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THE NEW JERUSALEM

By C.O. Stadsklev

Everyone knows what is meant when the word "Jerusalem" is used. It is the name of the city where David and Solomon administered the civil laws of God for 80 years, and Jerusalem was the place where the Lord was crucified. But the Scriptures speak of "the new Jerusalem" and "the daughter of Jerusalem."

One thing is certain and self-evident. The new Jerusalem is not the old Jerusalem. If so, it would not be new. When you speak of something new, such as a house, a dress, a suit of clothes or a car you are not referring to your old house, dress, suit or car. You are contrasting the old with something new and different. And it is certain and self-evident that whatever is meant in the Scriptures by the expression "the daughter of Jerusalem" it is not the old original mother in Palestine. If so, it would not be a daughter. When you speak of your daughter you are not referring to your mother.

It is very apparent that the word "Jerusalem" has a symbolic and prophetic use and meaning in the Scriptures as well as its literal and historic meaning. For instance, in Zechariah 12:6 we read, "and Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place, even in Jerusalem." From this, and other similar passages, it is apparent that the word "Jerusalem" symbolizes a way of life.

Since the word "Jerusalem" means peace, and since Jerusalem at the height of its fame was the place of David's and Solomon's administrations, we would expect the New Jerusalem and the daughter of Jerusalem to be a peaceful nation with a civil rule and a religious faith similar to that of David and Solomon's who lived and ruled in Zion of Jerusalem. With these thoughts in mind we shall turn to the prophecy of Zephaniah.

The three chapters in Zephaniah are very clearly a prophecy dealing with our time and our nation. It is very similar to the three chapters of Joel's prophecy. In Zephaniah 3:14 we read, "Sing, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel; be glad and rejoice with all the heart, O daughter of Jerusalem."

In my book "The United States is Zion of Bible

Prophecy" I have gone into great detail showing from many scriptures that the United States of America is indeed the daughter of Zion, the land of Israel's regathering and therefore also the daughter of Jerusalem. That we might understand why the daughter of Zion and the daughter of Jerusalem was to sing, shout, be glad and rejoice we must consider the context.

We shall begin with verse 8: "Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the Lord, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, even all my fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy."

This is very clearly an end time prophecy for it speaks of the gathering of the nations and the cleansing of the earth by fire. Representatives from more than 100 nations are gathered at the UN in New York. While the communists and the antichrist forces plan to use this gathering of the nations to establish an antichrist world rule, the Almighty has something else in mind in the gathering of the nations; namely, the judgment of the nations as the Lord foretold in Matthew 25:31-46.

At this gathering of nations, the nations will — in the purpose and providence of God — be separated. The "sheep nations" (the Anglo-Saxon or nations of Christendom) will be set on the right and the leftist nations will be set on the left. The sheep nations go into the Kingdom while the leftist or communistic nations come under the fire of God's judgment.

The next verse of Zephaniah 3 states: "For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the Lord, to serve him with one consent." The "people" in this verse, believe, refer to the people of Christendom, the sheep or Israel nations, that were set on the right in the parable on the judgment of the nations in Matthew 25:31-46.

"A pure language" means a chosen or common language. At the tower of Babel God scattered, divided and confused the people by giving them different languages.

Since we are now nearing the Kingdom, one language is rapidly becoming a chosen or common language, and that will do much to enhance understanding and good will among nations; it will enable nations to call on the name of the Lord with one consent. The English language is fast becoming the universal language.

There can be little doubt that verse 10 refers to the United States of America. It states: "From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia my suppliants, even the daughter of my dispersed, shall bring mine offering."

Isaiah 18 opens with the words "beyond the rivers of Ethiopia," the term used here by Zephaniah. All students of Bible prophecy, to my knowledge, agree that Isaiah 18 is a prophecy of the United States. Standing where Isaiah and Zephaniah stood, gazing beyond the rivers of Ethiopia, the land they would see would be the United States of America.

The expression "my suppliants" also helps to identify this as the nation the prophets saw beyond the rivers of Ethiopia, for unlike all other great nations this nation was founded by men and women who prayed and desired to serve and honor the Lord Jesus Christ.

"The daughter of my dispersed" is a further indication that the United States is the fulfillment of Zephaniah's prophecy, for this nation was founded by the descendants of ten-tribed Israel, which were literally dispersed into Europe, Great Britain and Scandinavia.

"Shall bring mine offering" (or God's help) could very well be a reference to the fact that in the providence and mercy of the Lord, the United States has given billions to help other nations. Jesus said in the judgment of the nations in Matthew 25 "as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

We should have no difficulty in recognizing verse 11 as a prophecy upon the United States. It states, "In that day shalt thou-not be ashamed for all thy doings, wherein thou hast transgressed against me: for then I will take away out of the midst of thee them that rejoice in thy pride, and thou shalt no more be haughty because of my holy mountain."

Can there be any question as to whether or not we as a nation will be ashamed when we are made to realize that it is our own unscriptural and antichrist foreign and domestic policies that have built up world communism, making it powerful enough to threaten the United States with destruction?

"I will take away out of the midst of thee them that rejoice in thy pride" is the same promise and prophecy we find in all other prophetic scripture and the kingdom parables namely, that a great overturning and cleansing, a tremendous surge to the right is coming to our nation. This surge and awakening is already in evidence although as yet it is only the size of a "man's hand."

The subversives, the radical-left with its dupes and stooges for communism will be jailed, deported and executed. As a nation we will not be haughty because of God's blessing upon our nation.

At first thought, verse 12 indicates that things will get much worse in these United States before things get better, and they undoubtedly must and will, but there is a sense in which we are already "an afflicted and poor people." Verse 12 states: "I will leave in the midst of thee an afflicted and poor people, and they shall trust in the name of the Lord."

Our national debt, due to our pagan money system, has certainly made us "a poor people,, in light of what we could and would enjoy if we had a scriptural and constitutional money system. As for being "afflicted, one wonders how much more government abuse and affliction this nation can endure and still survive as a constitutional Republic.

Apparently, we are going to be afflicted and made a poor people until we turn to the Word of God for this verse states "and they shall trust in the name of the Lord." However, judgment and punishment alone cannot and will not turn the masses. We must have the promised Latter Rain, as well.

The next verse (verse 13) seems impossible of fulfillment at first thought. Yet it is only what we would expect as we understand the meaning of this verse. It declares: "The remnant of Israel shall not do iniquity, nor speak lies; neither shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth; for they shall feed and lie down, and none shall make them afraid." The remnant or the regathering of the Israel people has taken place here in the great North American Continent.

Do you realize one of the greatest iniquities in our nation during the last forty to fifty years is the fact that the people of this nation have not been told the truth? We have newspapers and magazines galore which "speak lies, and use "a deceitful tongue." Not only are people not told the truth about governmental affairs and current events but in every other realm as well, including religion. However, this will be changed. The people of this nation will be told the truth — and thank God, this has also already begun. All over the nation there is a break-through of men telling people the truth over independent radio stations.

Those of us who have been laboring to get truth and light to our fellowmen for the past many years have seen and experienced a great change during the past several years. Our struggle with those who use "a deceitful tongue" and "speak lies" is far from over, but thank God, there has been a break-through and the radical left is little by little being forced into the defensive while the Christian and constitutional right, though unaware of it, is moving into the offensive. Of course, we must realize and remember that the truth of God's Word is the one great crying need of our day. Without the truth of God's Word all other facts and truths have little or no power to help us.

Now we come back again to verse 14 where we read: "Sing, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel; be glad and rejoice with all the heart, O daughter of Jerusalem."

If this new order of the ages, this new Jerusalem and Zion nation is to be subjugated and destroyed by the antichrist forces directing world communism, verse 14 would not make sense. There would then be nothing to sing, shout, be glad and rejoice over.

Did you notice that the people "beyond the rivers of Ethiopia," where the descendants of dispersed Israel would be formed into a Christian nation, are called the daughter of Zion and the daughter of Jerusalem in verse 14?

Rather than continue to expound the balance of this 3rd chapter of Zephaniah, which gives further reason why this New Order of the Ages can even now sing, shout, be glad and rejoice, we shall turn to another scripture which shows that the United States of America is the daughter of Jerusalem and the new and holy (chosen of God) Jerusalem.

In Revelation 21:2 we read: "And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband."

The new Jerusalem is spoken of as coming down from God out of heaven. The apostle James wrote, "Every good gift . . . is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights." Would you agree that the United States has been a good gift and a good thing for mankind in these last 200 years? If so, it came down from God.

This new Jerusalem that John saw, not going up to heaven but coming down to earth, is spoken of "as a bride." Here we must go back into the Scriptures and identify the people spoken of as the bride. The church of Jesus Christ, consisting of all born again believers, is the body of Christ, and Christ is the head of His body which is the church. (See Colossians 1:18)

The symbolism of a man's body has no sense nor meaning if we make the body and the bride the same one for they are never the same. The symbolism of the Scriptures leaves no room for question or doubt as to what people are spoken of as the bride and the wife.

As you read Isaiah 54:4-8 keep in mind the fact that the Lord Jesus Christ is "thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel":

"Fear not; for thou shalt not be ashamed: neither be thou confounded; for thou shalt not be put to shame: for thou shalt forget the shame of thy youth, and shalt not remember the reproach of thy widowhood any more.

"For thy Maker is thine husband; the Lord of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called.

"For the Lord hath called thee as a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, and a wife of youth, when thou wast refused, saith thy God For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I gather thee.

"In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the Lord thy Redeemer."

Christ is "thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel," and Israel (now known as the Anglo-Saxons) is the wife that was forsaken but is now being gathered in a representative number in this great North American wilderness which is already blossoming as a rose.

Turning back to Revelation 21 we find the following:

"And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God."

"A great and high mountain" in the symbolism of the Scriptures symbolizes or represents a great and high nation. The greatest and the highest, that is, the most exalted nation of all time, is the United States of America. And as we have seen before, this nation was founded by the descendants of the Israel people who were dispersed and had settled in Europe, the British Isles and Scandinavia. They are the people spoken of as the Lord's wife and bride.

In Jeremiah 3:12, 14 the prophet Jeremiah is told, "Go and proclaim these words toward the north, and say, Return, thou backsliding Israel, saith the Lord; and I will not cause mine anger to fall upon you: for I am merciful, saith the Lord, and I will not keep anger for ever. Turn, O backsliding children, saith the Lord; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion."

At the time Jeremiah received this command, he was busy preaching and prophesying in the Judah kingdom. Ten-tribed Israel had been taken into the Assyrian captivity more than 100 years prior to this and were on their way toward the north.

Note, Jeremiah was commanded to tell these Israel people north of Palestine, "Turn, O backsliding children, saith the Lord; for I am married unto you," Thus Jeremiah used the same symbolism that Isaiah did, identifying the people of ten-tribed Israel as the wife and the bride of the Lord.

We should also note that the Lord told Jeremiah to prophecy and promise, "I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion." As everyone knows, this is the way the United States of America came into being as a nation. "One of a city and two of a family" came from these people in Europe, Great Britain and Scandinavia.

When John wrote "holy Jerusalem" he did not mean a sinless nation. Any thing, person or nation, or even a piece of furniture if chosen and used of God is called holy. The men whom God used to write the Scriptures were spoken of as holy men. They were not sinless any more than millions of other men. They were spoken of as holy because they were in a special way chosen and used of God. For the same reason our nation is spoken of as the holy Jerusalem.

Verse 12 of Revelation 21 states that this great and high mountain or nation "had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel."

"A wall" in Scripture symbolizes strength, protection, defense and security. Situated between two great oceans this nation for many years had a defense and security unknown to other nations and grew into great strength. The iron curtain nations need to have gates to keep their slaves within their nations. The New Order of the Ages, this new Jerusalem, has to have gates to keep people out.

"Twelve angels" symbolizes and signifies the fact that this great and high nation would have the help and intervention of God. And so we have.

The fact that the gates had the names of the twelve tribes of Israel on them is indicative of the fact that this nation would be founded and built by the Israel or Anglo-Saxon people. This is now a matter of history.

Verse 14 prophesied: "And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb."

The United States of America was the first nation since the birth of Christ to base both its religious faith and its civil administration upon the doctrine of the twelve apostles. While this New Order of the Ages has not as yet had its prophesied and promised cleansing, and while it is far from its God-appointed destiny, the plant has been planted, and God will watch over it to bring it to full fruition.

The Crime of the Ages USURY—INTEREST ON MONEY

I am interest: originally known as usury.

The Master forbade my practice, warning all men.

Even Christ turned me down and cast me out.

The Cannonical laws in middle age, forbade my use.

Martin Luther claimed my users should be hanged.
My users could not be buried on concentrated ground.
Estates of my users forfeited, their children disinherited.
The Fourteenth Century brought me classed with murders.
For Centuries I fought for recognition but to no avail for I was looked upon as most base and cruel by men.
Wherever I appeared I was despised and condemned
Yet I struggled on unceasingly, fighting for my use.
I used every crooked mind and crooked scheme.
I whispered in the ear of Man, that wealth was power.
I conceived the plan of greed, the road to wealth.
Men listened, my hearers multiplied in numbers.
They made laws for my use. They defied their Master:
I crept into the minds of millions asking Wealth and Power.

LISTEN TO INTEREST TALKING

Even nations adopted my use and fell into line.
Great Companies and Corporations were formed for me.
Now my agents cover the earth in about everything,
Even ruthless methods are applied for my gain.
My rate of toll is being increased beyond power to pay.
Today my toll runs into billions and billions a year,
Yet I multiply the debt of man and nations
That my toll will greatly increase from year to year.
The rich and poor alike are mine, Wealth is my aim.
Their Master now am I. I have the power and law.
The Master that gave man life, only can give him liberty.
He may open the eyes of man and rebel against me,
But until then, Men and Nations, must pay my price.
Men working, fighting, scheming for wealth and power
Yet they cannot escape me,

I AM INTEREST—THE CRIME OF THE AGES

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