

## The Destructive Hand Of God

1. There are story after story, from Genesis to Revelations, where God has had to move his mighty hand, in a very destructive manner; because of the sin and disobedience of mankind. Ever since Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, sin has continued to be carried on from generation to generation. The first time that God moved his hand, in a very destructive manner, was during the time of Noah; when God told Noah to build the ark; for God had gotten very upset with mankind, and had made the decision to destroy mankind from the earth, except for Noah and his family. We read in Gen. 6:5-8:22: "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the Lord that He had made man on the earth, and it grieved Him at his heart. And the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God. And Noah begat three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth. Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch. And this is the fashion which thou shalt make it of: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits. A window shalt thou make to the ark, and in a cubit shalt thou finish it above; and the door of the ark shalt thou set in the side thereof; with lower, second, and third stories shalt thou make it. And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; and every thing that is in the earth shall die. But with thee will I establish my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee. And of every living thing of all flesh, two of every sort shalt thou bring into the ark, to keep them alive with thee; they shall be male and female. Of fowls after their kind, and of cattle after their kind, of every creeping thing of the earth after his kind, two of

every sort shall come unto thee, to keep them alive. And take thou unto thee of all food that is eaten, and thou shalt gather it to thee; and it shall be for food for thee, and for them. Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he. And the Lord said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation. Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee by sevens, the male and the female: and of beasts that are not clean by two, the male and his female. Of fowls also of the air by sevens, the male and the female; to keep seed alive upon the face of all the earth. For yet seven days, and I will cause it to rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights; and every living substance that I have made will I destroy from off the face of the earth. And Noah did according unto all that the Lord commanded him. And Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters was upon the earth. And Noah went in, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons' wives with him, into the ark, because of the waters of the flood.

Of clean beasts, and of beasts that are not clean, and of fowls, and of every thing that creepeth upon the earth, There went in two and two unto Noah into the ark, the male and the female, as God had commanded Noah. And it came to pass after seven days, that the waters of the flood were upon the earth. In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights. In the selfsame day entered Noah, and Shem, and Ham, and Japheth, the sons of Noah, and Noah's wife, and the three wives of his sons with them, into the ark; They, and every beast after his kind, and all the cattle after their kind, and every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind, and every fowl after his kind, every bird of every sort. And they went in unto Noah into the ark, two and two of all flesh, wherein is the breath of life. And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him: and the Lord shut him in. And the flood was forty days upon the earth; and the waters increased, and bare up the ark, and it was lift up above the earth. And the waters prevailed, and were increased greatly upon the earth; and the ark went upon the face of the waters. And the waters prevailed exceedingly upon the earth; and all the high hills, that were under the whole heaven, were covered. Fifteen cubits upward did the waters prevail; and the mountains were covered. And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man: All in

whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died. And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth: and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark. And the waters prevailed upon the earth an hundred and fifty days. And God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the cattle that was with him in the ark: and God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters asswaged; The fountains also of the deep and the windows of heaven were stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained; And the waters returned from off the earth continually: and after the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters were abated. And the ark rested in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, upon the mountains of Ararat. And the waters decreased continually until the tenth month: in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, were the tops of the mountains seen. And it came to pass at the end of forty days, that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made: And he sent forth a raven, which went forth to and fro, until the waters were dried up from off the earth. Also he sent forth a dove from him, to see if the waters were abated from off the face of the ground; But the dove found no rest for the sole of her foot, and she returned unto him into the ark, for the waters were on the face of the whole earth: then he put forth his hand, and took her, and pulled her in unto him into the ark. And he stayed yet other seven days; and again he sent forth the dove out of the ark; And the dove came in to him in the evening; and, lo, in her mouth was an olive leaf plucked off: so Noah knew that the waters were abated from off the earth. And he stayed yet other seven days; and sent forth the dove; which returned not again unto him any more.

And it came to pass in the six hundredth and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters were dried up from off the earth: and Noah removed the coverings of the ark, and looked, and, behold, the face of the ground was dry. And in the second month, on the seven and twentieth day of the month, was the earth dried. And God spake unto Noah, saying, Go forth of the ark, thou, and thy wife, and thy sons, and thy sons' wives with thee. Bring forth with thee every living thing that is with thee, of all flesh, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth; that they may breed abundantly in the earth, and be fruitful, and multiply upon the earth. And Noah went forth, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons' wives with him: Every beast,

every creeping thing, and every fowl, and whatsoever creepeth upon the earth, after their kinds, went forth out of the ark. And Noah builded an altar unto the Lord; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. And the Lord smelled a sweet savour; and the Lord said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done. While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease."

A. And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth.

Hebrew-rab (rab): abundant, mighty, plenteous, or exceedingly plentiful.

B. And that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart. Hebrew-yetser (yay-tsar): from the very beginning, or the very creation of (every thing which mankind had).

C. Was only evil continually. Hebrew-ra (rah): bad, displeasing (unto God), grievous, wicked, ill-favored, harmful, sorrowful, sad, troublesome, or wrong.

D. And it repented the Lord that He had made man on the earth. Hebrew-nacham (naw-kham): to be sorry for, or to regret.

E. And it grieved Him at his heart. Hebrew-atsab (aw-tsab): to be displeased, sorry, angry, or to regret what one has done.

F. The Lord God decided that He would destroy mankind from the face of the earth; along with every beast, every creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for He regretted that He had made such. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. Hebrew-chen (khane): kindness, or favor.

G. Noah was a just man. Hebrew-tsaddiyq (tsad-deek): lawful, obedient (unto God), or righteous (in the eyes of God).

H. And perfect in his generations. Hebrew-tamiym (taw-meem): truthful, without blemish or fault, sincere, undefiled, sound, spotless, full of integrity, whole or clean (in a spiritual sense).

I. And Noah walked with God. Noah spent time talking with God, and listening as God talked with him. Noah was more concerned about his relationship with God, than he was about the things of the world. He recognized God as his creator, and as his best friend. When he faced problems which he could not handle by himself, he always looked to God for help, strength, and for direction. He worshipped God all the time, and respected Him very highly; as we all should do. He loved God very much, and showed this in his continued obedience unto Him.

J. Noah had three sons; Shem, Ham, and Japheth; which he taught to trust and respect the Lord God; just as he himself did. We will also see that

they are the only ones who stood with Noah, when God told him to build the ark.

K. The earth also was corrupt before God. Hebrew-shachath (shaw-khath): to be in a decaying or ruining condition; or to be perishing in the eyes of God, due to walking in sin.

L. And the earth was filled with violence. Hebrew-chamac (khaw-mawce): wrongdoing, sin, evil, injustice, unrighteousness, or mal-treatment.

M. When God looked down upon the earth, all that He could see was sin and corruption. Every one except Noah and his family had turned from righteous living before God, to living lives of sin and corruption before Him. They had all forgotten all about their creator, and never took the time to talk with Him, or to show any respect or thankfulness unto Him whatsoever. It was as though He did not even exist, except for Noah and his family.

N. And God said unto Noah, the end of all flesh is come before me. God told Noah that it had come time for Him to destroy all flesh from the earth, except for him and his family. For God had seen enough of the sin and corruption which mankind had chosen to walk in; other than walk in respect and obedience unto Him.

O. For the earth is filled with violence through them. Mankind had filled the earth with violence and sin and unrighteousness. It was constantly before the eyes of God; and mankind had no intention of repenting of sin, and turning back to God.

P. And, behold, I will destroy them from the earth. God told Noah his plans of destroying mankind from the earth. Even though we were created by a most merciful and living God, He also, as loving as He is, has a limit to his patience, when people just deliberately continue to walk in sin; knowing that they are displeasing God in the way that they are living their life.

Q. Make thee an ark of gopher wood. God began to give Noah the instructions as to how He wanted him to build the ark. He told Noah to build the ark of gopher wood; which comes from a type of cypress tree. The gopher tree was a tall, evergreen tree, which was very hard and durable.

R. God told Noah to make rooms in the ark, and to put pitch both on the inside and on the outside of the ark. Hebrew-kopher (ko-fer): a covering, or a coating; also known as asphalt; which is a black mineral substance; a form of bitumen, derived from crude petroleum. This substance was found in Mesopotamia and in Palestine; especially around the dead sea. It is also referred to as slime, or tar. It contained much hydrogen and

carbon. It was a waterproof substance, and this is why God instructed Noah to coat the ark with it. This substance is used much in our country as a coating for our streets.

S. The length of the ark was three-hundred cubits, or four-hundred and fifty feet long. The breadth, or the width of the ark, was fifty cubits, or seventy-five feet wide. And the height of the ark was thirty cubits, or forty-five feet high.

T. Noah was also told to put a window near the top of the ark, a door in the side of the ark, and the ark was to have first, second, and third floors.

U. God then told Noah that He would bring a great flood upon the earth; and He would destroy all flesh wherein was the breath of life. Every thing that was in the earth would die; except for Noah and his family, and the animals which God was about to give Noah the instructions concerning; as to how many of each he was to bring into the ark.

V. God was about to make a new covenant with Noah. He told Noah to take his wife, his three sons, and their wives, into the ark. God also told Noah to take both male and female of every living thing into the ark. But we will also notice in Gen. 7:2-3, that God did not tell Noah to take only one couple of each living creature into the ark. But God told Noah to take in seven couples of the clean beasts; seven male and seven female; and to take in only two couples of the unclean beasts; two male and two female. What was considered to be clean beasts, were those which chewed the cud, and also had the divided hoof. As far as the creatures of the waters, or in the seas, those with fins and scales were considered to be clean. If you would like to read more in detail about the specifics of the clean and unclean beasts which God has made, go to the book of Leviticus, chapter 11. God also told Noah to take seven couples of the fowls of the air; the male and the female.

W. God also commanded Noah to take sufficient food into the ark, to feed all of his family, and to feed all of the animals and beasts. He then instructed Noah and his family to enter into the ark; for He had found them righteous in his sight.

X. Noah was told by God, that in seven days He would send rain upon the earth for forty days and forty nights; and that every living substance which He had made, would be destroyed from the face of the earth. So Noah obeyed every command that he was given by God. Noah was six-hundred years old at this time.

Y. We will notice in Gen. 7:16, that the Lord shut Noah into the ark. Once God shuts a door, it will not be opened until God is ready for it to be opened. This applies in both the physical and the spiritual world.

Without a doubt, there were probably people all around the ark; trying to swim, and screaming for help; who were drowning in the waters, as they got deeper and deeper.

But Noah had not the power to open the door to the ark; even if he had wanted to; for God had shut the door. Without a doubt, the dying people had been previously warned to repent of sin; and they would not take heed to the voice of God. They had been given one-hundred and twenty years to repent of their sins, according to Gen. 6:3. And now the destructive hand of God was in motion.

Z. The waters began to greatly increase and get deeper, as the rain continued to fall from the sky; and the ark began to rise upon the face of the waters.

AA. The waters got so deep that all the high hills and mountains began to disappear beneath the face of the waters. The waters rose so high, that they were over twenty feet above the highest mountain. And every fleshly being died upon the face of the earth; every beast, the fowl of the air, all the cattle, and every thing that had the breath of life in it's nostrils. Every living substance was destroyed from the face of the earth; except for Noah and his family, and those creatures which he took into the ark.

BB. The waters prevailed upon the face of the earth for one-hundred and fifty days. We are not certain how the time was calculated in Noah's time. For we are later told that the tops of the mountains were not seen until the tenth month. The word month at this time, simply meant "new moon."

CC. God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters asswaged. Hebrew-shakak (shaw-kak): to begin to cease, or to begin to disappear; in this case, to begin to lower, dry up, or to become more shallow.

DD. The fountains of the deep and the windows of heaven were stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained. Hebrew-kala (kaw-law): to restrict, or to hold back, or to hinder.

EE. The waters began to lower, or to decrease in depth; and after one-hundred and fifty days, the waters abated. Hebrew-chacer (khaw-sare): to lack, or decrease; to lessen or to become lower, or more shallow.

FF. The ark rested in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, upon the mountains of Ararat. The water was gradually going down, but it was still quite a while before Noah and his family could leave the ark. It was the first of the tenth month, before the tops of the mountains could actually be seen.

GG. Noah first sent forth a raven from the window of the ark; but it only went to and fro. He then sent forth a dove, but the dove could find no place to rest; so it returned to the ark, and Noah took it back into the ark.

So seven days later, Noah sent forth the dove once again; and in the evening the dove returned with an olive leaf in its mouth; and Noah knew that the waters of the flood were abated.

And seven days later, Noah sent forth the dove once again, and it did not return this time. So Noah removed the covering from the ark, and saw that the earth was dry once again from the waters of the flood.

HH. Next, God spoke to Noah, and told him and his family to leave the ark; and to take all the living creatures from the ark; that they may go forth and breed abundantly in the earth; and to be fruitful and multiply upon the earth.

II. After leaving the ark, Noah took of all the clean beasts and clean fowl, and built an altar, and offered sacrifices unto the Lord. And the Lord smelled the sweet fragrance from the altar; and He swore that He would never again smite every living creature, as He had done this time. This is just a perfect example of the destructive hand of God. Even though God has not since the flood, struck his hand to this destructive degree, we will see that He certainly has used his destructive hand time and time again.

2. The next time we will see the movement of God's destructive hand, is a while later, when mankind decided that they wanted to build a tower which would reach into Heaven; what we know as "the Tower of Babel."

God totally disapproved of this action, and He put a stop to it immediately. God had told Noah and his family to be fruitful and multiply, and to replenish the earth. But this group of people decided that they did not want to be scattered, and to replenish the earth. They wanted to build their own city, where they could all live and multiply and live close together. But they did not get very far with their sinful project, for God's destructive hand began to move once again. This happened in

approximately 2100 B.C. We read of the tower of Babel in Gen. 11:1-9:

"And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech. And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there. And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar. And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto Heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth. And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. And the Lord said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand

one another's speech. So the Lord scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city. Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the Lord did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the Lord scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth."

A. The whole earth was of one language and of one speech. At this time, every one spoke the same language. There was no such thing as speaking in tongues. Every person could easily understand everybody else's speech. If you have ever wondered where all the different languages came from, which we hear all over the earth today, well now you know. They came about because of this group of disobedient people. We will shortly see how God confused their speech, and caused them to scatter abroad all over the earth.

B. They journeyed from the east, and found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there. This land was believed to be in ancient Babylonia, in southern Mesopotamia, in the city of Ur.

C. They wanted their city and their tower to reach into Heaven, and to make a name for themselves. They built the tower of brick and slime, or mortar.

D. The Lord decided to come down and see their city and their tower which they had decided to build. We also have here in verse 7, another confirmation of the holy trinity. As we look back to this verse, we will notice that it says, "Let us go down;" indicating more than one person.

E. God knew that the imaginations of mankind would not hold them back from attempting even greater things if He allowed them to continue with this project. So He came down and confused their language, so that they could not understand one another's language. And He scattered them abroad all over the earth. And the building project was stopped, and forgotten. This is when the evil place received the name "Babel," which means confusion. If these people had of been obedient unto God, and done as He had instructed them to do, then there would of been no need for having to learn all the other languages which are known around the earth today; and we would all of been of one speech. When we cause God's destructive hand to have to go into action, it always means trouble not only for us, but for others also.

3. We now will see how God's destructive hand moved once again, and destroyed the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, because of their great involvement in sinful acts. If we read in Gen. 18:23-33, we will see that Abraham could not find even ten righteous people, in all the land of Sodom and Gomorrah: "And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou also

destroy the righteous with the wicked? Peradventure there be fifty righteous within the city: wilt thou also destroy and not spare the place for the fifty righteous that are therein? That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right? And the Lord said, If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes. And Abraham answered and said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord, which am but dust and ashes: Peradventure there shall lack five of the fifty righteous: wilt thou destroy all the city for lack of five? And He said, If I find there forty and five, I will not destroy it. And he spake unto Him yet again, and said, Peradventure there shall be forty found there. And He said, I will not do it for forty's sake. And he said unto Him, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak: Peradventure there shall thirty be found there. And He said, I will not do it, if I find thirty there. And he said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord: Peradventure there shall be twenty found there. And He said, I will not destroy it for twenty's sake. And he said, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak yet but this once: Peradventure ten shall be found there. And He said, I will not destroy it for ten's sake. And the Lord went his way, as soon as He had left communing with Abraham: and Abraham returned unto his place."

The only specific sin which is mentioned in God's Word, that was committed by the people of Sodom and Gomorrah, yet there may of been many more, is the sin committed by the gay people of the city. We read of God's destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, in Gen. 19:1-29: "And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom: and Lot seeing them rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground; And he said, Behold now, my lords, turn in, I pray you, into your servant's house, and tarry all night, and wash your feet, and ye shall rise up early, and go on your ways. And they said, Nay; but we will abide in the street all night. And he pressed upon them greatly; and they turned in unto him, and entered into his house; and he made them a feast, and did bake unleavened bread, and they did eat. But before they lay down, the men of the city, even the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter: And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which came in to thee this night? Bring them out unto us, that we may know them. And Lot went out at the door unto them, and shut the door after him, And said, I pray you, brethren, do not so wickedly. Behold now, I

have two daughters which have not known man; let me, I pray you, bring them out unto you, and do ye to them as is good in your eyes: only unto these men do nothing; for therefore came they under the shadow of my roof. And they said, Stand back. And they said again, This one fellow came in to sojourn, and he will needs be a judge: now will we deal worse with thee, than with them. And they pressed sore upon the man, even Lot, and came near to break the door. But the men put forth their hand, and pulled Lot into the house to them, and shut to the door. And they smote the men that were at the door of the house with blindness, both small and great: so that they wearied themselves to find the door. And the men said unto Lot, Hast thou here any besides? Son-in-law, and thy sons, and thy daughters, and whatsoever thou hast in the city, bring them out of this place: For we will destroy this place, because the cry of them is waxen great before the face of the Lord; and the Lord hath sent us to destroy it. And Lot went out, and spake unto his sons-in-law, which married his daughters, and said, Up, get you out of this place; for the Lord will destroy this city. But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons-in-law. And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city. And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the Lord being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city. And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed. And Lot said unto them, Oh, not so, my Lord: Behold now, thy servant hath found grace in thy sight, and thou hast magnified thy mercy, which thou hast showed unto me in saving my life; and I cannot escape to the mountain, lest some evil take me, and I die: Behold now, this city is near to flee unto, and it is a little one: Oh, let me escape thither, (is it not a little one?) and my soul shall live. And he said unto him, See, I have accepted thee concerning this thing also, that I will not overthrow this city, for the which thou hast spoken. Haste thee, escape thither; for I cannot do any thing till thou be come thither. Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar. The sun was risen upon the earth when Lot entered into Zoar.

Then the Lord rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven: And He overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground. But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a

pillar of salt. And Abraham gat up early in the morning to the place where he stood before the Lord: And he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain, and beheld, and, lo, the smoke of the country went up as the smoke of a furnace. And it came to pass, when God destroyed the cities of the plain, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when He overthrew the cities in the which Lot dwelt." As we can see with the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, God does not approve of sin; and when we deliberately choose to continue walking in sin, we can expect to see the destructive hand of God to begin to move, sooner or later.

4. If we read chapters 1-14 of the book of Exodus, we will see how God brought destruction to the land of Egypt, because of their disobedience to the orders of God. God sent the plagues upon the land of Egypt, beginning with the turning of the waters into blood, then came the plague of frogs, the plague of lice, the flies, the death of all the cattle, the horses, the asses, the camels, the oxen, and the sheep of the Egyptians, then came the plague of boils, the hail, the locusts, the three days of darkness, and then the death of all the firstborn of the Egyptians. But this was not the end. Pharaoh thought after he had set the Israelites free from bondage, that he would pursue them, and make them return to the land of Egypt. But this dirty trick backfired on him. When the Israelites got to the Red Sea, the Lord divided the sea, and allowed the Israelites to cross on dry land. When the Egyptians attempted to follow them, the waters of the sea closed in upon them, and every single one of the Egyptians were drowned in the sea; including their horses. Notice also that God's Word never mentions a word about Pharaoh, the Egyptian leader, standing on the banks of the sea; and then returning back to his castle after the mess was over; as we often see in movies of this historical event. He drowned in the sea, along with every one of his soldiers.

5. There was a king in the Old Testament, who was over Israel, and was probably the most wicked king to ever live. His name was Ahab. His dirty, deceptive acts, brought about the destruction of his own life, by the hand of God. One of the dirty tricks which Ahab pulled, was on his neighbor Naboth; who owned a vineyard which Ahab wanted very bad. Ahab was also married to a very wicked woman, named Jezebel. We read of their dirty deception in 1 Kings 21:1-16: "And it came to pass after these things, that Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard, which was in Jezreel, hard by the palace of Ahab king of Samaria. And Ahab spake unto Naboth, saying, Give me thy vineyard, that I may have it for a garden of herbs, because it is near unto my house: and I will give thee for it a better

vineyard than it; or, if it seem good to thee, I will give thee the worth of it in money. And Naboth said to Ahab, The Lord forbid it me, that I should give the inheritance of my fathers unto thee. And Ahab came into his house heavy and displeased because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him: for he had said, I will not give thee the inheritance of my fathers. And he laid him down upon his bed, and turned away his face, and would eat no bread.

But Jezebel his wife came to him, and said unto him, Why is thy spirit so sad, that thou eatest no bread? And he said unto her, Because I spake unto Naboth the Jezreelite, and said unto him, Give me thy vineyard for money; or else, if it please thee, I will give thee another vineyard for it: and he answered, I will not give thee my vineyard. And Jezebel his wife said unto him, Dost thou now govern the kingdom of Israel? Arise, and eat bread, and let thine heart be merry: I will give thee the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite. So she wrote letters in Ahab's name, and sealed them with his seal, and sent the letters unto the elders and to the nobles that were in his city, dwelling with Naboth. And she wrote in the letters, saying, Proclaim a fast, and set Naboth on high among the people: And set two men, sons of Belial, before him, to bear witness against him, saying, Thou didst blaspheme God and the king. And then carry him out, and stone him, that he may die. And the men of his city, even the elders and the nobles who were the inhabitants in his city, did as Jezebel had sent unto them, and as it was written in the letters which she had sent unto them. Then proclaimed a fast, and set Naboth on high among the people. And there came in two men, children of Belial, and sat before him: and the men of Belial witnessed against him, even against Naboth, in the presence of the people, saying, Naboth did blaspheme God and the king. Then they carried him forth out of the city, and stoned him with stones, that he died. Then they sent to Jezebel, saying, Naboth is stoned, and is dead. And it came to pass, when Jezebel heard that Naboth was stoned, and was dead, that Jezebel said to Ahab, Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, which he refused to give thee for money: for Naboth is not alive, but dead. And it came to pass, when Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, that Ahab rose up to go down to the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, to take possession of it." After Jezebel had pulled off this dirty trick, God proclaimed through the prophet Elijah, of how both Ahab and Jezebel would be destroyed. We read in 1 Kings 21:17-25: "And the Word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, which is in Samaria: behold, he is in the vineyard of Naboth, whither he is gone down to possess it.

And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, Thus saith the Lord, Hast thou killed, and also taken possession? And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, Thus saith the Lord, In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth shall dogs lick thy blood, even thine. And Ahab said to Elijah, Hast thou found me, O mine enemy? And he answered, I have found thee: because thou hast sold thyself to work evil in the sight of the Lord. Behold, I will bring evil upon thee, and will take away thy posterity, and will cut off from Ahab him that pisseth against the wall, and him that is shut up and left in Israel, And will make thine house like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah, for the provocation wherewith thou hast provoked me to anger, and made Israel to sin. And of Jezebel also spake the Lord, saying, The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel. Him that dieth of Ahab in the city the dogs shall eat; and him that dieth in the field shall the fowls of the air eat. But there was none like unto Ahab, which did sell himself to work wickedness in the sight of the Lord, whom Jezebel his wife stirred up.” And then we read of Ahab’s destruction, in 1 Kings 22:29–40: “So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah went up to Ramoth-gilead. And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, I will disguise myself, and enter into the battle; but put thou on thy robes. And the king of Israel disguised himself, and went into the battle.

But the king of Syria commanded his thirty and two captains that had rule over his chariots, saying, Fight neither with small nor great, save only with the king of Israel. And it came to pass, when the captains of the chariots saw Jehoshaphat, that they said, Surely it is the king of Israel. And they turned aside to fight against him: and Jehoshaphat cried out. And it came to pass, when the captains of the chariots perceived that it was not the king of Israel, that they turned back from pursuing him. And a certain man drew a bow at a venture, and smote the king of Israel between the joints of the harness: wherefore he said unto the driver of his chariot, Turn thine hand, and carry me out of the host; for I am wounded. And the battle increased that day: and the king was stayed up in his chariot against the Syrians, and died at even: and the blood ran out of the wound into the midst of the chariot. And there went a proclamation throughout the host about the going down of the sun, saying, Every man to his city, and every man to his own country. So the king died, and was brought to Samaria; and they buried the king in Samaria. And one washed the chariot in the pool of chariot; and the dogs licked up his blood; and they washed his armor; according unto the Word of the Lord which He spake. Now the rest of the acts of Ahab, and all that he did, and the ivory

house which he made, and all the cities that he built, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel? So Ahab slept with his fathers; and Ahaziah his son reigned in his stead.” And we also read of the manifestation of Elijah’s prophesy concerning Jezebel, in 2 Kings 9:30–37: “And when Jehu was come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it; and she painted her face, and tired her head, and looked out at a window. And as Jehu entered in at the gate, she said, Had Zimri peace, who slew his master? And he lifted up his face to the window, and said, Who is on my side? Who? And there looked out to him two or three eunuchs. And he said, Throw her down: and some of her blood was sprinkled on the wall, and on the horses: and he trode her under foot. And when he was come in, he did eat and drink, and said, Go, see now this cursed woman, and bury her: for she is a king’s daughter. And they went to bury her: but they found no more of her than the skull, and the feet, and the palms of her hands. Wherefore they came again, and told him. And he said, This is the Word of the Lord, which He spake by his servant Elijah the Tishbite, saying, In the portion of Jezreel shall dogs eat the flesh of Jezebel: And the carcase of Jezebel shall be as dung upon the face of the field in the portion of Jezreel: so that they shall not say, This is Jezebel.” Both Ahab and Jezebel could of been a most blessed royal couple, but they both chose a way of life which caused them both to leave behind a reputation which nobody desired to have any memory of. They both chose to live most wicked lives; which eventually caused the destructive hand of God to have to allow them both to die in a most ridiculous way.

6. Once again, several centuries later, Nineveh fell into sin once again; and had to be destroyed by the hand of God. We read of Nineveh’s destruction in the book of Nahum. We read in Nahum chapter 1: “The burden of Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum the Elkoshite. God is jealous, and the Lord revengeth; the Lord revengeth, and is furious; the Lord will take vengeance on his adversaries, and He reserveth wrath for his enemies. The Lord is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked: the Lord hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet. He rebuketh the sea, and maketh it dry, and drieth up all the rivers: Bashan languisheth, and Carmel, and the flower of Lebanon languisheth.

The mountains quake at Him, and the hills melt, and the earth is burned at his presence, yea, the world, and all that dwell therein. Who can stand before his indignation? And who can abide in the fierceness of his anger? His fury is poured out like fire, and the rocks are thrown down by Him. The Lord is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble: and He knoweth

them that trust in Him. But with an overrunning flood He will make an utter end of the place thereof, and darkness shall pursue his enemies. What do ye imagine against the Lord? He will make an utter end: affliction shall not rise up the second time. For while they be folded together as thorns, and while they are drunken as drunkards, they shall be devoured as stubble fully dry. There is one come out of thee, that imagineth evil against the Lord, a wicked counselor. Thus saith the Lord; Though they be quiet, and likewise many, yet thus shall they be cut down, when He shall pass through. Though I have afflicted thee, I will afflict thee no more. For now will I break his yoke from off thee, and will burst thy bonds in sunder. And the Lord hath given a commandment concerning thee, that no more of thy name be sown: out of the house of thy gods will I cut off the graven image and the molten image: I will make thy grave; for thou art vile. Behold upon the mountains the feet of Him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace! O Judah, keep thy solemn feasts, perform thy vows: for the wicked shall no more pass through thee; he is utterly cut off.”

A. Nineveh was the capital city of Assyria; who at this time had Judah under severe bondage. God was about to destroy Nineveh, while at the same time, deliver Judah.

B. God is jealous. Hebrew-qannow (kan-no): angry, or envious. This is due to the worship of idols, and the disobedience of the Ninevites.

C. And the Lord revengeth. Hebrew-naqam (naw-kam): to grudge, or to bring punishment upon (Nineveh).

D. And is furious. Hebrew-qetsaph (kets-af): to become enraged, provoked, or to become very mad.

E. The Lord will take vengeance on his adversaries. Hebrew-tsar (tsawr): opponents, enemies, oppressors, or those who stand in conflict with.

F. And He reserveth wrath for his enemies. Hebrew-ebrah (eb-raw): an outburst of anger, or a move of destruction from an enemy or opponent.

G. The Lord is slow to anger, and great in power. Let us ever be thankful for the mercy of God. For if God was not a merciful God, we all would be constantly in serious trouble; for we fail Him continuously. It took quite some time, for God's anger to get to the point, of deciding to completely destroy Nineveh. And He is also great in power. If He so desired, He could destroy the entire earth, in the twinkling of his eye.

H. And will not at all acquit the wicked. Hebrew-naqah (naw-kaw): to make clean or blameless, to make free or guiltless (from sin), to make

innocent, or to let one (Nineveh) go unpunished. This is not telling us that God would not forgive the people of Nineveh, if they had repented of their sin, and ask for his forgiveness. But Nineveh chose to continue to walk in their wickedness, rather than repent and turn from their sins; as they done in the days of Jonah.

I. The Lord hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet. This is just informing us, that the Lord is in full control of all the forces of nature; just as He is in full control of all things.

J. He rebuketh the sea, and maketh it dry, and drieth up all the rivers. Hebrew-gaar (gaw-ar): to corrupt, reprove, or to change the natural operation of.

K. Bashan languisheth, and Carmel, and the flower of Lebanon languisheth. Hebrew-amal (aw-mal): to droop, be sick, weak, feeble, or to mourn.

L. The mountains quake at Him, and the hills melt, and the earth is burned at his presence, yea, the world, and all that dwell therein. We indeed serve a mighty God! And all of nature and it's mighty forces are in his hands. And all the people of the earth should be bowing before Him; in great admiration for his mighty love and goodness.

M. Who can stand before his indignation? Hebrew-zaam (zah-am): fury, displeasure, anger, or rage.

N. And who can abide in the fierceness of his angry? When God becomes angry, it is best to stay out of his way, or to make every attempt to stay or to get back in his favor. How do we do this? We do so by repenting of any known sin, and working to serve Him in every way that we are led to do such. This was the major problem in Nineveh. The people sinned against God, and they had no regret of such. Therefore, God became angry at them, and He eventually destroyed them.

O. His fury is poured out like fire, and the rocks are thrown down by Him. The mighty power of God is explained by the use of natural things. Fire is a mighty force, which has brought about much destruction, and has took the lives of many people. And great mountains of rocks have been moved, and also have brought much destruction, in what we know as earthquakes; which have came about as a result of the moving of God's hand of destruction.

P. The Lord is good. Hebrew-towb (tobe): gracious, merciful, loving, or kind.

Q. A stronghold in the day of trouble. Hebrew-mauz (maw-ooz): a fortified place of protection, or defense.

R. And He knoweth them that trust in Him. God had knowledge of all things; including those who truly trust in Him, and those who do not. There is no use of pretending to trust in God, when your heart is actually far from Him. I'm sure that there were probably plenty of people in Nineveh who lived such lives.

S. But with an overrunning flood He will make an utter end of the places thereof. This is just what happened to Nineveh. They were not truly placing their trust in God, and like an overrunning flood, Nineveh was destroyed by the hand of God; and it was the end of Nineveh. It was not known anymore.

T. And darkness shall pursue his enemies. Hebrew-chashek (kho-shek): figuratively speaking of misery, trouble, destruction, death, or sorrow.

U. What do ye imagine against the Lord? This would be better phrased, "Why do ye have wicked imaginations against the Lord?" The people of Nineveh were constantly having evil thoughts concerning the Lord. And worse yet, they had no regret of doing such. They became a very wicked people.

V. He will make an utter end: affliction shall not rise up a second time. God certainly brought Nineveh to an end. He did not show the mercy toward them, that was shown in the book of Jonah. Mainly, because they had no repentance in their hearts. Their hearts had become hardened, and they thought nothing about turning back to God. If they had of done so, without a doubt, He would of shown mercy upon them, and would of forgiven them; just as He done in the days of Jonah.

W. For while they be folden together as thorns, and while they are drunken as drunkards, they shall be devoured as stubble fully dry.

a. For while they be folden together as thorns. The people of Nineveh were very closely held together in their relationship one with another. They had every one turned to sin, and highly supported one another in living such a lifestyle.

b. And while they are drunken as drunkards. Nineveh became a country of drunks. They had no thought of serving God, nor did they have any fear of God within them at all. All that was ever upon their minds was wickedness of every kind.

c. They shall be devoured. Hebrew-akal (aw-kal): to be eaten up, or to be destroyed.

d. As stubble fully dry. Hebrew-qash (kash): straw, or dried out wood, without sap. This was figuratively speaking of a people who were totally empty of God's Holy Spirit, or to be without the presence of God.

X. There is one come out of thee, that imagineth evil against the Lord, a wicked counselor. Nineveh was full of evil, from border to border. And Nineveh was certainly no place to look to as a Godly example. They were on their way to eternal destruction.

Y. Thus saith the Lord; Though they be quiet, and likewise many, yet thus shall they be cut down, when He shall pass through. The people of Nineveh were buried in sin, and there were many people who lived in the wicked place. Yet when the Lord God moved upon the wicked city with his hand of judgment, they every one were destroyed and heard of no more.

Z. Though I have afflicted thee, I will afflict thee no more. This was just God's way of telling the people of Nineveh, that the time of his mercy was over toward them. He had tried time and time again, to warn them with afflictions; but they took no heed to his warnings, and his warnings were over. Now it was time for their destruction. He was also telling the nation of Israel, that they would no longer be afflicted by the Assyrian king Sennacherib.

AA. For now I will break his yoke from off thee. This was speaking of the yoke of bondage which Sennacherib had placed upon the Israelites. The time of Israel's deliverance had come.

BB. And will burst thy bonds in sunder. Hebrew-*parad* (paw-rad): to break in pieces, separate, disperse, spread, scatter, to knock out of joint, or to part.

CC. The Lord is now talking to the people of Nineveh once again. He is telling them that their name is about to be destroyed; and that their idol gods are about to be destroyed also; for they were a vile people. Hebrew-*qalal* (qaw-lal): sneaky, tempting, trick-pulling, deceptive, or evil in many ways.

DD. Now we are back to God's promises to Israel once again. There were mountains all around Jerusalem. The good tidings and peaceful news which the people of Israel were to receive, was the news of Sennacherib's death. God was telling the people of Judah that from this time on, they could keep their feasts, and perform their vows unto Him; for Sennacherib was dead.

7. We proceed further with the destruction of Nineveh. Nahum chapter 2 tells us: "He that dasheth in pieces is come up before thy face: keep the munition, watch the way, make thy loins strong, fortify thy power mightily. For the Lord hath turned away the excellency of Jacob, as the excellency of Israel for the emptiers have emptied them out, and marred their vine branches. The shield of his mighty men is made red, the valiant men are in scarlet: the chariots shall be with flaming torches in the day of

his preparation, and the fir trees shall be terribly shaken. The chariots shall rage in the streets, they shall jostle one against another in the broad ways: they shall seem like torches, they shall run like the lightnings. He shall recount his worthies: they shall stumble in their walk; they shall make haste to the wall thereof, and the defense shall be prepared. The gates of the rivers shall be opened, and the palace shall be dissolved. And Huzzab shall be led away captive, she shall be brought up, and her maids shall lead her as with the voice of doves, tabering upon her breasts. But Nineveh is of old like a pool of water: yet they shall flee away. Stand, stand, shall they cry; but none shall look back.

Take ye the spoil of silver, take the spoil of gold: for there is none end of the store and glory out of all the pleasant furniture. She is empty, and void, and waste: and the heart melteth, and the knees smite together, and much pain is in all loins, and the faces of them all gather blackness.

Where is the dwelling of the lions, and the feedingplace of the young lions; where the lion, even the old lion, walked; and the lion's whelp, and none made them afraid? The lion did tear in pieces enough for his whelps, and strangled for his lionesses, and filled his holes with prey, and his dens with ravin. Behold, I am against thee, saith the Lord of hosts, and I will burn her chariots in the smoke, and the sword shall devour thy young lions: and I will cut off thy prey from the earth, and the voice of thy messengers shall no more be heard."

A. He that dasheth in pieces is come up before thy face. It was now time for the people of Nineveh to give account to God for their evil deeds. God's hand of judgment had come. They would be literally destroyed, by God's destructive hand.

B. Keep the munition. Hebrew-metsurah (mets-oo-raw): mound, or a wall of defense (as a fort would have). Nineveh had gotten so deep in their evil deeds, that no wall or shield of any kind, would be able to hide them from the hand of God. Nahum was simply telling the people of Nineveh that they had better seek God's forgiveness, and repent of sin; that He would allow their safety to continue.

C. Watch the way, make thy loins strong, fortify thy power mightily. Nahum continues to attempt to persuade the people of Nineveh to do all that they can do, in order to preserve their own safety. The only way which Nineveh could do such at this point, was true repentance before God.

D. For the Lord had turned away the excellency of Jacob, as the excellency of Israel. Hebrew-gaown (gaw-ohn): arrogancy, prideful lifestyle, or self-indulged goodness. In other words, God turned his back upon the sinful

living of the people of Nineveh. They were a prideful people; believing in their own works of the flesh. They were also guilty of much idolatry, and the persecution of many innocent people.

E. For the emptiers have emptied them out, and marred their vine branches. In other words, just as rotten grapes have a horrible stink, so did the deeds of the people of Nineveh, in the nostrils of God.

F. Next, Nahum describes how horrible the judgment of God is going to be, when God's mighty hand of destruction moves against Nineveh. His mighty men shall carry shields which are turned red with the blood of the people of Nineveh; and his valiant men will be in scarlet. Hebrew-chayil (khah-yil): strong, powerful, mighty, valor, or forceful. Scarlet in the Bible was a representation of prosperity. We often hear of Jesus' scarlet, purple robe. Jesus was prosperous in everything which He done while He was on the earth; and these valiant men of God will be very prosperous or successful in their attempts to overthrow Nineveh.

G. The chariots shall be with flaming torches in the day of his preparation. When this army comes to overthrow Nineveh, they shall be in chariots with flaming torches, in the day of God's preparation. Hebrew-koon (koon): figuratively speaking of God's appointed time for the destruction of Nineveh. It was God's prepared day for their end to come.

H. And the fir trees shall be terribly shaken. The trees of Nineveh were cut down for many different uses. Often, the armies tore down the forests completely. If not for personal use by the armies, by the horrible rage of the armies as they passed through the woods.

I. The chariots shall rage in the streets. Hebrew-halal (haw-lal): to make a show, or to be as a foolish mob; to celebrate, or to take pride in what one has done. When this mighty army has destroyed Nineveh, they will have a party in the streets; rejoicing over what they have accomplished.

J. They shall jostle one against another in the broad ways. Hebrew-shaqaq (shaw-kak): to run or act like a wild beast; to run to and fro, as though one has no known sense of direction, or no exact destination, as if one has gone mad.

K. They shall seem like torches. The chariots shall be running to and fro; hitting one another and causing sparks as the iron sides scrape against one another. There shall be light in the streets; caused by the terrible masquerade of the army.

L. They shall run like the lightnings. The army shall be running in the streets, just like the swift lightning that comes down from the sky. They shall be at one location for a second, and as though they have disappeared the next second. It shall be a terrible massacre in the streets

of Nineveh.

M. He shall recount his worthies. This could be referring to the Chaldean Army, or the Assyrian army; referring to the giving of the orders from the head commander, or king, to the army under his control.

N. They shall stumble in their walk. There shall be so many in the army; of both the Assyrians and the Chaldeans; that there shall be hardly room to move on either side.

O. They shall make haste to the wall thereof, and the defense shall be prepared. The Ninevites, or the Assyrians, and the army of the Chaldeans also, shall be rushing to the wall of Nineveh; the Ninevites attempting to defend their city; and the Chaldeans trying to take control of it.

P. The gates of the rivers shall be opened. Nineveh stood on the Tigris River. The gates were opened, and water rushed mightily through the city; helping the Chaldeans to make their seize easier.

Q. And the palace shall be dissolved. The opening of the river gates caused the king's palace to be horribly flooded; probably causing it to crumble down like a cardboard box. The city was truly in a pitiful condition; because the Ninevites had turned once again from living Godly lives, to living in sin of every kind.

R. And Huzzab shall be led away captive. She shall be brought up, and her maids shall lead her as with the voice of doves, tabering upon their breasts. This is most likely speaking of the queen of Nineveh, and her maids; who will be led away into a foreign land, and become captives; in spite of their royal position. The maids shall be in such shame, along with the queen, that they only mutter their regrets and sorrows to themselves.

S. But Nineveh is old like a pool of water. Nineveh is an extremely old, ancient city; and has become very great in population; just as an old pool of water, which is full of fish which has been bred.

T. Yet they shall flee away. Instead of the large population of Nineveh being a safety guard to the city, they all are led away captive; as to say goodbye forever.

U. Stand, stand, shall they cry. The leading commanders of Nineveh shall be crying out to the people of the city to stand and fight; but it will be worthless. The time of their destruction has come.

V. But none shall look back. The people of Nineveh shall be as in a panic; not a one daring to look back towards their destroyed city, or towards their enemy.

W. Take ye the spoil of silver, take the spoil of gold: for there is none end of the store and glory out of all the pleasant furniture. This is probably the orders of the commander of the army which is taking over Nineveh.

For Nineveh was a very treasured city; having a very large store of gold and silver; as well as many other treasured items of value. He is telling them to grab anything that they can get their hands on; for the earthly treasures of Nineveh were countless. Yet their earthly treasures done them no good at all, when it came to having to give account to God, for their horribly lifestyle which they had lived. Remember what Jesus told us in Matt. 6:19-21: "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

X. She is empty, and void, and waste: and the heart melteth, and the knees smite together, and much pain is in all loins, and the faces of them all gather blackness. Nineveh which was once a wealthy, prosperous city, is now empty and void, and turned into a wasteland. All the citizens have either escaped out of her borders, or been carried away as captives. The hearts of the Ninevites have melted with fear, their knees are smiting together due to fear and lack of strength, and much pain is felt in their bodies after their terrible upset. Also, their faces which once laughed and smiled with joy and gladness, now looked black and dim with sorrow and shame.

Y. Where is the dwelling of the lions, and the feeding place of the young lions; where the lion, even the old lion, walked, and the lions help, and none made them afraid? This is speaking of Nineveh; where the king of Assyria and his princes dwelled; where they once dwelled in safety and security. What has happened to this city, which at one time was a treasured city to look upon?

Z. The lion did tear in pieces enough for his whelps. Hebrew-guwr (goor): a child, or a young one; those who dwell and abide under one's rule; speaking of the baby lions in this particular situation.

AA. And strangled for his lioness, and filled his holes with prey, and his dens with raven. This is speaking once again of the Assyrian king. He at one time overtook his neighboring nations, and conquered them; taking for himself and the queen, great treasures which could not be counted. He now sat in ruins.

BB. Behold, I am against thee, saith the Lord of hosts. God is speaking to the Assyrian nation. He is no longer their source of strength and protection.

CC. And I will burn her chariots in the smoke. This is speaking of the wrath of God when the city first fell. The Assyrian chariots were destroyed

in the smoke.

DD. And the sword shall devour the young lions. The princes of the king of Assyria were destroyed by the enemy swords; even the ones who attempted to hide or seek protection in unknown places.

EE. I will cut off thy prey from the earth. The prey of the Assyrians shall be blocked, or they should be hindered from capturing the usual supply of prey, or food. They shall be as a hungry nation; without anything.

FF. The voice of thy messengers shall no longer be heard. This is referring to the Assyrian ambassadors; those who gather tributes, those who work to enlist military personnel, or anyone who is sent out by the king. They shall no longer be heard, or they will be ignored.

8. Now, we come to the final destruction of Nineveh. God's Word tells us of the horrible terror and torture which Nineveh must suffer, for their wickedness which they have chosen to walk in. We read in Nahum chapter 3: "Woe to the bloody city! It is all full of lies and robbery; the prey departeth not; The noise of a whip, and the noise of the rattling of the wheels, and of the prancing horses, and of the jumping chariots. The horseman lifteth up both the bright sword and the glittering spear: and there is a multitude of slain, and a great number of carcasses; and there is none end of their corpses; they stumble upon their corpses:

Because of the multitude of the whoredoms of the wellfavored harlot, the mistress of witchcrafts, that selleth nations through her whoredoms, and families through her witchcrafts. Behold, I am against thee, saith the Lord of hosts; and I will discover thy skirts upon thy face, and I will show the nations thy nakedness, and the kingdoms thy shame. And I will cast abominable filth upon thee, and make thee vile, and will set thee as a gazingstock. And it shall come to pass, that all they that look upon thee shall flee from thee, and say, Nineveh is laid waste: who will bemoan her? Whence shall I seek comforters for thee? Art thou better than populous No, that was situate among the rivers, that had the waters round it, whose rampart was the sea, and her wall was from the sea? Ethiopia and Egypt were her strength, and it was infinite; Put and Lubim were thy helpers. Yet was she carried away, she went into captivity: her young children also were dashed in pieces at the top of all the streets: and they cast lots for her honorable men, and all her great men were bound in chains. Thou also shalt be drunken: thou shalt be hid, thou also shalt seek strength because of the enemy. All thy strong holds shall be like fig trees with the first ripe figs: if they be shaken, they shall even fall into the mouth of the eater. Behold, thy people in the midst of thee are women: the gates of thy land shall be set wide open unto thine enemies: the fire shall devour thy bars.

Draw thee waters for the siege, fortify thy strong holds: go into clay, and tread the mortar, make strong the brick kiln. There shall the fire devour thee; the sword shall cut thee off, it shall eat thee up like the cankerworm, make thyself many as the locusts. Thou hast multiplied thy merchants above the stars of Heaven: the cankerworm spoileth, and flieth away. Thy crowned are the locusts, and thy captains as the great grasshoppers, which camp in the hedges in the cold day, but when the sun ariseth they flee away, and their place is not known where they are. Thy shepherds slumber, O king of Assyria: thy nobles shall dwell in the dust: thy people is scattered upon the mountains, and no man gathereth them. There is no healing of thy bruise; thy wound is grievous: all that hear the bruit of thee shall clap the hands over thee: for upon whom hath not thy wickedness passed continually?"

A. Woe to the bloody city. God is tired of Nineveh's terrible wickedness. It is full of sin of every kind, including the shedding of blood; and has no thoughts of repentance.

B. It is full of lies and robbery. The people of Nineveh are continually committing sin, including being the worst liars, and robbing one another all the time. Robbery is an everyday performance.

C. The prey departeth not. The desire of the people of Nineveh is to continually bring upon themselves the consequences of sin. They no longer have any thought of God, or neither do they have any desire to serve Him whatsoever. Therefore, we see what their prey shall be.

D. The noise of a whip, and the noise of the rattling of the wheels, and of the prancing horses, and of the jumping chariots. The enemy comes into Nineveh, and brings this terrible prey upon the city of Nineveh. The city is completely destroyed as the enemy overtakes the city, with their whips, their horses, and their chariots.

E. The horseman lifteth up both the bright sword and the glittering spear. There are swords and spears going in every direction. The Ninevehites have brought the destructive hand of God upon themselves; by their choice to walk in their sins, and not allow God to have any part in their lives any more.

F. And there is a multitude of slain, and a great number of carcasses; and there is none end of their corpses: they stumble upon their corpses. There shall be dead bodies lying everywhere; in every direction you turn. They shall be lying in the streets, as well as everywhere you look. There will be so many dead bodies, that those who remain will be tripping over them.

G. Because of the multitude of the whoredoms of the wellfavored harlot, the mistress of witchcrafts, that selleth nations through her whoredoms,

and families through her witchcrafts. Nineveh was full of harlots, who ran the streets continuously. And also, witchcraft was a common practice in Nineveh. The city was full of such evil practices. This was what brought about the destruction of the city, and the death of multitudes of people. H. Behold, I am against thee, saith the Lord of hosts. God is always against sin of any kind; even though He is always anxious and willing to forgive anyone of their wrongdoings, if they will only turn to Him in repentance. But the people of Nineveh had no thoughts whatsoever of repentance. This is why the Lord God was against them.

I. And I will discover thy skirts upon thy face, and I will show the nations thy nakedness, and the kingdoms thy shame. God will allow the nakedness and the shame of the people of Nineveh, to be seen by all the surrounding nations. Their true nature and lifestyle will be found out. Surrounding neighbors will be able to see the real heart of the people of Nineveh. All their shameful acts shall be exposed forevermore.

J. And I will cast abominable filth upon thee, and make thee vile, and will set thee as a gazingstock. Nineveh shall become a filthy city; and those who once looked upon her as a prime city to look upon; and who considered her to be a leading city to follow, and to run to, shall begin to laugh at her, and consider her to be nothing more than a practical joke.

K. And it shall come to pass, that all they that look upon thee shall flee from thee, and say, Nineveh is laid waste: who will bemoan her? Whence shall I seek comforters for thee? Those who at one time had the desire to flee to Nineveh, shall now have the desire to flee from Nineveh. They shall see the wickedness of Nineveh, and see the results of their wickedness, and want no part of her any longer. The word bemoan comes from the Hebrew word nuwd (nood); which means to feel sorry for, or to pity or have compassion upon. It also refers to fleeing from, or deserting, or to disappear from. There shall be no comfort for the city of Nineveh.

L. Art thou better than populous No, that was situate among the rivers, that had the waters round about it, whose rampart was the sea, and her wall was from the sea? Nahum shows Nineveh other cities who were more secure and stronger than her; who could not stand against the judgments of God. One of these cities is the city of No, in the land of Egypt. No was a very large city in population, yet they could not stand against the judgments of God. Nineveh tried to use the grace and the mercy of God as an excuse for their wickedness; but this would not work; Nineveh would certainly fall.

M. Ethiopia and Egypt were her strength, and it was infinite, which means to have no boundaries or limits. These two countries at one time gave Nineveh unlimited support; either in trade and commercial support, or in military support; or both. But now they had turned their backs upon her, because of her terrible wickedness and sin.

N. Put and Lubim were thy helpers. These were two neighboring countries of Africa; also known as Mauritania and Libya. Nineveh sat as a queen; with no thoughts of ever falling from power. Yet she suffered a very fatal fall; and was carried into captivity. It's strength was not in support from military execution. For it suffered a most barbarian overthrow.

O. Yet was she carried away, she went into captivity: her young children also were dashed in pieces at the top of all the streets: and they cast lots for her honorable men, and all her great men were bound in chains.

Nineveh, who was previously so strong, fell from power completely, and was carried away into captivity, probably during the reign of Josiah; about the sixth or seventh century B.C. Their young children were dashed into pieces by the merciless conquerors. They had no respect for anyone whatsoever, among the Ninevites. Their only goal was to completely overtake the city, and bring it to ruins. The conquerors cast lots for the honorable men of Nineveh; for the purpose of taking them as slaves. They had so many men that they knew nothing else to do with them, than to just cast lots for them., and use them as prisoners of war. The Ninevites who once wore chains of gold, now wore chains of iron.

P. They also shall be drunken. The Ninevites were to be staggering to and fro, because of intoxication. They were to have the cup of the Lord's fury, because of their mighty sins. They would fall and rise no more.

Q. They shall be hid. The people of Nineveh shall hide themselves because of shame, disgrace, and fear. They shall be in distress and danger, and not be able to face their enemies; because of their terror and strength.

R. Thou also shall seek strength because of the enemy. They shall sneak to their neighbors to beg their assistance in time of need.

S. All thy strong holds shall be like fig trees with the first ripe figs. The mighty garrisons and strongholds which Nineveh has, which are regularly fortified and bravely manned, shall be as paper walls; and like the first ripe figs, which are very soft and loosely attached to the trees.

T. If they be shaken, they shall even fall into the mouth of the eater. The least bit of resistance from the enemy, shall make all the Ninevites fall because of fear; into the arms of the enemy; and be swallowed up in defeat; having all their strongholds fall to the ground; and surrendering

unto the enemy at the first sign of resistance.

U. Behold, thy people in the midst of thee are women: the gates of thy land shall be set wide open unto thine enemies: the fire shall devour thy bars. Nineveh was overcrowded with women. They shall have no wisdom, no courage, they shall be feeble and fainthearted, as women commonly are in times of danger and distress. They shall be overtaken by fear which comes from their own imaginations. The men shall become total cowards. The gates of the city of Nineveh were wide open unto the enemy forces; and fire shall destroy the bars that surround the city. God's hand was against the sinful city; and He made sure that the gates were left wide open unto the ones who were to destroy the city, and overtake the Ninevites; and that the bars of the city were completely devoured, leaving the city as only a place of remembrance.

V. Draw thee waters for the siege, fortify thy strong holds: go into clay, and tread the mortar, make strong the brick kiln. Nineveh is told to store up enough water to make it through the siege, and to reinforce thy strong holds. They are told to take the clay and mortar, and make strong all the brick kilns. Yet it is all done in vain; for they shall surely be conquered and destroyed.

W. There shall the fire devour thee. The Ninevites shall be taken by a great storm of enemy forces; and they shall all be destroyed by fire.

X. The sword shall cut thee off, it shall eat thee up like the cankerworm. Swords shall be the main weapon of the enemy forces; and great devastations of Ninevites shall be conquered and destroyed; just like the cankerworm destroys.

Y. Make thyself many as the cankerworm, make thyself many as the locusts. Though there be swarms of the Ninevites, as the cankerworms and the locusts, they shall be thronged with wealthy traders, and have much more wealth than they have courage or bravery. Their hearts shall fail them, though they be very wealthy with money and riches.

Z. Thou hast multiplied thy merchants above the stars of heaven. Nineveh is full of merchants; greater than can be numbered. The city has always been a city of trade and economic wealth; greater than any other city of the time.

AA. The cankerworm spoileth, and flieth away. Just as the cankerworm spoileth, or ruineth, and then flieth away, so shall the enemy forces make ruins out of the city of Nineveh, and then they shall all be gone. It shall happen faster than can be taken notice of.

BB. Thy crowned are as the locusts, and thy captains as the great grasshoppers, which camp in the hedges in the cold day, but when the sun ariseth they flee away, and their place is not known where they are. Those who were crowned with power in Nineveh; including the captains of the armies; shall be as the grasshoppers, which have no power when the enemy approaches and attacks like a flood. They shall be of no service whatsoever, to the people of Nineveh. When the enemy forces approach, they flee to every place of safety which they can find, and think nothing of the safety of the people in which they are trusted to protect.

CC. Thy shepherds slumber, O king of Assyria. Hebrew- nuwm (noom): to sleep, or to be drowsy. The shepherds have no life left in them, to defend the flock.

DD. Thy nobles shall dwell in the dust. They shall be buried in silence. If they had any hope of recovering, they would be vastly disappointed. They lost all their gumption to stand up to the enemy. When the shepherds over them lost all of their courage and boldness, they also fell in power and in spirit.

EE. Thy people is scattered upon the mountains, and no man gathereth them. The people will be scattered, and never come to the end of their wandering; just as sheep do when their shepherd has disappeared, or fled from the flock.

FF. There is no healing of thy bruise; thy wound is grievous: all that hear the bruit of thee shall clap the hands over thee: for upon whom hath not thy wickedness passed continually? There is no chance of healing the situation which Nineveh was facing. It would be very grievous for all the people. And instead of thy neighbors lending a helping hand to the Ninevites, they would clap their hands in joy, when they heard of the fall of the great city. This is because Nineveh has been hurtful to them all in one way or another. Nineveh was always doing mischief to all those surrounding them. The neighbors had no pity or sympathy for Nineveh; for they were always being insulted by them in one way or another. They are glad to see the people of Nineveh having to pay for the wickedness which they have practiced for so long.

9. We have studied several of the cases, where the destructive hand of God was put into action in the centuries of the past. But what about the day in which we live? If we will recall, God's destructive hand moved when the people of the earth turned into a sinful generation during the days of Noah. And once again, God's destructive hand began to move, when mankind attempted to build a tower which would reach into Heaven. And when the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah fell into massive sin, God's

destructive hand began to move once again; destroying them completely. And then we have the destruction of the Egyptian armies, along with the destruction of the many other Egyptians, when they refused to allow the people of God to be released from Egypt. Then we have the wicked king Ahab; who ended up being destroyed by God, because of his horrible wicked tricks which he pulled during his kingship. And then we come to the destruction of the city of Nineveh, because of the great wickedness which went on in the land.

The capital of Assyria was destroyed for their deliberate neglect of the principals of Godly living; and God showed no mercy upon them whatsoever; because they had no thought of Him in their lifestyles which they lived; and continued to live in such a manner; never having any thoughts of repentance whatsoever. But when we stop and think about the matter, how does the city of Nineveh compare with the United States of America? Were the people of Nineveh really any more wicked in their lifestyles, than the people of the United States of America have become? I do not believe so. They might of committed some pretty gross sins against God, but I truly do not believe that they were any more guilty of sin, than the United States has become today. You may be wondering what I am talking about, so I will do my best to make the picture clear. Nineveh was guilty of killing innocent people; especially the people of God. They were also guilty of worshipping pagan gods. Approximately one-hundred and fifty years earlier, God had sent Jonah to Nineveh to preach repentance; and the people of the city humbled themselves, and repented of their sins. But evidently, their repentance did not last very long. If we will recall, approximately three years ago, in 2001, America was struck by terrorists; when they struck two of our main buildings in New York, and the Pentagon Building, or the Federal Headquarters of the United States Department of Defense. Another airplane was also crashed into the ocean, because the pilot refused to crash into the capital building of the United States. When these tragic events took place, people all across the United States of America, were filled with fear. They thought our nation was about to face much more tragedy of the sort. Our churches were filled all across America. But how long did this last? Unfortunately, not for very long. It was not very long, until people were right back to their normal lifestyles. We are told in Mal. 3:6: "For I am the Lord, I change not." We are also told in Hebrews 13:8: "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever." God has never approved of sin, and He never will. If He was against the sins of Nineveh, then He is also against the sins of the United States of America. God is a God of forgiveness, mercy, and grace. But

sooner or later, if an individual, or if a nation, continues to deliberately walk in sin, God will eventually bring destruction upon them. What sins are the United States of America guilty of? Well, to begin with, let us look at putting our trust in God. We have printed on every single piece in our monetary system, the words, "In God We Trust." When our nation was founded, we had Godly men in our government, who truly placed their trust in God. They prayed every time they came together. They wanted to be certain, that our nation was founded upon the Word of God. And for centuries the United States has stood upon the Word of God. But are we still standing upon God's Word, and trusting in Him? Jesus told us in Matt. 12:33, that a tree is known by his fruit. I believe by the word tree, Jesus was speaking of an individual, or of a group, or of a nation. America has been looked upon for centuries, as a Godly nation. The other nations of the world, have believed that America is a nation which truly trusts in God, and faithfully serves Him in every way. But is this still a true belief, or is it just a lie? A Godly nation, is a nation that puts God first in every way; and one that faithfully serves Him continually. Is the United States of America still living in this manner? For the most part, I do not believe so. We do still have many faithful Christian people in our nation, but we also have a great number of people who are causing our nation to stray further and further away from God, day by day.

As bad as I hate to have to say such a thing, The United States of America is becoming more ungodly than we have ever been before. You may ask, "Where did you ever get such an idea as this?" I will attempt to explain why I feel this to be the truth. A nation which trusts in God, will pray to Him continually, and will always have a desire to read and to live according to his holy Word. In the United States of America, we have passed laws which forbid praying and the reading of God's Word to take place in our public schools. How can we truthfully say that we trust in God, when we will not even allow our children and our school teachers to pray to Him, or to read his Word? If we truly trust in God, then we will be obedient to his Word. And his Word most clearly teaches us to pray, and to read the Word of God. Jesus told us in Matt. 26:41: "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." We also read in Mark 13:33: "Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is." What time is Jesus speaking of in this scripture? He is speaking of his return to the earth, to rapture his people up into Heaven. He is telling us to always be watchful for his return, and pray continually as we wait for Him to return. Luke tells us in his gospel, what Jesus said about prayer, in Luke 21:36: "Watch ye therefore, and pray

always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man." Jesus is telling us, that unless we continually pray, we will not be able to overcome the many tribulations that we will face while we are on this earth. God sums it up very clearly, back in Luke 18:1: "And He spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint." It is most certainly God's will for us to always pray. How can we claim to be a nation which trusts in God, and we will not even allow prayer to be in our schools, as well as in many other public places. We are also taught that we are to continually read the Word of God. We are taught that we are to obey the Word of God, and not to ever turn away from it. We read in Joshua 1:7-8: "Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law (the Word of God), which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. This book of the law (the Holy Bible) shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success." The only way for us to be successful as individuals, or as a nation, is to read and to live by the Word of God. Jesus told us in Matt. 4:4: "But He answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." If we are truly people of God, we will continue to read and to live by the Word of God. We are told in John 8:31: "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on Him, If ye continue in my Word, then are ye my disciples indeed." There is extreme danger in refusing to read and live by the Word of God. We read in Amos 8:11-12: "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord: And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the Word of the Lord, and shall not find it." May we get back to the Word of God, and read and proclaim it once again, as God would have us to do; while God's mercy is still upon us, and we still have the chance to do so.

Let us not carry on with our wickedness, as the city of Nineveh did; but get back to the Word of God, before the destructive hand of God begins to move upon the United States of America. We read in God's Word, of how one of the kings, had to command some of his servants, to go and seek the Lord God; concerning the wrath of God that was being poured upon them, because of their fathers failing to be obedient to the Word of God.

We read in 2 Chron. 34:20–21: “And the king commanded Hilkiah, and Ahikam the son of Shaphan, and Abdon the son of Micah, and Shaphan the scribe, and Asaiah a servant of the king’s, saying, Go, inquire of the Lord for me, and for them that are left in Israel and in Judah, concerning the words of the book that is found: for great is the wrath of the Lord that is poured out upon us, because our fathers have not kept the Word of the Lord, to do after all that is written in this book.” Most certainly, the United States of America is doing a very poor job today, of keeping in obedience to the Word of God. And if our nation does not soon turn back to the Word of God, there is no doubt, that God’s hand of destruction will come upon us sooner or later. We can also name other very serious sins, which we are allowing to take place in our nation, which we seem to see absolutely nothing wrong with. A couple of these sins, is the sin of adultery, and the sin of fornication. Everywhere we look in our nation, we see marriages being broken up because of both men and women, having relationships with others besides their own husband or wife. We have husbands and wives all across America, who have no second thought whatsoever, about having relationships with people other than their own mate. One of the Ten Commandments, which God gave unto Moses in Ex. 20:14, says, “Thou shalt not commit adultery.” We are also told in Lev. 20:10: “And the man that committeth adultery with another man’s wife, even he that committeth adultery with his neighbor’s wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.” Proverbs 6:32 also tells us: “But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul.” God’s Word also tells us that we can commit adultery in our heart, without ever even touching another man or woman. We read in Matt. 5:27–28: “Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman (or man) to lust after her (or him) hath committed adultery with her (or him) already in his (or her) heart.” How can this be possible? Very easily. Today, in our society, there are both men and women who go around dressed in a very ungodly manner. And when a man sees a woman going around with half of her body being shown, it is going to do nothing but cause him to have evil thoughts; and the same thing happens with a woman, when they see a man with half of his body being shown. Even though it may not always be deliberate, the human mind cannot help but have such thoughts, when a person has to continually see such ungodliness. And even worse, a person cannot even go into a store now days, without having to see things which bring evil thoughts to our minds. Just about every time we go into a department

store, we see mannequins of both men and women, with nothing on more than a piece of underwear. What is this going to do, other than create evil thoughts in the minds of those who look upon them. We see pictures of the same; both men and women, posing with nothing on but their underwear. This is why we must continually pray for God to give us strength in our minds; that we may overcome such evil temptations. Our nation has gotten so far from God, that nothing bothers us anymore. Fornication has also gotten to be one of the worse sins committed in America. Fornication is sexual relationships going on between unmarried couples. Today, in the United States of America, marriage has almost become a thing of the past. Couples are choosing to live together, and forgetting all about the practice of marriage. It is happening all over our country. Couples are moving in and living together, having children, and acting as though marriage is no longer necessary at all. What a disgrace! And even worse, America has condoned the murder of babies for years; what we know as abortion. A baby is alive, long before they are actually taken from the mother's body. Yet our society sees nothing wrong with taking their lives. Couples want to live together in fornication, and act as though they are living righteously, and they see nothing wrong with their living together in the unmarried state, or the taking of the life of the babies which they produce. May God have mercy upon the United States of America! And this is not the last of it. America has also now started the approval of men marrying men, and women marrying women. What an ungodly thing to do! This nation is flooded with gay and lesbian people. Whoever thought that our country would ever approve of such ungodly acts? There are now laws being passed in certain states, that give complete legalization for those of the same sex to become married. What a disgrace to our nation! It is not at all an unusual sight, to look upon the local news broadcasts, and see men kissing and hugging men, and women kissing and hugging women. America will never have the right to say a word against the acts of the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. How can we ever again look at America, as a Christian example to the rest of the world? And this is only the beginning of these evil acts, which the United States of America is completely guilty of, before God Almighty. Every time we turn on the television set, we hear of more states approving of these ungodly, wicked acts. God has certainly had mercy upon our nation. But how much longer will God put up with our unrestrained evilness? Let us be thankful that He has not already brought his hand of destruction upon us. If we really cared about serving God, we would not allow such things as this to go on, in our public society.

Conclusion:

May we all be continually in prayer for the United States of America. We may be a country that has bombs large enough to blast away half of the entire world. Or we may be able to produce handmade weapons, which have the power to kill hundreds of people in seconds. But let us never forget, that none of these handmade bombs or weapons, will ever be able to give us any security from the destructive hand of God, when He decides that He has seen enough. Let us be assured, that the judgment of God is coming. It would of been better for our nation, to of never of even had the Word of God, than to of had it as we have, and neglect it as we have done. The only hope for the United States of America is repentance. Jesus is coming soon. May we realize how evil we have been, and turn from our evil deeds, and seek the face of God. His mercy and grace is our only hope.

Calvin Smith