

Israel was formed because God called the people out in order to show forth His message. The U.S. was to a great extent founded by those who came here in order to establish homes and a place where they would be free from the control of the wicked. Where they would be able to establish a community that would live in accordance with God's laws, and would be a lighthouse to the world. I believe that over 80% of all the money that is given today for foreign missions comes from the U.S., and probably also a similar number of missionaries go out to foreign lands from the U.S.

The U.S. has been through its history indeed a lighthouse. It has been a center from which the Word of God has gone out. It has been an area from which the Word of God has been as central in its life as any country in the world, and more so than almost in any.

There was a great civil war in this country a century ago. A German constitutional historian writing a constitutional history of the U.S. said that Civil Wars are usually the most destructive of all wars. They are the most violent and treacherous. But he said, this was the only civil war he knew of in history that in it both sides constantly proclaimed their desire to follow international law in their carrying on of war, and to avoid doing any more damage to civilians than could be possibly be avoided. He said both sides constantly declared that if they could be shown from Scripture they were wrong they would immediately give in to the other side. Now we are not here to judge the sincerity of any individual but the fact that man would speak this way shows that many be at least of their people felt that way. The U.S. has been a great lighthouse, but today it is losing much of its light.

In the early days of my teaching I lived in the heart of Phila. and I used to go out every evening. I was not married at the time. I used to go out every evening and go up and down the streets and go through all parts of central Philadelphia getting my exercise there and becoming familiar with all the various streets. I happened to mention that to someone the other day, and he said, "You would not dare do that today. You would be sure to be knocked over and mugged if you did that today in any of our large cities." Every year in recent years we find the amount of violence in our country is tremendously increasing.

I believe in later years there has been a greater production of evangelical literature, than for many years. There is -- are more Bible Conferences today. There is perhaps a wider extension of the preaching of the Word than there has been perhaps in the last 50 years. But if you take the group that hears the Scripture today in our country and the groups that are going to stand for it and compare them with the nation as a whole, contrast them with the great increase of violence, the great increase of pornography, the decisions of the Supreme Court that tear down the stand of our nation for what is right and true, we are in a very very bad state. Surely these words should express the attitude of many of us -- these words of Habakkuk. "How long shall I cry about violence? Why do you let me see this iniquity and cause me to behold these grievances?"