the wine of Lebanon. Ephraim *shall* say, ‘What *have* I to do any more with idols?’... [going to learn the lesson; be converted] ...I have heard *him* and watched him; I *am* like a leafy cypress tree. Your fruit is found from Me.’ Who *is* wise? He shall understand these things. *Who has* understanding? He shall know them, for the ways of the LORD are right, and the just shall walk in them; but transgressors shall fall in them” (vs 7-9).

So this is God's message to modern Israel today. All of these things that are coming upon as punishments are the hand of God to have us return to Him.

- How many will? *We do not know!*

- How bad will it get? *We do not know!*

But I'm here to tell you this coming election is a very turning point along that road. At least we can see there are some men who respect justice, who want to do what is right, but will they succeed in a nation so filled with liars and two-timers? If they do not, expect 75% tax on you, because the spending will never stop. We'll have to see.

For the Church, we need to take heed to all the warnings. Like I wrote in my July letter. God says to all the Churches, ***‘The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who overcomes...’***

We need to overcome all of the sins and lukewarmness and watering down of the Word of God, treating the Word of God with contempt when we have the blessing of the tremendous Word of God and the teachings of Christ as never before in the history of the world, so we can secure eternal salvation through Christ.

We likewise have to change our ways. We likewise have to realize that everything comes from God. If you take this next Sabbath for praying for the nation—remember these things. If you pray for the Churches—remember these things.

Ask God to grant us mercy and time because we don't know how long we have to go. We don't know what God is going to require of us to do to feed the flock and preach the Gospel.

Between now and the election, it's going to be a very tremendous turning point for this nation and everyone in it. ***So, we'll commend you to God!***

Scriptural References:

- 1) Luke 9:49-50
- 2) 2-Samuel 7:1-10
- 3) Isaiah 5:1-7
- 4) Joel 1:1-7
- 5) Micah 7:1-7
- 6) Amos 3:1-7
- 7) Amos 4:1-13
- 8) Deuteronomy 28:1
- 9) Leviticus 26:1-18
- 10) Deuteronomy 28:9-10, 13-15, 19-20, 22-29, 33, 37-40, 43-50
- 11) Hosea 13:1-9
- 12) Hosea 14:1-9

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Genesis 49
- Deuteronomy 33; 28:7-8, 16-18, 21

Also referenced:

Book: *Christianity After Religion* by Diana Butler Bass
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