The Reality of God and a Rotten Collective Copyright, J. Michael Strawn

## From Isaiah 19. THE REALITY OF GOD and A ROTTEN COLLECTIVE, PART 1

- #1. Egypt had sinned (v. 22) --a people different from Israel; pagans in every respect; yet thoroughly obligated to the God of all men.
- #2. The supreme personality was coming to Egypt. "Behold, The Lord is riding on a swift cloud and is about to come to Egypt" (v. 1.) Inherent in this language is
  - o The consciousness of God-- One who is aware of all things.
  - The temporal determinism that is God. His presence will change circumstances in Egypt.
  - The swiftness of his closure with Egypt. The Lord, aware of their sin, waited. Some would have understood that fact as a symbol of His absence.
  - But God is now poised to strike!
- #3. Egypt, by their own choice, had previously made a decision regarding the direction of development. Question: What was that? Answer: The direction of development was toward the acquisition of the supreme spiritual enemy! Their supreme enemy was God; the God of the Bible. That "swift cloud" grew ever closer. It was causation on the wind-- "the waving of the hand of the Lord which He is going to wave over them" (v. 16.)
- #4. This Egyptian crisis was not rooted in time; not rooted in economics, trade deficits, military weakness, nor"social issues." No! It was rooted in an invisible, eternal, spiritual enemy. There was no solution to this problem, and the Egyptian did not even understand it.
- #5. Egyptian culture and its sociology were in harm's way!
- #6. The United States of America is looking to set a direction of development. Isaiah 19 is the precedent.

## From Isaiah 19. THE REALITY OF GOD and A ROTTEN COLLECTIVE, PART 2

#1. Collectives do not think. They have no brain. We say that collectives act, but that is a reference to the composite of all actions of individuals within the particular collective. The approach of God to such a rotten collective as Egypt has

## #2. A DIRECT EFFECT UPON THE INDIVIDUAL:

- CONFIDENCE IN ESTABLISHED ASSUMPTIONS IS SHATTERED (v. 1.) "Idols will tremble," hearts will "melt."
- THE COLLAPSE OF PERSONAL PSYCHOLOGY (v. 2,3,14.) Disunity, demoralization, systemic confusion, distortions, disorientation.
- A TURN TO THE OCCULT (v. 3.)-- "mediums" and "spiritists."
- ENVIRONMENTAL FAILURES (v. 5-8.) Water crises, meteorological irregularities, floods in one place, droughts in another.
- THE OVERREACH OF THOUGHTLESS LEADERSHIP (v. 4.) Policies serve a select demographic.
- REASONING BECOMES A DEAD END (v. 11-13.) The abstract realities fail. Their ideas only contribute to eventual collapse. Reasoning becomes non-solutional. It becomes part of the problem.
- THE PILLARS ARE CRUSHED (v. 10.) Everything that constituted security and strength is removed. Vulnerability and dis-ease attain hyper levels.
- o INERTIA IS REACHED (v. 15.) For all practical purposes, the collective is dead.
- #3. THE AXIS OF EVERY COLLECTIVE IS THE SPIRITUAL DIMENSION. Cultural priorities, sociological conditions are not. Collectives are judged by God, because absolutes were displaced by what are now called "values." Such values put into abeyance the will of God.