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"VIOLENCE AND TERROR"

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"The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence." (Genesis 6:11) God took care of that corruption and violence with a flood. In II Peter 3:6 and 7 we read: "Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men."

As God cleansed the earth with water in the time of Noah so God, in this end time, will cleanse the earth with fire. And that fire will be the "judgment and perdition of ungodly men."

In Luke 17:26 through 30 Christ used the flood in the time of Noah and the fire from heaven as examples of what would take place in this end time. In both cases Christ said, "and destroyed them all."

Who were the "them all" that were destroyed? Was it Lot and his family? Was it Noah and his family? No. They were protected and provided for. Throughout history God has used trouble, corruption, violence and terror to compel his kingdom people to return to the gospel of the kingdom. At such times God has provided for and protected the righteous.

This is not the same as the persecution of the church. The church age is closing, therefore the persecution of the church will diminish and cease forever. The kingdom is an earthly institution. The church is a spiritual institution.

In Matthew 13:43 Jesus said: "Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear." The sun in the scripture is a symbol for civil authority. "Shining forth" would indicate that the righteous would gradually come forth and have authority in things pertaining to government and the kingdom.

The two last chapters in the Old Scriptures are devoted almost entirely to this present end time. Read these two terrible, yet glorious chapters. And with these in mind we will quote the last verse in chapter 3: "Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not."

We should now begin to discern God's special blessing and favor to those who read and believe and appropiate the Word of God. According to Bible prophecy we now have come to the time of great violence and terror. And there are two opposite sources for this violence and terror.

In Revelation 18:21 we read: "And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with great violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all." Babylon symbolizes the sorcery and the deception of international finance, and it states in verse 23, "by thy sorceries were all nations deceived."

We now apparently have come to the time when the prophecy in Isaiah 13 is to be fulfilled. Verses 1 and 2 state: "The burden of Babylon, which Isaiah the son of Amoz did see. Lift ye up a banner upon the high mountain, exalt the voice unto them, shake the hand, that they may go into the gates of the nobles." The word "Babylon" in its broader meaning and use symbolizes not only pagan finance, it also symbolizes things in government, in religion, in education or in any other realm that are not in harmony with the gospel of the kingdom.

Verse 2 of Isaiah 13 indicates that the destruction of the Babylonian system, which has established itself in our midst, would first be destroyed in a "high mountain" or a great nation that had been exalted, and that people in these various activities, the leaders, would enter the gates of the nobles. In other words they would administer whatever their responsibility might be.

Verse 3 continues with the same thought. It states: "I have commanded my sanctified ones, I have also called my mighty ones for mine anger, even them that rejoice in my highness." "Sanctified ones" and "my mighty ones . . . that rejoice in my highness" could refer to angels, or it could refer to glorified saints that had returned to earth. It could also include humans here on earth.

Verses 4 and 5. We hear and see developments all the time. The expression, "the kingdoms of nations gathered together" is very evident to us today. "To destroy the whole land" I believe refers to the communists, the Edomites and the