

Prophecy in Perspective

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An Email Newsletter

Our Times - Prophecy in current events

***"As birds flying, so will the LORD of hosts defend Jerusalem."
(Isaiah 31:5a)***

Coming as an unexpected surprise, it was reported this week that the United States will deploy the new F-22 Raptor to an airbase just to the south of the nation of Iran. It is believed that these fighters will help influence the Iranians to be more conciliatory in the up-coming talks that are scheduled with Iraq between the United States, Britain, France, Russia and China, plus Germany (P5+1), in the Iraqi capital, Bagdad, on May 23. *Aviation Weekly* reports:



"As tensions between Tehran, Washington, and Tel Aviv continue to mount over Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons technologies, the U.S. has quietly begun a deployment of its premier stealthy fighter, the twin-engine F-22, to the United Arab Emirates.

Multiple Lockheed Martin aircraft will operate out of Al Dhafra Air Base there, industry sources say. This is the same base from which U.S. U-2s and Global Hawk UAVs have been launched since shortly after the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

'The United States Air Force has deployed F-22s to Southwest Asia,' according to a statement from service spokesman Capt. Phil Ventura. 'Such deployments strengthen military-to-military relationships, promote sovereign and regional security, improve

combined tactical air operations and enhance interoperability of forces, equipment and procedures.' Ventura declined to specify what the aircraft's mission is for this deployment.

Because of the F-22's supercruise — or high, efficient rate of speed — stealth, thrust-vectoring and inherent intelligence-collection capabilities, it is considered the most sophisticated fighter in the world. Deploying it to any region causes residents there to take note, says one industry executive. The timing of the Persian Gulf deployment could be a signal from the U.S. to Iran to take seriously objections to the latter's nuclear weapons ambitions."

These aircraft will be based only about 180 miles south of the border with Iran. We will pray that this is an indication that our President is going to show more support for Israel. By taking simple steps like this, we are showing Iran that we are going to make a strong presence known to them. We will also be better prepared to help support Israel in case they do decided to carry out a preemptive strike against Iran's nuclear facilities before Iran has developed a bomb and it is too late to do anything about it. Israel has acknowledged that this deployment on the part of the US is unusual and that Iran is paying close attention to it. Let us pray that America will defend Israel, ***"As birds flying."***



Are Gog and Magog (Russia) Getting Ready to Attack Israel?

In their usual style to complicate the threats that Iran already poses to Israel and the United States, Russia is now threatening preemptive strikes on future American and NATO missile-shield defense installations in Europe in order to protect its security. Russia

tends to talk tough when America takes strong stands in behalf of Israel against Russia's Islamic Allies. *It is safe to say that as far as Russia is concerned, anyone who is an enemy to Israel is a friend to Russia.* Russia has a long history of persecution against the Jews. The Bible predicts the destruction of Russia and their Islamic allies one day when they, in defiance of God, attempt to conquer Israel. This is the prophecy of **Gog and Magog** described in Ezekiel 38 and 39. Russia's hatred of Israel and lust for their land, cities, ports, oil, technology and other resources will draw them down into Israel to conquer it for its wealth. But the Lord will intervene and destroy Israel's giant enemy and many of Jews' other Islamic enemies that surround the tiny nation. God will not allow Israel to be destroyed. *This is the nation, and Jerusalem will be the city, to which Jesus will return when He comes back to the earth at least seven years after the rapture of the Church.*

It is far better for America to be threatened by Israel's enemies for its support for Israel, no matter how vague that support may be, than to be judged by God. The Bible says that **"it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God" (Hebrews 10:31)**. With the Presidential election coming in November, and with growing pressure from the Jewish community, we will watch with much interest to see how else Mr. Obama will concede the importance of standing strong for Israel. Pray for the Jews in America to demand that the President take a clear stand for Israel that will amount to more than just words.

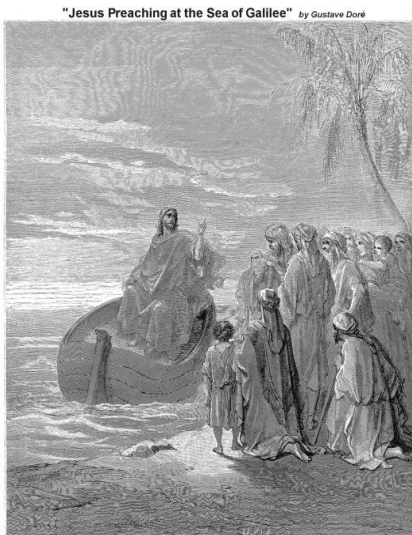
The Church Today - Doctrine and Prophecy

Growing Liberalism in the Megachurch?

Today, there also needs to be a strong stand for Israel on the part of the Body of Christ, the Church. Unfortunately, the predicted apostasy of the latter day Church is well under way. It seems that preachers are more interested in growing mega churches than in proclaiming the unsearchable riches of Christ. It seems that the bigger and more prominent a church ministry gets, the less often strong doctrinal preaching happens. We are not hearing much about America's need to take a strong stand for Israel from many of these churches and pastors. In fact, we are seeing some of these ministries growing ever more liberal in their theology as they grow larger in numbers and influence. Many will go to their conferences for the latest methods and trends on church growth and assimilation yet hear little in the way of biblical truth. Where are the great truth proclaiming Bible conferences of yesteryear? The more liberal the theology becomes in a church, the less you will hear about prophecy. You will not hear sound prophetic teaching from liberal pulpits. This is for at least two reasons:

First, they do not believe prophecy anyway since they do not believe all the Word of God, and, *Second*, they are not interested in God's agenda but in man's. Liberal's are always seeking ways to adjust the truth of the Bible to bring it into conformity with the preferences of the world.

Further, Liberal preachers do not generally support Israel as a Biblical necessity. Along with this will usually come a deafening silence about the particular sins that are plaguing society especially in these latter days. Many preachers are confusing their people about what they are to believe about social issues of the day because they are not teaching the Bible, but they are teaching their own opinions. One issue that growing numbers of Christian leaders are changing Bible teaching on is that of the practice of the homosexual lifestyle. While our government is attempting to redefine marriage for society, these preachers are subtly redefining biblical family relationships within the church. My research has shown that the problem is getting worse by the day.



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Luk 5:3 And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship.

What are needed today are not mere *social-preachers* who are interested in winning the agreement of the world, and building the numbers in their congregations by being vague on truth. What are needed today are *theologian-preachers* who truly study their Bibles and teach the Word of God **"line upon line, and precept upon precept" (Isaiah 28:10)**. Jesus, as the Word of God made flesh was always skillfully expounding the Scriptures when He preached. He did not simply seek to draw people through His personality or communication skills. He drew people to God through the Word of God.

The exposition of God's World is the need for this latter day because only this approach will guard congregations from the satanic influence of a morally corrupt and confused world. There is a crisis of truth in the church today. False teaching is coming into the church at an alarming rate as is predicted by the Scriptures.

"But there were also false prophets in Israel, just as there will be false teachers among

you. They will cleverly teach destructive heresies and even deny the Master who bought them. In this way, they will bring sudden destruction on themselves. Many will follow their evil teaching and shameful immorality. And because of these teachers, the way of truth will be slandered. In their greed they will make up clever lies to get hold of your money. But God condemned them long ago, and their destruction will not be delayed (2 Peter 2:1-3, New Living Translation).

When I hear a message that does not sound particularly biblical, I ask the question: Could this sermon be preached to a Mormon and be well received? Could it be well received by someone who is living an immoral life? Would it be appreciated by a theological liberal? These types of messages are certainly being preached and heard by growing numbers of mega church pastors and congregations. They often get away with it because of their size and influence. This is regrettable, yet it is also predicted by Bible prophecy. Paul wrote this warning to Timothy,

"I solemnly charge *you* in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but *wanting* to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths" (2 Timothy 4:1-4).

I praise the Lord that there are some mega churches, and many small churches, still proclaiming the inerrant truth of the Word of God. You and I need to pray for them and to grow in discernment in these latter days to be able to know for ourselves and to warn others when the Word of God is being changed for the word of man. As I have already said, when a church or ministry goes liberal on the Word of God, they will ***"turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths,"*** which means that people will follow the teachings of man. (Matthew 15:9)

Upward Call - How to walk in view of Prophecy

***"See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,
Redeeming the time, because the days are evil."
(Ephesians 4:15-16)***

There is much that America needs to repent of these days. Yet repentance must begin with the house of God, the Church. Peter warns that: ***"For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?" (1 Peter 4:17)***



Today, America, unrepentant of its sins, is busy rebuilding at "Ground Zero." They are presently constructing the One World Trade Tower (interesting name, isn't it?). On Monday, April 30, this tower became the tallest in New York. On the same day, April 30, 1789, President George Washington, after his inauguration as the first president of the United States walked over to the St. Paul's Chapel with his joint congress and in a speech he gave there, clearly stated the biblical principle that this nation would prosper until or unless we neglected God and ignored His commands. St. Paul's Chapel is at "Ground Zero." And God was true to His Word. America tuned from God, and on "9/11" I believe, He lifted His hand of protection from us and made us vulnerable to our enemies.

We need to repent as a nation. While rebuilding is fine, for us to re-build by our own power as we are doing today, however, is an affront to God. God is waiting for our repentance as a nation.

But, this repentance must begin with the church. Solomon said in 2 Chronicles 7:13-14,

"If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people; If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

And the repentance of the church begins with the repentance of each individual believer before God, and then corporately of individual churches before God. Then we must call upon God, to forgive our sin and to heal our land of America. It is time we

stopped building lives and churches based on personal preferences. The One World Tower may well symbolize a tower that man built centuries ago called Babel to assert man's own religion and self-worship while pushing God out of their lives. At Babel, they said: **"Come, Let us build us a city and a tower whose top may reach unto heaven" (Genesis 11:4).** Today we hear our leaders saying: **"The bricks have fallen down, But we will rebuild with hewn stones; The sycamores are cut down, But we will replace them with cedars" (Isaiah 9:10.)** These declarations and misuse of Isaiah 9:10 were made by three different political leaders: Senators Tom Daschle, John Edwards, and President Barak Obama. This is man's arrogant declaration that we do not need God, we will rebuild on our own, even higher and stronger than before; **"Come, Let us build!"** (See, Jonathan Cahn's book and DVD, The Harbinger)



It is interesting to me that the next verse in Isaiah after 9:10, which speaks of God's judgment upon the nation because of their neglect of God, are these words, paraphrased, **"The Lord's reply to your bragging is to bring your enemies against you" (Isaiah 9:11, The Living Bible)** Note, this is Isaiah 9:11. True, the Bible's chapter and verse numbers are not inspired, but, God has such ways of reminding us of His inspired prophetic pronouncements! Here is God's clear warning against America's growing arrogance! If America does not repent and come back to the God of the Bible and of our founding fathers then He will raise up our enemies against us again and again until we get the message or until we are destroyed as a nation.

If God is going to protect America, we need to repent as a nation by first repenting as believers in Jesus Christ. We need to repent of trying to build towering churches and ministries without God and His Word. We, as the Church need to get under the absolute authority of Jesus Christ! We need to turn back to God as believers and back to obeying His Word with all of our hearts. Then, we need to seek to put men into the pulpits of our churches, and men and women into elected office that reflect our conviction that there is a God in heaven who will hold us accountable for how we obey His Word. George Washington stated at his farewell address on September 19, 1796:

'It is impossible to govern the world without God and the Bible. Of all the dispositions and habits that lead to political prosperity, our religion and morality are the indispensable supporters. Let us with caution indulge the supposition (we are foolish to suppose) that morality can be maintained without (biblical) religion. Reason and experience both forbid us to expect that our national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.' (That is, the teachings of the Bible.)

Let us pray that we might hear such words from a US President in our own time!

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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 [\$15] by contacting him.)