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O America, America...

How often would I have gathered thee...and ye would not!

Message by: Leroy Surface

Has America reached the "point of no return?"

Is there no remedy for the ills that have destroyed our nation?

Jeremiah posed the question before Jerusalem was destroyed, "Is there no balm in Gilead?"

Why should America be destroyed, when our God in whom we once trusted still sits on the throne?

Jesus offers the "remedy," but at the same time shows why He cannot spare America;

"I would have gathered thee...
...and ye would not!"

Editors Note; The message for this month was first published in "The Shepherd's Voice" in 2004, just before the presidential elections of that year. The Lord had spoken in January 2001 that the duration of George Bush's presidency was given to America for a time to repent and return to Him (see the message "A Space for Repentance" in March 2001 "Behold the Lamb"). Obviously America did not repent, and God has begun to give America the just reward of those nations that turn away from God. We believe this message to have even more meaning today than when it was first given.

O America, America



Message by: Leroy Surface

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate: and verily I say unto

you, Ye shall not see me, until the time come when ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Luke 13:34-35

I can hear the "weeping" in the voice of our Lord as he spoke these words over Jerusalem. I can feel his broken heart as he foretold her destruction.

And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it, saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes. For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, and shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation."

Luke 19:41-44

Jerusalem would never know the wonderful things that were prepared for her. Her "fullness of times" had come. Her "Messiah" was teaching in her streets. The hour that all the prophets of God since the beginning of time had prophesied of had arrived. The time of God's visitation upon Israel had come, and they knew Him not. He would have gathered them into Himself, but they would not. The Apostle John said it this way; "He came unto His own, and His own received Him not" (John 1:11). Nothing remained for Jerusalem but desolation and destruction. Only forty years later, all these things were fulfilled.

Nineteen hundred and seventy four years later (2004), I can hear the weeping in His voice once more. This time His message begins with...

O America, America ...how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not!

There is a perfect parallel between God's dealing with Old Testament Israel and modern day America. Just as the "land of Canaan" was a land prepared for the children of Israel; a land called "The Land of Milk and Honey," so America was to those brave men and women that crossed the ocean seeking a place of freedom to worship God and His Son, Jesus Christ. Just as Canaan was the "Land of Promise" to the Hebrew, so America became the Land of Promise to multitudes from every nation who came seeking freedom from oppression. When our American forefathers declared our independence from England, they wrote these words in the Declaration of Independence: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of

Happiness." With these words the fathers of our nation acknowledged that it is God that bestows "rights" and "liberties" upon the people. With this in mind, the Law of God, while not explicitly expressed, became the basis for our Constitution and government. From the beginning, every branch of our government honored both God and our Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible was a text from which our children were educated in the schools of the land. Our Christian heritage is literally "carved in stone," as any visitor to our national monuments in Washington D.C. will quickly see. Our presidents are sworn into office with their hand on the Bible, as is every other elective official, swearing by the Word of God to uphold the Constitution of the United States, concluding with these words, "...so help me God." Any official that would not take this oath could not serve. Every session of Congress even to this day begins with an "invocation," invoking the blessings of God upon that day's work. From the beginning, until recent years, every person bearing witness in a court of law at any level of government was "sworn in" with his right hand on the Bible. This was a Christian nation. Even the Supreme Court of a hundred years ago found it to be so.

When Jesus wept over Jerusalem, it was because He knew what "could have been (Luke 19:42)." He also knew the things that were coming upon the city because of its sins (Luke 19:43-44). In Revelation 1:19 the Apostle John was instructed to "Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter." Beginning in the second chapter of Revelation, Jesus gave John seven messages to deliver to the seven churches in Asia. In each of these the Lord "examined (I know thy works etc.)" the works of the ministers and churches. These revealed the "present" condition of the churches in John's day. These were the "things which are." The "things which shall be hereafter" are always based upon "things which are." The entire world was brought into a period of over a thousand years called the "Dark Ages" because of the spiritual condition of the churches at the end of the first

century. America is about to reap a terrible harvest because of the condition of her church at the end of the twentieth century. This is the law of sowing and reaping. The things that have been sown in America for the past generation will bring a harvest of sorrow, and it is beginning even now.

A Space for Repentance

If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people;

II Chronicles 7:13

It was God Himself that spoke these words to King Solomon. Modern theology does not allow that the God we serve would ever "shut up the heavens that it rain not," or, "command the locusts to devour the land," or, "send the pestilence among His people," yet these were the most common disciplines that God used upon His people Israel in the Old Testament. Only in rare instances did He give them into the hands of their enemies. There were times that the land of Israel was literally destroyed by a combination of drought, locusts, fire, pestilence, etc. In those times, repentance was the only remedy. God called on the people to "Turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil (Joel 2:12-13)." Even if the drought was in the land; if the locust were devouring every green thing; or if the pestilence was among the people, God said...

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

II Chronicles 7:14

This is the only remedy God gives for the condition America is in today. The "heavens" have been shut up. There is no national revival. The "locusts" have attacked our land. Fear of terrorism is everywhere. The "pestilence" is among God's people. Hordes of demonic spirits have invaded the land and have even found a place in many churches in America. In II Thessalonians 2:10-12 the scripture says, "...because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness." Did you notice that it is God that sends "strong delusion" to those who do not "love the truth?" Those people in the "church" who have "pleasure in unrighteousness" refuse the truth of God. They will believe the lie of the devil, and they will be damned. It was God that sent an evil spirit to King Saul when he was rejected for his disobedience (I Samuel 16:14-16, 23, I Samuel 18:10-11). It was God that sent a lying spirit into the mouth of King Ahab's prophets when God determined to destroy the wicked king (I Kings 22;20-23). God was preparing these for destruction, in every case, because of their rebellion against Him.

America's sins have reached up into heaven. They have come up before God as an insult to the "grace" He has bestowed upon our nation. His greatest anger is reserved for those who have "despised" His grace. The writer in Hebrews 10:28-29 explains this; "He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?" Who among us can rightly answer this question? The writer continues in the next verses, "For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. It is a fearful thing

to fall into the hands of the living God (Heb 10:30-31)." Our great nation is about to "fall into the hands of the living God."

The first day of the third millennium A.D. was January 1, 2001. The year 2000 was actually the last year of the second millennium. It was also the last year of a very corrupt administration in American government. For almost forty years a cultural war has been waged in America, although it has been a very one sided battle. It seems that most of the church, as well as "moral" America, were asleep while the enemy crept in over the wall. The secularist had their agenda from the beginning, and patiently pursued their goals, winning victory after victory while men slept. During the latter part of the nineties, our federal courts were filled with secularists, atheists, and otherwise amoral men and women. The stage was set for the most immoral and corrupt group of politicians I suppose this nation has ever seen to accomplish a complete takeover of American government through the legal processes. Only the hand of God in His mercy kept their plans from being brought to full fruition. For the first time in history we had a presidential election, in the year 2000, which was so close that it took six weeks to determine who the next president would be. During that period of six weeks, I saw that America was being "weighed" in the balances. I believe with all my heart that it was the mercy of God that gave us a man that professed Jesus Christ as his savior to be our president. The Spirit of God spoke to me, as I wrote in a message titled "Space for Repentance," that the duration of the presidency of George W Bush would be a "space for repentance" for America. We could be assured of only three and a half years to affect America for Jesus. If this did not happen, the things coming on America would be too horrible to even speak of. I tell you, that day has come. The Lord spoke these things to me over nine months before 9-11. The things coming upon America today are too horrible to speak of, but we must.

Fitted for Destruction

What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction...

Romans 9:22-23

The scripture speaks of peoples, cities, and nations that were "fitted for destruction." God literally "prepares" nations for destruction before His wrath is poured out upon it. America fits in that category today. We, as a nation, are being "fitted for destruction." It is the nature of God that He does not destroy "good" nations, and America has been a good nation, but we have rejected God, and He must reject us. In Genesis 15:16, God explained to Abraham that it would be four generations before his children would possess Canaan. The reason given was, "for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full." God will not destroy even the heathen nations until their "iniquity is full." America is presently being filled to the brim, and, if there is not godly sorrow and repentance soon, we as a nation will drink to the fullness of God's wrath.

The fact is, America has been on the way of destruction for the past forty years. It began slowly, but we have reached the snowball effect. We are witnessing an "explosion" of iniquity across our land. Several things are established in the first chapter of Romans concerning how God dealt with Israel, and how He is dealing with America today. First, in Romans 1:18, Paul says, "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness." Notice, the "wrath of God" is revealed against those "who hold the truth in unrighteousness." Some say, "...who hold back the truth in unrighteousness," but it matters not which is correct, for either version fits America perfectly. We can understand why Peter told us that "judgment must begin at the house of God (I Peter 4:17)," for it is at the "house of God" that the truth has been either "held," or "held back" in unrighteousness. In reading II Chronicles 7:14, notice

that God begins the verse saying, "If my people..." and ends with "...heal their land." Notice closely: He said "My people," and "their land." America is our land. It belongs to Jesus Christ, and He says it is our land. We are to keep our land. We are the salt and the light of America, but sadly the salt has lost its savor (Matthew 5:13), and the light has been darkened (Matthew 6:23). Church! Child of God! We have a great responsibility to America, our land. We cannot wait for the pornographer, the abortionist, the drug pusher, or the secularist politician to repent and pray; they will not. God said if we, who are called by His name would humble ourselves and pray, He would hear. If we will seek His face, He will forgive, and if we will turn from our wicked way. He will heal our land. Child of God let us weep in the altar of God for the sins of both the church and the nation. Call for God's mercy to be shown upon this great nation, by turning us from our sins.

In the first chapter of Romans it is revealed that the sins which bring God's judgment are always spiritual. God's response is always to give them up, or, surrender the people to the desires of their own heart. Due to the fact that the "land (nation)" belongs to God's people, it is the entire nation that suffers because of the sins against God. We will see several examples of this in the scripture.

Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Romans 1:21-23

This can only speak of a people who once knew God. America has not glorified God as God, even in the days we as a nation yet knew Him. The problem, however, issues from the church. Above thirty years of continuously preaching "material prosperity" from the pulpits of America has turned the people from the "glory of the uncorruptible God" to "corruptible" things.

Instead of seeking God, we seek corruptible things, or, we seek God in pretense, in hope of receiving corruptible things. We, as a nation and as a church, have worshiped the corruptible things of this life. God's judgment for these things is given in the next verses.

Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves.

Romans 1:24

We look at America's popular culture and it is unclean. Americans have sought out entertainment after "the lusts of their own heart." The comedians, the singers, the movies, even the TV advertisements; the subject of almost all is the "body;" that is, the "naked body." Some would say that this generation has "glorified" their bodies: God said they have "dishonoured their own bodies between themselves," and He has given them up to do so. Stephen told us that when Israel worshiped the golden calf, God "gave them up to worship the host of heaven (the stars and the planets, Acts 7:41-43)." God does not restrain the people from the "desires" of their own heart nearly so much as He "gives them up" to them (Psalms 78:29-31). The uncleanness that is filling America is God's judgment against our spiritual sins. America has forgotten God, but He has not forgotten America. Adultery is commonplace in America because God has given us up to it. Over fifty percent of America's "firstborn" are born outside of marriage, because God has given us up to uncleanness. Name any of the many immoralities found in America today. They are here because we, as a church and as a nation, chose to worship the corruptible.

The next "sin" that has brought even greater judgment from God is found in Romans 1:25

Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever.

Romans 1:25

The gospel of Jesus Christ has been so twisted and perverted by man's philosophies and traditions that, as it is preached today, it has absolutely no power to save a single soul. They have changed the truth of God into a lie. The "believer" today is the object of all things in today's church. Both the nation and its church have become the "me" generation. The "gospel (it is no gospel: Galatians 1:6-7) that is preached across America today leaves the sinner just as it found them; in sin, in a struggle, and in bondage. It seeks to give a good "self image," a "positive confession," and hundreds of "principles" of "self improvement" to its believers. It promises "liberty" to the believer, but holds them prisoner to the "bondage of corruption (II Peter 2:18-19). The "twisting" of the gospel of Christ into the "lie" of the "man-centered" gospel of today has brought a second severe judgment of God upon our nation. It is revealed in the next two verses.

For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.

Romans 1:26-27

Clearly, the "vile affections" that God has given America up to is manifest in homosexualism, lesbianism, sodomy, oral sex, and every other perversion that is filling our nation today. Again, it is easy to look at these perversions that are rampant in today's America and warn that God is going to judge us for these things. The truth is, these things are the judgment of God against us. Man has perverted God's word and the gospel of Jesus Christ. The "just recompence" is that God has given our nation up to perversion.

Why Would God Do This?

We, as a nation, are being "fitted for destruction." Every nation that has once known God and forgotten Him has been turned into hell (Psalms 9:17). America will be no different. Look back into history. Find the nation that was given up to uncleanness and to vile affections that did not come to its end. Did any nation continue long after it approved sodomy? Did Sodom and Gomorrah? Rome? Jerusalem (I Kings 14:24, II Kings 23:7)? When you see marriage approved for two men, or two women, you can know that God's anger against this nation is being kindled. He has "given us up" to these things that will destroy us. Reading on to the end of the first chapter of Romans gives us a final description of our nation:

And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

Romans 1:28-32

Reading and understanding these things, it is clear that our iniquity is being filled to the fullness. How long can it be before God says it is enough? How much precious time will be wasted before God's people weep in the altars before God for their land?

The Locusts

And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bot-

tomless pit. And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit. And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. Revelation 9:1-3

And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates. And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men.

Revelation 9:13-15

I received a vision from the Lord in the year 1987. In the vision I was laboring in a harvest field along with numerous men and women. Throughout the morning, I would occasionally see a giant "grasshopper" of a variety I had seen when I was just a child on the farm. They were large and colorful, and in a strange way, pretty to look at. At the noon hour, the owner of the field gathered the workers for a short meeting, and this is what he said; "We have just one day to get this harvest in the barn, because when night falls, great swarms of locusts are coming, and there will be nothing left." I could not understand, in 1987, what this vision meant. I did know that it had to do with the locusts that would come out of the pit at the sounding of the fifth trumpet, but I did not know exactly what they would be. Today I know we are living in the "night of the locust." The "pit" has been opened. The "smoke" has ascended, and out of the smoke has come the locusts.

The fifth and the sixth trumpets of the ninth chapter of Revelation are directly connected, the one following the other after a short period of time as the "locusts" reach the "swarm" stage. I am totally convinced that the "locusts" of Revelation 9:1-3 are the Islamic terrorist. The "first" sign of the locusts was in 1979

when the Islamics in Iran took the American Embassy and held our people hostage for a period of about a year. ABC's "Nightline" broadcast with Ted Koppel originated at that time with a nightly newscast titled "America Held Hostage." This took place in the last year of President Jimmy Carter's administration. Several incidents took place during President Reagan's watch, including the bombing of military quarters in Lebanon, resulting in the deaths of dozens of our young men. The main event of President Bush's administration from 1989-1992 was the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq, which triggered "Desert Storm." During President Clinton's administration, 1993-2000, there was an increase in terrorist activity, including the first bombing of the twin towers in New York City, the bombing of several of our embassies around the world, and the bombing of our warship in Yeman. Then came "9-11," less than nine months into George W. Bush's presidency. The pictures are forever burned into the minds of every American that saw them. The planes flying into the towers; the smoke ascending; the towers collapsing; the "pit" opened, and the smoke ascending out of the "pit." Do I believe this was literally the "pit" of

The Locusts Are Swarming:

Since 2004 when this message was written, radical Islamist have spread into every nation on earth. Watch the insurrection that is taking place in the Muslim nations at present. If the radical elements of Islam are successful, Israel will be surrounded with nations that seek her annihilation. Certainly the fifth trumpet is sounding, and the sixth trumpet is prepared.

Revelation 9:1-3? No! I do not; but I do see "9-11" as a visible sign to all who have eyes to see, that the pit is opened and the locusts are swarming.

Mohammad, according to ancient Arab tradition, believed that he was the leader of the "locust army of God." He related several incidents in which messages from

Allah were sent to him written on the wings of a locust. The first of these "locusts" was said to have the words "We are the

locust army of God" written on its wings. This, of course, is a direct reference to the book of the prophet Joel and the second chapter. Hear the description Joel gives of the day of the locusts:

- 1. Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand;
- 2. A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations.
- 3. A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them.
- 4. The appearance of them is as the appearance of horses; and as horsemen, so shall they run.
- 5. Like the noise of chariots on the tops of mountains shall they leap, like the noise of a flame of fire that devoureth the stubble, as a strong people set in battle array.
- 6. Before their face the people shall be much pained: all faces shall gather blackness.
- 7. They shall run like mighty men; they shall climb the wall like men of war; and they shall march every one on his ways, and they shall not break their ranks:
- 8. Neither shall one thrust another; they shall walk every one in his path: and when they fall upon the sword, they shall not be wounded.
- 9. They shall run to and fro in the city; they shall run upon the wall, they shall climb up upon the houses; they shall enter in at the windows like a thief.

- 10. The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining:
- 11. And the LORD shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp is very great: for he is strong that executeth his word: for the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; and who can abide it? Joel 2:1-11

Daniel told of a "time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time (Daniel 12:1)." Jesus spoke of that same time period in these words; "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be (Matthew 24:21)." In the gospel of Mark it is described in this way; "For in those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be (Mark 13:19)." Now notice the words we read in Joel 2:2; "there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it." Certainly each of these prophets and our Lord Jesus Christ were telling of the same time period. We are living at the beginnings of that most horrible day. It will no longer suffice for the believer to deny the events in the world around us by covering themselves with doctrines that say, "It can't happen until we are gone." Oh church, awaken to the fact that we are still here, and "it" is here also.

In Joel 2:8, the last phrase says, "...and when they shall fall upon the sword, they shall not be wounded." This is a most amazing prophecy. It speaks of the "suicide bomber." To "fall upon the sword" has been a term used for thousands of years for taking your own life. King Saul died by "falling on his sword (I Samuel 31:4-5)." The term never speaks of an accidental falling of a sword: it is a deliberate act of taking one's own life. The scripture said, "they shall not be wounded," but, according to Strong's Concordance, this phrase should be translated "they shall not be stopped."

At the sounding of the sixth trumpet, four "angels (principalities?)" are loosened that were bound in the river Euphrates. These are prepared to slay "the third part of men (Revelation 9:14-15)." In the sixteenth verse the number of their army is revealed as two hundred million. In the seventeenth verse, it is said they wear "breastplates of fire, jacinth, and brimstone." What an amazing prophecy. Just as Joel had revealed five hundred years before, now John's Revelation reveals the "suicide bomber" that would come in our day. The word "jacinth" is the color "blue." We know what the "fire and brimstone" is. What could better describe the suicide vest than "breastplates of fire...and brimstone?"

God Commands the Locusts

Finally, in Joel 2:11, we are told, "And the LORD shall utter

God Commands the Locusts:

The prophet Joel said that the "locusts" are the "army of God's judgment." America must accept the fact that her controversy is not with Islam; it is with God. It is God that calls for the locusts, and it is God who would destroy the locusts if America would repent (Joel 2:20). The advance of Islam will not be stopped if there is no repentance. This present conflict will escalate until the sixth trumpet sounds, and one third of all men will be slain. The world has never seen such a calamity as that which will soon take place if the nations do not return to God.

his voice before army." This we must understand, it is that "commands" locusts. They are not his people, but they are his army of judgment. Notice II Chronicles 7:13. where God says, "If I command the locust to devour the land." Exodus 10:4 God brought the locusts into the land of Egypt because of the hardness of Pharaoh's heart. The land was being devoured by the locusts when Pharaoh called for Mo-

ses with this repentance: "I have sinned against the LORD your God, and against you. Now therefore forgive, I pray thee, my

sin only this once, and intreat the LORD your God, that he may take away from me this death only (Exodus 10:16-17)." After Pharaoh's "repentance," God took the locusts out of Egypt, and "there remained not one locust in all the coasts of Egypt (Exodus 10:19)." It is God that commands the locusts. He can bring them in, and He can take them out. He is in control, even when things seem so out of control. Psalms 105:34 says, "He spake, and the locusts came, and caterpillers, and that without number..."

Sealed by God: According to Revelation 9:4. the locusts have power to hurt "...only those men which HAVE NOT the seal of God in their foreheads." Ephesians 1:13 speaks of being "sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise" which Jesus indicated in Acts 1:4-5 is the baptism with the Holy Ghost. Those who are filled with the Spirit, with the Holy Ghost working in them will not be hurt by the swarming of the locusts. Do not be deceived. The judgment will begin at the house of God, and only those who are "sealed by God" will be Read the ninety first safe. Psalm.

Is it hard to accept that it is "our God" that commands the locusts? No. it is rather a cause for rejoicing on the part of the child of God. In Revela-9:4 we tion are told. "And it was commandthat ed them thev should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads." The locusts are "commanded" not to hurt those with the seal of God in there In foreheads. **Ezekiel** 9:4-6. before Nebu-

chadnezzar destroyed Jerusalem, God sent His angel to place a mark on the forehead of all those that "sighed," and "cried," for all the abominations that were committed in the land. When the destroyers came, God commanded them to "Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin

at my sanctuary (Ezekiel 9:6)." Please notice that it was those that "sighed and cried" because of the abominations that were identified as God's own people. It wasn't their position in the religion of the day that saved them. In fact, it was the abominations that were committed in the Temple of God that raised the anger of God to the point of no return. When the slaughter began, it began at the house of God, but not even one person that wept before God because of Israel's sin perished that day. Our God is in control.

Why the Locusts Come

And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see,

Why the Locusts Come:

The five sins that will bring the destruction of every nation that once knew God are listed in Revelation 9:20-21. We have warned repeatedly for many years of the judgment of God that is coming to America because of these five sins. There is no possibility that America can be restored to her former glory and prosperity as long as these sins remain. It is because of these sins that one third of all men will be slain in the coming time of trouble.

nor hear, nor walk: Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts. Revelation 9:20-21

This text projects to sometime in the future after millions of people have been slaughtered on both sides. The scripture says "a third part" of men shall be slain. After a holocaust of unprecedented proportions, scripture says that those who survive will still refuse to repent. Five sins are revealed in Revelation 9:20-21

as the reason the "locusts" have come to America. They are listed below, and they are American sins.

1. Idolatry

America has forsaken God, the Father of Jesus Christ. The secularists in America even seek to change our history to deny that we were ever a "Christian nation." The truth is, America was not only founded on Godly and scriptural principles, but God Himself inspired many of our founding fathers in laying the foundation of this great nation. They sought the blessing and guidance of "the almighty" and received it. If ever a nation was birthed with a Godly heritage, America was. We were a nation with a "birthright" from God, but as Esau of old, we have "despised" our birthright.

Until about a generation ago, America was considered to be a "Christian" nation. Our immigration laws were such that very few "non-Christians" were permitted to enter. In fact, until 1965, only about 300,000 immigrants per year were allowed to enter this nation, most of which came from northern Europe. The testing for immigration was such that the average immigrant was as highly educated as the average American. Often it was the "brightest" and the "best" of the European nations that came to America. For whatever reasons, mostly economic, almost no immigration was allowed from Africa, Asia, or other "third world" nations. In 1965 congress changed our immigration policy, dropping virtually all barriers of economic or literacy testing. These changes opened the floodgates of immigration from formerly prohibited nations. Since 1965 we have seen a steady flow of Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, etc. into America, bringing their "gods" with them. From our foundation as a nation until 1965 we were a "monotheistic" nation. We were "...one nation, under (one) God, indivisible..." Today America is a "polytheistic" nation, meaning in the simplest terms, we are an "idolatrous" nation. America serves many "gods." We are a "divided" nation, and the lines that divide us cannot be erased by the legislative efforts of mans lawmakers. We have broken the first commandment of the one true God, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me."

Hath a nation changed their gods, which are yet no gods? but my people have changed their glory for that which doth not profit.

Jeremiah 2:11

2. Murders (abortion)

Never in the history of the world has there been such senseless murder of innocents as has taken place in America in the past generation. I speak, of course, of Abortion. Near fifty million of our children have been violently destroyed in the past thirty years, and not one person has been arrested or given account for these murders. The scripture says, "If we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged (I Corinthians 11:31)." It is not the murderers that sit on death row that angers God; instead, it is those "murders" that are "approved" by our national laws. We must hear the cry of fifty million innocent souls, crying (if I may impute the cry of the martyrs in Revelation 6:10), "How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?" The time is at hand.

3. Sorceries (drug culture)

In today's America it seems the "answer" to every personal problem of man is "another drug." No longer do we believe man's problems to be "spiritual" in nature, it is just a "chemical imbalance" in the brain. Our public school systems have long ago ruled against "corporal punishment (swats)" for discipline; instead, they have forced our children into the "drug culture" as a control mechanism. Tens of thousands of our children have been drugged into "zombie-like" states rather than have the teachers and principals mete out punishment as in past generations.

It was in the late fifties or the early sixties that the medical community began to discover so many "miracle drugs." I am speaking specifically of the "mood altering" drugs that were prescribed for depression, anxiety, etc. I can remember that many people, especially young wives and mothers, became

"hooked" on valiums that were prescribed by their doctors to help them "cope" with life. People took pills to go to sleep; pills to wake up; pills to calm them, and pills to energize them. Diet pills and pain pills alike were addictive, and many honest, decent people became addicted to legal drugs that were prescribed by their doctors. Then we experienced a strange phenomenon. The children of the sixties suddenly began "craving" drugs. It is the opinion of this writer that they were born that way, not by "genetics," but by "sharing" the addictions of their mothers while yet in the womb. Very often it was pregnant women that most relied on valiums, etc, to help them cope. It was our "legal" drug culture that produced the illegal culture of the sixties and seventies which destroyed an entire generation of our youth.

The "drug culture" is the third sin of five that have destroyed America. God called it "sorcery." The Greek word that was translated "sorceries" in Revelation 9:21is "pharmakeia," and simply means "medication (Strong's Concordance)." Our English word "pharmacy" is derived from the same Greek word. The same word is translated as "witchcraft" in Galatians 5:20." Please understand this: this is not meant as a message to cause anyone to throw away their medicines, such as those for blood pressure, diabetes, etc. Our society, however, has become dependent on drugs. One of the major political issues in the land today is which party will give "drugs" to American citizens. Drugs are so much a part of our culture that many seem to think free access to them is a "constitutional right." God have mercy on us! They have weakened our society, and they destroy us.

The use of illegal drugs in America is totally out of control. Drug usage is the number one cause of the breakdown of the family unit in America. Millions of young men across our land cannot function in society. Their brains have literally been "burned up" by the drugs they have taken. They cannot get a job and could not keep it if they did. They often have "fathered" children by several different women, and cannot support a wife, much less the children. Today there is a generation

spawned by the drug culture that has literally taken on the nature and appearance of devils. They are "mutilating" their bodies, cutting them with knives (the manner of the Baal worshipers in I Kings 18:28), covering them with tattoos, and piercing them in every conceivable place. Our nation's children continually feed on "music" that glorifies rape, violence, murder, incest, rebellion, and every evil thing. There is a totally demonized generation in America today. It is the natural byproduct of our "drug culture." God called it "witchcraft," and "sorcery."

Fornication:

The trend among America's young people not to marry, but to "cohabitate" with their "fiancée" is fornication. It is a trend that is beaccepted in manv churches through a "don't ask, don't tell" policy just like our nation has observed for gays in the military. To have Sexual relations before marriage or without marriage is fornication. destroying our families, but not only our families, but our nation also.

4. Fornication

The Greek word translated "fornication" is "porneia." Strong's Concordance gives its meaning as "harlotry." My English dictionary goes into some depth defining the word "harlotry." It includes vulgar language (ribaldry), body language and jesting (buffoonery), adultery, incest, and lewdness. prostitution, Our word "pornography" is derived from the Greek "porneia." Every sexual act other than the natural relationship between a man and his wife is included as fornication. All

"unnatural" sexual activity, hence homosexuality, sodomy, oral sex, masturbation, etc. comes under the judgment of God in this text. America, in this generation only, has given approval to things which God judges as fornication.

5. Thefts

Our prison system in America overflows because of those young men that steal to support their drug addictions. Our prison population is presently larger than any other nation on earth, yet we still do not have room enough for all those being brought into the system. We are, beyond any doubt, a violent and immoral society. It is not, however, the men and women who are presently serving time in our prisons that stirs the anger of God. Instead, it is those murders, sorceries, fornications, and thefts that are "approved" by American law that brings the anger of God against our nation. We remember that Paul told us "If we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged" (I Corinthians 11:31). America has lost the ability to judge herself; therefore God must judge us.

America has become a greedy nation. Almost every institution

The Failure of All Things:

For many years, beginning in the early seventies, this ministry warned of the failure of all the things that people put their trust in other than Jesus Christ. We foresaw the day that America's financial system would fail, that the medical system would fail, and the educational system would fail. These are the three major problems in America today. Certainly, what God says will come to pass in its season.

in the land has corporately taken on that character of greed. Government agencies all the way from the federal bureaucracies down through the states, counties, cities, and townships, all the way down to the local mud districts. have developed an insatiable appetite for The power monev. levy taxes on the citizens has been so abused that it many has. in reached the level of "ex-

tortion." Many large corporations have become so greedy they would sell America to the enemy for larger profits. We have become a society of people looking for someone to sue. They seek to receive "The American Dream," which has been perverted to mean "rich and famous," at someone else's expense. Trial lawyers have carefully cultivated this mindset among the people. Rather than "work hard, be honest and patient," the cry is "I want it, and I want it now." It makes no difference who

they must step on or hurt in the process, "if it is legal," they think, "it's alright." We have gone beyond the point of no return on these issues. It will take God Himself to change this character, and He will, whether through revival, or judgment.

Our national greed has reached even into the medical community. There was a time, in my lifetime, that hospitals were mostly non-profit institutions, operated by religious charitable organizations. A hospital room was ten dollars a night, a doctor's visit

Editor's Note: While a visit to the emergency room can cost a thousand dollars an hour, and the birth of a baby can cost ten thousand dollars, the same baby could be aborted for less than five hundred dollars. This is only one of the great "shames" in America that brings the anger of God.

was three to five dollars, and a working man could go to the emergency room and afford to pay the bill when he left. This was at a time when the average man earned about \$1.50 per hour. The family doctor most often was the "wealthy" man in town, living in the "brick" home, and driving the "nice" car. He was also highly respected and loved by the entire community. Today, it is not uncommon for a "four hour op-

eration" to cost more than the patient makes in a year's wages. Your time in the emergency may cost a thousand dollars an hour, and your overnight stay if admitted, two thousand dollars plus. It is true that millions of people have abused the medical system, but, never mind, there is a government agency somewhere that will pay the bill.

In Luke 12:15, Jesus said, "Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth." Sadly, this greed, this covetousness, has reached even into the house of God. In fact, it was "birthed" at the house of God. For many years the number one text that was preached in American churches was found in III John 1:2, "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." The

"beloved" mentioned in this text is shown in the previous verse to be "the wellbeloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth." This was Paul's "wish" for his good friend Gaius. God doesn't "wish!" It is a gross error to teach a child of God that, "above everything else, God wants you to prosper in this world." That thought has destroyed the American church. That thought, if it were true, would negate personal holiness, righteousness, and every other purpose of God for His children, because, personal riches would be above all other things in the eyes of God. How absurd. Turning the truth of God into this lie introduced covetousness, greed, extortion, and every other evil known to man into the church. It was preached from the pulpits across America, and God gave our nation up to greed and extortion. It is a true saying that Paul told Timothy in I Timothy 6:10, "...the love of money is the root of all evil."

The pursuit of earthly riches has produced, once more, a "den of thieves" in the house of God. When preachers "extort" money from the people through the promise of riches to come, they are "extortionist." Peter spoke of false teachers that would be in the church in the last days, saying, "Their hearts they have exercised with covetous practices (II Peter 2:14)." The next verse says they "follow the way of Balaam...who loved the wages of unrighteousness." Balaam "prophesied" for money; these "preach" for money. The goal of every service, message, teaching, or prophecy, is money. Jesus drove them out in the days of His earthly ministry. The judgment that is coming will drive them out again, unless their repentance with godly sorrow is heard once again in the altars of God.

How Did We Get Here?

How is the faithful city become an harlot! it was full of judgment; righteousness lodged in it; but now murderers.

Isaiah 1:21

The first chapter of the book of Romans describes the course of spiritual degeneration that Israel took. Beginning with Romans

1:18, "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness," Paul reveals upon who, and why, God's anger is so stirred as to destroy nations. God's greatest anger is held in reserve for those who have known the truth and have turned away from it. "For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them." (II Peter 2:21) "He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?" (Hebrews 10:28-29) America is a nation that has known God. We once honored Jesus Christ in our schools, our colleges, and in our universities. Many of our universities that now espouse atheism and spew out amorality upon their students had their beginnings as schools of theology with great men of God as their founders and presidents. Every branch of our government gave honor to Jesus Christ and used the Bible as basis for laws and judgments. Within my lifetime, even lawyers, judges, and prosecutors quoted the scriptures in their arguments and/or rulings. This did not mean they were "born of God," but they "honored" God and His word. The testimony of a "man of God" carried great weight in the court proceedings. America was as the "faithful city" of Isaiah 1:21, but has become the "harlot" of the same text. We were the land of justice and righteousness, but we have become the land of violence and injustice. Our lawyers are suing for greed and oppression. Many among them have become nothing more than professional "extortionists." Many of our judges have become perhaps the single greatest threat in America. No power from without could ever do so much to destroy this nation as our federal judges are doing from within. They are forcing vast cultural changes upon our nation, changes that give immorality and amorality the

standing and approval of law, while seeking to brand the God fearing citizens as evil and immoral.

Conclusion

Over ninety five percent of Americans profess to believe in "God." Over ninety percent could be said to be "Christian" in their belief in God. These statistics, however, do not reflect the realities of the present American experience. If even fifty percent of Americans were truly "Christian," this nation would be a vastly different place to live. Crime would be almost non-existent. Our neighborhoods would be safe, as well as our parks and playgrounds. Pornography would vanish, and teen-age pregnancies would be in the single digits, percentage wise.

Savorless Salt Light that is Darkness!

A poll that was released on the "Glen Beck" program recently revealed that the divorce rate among atheists (23%) is actually lower "Christians" than among those (27%) who claim to be "born again." The same poll showed the problems with adultery, pornography, drugs, and child abuse are the same among those who claim to be "born again" as among the general population. This is the result of the "deception" that people believe they will be "born again" by simply repeating a prayer with a preacher, and not by first "dying" to sin "with Christ" at His cross. No wonder the apostle Peter says "...judgment must begin at house of God" (I Peter 4:17).

Most of our prisons would be torn down. Taxes would no longer be oppressive. The laws of our land would reflect Christian values, and no one that denied the Lord Jesus Christ would waste their time to run for public office. A11 these things would be true if only fifty perof Americans cent were "truly" Christian. If only twentyfive percent of Americans were truly Christian, this nation would be a "paradise" when compared to today. The "true" Christian is "salt" and "light"

to the world around us. Jesus said, "if the salt have lost is savour, wherewith shall it be salted?" (Matthew 5:13) Jesus said the "savorless salt" would be cast out and trodden under foot of men. Jesus also said, "If the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness?" (Matthew 6:23) The vast majority in America that refer to themselves as "Christians" are, in fact, "savorless salt," and "light that is darkness."

Our problem stems from the fact that we do not "glorify God as God." The "god" of most Americans is nothing more than a "fairy-tale." They believe in God as a child would believe in Santa Claus, yet never so fervently. Their "faith" has not affected the way they do business. It has not changed the things that entertain them. They believe a gospel that does nothing more than forgive them as they continue to sin. The text says, "Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools."

Oh how we need the rain from heaven! The heavens have been shut up to America for some time and there has been no true revival. The spiritual drought is devastating. The land is barren and parched for the lack of the rain from heaven. In reading the book of Joel we notice it is the drought in the first chapter that prepares the way for the locust army of the second chapter. The drought, the locusts, and the pestilence were always the sword of the LORD against His people in the day of their backsliding. God said, "If I shut up heaven...or if I command the locusts...or if I send pestilence." We have been deluded into thinking God will do only good to America. We are so much like Old Testament Israel, knowing they were God's chosen people, and believing that God would never judge them for their sins. The Spirit of the LORD repeatedly warned Israel of the anger of the LORD against His nation Israel. The time of God's wrath did come against His own people, and their land, their city, and their temple were destroyed and left desolate. Many of the inhabitants of the land were carried away captive to Babylon. The rest were slaughtered without mercy by the sword of the Babylonian armies. Years later, writing the history of these things, the

scribe wrote these words in II Chronicles 36:15-16; "And the LORD God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling place: But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy."

There is still a remedy for America, but there is so little time. There must be yet an awakening throughout the land. We must see a visitation of the Holy Spirit of God. He will visit us; His visitation will bring either revival or wrath, it is up to us. The only remedy God gives for the problems that face America is found in II Chronicles 7:14, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." America's future is held in the hands of God, and thus in the hands of His people in America. The heavens are shut up to rain (revival), He has commanded the locusts, and He has sent the pestilence. Our conflict is not with the nations of the world, or with the Arabs or the Muslims; it is with God almighty. If God is pleased with America, no nation or people on this planet can hurt us. God is not pleased, and we will see the basest of men destroy us until there is repentance and a return to Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

"...till there was no remedy." When I wrote this message in 2004, there was a remedy for America if we would accept it. Today, I do not know if America has crossed the point of no return. The prophet Joel probably said it best in Joel 2:12-14; "Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil. Who knoweth if he will return and repent, and leave a blessing behind him;

THE OLD CANE-BOTTOMED CHAIR



BE WATCHING for Betty Jean's TV program on the Church Channel: Thursday, 8:30 AM EST 7:30 AM CST 6:30 AM MST 5:30 AM PST

As I grow older, memories seem to flow across my mind, and I have wondered, Lord, why do I know you when so many are lost? Oh, wonderful salvation!

I remember a dream I had when I was 12 years old, in our little 3 room home in Kentucky, down by the creek. In my dream, there was a road before me and in a short distance it separated. One side went to the left and the other went to the right. A voice spoke to my heart and said, "Which road will you take?" One

road led into the darkness, and the other led to a golden light, so warm and beautiful. And, I answered, "I will take the road to the golden light."

When I was 13 years old, I walked the railroad track, barefoot, alone, to Sister Rice's house where the power of God was moving. I never knew the plan God had for my life. When the altar call was given, it seemed like a bright light covered over me, and in tears, I fell down at that old cane-bottomed chair that was the altar. I arose praising God. I went down the railroad tracks a poor, mountain girl, but I came back up the railroad tracks a child of the MOST HIGH GOD, poor no more and riches untold! Glory!

There was no telephone and no set time when the saints, with their freshly ironed aprons on, would meet at Brother and Sister Lankford's little house to pray and testify. We sang, "He is mine, joy in my soul, peace in my mind, Jesus I know He is mine." We sang, "He sanctified my soul" (whatever happened to that beautiful word – "sanctified"?) "He gave me the Holy Ghost, Jesus I know He is mine." When we got to the verse, "I can feel Him now, Jesus I know He is mine," everyone was shouting and praising God.

Before we would depart until the next day, we would sing, "Jesus I'm going through. I'll pay the price whatever others do; I'll take the way with the Lord's despised few." (I have heard it sung in this modern time, with the Lord's "<u>happy</u> few" because the "<u>despised</u> few" was negative.) Did Jesus not say in Luke 21:17, "And ye shall be hated of all men for My Name's sake"?

Oh the influence of those old, sanctified saints lives on in my life. During our prayer time in the ministry, as we gather to pray for others, we will often recall our childhood years. Oh how the old saints loved us, and it seemed they were so near. Were they looking over the balconies of heaven? Are we fruits of their labors?

Friends, Jesus is coming, and we will be gathered together again in that beautiful city.

"I'd rather walk with Jesus alone, And have for my pillow like Jacob a stone, Living each moment with His face in view, Than to shrink from my pathway and fail to go through.

Jesus I'm going through,
I'll pay the price whatever others do;
I'll take the way of the Lord's despised few;
I started in Jesus and I'm going through."

May the Lord bless you, His Handmaiden, Sister Betty Jean Robinson Behold the Lamb" is a publication of Calvary Outreach Ministries. It is dedicated to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. Messages by Leroy Surface, Keith Surface, and others will be printed for your edification. "Behold the Lamb" is sent without subscription charge to all those desiring to receive it. It will be published on a regular basis as funds permit.

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