



Prophecy in Perspective

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An Email Newsletter

Our Times - *Prophecy in current events*

Is America a Part of God's Prophetic Plan for Israel? Yes!

While not directly mentioned in the Scriptures, I believe America is indicated as being a part of God's prophetic plan to protect and encourage Israel through recent centuries. We can see in Ezekiel 28:25-26 that God plans a future blessing on those Gentile nations that bless Israel and that help them in their times of distress. I believe the Lord had America in mind as one of those Gentile nations that would be especially used by Him to establish and to protect Israel.

Ezekiel 28:25-26 speaks of a time in the latter days when Israel will be re-gathered to their land and will dwell safely ***"in the sight of the Gentiles."*** and the Jews would ***"dwell safely there, build houses, and plant vineyards."*** And under the protective and watchful eyes of the powerful Gentile nations that would be inclined to help Israel, ***"they would dwell securely,"*** as the Lord would ***"execute judgments on all those around them who despise them. Then they shall know that I am the Lord their God."***

Interestingly, one of the clearest prophecies which indirectly speaks of America's involvement in God's prophetic plan for Israel is one which speaks of America's policy of passivity. This is found in Ezekiel 38:1-6 where the Lord says that evil nations will attack Israel. These evil nations will be those of "Gog of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal." These were nations which occupied the lands north of Israel around the Caspian or Black Seas. Today we should probably understand these to be Russia (Rosh), Moscow (Meshech), and Tobolsk (Tubal). "Gog" is the leader of Russia. Allies who will help in this attack against Israel in the latter days will be Persia (present day Iran), Ethiopia, and Libya, Gomer (Southern Russia), and Togarmah (located near the Black Sea). There is reason to believe that this attack may occur even before the rapture as we are seeing these nations allying against Israel in our own day.

There will be countries that will take a passive stance when Gog and Magog attack Israel. The United States and Great Britain may be among them. Ezekiel 38:13 speaks of these passive nations: ***"Sheba, Dedan, the merchants of Tarshish (a likely reference to the British Isles), and all their young lions will say to you (Russia and her allies), 'Have you come to take plunder? Have you gathered your army to take booty...to take great plunder?'"***, that is, from Israel? If the ***"merchants of Tarshish"*** is a reference to Great Britain, whose national emblem is that of a Lion, then the ***"young lions"*** may well include the United States who was colonized by England but broke away from England during the Revolutionary War.

There is also a significant connection between the founding of America as a nation and that of Israel and the Jews. One historical source points this out in the following quote:

"The amazing story of Jewish influence on the founding of American democracy is a well-kept secret. By 1776 and the War of Independence, there were an estimated 2,000 (mostly Sephardic, that is, of Spanish or Portuguese origin) Jews (men, women, and children) living in America, yet their contribution to the cause was significant. For example, in Charleston, South Carolina, almost every adult Jewish male fought on the side of freedom. In Georgia, the first patriot to be killed was a Jew (Francis Salvador). And additionally, the Jews provided significant financing for the patriots.

The most important of the financiers was Haym Salomon who lent a great deal of money to the Continental Congress. In the last days of the war, Salomon advanced the American government \$200,000. He was never paid back and died bankrupt.

President George Washington remembered the Jewish contribution when the first synagogue opened in Newport, Rhode Island in 1790. (It was called the Touro Synagogue and it was Sephardic.) He sent this letter, dated August 17, 1790:

"May the children of the stock of Abraham who dwell in the land continue to merit and enjoy the goodwill of the other inhabitants. While everyone shall sit safely under his own vine and fig-tree and there shall be none to make him afraid."

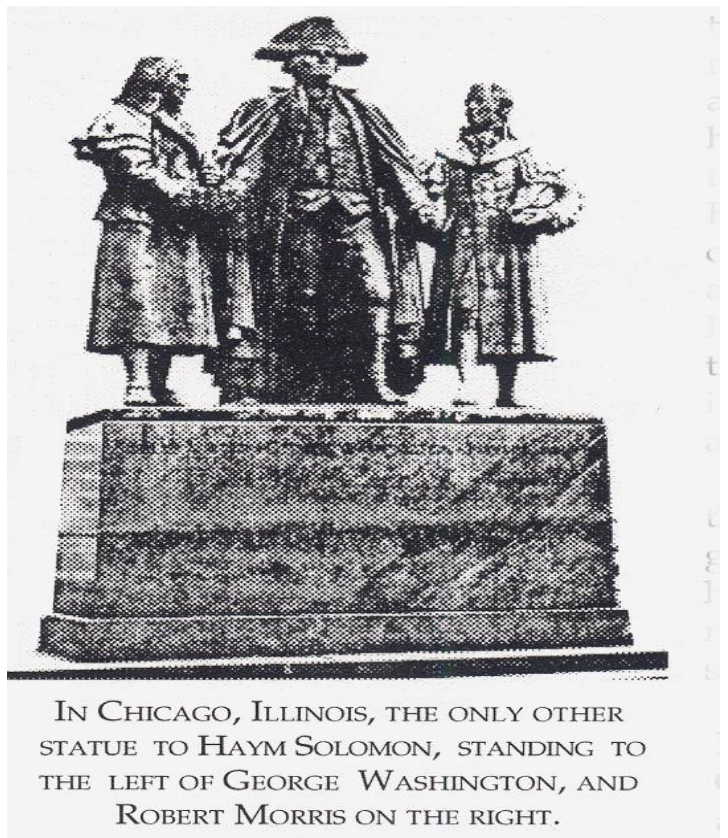
Note the reference to the "vine and fig-tree." That unique phrase is a reference to the words of Prophet Micah prophesying the Messianic utopia:

"But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow to it. And many nations shall come, and say, 'Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths; for Torah (the Law) shall go forth from Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.' And he shall judge between many peoples, and shall decide concerning far away strong nations; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, nor 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 has spoken it" (Micah 4:1-4).

This was an interesting choice of words on the part of Washington, but, as noted above, it is not surprising in light of the enormous influence that the Hebrew Bible had on the pilgrims and on the founding fathers of the new nation. (Allan Gould, *What Did They Think of the Jews*, New Jersey, 1997, pp.71-72.)



There is also some evidence that America's connection with Israel may be exhibited on the Great Seal on the back of the dollar bill. The founders acknowledged their indebtedness to Jews like Haym Salomon, and to God by placing the stars for the thirteen colonies over the eagle in the configuration of the six pointed Star of David, also called the "Shield of David." This star became the symbol for Israel over the centuries based on Psalm 18: 31 and 35. The star is believed by Jews to be based on the metal frame of David's own shield which was configured of two conjoining triangles, one upright and the other inverted, which, to save metal, was over-laid with heavy leather which was suitable for battle. I believe that America's connection to Israel is unbreakable. And I also believe our blessing as a nation has resulted from this connection and continued recognition and defense of Israel. The Lord providentially saw to it that our



emblem as a nation would be the noble and perceptive Eagle. We should not miss the importance of the Eagle in the Scripture as related to Israel's defense and deliverance (Isaiah 40:31; Revelation 12:14). The Lord is Israel's defender, yet He does raise up nations to be used by Him for the defense of His chosen people. He has certainly used America for their defense. And when, in 1948, the United Nations recognized Israel as a sovereign nation again after 1900 years of Jewish dispersion and persecution, the United States was the first nation to officially recognize them in this way. Pray that the Lord will be gracious to grant us leadership in America that will stand closely with Israel against their enemies. I praise the Lord that He has made the United States of America an integral part of His unfolding prophetic plan for His re-gathering people, Israel. While we may not be directly mentioned in the Bible, only possibly indirectly, yet, we can rest assured that God will continue to use us, so long as we stand in ready and strong support for the chosen nation, Israel.

The Church Today - Doctrine and Prophecy Today

Why Belief in the Trinity is Important for the Latter Days

We do not typically hear much about the Second Coming in preaching today. Another doctrine that is missing from most sermons today is the doctrine of the Trinity. Belief in the Trinity is essential to a right understanding of Who God is and how He works in the world today. Cults characteristically deny the Trinity, or redefine it to suit their own "made up" interpretation of the Bible. Yet the biblical testimony of God is that He is One in essence and Three co-eternal and co-equal Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We see this truth set forth in Jesus' commissioning of believers to "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name (singular) of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost" (Matthew 28:19). When we think of God and worship God, we view Him as One, for God is a unity. Yet the Bible gives repeated testimony as to how the Lord Jesus, Who is said to be God (John 1:1), Himself speaks about and to the Father as a distinct Person (John 17:1-8). Jesus also described the Holy Spirit as a distinct Person (John 14:16-18; 16:7-11).

While it is important to understand that the Trinity consists of One God in Three Persons, it is also vital that we do not consider the Trinity as being three Gods. People who do not believe in the Trinity often try to make it sound like that is what the doctrine of the Trinity teaches. Cults like the Jehovah's Witnesses are notorious for doing this. Islamic teachers attempt to do this as well. Other cults, such as the Oneness Pentecostals (United Pentecostal Church, not to be confused with the Assemblies of God which is biblically Trinitarian) attempt to define God as a Trinity of *forms* or *modes* of appearance (also called Modalism) but they deny that there are three co-equal, co-eternal Persons in the God-head existing in one essence as God. Instead, they teach that Jesus is the same person as the Father and that He is the same person as the Holy Spirit. Some may call this splitting hairs, but how can we ignore the very definition and description of God that is clearly set forth in the Bible and call it insignificant? When the Bible says that God **"sent His only begotten Son,"** how could that be if Jesus *is* the Father and if the Father *is* Jesus? When Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit, how could He do that if Jesus *is* the Holy Spirit? This is poor theology! Even more, it is dangerous, because it is a denial of the biblical doctrine of God.

It is evident from a prophetic viewpoint that even Satan understands God to be a Trinity because this is exactly what he seeks to counterfeit in the Great Tribulation period when he manifests to the world nothing less than his unholy trinity consisting of Satan, the Beast, and the False Prophet in Revelation chapter thirteen.

We should not be surprised at the lack of clear teaching on the Trinity from the pulpits in America these days. It seems that in these latter days, the things that are most important to Christians is how they feel and if they are living a "purpose driven" life. If we get back to a real focus on God, Who He is as our wonderful and loving Triune God, then I believe we will begin to see real revival in these latter days just prior to the coming of the Lord. Then, after the Church is taken by the Lord to heaven, the world will remember the Body of Christ as having truly stood for something instead of falling for anything. The Church's strong view of God as a Tri-unity will impress many to come to know the true Jesus Christ as the Son of God and as personal Savior.

Upward Call - How to walk in view of Prophecy

"Looking for that blessed hope." (Titus 2:13)

The belief in the any-moment return of the Lord for us to rapture us to heaven should be a motivation for us to be, **first, active witnesses for Christ!** The world needs to hear about Christ crucified and resurrected and given the opportunity to trust Him as their Savior. **Second, the rapture of the Church should also motivate us to stay pure in our walk both publically and privately.** The world needs to see genuine believers who do not just try to get by in the world, but who wish to show the world that there is a better way, and His name is Jesus! **Third, the coming of the Lord to rapture us to heaven is a wonderful assurance that God has not simply left the world to destroy itself.** The rapture will show people that God is involved in the world's plight and will do something about the evil that threatens the world. God will literally rescue the earth through thousands and perhaps millions coming to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ during the Great Tribulation period. **Forth, the rapture is God's indicator that He will judge sin.** We are encouraged when someone who has done evil is brought to justice. The devil will be brought to justice through the righteous judgment of God especially after the rapture of the Church happens. **Fifth, the rapture of the Church is our "blessed hope,"** as the Bride of Christ, that He will not allow us to undergo Divine wrath, but will take us safely home to our prepared place in the place Jesus called: "My Father's house" (John 14:1f). These, and many more important points show us the special ways we can understand how to walk in victory in these dark days. The "blessed hope" of our coming Christ can give fill us with hope and light for all the world to see the Lord Jesus Christ in and through us, and so they can come to know Him too; before it is too late!



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(Note: If you would like to interact with Dr. Downing concerning this newsletter, views, etc. you can "blog" with him at prophecyinperspective.com. If you would like to subscribe to this newsletter at no charge, please send your email address to: sgdowning@bellsouth.net. Also, you can purchase his latest book, "Good News From a Far Country", a study in the book of Daniel [515] by contacting him.)