

Grid Down: The Greatest *Real* Threat to the U.S.

by Jeremy James



Too many Americans today believe in the fairy godmother created by Walt Disney and his fantasy emporium. When troubles arise, she appears from nowhere and sorts everything out.

They seem to forget that a fairy godmother is actually a high-ranking witch.

They are like the little child who sees a ball roll under the couch and thinks it no longer exists. According to the experts who study child development, every child should pass through this stage by the time they are eight months old or thereabouts. From then on they understand that an object that disappears from view still continues to exist. This is known as *object permanence*.

The witch who performs her wonders under an assumed name, with a kindly smile and a frumpy frock, is still a witch. Nothing has changed. *Object permanence*.

Alas, modern American society – and we are speaking here of adult society! – has a poorly developed sense of object permanence. If a national threat is identified and Congress prepares a Report to “examine” it then somehow the threat has been neutralized, as if by magic. In the mind of most Americans it has ceased to exist.

The real threat versus the many fictitious threats

The public is constantly being told that the greatest threats to modern civilization include 'global warming', which will require vast sums of money and major changes in human behavior to address successfully. This is a lie of course, but false science insists that it must be taken seriously. Another allegedly terrible, if unpredictable, threat is a gigantic solar flare that knocks out the electrical grid, or a large asteroid which collides with the earth and causes worldwide devastation. These too are bogus. More recently we were threatened with a deadly, albeit imaginary, disease that would kill tens of millions of people across America and destroy the economy. And for seventy-five years the same masters of theatrical disasters have warned of all-out nuclear war and mass poisoning from deadly radiation.

The public is being conditioned by these overwhelming threats to believe that our future security rests entirely on the leadership and ability of our respective governments. The more ludicrous the threat and the more preposterous the scenario, the less permanent the world becomes in our own eyes. This is all by design. The public has now come to believe that the only way to maintain normality is to trust in the fairy godmother who lives on Capitol Hill and who goes by the name *Columbia*.



In this paper we intend to discuss a real threat, not a phony one devised by our governments to distract us. This threat is one that *Columbia* never mentions, and yet it could easily bring the nation to her knees and erase America as we know it.

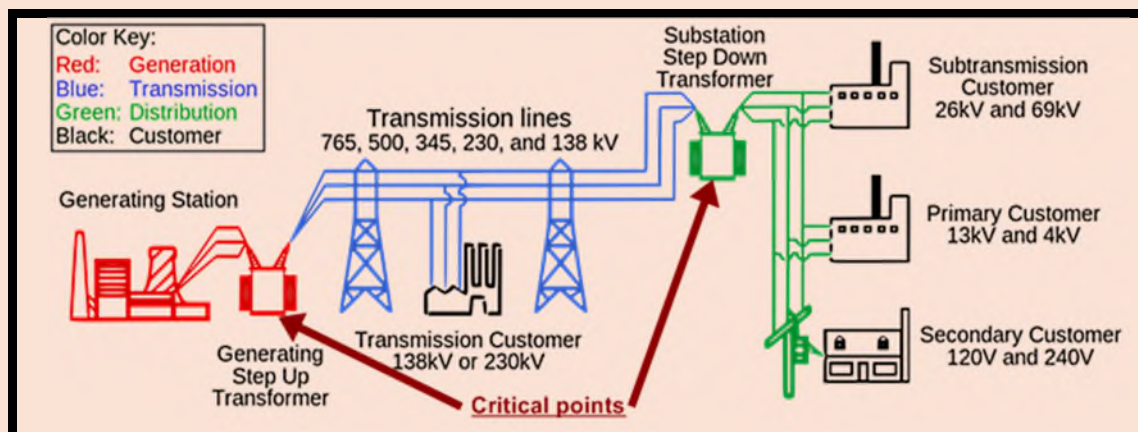
We last discussed it in detail 9 years ago in our paper, *The Hounds of Hell: Two Potentially Fatal Threats to US National Security* [#90]. The threat to the US electricity grid has already been addressed by Congress but only in a way that makes it appear under control or much less immediate than it actually is. The threat has also been disguised to some extent by linking it to the possibility of an EMP attack on America, caused by the explosion of a nuclear device at high altitude. It is also being linked to a large-scale cyber attack on the complex software that supports the stable operation of the grid.

A co-ordinated physical attack on the US electrical grid

The really big threat – the one that ought to be of greatest concern – is rarely mentioned. This is a coordinated physical attack on large scale transformers by a network of sleeper cells located strategically across the US. As we showed in an earlier paper [#152], there is no possibility that America could be subjected to an EMP attack since explosive nuclear devices are a military fiction. Even if they did exist the electromagnetic pulse that such an explosion would generate would affect only a very small area at ground level. The cyber threat, on the other hand, is very real but it differs significantly from the physical threat in that it leaves grid infrastructure largely intact. (We are not accounting here for the possibility that a cyber attack could shut down the cooling systems needed to keep large transformers from overheating. If these were disabled the operational crew should still have time to shut down the transformers before real physical harm was done.)

The Critical Points – step-up and step-down transformers

There are about 19,000 electrical generators in the United States with a generation capacity of one megawatt or more. These are located at some 7,300 operational power plants. The following diagram shows the schematic layout of the US electric Grid:



The Grid has hundreds of 'extra high voltage' (HV) step-up and step-down transformers, as well as thousands of additional lower-level transformers.

A co-ordinated terrorist attack by a trained team of sleeper cells could do enough damage to completely cripple the grid for six months or more. An attack on that scale would be catastrophic. It would be worse by far than the explosion of a nuclear device (if such devices existed) since society across the length and breadth of N America is utterly dependent on the uninterrupted availability of electricity. A six-month shut-down or “outage” would lead to social chaos and mass starvation. We won't speculate on how many would die as a result, but there is no doubt that the nation founded in 1776 would cease to exist.

Warnings sounded by others

It may help the reader grasp the reality and magnitude of this threat if we review the warnings sounded by others. There are still real patriots in America today who see what's happening and who earnestly want to alert their fellow countrymen before it is too late.

“All HV transformers are designed to withstand operational risks such as lightning strikes, hurricanes, and network power fluctuations – but they are vulnerable to intentional physical attacks. Despite their great size and internal complexity, HV transformers can be readily disabled or destroyed... With a clear line of sight, an attacker could also disable transformers from a distance using conventional rifles.”

- *Physical Security of the U.S. Power Grid: High-Voltage Transformer Substations*, Congressional Research Service, 2014

We'll start with retired Brigadier-General Ken Chrosniak. He enlisted in the US Army in 1965 and served as a Military Policeman. Later, as a Second Lieutenant, he served in a series of command and staff assignments. After serving in Vietnam he was appointed in due course to the faculty of the US Army War College in Carlisle Barracks, PA. Following 9/11 he served for two years with the Joint Chiefs of Staff. By the time he retired, General Chrosniak had a total of 37 years of military service.

Chey-Tac M200 Intervention

Known for its exceptional accuracy over extreme distances – 2,000 metres or 1.25 miles. It has been known to strike a target as a distance of 2 miles.

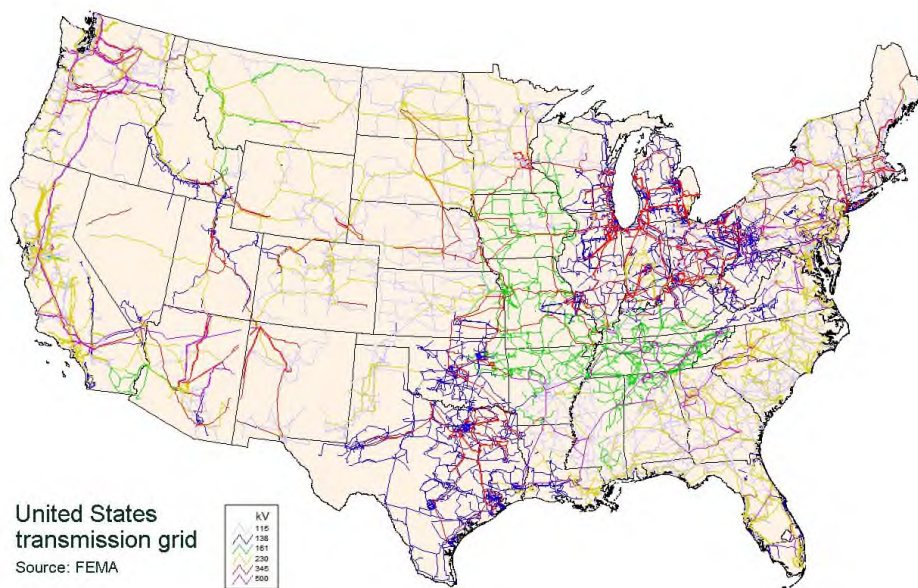


In the course of his long career he became acutely aware of the vulnerability of the national grid and watched in disbelief as senior politicians failed to take the most basic action to remedy the situation. Reports were drafted, key issues were identified and recommendations made. These were then discussed by Congress in consultation with the industry and government institutions, but no concrete action was taken. The cost of doing so was actually quite small, relative to other items of government expenditure, but no funding was provided and no agency established to implement the recommendations which nearly everyone agreed were reasonable.

Here is how he described this high-level failure:

It is unfathomable that you have not been told of these threats by your leaders, especially the one agency entrusted to keep you informed and secure. That's right, the DHS. The threats to your electric grid are real, and have been known by the responsible agencies for too long... Your leaders at all levels – from the President, Congress, the electricity industry, DHS, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and surely the Department of Energy – have been severely negligent...

– *Loss of the Electric Power Grid: A Nationwide Catastrophic Infrastructure Event, 2014*



In a report prepared by the Congressional Research Service in 2014, *Physical Security of the U.S. Power Grid: High-Voltage Transformer Substations*, authored by Paul Parfomak, the threat of a co-ordinated physical assault on the nation's large-scale transformers was examined in some detail. It began with a summary of the problem:

In the United States, the electric power grid consists of over 200,000 miles of high-voltage transmission lines interspersed with hundreds of large electric power transformers. High voltage (HV) transformer units make up less than 3% of transformers in U.S. power substations, but they carry 60%-70% of the nation's electricity. Because they serve as vital nodes and carry bulk volumes of electricity, HV transformers are critical elements of the nation's electric power grid. HV transformers are also the most vulnerable to intentional damage from malicious acts. Recent security exercises, together with a 2013 physical attack on transformers in Metcalf, CA, have focused congressional interest on the physical security of HV transformers. [*emphasis added*]

We mentioned the Metcalf attack of 2013 in our earlier paper, #90. Some analysts, including federal officials, believe that attack may have been a dry-run for a more sophisticated, multi-pronged attack on the grid at a future date. The assailants, who used rifle fire to puncture and disable the transformers and their cooling apparatus, were never identified.



The report made it quite clear that the threat of intentional sabotage was very real and that this was widely acknowledged: “There is widespread agreement among state and federal government officials, utilities, and manufacturers that HV transformers in the United States are vulnerable to terrorist attack, and that such an attack potentially could have catastrophic consequences.”

It notes that to date “no region in the United States has experienced simultaneous failures of multiple HV transformers” but that such an event could have severe implications over a large geographic area, crippling its electricity network.

Previous blackouts

Notwithstanding its high reliability overall, the U.S. power grid has periodically experienced major regional outages. These include the Northeast Blackout of 2003, which affected 55 million customers in eight states (including Canada), and extended outages in New York/New Jersey after hurricane Sandy in 2012.

In 2010, the lead time for delivery of a HV transformer ranged from 5 to 12 months if the manufacturer was based in the US and 6 to 16 months for foreign manufacturers, while lead times in excess of 20 months could be expected in certain situations.

Between 1950 and 1970, the US was a major manufacturer of HV transformers for the world market. However, as foreign production increased and their labor costs were substantially lower, the number of manufacturers in the US fell sharply. Today only five factories in the US claim to be able to build HV transformers, though it is not clear whether any of them have actually done so.

Example of a typical HV Transformer



HV transformers, especially those over 345 kV, are physically very large and extremely heavy. The one shown above weighs 435 tons. There are only 20 rail cars in the US that can carry such a load. Their massive size and characteristic shape make them easy to identify.

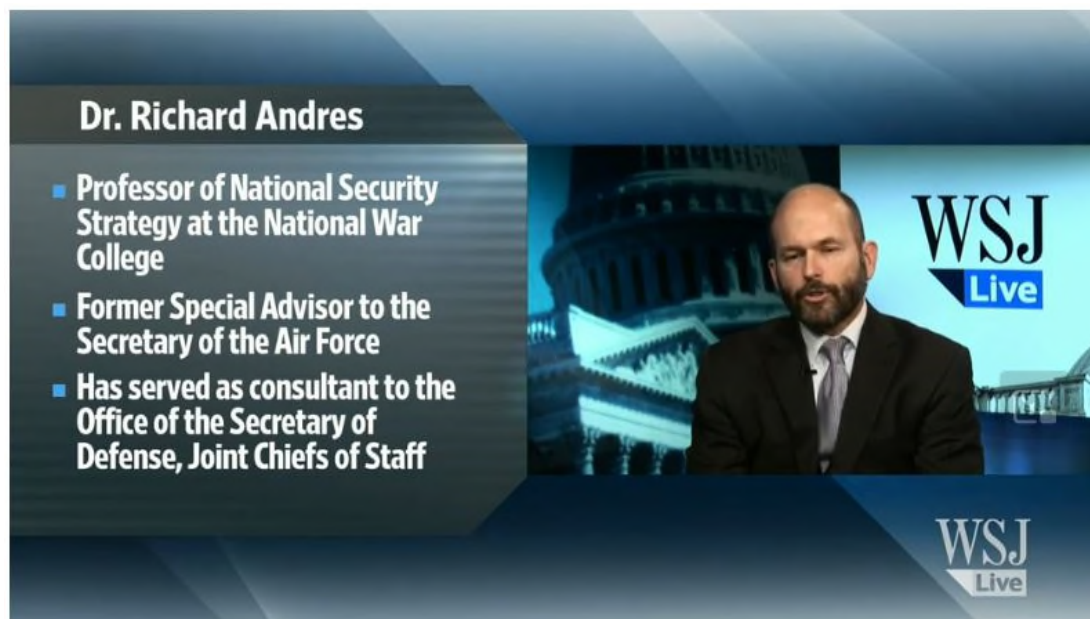
The Grid has a number of highly critical HV transformers

Several thousand HV transformers are operating across the continental United States. Approximately 2,000 of these are very large units of 345 kV or above. The loss of key HV substations would cripple a regional network and leave it highly susceptible to further disturbances and cascading failure. According to industry experts, certain parts of the transmission network are particularly vulnerable to substation disruption. These areas may have severely constrained transmission paths relying on a small number of HV transformers in critical network locations. According to press accounts, a FERC “power flow analysis” in 2013 identified 30 such critical HV transformer substations across the continental United States. Incredibly, if as few as nine of these were disabled during a period of peak demand it could cause a “coast-to-coast blackout.”

Many senior lawmakers were angry with FERC for releasing this information (FERC is the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission). In their opinion, it could give rise to unwarranted public concern and encourage America’s enemies to plan a way to exploit this weakness. They seemed oblivious to the fact that lack of public awareness of this serious threat was actually reducing the political incentive to address it.

The Wall Street Journal tried to raise the alarm in 2014

The *Wall Street Journal* tried to draw attention to the revelation by FERC when it first became known. One of its video journalists interviewed Dr Richard Andres of the National War College about this sensitive disclosure and the overall security of the US Grid. Speaking in a personal capacity, Dr Andres said that, in a worst case scenario, where the grid was subjected to a highly organized physical attack, large parts of the country could be left without power for several months or even a year. He said that a great deal could be achieved by simply putting up “obscuring walls” around critical substation transformers. In his view, this inexpensive solution would “eliminate 90 percent of the problem.” He stressed that this needed to be done “as quickly as possible.”



Video aired 12 March 2014

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/SB10001424052702304020104579433670284061220>

Has it been done? No, it hasn't. Twelve years have elapsed and the grid is even more vulnerable today than it was when the FERC made its assessment in 2013.

Unbelievable? In a sane world, yes, but not in a world where many in key leadership positions are following the New World Order agenda and are working to consolidate all sovereign nations into a single political entity controlled by a world government.

The demand worldwide for new transformers has pushed delivery time far beyond the waiting period mentioned by Dr Andres. An article published by the IEEE in December 2024, *This Essential Element of the Power Grid Is in Critically Short Supply*, stated that

“the demand for transformers has spiked worldwide, and so the wait time to get a new transformer has doubled from 50 weeks in 2021 to nearly two years now, according to a report from Wood MacKenzie, an energy-analytics firm. The wait for the more specialized large power transformers (LPTs) [HVs], which step up voltage from power stations to transmission lines, is up to four years.” [Source: <https://spectrum.ieee.org/transformer-shortage>]

Yes, four years.

The problem is compounded by the fact that the grid is not seen as a vital national asset which should be protected by reference to military-grade standards. Utility companies make investment decisions purely on commercial grounds and are unwilling to invest in additional infrastructure simply to address government concerns. Meanwhile, the government has given it a low priority and is not prepared to divert a small proportion of military spending to address this critical need.

Mike Mabee: “The U.S. electric grid is the largest machine in the history of mankind. It is a marvel of modern engineering. No one person owns or controls it. It's actually 3,000 different companies, both public and private sector, that own or operate little pieces of the electric grid.”

Quote by Mike Mabee on the *Sixty Minutes* program discussed below. He is an Iraq war veteran with a special interest in the security of the Grid.

Other factors

In addition, the grid is being subjected to extraordinary pressure on two fronts. First is the growth of massive data centers, driven by developments in AI, which consume very large quantities of electrical power. Second is the age of existing grid infrastructure. A study by the US Department of Commerce in 2020 indicated that the average age of in-service large power transformers (LPTs or HVs) is 38 years, which puts them near or even past their design life.

Furthermore, at the heart of this problem is the extent to which the US is reliant on foreign manufacturers, including foreign supply chains, to meet its huge appetite for transformers. The current trade war is certain to extend delivery times beyond those mentioned above.

Sixty Minutes, 2022

Perhaps the only *bona fide* attempt over the past ten years to alert the public at large to the vulnerability of the grid was an episode of *Sixty Minutes* that aired in August 2022. The following excerpts reveal a very high level of concern among insiders who are most familiar with the grid:

Sixty Minutes, CBS News, August 28, 2022

**Former head of FERC, Jon Wellinghoff,
describes the Metcalf incident of 2013**

The interviewer asked if he flew out to Metcalf to inspect the scene of the attack:



Jon Wellinghoff

“That’s correct. And I took two other individuals who train special forces, U.S. special forces. They train people to actually attack infrastructure. And what the former commandos found looked familiar. They discovered the attackers had reconnoitered the site and marked firing positions with piles of rocks. That night they broke into two underground vaults and cut off communications coming from the substation. Then they went from these vaults, across this road, over into a pasture area... There were at least four or five different firing positions... There was no security at all, really. They aimed at the narrow cooling fins, causing 17 of 21 large transformers to overheat and stop working. They hit them 90 times, so they were very accurate. And they were doing this at night, with muzzle flash in their face. Someone outside the plant heard gunfire and called 911. The gunmen disappeared without a trace about a minute before a patrol car arrived. The substation was down for weeks, but fortunately PG&E had enough time to reroute power and avoid disaster... [It] could’ve brought down all of Silicon Valley.”

“There’s no question. It is alarming”

Extract from the *Sixty Minutes* interview

A few months before the assault on Metcalf, Jon Wellinghoff of FERC commissioned a study to see if a physical attack on critical transformers could trigger cascading blackouts.

Jon Wellinghoff: It was actually a very shocking result to us that there's very few number of substations you need to take out, in the entire United States, to knock out the entire grid.

Bill Whitaker: Knock out the entire grid?

Jon Wellinghoff: That's correct.

Bill Whitaker: How many would it take to knock out putting the entire country in a blackout?

Jon Wellinghoff: Less than 20.

The report was leaked to the Wall Street Journal. It found the U.S. could suffer a coast-to-coast blackout if saboteurs knocked out just nine substations.

Bill Whitaker: You are relaying this in a very measured way. I would think this would be quite alarming.

Jon Wellinghoff: It was alarming. There's no question. It is alarming.

CONCLUSION

For the past two decades the mainstream media has reported over and over on the growing threat posed by Iran to the nation of Israel. The experts have repeatedly asserted that Iran is only “weeks” away from assembling an explosive nuclear device. However, the public is never given a shred of credible evidence to support these contentious allegations. (In any event, as we noted above, no country has ever possessed such a device).

This ongoing propaganda campaign is conditioning the public to believe that Iran is finally at the point of developing a weapon of mass destruction and that the US will need to intervene militarily before that happens. The aim, of course, is to trigger the mayhem and carnage that the Cabal believes is needed to change the international political landscape and bring about a ‘new world order’.

The public is also being led to believe that the planned invasion of Iran will run as smoothly as the invasion of Iraq in 1991. But it won't. Iran has long known that it is the final target on a list of Middle Eastern countries to be overthrown by the US and has been preparing itself accordingly. While we cannot state categorically that it has installed a very large number of “sleeper cells” across the US, it would very foolish to imagine that it has neglected to do so.

Barrett M-82

Known for its power and its ability to disable vehicles and equipment at a range of 1,800 metres (over a mile). This long-range rifle uses large-caliber ammunition capable of breaching heavy armor.



The 50 BMG fired by the Barrett M-82 is a multi-purpose anti-matériel explosive, incendiary, armor-piercing projectile.



A network of such cells would constitute a ‘secret weapon’ which could be deployed as soon as the US commenced an invasion of Iran, taking down critical infrastructure and causing unspeakable chaos. It would also turn the American people against the imperialist policies being pursued by their own government. The Iranians may already have obtained a copy of the FERC dossier of 2013 and identified the substations on which the national grid is critically dependent. Even if it has not, a simultaneous attack on hundreds of HV substations, especially in the north-east, would have catastrophic implications for the US economy and social stability.

By failing to take responsible remedial action to strengthen the grid against such an attack, successive administrations have shown a scandalous disregard for the security of the US. They must surely know that, by invading Iran, they are bound to trigger a deadly attack on this highly exposed target.

Grid Structure

The US grid actually comprises three separate grids: the N-E grid, the Texas grid, and the Californian grid. The planned attack may focus on the N-E grid only, leaving the Texan and Californian grids intact. This would allow the Cabal to break up the existing political system while maintaining overall control of the population. It would also explain why so many of the planned AI data centers are in Texas, while California is being remodelled into a number of smart cities. The mayhem in the region covered by the N-E grid could be used to justify the introduction of martial law, curfews, rationing, and strict controls over the civilian population. Huge numbers would likely be relocated to work camps for their own safety. Most would go voluntarily to avoid roving gangs of looters and to receive a daily supply of food.

Babylon

The Bible speaks of the fall of Babylon in the End Time. If the US collapses, Babylon will still exist. As a nation it is certainly part of the Babylonian system, but it is a dispensable part. At present it is a major obstacle to the creation of a one-world government, so its demise, or fragmentation, would suit the Cabal. They could then claim that “Babylon has fallen” and that the Messiah is about to arrive.

The messiah they have in mind, of course, is the Antichrist. A great many professing Christians will believe that Babylon has indeed fallen and will look for a savior to restore normality to the world. They will believe that Bible prophecy is being fulfilled and that the wonder-working world leader who emerges – and who promises to bring enduring peace – is Christ himself.

Oddly enough, a successful attack on the grid by a network of sleeper cells would mimic Bible prophecy in one remarkable respect. In order to succeed, such an attack would need to take place simultaneously across multiple states. The surprise element is crucial. If hundreds, or possibly thousands, of sleeper cells attacked their respective targets at exactly the same time, then America would be taken down in less than an hour.

Compare this with Bible prophecy regarding the fall of Babylon:

“Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come.” (Revelation 18:10)

“For in one hour so great riches is come to nought.” (Revelation 18:17)

“And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas, that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate.” (Revelation 18:19)

“Sit thou silent, and get thee into darkness, O daughter of the Chaldeans: for thou shalt no more be called, The lady of kingdoms... But these two things shall come to thee in a moment in one day, the loss of children, and widowhood: they shall come upon thee in their perfection for the multitude of thy sorceries, and for the great abundance of thine enchantments.” (Isaiah 47:5&9)

However, many other passages (in addition to the last one cited) indicate that the hour of destruction will also bring a great conflagration and/or immense loss of life. This is unlikely to happen in the immediate aftermath of a coast-to-coast collapse of the grid but would appear instead to require a large-scale ballistic assault or a judgment of God akin to the one that destroyed Sodom and the cities of the plain. They, too, were reduced to ruins in less than an hour.

Closing comment: Interestingly, I began drafting this paper the day before the blackout in Spain and Portugal. Perhaps that well-publicized collapse will serve as a wake-up call to those who still believe “it can’t happen here.”

“... My leanness, my leanness, woe unto me! the treacherous dealers have dealt treacherously; yea, the treacherous dealers have dealt very treacherously.” – Isaiah 24:16

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For further information visit www.zephaniah.eu

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