

them as common things." The word "Samaria" is symbolic language — it does not mean the founding of the little nation back in Palestine. Samaria was the capital of ten-tribed Israel, and the word "Samaria" was used much as we speak of Washington, D.C. or of London or Berlin. These cities symbolize more than merely cities — they symbolize nations. So "the mountains of Samaria" here means the nations that were in the particular region with Samaria as their capital.

"For there shall be a day, that the watchmen upon the mount Ephraim shall cry, Arise ye, and let us go up to Zion unto the LORD our God." Ephraim is one of the Bible names of ten-tribed Israel. The prophet Jeremiah saw in vision and revelation the way our nation came into being. A great stir — a spirit of adventure and restlessness, also a desire for religious freedom — came upon the Israel people in Europe, and they said, "Arise ye, and let us go." And they came.

Let us follow on in verse 7 to see what a remarkable prophecy this is: "For thus saith the LORD; Sing with gladness for Jacob, and shout among the chief of the nations: publish ye, praise ye, and say, O LORD, save thy people, the remnant of Israel." Jacob is another name for the same Anglo-

Saxon people of today. We are the descendants of Jacob and Ephraim.

Jeremiah saw that this Zion nation would be developed by the people from the northern parts of Europe; he also foresaw that this nation would arise to become a powerful nation — "the chief of the nations." This, of course, is what Isaiah, Micah, Zephaniah and Joel also prophesied, and it is what Christ set forth in the kingdom parables.

Also foreseen was that this nation would have reason for gladness and shouting. When we compare the lot of Americans with that of millions of people in the Old World, we must readily admit that we have more to be glad and shout about than any other nation in all history.

We read on, "... praise ye, and say, O LORD, save thy people, the remnant of Israel" (or this representative number from all of the Israel people in Europe). God has delivered and prospered us.

"Behold, I will bring them from the north country (the northern part of Europe), and gather them from the coasts of the earth, and with them the blind and the lame, the woman with child and her that travaileth with child together; a great company shall return thither." Both figuratively and literally the people who founded this nation

were blind and lame. Certainly they did not fully realize what they were doing, nor did they see God's purpose in it.

How did they come? They came in small, helpless bands — just a handful of people came at a time, women and children among them.

Verse 9 is a further description of how they came: "They shall come with weeping, and with supplications will I lead them . . ." One can imagine the weeping that must have taken place as these people embarked in their little vessels to cross the huge ocean, a terrible prospect at that time. Today we can fly to America in the morning and fly back to Europe the next day or even the same day if we wish to do so. Not so at that time. These people realized that they might never see again their loved ones to whom they were bidding farewell.

Certainly there was weeping, but Zephaniah tells us they were also "suppliants" or praying people. The last thing the pilgrims did as they left the Old World was to pray. They prayed as they sailed in their vessels; they prayed before they left their ships and again as they stepped on the soil of the new continent. They came with supplication.

The Lord says, "I will cause them to walk by the rivers of

waters in a straight way, wherein they shall not stumble: for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn." This symbolic language indicates God would prosper and help them and undertake for them.

Verse 10: "Hear the word of the LORD, O ye nations, declare it in the isles afar off, and say, He that scattered Israel (God did scatter Israel, as we have repeatedly pointed out in this Bible study) will gather him . . ." The founding of the United States of America is the regathering of the Israel (or Anglo-Saxon) people. Representative numbers are here from all of the Israel people of Europe.

". . . and keep him, as a shepherd doth his flock." If the Lord has ever shepherded a nation He has done so for our nation.

"For the LORD hath redeemed Jacob, and ransomed him from the hand of him that was stronger than he." God's favor, intervention and blessings upon this nation are due to just one thing: the special blood covenant that God made in behalf of the Isaac-sons. This must not be confused and mistaken for the blood covenant of personal salvation, which was made hundreds of years before the special blood covenant with the Isaac-sons. This special blood covenant provided and promised (as we read in the first chapter of Luke) that the Israel people would be delivered