



# Mt. Pleasant Bible Institute

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*Study to shew thyself approved unto God" (2 Tim 2:15)*

*Dr. Joseph Speciale, Instructor*

A ministry of the  
***Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church***

**Lee Swor, Pastor**

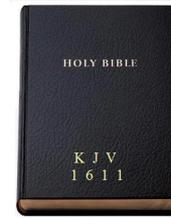


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# Bible Prophecy

*The United States In Scripture*

# The United States In Scripture



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- 3) The USA will be judged by God during a time of peak prosperity and power, but will repent and enter into the Millennium (Isa 18:1-7; Zep 3:10) cf. (Zec 14:16; Matt 25:31-40)

## Isa 18:1-7

- 1 Woe to the land shadowing with wings, which is beyond the rivers of Ethiopia:
- 2 That sendeth ambassadors by the sea, even in vessels of bulrushes upon the waters, *saying*, Go, ye swift messengers, to a nation scattered and peeled, to a people terrible from their beginning hitherto; a nation meted out and trodden down, whose land the rivers have spoiled!
- 3 All ye inhabitants of the world, and dwellers on the earth, see ye, when he lifteth up an ensign on the mountains; and when he bloweth a trumpet, hear ye.
- 4 For so the LORD said unto me, I will take my rest, and I will consider in my dwelling place like a clear heat upon herbs, *and* like a cloud of dew in the heat of harvest.
- 5 For afore the harvest, when the bud is perfect, and the sour grape is ripening in the flower, he shall both cut off the sprigs with pruning hooks, and take away and cut down the branches.
- 6 They shall be left together unto the fowls of the mountains, and to the beasts of the earth: and the fowls shall summer upon them, and all the beasts of the earth shall winter upon them.
- 7 In that time shall the present be brought unto the LORD of hosts of a people scattered and peeled, and from a people terrible from their beginning hitherto; a nation meted out and trodden under foot, whose land the rivers have spoiled, to the place of the name of the LORD of hosts, the mount Zion.

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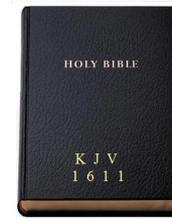
## Zep 3:10

From **beyond the rivers of Ethiopia** my suppliants, *even* the daughter of my dispersed, **shall bring mine offering.**

### Arguments For

- The symbol of the USA is a bald eagle with it's wings outstretched
- While the land could refer to Ethiopia (Isa 20:6), it is not specifically called Ethiopia; consequently, it could refer to a nation not in existence at the time
- The USA is a land “**beyond the rivers of Ethiopia**” (v.1) that would need to send ambassadors by sea (v.2)
- The USA is a nation of people who have scattered and peeled off from nations all over the world, and has been great from it's very beginning (v.2)
- The entire USA has been measured out by interstate highways and roads and it's rivers are polluted (v.2)
- Whenever the USA does or says something, the rest of the world takes notice (v.3)
- The USA is a nation of unprecedented prosperity and power (v.5)

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## Arguments Against

### Isa 18:1

Woe to the land shadowing with wings, which is beyond the rivers of Ethiopia:

### Beyond the rivers of Ethiopia.

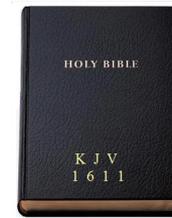
- Although the land under judgment in Isaiah 18 is “**beyond the rivers of Ethiopia**”, it could still be Ethiopia
- There was a near fulfillment of the judgments against the nations in Isaiah 18-19 at the hand of the Assyrians, and these nations are identified as EGYPT (Isa 19) and ETHIOPIA (Isa 18) in Isaiah 20:3-4

### Isa 20:3-4

3 And the LORD said, Like as my servant Isaiah hath walked naked and barefoot three years *for* a sign and wonder upon Egypt and upon Ethiopia;

4 So shall the king of Assyria lead away the Egyptians prisoners, and the Ethiopians captives, young and old, naked and barefoot, even with *their* buttocks uncovered, to the shame of Egypt.

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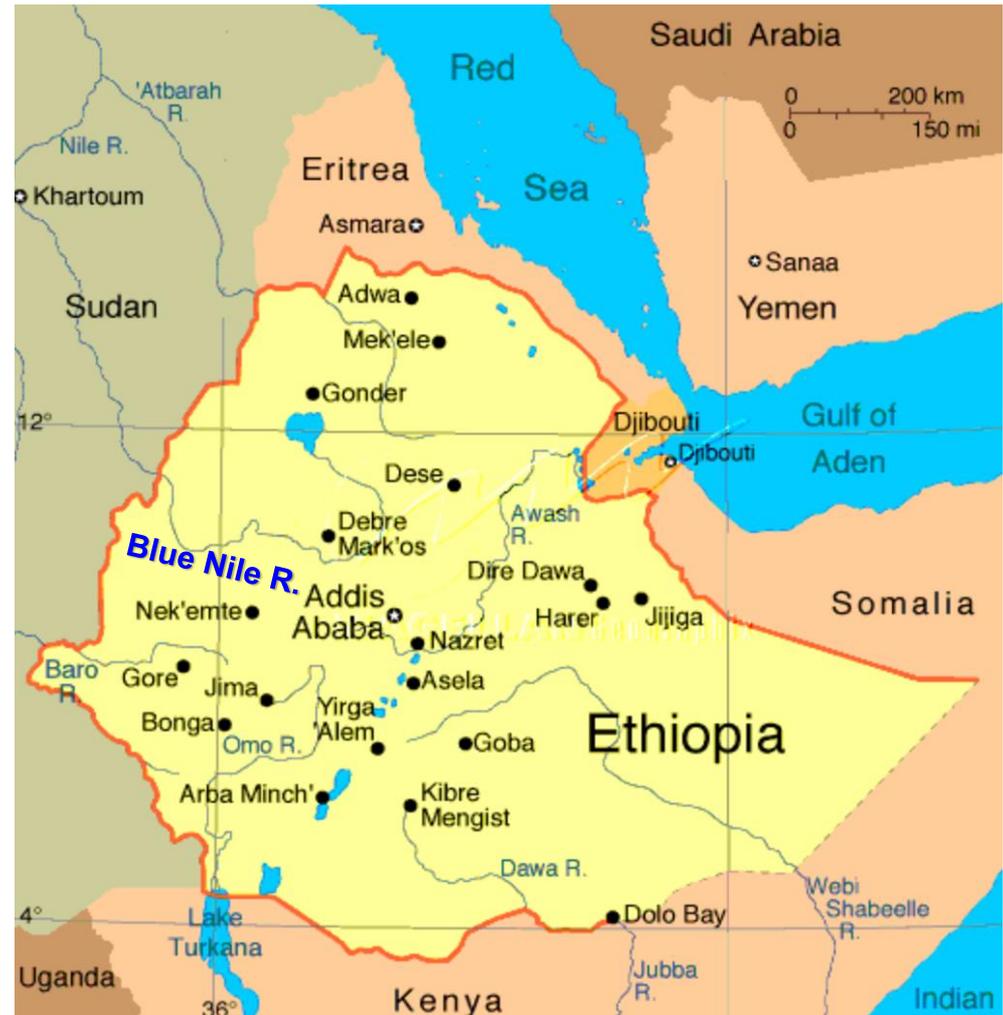


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- There are many rivers in Ethiopia (e.g.- the Blue Nile, the Omo, the Baro, the Awash, etc.) and the land beyond them is still Ethiopia (i.e.- none of the rivers serve as a natural boundary between Ethiopia and another nation)

## Shadowing with wings.

- Ethiopia was a military power at this time (2 Kin 19:9) and this refers to an impending attack from Assyria that would be fulfilled (Isa 20:3-4)- the stretched out wings of the king of Assyria (Isa 8:7-8) cast a shadow upon Ethiopia



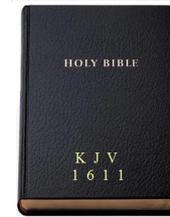
# The United States In Scripture

Isa 18:2

That sendeth ambassadors by the sea, even in vessels of bulrushes upon the waters, *saying*, Go, ye swift messengers, to a nation scattered and peeled, to a people terrible from their beginning hitherto; a nation meted out and trodden down, whose land the rivers have spoiled!

## Sendeth ambassadors by the sea.

- Unless the context determines otherwise, all geography is relative to Israel
- Ambassadors from Ethiopia to Israel would travel via the RED SEA
- Ambassadors from Ethiopia to Egypt would travel via the Nile river or Red sea



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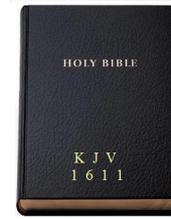
## Vessels of bulrushes.

- BULRUSH= “a large kind of reed that grows in the shallows or banks of the Nile river; historically, used by Egyptians to make baskets and boats” cf. (Exo 2:3)
  - Those who view the nation in Isaiah 18 as the USA believe this may refer to submarines and that the “**swift messengers**” are nuclear missiles launched from the submarines
  - The problem is, the nation under judgment in Isaiah 18 and the nation to which the swift messengers are sent (i.e.- “**a nation scattered and peeled...**”) are NOT the same
- Since the bulrush was primarily indigenous to the Nile, it is reasonable to conclude the Nile river flows through or is near the nation under judgment in Isaiah 18- the Blue Nile is the largest river system in Ethiopia

## Go, ye swift messengers.

- These MESSENGERS are the same as the AMBASSADORS, and they are sent swiftly to the second nation mentioned in the chapter, which is Israel

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- MESSENGERS= Heb. *malak*; translated MESSENGER(S) 98x; AMBASSADORS 4x; and ANGEL(S) 111x cf. (Dan 9:21)

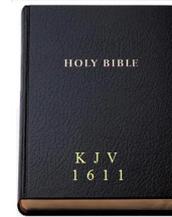
## Characteristics Of The Second Nation In Isaiah 18:2- ISRAEL

- 1) It is a nation that has been scattered and peeled
- 2) It is a people terrible from their beginning to now
- 3) It is a nation that has been meted out and trodden down
- 4) It is a land the rivers have spoiled

### To a nation scattered and peeled.

- SCATTERED= “dispersed; dissipated; removed or separated”
- PEELED= “stripped; removed; plundered; pillaged”
- No nation has been scattered and plundered like ISRAEL (Lev 26:33; Deu 4:27; 28:64; 30:3; 1 Kin 14:15; Neh 1:8; Jer 30:11; 50:17; Eze 11:16-17; 12:15)

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## A people terrible from their beginning.

- TERRIBLE= “frightful; dreadful; severely”
- While arguments can be made that other nations in history have invoked dread and terror upon others (Eze 32:23-24,26,30,32), the scripture identifies ISRAEL as the one that invoked the feeling of dread and terror upon their enemies from their beginning

### Gen 35:5

And they journeyed: and **the terror of God was upon the cities** that *were* round about them, and they did not pursue after the sons of Jacob.

### Jos 2:9

And she said unto the men, I know that the LORD hath given you the land, and that **your terror is fallen upon us**, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you.

## A nation meted out and trodden down.

- METED= “measured; established by boundaries; limits”

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- Every square inch of Israel is lined out, from the official borders of the nation to the borders of the “disputed territories”
- No nation has been trodden down by it’s enemies like Israel has

## **Whose land the rivers have spoiled.**

- The most polluted rivers in the world are usually located in large, densely populated areas but two of them, the Kishon river and the Jordan river, are located in or at the tiny nation of Israel cf. (2 Kin 5:12)

## **Isa 18:3-4**

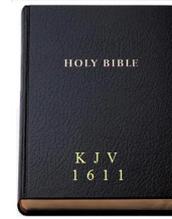
3 All ye **inhabitants of the world**, and dwellers on the earth, see ye, **when he lifteth up an ensign** on the mountains; and **when he bloweth a trumpet**, hear ye.

4 For **so the LORD said unto me**, I will take my rest, and I will consider in my dwelling place like a clear heat upon herbs, *and* like a cloud of dew in the heat of harvest.

## **When he lifteth up an ensign...when he bloweth a trumpet.**

- HE who lifts up an ensign and blows a trumpet (v.3) is THE LORD (v.4)

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## Zec 9:14,16

14 And the LORD shall be seen over them, and his arrow shall go forth as the lightning: and **the Lord GOD shall blow the trumpet**, and shall go with whirlwinds of the south.

16 And **the LORD their God shall** save them in that day as the flock of his people: for they *shall be as* the stones of a crown, **lifted up as an ensign** upon his land.

## Isa 5:25-26

25 Therefore is the anger of **the LORD** kindled against his people, and he hath stretched forth his hand against them, and hath smitten them: and the hills did tremble, and their carcasses *were* torn in the midst of the streets. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand *is* stretched out still.

26 And **he will lift up an ensign** to the nations from far, and will hiss unto them from the end of the earth: and, behold, they shall come with speed swiftly:

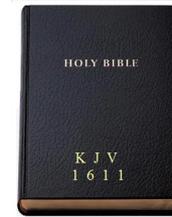
## Isa 11:10-12

10 And in that day there shall be **a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign** of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.

11 And it shall come to pass in that day, *that* **the Lord** shall set his hand again the second time to **recover the remnant of his people**, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and **from Cush**, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea.

12 And **he shall set up an ensign** for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and **gather together the dispersed of Judah** from the four corners of the earth.

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## Inhabitants of the world.

- This phrase appears 7x (v.3; 26:9,18; 38:11; Psa 33:8; 49:1; Lam 4:12) and these references support the notion that it is the Lord all the inhabitants of the world need to give attention to, because of impending JUDGMENT (v.4-6)

### **Psa 33:8**

Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.

### **Psa 49:1**

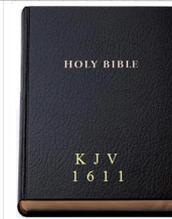
Hear this, all ye people; give ear, all ye inhabitants of the world:

### **Isa 26:9**

With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee early: for when thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.

## For so the Lord said unto me.

- This statement shows that it is the Lord who the inhabitants of the world need to give attention to



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