

A STUDY IN PROPHECY
COVERING
THE DESTINY OF THE UNITED STATES.

Study made and Article Written By
Elder Charles Fry in 1947-1950.

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CONCERNING THIS PUBLICATION

'As Elder Charles Fry was a great uncle of mine and for some years lived in southwest Iowa where I was raised as a boy, I was able to benefit from his many sermons and classes in the little church there.

Some years later when he had been moved to Resthaven, I purchased the home where he had been living and acquired a considerable amount of the basic research he had left there for my benefit.

He confided in me on one occasion that, while he had done a considerable amount of research for the church (Question Time etc.), there was much of what he considered to be of great worth that had not been made available to the Saints. He felt spiritually inclined to believe that it would be of great worth to the church in preparation for the very end.

Elder Francis Shrunk did a great service for the church some years ago as he, having associated with Brother Fry, copied some of the documentation and distributed it as best he could but was not able to get it published.

I have compared what Brother Shrunk prepared with the originals in my possession and have found that he was very accurate in reproducing what he had received from Elder Charles Fry.

It would seem that the source of acquiring and benefiting from Elder Fry's works has "dried up". It is the purpose of this Editor to endeavor to make these things available once again for the benefit of the church and the kingdom.

As to the text that is here placed before you, it is important to realize that it was written by Charles Fry before 1950. Much of what was foreseen pertaining to developments in this country as well as around the world has passed before us and much will unfold in the future. It was not so easily accepted forty years ago (in a time of increasing growth and power) to give consideration to the thought that this great land of America might arrive to a condition of instability sometime in the future.

As we observe the reality of the situation today, here in 1994, we can readily see that the time is upon us - when, if the nation continues in it's present course toward ripening in iniquity such as is spoken of in the Book of Mormon, then it's inhabitants must expect to be swept off according to the "Everlasting Decree" of God (Ether 1:30-35). Without a great deal of repentance within the land the future safety of it's occupants looks bleak. The need for Zion's coming forth becomes more critical day by day.

It is important to discern that the Church is not exempt from the "retributions" to come, except as the church becomes worthy of salvation. Some of what is to happen upon the land, that is destructive, may fall upon the church firstly - starting upon "His own house as a whirlwind" and go forth from there. So let us be informed and prepared for the rough times ahead that we may endure and be able to 'break forth' in the "Joy" at the conclusion. Amen.

--Frank Utterback, Editor

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Foreword

I

Prophecy had never been one of my major studies until in the early spring of 1947 when certain incidents developed in our home devotions, accompanied by a particular spiritual experience, which opened, as it were, a door into this great field of mystery. I entered and found rich and important treasures of truth, and my studies became intensive for a year and a half. I was often surprised or astonished, and feelings of fear and trembling stirred me as the story of the downfall of the nations unfolded to my understanding. These things, too, brought a growing realization that the time of such downfall was drawing near upon an unsuspecting world. But again, the vision of truth brought joy and gladness as I also saw the uprising of the kingdom of God under his directing and empowering hand, founded upon principles of justice, equity and truth, by people fully converted to the righteousness of Christ, and whose dominion under Christ would extend to the extremities of the earth.

These days of climax, both of dread calamity and of glorious achievement, are the culmination, not merely of immediate causes, but of conditions and events of human making from the beginning of the world. Human actions are cumulative in their effects, and result in periodic climaxes usually forcing radical changes on an unwilling humanity. Always before the climaxes have been limited to a nation, or a few nations, except in the case of the deluge, but now we are facing a culmination that will be world-wide, involving all nations, both Gentile and Israel, civilized and uncivilized. Apparently all the prophets saw this day and wrote of it. Enoch saw the tribulations among the wicked, the troubled seas, and men's fear of the judgments of Almighty God. He saw the redemption of the righteous, and received a fulness of joy. (Genesis 7:74).

Opposing forces of good and evil have contended from the beginning for the mastery, the conflict being permitted of God to continue, within bounds, until the final day of decision should come which day is spoken of as the harvest, when both the wheat and the tares, the

good and the evil will come to fruition. When men become ripened in sin then also is the time that righteousness will burst forth into glorious bloom, and there will be a destruction of the one and a final establishing of the other. But for a time the evil will dominate the world.

"The restraining gates, my mercy led me oft to interpose,

Shall the devastating currents fraught with woe, no more oppose."

It is the day of the falling of Babylon, and of the uprising of Israel. It is the day of God's judgment upon the nations, and it is the day of the restitution of all things.

When the Lord founded the ancient kingdom of Israel he gave it the right and the power of dominion throughout the earth on condition that they acknowledged his sovereignty and kept his law, and which was to be realized by righteous development. But the nation surrendered to the very evils they were set to destroy, and were in time destroyed by them, and when the last remnant of that kingdom fell under the powerful blow of Nebuchadnezzar, the dominion passed to him, or to Babylon, where it was to continue for a great length of time.

But Daniel also showed that this Gentile dominion would come to an abrupt and complete end, as represented by the crushing of the feet of the image representing these kingdoms, by a stone falling upon them. In the meantime, while Babylon ruled, Israel would be destitute, "For the children of Israel shall abide many days without a king, and without a prince, and without a sacrifice, and without an image, and without an ephod." (Hosea 3:4). But "afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the Lord their God, and David their king; and shall fear the Lord and his goodness in the latter days."

In this day of climax and the falling of empires the world will not be left without government. Dominion will not cease, but as in the first instance in 586 B.C. there was a transfer of dominion from Israel to the Gentiles, so in the second instance in the latter days the transfer will be reversed, and Israel will again come into its own divine right of rule. (The very name Israel which the Lord gave to Jacob, means "ruling with God."). "And I will make her that halted a remnant, and her that was cast off a strong nation; and the Lord shall reign over them in Mount Zion from henceforth, even for ever....Unto thee shall it come, even the first dominion; the kingdom shall come to the

daughter of Jerusalem." (Micah 4:7)³. And Daniel said, "And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High, whose kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him." (Daniel 7:27).

This transfer of dominion will not come by peaceful means, (the forces of evil have never surrendered so easily), but by fierce wars in which the hand of divine judgment will be the determining factor. It is God's time of judgment upon the wicked with all their injustices and oppressions. It is the time when "all flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof (their civilization) is as the flower of the field: the grass withereth, the flower fadeth; because the Spirit of the Lord bloweth upon it." (Isaiah 40:6). Yet these things come primarily by the will of man. It is the perverseness of human nature which arouses human passions and turns them into channels of destruction. Wickedness is suicidal. "The wicked shall slay the wicked."

3

The initial stroke bringing Babylon to the dust stands out in the prophecies as one of the greatest events of the world since the Noachian flood, though like the flood, it will take the world unawares. The downfall may be a process requiring time, but the stroke that produces it will be sudden, even as the stroke of the stone upon the feet of the image was sudden. The blow will fall upon a single nation, and that nation is the United States, the breaking of which will lead to the falling of others. The nation that strikes the blow will not be of the Babylonian succession, for it is that succession that is to fall; nevertheless it must be a great strong one to be able to destroy mighty Babylon.

4

The original Babylon founded by Nabopolassar was not only political; it was also religious. Religion was then a strong factor in government, and the setting up of the government had as one of its principal designs the establishing of the tribal god or gods. The god they worshipped was held to be the god of the nation, and to him the people were required to give allegiance. This combination of civil and religious authority has continued with variations and fluctuations down through the whole Babylonian succession. The United States is probably the first to separate government and religion by law, yet the ecclesias-

tical government is possessed of a dominion over the souls of men equal to that of the civil government over political affairs. Ecclesiastical rule today, even in the United States, is but a phase of modern Babylon.

The Lord speaks of spiritual Babylon, (Doctrine and Covenants 108:4), and again he speaks of the apostate, the whore, even Babylon, that maketh all nations to drink of her cup, in whose hearts the enemy, even Satan, sitteth to reign."(Ibid. 84:1). This spiritual Babylon is to fall with the political Babylon as is specifically declared in D.C. 28:5. It is this spiritual Babylon that stands in the way of the progress of the restored gospel more than all other institutions including civil governments. The Lord says it is the tares that choke the wheat.

The downfall of ancient Israel came as a result of their departure from God and his law, and their restoration can come only by their return to their first allegiance. Moses spoke of this:

When all these things shall come upon thee, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before thee, and thou shalt call them to mind among all nations, whither the Lord thy God hath driven thee, and shalt return unto the Lord thy God, and shalt obey his voice according to all that I command thee this day, thou and thy children, with all thine heart, and with all thine soul; that then the Lord thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather thee from all nations, whither the Lord thy God hath scattered thee; and the Lord thy God will bring thee into the land which thy fathers possessed, and thou shalt possess it; and he will do thee good, and multiply thee above thy fathers.-Deuteronomy 30.

Israel's return could not be brought about through a perverted Christianity and an apostate church, such as the scriptures definitely show would itself perish with the downfall of Babylon, of which we have already mentioned as to its being a part. The restoration of Israel must of necessity be preceded by a restoration of the gospel and the church, in their fullness and purity, which was effected early in the nineteenth century by the founding work of Joseph Smith the prophet. In the revelations directing the establishment of the church the Lord said:

"Ye are called to bring to pass the gathering of mine elect, for mine elect hear my voice and harden not their hearts; wherefore the decree hath gone forth from the Father that they shall be gathered in unto one place, upon the face of this land, to prepare their hearts, and be prepared in all things against the day when tribulation and desolation are sent forth upon the wicked; for the hour is nigh, and the day soon at hand, when the earth is ripe; and all the proud, and they that do wickedly, shall be stubble, and I will burn them up, saith the Lord of Hosts, that wickedness shall not be upon the earth."-D.C. 28:2.

And further:

"The word of the Lord concerning his church, established in the last days for the restoration of his people, as he has spoken by the mouth of his prophets, and for the gathering of his saints to stand upon Mount Zion, which shall be the city New Jerusalem; which city shall be built, beginning at the temple lot, which is appointed by the finger of the Lord, in the western boundaries of the State of Missouri."-Ibid. 83:1.

The restoration of the gospel in 1830 was in fact the divine preparation for the restoration of Israel, that through the preaching of the pure gospel, lost and scattered Israel might be returned to God through faith and obedience, and ultimately established as the restored kingdom of Israel, to take over the right of dominion as it should fall from the helpless hands of broken Babylon.

Like the ancient government of Israel which God set up by Moses, the restored kingdom will be a theocracy in which God will rule through his chosen representatives. The kingdom will be both civil and religious, the dominion of both state and church being combined in one, for that was the dominion which Israel lost.

It is a historical fact to note that the church was restored in America, and the inspired scriptures, especially the Book of Mormon and the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, state prophetically that the kingdom will also be set up upon this land. The first was in preparation for the second. Further evidences will appear on this point as we proceed in this study.

The reasons why we hold the United States to be the nation upon which the initial stroke will come causing its immediate fall are as follows:

1. As before mentioned, the United States is one of the last nations to arise out of the Babylonian succession. It represents the feet of the image whose head was in Asia and its feet in America, and according to Daniel's interpretation the death stroke was to fall upon the feet.

2. America is declared to be God's choice land, the land where he will establish his kingdom, his Zion, a city of righteousness to which he will come. It is requisite that the land be cleansed from wickedness, from unworthy and obstructing institutions, from subversive practices, and from the domination of men who have not the interests of their fellow men, and of their God, at heart. The Lord has said that they shall serve him, the God of the land, or they shall be swept off.

3. To the American nation has come the greatest and richest gifts

that even God could bestow. He gave them a vast territory of varied climate producing almost every form of vegetation, a rich soil, its mountains and plains abounding in metal and mineral treasures, vast forests, and all things needful. He gave them political independence and liberty with a just constitutional government. And he gave them the greatest gift of all, the pure gospel of Christ. To a large extent liberty has been changed to license; the wealth used for luxury and profligacy; and the greater light and opportunity of the gospel despised and rejected, bringing the nation under condemnation greater than that of other nations whose blessings have not been so great. "For unto whom much is given much is required; and he who sins against the greater light shall receive the greater condemnation." (Doctrine & Covenants 81:1)

4. The right of permanent inheritance upon the land of America was long ago pledged by divine covenant to such of the posterity of Lehi, now represented by the American aborigines, as would under the restored gospel return to God and obey his laws; this right of inheritance being also extended to as many of the "Gentiles", the present occupants of the land, as would likewise come into the gospel covenant and serve the true and living God. Regarding those who refuse allegiance under the gospel to the God of the land, repeated warnings have been given since the days of Moses who declared that "they shall be cut off from among the people."

Christ, speaking to the ancient people of this land of America, said of the Gentiles of latter days:

"Yea, woe be unto the Gentiles, except they repent, for it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Father, that I will cut off thy horses (transportation) out of the midst of thee, and I will destroy thy chariots, and I will cut off the cities of thy land, and throw down all thy strongholds. ... And I will pluck up thy groves out of the midst of thee; so will I destroy thy cities. ... For it shall come to pass, saith the Father, that at that day, whosoever will not repent and come unto my beloved Son, them will I cut off from among my people, O house of Israel, and I will execute vengeance and fury upon them, even as upon the heathen, such as they have not heard." (3 Nephi 9:101-106).

(Groves refer to shrines or places of worship, with especial reference to idolatrous worship, and carries the implication that religious institutions other than the church of Jesus Christ will fall with the rest of Babylon).

5. America is the land upon which God has decreed that his Zion shall be built, and to which his people shall be gathered to the building up of the kingdom of God, or the kingdom of Israel. Zion, or the

kingdom, must have the right of domain without which it can not exist, and this the Lord has pledged, saying to the people of Lehi, "This people will I establish in this land, unto the fulfilling of the covenant which I made unto your father Jacob; and it shall be a New Jerusalem." (3 Nephi 9:58). And in a latter day revelation he has said, speaking particularly of the land of Missouri, "which I will consecrate unto my people, which are a remnant of Jacob, and those who are heirs according to the covenant," the first referring to the aborigines, and the last to the converted Gentiles. It means a transfer of dominion.

6. Many prophecies represent the Gentiles and Israel, or a remnant of Israel, as being intermingled in the same land in the last days, and it is this remnant which is upon the American continent, and also the one with which God begins his work of restoration of Israel, and to be set up as the kingdom of God. This is the people together with the repentant Gentiles (who will be comparatively few) and some of the people of Israel from other lands, who, having come into the covenant through the gospel, will become by the hand of God, the new kingdom of Israel, so that the present nation and government must give place to the new. This is revealed in the Book of Mormon, in the parable of the olive tree as given in Jacob three, where the cutting away of the wild branches is precedent to the grafting in of the tame branches-Israel.

7. America is God's place of beginning in the latter days. The branch of Israel brought here from Jerusalem 600 B.C. were of the kingdom of Judah and were Jews, and is referred to by the prophets as "the daughter of Jerusalem." With them came the ancient historical record of God's people from Adam down to the time of their coming. They brought the Urim and Thummim in the breastplate of judgment which was a part of their governmental paraphernalia, and there followed in a subsequent migration the only remaining heir to Judah's throne-Mulek, the son of Zedekiah the last king and who was but a babe, or perhaps unborn, at the time the kingdom fell. All this, and more in preparation for the day when the kingdom shall be restored in America the place of God's latter day beginning. It is here that the dominion so long in Gentile hands will revert to Israel, and it is here that the throne of David will be established, and upon which Christ will sit to reign when he comes to his people.

8. The right of rule was vested in Jacob and his line by divine covenant that rule to be under God. When the people fell into sin and idol-

atry, and their kings no longer acknowledged the divine sovereignty, that right was suspended but not revoked, awaiting the time of Israel's return which is now near. Gentile rule was by divine consent but not by any inherent right, and was designed of God to be but temporary, which was plainly showed to Nebuchadnezzar. By the image of his dream he was made to know that his empire and his dominion would end in utter collapse. Yet the Lord repeatedly affirmed the perpetuity of Israel's rule, or at least the line of legal succession and the restoration after a period of lapse. (See Jeremiah 33). The restored kingdom will fulfill the promise made to Abraham, "I will make of thee a great kingdom," which was never wholly fulfilled in ancient Israel.

The stone that struck the image of Nebuchadnezzar's dream on the feet has been interpreted by some brethren as being the kingdom of God, or the church. Far from it! The church is not a political power, and God has forbidden it to make war. The Lord has never burdened the church nor the later kingdom of God, with the responsibility of bringing Babylon to its fall. This stone is a political power which God will raise up for this particular purpose.

The prophecies reveal the uprising of a great political power, cruel and merciless, which should come against Babylon of the last days. That nation is variously termed "a destroying wind," "the rod of mine anger," "the staff of mine indignation," "a great people and strong," "a mighty and strong one," "O destroying mountain, saith the Lord, which destroyeth all the earth," "the destroyer of the Gentiles." In latter day revelation he is referred to as "the destroyer." (D.C. 102:4) God uses such instruments as his means of effecting the changes he desires in the political world. Nor are they always righteous for "the Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it ~~the~~ basest of men." (Daniel 4:17).

It is just such a nation that God will use to destroy the Babylonian power and dominion, but in so doing this destroyer must be given at least temporary dominion. Considering the nature and extent of organized spiritual Babylon as before noted, the destroying power must extend its conquest throughout the world in order to bring about its fall. "The stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth." (Daniel 2:35).

During the process of change thus indicated, the kingdom of God will come into being, and that kingdom God has pledged to preserve. It

may suffer through war, but it will not be overcome or destroyed. "The God of heaven shall set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed." That kingdom will eventually come into conflict with the destroying nation, when the power of God will intervene to the destruction of the united and invading armies in the greatest slaughter ever known to man, and its world dominion will fall to be gradually gathered up by the kingdom of God which will attain world dominion.

We have reached the day in the development of world events when the destroying nation is uprising, having begun its work of world conquest, and having declared its purpose to that end. That nation is Russia. The aims of this nation are freely stated in its own official documents, the official programs of the Communist International. We give a part of them as follows:

"To replace world capitalist economy by a world's system of communism; abolishment of all state boundaries; bury for ever all mysticism, religion etc.; the conquest of power; destruction of Bourgeois armies, police, bureaucratic hierarchy, the judiciary, parliaments, etc.; confiscation and proletarian nationalization of all large private capitalist undertakings, and the transference of all state and municipal enterprises to the Soviets, with all transportation and communication services; the nationalization of the whole of the land; repudiation of state debts; possession of all schools from elementary to universities, and education; systematically and unswervingly combatting religion; the forcible overthrow of all existing social conditions."

By its own confession the great destroying nation is Russia. Its declared purpose is to destroy by whatever means are necessary, all that has been built up by man for ages, whether good or bad, including human life and world civilization. It fulfills the words of Jeremiah (4:7) who speaking of the time of Israel's return said, "The destroyer of the Gentiles is on his way," and he is to make the land desolate, and the cities waste. The time of the restoration has come, and the destroyer is on his way. The Lord said in 1834, "The destroyer I have sent forth to lay waste and destroy mine enemies." (D.C. 102:4). Karl Marx was then a young man preparing for his work of laying down the principles upon which Russia is today building her world empire. In him communism had its birth. A French writer, one hundred years ago, Marquis de Custine, visiting Russia, wrote, "This nation dreams of dominating the world." Her present policies have been long forming, and

are nearing maturity and realization. She is responding fully to the description given her by the prophets-"The destroyer of the Gentiles."

II

The Coming of Christ

By far the greater part of the prophecies concerning the coming of Christ have to do with his coming to judgment, as a thief in the night. There is a coming in glory with all his haly angels, when every eye shall see him, etc., but the coming of which men are most warned is his coming in the night, "like a thief," that is of which men will not be aware beforehand, and which will take them by surprise. They will know of his coming only by what is done, for they will not see him. Many of the warnings, oft repeated, were given to the church anciently and modernly.

The time of the Lord's coming to judgment is the time of Babylon's fall, and the time of Israel's uprising. After declaring that Babylon shall fall, it is further declared that "The Lord shall have power over his saints, and shall reign in their midst, and shall come down in judgment upon Idumea, or the world."

"The Lord shall come down upon the world with a curse to judgment; yea, upon all the nations that forget God, and upon all the ungodly among you. For he will make bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of their God.-Doctrine and Covenants 108:1.

This refers more to the Gentile nations who have known the gospel and have turned away from it, and is to reach into the church with a view to cleansing it for its future work. What the Lord will do will be of deep concern to all the nations, but the most striking point of the statement is that his coming will bring about the salvation of God, that is the salvation of his people, even to their restoration in the gospel, and to dominion status. The scriptures reveal that these nations of Israel, who will be restored are among the so-called "heathen nations." (See Doctrine and Covenants 87:3). This is the time of the fulfillment of the prophecy oft repeated, that they who will not hear "that Prophet", Christ, "shall be cut off from among the people."

"The coming of the Lord is as a thief in the night, and it is like unto a man who is an householder, who if he watcheth not his goods..the thief cometh in an hour of which he is not aware, and taketh his goods, and divideth them among his fellows. And they(disciples) said among themselves, If the good man of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through, and the loss of his goods. And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, Be ye therefore ready also for the Son of Man cometh at an hour when ye think not. Then Peter said unto him, Lord

speaketh thou this parable unto us, or unto all? And the Lord said, I speak unto those whom the Lord shall make rulers over his household to give his children their portion of meat in due season."-Luke 12:44

The thief in the night comes, accomplishes his work, and is gone without warning, and without showing himself. His presence is known by the results. It is the manner of Christ's coming that parallels that of the thief, and if this prophecy means at all what it says, it is certain that in the coming of Christ there will be a great loss of possessions, for the "thief" took the goods and divided them. When Peter asked whether the parable applied to them, that is to the church of his day, or to all, the Lord said that "I speak unto those whom the Lord shall make rulers over his household," that is the priesthood of the church in a future day, evidently at the time of his coming. Thus it appears that the parable was spoken directly to whomsoever should be the ruling authorities at the time the Lord should come.

In Doctrine and Covenants 103:2 the warning is given directly to the church of today:

"The coming of the Lord draweth nigh, and it overtaketh the world as a thief in the night; therefore gird up your loins that ye may be the children of light, and that day shall not overtake you as a thief.

Nephi speaks of this day of visitation, saying that it shall be in the last days, in the days of the Gentiles, and also the Jews:

"And when that day shall come, they shall be visited of the Lord of Hosts, with thunder and earthquake, and with a great noise, and with storm and with tempest, and with the flame of devouring fire.
-2 Nephi 11:117.

Micah, using figurative language, shows that in dealing with Samaria and Jerusalem, or with divided Israel-the scattered people of the kingdom of Israel, and those of Judah, the Lord will effect the downfall of nations:

"For behold, the Lord cometh forth out of his place, and will come down, and tread upon the high places of the earth. And the mountains (nations) shall be molten under him, and the valleys shall be cleft, as wax before the fire, and as the waters that are poured down a steep place."-Micah 1:3-4

John the Baptist speaks of that day when he indicates the fulfillment of the prophecy, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, and make his paths straight:

"For behold, and lo, he shall come, as it is written in the book of the prophets, to take away the sins of the world; and to bring salvation unto the heathen nations, to gather together those that are lost, who are of the sheepfold of Israel. ... To administer justice unto all; to come down in judgment upon all, and to convince all the un-

godly of their ungodly deeds, which they have committed, and all this in the day that he shall come; for it is a day of power; yea, every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; ...and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."-Luke 3:4-11.(See full statement).

Events associated with Christ's coming in judgment are great and momentous, involving the downfall and supplanting of governments, the loss of great masses of population, the elimination of the world's dominant church with her many daughters, though by slower process, the destruction of many cities and industrial centers, all of which are preceded by, and follow as a consequence of the sudden extinction of the American government. The taking away of the sins of the world means to me more than mere personal sins, and involves the sweeping away of customs, methods, institutions and policies, and other things, which are wrong or unjust, and which are destructive of the rights, liberties, and welfare of the people, and which hinder the progress of the kingdom of God. It is in preparation for the establishing of the kingdom of God in equity and justice.

III

Prophecies on the Fall of the United States

1

There is an outstanding fact in the covenant God made with Abraham, viz., that he would make of him a great nation. A survey of the scripture touching God's dealings with Israel, reveals that the scope of this promise extended beyond the little nation of Israel which held an uncertain hold, never complete or absolute, upon the land of Canaan and its environs, and which was eventually lost. Israel's dominion was to extend beyond that country for Canaan was but a starting point.

"Oh that my people had hearkened unto me, and Israel had walked in my ways! I should soon have subdued their enemies, and turned my hand against their adversaries. The haters of the Lord should have submitted themselves unto him; but their time should have endured forever."-Psalms 81:13-15.

In latter days Israel is to be restored in righteousness and in dominion. The "mountain of the Lord's house is to be established in the top of the mountains," and that at a time when "all Israel shall be saved," being gathered from every land, and "I will make them one nation." This is the kingdom which will acquire world dominion. "The God of heaven shall set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; -- it shall break in pieces and consume all other kingdoms, and it shall stand forever." With America as one of the lands given to Israel we see

the possibilities of her greatness. The kingdom is to be established in righteousness, and will completely fulfill the promise of a great nation made to Abraham. Jesus said to the Nephites:

"This people will I establish in this land, unto the fulfilling of the covenant which I made with your father Jacob, and it shall be a New Jerusalem."-3 Nephi 9:58

To "establish" means to set up as a free government, the same word as the Lord used regarding the setting up of the Gentiles under the Unites States constitution. (3 Nephi 9:89-90)

Dominion belongs to Jesus Christ. He has never entirely put it out of his hands, though he has placed it temporarily in the hands of men as an expediency. It is when he assumes full exercise of his right of dominion that the promise to Abraham will come into full realization.

2

The Lord does not reveal his deep purposes unto the wicked, that is at least in detail, yet he does show them to his prophets and righteous ones. This accounts for so much of prophecy being couched in figurative language, in symbols, and in parables. In most instances where such language is used the parables are designed to hide rather than to reveal the deep truth. Its form is such that only by the light of the Spirit of God can it be understood, as stated by Nephi to his brethren who were unbelieving: "Because the words of Isaiah are not plain unto you, nevertheless they are plain unto all those that are filled with the spirit of prophecy."-2 Nephi 11:5.

The falling of Babylon in the latter days could not have been told in specific detail like history, Names and dates are seldom given in prophecy, though generally associated events give some idea of the time. Nearly always identities of nations are camouflaged under familiar names used merely as symbols or types, so that the "burden of Babylon," or the "burden of Moab," had little or nothing to do with the original countries named, but with some future country of which these were but the symbol. The fact that the Lord forbade Nephi to describe the events of latter days which he saw in vision, and John who was permitted to write them couched in symbolic language to such a degree that they are not understood today, shows that many important events of the last days were to be kept hidden from the wicked. Nephi explains this in writing of the unrepentant"

"The wise, and the learned, and they that are rich, who are puffed up because of their learning, and their wisdom, and their riches; yea,

they are they, whom de despiseth; and save they shall cast these things away, and consider themselves fools before God, and come down in the depths of humility, he will not open unto them. But the things of the wise and the prudent, shall be hid from them for ever."-2 Nephi 6:83-85

Latter day revelation comes closer to the time of fulfillment, and states some things more plainly. But even here the story is not told as a connected whole but a little here, and a little there. "I will deliver them up to Satan." "Behold the sword of justice hangeth over their heads, and if they persist in the hardness of their hearts the time cometh that it must fall upon them." (This form of expression is never used as applying to minor or secondary judgments but always to national destruction).. "I the Lord knowing the calamity which should come upon the inhabitants of the earth, called upon my servant Joseph Smith Jr., etc. (A calamity is a great and widespread disaster, coming suddenly and unexpectedly). "The day when tribulation and desolation are sent forth upon the wicked; the hour is nigh, ...and they that do wickedly shall be as stubble, and I will burn them up." "Vengeance cometh speedily upon the ungodly as a whirlwind." "Wrath without measure." "The destroyer I have sent forth to destroy and lay waste mine enemies, and not many years hence they shall not be left." (Jeremiah 4:7 tells more of the destroyer).

3

Special attention is called to Doctrine and Covenants 98:12, where the church officials were directed to appeal to the officers of the government, up to the President, for redress for loss of their rights and of their lands through mob violence in Jackson County, Missouri. If that appeal was refused:

"Then will the Lord arise and come forth out of his hiding place, and in his fury vex the nation, and in his hot displeasure, and in his fierce anger, in his time, will cut off these wicked, unfaithful, and unjust stewards, and appoint them their portion among hypocrites and unbelievers; even in outer darkness, where there is weeping, and wailing, and gnashing of teeth.

What I have said unto you must needs be, that all men may be left without excuse; that wise men and rulers may hear and know that which they have never considered; that I may proceed to bring to pass my act, my strange act, and perform my work, my strange work. That men may discern between the righteous and the wicked, saith your God."

Such a statement can mean no less than a warning of the destruction of the American government. The officers to whom appeal was to be made were representatives of local, state, and national government. The warning was not to the then existing personnel, but "in his time" which makes it future, and applies to the nation.

The Lord gives the reason for the wiping out of unjust and corrupt

government, which is, "that I may proceed to bring to pass my act, my strange act, and perform my work, my strange work." This act is none other than the restoration of Israel, involving the setting up of a righteous government patterned after the will of God. The old corrupt form must be destroyed to clear the way for the new. Let us look at this further.

In Doctrine and Covenants 92, the Lord reproves the church for not hastening the building of the Kirtland Temple, which he says is "for the preparation wherewith I design to prepare mine apostles to prune my vineyard for the last time, that I may bring to pass my strange act, that I may pour out my Spirit upon all flesh." Thus this strange act is associated with the purpose and work of this building, and is partly explained in the statement "wherewith I design to prepare mine apostles to prune my vineyard for the last time." The next paragraph completes the explanation with "in the which house I design to endow those whom I have chosen with power from on high;" showing also that the strange act is associated with the work of the church, in the preaching of the gospel under the endowment, which is the time of the ingathering and establishing of the kingdom of Israel.

Turning now to Isaiah 28:4, under the type of the "drunkards of Ephraim," the prophet speaks of a people whose "glorious beauty is a fading flower," who will be "cast down to the earth with the hand, ... and shall be trodden under feet." To accomplish this "the Lord hath a mighty and strong one, which as a tempest of hail and a destroying storm, as a flood of mighty waters overflowing, shall cast down." "In that day shall the Lord of hosts be for a crown of glory, and for a diadem of beauty unto the residue of his people." The prophecy leads on to tell of the day when "the Lord shall rise up as in Mount Perazim, he shall be wroth as in the valley of Gibeon, that he may do his work, his strange work; and bring to pass his act, his strange act." Here we have the strange act following as a consequence the downfall of a nation.

These three prophecies tie one into the other and tell the same story. The "strange act" is the key which justifies and makes imperative the applying of these prophecies all to the same thing, viz., the restoration of downtrodden Israel to the establishing of them as an independent and free people upon the American continent, the way being cleared by an extreme and drastic judgment upon the nation now in possession and holding dominion in the territory required, to the disposing of them.

Perazim in the prophecy evidently alludes to two battles fought by David against the Philistines at the time he came to the throne of Israel. A crushing victory was given him by the hand of God, (2 Sam.5:17-25). Gibeon is another allusion to the utter destruction of the five Canaanite tribes which came to destroy the Gibeonites, and the army of Israel, by the hand of the Lord. (Joshua 10). These are types of what the Lord will do in the latter days, when in his fierce anger he will vex the nation. When the Lord moves against a nation in fierce anger neither power nor defense can stand against him.

4

Isaiah Forty-Seven

It is impracticable to quote this, or other prophecies, in full, so we make only selections with comments thereupon, thereby presenting the gist of the matter as we see it.

The prophet speaks of a "Virgin Daughter of Babylon," virgin signifying youth or youngest; daughter descent; who is called to "come down, and sit in the dust." "There is no throne,"-no government. Menial tasks await; nakedness and shame are exposed. "I will take vengeance, ...As for our Redeemer, the Lord of hosts is his name." "Thou shalt no more be called, the lady of kingdoms." Her glory is gone; the kingdom is no more.

V. 6. "I was wroth with my people, I have polluted mine inheritance, and given them into thine hand; thou didst show them no mercy; upon the ancient hast thou very heavily laid thy yoke;" "Hear now this,...These two things shall come to thee in a moment in one day, the loss of children, and widowhood; they shall come upon thee in their perfection for the multitude of thy sorceries. ...Thy wisdom and thy knowledge, it hath perverted thee; and thou hast said in thy heart, I am, and none else beside me. Therefore shall evil come upon thee; and thou shalt not know from whence it ariseth; and mischief shall fall upon thee; thou shalt not be able to put it off; and desolation shall come upon thee suddenly, which thou shalt not know."

"My people" refers to the Lamanites by whom the land of America-mine inheritance-was defiled, and who were given into the hand of the Gentiles who dispossessed them, and destroyed many, and made them dependents. This nation "laid a heavy yoke" upon the ancients" or aborigines, the Indians. It has become boastful in its exaltation and pride for which the Lord says there will come in a moment, the loss of children, (destruction-of human life), and widowhood, (destruction of gover-

ment). This nation will be one of great learning and earthly wisdom, the effect of which is to pervert them, and they will not know the essential thing—the pending destruction which is approaching, and which they will not see until it is too late. Desolation will come suddenly. The Lord taunts them:

"Let now the astrologers, and the star-gazers, the monthly prognosticators, stand up, and save thee. ...Behold, they shall be stubble; the fire shall burn them; they shall not deliver themselves from the power of the flame."

We have already stated that Russia is the destroying agent. It is the nation God will use to bring down "the daughter of Babylon", which occupies upon the American continent. The means will be the airplane, the atomic bomb, the incendiary bomb, the germ bomb, and perhaps the hydrogen bomb and the cosmic ray bomb, whatever they are, but which only just recently as we write have been mentioned as being much more powerful than the atomic bomb. Under the power of such weapons any nation might suddenly fall. Fore-knowing all such things, the Lord could well say that the nations are as "the small dust of the balance," which can be blown away by a breath in a moment.

This chapter points to fire and flame and burning as the destroying element, on which other prophecies are more express. The sudden falling of the nation will cause other nations to be astounded and fear to come upon every man.

We do not anticipate that the initial attack upon the United States will be with a view to an immediate invasion, unless it should be by fifth column methods. The intent will be to destroy the government and break the power of the nation for making war by destroying its cities, which are its transportation centers; and chief industrial plants, storages, and the Panama Canal. Today the United States is the only obstacle in the way of Russia's ambition and intent for world conquest. With the power of this nation removed Russia could proceed as she chose to take over any and every country with a minimum of opposition, until the world is hers outside of this land.

It is difficult to imagine or describe what conditions will be in this country in the interim. Perhaps communism seeking domination; perhaps Catholicism, or both, leading to internal war and strife. Dictators may arise leading factions. Where possible state governments may assume the prerogatives, within their jurisdictions, formerly held by the national government, but few of these may be left. The thoughts are

harrowing. It may be the time spoken of by the Lord when "he that will not take up his sword against his neighbor must needs flee to Zion for safety." It will be practical anarchy.

Nevertheless God rules, and will over-rule to the end that his purposes may be brought to pass. It may be the time (covering a few years) when under the endowment upon his servants the final work of preaching the gospel to this nation will take place; the day when Zion shall be established; and when the gospel will also go to the remnants of the land to the conversion of many. It will be a day when God must remember his promises made long ago, that he would preserve his people; they will need his safe-guarding.

Daniel and the Destroying-Stone

Nebuchadnezzar saw that the image of his dream was smitten on the feet by a stone causing the image to fall, the stone becoming a great mountain which filled the earth. Daniel speaks of the stone, and also a kingdom which God would set up which would break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and would stand for ever. Some have interpreted the stone and the kingdom to be one and the same thing, but we hold them to be distinct. Those who hold to the kingdom theory hold that the kingdom is the church, and that it is the church that is to effect the downfall of Babylon. It is hardly consistent to believe that the church or kingdom, which is a spiritual institution, removed from secular aims or ambitions, is going to strike a blow against a temporal power as to cause it and other nations to fall. It is more likely that another earthly kingdom, though not of Babylonian succession, will be the striking power, such as Russia, as I believe it is, which is a rising power having this particular aim in view, and which will extend its authority to the ends of the earth, with one exception which is the kingdom of God.

The kingdom of God exists today only in embryonic form within the church after the manner of the symbolic woman and her unborn child described in Revelation 12:7, by which the church and the kingdom are typified; and the organic kingdom is yet to be brought forth. But that will not be until about or just after the time of the striking of the stone upon the feet of the image. The Lord said to the church in 1831, "The keys of the kingdom of God are committed unto man on the earth, and from thence shall the gospel roll forth unto the ends of the earth, as the stone which is cut out of the mountain without hands shall roll

forth, until it has filled the whole earth." Analysis of the grammatical construction of this passage by no means makes the stone and kingdom synonymous. Destroying Babylon is not the work of the church, but it is its function by the preaching of the gospel, the gathering in of souls, and the building of them up in righteousness, to bring forth the kingdom of God in its organized form. When that is done the church may still function as the church, but the kingdom of God will begin to function under its own organization as a theocracy which will have political dominion as well as spiritual. It is this kingdom which will extend its dominion in time over all the earth.

The order of events as we see them are that Russia, as the stone, strikes the feet of Babylon which will be the United States, and destroys the whole structure, and so extending its own dominions throughout the earth through a short period of years. Out of this turmoil will emerge the kingdom of God, which under his protection and power will grow toward national status, the only people who have not succumbed to the world power. The scriptures show that this kingdom, which is Zion, will not be free from wars, and not without losses, but eventually this world power will gather the armies of all the earth in one supreme effort to crush and destroy this kingdom of God. Then it is that God will fight with his people, until the united armies of the earth which have come to this land for their final conquest, be destroyed. It is the harvest of the earth.

With the crushing of the stone kingdom, that dominion will cease and the kingdom of God will be supreme, and free to extend its righteous dominion to every land until the earth shall become its domain.

6

Isaiah Thirteen

The burden of Babylon, but never fulfilled in the original Babylon. A day when the Lord will punish the world for their evil, a day when the sun will be darkened; (the darkening of the sun is mentioned some twenty-two times in the scriptures, and practically always in connection with the falling of Babylon and the rising of Israel in the Latter days)

"The Lord of hosts mustereth the hosts of the battle. They come from a far country, from the end of heaven, yea, the Lord, and the weapons of his indignation, to destroy the whole land. Howl ye; for the day of the Lord is at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty. Therefore shall all hands be faint, and every man's heart shall melt; and they shall be afraid; Pangs and sorrow shall take hold of them. ...Behold the day of the Lord cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate; and he shall destroy the sinners

thereof out of it. ...The sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine. And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible."-verse 4-11.

It is the Lord who mustereth the hosts. It is the Lord who comes with the weapons of his indignation, and his, their, purpose is to destroy the whole land. It is to come as a destruction from the Almighty. The whole prophecy shows God's hand to be in it, and the purpose of it is his purpose; the Lord uses the armies of the earth as his weapons; the reason, the iniquity, wickedness and pride of the people.

The destruction, as pertaining to the government and nation, will be complete and final, for it shall be as Sodom and Gomorrah. "Her days shall not be prolonged," there will be no lingering national death, "for I will destroy her speedily." But with all this the Lord says, "I will be merciful unto my people;" the same event, and at the same time, as mentioned in Doctrine and Covenants 94:4, "In the day of wrath I will remember mercy." It is the time of Zion's redemption, for Zion shall be redeemed with judgment." In section 52 also the Lord has said "for the days cometh that I will send forth judgment unto victory."

This burden of "Babylon" was never fulfilled on the banks of the Euphrates. The Lord's indignation was never so fierce toward that ancient nation; he brought no great people of the kingdoms gathered together to battle, who came from a far country, from the end of heaven; the land was not laid desolate, neither did the Lord destroy the sinners out of it; the sun was not darkened, neither did the earth move out of her place; and so on. The Babylon of this prophecy is the Babylon of the last days when the Lord "will punish the world for their evil." It is Babylon at its ending rather than at its beginning.

7

Isaiah Ten

The first part only deals with our topic:

"O Assyrian, the rod of mine anger, and the staff in their hand is mine indignation. I will send him against a hypocritical nation and against the people of my wrath will I give him a charge, to take the spoil, and to take the prey, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets."-Verse 5-6.

Here is a nation whom the Lord uses as the weapons of his anger, against another nation. His indignation will be expressed through this nation toward the nation of his wrath which he calls a hypocritical nation.

This chapter may easily be interpreted as applying to the people in the land of Israel in Canaan in ancient days, but if the whole chapter be considered together it is apparent that it does not so apply, but to conditions at the time of restoration in the latter days. Two nations besides Israel are included; one corrupt and coming under the divine curse, against whom his wrath will be sent. The other called the "Assyrian", the rod of mine anger, whom the Lord will use to destroy the first. When this purpose has been performed this nation will also be brought to destruction. The light of Israel "shall burn and devour his thorns and his briers in one day; and shall consume the glory of his forest." "Assyrian" is another name used symbolically. The account applies to latter days for it goes on to tell of Israel's restoration:

"And it shall come to pass in that day, that the remnant of Israel, and such as are escaped of the house of Jacob, shall no more stay upon him that smote them; but shall stay upon the Lord, the Holy One of Israel, in truth. The remnant shall return, yea, even the remnant of Jacob, unto the mighty God."-verses 20-21.

The remnant of Israel is to suffer somewhat under the hand of the Assyrian, but

"Thus saith the Lord of hosts, O my people that dwellest in Zion, be not afraid of the Assyrian; he shall smite thee with a rod, and shall lift up his staff against thee, after the manner of Egypt. For yet a very little while, and the indignation shall cease, and mine anger in their destruction. And the Lord of hosts shall stir up a scourge for him according to the slaughter of Midian at the rock of Oreb. ...And it shall come to pass in that day, that his burden shall be taken away from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing."-V. 24-27

We observe that these references have to do not will Israel as a whole but with a remnant which will return to God. This awaits fulfillment. The Book of Mormon makes clear that that remnant is the one in America. This remnant has had to "stay upon him that smote them," the aborigines of America since they were smitten by dispossession of their lands, have been wards of the government; but they will come under divine protection when the Lord breaks their yoke. As they are returned to God, and many of the Gentiles with them, the promise is that they shall be established upon their land, and be made free. The "Assyrian", who will break the power of their oppressors, will seek to destroy this remnant who have been formed into the kingdom of God, but their protector, God, will fight their battles as in the day of Midian, destroying the Assyrian host. The prophecy does not fit ancient history.

"Thus saith the Lord; behold I will raise up against Babylon, and against them that dwell in the midst of them that rise up against me, a destroying wind; and I will send unto Babylon fanners, and they shall fan her, and shall empty her land; for in the day of trouble they shall be against her round about. Against him that bendeth let the archer bend his bow, and against him that lifteth himself up in his brigadine; and spare ye not her young men; destroy ye utterly all her host. Thus the slain shall fall in the land of the Chaldeans, and they that are thrust through in her streets. For Israel hath not been forsaken, nor Judah of his God, of the Lord of hosts; though their land be filled with sin against the Holy One of Israel. Flee out of the midst of Babylon, and deliver every man his soul; be not cut off in her iniquity; for this is the time of the Lord's vengeance; he will render unto her a recompense." Verses. 1-6.

The Babylon of Nebuchadnezzar fell to the Medes and Persians but not after the manner of the above prophecy. Medo-Persia had been a growing power which Nabonadius king of Babylon knew, and for which reason he fortified his country. When the Median armies approached, Nabonadius met them at the northern frontier and in the battle of Sippara was defeated, and Cyrus marched unopposed to the capital at Babylon to find the gates wide open for him. In the taking of the city not a man was killed. The fall of Babylon as described by Jeremiah above, and by other prophets, was to come in the last days, in the day of the Lord's vengeance. It was also to be in the day when the Lord should remember not only Judah who was scattered in Babylon at the time the prophecy was uttered, but all Israel. From the day of Israel's scattering in 721 B C, the Lord has made no move to restore that people. Their restoration is yet future, and the prophecy awaits fulfillment.

The prophecy goes on to describe how Babylon has been a golden cup which made all the earth drunken; "The nations have drunken of her wine!" This has been fulfilled only in the successive Babylon along through the centuries wherein her influence and power have extended to many nations, including the ecclesiastical domination among the nations of the whole earth, as we shall later see. Prophetic Babylon is the whole series of empires and kingdoms succeeding from Nebuchadnezzar, as represented by the metallic image of his dream. Revelation 17, describing Spiritual Babylon speaks of the golden cup from which she became drunker

The prophecy tells that at the time of Babylon's fall, "The Lord hath brought forth our righteousness," and Israel would declare in Zion the work of the Lord, showing that Babylon's fall and Israel's restoration are closely related as many other prophecies prove. It is probable

that verses 13-14 refer to spiritual Babylon or the great and abominable church: "O thou that dwellest upon many waters (peoples) abundant in treasures, thine end is come, and the measure of thy covetousness. The Lord of hosts hath sworn by himself, saying, Surely I will fill thee with men as with caterpillars; and they shall lift up a shout against thee." The transfer of political dominion will be accompanied by a transfer of spiritual dominion from the apostate church to the church of Jesus Christ.

The desolation is to be complete, not necessarily in a day but in the culmination of events which shall leave nothing, "I ... will make thee a burnt mountain." "Thou shalt be desolate for ever, saith the Lord: "The land shall tremble and sorrow." "They have burned her dwelling places: her bars are broken." The accumulated crimes and injustices of centuries are to culminate in justified dissolution and suffering Israel is to be recompensed and come into her own.

"Therefore thus saith the Lord; Behold, I will plead thy cause, and take vengeance for thee; and I will dry up her sea, and make her springs dry. And Babylon shall become heaps. ... I will bring them down like lambs to the slaughter."

Chapter fifty deals with the same events but is more explicit in showing the restoration:

"I will bring Israel again to his habitation, and he shall feed on Carmel and Bashan, and his soul shall be satisfied upon Ephraim and Gilead. ... Thus saith the Lord of hosts; The children of Israel and the children of Judah were oppressed together; and all that took them captives held them fast; they refused to let them go. Their Redeemer is strong; the Lord of hosts is his name; he shall thoroughly plead their cause, that he may give rest to the land, and disquiet the inhabitants of Babylon." - Verses 19, 33-34.

Here as in many other statements of prophecy it is represented that it is the land of the "Chaldeans", or "Babylon" that is to fall to the people of Israel. Israel is to come into possession of the land to succeed Babylon. This can not apply to the territory of the ancient Babylon in Mesopotamia, neither to Palestine, but to another land. We shall see from the Book of Mormon that it is America.

9

Micah 5

The preceding chapter-4, deals with the restored Israel in the last days, showing the gathering and establishment of that people, when "The Lord shall reign over them in mount Zion from henceforth, even for ever" Dominion will be given them, "Unto thee shall it come, even the first dominion; the kingdom shall come to the daughter of Jerusalem." This people is to bring forth Zion, and that in Babylon, for in their wander-

ings "Thou shalt go even to Babylon; there shalt thou be delivered; there the Lord shall redeem thee from the hand of thine enemies." In that land they will not be left poor for "I will consecrate their (Babylon's) gain unto the Lord, and their substance unto the Lord of the whole earth."

"And the remnant of Jacob shall be among the Gentiles in the midst of many people, as a lion among the beasts of the forest, as a young lion among the flocks of sheep; who, if he go through, both treadeth down, and teareth in pieces, and none can deliver. . . .

And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord, that I will cut off all thy horses out of the midst of thee, and I will destroy thy chariots; and I will cut off the cities of thy land, and throw down all thy strong holds. . . . And I will execute vengeance in anger and fury upon the heathen, such as they have not heard."-Micah 5:8-15.

We can not point to any time in history when this prophecy was fulfilled, but Jesus in teaching the Nephite people, who were a remnant of Israel, quotes from this prophecy and applies it to that people in the last days, and further couples with them as the ones who should be trodden down by them, the Gentile population in North America, and since it is within the United States that the gospel has been restored, and where the remnants are to be ultimately converted and built up, it is evident that the whole prophecy has reference to this nation. It can hardly be imagined that any man in his right mind would make such a prophecy as this, but it comes down from ancient time, and by the Lord himself is given application to this nation in this latter day.

In speaking of these things (3 Nephi 9:51-58) the Lord confirms the prophecy to the cutting off of Israel's enemies, and the consecrating of their gain unto the Lord, and their substance unto the Lord of the whole earth, saying, "Behold, I am he who doeth it." It will not be by any might of Israel's remnants, but by the power of God that the defeats and the victories of that day shall be effected.

"And it shall come to pass saith the Father, that the sword of my justice shall hang over them at that day; and except they repent, it shall fall upon them, saith the Father, yea, even upon all the nations of the Gentiles. And it shall come to pass that I will establish my people, O house of Israel. And behold, this people will I establish in this land, unto the fulfilling of the covenant which I made with your father Jacob; and it shall be a new Jerusalem. And the powers of heaven shall be in the midst of this people; yea, even I will be in the midst of you,"-3 Nephi 9:56-59

The right of inheritance was given to the people of Lehi to this land nearly 600 B.C., and in view of a coming dispossession by the Gentiles, the Lord renewed the pledge in saying, "The Father hath commanded me that I should give unto you this land for your inheritance."

The prior right of the American aborigines is recognized of God though the promise is extended equally to the Gentiles to as many as repent and come under the covenant.

10

The Book of Mormon

The Book of Mormon has somewhat to say regarding the "Gentiles" or non-Israelite people who should come upon this American continent from the eastern continent. Nephi, 600 B C , one of the founders of the ancient Israelite nation upon this land, was shown in vision the course of events, and saw the discovery of America by Columbus and the colonial settlements that were made. He saw the founding of the nation of the United States, and the restoration of the gospel of Jesus Christ in this nation, He wrote,

"Thou beholdest that the Gentiles who have gone forth out of captivity, have been lifted up by the power of God above all other nations upon the face of the land. ... Neither will the Lord God suffer that the Gentiles shall for ever remain in that awful state of blindness, which thou beholdest they are in. ...I will bring forth unto them in mine own power, much of my gospel, which shall be plain and precious."-1 Nephi 3: 176, 179, 183.

The two greatest gifts that God can give to men in this world, viz., civil liberty with freedom of conscience, and the gospel of Jesus Christ without perversion. These were given to the people of the United States providing unrestricted opportunity of rising to sublime heights above all nations to the receiving of divine favor and blessing, or, upon their despising and perversion of these gifts, the bringing upon them of judgment and destruction. A righteous response would bring security and permanent inheritance with Israel with all divine blessing. Without a righteous response the gifts would have been given in vain, and under the law of greater condemnation falling to those who reject and pervert the greater light, they would suffer disaster.

"Woe be unto the Gentiles, if it so be that they harden their hearts against the Lamb of God; for the time cometh, saith the Lamb of God, that I will work a great and marvelous work among the children of men; a work which shall be everlasting, either on the one hand or on the other; either to the convincing of them unto peace and life eternal, or unto the deliverance of them to the hardness of their hearts and the blindness of their minds, unto their being brought down into captivity, and also unto destruction, both temporally and spiritually."-1 Nephi 3:213-216.

Nephi having read certain prophecies from Isaiah proceeds to give his comments:

"It meaneth us in the days to come, and also all our brethern who are of the house of Israel. And it meaneth that the time cometh that

after all the house of Israel have been scattered and confounded, that the Lord God will raise up a mighty nation among the Gentiles, yea, even upon the face of this land; and by them our seed shall be scattered. And after our seed is scattered, the Lord God will proceed to do a marvelous work among the Gentiles, which shall be of great worth unto our seed; wherefore it is likened unto their being nourished by the Gentiles, and being carried in their arms, and upon their shoulders. And it shall also be of worth unto the Gentiles: and not only the Gentiles, but unto all the house of Israel, unto the making known of the covenants of the Father of heaven unto Abraham, saying, In thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed. And I would, my brethern, that ye should know that all the kindreds of the earth can not be blessed unless he shall make bare his arm in the eyes of the nations. Wherefore, the Lord God will proceed to make bare his arm in the eyes of all the nations, in bringing about his covenants and his gospel, unto those who are of the house of Israel. Wherefore he will bring them again out of captivity, and they shall be gathered together to the lands of their inheritance; and they shall be brought out of obscurity, and out of darkness; and they shall know that the Lord is their Savior and their Redeemer, the mighty one of Israel."-1 Nephi 7:14-25

The mighty nation has been raised up upon the face of this land, and much of the prophecy concerning it has been fulfilled. But the prophecy touching the ingathering of Israel and their restoration still stands unfulfilled. And this can not be accomplished until the Lord makes bare his arm in the eyes of all the nations. In other words the Lord must clear away the obstacles which now stand in the way, and which are so mighty that man is helpless to move them. Many of Israel must be brought out of obscurity, that is from their lost identity for many of Israel are unknown to the world, and they themselves do not know who they are. They are to be brought out of captivity; they are under bondage politically and religiously, and also in intellectual bondage. The Lord says many of Israel are the heathen nations. (Doctrine and Covenants 87:3). They are ruled by foreign rulers, and religiously are in bondage to dominant and oppressive churches which bar the introduction of the true gospel. As to "establishing" the kingdom of Israel there is no place where such a government could be set up without first removing an already existing power.

The Lord is coming in person; his power will be revealed in the breaking down of nations. Babylon is to fall; the dominion is to be taken from the "daughter of Babylon" and transferred to Israel, and that is to be upon this land. As we have before shown the fall of this nation is to be sudden and complete, and with it goes the ecclesiastical powers. As thrones tumble and kingdoms fall, religious Babylon will likewise go down.

"And the blood of that great and abominable church, which is the

whore of all the earth, shall turn upon their own heads; for they shall war among themselves, and the sword of their own hands shall fall upon their own heads, and they shall be drunken with their own blood. And every nation that shall war against thee, O house of Israel, shall be turned one against another, and they shall fall into the pit which they digged to ensnare the people of the Lord. And all that fight against Zion shall be destroyed. And that great whore, who hath perverted the right ways of the Lord; yea, that great and abominable church, shall tumble to the dust, and great shall be the fall of it."-1 Nephi 7:26-31.

Jesus speaking of the Gentiles of latter days and the gospel which should be restored in their midst, says,

"But woe, saith the Father, unto the unbelieving of the Gentiles, for notwithstanding thy have come forth upon the face of this land, and have scattered my people, who are of the house of Israel; and my people who are of the house of Israel, have been cast out from among them, and have been trodden under feet by them; ...verily, verily I say unto you, that after all this, and I have caused my people who are of the house of Israel to be smitten, and to be afflicted, and to be slain, and to be cast out from among them, and to become hated by them, and to become a hiss and a byword among them. ...At that day when the Gentiles shall sin against my gospel, and shall reject the fulness of my gospel, and shall be lifted up in the pride of their hearts above all nations, and above all the people of the whole earth, and shall be filled with all manner of lyings, and of deceits, and of mischiefs, and all manner of hypocrisy, and murders, and priestcrafts, and whoredoms, and of secret abominations; ...I will bring the fulness of my gospel from among them; and then will I remember the covenant which I have made unto my people, O house of Israel, and I will bring my gospel unto them. ...I will suffer my people, O house of Israel, that they shall go through among them, and shall tread them down, and they shall be as salt that hath lost its savor, which is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of my people, O house of Israel."-3 Nephi 7:32-41.

It is the teaching of the Book of Mormon that America was destined of God to be reserved for righteousness, and that whatsoever people turned to sin and wickedness upon this land should be destroyed. The earliest decree of this kind was shortly after the flood,

"And he had sworn in his wrath unto the brother of Jared, that whoso should possess this land of promise, from that time henceforth and for ever, should serve him, the true and only God, or they should be swept off when the fulness of his wrath should come upon them.

And this cometh unto you, O ye Gentiles, that ye may know the decrees of God, that ye may repent, and not continue in your iniquities until the fulness come, that ye may not bring down the fullness of the wrath of God upon you, as the inhabitants of the land have hitherto done."-Ether 1:30,34.

The Book of Mormon offers no cheerful outlook for unrepentant America, but warns of downfall and destruction.

The Doctrine and Covenants

We have mentioned some little of the teaching of the Doctrine and Covenants regarding the destiny of the United States, and will notice but one or two further points.

"The voice of the Lord is unto the ends of the earth, that all that will hear may hear; prepare ye, prepare ye for that which is to come, for the Lord is nigh; and the anger of the Lord is kindled, and his sword is bathed in heaven, and it shall fall upon the inhabitants of the earth; and the arm of the Lord shall be revealed; and the day cometh that they who will not hear the voice of the Lord, neither the voice of his servants, neither give heed to the words of the prophets and apostles, shall be cut off from among the people."-D.C. 1:3

The warning speaks of the religious phase of the situation, saying that the people had strayed from God's ordinances and had broken his covenant; they did not seek the righteousness of God but every man walked in his own way, and followed his own god which shall perish in Babylon. He warns that peace should be taken from the earth, which appears to be in process, and that he will come down in judgment. These scriptures hold particular warning for the United States.

The Book of Mormon was attested by three witnesses who were shown the original engravings by a glorious angel and heard a voice speaking from heaven certifying that the translation was true, and commanding them to bear witness to the world. Regarding their testimony the Lord said:

"And the testimony of three witnesses will I send forth of my word; and, behold, whosoever believeth on my words, them will I visit with the manifestation of my Spirit, and they shall be born of me, even of water and of the Spirit. ...And their testimony shall also go forth unto the condemnation of this generation, if they harden their hearts against them; for a desolating scourge shall go forth among the inhabitants of the earth, and shall continue to be poured out, from time to time, if they repent not, until the earth is empty, and the inhabitants thereof are consumed away, and utterly destroyed by the brightness of my coming!"
- D.C. 5:3

While this prophecy is world wide we can observe that in this land of America where the gospel has been restored, the Book of Mormon revealed, and the testimony of the living witnesses has gone forth, the condemnation and judgment must have their leading fulfillment in this land where the greater light has been given. A scourge is any means used in severe punishment, or causing suffering or death, and generally of wide extent. A "desolating scourge" would be most extreme.

The Lord has decreed a gathering together of his people, a coming out of Babylon:

"They shall be gathered in unto one place, upon the face of this land, to prepare their hearts, and be prepared in all things, against

the day when tribulation and desolation are sent forth upon the wicked; for the hour is nigh, and the day soon at hand, when the earth is ripe; and all the proud, and they that do wickedly, shall be as stubble, and I will burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that wickedness shall not be upon the earth; ...And it shall come to pass that because of the wickedness of the world, that I will take vengeance upon the wicked, for they will not repent; for the cup of mine indignation is full; for behold my blood shall not cleanse them if they hear me not."-D.C. 28:2,4.

These events mark the time of harvest when there will be a division of the people, the wheat gathered into the garner, and the tares burned in the field. Christ has decreed that the earth shall be cleansed from wickedness that righteousness might prevail, and when men fail by choice to work with God to the bringing about of his righteousness, then God is bound to take the matter into his own hand and cleanse the earth by judgment.

"And behold, and lo, I come quickly to judgment, to convince all of their ungodly deeds which they have committed against me, as it is written in the volume of the book."-D.C. 96:2

"Behold the destroyer I have sent forth to destroy and lay waste mine enemies; and not many years hence, they shall not be left to pollute mine heritage, and to blaspheme my name upon the land which I have consecrated for the gathering together of my saints."-Ibid 102:4.

This last quotation refers specifically to this land of America, the place of gathering, as the place of cleansing. In fact it begins in America, but extends to the whole earth:

"Behold, vengeance cometh speedily upon the inhabitants of the earth, a day of wrath, a day of burning, a day of desolation, of weeping, of mourning, and of lamentation, and as a whirlwind it shall come upon all the face of the earth, saith the Lord. And upon my house shall it begin, and from my house shall it go forth, saith the Lord."-Ibid 105:9-10.

IV

Ecclesiastical Babylon

1

In this study we have several times called attention to incidental references to the ecclesiastical or religious phase of Babylon, particularly in its downfall; and made special mention of it in section 4 under foreword. Of this we now speak further.

Spiritual domination over the souls and minds of men has been no less a bondage than the political domination. Spiritual and intellectual bondage is far worse than mere physical bondage, for it tends to bar development and progress. It prevents the forming of any proper civil government, and shuts off the light of God, keeping the world in darkness. The adoption of false ideas and ideals relative to God, truth, justice, equity and right has been the basic cause of the world's troubles and tribulations. The change that God would bring about for the estab-

lishing of his righteousness must involve a sweeping away of these falsities and evils, and this must be associated with the flooding of the earth with light and truth for the establishing of right ideals. Thus it is that the gospel has been restored in preparation for such work.

"Righteousness will I send down out of heaven; and truth will I send forth out of the earth, to bear testimony of my Only Begotten; his resurrection from the dead; yea, and also the resurrection of all men; and righteousness and truth will I cause to sweep the earth as with a flood, to gather out mine own elect from the four quarters of the earth unto a place which I shall prepare; a holy city."-D.C.36:12

The falsities of the world have masqueraded under the name of religion claiming the authority of God or some substitutional god, and since the coming of Christ many of them have borne the name Christian. Men have organized societies and churches without limit for the purpose of establishing and maintaining the errors of their own devising, and even the church set up by Christ became flooded with errors and false standards, suffering perversion thereby until its whole character was changed and its divine purpose lost to sight. This church became the tool of the adversary, and the instrument of his evil designs, rejected of God and excoriated by him in terms more severe than was ever applied to any other thing. "The great and abominable church;" "the great whore;" "the church of the devil;" "the great persecutor;" "in whose hearts the enemy, even Satan sitteth to reign;" "sower of the tares;" "mother of abominations;" "mother of harlots;" etc.

"And that great and abominable church, which is the whore of all the earth, shall be cast down by devouring fire, according as it is spoken by the mouth of Ezekiel the prophet, which spoke of these things, which have not come to pass, but surely must as I live, for abomination shall not reign."-Ibid 28:5.

2

Turning to Ezekiel's prophecy, found in chapter 31, we find this church represented by the figure of a great cedar, so great that "under his shadow dwelt all great nations." He was fair and beautiful, and was envied by other trees.

"Therefore thus saith the Lord God, because thou hast lifted up thyself in height and he hath shot up his top among the thick boughs, and his heart is lifted up in his height, I have therefore delivered him into the hand of the mighty one of the heathen; he shall surely deal with him; I have driven him out for his wickedness. And strangers, the terrible of the nations, have cut him off, and have left him upon the mountains and in all the valleys his branches are fallen, and his boughs are broken by all the rivers of the land, and all the people of the earth are gone down from his shadow, and have left him. Upon his ruin shall all the fowls of the heaven remain, and all the beasts of the field shall be upon his branches; to the end that none of the trees by the waters exalt themselves for their height, neither shoot up their top a-

mong the thick boughs, neither their trees stand up in their height, all that drink water, for they are all delivered unto death."-vs.10-14.

Nephi prophesied:

"And that great whore, who hath perverted the right ways of the Lord; yea, that great and abominable church, shall tumble to the dust, and great shall be the fall of it."-1 Nephi 7:31.

In defining this church Nephi calls it the kingdom of the devil but associates with it many other churches who will be involved in its fall.

"For the time speedily shall come, that all churches which are built up to get power over the flesh, and those who are built up to become popular in the eyes of the world, and those who seek the lusts of the flesh and the things of the world, and to do all manner of iniquity; yea, in fine, all those who belong to the kingdom of the devil, are they who need fear, and tremble, and quake; they are those who must be brought low in the dust; they are those who must be consumed as stubble!"-Ibid verse 50.

Mormon, a later prophet, speaking of the time of restoration says,

"It shall come in a day when the power of God shall be denied, and churches become defiled, and shall be lifted up in the pride of their hearts; yea, even in a day when leaders of churches, and teachers, in the pride of their hearts, even to the envying of them who belong to their churches. ...

"But behold, Jesus Christ hath shown you unto me, and I know your doing; and I know that ye do walk in the pride of your hearts; and there are none, save a few only, who do not lift themselves up in the pride of their hearts, unto the wearing of very fine apparel, unto envying, and strifes, and malice, and persecutions, and all manner of iniquity; and your churches, yea, even every one, have become polluted because of the pride of your hearts. ...Behold the sword of vengeance hangeth over you; and the time soon cometh that he avengeth the blood of the saints upon you, for he will not suffer their cries any longer."-Mormon 4:36, 47-50, 56.

Thus the great and abominable church does not stand alone in the prophecies of scripture, but has associated with her the many "daughters of Babylon," the many off-shoots and protesting churches, built up and maintained by the wisdom and power of men, churches which God has never acknowledged as his, but which are many times condemned because of their separation from the truth. Hence it is that in the day of falling, the dominant church will not fall alone. As Nephi and Mormon say, and as Ezekiel shows, the other churches, the other cedars will all go down.

4

Isaiah describes the great spiritual feast to come after the restoration in the last days, but not without a clearing of the way. (See this also in D.C. 58:3). There is to be a destruction also,

"And he will destroy in this mountain(kingdom or nation) the face of the covering cast over all people, and the veil that is spread over all nations."-Isaiah 25:7.

This covering or veil is the false Christianity which has swept the world, and which with the falling of the institutions which have built it up, will be swept away, and the earth cleared for the extension of the gospel of Christ. The restored gospel (which provides the feast), according to the revelation of Doctrine and Covenants, is first to be offered to the rich, the learned, the wise, and the noble, (as the world counts them), but afterward, when they refuse, will be invited the poor, the lame, and the blind, and the deaf, who will come in. The first class is the Gentiles, and the second is the house of Israel who are the down-trodden. It says they will come and partake..

5

Revelation 17 and 18 deals with the fall of Babylon in its dual state. Its government from the beginning was but a human substitute for the government of Christ. Its religion likewise was a human substitute for the divine. Political and ecclesiastical Babylon are to fall together to prepare the way for the setting up of the theocratic government of God, over which Christ is to reign at his coming, a government combining the whole relation of God and man in one, operating in truth, righteousness and love to the establishing of perpetual peace and prosperity for all men. Like the stone which smote the image, the kingdom of God will have small beginning but it will extend over the whole earth in a universal dominion. The prophecy says it shall fill the whole earth.

V

Russia The Destroying Power

1.

The Lord utilizes men and nations both good and bad in the accomplishing of his purposes, and in the falling of Babylon involving a large number of nations, there must be some power of sufficient greatness to bring it about, whom the Lord will use as his weapon, even as he used Nebuchadnezzar in the destruction of Judah. Surveying the nations of the earth today there is but one that answers the requirements, and that is Russia.

NOTE: (Brother Charles Fry wrote this in late 1947 or early 1948. Some few months before his passing in 1969, he admitted to me while questioning him that China might be involved in the later stages, at least to their later participation in occupying this land with others of Israel. F. T. Schrank).

We point to Russia because first, it fits the scriptural prophecy, and second, current history shows that this nation has been qualifying, just such a move, and is already engaged in the process. Let us first look at some of the prophecies.

Isaiah 13 tells of the day of the Lord, cruel, coming with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate, and which will destroy the sinners out of it. It will be in the day when the sun is darkened etc., the time of Babylon's fall and Israel's return; pride and haughtiness will cease; the heavens will shake; the wicked shall fall by the sword, children dashed to pieces and houses spoiled. And Babylon shall be as Sodom and Gomorrah. The Lord says "I will destroy her speedily; yea, I will be merciful to my people," The Lord mustereth the hosts of the battle. "They come from a far country, from the end of heaven, yea, the Lord, and the weapons of his indignation to destroy the whole land."

This prophecy is headed "The burden of Babylon," but it never did apply to the ancient Babylon; it belongs to the last days when Israel is to be restored. The destroying nation will not be a close neighbor, but from far; it will be an assembly of nations. They come as the Lords weapons to destroy. Latter day prophecy indicates we are living in the day of Babylon's fall, and Russia is the only nation on earth capable of making war with the United States.

Jeremiah 4 gives another applicable prophecy, beginning with the call for Israel to return which has never yet been fulfilled. The Lord "will bring evil from the north and a great destruction. The lion is to come from his thicket, and the destroyer of the Gentiles is on his way; he is gone forth from his place to make thy land desolate; and thy cities shall be laid waste, without an inhabitant." This "lion" is not coming against Judah or Israel, but against the Gentiles. "Behold, he shall come up as clouds, (suggestive of airplanes) and his chariots shall be as a whirlwind; his horses are swifter than eagles. Woe unto us for we are spoiled." According to all the prophecies Israel or Judah is more or less involved, but this prophecy can not be limited or applied to God's people, for it goes on to say, "I beheld the earth, and lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens, and they had no light." Allusion to the darkening of the sun which is an accompaniment of Babylon's fall. The fruitful field became a wilderness, and all the cities broken down at the presence of the Lord. Israel being mixed with the Gentiles suffer some tribulation.

Jeremiah 51 is a prophecy of Babylon at the time when it shall be said, "For Israel hath not been forsaken, nor Judah of his God." This refers to the time of restoration yet to come. God's people are warned

to "Flee out of the midst of Babylon, ...for this is the time of the Lord's vengeance; he will render unto her a recompense," This applies to the remnants, and perhaps the adopted people of Israel in the last days, who are among the Gentiles in this land. Several times the people among the Gentiles are warned to separate themselves when the danger comes.

"I will raise up against Babylon, and against them that dwell in the midst of them that rise up against me, a destroying wind; and will send unto Babylon fanners that shall fan her, and shall empty her land; for in the day of trouble they shall be against her round about. ... Destroy ye utterly all her host."

It is to utterly fall. Babylon is to suddenly fall. These things have never been fulfilled and are yet future. That day will be when "The Lord hath brought forth our righteousness," and when Israel will declare in Zion the work of the Lord. The disaster will be far reaching, "At Babylon shall fall the slain of all the earth." "From me shall spoilers come unto her, saith the Lord."

5

Doctrine and Covenants 98:12 contributes a prophecy which is definitely applied to the United States. If the appeals for justice and mercy were unheeded by the government, warning was given that in his time "the Lord will arise and come forth out of his hiding place, and in his fury vex the nation, and in his hot displeasure, and in his fierce anger, in his time, will cut off these wicked, unfaithful, and unjust stewards, and appoint them their portion among hypocrites and unbelievers; even in outer darkness." The prophecy couples up with Isaiah 28 which compares that day with Mount Perazim, and with Gibeon, the places of two great battles where the Lord fought in Israel's behalf to the destruction of their enemies. (See section III:3 of this paper). God uses human weapons in his destroying of nations.

6

Jeremiah 50 tells that "Babylon is taken. ...For out of the north there cometh up a nation against her which shall make her land desolate. ...In those days, ...Israel shall come, ...and seek the Lord their God. ...I will raise and cause to come up against Babylon an assembly of great nations from the north country, ..from thence she shall be taken." Verses 19-20 plainly show it is the day of Israel's restoration.

7

In 3 Nephi 9:56, after quoting Micah's prophecy, Jesus referring to the Gentiles in general but specifically to those upon the land, says, "The sword of my justice shall hang over them, and except they repent, it shall fall upon them. ...I will establish my people; ...This people will I establish in this land." The "Sword" is to redeem the land for Israel.

The Book of Mormon in Ether 3:92-102 gives a message directly to this American nation regarding secret combinations which will lead to "your overthrow and destruction" unless checked. Such secret combinations thrive on wickedness, and the Gentiles are warned to repent, lest these combinations get above them, and the work of destruction come.

In modern times this secret power has been fostered and used by Russia more than by any other people, and has been deliberately adopted as the method of that nation to bring about the overthrow and destruction of all nations. The modern name for this secret system is communism, and it is already well established in this country as is well known. (Since this article was written by Brother Fry, Communism has spread by leaps and bounds and is today, 1975, very menacing. F T S). There is a definite motive behind it, and Russian agents both known and unknown are seeking converts and advancement for this movement.

9

Running through these prophecies we may note the references to a particular power, mentioned under different names, or sometimes expressed as "the sword," as being the means of the downfall of another people, which we have held to be them of the United States: (it is possible that Canada will be included at that time in the same fate). This destroying nation will not be of the Babylonian succession, for it is Babylon that is to be destroyed, not one nation but many nations, though it is my view that the fall will begin with the United States. Russia is the only nation having a definite intent to effect such a destruction.

10

Turning to current developments as affecting Russia we observe that the fortunes of war have favored her in both world wars and contributed to her uprising and power. Russia has long been like an inland empire, but since world war II has come into the open, and today stands second only to the United States in her greatness which is rapidly growing. (At this rewriting some even acknowledge that the United States is now second rate in military power; at least at the present time she is fast surpassing us, that is Russia. F T S).

In a country where tyranny and despotism had long ruled, and love between man and man was little known, communism, though not originating in Russia, found there a fertile field. Cruel force is the main means of advancement toward domination, and the most ruthless methods are counted appropriate in accomplishing her aims.

11

The Communist International has freely published its aims and pur-

poses as adopted at Moscow, which ³⁶ includes these: "The task of the proletariat consists in blowing up the whole machinery of the bourgeoisie, in destroying it, and all the parliamentary institutions with it, whether they be republican or constitutional monarchy." "Its mission is to organize the working class of the whole world for the overthrow of the capitalist order and the establishment of communism."

At the risk of some repetition we mention what the Soviet government claims as its right, to take over all railways, waterways, automobile and air transport services, all communication services; all large landed estates including church, monastery, public forests, minerals, lakes, rivers, with subsequent and more gradual nationalization of all the land; private banks with their gold reserve, securities, deposits, etc.; all retailing enterprises, warehouses, elevators, stores, stocks; all publishing plants, theaters, movies, education from the elementary schools to the universities. It declares for the cancellation of all public debts, for the combatting of all religion, and announces its aim for a world revolution and the bringing of the whole world under the soviet system of government.

12

It is with these objectives in view that Russia has formulated, or is formulating, its designs against the United States. It is the one nation of all the earth which can fittingly wear the prophetic names, describing it as "the destroyer of the Gentiles," "destroying mountain, which destroyeth all the earth, etc. ...The nation has been feverishly striving to prepare for what it knows to be the coming conflict. It has produced the atom bomb. It has built and is building huge battleships, and multitudinous submarines and planes of the latest type. Yet Russia has no threatening or dangerous enemy. Why this feverish preparation?

The late war gave to Russia over nearly half of Europe, and her jurisdiction is still spreading through Asia. There is one bar to her schemes of world dominion and that is the United States. Without the protecting hand of the United States Russia would have by now dominated all Europe, all Korea, all China, and perhaps the whole eastern Asiatic coast south to Malay, with the island territories of Japan, the Philippines, and the East Indies. Had not the power of the United States interposed Russia would undoubtedly have now controlled the whole near East, and perhaps India. The United States stands between Russia and the realization of her world ambitions. In seeking dominion Russia has one most urgent and necessary task to perform first, and that is the

breaking of the power of the United States. Inasmuch as Russia is not, and will not soon be prepared to meet this country in open warfare on an equality, her first stroke against the United States will be by stratagem and surprise. (More on this later).

VI

Destruction By Plane and Bomb

1

Perhaps the most dramatic prophecy relating to the fall of Babylon is that of Nebuchadnezzar's dream. The metallic image in the form of a man and representing the successive empires and kingdoms was struck on the feet by a stone which brake them in pieces causing the image to fall and also break in pieces. (The idea has become prevalent in our church that the stone was a little one, but neither Daniel nor the Lord in the Doctrine and Covenants where mention is made of it, says it was little). The impact of a stone thus falling is sudden and its effect immediate. Thus is represented the fall of Babylon in the last days. The initial stroke will be sudden and decisive, and according to the prophets will be unexpected.

2

Some students of prophecy have attempted to show that at the time of falling, Babylon must have all the successive kingdoms extant, in order that they might fall together, but this is not necessary. It is not so much the particular kingdoms, as it is what they have devised and built up, and left in the world. It is their forms and types of government, their religion, their philosophy, their science, their customs, all of which have been cumulative during the centuries, until modern civilization is an agglomeration of the whole and constitutes the confused and incoherent condition appropriately called Babylon. It is this that must be swept away before God's system can be built up, and with it must go the kingdoms, nations, churches and other organizations, and even individuals which continue to maintain this incongruous and disordered state. Kingdoms are incidental to this. The Babylonish civilization of today is the product of human minds and hands, partly good and partly bad, and containing the elements of its own dissolution; and while we speak of God destroying Babylon it is nevertheless self-destructive. As we have before said, sin is suicidal. However the good may be salvaged.

It should not be surprising in the light of what we have just said, that man should invent and perfect the instrument or instruments of his fall. The scriptures say that the pit which men digged for others they

will themselves fall into it, and the sword they made with which to destroy others will fall upon their own heads. The United States was first in perfecting the atomic bomb, but now Russia has it, the most terrible weapon ever to be handled by man. Carried by the powerful plane or the self-flying torpedo, it is capable of fulfilling the oft repeated prophecies of the earth and its inhabitants being destroyed by fire. The atomic bomb is still in its incipient stage and like every other invention will be greatly improved with experience. (Since this writing we now have in addition the hydrogen bomb, and others of more devastating nature. F T S).

3

It may be surprising to some to discover that the prophets have not been silent regarding both the plane and the bomb.

"Then the earth shook and trembled; and the foundations also of the hills were moved and were shaken, because he was wroth. There went up a smoke out of his nostrils, and fire came out of his mouth devoured; coals were kindled by it. He bowed the heavens also, and came down; and darkness was under his feet. And he rode upon a cherub and did fly; yea, he did fly upon the wings of the wind. He made darkness his secret place; his pavilion round about him were dark waters and thick clouds of the skies. At the brightness that was before him his thick clouds passed, hail stones and coals of fire. The Lord also thundered in the heavens, and the Highest gave his voice; hail stones and coals of fire. Yea, he sent out his arrows, and scattered them; and he shot out lightnings, and discomfitted them."-Psalms 18:7-14.

The prophecy goes on to describe the restoration of Israel showing that it belongs to the last days. The description of the judgment upon their enemies needs little explanation for a modern press reporter could scarcely have described an atomic attack by plane more dramatically and realistically than was done here by David's inspired hand. It shows that the Lord will be participant in the judgment, and by it shall Israel "be saved from mine enemies."

"For behold, the Lord will come with fire, and with his chariots, like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire. For by fire and by his sword will the Lord plead with all flesh; and the slain of the Lord shall be many."-Isaiah 66:15.

Again the prophecy is followed by the promise of restoration to Israel. In judgment upon the wicked the Lord is to come with fire, and with chariots like a whirlwind. It is the time of Babylon's fall and of Israel's uprising.

"Therefore shall the Lord, the Lord of hosts, send among his fat ones leanness; and under his glory he shall kindle a burning like the burning of a fire. And the light of Israel shall be for a fire, and his Holy One for a flame; and it shall burn and devour his thorns and his briars in one day; and shall consume the glory of his forest, and of

his fruitful field, both soul and body. ...And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Remnant of Israel, and such as are escaped of the house of Jacob, shall no more stay upon him that smote them; but shall stay upon the Lord, the Holy One of Israel, in truth. And the remnant shall return, yea, even the remnant of Jacob unto the mighty God."-Isaiah 10:16-21.

Isaiah in chapter 47 speaks of or describes a nation under the name "Virgin Daughter of Babylon," and says "There is no throne," that is the government is destroyed. This nation had polluted the Lord's inheritance and to God's people who were delivered into their hand, they showed no mercy. This nation is self-confident and boastful, and trusted in her wickedness:

"Therefore shall evil come upon thee; thou shalt not know from when it ariseth; and mischief shall fall upon thee; thou shalt not be able to put it off; and desolation shall come upon thee suddenly, which thou shalt not know. ...Behold, they shall be as stubble; the fire shall burn them; they shall not deliver themselves from the power of the flame."-Isaiah 47:11-14.

"The Lord reigneth; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of isles be glad thereof. Clouds and darkness are round about him; righteousness and judgment are the habitation of his throne. A fire goeth before him, and burneth up his enemies round about him. His lightnings enlightened the world; the earth saw, and trembled. The hills melted like wax at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth. The heavens declare his righteousness, and all the people see his glory. ...Zion heard and was glad; and the daughters of Judah rejoiced because of thy judgments, O Lord."-Psalms 97:1-8.

"For Lo, I raise up the Chaldeans, that bitter and hasty nation, which shall march through the breadth of the land, to possess the dwelling places that are not theirs. They are terrible and dreadful; their judgments and their dignity shall proceed of themselves. Their horses also are swifter than the leopards, and are more fierce than the evening wolves; and their horsemen shall spread themselves, and their horsemen shall come from far; they shall fly as the eagle that hasteth to eat. They shall come all for violence; their faces shall sup up the east wind, and they shall gather the captivity as the sand. ...O Lord, thou hast ordained them for judgment; and O mighty God, thou hast established them for correction."-Habakkuk 1:6-12.

Malachi's prophecy in chapter 4, speaking of the proud and wicked, says, "the day that cometh shall burn them up." The angel Moroni quoting this scripture to Joseph Smith, quoted it "They that cometh shall burn them up," showing that the burning will come by enemy hands.

"Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire, and brimstone, and a horrible tempest, the portion of their cup."-Psalm 11:6.

Many other prophecies speak of fire, and flame, and burning, and probably all of them have application to events at the world's eventide, and are associated with returning blessing and restoration to the house of Israel. This last fact is our interpretation of the various

names used which in a superficial reading leads one to suppose that countries of the east are spoken of. But such names are used merely as symbols or types. Nephi and Christ fit many such prophecies to America and the latter days. The Doctrine and Covenants many times refers to the time of burning and carries the implication that such prophecies are associated with this land and with this dispensation. In several instances in the two books the United States, or otherwise the Gentiles upon this land, is specifically pointed to as the ones in whom certain prophecies will have their fulfillment. Moroni, who appeared as an angel to Joseph Smith quoted various prophecies of the Bible including part of Malachi 3, all of chapter 4, Acts 3:22-23, Joel 2:28-32, all of which were related to the latter day work which was then being inaugurated and in the United States.

The developments of the times are fitting in with the prophecies. This is the day when whole populations are ripening in iniquity in spite of the greatly enlarged system of education in the world, and notwithstanding the mighty increase of scientific knowledge. There is a great advance in intellectual and in material affairs, but the world is failing in moral and spiritual matters, the development being only partial, and one-sided, and that along lines which tend to destroy rather than to preserve. The world's safety and perpetuity are not to be gained through intellectual and material wealth, and the Lord has said "the wisdom of their wise men shall perish," "Righteousness exalteth a nation," and Christ "saves his people from their sins." There is no security of a permanent character without Christ and his law, and it is upon this very point that Babylon has failed, and is failing today, insomuch that judgment is inevitable and that to a devastating degree. The intellectual and material advantage has produced the weapons of the plane and the bomb by which destruction comes. Ancient prophets saw these very times.

VII

Israel and Her Restoration

At Sinai Israel's existence as a nation began under divine direction. Its government was theocratic; its constitutional law was revealed from heaven; the official personnel were servants of God; every right of the people was guaranteed, and the people pledged loyalty and obedience. Never did a nation begin under more favorable auspices, with brighter prospects, or with a more glorious aim.

Notwithstanding human failures, and departures from the divine plan

in many instances, the nation maintained its existence, sometimes low and sometimes higher, but with a gradual decline until about 586 B.C. Judah, the remaining remnant was crushed out and destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon. The theocracy had come to its end, and divine rule as pertaining to earthly government ceased in the world.

The same event, with associated events, which brought the kingdom of Israel to its end, suspending its divine right of dominion in the world, brought supremacy to Nebuchadnezzar and his kingdom, who by divine consent exercised the dominion which passed from Israelite hands. This was the beginning of the world-wide and long extended "Babylon," which succeeded through various rulers and kingdoms. The world had rejected, as Israel had done, the divine rule, and now God placed them under a rule that was not divine. He said to Nebuchadnezzar:

"Thou, O king, art a king of kings; for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field, and the fowls of heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. -Daniel 2:37-38

Nebuchadnezzar in person ruled the whole world, but his successive kingdoms fulfilled this prophecy in recent times. When the period of exploration and discovery began, the European nations claimed possession of the lands which they discovered, and exercised dominion over them. Russia is the only non-Babylonian nation which has not fallen under this dominion, a nation which perhaps God has held in reserve for the very purpose of breaking the chains of bondage from men, and especially from his people, who are largely to be found in heathen, and subject lands. Nebuchadnezzar's inspired dream showed a long rule for the Gentile kingdoms, but did point to an end, and that end sudden and complete. The image would be smitten on the feet and the whole structure would fall to pieces, and be blown away as dust by the winds.

The time of Babylon's fall is the time of Israel's restoration. But while the dominion was with the Gentiles, temporarily, Israel became the downtrodden, the outcasts, the oppressed, the poor of earth, idolaters, having lost the knowledge of God, even as Moses said,

"And the Lord shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and there shalt thou serve other gods which neither thine fathers have known, even wood and stone." -Deuteronomy 28:64.

"I said, I would scatter them into the corners, I would make the remembrance of them to cease from among men." -Ibid 32:26

But this rejection and scattering of Israel was not for ever.

"For the children of Israel shall abide many days without a king, and without a prince, and without a sacrifice, and without an image, and without an ephod, and without terraphim; afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the Lord their God, and David their king; and shall fear the Lord and his goodness in the latter days."-Hosea 3:4-5.

"I will cause the captivity of Judah and the captivity of Israel to return, and will build them, as at the first."-Jeremiah 33:7.

"And the Lord shall reign over them in mount Zion from henceforth, even for ever. And thou, O tower of the flock, the stronghold of the daughter of Zion, unto thee shall it come, even the first dominion; the kingdom shall come to the daughter of Jerusalem."-Micah 4:7-8.

Prophecy is burdened with utterances of Israel's restoration with the interposing hand of God bringing about their establishment as a nation with the divinely appointed form of government in which He will have a part "as at the first"; such prophecies being nearly always associated with others relating to the sweeping away of the Babylonian or Gentile nations which held domination during the time of Israel's rejection.

4

The day of these great changes is at hand, probably nearer than we think. The Lord has made preparation for Israel's restoration by the restoration of his gospel and the setting up of his authoratative church. Like many great movements this church has a small beginning, but the Lord did not hesitate to promise great things. He declared the message was to all the world, and when the church numbered scarcely more than a hundred said to the elders,

"Ye are called to bring to pass the gathering of mine elect, for mine elect hear my voice and harden not their hearts; wherefore the decree hath gone forth from the Father that they shall be gathered in unto one place, upon the face of this land, to prepare their hearts, and be prepared in all things, against the day when tribulation and desolation are sent forth upon the wicked; for the hour is nigh, and the day soon at hand, when the earth is ripe; and all the proud, and they that do wickedly, shall be as stubble, and I will burn them up, saith the Lord of Hosts."-Doctrine and Covenants 28:2.

"A revelation of Jesus Christ unto his servant Joseph Smith, Jr. and six elders, as they united their hearts and lifted their voices on high; yea, the word of the Lord concerning his church, established in the last days for the restoration of his people as he has spoken by the mouth of the prophets, and for the gathering of his saints to stand upon Mount Zion, which shall be the city New Jerusalem."-Ibid 83:1

The gospel of Jesus Christ is to be the means of turning and restoring Israel, though the Gentiles will have first opportunity; the believing Gentiles having place with Israel. It is only when the Gentiles have been given their opportunity and have refused it, that the Lord sends devastating judgment. In no other way could he have self-justification. For a hundred and twenty years, or more, now has the gospel been preached to the Gentile people, and of this time the Lord spoke from ancient time:

"Whoso repenteth not must perish; therefore, woe be unto the Gentiles if it so be that they harden their hearts against the Lamb of God; for the time cometh, saith the Lamb of God, that I will work a great and a marvelous work among the children of men; a work which shall be everlasting, either on the one hand or on the other; either to the convincing of them unto peace and life eternal, or unto the deliverance of them to the hardness of their hearts and the blindness of their minds, unto their being brought down into captivity and also unto destruction, both temporally and spiritually, according to the captivity of the devil."- 1 Nephi 3:212-216.

"Behold, vengeance cometh speedily upon the inhabitants of the earth a day of wrath, a day of burning, a day of desolation, of weeping, of mourning, and of lamentation-and as a whirlwind it shall come upon all the face of the earth, saith the Lord."-DC 105:9.

5

The day of judgment upon the Gentile world is the day of blessing upon Israel. But where will Israel be found? Are they the Jews, as the world knows them, who will be gathered in to found the new kingdom? Not yet. It will be in remote parts of the earth where the Lord ages ago planted his scattering people, and who in the vicissitudes of their experience lost all knowledge of God, and worshipped idols. They are they who have lost their identity insomuch that it will require the revelation of God to inform them of their ancestry and of their heritage.

The Book of Mormon reveals that that branch of Israel which God about 600 B.C. planted in America, a colony brought from Jerusalem, and which like other groups forgot God and sank to heathendom, will be the first to learn their identity, and to return to God. They are the aborigines of this land, and commonly known as Indians. Their precedence over other groups of Israel might be readily expected since they are on the land where the gospel has been restored and are nearest to those who see their recovery. They will be gathered in through the power of God at the appointed time.

We have little information as to other groups, only that there are others. Jesus, after his resurrection visited the people upon this land and taught them the gospel, but told them of others of the house of Israel whom he must visit. Isaiah speaks of some being in the land of Sinim which means the far east. The wise men who came to worship the Christ babe came from the east, knew before hand of the coming of Christ recognized his star as a sign which had before been given to them, were able to talk with the Jews at Jerusalem showing they had knowledge of the Hebrew language, and are most likely of this group in the far east. Esdras(chapter 13) relates that a "multitude" of the ten tribes, when they were carried away to Assyria, took counsel and left of their own

accord to go to another country, and crossing the Euphrates travelled a year and a half's journey where they dwelt. Crossing the Euphrate indicates they were going eastward, and a year and a half should bring them to the coast. It is the writer's firm conviction that the peoples of the Asiatic coastal countries on the Pacific from China (whose people are probably mixed) to Malay, together with the outlying islands, are all of Israelitish origin, and will be sought after and restored to their former status in the Lord's due time.

There are other lost groups of whom we have no immediate knowledge. Perhaps South America may contain one. Perhaps-but only God knows. Jeremiah says the days will come when it will be said that:

"The Lord liveth that brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north, and from all the lands whither he had driven them; and I will bring them again into their land that I gave unto their fathers. Behold, I will send for many fishers, saith the Lord, and they shall fish them; and after will I send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain, and from every hill, and out of the holes of the rocks. For mine eyes are upon all their ways; they are not hid from my face."-Jeremiah 16:16-17.

Herein lies the great work of the church which is yet to be done. And herein is the promise to be fulfilled that Israel will be established as a holy kingdom, or as the Book of Mormon calls it-a righteous branch, a holy city, Zion. It involves the coming kingdom of God, over which Christ will reign when he comes, the kingdom which is to extend to the ends of the earth, and to stand forever.

VIII

When Shall These Things Be?

1

The secret as to the time of Christ's coming in judgment is divinely guarded. It is said that even the angels do not know. It will be revealed only by his coming. Nevertheless the Lord has many times warned the church to "Watch therefore, for ye know not at what hour your Lord doth come." The command to watch suggests that there will be indications or signs which will show his approach.

2

It is a fact worthy of notice that all these warnings (so far as we can now recall) were given to the church, which means that the coming of Christ will be of supreme importance and will be followed by consequences some of unperceivable good, and some of dire evil, according as the attitudes, policies, and works of the church may be approved or disapproved of God. Individual members will be affected by this great event in like manner as the church.

Of his coming the Lord has said; "It will be in an hour when ye think not." Men will not be expecting it at the time it happens, and it will take them unawares. This refers not to his final coming but to his coming in judgment. Jesus said it will be as in the day of the flood:

"For it shall be with them as it was in the day which were before the flood; for until the day that Noah entered into the Ark, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, and knew not until the flood came and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be."-Matthew 24:45.

The Lord does not charge the church with gross sins as being the cause of their unpreparedness, but with the legitimate but incidental affairs of daily life, the common pleasures and labors, as the things engrossing their time and attention, to the utter failure of seeing the great and important things of their calling.

3

In 1832 the Lord said "the day speedily cometh," and "is nigh at hand." We list a few statements.

"And behold I come quickly to judgment."-D.C. 96:2

"The Lord who shall suddenly come to his temple; the Lord who shall come down upon the world with a curse to judgment; yea, upon all the nations that forget God, and upon all the ungodly among you."-Ibid 108:1

"The coming of the Lord draweth nigh, and it overtaketh the world as a thief in the night; therefore gird up your loins that you may be the children of the light, and that day shall not overtake you as a thief."-Ibid 103:2.

"The Son of Man ...now reigneth in the heavens, and will reign till he descends on the earth to put all enemies under his feet; which time is nigh at hand; ...but the hour and the day no man knoweth, neither t the angels in heaven, nor shall they know until he comes."-Ibid 49:2.

"In my own due time will I come upon the earth in judgment; and my people shall be redeemed."-Ibid 43:7.

"...The wicked shall slay the wicked, and fear shall come upon every man, and the saints also shall hardly escape; nevertheless, I the Lord am with them, and will come down in heaven from the presence of my Father, and consume the wicked with unquenchable fire. And behold this is not yet, but by and by."-Ibid 63:9.

"The time is soon at hand when I shall come in a cloud with power and great glory, and it shall be a great day at the time of my coming, for all nations shall tremble, ...and great destructions await the wicked."-Ibid 33:1-2.

In 1823 the angel Moroni, having quoted a number of prophecies to Joseph Smith at the time of his visitation and informed him of great judgments to come, said, "These grievous judgments would come on the earth in this generation." Nearly 127 years(now 152 years) have passed since then. In 1831, speaking of the time when the light breaks forth,

which I understand means the restoration, the Lord says that "in that generation shall the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled." That is the time of judgment. To the time of the giving of that revelation we look back 119 years. (Now 144). Doctrine and Covenants 83:1-2 refers to the building of Zion which marks the ushering in of Israel's times, and is associated with the closing of the Gentile times, which is the time of judgment, the revelation says, "for verily, this generation shall not all pass away until an house shall be built unto the Lord." That was 118 years ago. (143 years from 1975)

For long time our interpretation of "this generation" was the lifetime of anyone or more of the persons who were living at the time the statements were made; as long as even one person lived who was living then, we would be in "this generation." The interpretation has been somewhat discounted in my own mind of late years, since the span of life is little known to reach so high, though I was at a complete loss to substitute any other interpretation. Just recently a news item appeared in the papers from London, stating that in Russia the Soviet News Agency reported there were about 29,000 persons living who were over 100 years of age, and that the Moscow studio had released a color picture of Russia's oldest citizen, and Abkhazian collective farmer, named Mamzyr Kut, who was born at the end of the eighteenth century. This would make him near 150 years of age. Such ages are not unknown. While on my mission to England, 1920-1923, I visited a tomb in Westminster Abbey of a man who had died at the age of 151. It was the renown of his great age that gave him burial in the honored place.

(NOTE: It is now while writing this again, some 20 to 25 years later than the first writing that one almost doubts the above interpretation, that is the last two or three paragraphs only-or the fulfillment of the whole prophecy is very very near, which I truly believe. F T S).

In the light of these instances of long life it is probable that there are still living a number of persons who were born prior to the making of the divine statements quoted above, in which case we are still living in "this generation". It is evident however that we are living the last years of that generation, and the events warned of can not be at any great distance in the future.

Like the Niagara River which flows with increasing swiftness as it approaches the falls, even so the Niagara of world events is moving more swiftly as the day of Babylon's fall approaches, the swiftness of these changing events is a true indicator to the approximate distance between the present and the time of the culminating tragedy awaiting the world.

Three great and far reaching changes came about through the recent world war. 1. The former strong powers belonging to the Babylonian succession became terribly weakened, causing great decline and threatening extinction. Great Britain, a nation of supreme world dominance, and thought to be impregnable, has reached the low point of helpless dependence, and become a prey to whatever power may seek her final overthrow. 2. A backward nation, Russia, has quickly sprung from weakness to might and suddenly gained a prominence and domination second only to those of the United States. This nation is obsessed with the determination to subdue all other nations and to acquire dominion over the whole world, and is rapidly qualifying for this purpose. 3. The atomic bomb has changed completely the nature of human warfare. It was largely through the use of the previous bombs of World War I and II that the transitory change has been going on from war by uniformed men to war by the whole population. That change is now complete. The atomic bomb means the indiscriminate destruction of all people from infant to the aged, male and female. From henceforth war means nothing less than the mass destruction of human life, human wealth, human civilization. Mercy is no ingredient of the Atom bomb.

Numerous other inventions in planes and submarines, incendiaries, rays, the use of death-dealing germs, etc., have been made, which add to the fearfulness of the bomb itself. The Lord knowing before of these things called this time "The great and dreadful day of the Lord."

Are not these things the signal warnings of the impending danger? Do they not amplify in piercing tones the cry of the angel, "The hour of his judgment is come"? Are we amnesic to the warnings? Everywhere the signs stand out plain and strong; shall we see them? And heed them?

(Re-editing Editor's NOTE: I could add much more to this, and Bro. Charles Fry who wrote this article sometime after 1948, so told me before his death in 1969 that he would have added more, especially in relation to the new deadly devices that have been invented since 1948, but I will forbear, except that I shall add another shorter one found in his notes that is directly related to the article on "A Study in Prophecy covering The Destiny of the United States.").

Appendix A

Prophecies On The Darkening of The Sun

General Comment

God created the world and man for a good end. To Moses he said it was for his glory. But under the God-given principle of free agency for man, as in the days of Noah, the world has become corrupted, and wickedness so great that God is being dishonored. As he said by Isaiah, (24:5),

"The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant."

The prophecy pointed to latter days and fulfillment has come in the present age. In 1830 God said,

"The day is soon at hand when the earth is ripe," and when "the cup of their iniquity is full."

God is not glorified under conditions of wickedness, and the remedy, after the divine call, to repentance, is judgment. The first world destruction was by flood, the last by fire.

In view of atomic power the possibilities of such disaster are apparent. The prophets are not silent upon the airplane and rocket plane, neither the atomic bomb by which the earth will be burned, though these modern names are not used by them. It is man's discovered and devised atomic power which will bring about the darkening of the sun, moon and stars, of which the scriptures speak more than twenty times. We have in former years thought such prophecies alluded to some great astronomical event wherein God would produce the darkness described, but a closer study of these prophecies assure us that the judgment comes by the hand of man.

The atomic bomb, with various other atomic weapons, produce an almost indescribable smudge, rising like a column some eight to ten thousand feet into the air, and covering considerable territory. Add to many of these the almost innumerable cities burned by them, as the scriptures declare, and many oil refineries and manufacturing plants besides the burning of many things thought to be incombustible, (the prophet said the rivers shall be turned into pitch, and the dust into brimstone), and smoke from all these will fill the air miles high, lading it with disagreeable and poisonous fumes, and spreading over the face of the whole earth. This darkness will be world-wide, and of considerable duration, and this alone will constitute a world calamity.

Time When

Prophets do not give dates. But they do often give one or more related events which indicate the relative time of fulfillment. In this case they have given a series of concurrent events sufficient to identify the time when it comes, or is about to come. Some of these events are, the fulfilling of the Gentile times, when the Lord makes bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations in the behalf of his people Israel, when the dominion will return to Israel, a day when the gospel will be preached by a ministry endowed with the Spirit of power, a day

when the Spirit of God will be poured out upon all flesh to the conversion of many, the time of gathering of the saints and of Israel, the building of a holy city called Zion, the falling of the great and abominable church and her satellites. It will be the world's harvest time.

More than a hundred years ago the Lord said, the time is soon at hand, ...Not many days hence the earth shall tremble, and be moved, and shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and then "the moon shall be confounded, and the sun be ashamed. These related events are "casting their shadows before them," and we see them in the offing.

The Texts

Matthew 24:34-"And immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of heaven shall be shaken." Also Mark 13:38

Luke 21:25-"In the generation in which the times of the Gentiles shall be fulfilled, there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations with perplexity, like the sea, and the waves roaring. The earth also shall be troubled, and the waters of the great deep; men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth. For the powers of heaven shall be shaken."

Acts 2:17-20-It shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; and on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy; and I will show wonders in the heavens above, and signs in the earth beneath' blood and fire, and vapor of smoke; the sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and notable day of the Lord come.

Rev. 6:12-17-"When he opened the sixth seal, and lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; and the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. ...And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; and said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; for the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?"

Joel 2:28-32-"It shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh; ...and I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. And the sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord come. And it shall come to pass that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered, as the Lord hath said, and in the remnant whom the Lord shall call.

The following prophecy on the darkness of the sun seems to be a separate event from the others, though in the same general period:

Joel 3:1-17-"Behold in those days, and in that time, when I shall bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem, I will gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehosaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel. ...The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining. And the Lord shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake; but the Lord shall be the hope of his people, and the strength of the Children of Israel. So shall ye know that I am the Lord your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain."

Jer.4:26-28-"The fruitful place was a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down at the presence of the Lord, and by his fierce anger. For thus hath the Lord said, the whole land shall be desolate; yet will I not make a full end. For this shall the earth mourn, and the heavens above be black."

Isaiah 34:9-10-(Sun not mentioned but conditions for its darkening are: a day of desolation, and of God's vengeance, describing last days, and referred to in D.C. 1:6 as yet to come)."For it is the day of the Lord's vengeance, and the year of recompenses for the controversy of Zion. And the streams thereof shall be turned into pitch, and the dust thereof into brimstone, and the land thereof shall become burning pitch. It shall not be quenched by night or day; the smoke thereof shall go up for ever."

Isaiah 50:3; 2 Nephi 5:54-"I clothe the heavens with blackness, and I make sackcloth their covering."

Zeph. 1:14-17-"The great day of the Lord is near, it is near, and he hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the Lord; the mighty man shall cry there bitterly. 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. A day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, (war), and against the high towers. And I will bring distress upon men, and they shall walk like blind men because they have sinned against the Lord; and their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as the dung. ...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."

Gen. 7:67-"And the Lord said unto Enoch, as I live, even so will I come in the last days, in the days of wickedness and vengeance, to fulfill the oath which I made unto you concerning the children of Noah. And the day shall come that the earth shall rest. But before that day the heavens shall be darkened, and a veil of darkness shall cover the earth; and the heavens shall shake, and also the earth, And great tribulations shall be among the children of men, but my people will I preserve; and righteousness will I send down out of heaven, and truth will I send forth out of the earth, to bear testimony of mine Only Begotten, his resurrection from the dead; yea, and also the resurrection of all men. And righteousness and truth will I cause to sweep the earth as with a flood, to gather out mine own elect from the four quarters of the earth, unto a place which I shall prepare; an holy city, that my people may gird up their loins, and be looking forth for the time of my coming; for there shall be my tabernacle, and it shall be called Zion; a New Jerusalem."-(See also D.C. 36:12)

Isaiah 13:9-11-(This chapter I hold to be definitely a prophecy of the destruction of the U.S. nation; kingdoms of nations gather; Lord of Hosts mustereth the hosts of the battle-the Lord brings them, they come from a far country, from the end of heaven, yea, the Lord, and the weapons of his indignation to destroy the whole land. Howl ye; for the day of the Lord is at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty.) "Behold the day of the Lord cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate; and he shall destroy the sinners out of it. For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light; the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine. And I will punish the world for their evil and the wicked for their iniquity."(See also 2 Nephi 10).

The Doctrine and Covenants confirms these prophecies as being yet future, though near.

D.C. 33:1-2-"The time is soon at hand, that I shall come in a cloud in power and great glory, and it shall be a great day at the time of my coming, for all nations shall tremble. But before that great day shall come, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon be turned into blood, and the stars shall refuse their shining, and some shall fall, and great destructions await the wicked."

D.C. 45:6-"...They shall see signs and wonders, for they shall be shown forth in the heavens above, and in the earth beneath, and they shall behold blood and fire, and vapors of smoke; and before the day of the Lord shall come, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon be turned into blood, and the stars fall from heaven; and the remnant shall be gathered unto this place; and then shall they look for me, and behold I will come."

D.C. 85:23-24-(Ministry to) "prepare the saints for the hour of judgment which is to come; that their souls may escape the wrath of God, the desolation of abomination, which await the wicked. ...Not many days hence and the earth shall tremble, and reel to and fro as a drunken man, and the sun shall hide his face, and shall refuse to give light, and the moon shall be bathed in blood, and the stars shall become exceeding angry, and shall cast themselves down as a fig that falleth from off a fig tree."

D.C. 28:2-(Elect to be gathered to this land)-"Against the day when tribulation and desolation are sent forth upon the wicked; for the hour is nigh, and the day soon at hand, when the earth is ripe; and all the proud, and they that do wickedly, shall be as stubble, and I will burn them up, saith the Lord of Hosts, that wickedness shall not be upon the earth; for the hour is nigh, and that which has been spoken by mine apostles must be fulfilled. ...Before this great day shall come, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall be turned into blood, and the stars shall fall from heaven; and there shall be greater signs in heaven above, and in the earth beneath; and there shall be weeping and wailing among the hosts of men."

D.C. 108:8-9-"O Lord, thou shalt come down to make thy name known to thine adversaries, and all nations shall tremble at thy presence."...The Lord shall be red in his apparel. ...and so great shall be the glory of his presence, that the sun shall hide his face in shame; and the moon shall withhold its light; and the stars shall be hurled from their places

Isaiah 50:1-3-(Deals with Israel's redemption), "Behold at my rebuke I dry up the sea, I make their rivers a wilderness. ...I clothe the heavens with blackness, and I make sackcloth their covering."

Isaiah 24:19-21,23. (Verse 1, Lord maketh earth empty-waste-Land utterly emptied and spoiled. 5, The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate; therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left. ...18, The foundations of the earth do shake, ...the earth is moved exceedingly. The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard.) ...21, In that day, the Lord shall punish the host of the high ones that are on high, and the kings of the earth upon the earth, ...23, Then the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed, when the Lord of Hosts shall reign in mount Zion and in Jerusalem!"

Summary and Comment

This great sign can be understood only in relation to its associated events.. Its setting in the multitude of stirring events which are soon to transpire in the world reveals its nature and occasion, and show the intermingling of the hand of God and the hand of man.

The darkening of the sun is not a single, passing event, but a condition renewed or repeated from time to time and extending over a no short period. Jesus said "The field (which is the world) will be burned," and it is "the smoke of her burning," which fills the atmospheric heavens with smoke and smudge, covering the earth so densely that the heavenly lights will be obscured. Such a condition will not pass away in a day. On the other hand the destroying fire will not all be set in one day but by a succession of attacks covering perhaps many months, or even years.

The effects of the shutting out of the heavenly lights will be varied and severe. An almost universal disruption of routine activities will immediately result. The glow of burning cities may light certain localities, but otherwise and elsewhere darkness, especially at night will be so intense that nothing can be done. The atmospheric blackness will not only shut off the light but the heat, and whether summer or winter there will be suffering from cold, Should there be clouds, the heavier smoke and fumes will hang low over the earth, affecting the breathing of man and beast, so that many may not survive. In many places chemical fumes will also pollute water and food supplies, creating other dangers. Transportation will be at a standstill.

Sun, Moon, and Stars

No doubt at times the sun will be completely obscured, at other times it may dimly be seen. Different statements about the moon state "the moon shall not give her light," and others say it will look like blood. Both are true-at different times depending upon the nature and density of the intervening cloud of smoke. Some statements concerning the stars seem to indicate the fixed stars of heaven, and others refer to falling

meteors. It would not be consistent to suppose that the distant suns, or the planets are going to fall upon the earth, they are too big, and the earth too little for that. The statement that they will refuse their shining, must mean the actual stars. Those that fall are meteors in which case the event is astronomical.

The Earth As A Globe

As at the crucifixion of Christ it seemed that the very heavens and the very earth mourned with paroxisms of pain in consonance with the sufferings of the Son of God, so in the day of the world's climax, when the "cup of God's anger is full," so will the whole realm of nature vibrate with that anger, and participate in the administration of justice and rebuke against the wickedness of men. The earth shall shake, perhaps by the power of atomic explosions, but there will also be "a great earthquake." The earth will tremble, and reel to and fro. It will be a tremendous power that shall cause the earth to wobble in its course, and causing all the time-pieces in the world to become erratic and wrong. It is also said that the earth will be moved. Can this mean that its circuit around the sun will be changed somewhat? Another says the earth "will be moved exceedingly,". There will be "wonders in earth. Nations will tremble. Being turned "upside down" and its "foundations do shake," may refer to human customs and institutions which will be radically changed. No wonder the Lord said "it will be a great day."

Nations

Nations will be distressed beyond measure; their cities broken down, the whole land desolated. It will be a day for the trumpet (which means war), and nations will tremble.

The People Of the Earth

Hearts failing for fear, probably literally as well as figuratively, perplexities, great distress, men walk as if blind, weeping and wailing, mighty men cry bitterly, day of trumpet-war, great tribulation, destroy sinners, desolation, wicked burned as stubble, proud also.

It is the day of recompense when the accumulated sins of the past generations will meet compensating judgment. Wickedness has reached as far as God can permit it to go, for to extend mercy under such circumstances would only be to deny justice. Mercy and justice toward the unborn can not for ever be denied.

All Nature Disturbed

Signs in the earth, desolation, streams turned into pitch, dust into brimstone, heavens shake, earth tremble, earthquake, waves roaring, polluted atmosphere. land wasted and desolated.

God's People

A remnant of Israel called, Elect gathered, God will preserve his people. Elect gathered to this land, Zion to be extant, looking for the Lord to come.

Condition of World

Wickedness and vengeance, desolation of abomination await wicked, earth defiled its inhabitants, ripe in iniquity, year of recompense for the controversy of Zion (or time of decision in the great and long extended struggle between the forces of good and those of evil),. Lord will reign in mount Zion, Laws of God disregarded, his ordinance changed, and his covenant broken. (Christianity will have become perverted), fear for the judgments of God, hide themselves in caves and among rocks; pray for annihilation.

God's Attitude

Day of wrath, fierce anger, vengeance, land devoured by the fire of his jealousy, speedy riddance of inhabitants, Lord come down and all nations tremble.

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Final Comment: All these conditions and events are spoken of as associated with the darkening of the sun, that is in the same period. Other prophecies which do not mention the darkening of the sun, do mention many other events belonging to that time, but we do not give them here. These serve to establish the relative time of these great signs, and are so abundant and clear that none need to misplace this event of the darkening of the sun, and lead others astray.

A local atmospheric condition developed over a part of New England on May 19, 1780, causing the sun to be obscured from about 1 PM, until nightfall, which naturally created some excitement and concern. In that early period there were no means of determining the cause or origin of the unusual condition, but today the cause would probably be traced to some volcanic eruption or a forest fire. This event was afterward seized upon by one group of religionists as the fulfillment of the scriptural prophecies regarding the darkening of the sun, and it is so proclaimed to this day. A casual study of the scriptures makes such an interpretation impossible, as this paper shows.

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NOTE: The above article on, "A Study in Prophecy Covering The Destiny Of The United States," was written by Charles Fry in 1947-1950, and many copies were then circulated around the Independence area and other areas of the church. I have been asked, by several brethren, to rewrite and add, and bring the article up to date, but I prefer to just let it pretty much stand on its original writing.