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Digital Edition 12/17/2001  
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## **BIBLICAL REFERENCES TO "GREAT MEN"**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Fourteen times in the Bible, we find the words "great men" and in this article I shall present them under 12 subtitles in the order of their appearance, followed by my own comments and observations.

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**01 -- THE NAME OF GREAT MEN IS RARELY GAINED THROUGH HUMILITY --** "And I was with thee whithersoever thou wentest, and have cut off all thine enemies out of thy sight, and have made thee a great name, like unto the name of the great men that are in the earth." -- 2 Samuel 7:9 -- "And I have been with thee whithersoever thou hast walked, and have cut off all thine enemies from before thee, and have made thee a name like the name of the great men that are in the earth." -- 1 Chronicles 17:8

"Great men that are in the earth" most often become men of renown for worldly, selfish, and proud, self-exalting reasons. Unlike such, David became great through his humility, and the story surrounding the above mentioning of his great name reveals this.

Feeling that it was unfit that he should dwell in a kingly house of cedar while the Lord dwelt in a tabernacle of curtains, David purposed to build the Lord a House worthy of His Divine Sovereignty. The prophet Nathan at first encouraged David to do so, but quickly God sent him back to the king with the message that such was not God's will. Then, after reciting to David how He [God] had raised him out of humble obscurity into high repute with a "name like the great men" on earth, the Lord stunned David by

telling him that His Divine plan was quite the reverse of David's intention:-- David was not to build the Lord an House; the Lord was going to build David an House and Throne that would last forever -- (2 Sam. 7:16).

David's reaction reveals volumes about his character: "Then went king David in, and sat before the LORD, and he said, Who am I, O Lord GOD? and what is my house, that thou hast brought me hitherto?" (2 Sam 7:18). Though one who now had a great name, David's humility is seen here, and it was through his humble spirit that God had elevated David to such heights. Saul started humbly but quickly became inflated with pride, was never greatly elevated by God, and fell amidst ignominy and reproach. David started humbly rose to greater heights, and stayed there longer because, except on one sad occasion, he stayed humble.

To a great extent, David's greatness through his humility foreshadowed Jesus, The Greater David, "Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men" (Philip. 2:6-7).

King David was highly exalted through his humility, and because of His humility, we read of Jesus, the Son of David: "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philip. 2:9-11).

The route to real and eternally enduring greatness for King David, for Christ Jesus, and for all is not through worldly ambition and pride, but through humility. F. B. Meyer once said: "I used to think that God's gifts were on shelves one above the other; and that the taller we grew in Christian character the easier we could reach them. I now find that God's gifts are on shelves one beneath the other. It is not a question of growing taller but of stooping lower; that we have to go down, always down, to get His best gifts."

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**02 -- THE TRAINING OF GREAT MEN CAN BE ETERNALLY FATAL --** "Now the king's sons, being seventy persons, were with the great men of the city, which brought them up... So Jehu slew all that remained of the house of Ahab in Jezreel, and all his great men, and his kinsfolks, and his priests, until he left him none remaining" (2 Kings 10:6, 11).

In various ways, Jehu is hardly an exemplary character, though God used him to bring judgment upon the house of Ahab. The essence of what I would draw from the above verses is that Ahab's great men trained, or brought up, Ahab's 70 sons, and in the

**end, by Divine judgment, death fell upon both those 70 sons whom the great men trained and upon the great men themselves.**

**Proverbs 22:6 declares: "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." But great men in this world often train, or bring up, young people in ways that they should not go -- in ways which shall prove to be eternally fatal both to their students and to themselves. Such great men, who greatly err in what and how they train children and youth, are to be found in places of great influence around the globe today. Many of these fatally faulty instructors are in universities of supposedly "higher learning" -- but wherever located they are training succeeding generations of youth to lampoon the Bible as a ridiculous collection of Judeo-Christian fairy-tales, teaching them to reject creation and embrace evolution, instructing them to joke about Christ's salvation and embrace one-world revolution; causing them to devalue human life and debunk accountability, leading them think that the way to become immortal is to become immoral; and in effect guiding them into the Lake of Fire instead of into the River of Life.**

**Such supposedly "great men" are actually dwarfs enlarged in the eyes of men through Satan's deceitful magnifying glass -- moral midgets who appear to be mental giants, but whose supposedly elevated coaching has plunged millions, including themselves, on the downgrade to hell with no way to stop the coach!**

**H. T. Davis told of "a stage-driver in a Western Territory was on his death-bed. He kept moving his foot from one side of the bed to the other. His wife said to him, 'What is the matter? 'O, said he, I am on an awful down-grade, and I can't get my foot on the brake.' If you continue in sin, in a little while you will find yourself on the awful down-grade, with no power whatever to stop. Better stop now, before you reach the awful down-grade, when it will be impossible for you to stop."**

**whom Davis considered to be in danger of being like the unable-to-stop stagecoach driver, were men who had been highly educated. Here is the paragraph that preceded the above quotation from H. T. Davis: "Graduates of Harvard, Yale, and other universities are found throughout the wild West, and some of them are coarse, ugly, horribly profane, and physically low in their tastes. It is estimated that there are five hundred cowboys on the frontier that are graduates of first-class Eastern universities. Don't imagine that these cowboys out on the plains are all ignorant, stupid fellows. Many of them are bright, keen, and the ripest scholars. They yielded to sin and its evil influences, and they reached the lowest level in a very short time. "There is no descent so low as that which drops from the greatest height."**

**In our time those schooled and fooled by the devil through erudite "great men" are not so likely to be found riding the range, nor even suspected of being "stupid fellows". Most of the misinformed, misguided scholars of today are probably situated in**

**positions of high respect and great influence where they too, in turn, are passing on their erroneous erudition.**

**Those who plan on staying out of hell should take heed about just what sort of "great men" it is from whom they learn. Proverbs 19:27 says, "Cease, my son, to hear the instruction that causeth to err from the words of knowledge." It matters not how many degrees witty professors have nor how lucid their logic may seem, "if they speak not according to this word [God's Word] it is because there is no light in them" (Isaiah 8:20). Their training is on a track toward the end of a line which shall crash to a sudden and eternal stop at the Judgment, and land themselves and all onboard into the abyss of everlasting destruction!**

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**03 -- THE OFFSPRING OF GREAT MEN SOMETIMES ALSO BECOME GREAT MEN -- "And their brethren, mighty men of valour, an hundred twenty and eight: and their overseer was Zabdiel, the son of one of the great men" (Nehemiah 11:14). Of whatever sort, greatness often begets greatness. At least sometimes the old adage "like father, like son" comes true when the son of a great man becomes such himself. In the case above, Zabdiel was the son of a great man who became one of Nehemiah's "mighty men of valor," yea, even their overseer.**

**So, Zabdiel's father was a great man, and Zabdiel himself became a great man in his own right. Perhaps his name gives us a clue about why Zabdiel followed his father's example of greatness. According to Strong's Concordance, "Zabdiel" means: "Gift of God". We might see in this that Zabdiel's father was a great man of God who considered his son to be, as it were, "a talent on loan from Jehovah" -- a son who after having been given of God was to be carefully and prayerfully raised for God. This, it seems, may have been the very reason why Zabdiel also became a great man, zealous in his work for the God of Israel.**

**Many a godly and great father and mother in spiritual Israel who have dedicated their children to God at, or even before, the time of their birth have lived to see those "Gifts of God" become great men and women of God themselves. Were I to do a detailed research on such cases, I venture to say that I could probably fill many pages with such examples. Yea, perhaps even now the reader can call to mind one or more such cases where spiritual greatness begat spiritual greatness -- where concerning a Christian giant the adage "like father, like son" came true, and where regarding great piety the Scripture, "As is the mother, so is her daughter" (Ezek. 16:44) has been literally fulfilled.**

**Conversely, that same adage and that same Scripture have proven true in other realms of greatness -- many of which have been a curse to the world:-- great men of greed and wealth have often brought forth greatly avaricious sons; great men of ambition have introduced into society sons with huge aspirations to be somebody; great**

men of political power have begotten sons with a hunger for even greater dictatorial designs; and similar curses have come into our world when the daughter of many a Jezebel mother has more than proven that "as is the mother, so is her daughter" to degrade the morals of mankind.

Happy the case, when it is otherwise, and great men and women of God bring forth and raise up for the world sons and daughters who become even greater spiritual giants "that do know their God, [and who are] strong, and do exploits" for Christ exceeding those of their forebears (Dan. 11:32).

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**04 -- THE WISDOM OF GREAT MEN IS SOMETIMES LACKING --** "Great men are not always wise: neither do the aged understand judgment" (Job 32:9). The fact that a man has attained greatness in some realm does not mean that he is infallible. There are no earthly wise men, even be they emissaries of Christ, capable of always speaking ex cathedra and inerrantly on every subject. Great men in one realm may often make stupid judgments regarding things outside the realm of their particular expertise.

Great men of the world are often exceedingly ignorant and unwise regarding Biblical and spiritual truth. On the other hand, frequently those who are great saints of God make blunders in their assessment of things temporal and practical in this world. But even within the realm of his legitimate field of knowledge, it is possible for a great man to err in judgment. Therefore, one should not take the greatest man among his guides, even his spiritual guides, to be incapable of making bad mistakes in what he thinks, teaches, and advises.

Skeptics can be too incredulous, but many are too gullible also -- too prone to swallow a thing without question simply because it comes from the lips of one whom they know to be a "great man". The Bereans set the example for all who sit under the preaching of great men -- even should they rise to the caliber of St. Paul. While these Bereans "received the Word with all readiness of mind" at the same time they "searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so" (Acts 17:11).

Before concluding on this point, let me present the NIV translation of Job 32:9-10, for it takes a different tack on the meaning here. It is the upstart Elihu speaking and saying to Job: "It is not only the old who are wise, not only the aged who understand what is right. Therefore I say: Listen to me; I too will tell you what I know."

Without any comment regarding the accuracy of this NIV translation of Job 32:9-10 versus the KJV translation of the same, I will just make this observation: While aged and mature, great men in any area of knowledge are not always wise, often more obnoxious is the young punk who is not yet dry behind the ears who is such a "know it all" that he thinks his insights are superior to those of every old "fuddy-duddy" born

**before 1950! This reminds me of the following story taken from the 2700-Plus Illustrations collection:**

**"A noted brain surgeon, Dr. Bronson Ray, was taking a stroll when he saw a boy on a scooter smash head-first into a tree. Realizing that the boy was seriously injured, the doctor told a bystander to call an ambulance. As he proceeded to administer first aid, a boy not much older than the injured one nudged through the crowd that had gathered and said to Dr. Ray, 'I'd better take over now, sir. I'm a Boy Scout and I know first aid.' As ridiculous as that sounds, it's no worse than someone in the church trying to do something for which someone else is better qualified."**

**"Great men are not always wise," but I fear that millions of today's young generation are seldom as wise as they fancy themselves to be!**

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**05 -- THE COMPANY OF GREAT MEN IS OBTAINED THROUGH GIFTS --  
"A man's gift maketh room for him, and bringeth him before great men" (Proverbs 18:16). There are both evil and good ways in which the truth of this verse can be fulfilled.**

**The bribery and influence peddling in which under-the-table, gift-giving lobbyists and corrupt politicians often engage in Washington D. C. and elsewhere is roundly condemned by the Bible: Exodus 23:8 "Thou shalt take no gift: for the gift blindeth the wise, and perverteth the words of the righteous." One is made to wonder the extent to which US secrets, favors, business, hand-outs, and legislation have been sold and bought across the years with gifts that have blinded official eyes and perverted their words and decisions!**

**Jokingly, I have heard something like the following about there being too much "Tainted Money":-- " 'Taint mine, 'taint yours, and 'taint easy to get!" But this is the fact concerning "Tainted Money" in our world today -- 'Tis easy to get -- too much of the time, in too many places, and from too many sources!**

**It has been said, "Every man has his price," but faithful and true Christians cannot be "bought" into doing wrong, for they obey the command of Proverbs 23:23 -- "Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding."**

**But there are good ways in which the truth that "A man's gift maketh room for him, and bringeth him before great men" can be, and are, fulfilled.**

**The unspeakable gift of the God-Man, Christ Jesus has made room for him in the hearts of countless millions of His followers across two millenniums; it has also brought Him and his gospel before both great and small throughout the earth. While it is true that "not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble" have allowed**

**Christ to be brought into their hearts, St. Paul bears witness to the fact that Christ's followers were found even in "Caesar's household" (1 Cor 1:26; Philip. 4:22). Whether accepted or not, the fact is that Christ's unspeakable gift at Calvary SHOULD make room for Him in every heart and bring him before and into the hearts of the greatest of earth's great men.**

**But there are two other positive fulfillments of Proverbs 23:23 that I would mention and they are the effects resulting from one having the mighty "Gift of the Holy Ghost":-- First, having the Gift of the Holy Ghost in one's heart makes room for the possessor in the presence of the Triune God, The Holy Angels, and the Bloodwashed both now and forever. Second, when one who has the Gift of the Holy Ghost within him in great magnitude, it may well bring him into the presence of the great men of this world. Yes, this latter effect is much smaller than the former, but -- when a Spirit-Filled man of God is so mightily filled with the Gift of the Holy Ghost that Kings, Queens, Princes and Presidents usher him into their presence, feeling and taking note of the unearthly presence and power radiating from his spirit, sometimes things are stirred thereby -- one way or another -- and God can use either result.**

**St. Paul was one whose gift of the Holy Ghost brought him before the great as well as the small. In Acts 26:22 he wrote: "Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come." While sailing to Rome on a storm-tossed sea, the Lord said to him: "Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee." It was Paul's Gift of the Holy Ghost that brought him before the great of earth, and whether those audiences resulted in persuasion, persecution, prison, or martyrdom, God always used them for His glory.**

**Likewise, across the centuries of history, other men filled with the Gift of the Holy Ghost have also found themselves brought into the presence of earth's great men, and, as in the case of Paul, the results have been mixed, but God has often used these audiences for His glory. Not every Daniel-like saint has become a Prime Minister, not every Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego has escaped the burning flames of a wicked tyrant's rage, and not every Mordecai has escaped the gallows of a designing Haman, but whatever the response, God seems to be determined to have those filled with His Gift of the Holy Ghost drawn into the presence of earth's great men, as well as into the presence of the small, so that every class in every clime around the globe and from pole to pole shall have the gospel preached unto them. "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in ALL the world [including before the great men of this world] for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" (Mat 24:14).**

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**06 -- THE PLACE OF GREAT MEN MUST NOT BE SOUGHT -- "Put not forth thyself in the presence of the king, and stand not in the place of great men" (Proverbs**

**25:6). Here we have the Old Testament version of one of Jesus' teachings in the New Testament. Every learned student of the New Testament is familiar with that passage, but I present it for at least your brief perusal:**

**"And he put forth a parable to those which were bidden, when he marked how they chose out the chief rooms; saying unto them, When thou art bidden of any man to a wedding, sit not down in the highest room; lest a more honourable man than thou be bidden of him; and he that bade thee and him come and say to thee, Give this man place; and thou begin with shame to take the lowest room. But when thou art bidden, go and sit down in the lowest room; that when he that bade thee cometh, he may say unto thee, Friend, go up higher: then shalt thou have worship in the presence of them that sit at meat with thee. For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted" (Luke 14:7-11).**

**It was when Lucifer desired to stand in the place of God that he fell and since he would not fit his proper place in heaven, he no longer fit any place in heaven, and God created another place for him -- "everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels" (Matt. 25:41). This may sound too harsh, but it really is so: The only fit place for place-seekers is the place "prepared for the devil and his angels." One of the biggest problems on earth, both in the secular and religious realms, is little men ambitious to stand, or already standing, where they ought not -- in the place of great men who properly fit that place!**

**The finale for the small standing in the place of the great, where they ought not, shall be seen at the end of this era when "the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet" shall be seen "standing where it ought not" (Mark 13:14). The utmost audacity of a mere man standing in the place of God is that of which the Jews accused Jesus: "The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God" (John 10:33). But Jesus told them, "If another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive" (John 5:43). The Man of Sin will stand in the place of the Great God, where he ought not -- but not for long, for the final Trump shall sound, and the Lord "shall destroy [him, the antichrist] with the brightness of his coming: even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders" (2 Thess. 2:8-9). Those who would not humbly fit into their proper place on earth will then fill the only place in which they fit in eternity: "punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power" (2 Thess. 1:9).**

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**07 -- THE SINS OF GREAT MEN WITH GREAT LIGHT ARE WORSE --  
"Therefore I said, Surely these are poor; they are foolish: for they know not the way of the LORD, nor the judgment of their God. I will get me unto the great men, and will speak unto them; for they have known the way of the LORD, and the judgment of their God: but these have altogether broken the yoke, and burst the bonds" (Jeremiah 5:4-5).**



**In assessing the spiritual condition of Israel in his time, Jeremiah first took stock of the transgressions of the poor and foolish little fellows, and thought to himself that much of what they were doing might be classified as sins of ignorance through not knowing the Word of God. Then next, he decided to examine the behavior of "the great men" who had much light concerning what God required for righteous living. He was greatly disappointed in what he beheld among those great, and enlightened leaders in Israel. Here is the way the NIV puts the entire episode:**

**"I thought, 'These are only the poor; they are foolish, for they do not know the way of the LORD, the requirements of their God. So I will go to the leaders and speak to them; surely they know the way of the LORD, the requirements of their God. But with one accord they too had broken off the yoke and torn off the bonds.'"**

**God does not count a thing as sin to a person until that person knows that it is a sin, "for where no law is, there is no transgression" ( Rom. 4:15). This, however, does not excuse being willingly ignorant (2 Peter 3:5), and God DOES count it a sin for a person to purposely avoid learning the distinction between good and evil. The traffic cop won't let you off for doing 50 mph in a 35 mph speed zone because you didn't know the speed limit when it was clearly posted, and you ignored the sign. But, when one is actually blind to a truth, not having willingly avoided knowing that truth through either the revelation of the Bible or his own conscience, God shows mercy, not counting the transgression against the ignorant individual.**

**Jesus summed it up this way in John 9:41 -- "If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth." It was the great men of Israel who were out to get Jesus, men who had much light. They were fully aware of the evil in their deeds and in their transgressions cleverly covered by their traditions. They were not blind; they knew; and therefore the sins of these "great men" was worse.**

**To the spiritually ignorant Roman Ruler, Pontius Pilate, Jesus said in John 19:11 -- "therefore he [Caiaphas, the Great Man among the Jews] that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin." Men of greater light incur greater condemnation for sin -- whether such great men be leaders in the world or in spiritual Israel. When a great man knowing the Bible acts like a Playboy in the Whitehouse, his sin is worse than that of fornicator who dwells in a hovel and knows not one word of Scripture. Likewise, when great men with great light in the Church cast off the restraints of righteousness in their lives and compromise the truth of the gospel in their preaching theirs is a greater condemnation than the indulgent and profaning sinner who knows virtually nothing between Genesis 1:1 and Revelation 22:21.**

**God always measures guilt for sins of either commission or omission by the amount of knowledge one has, great or small: "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin" (James 4:17).**

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**08 -- THE HOUSES OF GREAT MEN SHALL BE BURNED WITH FIRE --**  
"And burned the house of the LORD, and the king's house; and all the houses of Jerusalem, and all the houses of the great men, burned he with fire" (Jeremiah 52:13).  
Of the Christian, Paul wrote in 2 Cor. 5:1-2 "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven."

The time fast approaches when every earthly house, including those of the greatest of the great men on earth, shall all be dissolved. In his song, "This Old House" Stuart Hamblen wrote of the approaching dissolution of the earthly house of one who was "Getting Ready To Meet The Saints":

This old house is gettin' shaky;  
This old house is gettin' old;  
This old house has seen the rain;  
This old house has seen the cold;

Oh his knees are gettin' chilly,  
But he feels no fear or pain  
'Cause he sees an angel peepin'  
Through a broken window pane.

Ain't gonna need this house no longer,  
Ain't gonna need this house no more,  
Ain't got time to fix the shingles,  
Ain't got time to fix the floor,  
Ain't got time to oil the hinges  
Nor to mend the window pain,  
Ain't gonna need this house no longer  
He's getting ready to meet the saints.

During one of his times of great trial on earth, the great apostle Paul wrote in 1 Cor. 4:11 "Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwellingplace." He has a certain dwellingplace now! -- "a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." And, Paul's eternal house is the sort which the truly greatest of earth's great men (God's Saints) shall inherit and inhabit, world without end!

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**09 -- THE SWORD OF GREAT MEN SHALL FALL BEFORE THE SWORD OF GOD'S WORD --** "...the sword of the great men..." (Ezekiel 21:14); "...the sword of

**the Spirit, which is the word of God..." (Eph. 6:17); "And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God" (Rev 19:15); "And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth" (Rev 19:21).**

**Many great men of the earth have wielded a mighty "swords of conquest" in their quest for supremacy, but the day fast approaches when the "Sword of the Spirit," God's Omnipotent Word proceeding out of the mouth of the Returning Christ shall conquer them all and war shall be no more:**

**"He shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken it" (Micah 4:3-4).**

**These verses, I believe, speak of both the eternal end of war and the eternal safety and security of the New Heavens and the New Earth.**

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**10 -- THE BONDAGE OF GREAT MEN, HOWEVER POWERFUL IS COMING -- "Art thou better than populous No?.. Ethiopia and Egypt were her strength, and it was infinite; Yet was she carried away, she went into captivity: her young children also were dashed in pieces at the top of all the streets: and they cast lots for her honourable men, and all her great men were bound in chains" (Nahum 3:8-10).**

**This passage speaks of great men dwelling in a nation that was supposedly secure and protected with "infinite" strength -- YET -- THAT NATION FELL, AND THOSE GREAT MEN WERE BOUND AND CARRIED AWAY! On the Day of the Lord, the supposedly "infinite" strength of Christ's mightiest foes shall melt away before His truly INFINITE POWER. He has warned in Prov. 11:21 "Though hand join in hand, the wicked shall not be unpunished: but the seed of the righteous shall be delivered." The great men of the earth who have hated and opposed Christ shall not go unpunished; they, and all of their followers shall be "dashed in pieces" at Christ's Return, and finally bound in "everlasting chains under darkness" forever! (Jude 6). "He that hath ears to hear, let him hear" (Matt. 11:15).**

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**11 -- THE GREATEST OF THE GREAT MEN SHALL ALONE BE EXALTED AT HIS RETURN -- "And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains" (Revelation 6:15)**

**Take a look around the globe at the great men of this world, but don't be overly impressed, for "He that is higher than the highest regardeth; and there be higher than they" (Eccl. 5:8). Today, earth's great men can look mighty tall and loom awfully large in the minds of millions, but on the Day of the Lord "The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day" (Isaiah 2:11).**

**Christ is Higher than the Highest of all on earth and Greater than the greatest of earth's great men. You had better believe it! -- for when He splits the eastern skies it shall be shown that He "is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords" (1 Timothy 6:15). So awesome shall be His Omnipotent visage in the sky as He returns that earth's "great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man" shall hide "themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains," calling out "to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb" (Revelation 6:15-16)**

**What a deliverance it shall be for the righteous! when "the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day" (Isaiah 2:11)!**

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**12 -- THE MERCHANDISING OF GREAT MEN WILL SUDDENLY CEASE FOREVER! -- And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all. And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft he be, shall be found any more in thee; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee; And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived" (Revelation 18:21-23).**

**Babylon the great is busy, busy, busy these days and the attitude of a greedy, money-making world is like those who after receiving their invitation to the wedding feast, "made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise" (Matt 22:5).**

**As the ignored, insulted, and rejected Savior looks down upon a greedy world, bent on making money, money, money, He might well declare by the prophet Nahum, "Thou hast multiplied thy merchants above the stars of heaven: the cankerworm spoileth, and fleeth away" (Nahum 3:16).**

**Soon the money-mills and merchandising of earth's great men shall forever cease at the Return of Christ. Babylon the Great shall be cast down and millions of earthly millionaires shall become eternal paupers, for having failed to heed the advice of Him who said: "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal" (Matt. 6:19-20).**

**The truly great men in this world have become eternal merchants "like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, [Jesus, and His Full Salvation] went and sold all that he had, and bought it..." Christ made it clear that suddenly the impoverished merchants of this world and the truly wealthy merchants of heaven shall be forever separated, the former into the "furnace of fire" and the latter into the fabulous wealth and joy of their treasures in Heaven. "So shall it be," He said, "at the end of the world..." (See Matt. 13:45-49) -- and I believe it, don't you?**

\* \* \* \* \*

**THE END**