America at the Crossroads

Are We at the Point of No Return?

Where are we now in terms of Bible prophecy? Has the fate of our nation been decided already? Have we been weighed in the balances, and found wanting?

William F. Dankenbring

Belshazzar was holding a great idolatrous bash, a huge feast, in the capital city of Babylon, getting drunk with his nobles, when a strange prodigy happened:

"Suddenly, as they were drinking from these cups, they saw the fingers of a man's hand writing on the plaster of the wall opposite the lampstand. The king himself saw the fingers as they wrote. His face blanched with fear, and such terror gripped him that his knees knocked together and his legs gave way beneath him. 'Bring the magicians and astrologers!' he screamed. But when they came, none of them could understand the writing or tell him what it meant.

"The king grew more and more hysterical; his face reflected the terror he felt, and his officers too were shaken" (Dan. 5:5-9).

Finally his advisers suggested he call for Daniel, saying, "for his mind is filled with divine knowledge and understanding. He can interpret dreams, explain riddles, and solve knotty problems. He will tell you what the writing means" (v. 12).

Daniel was rushed in to see the king. When he came, Daniel gave the king a thundering warning and witness. He directly reminded Belshazzar of the seven year punishment which had befallen king Nebuchadnezzar and then warned him that he, too, was filled with pride and arrogance and was about to suffer God's punishment and doom! Only this time it would happen to the entire kingdom of Babylon as well!

Daniel cried out: "And you, his successor, O Belshazzar, you knew all this, yet you have not been humble. For you have defied the Lord of Heaven, and brought here these cups from his Temple: and you and your officers and wives and concubines have been drinking wine from them while praising gods of silver, gold, brass, iron, wood, and stone-gods that neither see nor hear, nor know anything at all. But you have not praised

the God who gives you the breath of life and controls your destiny! And so God sent those fingers to write this message, *Mene*, *Mene*, *Tekel*, *Parsin*.

Mene, Mene, Tekel, Parsin

"This is what it means:

"Mene means 'numbered'— God has numbered the days of your reign, and they are ended.

"Tekel means 'weighed'— you have been weighed in God's balances and have failed the test.

"Parsin means 'divided'— your kingdom will be divided and given to the Medes and Persians" (Dan. 5:22-28).

That very night Belshazzar, the Babylonian king, was killed and Darius the Mede entered his city, capturing Babylon, and began reigning at the age of 62 (Dan. 5.30-31). The Greek historian Herodotus describes the incredible capture of the city in his history, as does the Jewish historian Josephus.

Most Bible scholars have missed the entire point of this prophecy. It, too, has a hidden, secret, arcane meaning, which only God can reveal. These strange, eerie *words* –*Mene, mene, tekel, parsin* have a special meaning.

Mene is the minah. Tekel is the shekel. Parsin or "Uphar sin" as the King James Version has it, is peres in the plural, meaning "halves." These are all Hebrew weights designating monetary values!

We are told to "halve" or "divide" these weights into their lowest common denomination (like dividing dollars into pennies.

So what monetary value or equivalent do we come up with? Originally the minah consisted of 50 shekels (*The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible* ("Weights"). The shekel was subdivided into *gerahs*, 20 gerahs to the shekel. Therefore let's do as Daniel said, and divide everything into the smallest number—into gerahs.

Mene (minah) = 1,000 gerahs Mene (minah) = 1,000 gerahs Shekel = 20 gerahs Peres (half) = 500 gerahs Total: 2,520 gerahs

The word *peres* means "half," so taking "half" of a *minah* or *mene* gives us 500 gerahs. We end up with a total of 2,520 gerahs. This compares with the punishment upon king Nebuchadnezzar of 7 x 360 days, or 2,520 days, which equaled seven years (see

Daniel 4:25). Seven "times" means 7 years, prophetic years, of 360 days each, o 2,520 days!

Here again, in this writing on the wall, the figures add up to the number 2,520!

What does it mean? Daniel told the king, the prophecy was a message from the God of heaven, that his kingdom was being weighed in the balances, and judged, and was found wanting [i.e. "wicked"], and that it would be divided up and given to his enemies, the Medes and Persians.

What an astonishing prophecy! But Belshazzar was a "type" of an END-TIME, final generation "king of Babylon" -- a king or ruler of the Western world, end-time "Babylon the Great," a vast world-wide commercial and military confederation! It also is being weighed, judged, and found wanting! It also is going to be divided up, and FALL!

It includes the western world including Western Europe, Great Britain, and the United States of America. Will this cataclysmic fall occur at the end of SEVEN YEARS? Could this be a prophecy that beginning from this very year, we have seven years left to the FALL OF MODERN BABYLON and the coming of the Messiah to bring true peace and prosperity to the world?

Are we now on the verge of divine judgment? Is America's time running out? Have we reached the "end of our rope"? Are we now at the "point of no return"?

The CRISIS at the Close

The prophet Daniel speaks of a time when "there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time" (Dan.12:1). He calls it "the time of the end," when "many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase" (Dan.12:4).

This "time of the end" Moffatt translates as "the crisis at the end" and "the crisis at the close" (verses 4 and 9).

Jesus went on to say, in His famous Mount Olivet prophecy, "For then shall be GREAT TRIBULATION [distress, suffering, travail, WAR], *such as was not since the beginning* of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should NO FLESH BE SAVED [alive]: but for the elect's sake, those days shall be shortened" (Matt.24:21-22).

Are we now entering those perilous, nightmarish days?

We are certainly living in a time of world-wide *crisis* such as the world has never before seen or witnessed – or experienced! Yet most Americans are so far removed from the understanding of Biblical prophecy, and its importance to our generation, that they

are totally aloof and blissfully unaware of the many Scriptural warnings of what is soon to take place – events which will change our lives forever!

Signs of the Times

David J. Meyer in *The Last Trumpet* writes, in the November 2009 issue:

"We know that the time line that we are moving through is measured by Bible prophecy. There really are no surprises as we have been warned by the Bible of the dangers of sin and its consequences. Everything foretold in prophecy is now coming to pass and right on schedule. The question that is so often asked is where are we right now? It is a fact that we live in a time that is unique in all of history. It is an electronic world connected by the internet, satellites, microchips, and spy devices. Along with all of this is the rising of a one-world Marxist-socialist government, disguised as democracy. It is a sad fact that the vast majority of people are in the depth of ignorance, and others are pickled in the brine of apathy. It is sad to watch the 'common herd' of humanity being driven, corralled, and branded by the beast system. It is hard to live among a society that is so demonized that they accept homosexuality, immorality, and filth of every kind. When people are in this condition, they are easily managed because they have no character. Are we at the point of no return? There is such a point, and if we are not at it, we are most assuredly not far from it."

Day of Jacob's Trouble

In the book of the prophet Jeremiah is a strange and horrible prophecy for the end-times. We read: "These are the words the LORD spoke concerning Israel and Judah: This is what the LORD says: 'Cries of fear are heard -- terror, not peace. Ask and see: Can a man bear children? Then why do I see every strong man with his hands on his stomach like a woman in labor, every face turned deathly pale? How awful that day will be! None will be like it. It will be *a time of trouble for Jacob*, but he will be saved out of it'" (Jer.30:6-7, NIV).

Are we now entering those fateful, dreaded times?

Says David Meyer, again:

"A book was once written by the late Ayn Rand, a mistress to the erstwhile Illuminati hierarch, Phillipe Rothschild. The book is titled Atlas Shrugged, and it is a comprehensive plan and blueprint for world takeover in the last days. Rand wrote of this takeover in somewhat cryptic form for her master, Rothschild, at his behest. On page 413 she wrote the following words: 'When you see that trading is done, not by consent, but by compulsion – when you see that in order to produce, you need to obtain permission from men who produce nothing – when you see money flowing to those who deal, not in goods, but in favors – when you see that men get richer by graft and pull than by work, and your laws don't protect you against them, but protect them against you - when you

see corruption being rewarded and honesty becoming self-sacrifice - you may know that your society is doomed."

The apostle Paul foretold of these corrupt times, when "anything goes" and greed rules the world. He wrote: "This know also, that in the LAST DAYS *PERILOUS TIMES* shall come upon the earth. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God: Having a FORM of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away [have nothing to do with them!]" (II Tim.3:1-5).

Have we passed the point of no return?

Says David Meyer: "Yes, there is a point of no return, and the Bible teaches us that only Divine intervention stops the evil that has been unleashed in the world. The return of the Lord Jesus Christ is just ahead, and Judgment Day will bring all things to light."

Nobel Peace Prize to Obama!

Meyer goes on to say:

"On October 9th, 2009, in his ninth month in office, President Barack Obama was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. In occult numerology, three 9's indicates finality. Three 9's are also an inverted 666. The world was in shock that a man who has really done nothing was given such an honor and high award. The question heard around the world that day was, 'What did he do to deserve this award?' Why did he receive it? The answer is a spiritual one. This man who is literally worshipped by many of his subjects is now known as the 'man of peace.'

"The Scripture tells us that a man of 'peace' would rise up in the last days and destroy many. In Daniel 8:25 we read as follows: 'And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand.' In Jeremiah 6:14, we also read the following: 'They have healed also the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying Peace, peace; when there is no peace.' We must also take note of I Thessalonians 5:3 as follows: 'For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.'

"Here let it be noted that the Almighty gave us a definite sign to watch for regarding the coming of the man of false peace. He described the coming of this man with his destructive peace as a woman in travail and giving birth. The human gestation period is nine months, and Obama received the 'peace prize' during his ninth month in office. It was also stated that Obama received the prize not for what he has done, but for

what he is going to do. Obama is now being referred to by the news media as the 'Seed of peace.' Obama has also been called by the news media, 'the one who supplanted the bluster and obstinacy on the world stage' . . ."

Praise Songs to Obama

Continues David Meyer in his thoughtful analysis: "What strange and shadowy force is driving Obama and his adoring subjects? Why are children in public schools being taught to worship him as a god? Burlington Township, New Jersey, is one of many places where schools are teaching Obama praise songs to the children and have drawn protestors because of it. In some schools, the religious hymn 'Jesus Loves the Little Children' has been changed to the following words: 'Obama loves the little children; all the children of the world. Red and yellow, black and white, all are equal in his sight Barack Obama loves the children of the world.' If that song were sung the original way using the name Jesus, it would be a Federal crime! These are the days of antichrist!

"Why is Barack Obama finding such a favored status to the extent that the U.S. House of Representatives has laid down the following rules, according to House Rules Committee Chairwoman Louise Slaughter: No member of Congress may call the President a liar or a hypocrite. They may not refer to his veto of a bill as cowardly. It is also illegal to refer to Obama as being intellectually dishonest, as giving aid and comfort to the enemy, or to allege sexual misconduct on the President's part.

"I must say that it would be difficult to be accurate regarding Obama if we were forbidden to use these words.

"Obama and his team, however, are not very careful about how they speak. In a recent article that appeared in Politico by Kenneth P. Vogel, it was reported that an unusual amount of profanity has been emanating from the White House. Terrible language is being used by Obama, Biden, and even Christina Romer, the economic advisor, that has shocked the members of the press and media. The notorious and repulsive "F" word is often heard, and reporters have wondered why there is such a profuse amount of profanity. The answer is simple. Wherever there is a concentration of demons and demonic activity, you will find profanity. In Psalm 139:20 we read of this as follows: 'For they speak against thee wickedly, and thine enemies take thy name in vain.'"

And what about Michelle Obama?

Says Meyer: "There are many questions that need to be answered regarding Obama and his administration. Why does First Lady Michelle Obama have twenty-six personal staff members and attendants? She is a figurehead only and has no assigned duties; however, she has twenty-six attendants being paid a total of \$1,256,770.00 per year. This includes her Chief of Staff, Susan Sher, whose salary is \$172,200.00. She also has a makeup artist, Ingrid Miles, and a hairstylist, Johnny Wright. All of this was reported recently in the Canadian Free Press. Apparently, the multimillionaire Obamas,

who are supposed to be for the poor and downtrodden, sure know how to live high and waste money!"

The New Obama Care Nightmare

Another point of "no return" is in the process of being completed and foisted off upon the sanguine American people – government controlled "health care."

Says David Meyer, "At this very moment, we are at a point of no return regarding health care in the United States. The Obama health care scheme does not have health care in mind at all. It is a clever system of control and micro-management of every human body in America. Here let it be noted that Mat Staver, Dean of the Liberty University School of Law, recently compiled a comprehensive list that explains what the new Obama health care system will really do to oppress the American people. There are over one thousand pages in this health care bill so I can only print some of the provisions in this newsletter. Consider the following: Page 22—All self-insured employers will have their books audited. Page 29—Your health care will be rationed. Page 30—A Government committee decides what treatment and benefits you will receive. Page 50— Health care will be provided to all non-U.S. citizens, illegal or otherwise. Page 58—A National ID Health Care Card will be issued, and the Government will have access to individual's finances. Page 126—Employers must pay for health care for part-time employees and their families. Page 427—The Government mandates a program for orders for end of life; the Government has a say in how your life ends. Page 429— "Advanced care consultation" may include an order for end of life plans, an order from the Government. Page 429—The Government will specify which doctors can write an end of life order. There are so many other oppressive mandates that would make the United States worse than Soviet Russia and Red China ever were. Only God can help us; we are at the point of no return!" [Emphasis mine.]

Writes Meyer, further, about this abomination:

"Another outrageous fact about the new health care bill, is that it would require everyone to buy into it or be fined up to \$3800. Conspiracy and treason is manifesting everywhere in Washington, D.C., and the reports of nefarious activity are constant. On September 23rd, 2009, Republicans tried to bring forth an amendment that would force the Senate Finance Committee to wait seventy-two hours before voting on the Health Care Reform Bill. The three days were needed to read and review the proposal, but this request for seventy-two hours was blocked by Obama's Democrat stooges. On October 1st, 2009, the Republicans tried to introduce restrictions on abortion in Obama's Health Care Bill, which allows for full payment for abortions with no restrictions. The Republican effort was quickly defeated, and in response to this effort, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid put the Senate on notice that they 'must move quickly to pass this bill.'

"On September 30th, 2009, Republican Senator Chuck Grassley stated the following: 'The current law and the Health Care Bill under consideration are too lax and

leave the door open to illegal immigrants defrauding the government using false or stolen identities to obtain benefits.' The effort to block illegal immigrants from health care was also defeated, and the new law eliminates any requirement for ID if you are illegally residing in the United States."

It is as if a steamroller is sweeping through Congress. The U.S. House of Representatives, guided by the hand of Nancy Pelosi, passed the House version of the Health Care bill Saturday, November 7, 2009, with proud arrogance.

Are we truly near the point of no return?

Or have we passed already?

A Homosexually Committed Administration?

One of the true signs of a society and civilization on its last legs is the increase in immorality and the rampant proliferation of homosexuality and its legalization and imbedding in the educational institutions and schools of a nation.

Obama has sworn that he will remove the military's "Don't ask, Don't tell" policy in regards to homosexuality. He promises that they will be allowed to speak up and profess their sexual persuasion publicly, to no doubt even boast about it and openly display their sexual orientation. [There is strong evidence Obama himself is a closet homosexual. The case is made by a former Obama intimate, Larry Sinclair, in an explosive "tell all" book.]

This, too, is a fulfillment of Biblical prophecy for the end times! Isaiah the prophet warned, 800 years before Christ, looking into our end-time generation, "Alas, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a brood of evildoers, children who are corrupters! They have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked to anger the Holy One of Israel, they have turned away backward" (Isaiah 1:4).

The prophet cries out, "Hear the word of the LORD, You rulers of Sodom; give ear to the LAW of our God, you people of Gomorrah" (verse 10). Ancient Sodom and Gomorrah were renown for their open display of homosexuality! The Word of God declares, "For their vine is of the vine of Sodom and of the fields of Gomorrah; their grapes are grapes of gall, their clusters are bitter, their wine is the poison of serpents, and the cruel venom of cobras" (Deut.32:32-33).

Because people have turned their backs on God, the apostle Paul declares, "Therefore also God gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie . . . For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due" (Rom.1:24-27).

David Meyer continues his devastating critique of modern America's current state of immorality. He declares:

"These are strange times when everything seems backwards and upside down. I must also mention at this point that the homosexual and other immoral lifestyles in America have done more to drive up the cost of health care than anything else. Immorality, pornography, homosexuality, lesbianism, and so much other unmentionable filth has infected the United States of America to epidemic proportions.

"In early October, nearly 200,000 sodomites marched on Washington, D.C., demanding equal rights and recognition. What a sad day in our history when these militant perverts, of the very type that God rained fire upon, would gather in such large numbers at the nation's Capital. The sodomite leaders clearly stated that they were no longer willing to wait for acceptance.

"Immorality and the sexual revolution are a conspiracy in and of themselves. The internet, Hollywood, television, and other media are all flaunting immoral activity as a primary project.

"Satan and his antichrist forces have been working for a long time to bring forth a one-world government. To accomplish this, he must bring all humanity under his infernal control. It is not enough to have a one-world money system, a one-world church, and a one-world government.

"Satan would also need to weld all of humanity together spiritually until they are one flesh. This is accomplished through forbidden sexual unions. In I Corinthians 6:16 we read the following shocking words: 'What? Know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? For two, saith he, shall be one flesh.' Thus, Satan knows that when a person fornicates with another, they become one flesh. But they also become one flesh with every other person their partner was with. If a man has been with a harlot and she had been with ten other men and those men had been with ten other harlots and so on, it is possible that nearly all humanity could be networked and combined as one flesh.

"Here let it be noted that a recent study conducted by Lloyd's Pharmacy chain in Britain revealed some amazing results. The pharmacy used an online calculator to determine the risks of sexually transmitted diseases and found that the average British man has had nine sexual partners and the average British woman has had six. Computers were used to calculate all of the interactions submitted by volunteer participants and found that the average person had 2.8 million sex partners by extension.

"This is not a misprint! The story was featured by the international news service AFP on September 23rd, 2009."

Jesus Christ foretold this phenomenon. He declared, "And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold" (Matthew 24:12. "But he who endures to the end shall be saved" (v.13).

Economic Treason -- the Lust for Money

The Word of God tells us in I Timothy 6:10, "For the love of money is a root of all evils." This overweening lust for money and greed has all but destroyed the economy of the United States, which is still teetering over a crater.

Says David Meyer in his Newsletter, "At a glance, we can see that the economy of the United States is a complete wreck, and the rise in stock market averages does nothing for the countless unemployed people. Everything is global and international now. The national debt continues to rise to astronomical levels, and the U.S. Senate is now being forced to raise the national debt ceiling above twelve trillion dollars (\$12,000,000,000,000). We know that light travels at approximately 186,000 miles per second, and at that fantastic rate of speed, light would travel a linear distance of six trillion miles, the measure of a light year. Our national debt is twice that number in dollars."

How incredible, shocking, and mind-numbing!

"Our economy has reached a point of no return, and Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Shalom Bernanke knows this is true. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, which is already strapped because of the many bank failures, is reporting that additional bank failures could cost 100 billion dollars. Remember, these dollars do not evaporate; someone gets them, and it is always those at the top of corporate conspiracy that come out ahead.

"The middle class is rapidly disappearing in America, and Obama is getting ready to finish it off. The current situation was caused by bank failures and crashes over the housing market. Next will come a major crash regarding commercial properties and businesses; then will come the big crash of banks over unpaid credit card debt. There are three great fiscal woes, and two are yet to come."

Meyer goes on:

"On October 3rd, 2009, Federal regulators closed down several more banks in Michigan, Colorado, and Minnesota; bringing the number so far this year to ninety-eight.

"The signs of financial ruin are everywhere, and the people who are walking the desolate streets of America are near to the point of open revolt. When the G-20 Summit convened in Pittsburgh in late September 2009, they found massive numbers of angry people and mobs of revolutionaries worked up into a fever pitch. They were trying to make their voice known to the convention of crooks that are running the governments of twenty nations, including the United States.

"Then, something happened that had never happened before on American soil. American forces used aggressive acoustic weapons on American people. These weapons had previously been used only in Iraq and other foreign war zones. These weapons

delivered an ear-piercing sound exceeding 150 decibels, which is louder than a jet engine. It is accompanied by stern voice commands that penetrate the mind. Very soon, what I have been saying for years will be proven true; that is, the greatest enemy of any people is its own government! History has verified this repeatedly!"

The Dollar's Point of No Return?

The American dollar bill is also reaching a point of no return. It appears to be on its death bed. Says Meyer:

"On October 6th, 2009, various OPEC nations announced that they were going to ditch the U.S. dollar. Immediately, the price of gold jumped to \$1,038.65 per ounce, which was a record high. On October 12th, 2009, Bloomberg News Service published a story stating that the U.S. dollar had reached a breaking point because central banks were snubbing the dollar and replacing it with euros and yen.

"What is happening in the erstwhile great nation of America? Why has so much wealth flowed from America and into Red China? Economically, the Red Chinese have already taken over our country. Is it any wonder that the Red Chinese flag was raised over Washington, D.C., in September 2009? This was done in our nation's Capital to commemorate the anniversary of the communist takeover of China by Chairman Mao sixty years ago.

"What gives Secretary of State Hillary Clinton the right to offer the Red Chinese your property and mine as collateral against the debt owed by America to China?

"Here let it also be noted that on September 30th, 2009, the massive Empire State Building in New York City was lighted for three nights in the colors of red and yellow in honor of the communist Chinese revolution! Do these Chinese Reds deserve any honor at all?

"In an article printed over a year ago in the St Petersburg Times, the nation of Red China is facing an unusual dilemma. For many years they murdered so many baby girls in favor of a stronger male population that now the ratio is 30 men for every one woman. The article goes on to say that the Red Chinese male work force is full of lustful men because of the shortage. Now their eyes are on America!

"Will the U.S. dollar collapse? On October 6th, 2009, the United Nations called for a new reserve currency to replace the dollar. The Obama Administration has printed so much more money that the existing supply is worth continually less. It is a weak, thinned out, and watered down economy. Furthermore, existing goods and services will quickly absorb the excess money supply and inflation will rise to record levels. It is quite obvious that all of this is being done intentionally to bring forth new one-world electronic money. This will be the Beast system as mentioned in Revelation, chapter 13. According to the London Daily Telegraph on October 2nd, 2009, the World Bank will run out of money within twelve months. We are that close to the end." [Emphasis mine.]

The Approaching END

The prophet Ezekiel declares, of our current end-time nations:

"And End! The end has come upon the four corners of the land. Now the END has come upon you, and I will send My anger against you; I will judge you according to your ways, and I will repay you for all your abominations. My eye will not spare you, nor will I have pity; but I will repay your ways, and your abominations will be in your midst; then you shall know that I am the LORD!

"Thus says the Lord GOD: A disaster, a singular disaster; Behold, it has come! And END has come, THE END has come; it has dawned for you; behold, it has come!

"DOOM has come to you, you who dwell in the land; the time has come, a day of trouble is near

"Behold, the day! Behold, it has come! DOOM has gone out; the rod has blossomed, pride has budded. Violence has risen up into a rod of wickedness; none of them shall remain, none of their multitude, none of them; nor shall there be wailing for them.

"The time has come, the day draws near" (Ezekiel 7:2-12).

The Multiplying Signs of the Times

Says David Meyer, "The signs of the times are everywhere. Many people have noticed that stores of every kind have been greatly cutting back on inventory because they just don't have the money to buy much.

"A prime example of the severity of the problem is the large fleet of empty cargo ships anchored just east of Singapore. It is called the Ghost Fleet, as reported with a full series of photographs by the London Daily Mail on September 28th, 2009: 'It is the biggest and most secretive gathering of ships in maritime history. It is larger than the British and U.S. navies combined but have no crew, no cargo, and no destination.'

There is absolutely no doubt that our nation, our U.S. money supply, our government, and our people, are being cursed in many ways. In many ways, our time seems to have run out. We have passed, or are now passing the point of "no return."

Do you recognize the "signs"? Can you interpret the evidence? Do you have understanding of the times, like the sons of Issachar, "who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do" (I Chron.12:32)?

Jesus Christ declared to the religious leaders of the Jews, who asked Him for a "sign" from heaven, "When it is evening you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red'; and in the morning, 'It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.' Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times" (Matt.16:1-3).

Do you possess understanding? Do you know what needs to be done?

During the time of Christ, some people came to Him and told Him about Galileans whose blood Pilate had spilled along with their sacrifices. In response, Jesus Christ declared, "Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all other Galileans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, no; but *unless you repent*, you will all likewise perish" (Luke 13:1-3).

The apostle Peter declared, "*Repent*, therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord" (Acts 3:19). Peter exclaimed, "Be saved [King James, "*Save yourselves*"] from this perverse [crooked] generation" (Acts 2:40).

What about you?

Sinfulness and lawlessness in modern society has just about reached critical mass.

But there is still hope.

There is still time to repent - to change our ways, individually, and as a nation, before total destruction strikes.

As the apostle Paul asserted: "Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands *all men everywhere to repent*, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained" (Acts 17:30-31). Write for our article, "What Do You Mean, Real Repentance?"

The apostle Paul also declared:

"And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now our salvation is NEARER than when we first believed.

The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us *cast off the works of darkness*, and let us put on the armor of light" (Rom.13:11-12).