

## Important Issues in the Election of Nov. 4, 1980

I'd like your to turn to the book of Isaiah, ch. 40:6-8  
(reading text)

Anyone living in the days of Isaiah and the days immediately following it would have had many clear illustrations of what this passage says--that the glory of man is like the flowers of grass. When Isaiah wrote, the great Assyrian nation was conquering region after region and took 10 of the tribes off into exile.

It was a little time before that that Jonah had prophesied against Ninevah. Jonah said God was going to destroy Ninevah. Ninevah repented in sackcloth and ashes, and God postponed Jonah's prophecy. But Jonah's prophecy was not a false prophecy. It was simply postponed. The destruction of Ninevah was perhaps as great as the destruction of any city in the whole history of the world. For nearly 3000 years nobody even knew where the city had been., though it had been so large they say the walls around it were 60 miles in length.

After Ninevah was destroyed Babylon took over, and Nebuchadnezzar looked out over that great city and said, Is not this great Babylon that I have built? Babylon became synonymous for glory, and for grandeur. But Babylon became as Jeremiah said it would--simply a waste place in the wilderness. Today it is something of an outdoor museum. They've dug up many wonderful treasures, but the greatness of Babylon completely disappeared.

Tyre was the mistress of the sea. For centuries its ships went back and forth through the Mediterranean carrying their commears and being the envy of most of the other parts of the ancient world. I visited Tyre some years ago. A little tiny town out on a little island connected by an artificial way to the mainland. No glory there. Nothing left of any great importance.

Rome built an empire that lasted longer than any other empire in history. of the world. Rome was a democracy for several centuries, and as a democracy it proceeded to build an empire, it conquered nation after nation. Then it became a dictatorship and continued for another 4 centuries.

But 2 centuries ago a British historian, Alexander Tyler, writing of the demõse of those ancient democracies, ancient Athens and Rome warned: :A democracy cannot exist as a permanent form of government. It can exist only until the voters discover that they can vote themselves largess from the public treasury. From that moment on the majority always votes for the candidate promising the most benefits from the public treasury with the result that the democracy colapses under the weight of a loose fiscal policy, always to be followed by a dictatorship.

It wasn't long ago, only a century, in fact less than a century, that the British empire was the greatest power in the world. The English boasted as late as 60 years ago that the sun never set on the British empire. The British pound was the standard