**IS AMERICA EXPERIENCING**

**THE CHASTISEMENT OF GOD ?**

By W. G. Guy, (June, 2012)

(Note: the word *chastisement* is substituted for the word *judgment* because people misunderstand what judgment is and consider that judgment is a final disposition when it is actually a determination for a punitive action.)

 This question is posed after having read the amazingly informative book THE HARBINGER by Jonathan Cahn. This book identifies how America is precisely fulfilling, in every detail, the Biblical events concerning ancient Israel in 732 B.C. due to Israel’s sin and turning away from God. The historical event is recorded in Isaiah 9:10 which documents Israel’s defiance of God’s chastening of that nation at the hands of the Assyrians who launched an attack against them.

Isaiah 9:10 *– “The bricks are fallen down, but we will build with hewn stones: the sycamores are cut down, but we will change them into cedars.”*

 The Harbinger describes an exact parallel of events that led to the subsequent destruction of the nation of Israel with what has occurred in America as a result of the attack on September 11, 2001 and our nation’s ongoing problems since then. Obviously the warning issued to ancient Israel applies to America today, and every American is encouraged to read this book and take heed.

 Many people, Christians included, cannot accept that God would chasten or punish America for its sins and turning away from Him. I also questioned if our current national dilemma is a result of God’s chastisement on this nation. Many years ago I wrote a series of articles about God’s chastisement on the nation of Israel and that it occurred in increasing and progressive levels in order to promote repentance and turning to Him.

 This writer initially had a problem accepting that God would punish America’s sin because I know that God judged all of man’s sin in Jesus when He died on the cross to atone for all our sins. Mr. Cahn deals with this issue in his book by identifying the difference between individual sin and national sin. After my own research I realized that Jesus died for each individual’s sin paying the death penalty for every person on earth. Each individual needs to acknowledge and accept Christ’s atoning work and repent to be saved. Jesus didn’t die for a nation or its government’s sin; only for the personal sins of an individual. Therefore chastisement on America is proper since God is not punishing individuals but a rebellious and defiant system or organization.

 To help understand the “what” and “why” of God’s chastisement (also referred to as judgment) on America we need to define just what is judgment; what is a nation, and then we need to explore God’s reasons for His action.

**Judgment** is defined in the Webster Dictionary as: *1) pronouncing an opinion or decision; 2) a calamity regarded as sent by God, by way of punishment (chastisement); 3) judicial decree or sentence.* Judgment is defined from the Old Testament Hebrew as: *a verdict, a formal decree, a sentence as in a judicial pronouncement for justice.*  Judgment defined from the New Testament Greek is: *a decision or condemnation, judgment damnation (as in judicial/tribunal edict of divine law).*

**Chastisement** is defined as punishment; to scold sharply for improper behavior.

 **Nation** is defined in the Webster Dictionary (with respect to America) as: *1) an aggregation of people having like institutions and customs and a sense of homogeneity and mutual interest;* *2) the body of inhabitants of a country united under a single independent government.* Note that both of these definitions fit America’s Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution and The Bill of Rights.

 **Government** is defined in the Webster Dictionary as: *a system of governing; administrative duties; power for rule or regulation of conduct and affairs.*

 Why would God judge or chastise America? His actions are to bring about correction from errant behavior; as a father chastens a child. A form of punishment or ill experience or calamity causing a painful or discomforting experience is a form of discipline to cause correction. It’s the simple training concept of reward or blessing for good behavior and punishment for bad behavior.

Hebrews 12:5b-11 – *“My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of Him; For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth.” If ye endure chastening, God dealth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. Furthermore, we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. Now no chastening for the present time seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless, afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.*

Unfortunately, in America today, we are educated to not administer punishment to our children as it may impede their personal development. This “political correctness” doctrine has infected the American psyche as well as our legal and educational system. The result being that we do not administer proper corrective punishment, nor do we accept it; thus we no longer understand it as a nation or as a governing political entity.

 God’s reasons for His chastisement on America are very much justified! As a nation we have not only turned away from God, but have thrown Him out of our government and public life. Beginning in 1963, our government, as a nation or national law, threw Him out of our public schools by eliminating prayer and Bible reading. Our national decline has only accelerated since. As a result of turning away from Him our nation began defying His Divine Law by killing innocent children, calling it abortion. Just as ancient Israel did, Americans now offer up their children on the altar of sacrifice to the god and goddess of sex; (and they call it “a woman’s right to choose”). Then our nation defies God’s Law and the laws of nature by sanctioning homosexuality, lesbianism and now same sex marriage.

God must be disgusted with us as a nation. It’s probably only the prayers of true Christians interceding for America that have stayed God’s hand from doing to this nation what He did to Sodom and Gomorrah. Thankfully there are true Christians who are maintaining a prayer vigil over this nation which has allowed God to slow His judgments on America and giving time for the unsaved to accept the gospel message of His deliverance.

Why would God chasten America for its sins and not do the same to other nations that are deserving of His corrective chastisements? The answer to this is in the parallel between America and Israel, and Mr. Cahn identifies this very well in The Harbinger. There are only two nations that were dedicated and consecrated to God, Israel and America. God choose Israel to be a people for Himself to fulfill His purpose in revealing God to the known world back then. Our founding fathers dedicated their new nation to God on the day George Washington was inaugurated to be our first president. Following his inauguration he lead the new congress to a church where they prayed the prayer of dedication and consecrated this nation to God and asked for His blessings and protection on America as long as we acknowledged and followed Him. (This is well document in The Harbinger, Chapter 19.) This is why America became so blessed and the envy of other nations causing their people to want to live in America.

During the past half century, America’s government has led the nation in defiance of God, His laws, and just and moral values. Is America deserving of punishment to correct its course – it most certainly is and necessarily so! America has become a grossly sinful nation through its defiant laws. Consider what scripture has to say about what we have done and become:

Proverbs 14:34 – *Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.*

Proverbs 29:2 – *When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.*

Isaiah 10:1 – *“Woe unto them that decree unrighteous decrees, and that write grievousness which they have prescribed,* (as laws).

Psalm 119:126 *– it is time for thee, Lord, to work: for they have made void thy law.*

Psalm 94:20 – *Shall the throne of iniquity have fellowship with thee,* (those) *which frameth mischief by a law?*

Our Congress and courts have made laws that negate God’s law and go completely contrary to Him and His righteousness. Therefore we are ripe for the consequences. Please understand that sin has its own consequences: if you play with fire you can get burned; you reap what you sow; sexual immorality produces unwanted children and diseases, etc. But, if we fail to recognize that these consequences are the result of errant behavior, then God steps in to administer His corrective punishments. God is not against us as a nation; in fact, it is his grace and mercy that is progressively applying his chastisements to get us to recognize our national error and to get us to repent and return to Him and His way of living.

As mentioned earlier this writer’s research found that God’s corrective punishment occurs in progressive levels to get the nation’s attention and to repent. There are several levels and if the nation does not respond to one level of chastening, after a reasonable period of time God brings about the next level. This is repeated in progressively severe calamities of various sorts brought on the nation. Each stage occurs after what God considers a sufficient period of time for the nation to evaluate its circumstances and conditions and make the necessary adjustments or repentance. In every case warnings are issued by His servants (prophets); however, as is common in human nature, when people don’t like the message they denigrate or otherwise kill or destroy the messenger. So it is in America today! Have you noticed the denigration and vilification of those who point out our national sins and preach against such behavior. Laws have now been passed to prosecute such as “Hate Crimes”, and we are going to see more of this coming in the near future.

 There are two final stages of God’s chastening on a nation. The failure of America’s economy is the stage of punishment that leads up to these final two stages. Next to the last stage of punishment is when a nation losses the right or privilege of governing itself. Others take over the government and subject its people to oppressive rules and regulations and denying many previous rights, privileges and freedoms. This can be done overtly or covertly. Overtly is when an enemy or opposition force by conquest takes over the authority to govern and rule the people. Covertly is when an opposition entity usurps authority by deception or other ploy to take over rule and governmental authority over the nation, (which, by the way, is happening right now in America).

 The last stage of punishment is when the nation is destroyed as a nation. This does not mean the people are destroyed, is means (as the definition implies) the *“institutions and customs and a sense of homogeneity and mutual interest”* cease to exist. That *“the* *body of inhabitants of a country* are no longer *united under a single independent government”* as that government ceases to exist and has been replaced by another completely different form of government; usually by an enemy in conquest. When the nation is destroyed it’s not the people but the system that established the nation that is destroyed and ceases to exist.

Americans fail to recognize that we have now entered this next to the last stage of His chastening on our nation as our Constitution is being systematically destroyed . It’s like that old proverb about boiling a frog: put a frog in a pot of water and slowly bring it to a boil and it will remain there until it dies; but throw the frog into a pot of already boiling water and it will immediately jump out. It’s the slow and steady gradual changes that are destroying America without drawing alarm to its people. How long do we have before we enter the final stage of God’s punishment. There is still time for our nation and its leaders to repent; this also includes the call for Christians and the church to repent of its error, lukewarmness and catering to the flesh.

Romans 13:11-14 – *And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof.*

It is important to recognize that America as a nation was established by the U.S. Constitution. The United States Constitution, the official law of the nation, is currently being systematically destroyed. When the U.S. Constitution is done away with America ceases to be a nation! It is just that simple, yet it is that serious! Have you noticed how the current administration of President Obama has no regard for the Constitution and how he wants to eliminate or bypass it completely? He has been doing so by imposing his Executive Orders and forming bureaucratic czars to form regulations rather than having laws passed by congress.

 History shows that empires and nations have fallen but the people still remain in place, only under different rule. This happened to every past empire; Egyptian, Assyrian; Babylonian, Persian, Greek and Roman. It was the system of government or the ruling elite that was destroyed. And so it may happen to America if we fail to repent. In fact, to some extent, it has already happened to America because we are no longer the nation that we were in just the last century.

 For example: consider the possibility for what candidate Obama called for in his campaign slogan, “I want to fundamentally transform (change) America”, and that nobody seemed to ask him, “change it into what”. Could America become governed under Marxist-Socialist or Communist rule? How about being merged into a “global Government? Could another possibility be for America to come under the control of Islam and Sharia Law. In either case the nation of America will cease to exist as we know it, however, the people in this country will still exist. Would people in this country, then being under such a new and oppressive rules then cry out to God, and would there be a true repentance and cause to seek Him for relief?

 So the overlaying question is, will God punish and allow America to be destroyed due to its defying God and turning away from Him, even if there are Godly people in America praying for it? The answer is YES, God will do whatever it takes to get as many people as possible to return to Him, even if it requires that this nation ceases to exist by coming under the oppressive rule of the ungodly, (which we already seem to have in part at this time). Perhaps then the unbelievers and the unrepentant will respond to the message of God’s servants who will continue to witness for Him and intercede regardless of the state of this nation, that is, until Jesus comes back for us. In such an instance what Jesus said may have significance considering conditions at the time if His return:

Luke 18:8b – *Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?*

 As so precisely pointed out in The Harbinger, the cascading events we are experiencing as a nation clearly show God’s concern for our direction and His desire for us to cry out to Him for forgiveness and to repent. This book lists a series of warning signs called “harbingers” that America needs to heed or face the consequences.

 This may be America’s final call to repentance!

 The keystone of The Harbinger is Isaiah 9:10, Israel’s defiant response to the attack from the Assyrians. What is interesting to note is that what is recorded three verses ahead of this text in Isaiah 9:6, then followed by the first verse in the next chapter Isaiah 10:1.

Isaiah 9:6-7 – *For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor,The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, upon His kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.*

 Notice this is about a Godly ruler and His system of government. Then we have –

Isaiah 10:1 – *“Woe to those who decree unrighteous decrees, and that write grievousness*

*which they have prescribed.”*

 Notice this refers to ungodly rulers and a godless system of government.

Selah – think on this!