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

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Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church

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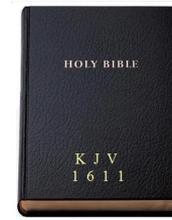


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Bible Prophecy

The United States In Scripture

The United States In Scripture



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Isa 18:5

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.**

Afore the harvest, when the sour grape is ripening.

- While the USA may indeed come under judgment at the height of its power and prosperity, this verse is actually a description of the timing of the judgment of Ethiopia rather than the condition of the nation at the time
- The timing of the judgment is BEFORE the harvest, and since the grape is mentioned, it is specifically before the GRAPE harvest
- Various harvests occurred in Israel throughout all seasons except winter
 - SPRING (Mar-May) was when most of the grains were harvested (e.g.- wheat)
 - SUMMER (Jun-Aug) was when the remaining grains and most fruits were harvested (e.g.- grapes; figs)
 - AUTUMN (Sep-Nov) was when the remaining fruits were harvested (e.g.- olives)

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- Since the grape harvest occurs in the summer, and judgment upon Ethiopia occurs BEFORE the harvest, the judgment must occur sometime in the SPRING
- This is further supported by the fact the fowls SUMMER upon the slain and the beasts WINTER upon them (v.6) note
- The fact Ethiopia is listed among the participants in the invasion of Ezekiel 38-39 (Eze 38:5) implies that it must experience a resurgence of sorts from it's current state

He shall.

- HE= the Lord (v.4)

Cut off the sprigs...and take away...the branches.

- The SPRIGS correspond to the YOUNG and the BRANCHES to the OLD, who are TAKEN captive to Assyria in a near fulfillment of Ethiopia's judgment (20:4)

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Isa 18:6

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**.

Left together unto the fowls...and to the beasts of the earth.

- This judgment is strikingly similar to the judgment upon the invading nations in Ezekiel 38-39
- Since Ethiopia is one of the participant nations in that invasion (Eze 38:5), it is possible that the judgment described here is identical to the one described in Ezekiel

Eze 38:3-6

And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I *am* against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal:

And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts *of armour, even a great company with* bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords:

Persia, **Ethiopia**, and Libya with them; all of them with shield and helmet:

Gomer, and all his bands; the house of Togarmah of the north quarters, and all his bands: *and* many people with thee.

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Eze 39:4,17

Thou shalt fall upon the mountains of Israel, thou, and all thy bands, and the people that *is* with thee: **I will give thee unto the ravenous birds** of every sort, **and to the beasts of the field** to be devoured.

And, thou son of man, thus saith the Lord GOD; Speak unto **every feathered fowl**, and to **every beast of the field**, Assemble yourselves, and come; gather yourselves on every side to my sacrifice that I do sacrifice for you, *even* a great sacrifice upon the mountains of Israel, that ye may eat flesh, and drink blood.

Summer upon them...winter upon them.

- The fowls and the beasts feast upon the slain throughout the summer and into the winter as part of the aftermath of the judgment
- This supports the notion that the judgment occurs in the SPRING (v.5) note
- If this judgment is the same as the one described in Ezekiel, then the seven months required to bury the dead (Eze 39:12,14) would run from May through December

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Isa 18:7

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.

The present be brought unto the Lord.

- The nations shall present themselves and bring presents to the Lord during the Millennium (66:23; Psa 22:27; 72:10-11; Zec 14:16) cf. (1 Kin 10:24-25)

Of a people scattered and peeled.

- THE PRESENT brought to the Lord is the people that were scattered and peeled (i.e.- ISRAEL)

Isa 66:20

And they shall **bring all your brethren for an offering unto the LORD out of all nations** upon horses, and in chariots, and in litters, and upon mules, and upon swift beasts, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, saith the LORD, as the children of Israel bring an offering in a clean vessel into the house of the LORD.

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- This verse refers to the restoration of Israel to their own land (14:1) at the Second Coming of Christ
- The Jews return from dispersion among all nations including Ethiopia

Isa 11:11-12

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.

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.

Zep 3:10

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

- One of the saved nations will be ETHIOPIA

Psa 68:31

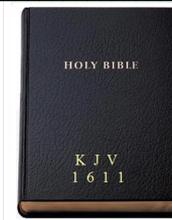
Princes shall come out of Egypt; **Ethiopia** shall soon stretch out her hands unto God.

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- The view that Isaiah 18 refers to USA is based on making **“the land shadowing with wings beyond the rivers of Ethiopia”** the same as the **“nation scattered and peeled...”**, and forced explanations
- A passage must be correctly interpreted before it can be applied
- The interpretation of Isaiah 18 is that it is a prophecy against ETHIOPIA not the USA
- This judgment against Ethiopia has a near fulfillment in the judgment at the hands of Assyria (20:3-4) and a far fulfillment in the judgment of Ezekiel 38-39
- Ethiopia will suffer additional judgment at the hands of the Antichrist (Eze 30:5,9; Dan 11:43) but will be saved in the end (Psa 68:31)



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