

*“Occupy” A Cry of  
Oppression (James 2:6)*

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NOTE UPFRONT: There has been no effort, in the natural turn of these Bible Studies in Jeremiah and Prophecy that have led to a finalized form in the book some to come out on amazon.com entitled NATIONAL DENS OF THIEVES, to demonize Republicans and sainthood Democrats, goodness knows both of them have many leaders of wealth which lie at the source of the economic oppression of the majority of Americans. It is just right now, the Republican party is obviously dominated by the rich; and the 250K plus commentators are not exercising intellectual honesty toward aspects of the American pie and the “Occupy” movement. As 3 years ago the free, online Bible study of “Jeremiah and Prophecy” progressed naturally as the flow of any good book would to NATIONAL DENS OF THIEVES {in fiction or reality a good plot takes over}, we at SunGrist Bible were as surprise as Jeremiah and Prophecy were pitted up against what is happening in America right now by the turn of events: (1) as it was realized that the real bottom line problem in Jerusalem and Judah before destruction was idolatry; (2) that idols {any substitute of loyal and service to other than the one true God and Father of the Lord Jesus Christ} were taking over the lifestyle of the American people, in churches and outside churches, and enhanced by the Falling Away in American churches, while common to all America were being led by the dominate leaders of the nation<sup>1</sup>, controlled by the idol of a committment

personally and by politics to wealth; (3) to keep on the spot up to date on current American economic policy and oppression, if you have any intellectual honesty at all, you must see that the stalemate to prevent the President recently elected by the American people from helping the majority of Americans, like those of the "Occupy" movements' cry of oppression {much like in New Testament day with 2 classes and described against the rich by the book of James} are: (a) Republicans of the House with a lean toward the Tea Party, (b) lobbyists in Washington that represent the wealthy drug and insurance companies as well as represent the rich CEOs of big business, almost always Republicans, (c) and outspoken Republicans in the house and running for office who always have an axe to grind against Democrats; and (d) news commentators who show their true colors, protecting their rich 250K plus status and a bias approach which cries politics against the Democrats on jobs and and when Republicans in Congress show their true commitments on oppression of the majority of Americans, it is just statements of reality!

If you get the impression that, bottom line, the rich of the wealthy and the 250K are going to continue to protect the idol of their money, status, and position against any and all claims by the majority of the American people of oppression, you are right. That is the way idols are, they dominate the life and opinions in spite of all intellectual facts and positions. The 10% minority of Americans that control 50% of the wealth, in Congress and otherwise, have the right to be heard as our heritage in government has always been for minorities; however they do not have the right: (1) to stalemate the immediate help of 90% of Americans that are hungry, unemployed, homeless and losing their homes by refusal to cooperate with the President, right now OUR President, that we recently elected and wants to help "Occupy" and the majority of Americans; and (2) those commentators, by and large the rich of the \$250K group of the wealthy, who are obviously spinning a bias on the news with such superficial comments about the "Occupy" movement? such as "we don't understand what they want!"

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1. And in government we would have to say right now leadership is a stalemate between Republicans Congressmen and a Democratic administration.

Goodness, I even voted for the conservatives Goldwater and Reagan, but if the national leaders continue along the present course then any patriotic American interested in the welfare of the majority now under economic oppression, must recognize, at least for this immediate point in history, the Republicans and the Tea Party are the villains as representative of the wealthy 10%.<sup>3</sup>

### **Culmination of the last 3 years Study of Jeremiah and Prophecy**

First, we must consider where we are in terms of the last 3 years study of "Jeremiah and Prophecy" on the SunGrist\_Bible website of [www.biblecombibleman.com](http://www.biblecombibleman.com). This is the last chapter of that study {although at any time you can go online and free fro the indexed and archived chapters under the headings of "Jeremiah and Prophecy", "Background on Jeremiah", "Advanced Studies in Jeremiah", "Jeremiah and the Forever Kingdom", and "National Dens of Thieves"}, and also wraps up except for the APPENDIX the sixth volume of the Learn Christ Commentaries, NATIONAL DENS OF THIEVES. You will soon be able to purchase NATIONAL DENS OF THIEVES from Amazon.com. It is a selection of many of the best and most helpful Bible studies on Jeremiah and Prophecy. Filling in a gap of background on the Jeremiah and Prohesy studies, is the APPENDIX of NATIONAL DENS OF THIEVES, always available free on [www.biblecombibleman.com](http://www.biblecombibleman.com) as a PDF download. {This arrangment of buying the book NATIONAL DENS OF THIEVES on Amazon.com and the APPENDIX always free on the SunGrist\_Bible website is sort of a comparison of the principle of "freely we have received, freely we give" with which the website started 5 years ago, a meager effort to cover in the future some of the expenses.}

### **Hopefully This Last Chapter Summarizes**

2. Did you see in a recent poll that 43% of Americans support the occupy movment, and I would suppose that the commenarors choked on that also, giving it a little spin to prevent it from being the majority of the American people which is really what the movment represents, it is a cry of oppression from the American peopole demonstrated in a legitimate deomocratic and orderly manner. It just that the rich can not take the realities of it which they continue to make all efforts to cover up.
3. The philosophical cover up by Republicans is now over, the one where: (1) they denied that in current American society the rich get richer and the poor get poorer, and (2) they have denied that the Republicans increasing represent the 10% wealthy over the 90% majority of Americans. Of course, in the dynamic nature of American society and economy, what has greatly changed is a 3 class system has become a two class system with the rich, according to the definitions of rich and wealthy in the dictionary and in the Bible, and the rich versus the poor has become more the reality like in New Testament days when Pastor James wrote the book of James.

In deference to the current and popular false prophet of hope and of big business, we immediately up front chose "Daylight on Hope" over "Night of Hope". Just like the 70 influential leaders in the dark basement of the Temple of Jeremiah and Ezekiel, by the way one of whom was the son of a priest, this false prophet of the gospel of prosperity and health, is comparable in the darkness even though very popular with a best selling book that appeals to the worldly more than to Christians. As this false prophet of false hope, just like all the official prophets and priests of Jeremiah, belies the threats from God through Jeremiah of continued calamities and destruction; and represents the classic "gospel of wealth with the corollary of success" of American Thought, in other words represents big business and the wealthy. After all business and the wealthy need a spokesman like Balaam today to represent them while the poor bottom half of the American hour glass {10% of American wealth at the bottom of the hour glass and 90% at the top}, since the silent majority<sup>4</sup> at the bottom of the hour glass are attempting to express to Wall Street and the rest of the nation their own rights to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness".

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*24-1: This final chapter on "Jeremiah and Prophecy", volume 6 of the LEARN CHRIST commentaries, as part of the last chance at a final conclusion on the subject that has been that of a free, online [www.biblecombibleman.com](http://www.biblecombibleman.com) Bible study for 3 years, as well as part of that conclusion offers "The Meaning and Message of Occupy Wall Street" to you slow to hear the majority of Americans cry for help*

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4. Time magazine on the cover speaks of this present "Occupy Wall Street" movement as a "Return of the Silent Majority"; and while we hate to see in a strained effort at intellectual honesty, this somewhat recognition of the cry of the bottom half of the hour glass {10% of Americans are rich and wealthy with 50% of the wealth}, it is much better than the recent failed efforts of Fox news commentators to properly understand the "Occupy Wall Street". It is always difficult for news commentators drawing down incomes of more than \$250 K, just the wealthy in Congress and the Senate, and the special interests who influence them to admit face to face on the world news that the vast majority of Americans with unemployment and loss of homes and hungry, and embarrassingly tight budgets are actually hurting in the current economic crisis since those of 250K plus virtually remained unaffected, except for expanded opportunities to expand their possessions with the takeover of more "pursuits of property". {Yes, the founding fathers debated whether to make it "life, liberty, and the pursuit of property", or the "pursuit of happiness."} Even Bill Clinton, busy since he deserted the American people as a President with the acquisition of wealth, is embarrassed like the news commentators to admit the plight of most Americans, criticizing the "Occupy Wall Street" for the failure of a single complaint.

*against oppression {partly because you do not wish to admit what is happening in America and that falsely hope that someday you might also be rich<sup>5</sup>}.}*

Sorry, that this last chapter of "Jeremiah and Prophecy" under the leading title of NATIONAL DENS OF THIEVES has to be so ambitious; but then again isn't that always the story when something needs to be said that is not been heard by influential, rich, and wealthy leadership! Some effort, besides what will be free online at [www.biblecombibleman.com/NDTappendix.html](http://www.biblecombibleman.com/NDTappendix.html), must be to deal with sub-issues of this current cry by the American bottom class {now, surely serious sociologists would admit a two class system in America with recent obliteration of the middle class in favor of the two classes of one: (1) a well-to-do upper class that remains comfortable during this economic crisis, that would have to include the rich, influential, wealth, and 250K plus commentators; and (2) the rest of us Americans that hover slightly above or well below the standard poverty line. Below are a few very serious sub-issues of this discussions that must in all intellectual honesty and in the light of current American Sociology be answered, of course in the light of Jeremiah and the rest of the Bible.<sup>6</sup>

1. It is amazing how the current American Sociology of economics, etc is so much more like the society of Israel at the time of Christ, with a two class systems of wealthy and poor. Especially you American citizens and families with 250K income may want to re-visit whether you are in the same category as the famous "rich young ruler" who walked away from Jesus and faith in Jesus because "he had great possessions" (Luke 18:24,24 and context).

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5. It has been more than 2 years since intense calamities, just like in the rest of the nation since 911, hit the south coast of Texas, and since the false prophet of hope told you to just wait 2 more years then you would have an oil well in your backyard or a gold mine! Yes, he was serious; and he is still serious with his "Night of Hope". Later in this message {primarily because it is so germane to what continues to happen in America on the classical Gospel of Wealth, although now principally called the Gospel of Wealth and Prosperity<sup>7</sup>}; but which is as old as the reasons for the destruction of Judah and Jerusalem in 587 A.D.}, I need to explain from experience with close relatives that were members of their church how he destroyed them with this false hope!
6. You will find more New Testament in this chapter conclusion, of course; since the New Testament, based on the teachings God gave Christ to present most fully to the world, tells more of the accountability of the rich and wealth than does the Old Testament.

"So when Jesus heard these things {the rich, young ruler lived a high moral life of outward keeping of the ten commandments, noble but not sufficient for salvation as Christ and God did not have first place in his life and life-style}, He said to him, 'You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have<sup>7</sup> and distribute to the poor {you see how much God is really concerned about the poor, hungry, unemployed, and homeless, or near homeless, and if you have missed the oft repeated messages against "mistreatment of the poor in the land" of Jeremiah and the Prophets, there will be a effort to remedy that here in this last conclusion/chapter}, and you will have treasure in heaven<sup>8</sup>; and come, follow Me. {As surely we must agree, the positive emphasis of Jesus was to follow Him, just eliminated other priorities of loyalty which prevented that dedication.}"

"But when he {the rich young ruler<sup>9</sup>, and we must translate that to today's American 2 class systems where rich may be \$250K plus}, he became very sorrowful {if you entertain the thought of distribution to the poor and it makes you sorrowful just to think of that, or of the necessity of that to follow Christ as a real Christian that goes to heaven, then you must be in the same category as the rich young ruler who like other rich men could not go through the eye of the needle}, for he was very rich."

**NOTE:** If you are not at all cramped in living style by the current economic crisis in America, then you also like the rich young ruler may be among the "very rich".

"And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful {God and Jesus obviously sorrow over these rich men who can not get into eternal salvation}. He said, 'How hard it is fro those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.'" (Luke 18:22-25)

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7. This solution from Jesus was much like the suggested cutting off the arm in order to prevent repetitions of the sin of adultery which otherwise could lead to eternal destruction in hell!
  8. How many of the \$250 K news commentators, wealthy politicians, and CEOs and other wealthy stop to think about eternity and treasures in heaven. How many of them even expect to get there since it is harder for a rich {prosperous or well-to-do} man to get into the eternal kingdom of God than it is for a camel to go through the eye of a needle.
  9. We must deal in issues #2 below with a new definition of "rich" as applied to contemporary American Society.

2. The evolution of wealth in American Society has redefined "rich" as used of the rich, young ruler who turned away from eternal salvation, although actually now American society is more like the society of Israel at the time of Christ.

(1). President Obama in the debate at Saddleback with John McCain, and much to the consternation of both Pastor Rich Warren and John McCain, who would never, ever consider themselves in the same category as the rich young ruler, redefined wealth for us as those well-to-do with incomes of over \$250K.

(2). The dictionary definition of rich is:

*"having abundant possessions and especially material wealth; rich implies having more than enough to gratify normal needs or desires; wealthy stresses the possession of property and intrinsically valuable things."*

(3). National leaders fall into the rich, young ruler category partly because they are in the "ruler", or national leadership category, and proud of it. Of course, like the common American saying goes, "If they are not wealthy before they get to Washington, they quickly become so." And there is just something about government leadership that leads to wealth; look even at that great former representative of the American people, Bill Clinton, who surely is now listed with the millionaires.

*24-2: While laying good groundwork for solutions, we still have not dealt with the precise "Meaning and Message of Occupy Wall Street" which is plain and simply a cry against the oppression of the poor as*

*discussed by Pastor James in James 2:1-13. By the way, the cure is the practice of the “royal law” of Leviticus 19:18 and James 2:8.<sup>10</sup>*

The Oppression of the “Occupy” Americans, like on Wall Street, continues to grow, beyond economic, to the use of the law for justice for the wealthy and \$250K plus as protestors are dragged off into court. In your wildest imagination, and in spite of the rich news commentators, you would never have thought of current American society {in particular the reaction of rich young rulers, and older} as an OPPRESSION OF THE POOR, especially as they drag protestors off to jail and the courts.

**“Do not the rich oppress you and drag you into the courts?” (James 2:6b)**

Especially in cities recently across this nation, much to the consternation of the Tea Party and Fox news, just like Cain now, where little or no respect is given to most Americans who are hurting in this economic crunch, the well-behaved protestors are being carted off to the courts and jail. Their only crime being that they are economic oppressed, and with a silent cry for help they are exerting their rights for “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness”. Many of the 250K plus Americans are turning a deaf ear, and more than that like the history of American class warfare of big business versus the working class poorer, have attempted to deny the realities. Like Cain the wealthy 10% at the top close their eyes, or at least focus them like a donkey with blinders on, to maintain that they are only recently poor, unemployed, and homeless because they want to be. Or worse than that, and contrary to intellectual honesty, the wealthy want to claim all they have to do is work harder and they can either be employed or rich.

Did you not know that there is a very factual basis beyond the control of these unemployed, hungry, and homeless Americans: the standard of living of Americans during the last 3 years has drastically dropped to the lowest in 50 years. You see there is a factual and scientific basis for the new hour class formation

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10. Can we really expect Congress and the Senate to “love” the people whom they represent as well as love the wealthy that fill their coffers? Can we expect CEOs of large corporations to love the majority of the people? Can we expect the same from the \$250K news commentators and other Americans? Not really, and then the words from James must get more stern on the accountability of the rich and well-to-do, from James 5:1-6, soon to come in this chapter.

of American economic society, and a reason that America has during the last 20 years become more and more a 2 class system of poor and wealthy, just like the days when Pastor James lived and wrote of the "oppression of the poor" by the wealthy even to the extent of dragging them off to the courts. Why does it bother the wealthy and the \$250K income people, especially among the newscasters and legislatures so much? Two prime reasons: (1) they refuse to admit the changes in American Society whereby the American Dream, always only for a select few in spite of the allusions of many in American Society, has now become almost impossible {we think of the changes during the lifetime of Cain, say during the last 50 years, so that the American Dream from rags to riches that he was able to achieve, and also Congressman Boehmer, would now be impossible except for a minimum number like in the lottery who hit it big and are vastly advertised as sort of a placebo for the majority of the American public; and (2) they refuse to adjust to the rapid changes in American society that have led to the 2 classes and lessened greatly the living standard of most Americans, even wiped out many that are sleeping near Wall Street and elsewhere.

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*24-3: Oppression by Discrimination Against the Poor.*

**OPPRESSION by discrimination against the poor, evil thoughts of judgment about what they are poor, and a just plain dishonor and disrespect for those who have been less fortunate than themselves as American economic society has lessened the number who can achieve the American dream simultaneously with the rapid drop in standard of living during the last 3 years. Surely the top ten percent and their complacent supporters of \$250K have never, in the light of the Word of God from chapter 2 of James, thought of themselves as (1) discriminating against the poor; (2) of evil thoughts by showing partiality for the rich over the poor; (3) of dishonoring the poor.**

You at the top of wealth in America and their supporters which hang on the edge with \$250K plus, do not be deceived that like in New Testament days {yes, the time in which Christ, the Apostles, and especially Pastor James lived, those same times from which came the principles and practices of Christianity that so many of your Congressmen and commentators so glibly support}, that God favors in the poor of any nation and any time in history; and democracy like in America,

has not been given a special dispensation of accountability on these matters. If anything because of the heritage of Bible, Christ, and Christian teachings, American National leaders are now held even more responsibly and accountability to God for this recent oppression of the poor {what would you call it when so many Americans, especially children go to bed hungry at night, and many parents have to live on one meal a day or less. Outrageous, and the accountability rests with current national leaders, that just one hungry child or family should exist in this country, much less 1 out of 7. What do you think is going to be the exchange between you and God after the Second Coming of Christ: Congressmen, you bear no responsibility for the welfare of the American people, because you earned yours the hard way and they were not willing to work? Hardly, on your shoulders in the sight of God, the economic plight of most Americans now rest on your shoulders.

**"Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?" (James 2:5)**

**NOTE: How can you wealthy and \$250K plusers even be at home in eternity surrounded by so many of the formerly poor on earth. Surely your plight will be like the rich man in hell who asked that God would send his former servant Lazarus to put a drop of water on his tongues; and God said not only is there a great gulf fixed between you and him, even a greater gulf we would speculate than the wealthy are now creating between themselves and the poor in economic oppression, but also that the rich man had his comfort during life and Lazarus was homeless and hungry on the streets. {By the way, have you not noticed how many of these homeless are also Veterans that fought your battles for you on foreign soil.}**

*24-4: Oppression by Negligence and Disrespect for the Poor.*

**Did you not realize that just to ignore and minimize the needs of these "Occupying" poor of America is oppression by disrespect. And further did you not realize that this discrimination against the poor, this lack of respect and treatment of the majority poor of this nation, is the equivalent**

**of murder and adultery in the sight of God.** While most national leaders of wealth like to rationalize themselves as of high morality, after all that is part of leadership as trained by the military academies, they never stop to think that all this mistreatment of the poor lower class in this nation {the bottom half in wealth} is as much a violation of the laws of God and accountability to God as murder and adultery.

**"If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself,' {I know many wealthy in Congress and other influential leaders across the nation of wealth are saying these poor, occupy members are not my neighbors as I don't have any poor neighbors in my neighborhood, but being fellow American is or should be sort of a large neighborhood of Americans; and because they are second class in wealth, does not make them second class as citizens, nor does it allow less accord for dignity and respect to them as for any other Americans.} you do well; but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all."** (James 2:8-10)

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*24-5: Oppression by way of the Noble Names of God and Christ by which Christians are named.*

**Now we come to the real point, according to James and the Bible, which is that most wealthy in one form or another, and their supporters among the 250K, "blaspheme that noble name by which" Christians are called. In short, the rich oppress poor Christians because they first practice oppression against Christ, God, and the teachings of Christianity. While the lip service is no less extensive than it has always been in politics, much fewer of Congressmen and other wealthy would treat the character and teachings of Christ with respect if they ran across Him among the poor in the streets. Of course the major lip service heard in Congress and the lairs of the rich is that of OMG, for which there will be immutable accountability at judgment.**

**"Do they not blaspheme that noble name by which you are called?"** (James 2:7)

The rich send their children to Harvard, Yale, and Perdue to teach them Public Relations techniques, often with a smile and the appearance of kindness, in order to train them how to get along with the poor without really helping them. They take courses on "How to Win Friends and Influence People" among the poor, \$250K and rich in order to be liked in spite of their blasphemy in many ways against the name and reputation of God and Christ. Their representatives in the pulpit tell their little humorous stories, quotes from Dale Carnegie, and smile like a Cheesier cat while they provide a deceptive philosophy of the Gospel of Prosperity {an evolution of the classical Gospel of Wealth and corollary of success of American Thought}, also increase oppression on the poor in that if they had enough faith they also would have a gold mine or oil well in their back yard, in other words with enough faith be rich.

**NOTE: Most American are currently between a rock and a hard place created by Cain, the Tea Party, indeed the Republican Party, and their false Prophets like Osteen and Swaggart; for on the one hand you have Cain telling most Americans that if they work hard enough they can either be employed or become rich, and on the other hand the Gospel of Prosperity and Health advocates {largely pentecostals} telling Americans that if they have enough faith they can be wealthy.**

*24-6: Oppression by greedily taking the largest pieces of the American Pie sot that with the decrease in GNP, 90% of the Americans are having their remaining piece of pie cut down or even eliminated.*

There is just so much wealth and American pie that can go around as the Gross National Product of the nation decreases, often caused in part by the wealthy laying off their workers in order to show less overhead on their financial statement and hence an increase in stock value. Was it not William Jennings Bryan who warned America, back in the days when Congressmen still had some 'Profiles in Courage' against crucifying America on a cross of gold, which interpreted means that the stock market was used as a substitute for getting a large piece of the pie by the wealthy.

24-7: *There are many aspects of the Oppression index for the majority of Americans, one being the "Misery" index, many of these indices help to understand how different the economic crisis affects the rich class<sup>11</sup> as compared to the poor class such as American Pie Index, American Dream Index, and surely based on the Bible we should include a Greed Index.*

1. The Misery Index is a measure of Oppression for the majority of Americans. What is so unusual right now in the American economy as compared to the past is that both unemployment and inflation have gone up. By and large in the past while one would go up, the other would go down. While the rich remained unaffected, even prosper now as they have money to purchase the bankrupt mortgages and buy goods prohibited to the poor, most Americans are double hurting.

2. **The Apple Pie Index** is a measure of majority oppression. There is just so much Pie to be shared by all Americans, and when the rich take more and more of the Apple pie, that leaves little or none for the poor. For example, it is a well known fact that in the last 20 or so years: (1) the GNP, Gross National Product, in America has gone down leaving a smaller pie to divide between the rich and the poor, and (2) as the incomes of government workers have increased with the cost of living to exceed their peer group of Americans outside the public sector, income for 90% of Americans has also shrunk.

While in the Gilded Age of the Robber Barons like Carnegie and others where eventually Congress had some "Profiles in Courage" left to enact anti-trust legislation to restrict this hoarding of the Apple Pie, American Dream, and Greed, for the last 20 years the new generation of robber barons<sup>12</sup> of computer hard-

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11. Rich is both a concept of the Bible and of the dictionary, most Scriptures of which originated with the New Testament in the first few centuries, when the misery index of most citizens of the Roman Empire was very high; and economic oppression was very high for Christians aided by just plain outright persecution of all Christ and Christian. Based on the Bible and the dictionary it would include the wealthy and the 250K plus that remained virtually unaffected in their living standard by this economic oppression. And one could actually divided the poor into 3 categories,(1) those a little less than 250K, but some of whom also lost their homes and became unemployed suddenly, (2) those barely above the poverty line, those on the poverty line, and then those below the poverty line. Of course the Misery Index established in American economic society is based on (1) unemployment which makes life very miserable for thousands of Americans right now {going with that is also homelessness as they can no longer afford their mortgage}, and (2) inflation.

ware and software, drugs {legal and illegal} and medical insurance have remained largely free to put the squeeze on most Americans.

Since Lord Kelvin said "it is not scientific until a number is attached", we become more objective on the American Pie Index as we consider numerical values of the number of Americans, of course not the wealthy and because in many cases of the actions of the rich, lost their retirements in 401Ks.

3. **The American Dream Index** allows the rich like Congressman Boehmer to gloat on the rise of his personal and family history from rags to riches at the same time he is crying because others were about to infringe on his part of the American pie and Dream, but while more Americans have jumped into the rich category, even more Americans have lost their American Dream with the loss of retirement, employment, prospects of employment, and homes.

4. Except for the courageous few of the "Occupy" movement, which represent the economic indices of the majority, seldom do we hear mentioned the Greed Index. Only from them and the Bible. **The Greed Index** is almost exclusively for the wealthy, although many Americans contributed to it before the mortgage bubble busted by purchasing homes that were more than they needed or could afford. And certainly what is so bad about Greed is that it is covetousness run amuck, a passion for things, possessions, wealth, and security that can not be satisfied.

5. The **"Contentment" Index of Christianity** has suffered also during the last 20 or so years as less and less Americans have not become satisfied with just "food and raiment"<sup>13</sup>.

**"Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought not nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content." (I Timothy 6:6-8)**

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12. A few examples would be like Bill Gates in computer software and hardware, the young man of Facebook fame along with those who got wealthy before him in Yahoo and Google; of course the oil companies like Exxon and Mobil; and on and on.

13. Generally considered in the Bible to include both the covering of clothing and shelter over the head, or a home.

6. Obviously from the Bible, the opposite of contentment is the "desire to be rich"; and while it "drowns men in destruction and perdition", it takes many other Americans down with the would-be rich.

**"But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." (I Timothy 6:9,10)**

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*24-8: There is a "Meanness" Index<sup>14</sup> not yet mentioned in current American Society that is also a measure of the oppression of the effects on the majority of Americans. Oppression when Mercy does not triumph over justice, judgment, and a political and economic sense of right and wrong. "Mercy triumphs over judgment." (James 2:13)*

In other words, many among the wealthy had rather be proven right on the American Dream and pie, than to find ways to make decisions to heed the current cry of Americans in the "Occupy" movement. Together Cain and Donald Trump are America's most famed representatives of this meanness: Cain with the cruel statement that the unemployed are not employed or rich because they do not want to be, and Trump because of the famous "Your Fired", a philosophy that assisted greatly in the layoffs of the last 10 years, and contributes greatly to a lack of sympathy for the "occupy" movement {and the majority of Americans} and support for the stalemates in Congress caused by the Tea Party.

This meanness has come in great part with an enhanced sense of law, what is legal, and what is justice as they rich decide justice. It is opposite of the "law of liberty" of the Bible in James 2:12,13. While most national leaders today would claim to be Christian {Cain has already claimed to be Christian although his political practices and beliefs say otherwise}, they fall very short of another

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14. Just one way to measure this recently surge in American Meanness, is to see the spike in demands for the death penalty while the trend of the last 20 years was more against the death penalty.

law, called in the Bible THE LAW OF LIBERTY. You might even consider it as related to the "life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness and property" of the founding fathers; but it goes far beyond that to include much of what has been presented on respect for and treatment of the poor from Pastor James.

**"So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty. For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment." (James 2:12,13)**

*24-9: Accountability of national leaders of wealth in America:*

*"Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you!" (James 4:1-6)*

You need to read it again for yourselves below, and in the light of the re-defined current concept of "rich" in America! {Yes, this is a threat from the Bible, from a Christian pastor in Jerusalem, James, and from God Himself: you had better prep yourself for the inevitable!}

First, Americans are caught between Cain {who is killing Able-bodied Americans who would like to work} and Joel at the two extremes, Cain is saying to Americans that if you work hard enough you can be rich and especially employed {the exact quote goes something like, If you want to be rich or employed you just have to try!}, and Joel, the false prophet of midnight hope {"Night of Hope"} is trying to tell Americans that if you have enough faith you will within 2 years be rich with either an oil well or gold mine in your yard. Both as you can see, are false prophets of business, representing in different forms and message the old classical Gospel of Wealth and Corollary of Success of American Thought.<sup>15</sup> Both excuses have been used throughout American History to justify an

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15. See Henry Steele Commager in THE AMERICAN MIND, Vernon Louis Parrington in MAIN CURRENTS OF AMERICAN THOUGHT, THE GROWTH OF AMERICAN THOUGHT by Merle Curti, AMERICAN MINDS, A History of Ideas by Stow Persons, and THE COURSE OF AMERICAN DEMOCRATIC THOUGHT by Gabriel.

extreme motivation for wealth, while the Bible time and time again as quoted in this chapter warns against even the "wanting" of wealth. To have or to want riches is in most cases, according to the Bible, self-destructive of the soul and personality. These false philosophies of the immediate acquisition of wealth by more than just a few in American Society has often been warned against by the American history historians of big business as a panacea, much like the current craze for gambling that gives false hope to most Americans as only a select few will actually win!

**"Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you! Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. {Surely you never thought that your corroded gold and silver of wealth would in the judgment be a witness against you at the same time as the blood of brothers without jobs and hungry, or their homeless children.} You have heaped up treasure in the last days. {The treasure for some day--Dr. Lee often preached "PayDay SomeDay"-- is this corrosion!} Indeed the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. You have lived on the earth in pleasure and luxury; you have fattened your hearts as in a day of slaughter. You have condemned, you have murdered the just; he does not resist you." (James 5:1-6)**

*24-10: The worship/service of 70 idols by the 70 influential leaders in the dark basement of the Jerusalem Temple, lead to the greater abominations (Ezekiel 8:6) of God's people in the daylight floor of the Temple.*

The idols {any "mammon of man"<sup>16</sup> that is given loyalty in service of life over the only God is an idol} of America today are far more sophisticated than those 70 idols of the 70 influential leaders in the dark Temple basement. Portrayed on the walls were 70 idols, one for each influential leader and one for each city of

Judah, and they included exclusively for Judah of that day and the surrounding nations among them "every sort of creeping thing" and "abominable beasts", but with the current sophistication of idol worship in America {except for the standard about 70 false religions with gods which are really not a God at all, thus bottom line represent Satan, the other supernatural being} would only be "all the other idols of the house of Israel (Ezekiel 8:10). What is seen today in the basement of public buildings is other symbols of: wealth, sex, power, status, prosperity, security, boats, lavish beyond the needs of comfort homes, position, fame, and many "things"<sup>17</sup>. Actually if we sought with all intellectual honesty to seek out the prime priorities in the lives and families of Americans today, we could find even more than the 70 symbols {all idols are in the final analysis is a symbol or something since they represent no living and breathing spiritual reality, and have become substitutes for the only God Who is the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Even as Hosea, who also as a bottom line theme made clear the message from God that the whole nation of Israel {then the northern kingdom and before destruction and captivity by Assyria} was guilty of "spiritual adultery", another way to say idol worship in the place of the worship of God; also makes clear that it was all Israel, the people and the leaders, that is "like the priest like the people", and vice versa, that were guilty of spiritual adultery in idol {symbol} worship.<sup>18</sup> Like our influential leaders in Washington and the wealthy across the nation, these national leaders in the dark basement obviously did not want the rest of the nation in the daylight above to know what they were doing. You know Jeremiah was even forbidden from going into the temple itself; and the religious leaders of Judah already Captive in Babylon were horrified to learn from God through the Prophet Ezekiel that the leaders of the place they longed for

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16. Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount in a great effort to summarize the real Christian way of life as contrasted to the way and ways of the world {which by the way which God did not create}, included as a necessity to that way of life a choice to serve God over mammon, mammon meaning any creations of man's hands.

17. "Things" is one of the oft repeated and famous words of Joel Osteen, the false prophet of prosperity that quickly became a best seller as encouragement for the businessman's gospel of wealth and prosperity, the "world knows their own" and quickly they turned to a newer form of the old classical Gospel of Wealth and corollary of success of American Thought.

18. Even as we deal with God's commands and instructions in the first two commandments of any other god, of creating any image of God that is not Bible based or like Jesus, so in the Israel of Hosea and the Judah of Jeremiah, these idols portrayed all around the walls (Ezekiel 8:10) were really symbols that represented something else in the lives of the 70 influential leaders in the basement.

and dreamed about, in the public buildings of Jerusalem and the little nation of Judah that remained, were so far gone astray. What were these influential leaders thinking? The key is in Ezekiel 8:12:

**"For they say {the influential 70}, 'The LORD does not see us, the LORD has forsaken the land.'" (Ezekiel 8:12)**

**NOTE:** The latter was true by this time God "has forsaken the land", telling His only faithful prophet not to any longer pray for the people, the leaders, or the land itself; but is also obvious since they did the dirtiest of all deeds, the worship of the substitutes for the only Living God, that they did not want either the people above in the daylight to know or the elect of God in Babylon to know: (1) they had decided that God had forgotten all the public buildings and land of the nation; and (2) to know publicly that they worshipped all these idols, even the ones that were representative of 70 cities of Judah.

The leaders, like Herbert Phibrick of the days of American battles against communism, were living two lives<sup>19</sup>: the one above ground and the one underground. They were controlled in secret by different thought patterns than they allowed the people above to know or hear! Well, we know: (1) our national leadership feels no compulsion to practice intellectual honesty<sup>20</sup>; and (2) they are far too smart to let us dumb, poor Americans know what they are thinking or what their motivations are; and (3) we, in the nature of behaviorism and B.F. Skinner can only tell their committed behavior is in favor of the wealthy, some of which they are!

Anyone, national leader, wealthy, or otherwise, claiming to be a Christian and Bible believer should feel some compulsion to listen to and heed the teachings of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount about idols of man's mammon, service, and where the heart is committed.

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19. Herbert led 3 lives.

20. The great philosopher of religion and Quaker, Elton Trueblood defines intellectual honesty as:

1. American's idols are the symbols that they serve as masters or controllers of their lives, and Jesus taught:

**"No one can serve two masters {or 2 gods, one real and one a symbol}; for either he will hate<sup>21</sup> the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal<sup>22</sup> to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon." (Matthew 6:24)**

**NOTE: In short "mammon" is all not made by God Himself, or the creations of man, from his hands or in his mind. The idols are creations by the mind or minds of men.**

2. Where your heart felt "treasure" is, is also where your heart is; and indicates whether it is on God, heaven, and Christ, or on some kind of symbolic mammon as an idol.

**"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:21)**

3. Leaders, wealthy, or the rest of Americans who claim to follow Christ, to what extent can you continue to presently oppress non-wealthy Americans and still claim to "seek first the kingdom of God"?

**"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." (6:33)**

**NOTE: (1) "these things" are what you need for living, food and covering; and (2) these things can not as in Joel's book take precedence of thought and effort in your life, but must take second place to "seek first the king-**

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21. Jesus' choice or words and thoughts. Those who love an idol-symbol end up hating the only Living God the Universe, whether they admit it or not. By the way those religious leaders of Jesus time, perhaps the most religious of all time, were told by Jesus that rather than being of their father Abraham, they were of their father the devil. Yes, indeed they made a symbolic idol out of religion and law.

22. Like Josiah Royce the philosopher stated, Loyalty is the supreme motivation and virtue. You might then approach your idol worship portrayed on your walls from this approach, judging by your efforts, time, and thoughts where is your prime loyalty; for this indicates what idol is your prime god.

dom of God". In the long run of eternity, this will lead to no major and tragic results!

And in conclusion, this is about all the daylight from Jesus light that we presently have time to spread, but surely it is enough to come out of the basement of "Night of Hope" and dark basement of idol despair.

*24-11: You must see the similarity to the days of Jeremiah before the destruction of Jerusalem, where all the official prophets and priests had gone bad in their Prophecy, except Jeremiah, with all the False Prophets today of dreams, specialized revelation, and the popular Gospel of Prosperity. It would seem, even like in Judah and Jerusalem, when the times get darker we lie to ourselves more, and the false prophets, like termites, come out of the woodwork to champion the cause of the deceived majority.*

It is bad enough that the fundamentalists who have taken control of the largest Protestant denomination, the SBC, help such false prophecies as those out of the mouth of Falwell before he died such as the 3 signs of revival in America as Ted Haggard, Rich Warren with purpose driven "wants", and LeHaye' false doctrines on the time of rapture and a fictional one thousand year millineum on earth--all philosophies and false prophecies that ignore the Falling Away and the wrap up of this old earth in favor of a new earth at the Second Coming of Christ; but now we have Swaggart<sup>23</sup> and other pentecostals<sup>24</sup> who actually have the nerve to advocate instead of a Falling Away, the church of today is experiencing a new, great awakening of revival.

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23. Since there in the Bible no real justification of such doctrine, in fact quite the opposite, the only reason we can figure for such a false allusion is to make money. And that brings us back to the prime theme of the previous book DEN OF THIEVES and the conclusion of this present book on NATIONAL DENS OF THIEVES where all sacred public buildings of the nation, as in the Temple Message of Jeremiah in Jeremiah chapter 7, had become a "den of thieves" in that they were run for personal profit and gain. Jesus explained it in terms of don't make "My Father's House a house of merchandizing." Although J. Verson McGee went off on a tangent when in his commentary on Hosea, he maintained that God judged and punished America with prosperity after World War II {if that was punishment, what is the economic crisis of today, a blessing}, McGree does hit the Bible nail on the head with his criticisms {based on the righteous judgments of the Bible} that too many pastors and groups have made churches into businesses for profit.

**NOTE:** It is almost impossible to wrap up NATIONAL DENS OF THIEVES without discussing the nature of false prophesy and what happened to all the official prophets and priests before God brought the major calamity of captivity and destruction on Jerudalem. It is always easier to start the introduction to a Bible Study than to conclude it, so we desire so desperately to include all that has not previously been stated and to relate all previously been stated.

1. When there is a shortage of real Prophets and prophesy of God because no one is really listening to or heeding the Word of God, is when the false prophets grow and thrive.
2. While God speaks of calamities on God's people in real prophesy, the false prophets deny that anything bad can or is happening, or is going to happen to the nation.
3. False prophets work on dreams and visions just the pentecostals have done within the last 20 years.
4. God intervened with daylight on prophesy and dreams and special revelations with a guarantee in New Testament times of more democartic prophets and prophesies.
5. Now, real prophets and prophesy is ignored and denied. You do not even hear of the office of "prophets" in the church in spite of the fact that the ascended

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24. This movement got under with the special revelations and "God told me" of Oral Roberts and other pentecostals with the Gospel of Prosperity like Olsteen, Copeland, and Duplantis. Like the dreamers and false prophets {all the official prophets and priests}, they have had visions and dreams out of their own hearts and mind, quite independent of God and His Revelations in the Bible, that have created not only a whole new theology based on speaking in tongues, on the violations of the spirit of I Corinthians 14 wherein churches considered themselves as bodies from which the Word of God came out or to whom only the Word came; and beyond that have developed a philosophy of what is happending in the world today and in eschatology which is the opposite of II Thessalonians. Supposedly these special revelations of the Pentecostals would not be so bad if they did not complete contradict the (1) present Falling Away of the church from God, Christ, and the Bible, and (2) deny that what bond Satan for a long period of time was the Holy Spirit coming in power to earth and what will release Satan at the end of the same long period of time is the withdrawal from the earth of the Holy Spirit as clearly taught in II Thessalonians.

Christ appointed them along with pastors, evangelists, apostles, and teachers. (Ephesians 4:11)

**NOTE: We no longer have time nor space to elaborate on these latter matters, so that they are largely reserved for the free, future, online Bible studies on "Life and Letters of Paul".**

6. However one last effort in this chapter must be made to show you exactly what God said was happening with the falsity of all the official prophets and priests in Jeremiah, and beg you to see the similarity with today in the American church. You know, according to Jesus in Matthew 24, that an outstanding characteristic, or sign, of the END would be the proliferation of false prophets; however our problem is always to bring it home where we live! It is always, "Everybody but US"!

(1). Americans reject the Word of God today because they are given over to the covetousness of the worship of many idols.

"Because from the least even to the greatest everyone is given to covetousness; from the prophet even to the priest everyone deals falsely." (Jeremiah 8:10)

(2). The False Prophets of today in America, like Osteen, Swaggart, and many pentecostals are claiming a false peace and security in the nation {"just wait 2 years and you will have an oil well or gold mine in your yard"} by their preaching of a false gospel of prosperity<sup>25</sup>; and though we might strain to find in their churches some good they are doing for poor people, most of these ministries are more like in Jeremiah where God said:

**"For they have healed the hurt<sup>26</sup> of the daughter of My people slightly, saying 'Peace, peace!' When there is no peace."** (Jeremiah 8:11)

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25. Once in classical American Thought called the Gospel of Wealth and the Corollary of Success, and supported in PR presentation by "How to Win Friends and Influence People".

26. It is well known among some faithful ministers in Houston that the hurt to many members and listeners has been enhanced as they refuse to face up to preparations for death because they have been encouraged to think that to overcome they simply must have more faith.

The economy of the United States just keeps going downhill while these false prophets promise a night of false hope; and worse than that they deny the intense series of calamities that God has sent on this nation in order to provide a warning of the error of their ways.

(3). God says today like He did to the people and prophets of Jeremiah, "I am sick of your dreams and visions and special revelations." God says, "I don't want to hear about them anymore as I did not speak to these prophets."