

At 9:21 pm, on February 10, 2009, I heard: **"Thus saith the Lord, 'I have lifted up a hammer over the United States, and I am about to strike at the very heart of the nation.'"**

The heart of a nation generally refers to the seat of government. We see scriptural examples of this with the two capitals of ancient Israel and Judah, Shiloh and Jerusalem, the two places where the Lord placed His name, only to remove it when His people turned from Him to other gods. He spoke His word of judgment over these two capitals and then proceeded to literally destroy them by raising up foreign nations to conquer them.

We don't have to guess the meaning of the hammer, for the Word of God defines it for us.

"Is not My word like fire?" declares the LORD, "and like a hammer which shatters a rock?"
(Jeremiah 23:29 NASB)

The hammer of the Lord is His Word, which is also likened to fire, which, in turn, is likened to His law, **the fiery law of God** (Deuteronomy 33:2; Psalm 29:7; Isaiah 4:4; Romans 7:14). His word is also **the sharp two-edged sword that divides soul and spirit** and **judges** (Hebrews 4:12). And, **He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth** (i.e., His Word) (Isaiah 11:4).

The Hebrew word *pattiysh* is translated as the word *hammer*, which means **"to pound,"** and refers to a hammer that is used to smooth metal, which could be likened to **something precious** (Isaiah 41:7).

The Hebrew word *puts* is translated as the word *shatters* or *breaks*, which means **"to dash in pieces, literally or figuratively, especially to disperse – break, dash, shake into pieces, cast abroad."**

The Hebrew word *sela* is translated as the word *rock* or *stone*, which means **"to be lofty; a craggy rock, literally or figuratively a fortress."**

From these definitions, we could say that the word of the Lord goes forth and pounds the fortresses of man until they are shattered and reworked until something precious is produced.

So, as a hammer, the word of the Lord serves two purposes—to destroy that which stands against Him (i.e., fortresses) and to build up or create something of value for Him or, we could say, something that reflects His Son.

Thus, as His word of judgment goes forth to strike the heart of the US, it goes forth to destroy fortresses, which in this case is every system and law of man that is in opposition to God and every spirit that drives these systems. Paul makes it very clear.

(4) For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. (5) We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up

against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ, (6) and we are ready to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete. (2 Corinthians 10:4-6 NASB)

We could say that the US political system is in for a pounding. The good news is that when God's judgment is completed, we will once again sing *America the Beautiful*, for she will be precious in God's sight.