

Prophecy in Perspective

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An Email Newsletter

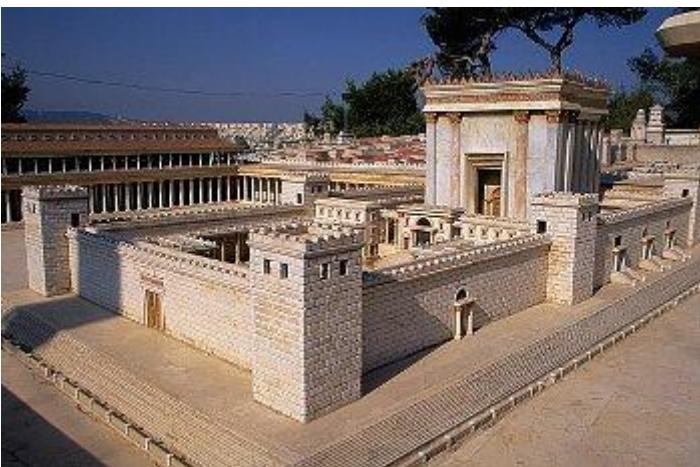
Our Times - Prophecy in current events

How will Israel be fooled by the Antichrist?

There are many prophecies in the Bible concerning God's plans for Israel's future. The rise of the Antichrist will be Satan's counterfeit fulfillment of many of these prophecies concerning Israel. Many Jews, who know some of the Old Testament Scriptures but who reject the New Testament Scriptures will be fooled into thinking that the Antichrist will be their messiah when he appears on the world scene.

Ezekiel prophesies that God will "***make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them, and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore***" (**Ezekiel 37:26**). While Israel looks forward to the fulfillment of prophecies like this one, they will easily be misled by the Antichrist who will come to Israel and offer a seven year covenant to them after the rapture of the church, and he will seem to them like their long awaited messiah. But He will actually be a counterfeit!

After the church is removed from the earth at the rapture, the man of sin will make a seven year covenant with Israel. For more clarity on this I encourage you to read Daniel 9:26-27, and note after the phrase in verse 26: "***and unto the end, wars [against Israel and the Jews] are determined,***" referring to the Church Age; then in verse 27, the time skips ahead at least two thousand years until after the rapture when Daniel then says: "***And he [Antichrist] shall confirm the covenant with many for one week [with Israel for seven years].***"



As Israel's false messiah, the Antichrist, will hold out as bait the promise that they can re-build their temple and enjoy protection as a nation under his rule. And after the temple is re-built, Israel, to an extent, will appear to be in its kingdom place both in their view in the view of the nations. They may believe, however erroneously, that this will fulfill the prophecies of Ezekiel 37:26-28 which promises the Jews that they will dwell in peace in their land with the nations being supportive of them. They may also be deceived into believing they are enjoying the "***sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore***" (**verse 26**). But having rejected the New Testament and the Lord Jesus Christ, Who is the true Messiah and returning King Whom the Antichrist will imitate, the Jews will be deceived into accepting the false

peace of the Beast and many of the Jews will also take his mark, as well as millions from among the gentiles.

Moses had a difficult time with his own people being deceived by Egyptian magicians. There are many imitations of God's power today being performed by the signs and wonders and emerging church preachers. We need to read the Scriptures in order to discern the true from the counterfeit.

In 2 Thessalonians 2 we find a clear description of the manner of the appearing of the future false messiah, the Antichrist. If the Jews truly accepted the validity of the New Testament, and of the existence of the church as the work

of God in the latter days and as the Bride of Christ, they would at least know that as long as the church was present on the earth, then the Messiah would not come to the earth. They would realize that, according to New Testament prophecy, the church must first be removed from the earth (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18), and then the 70th week of Daniel's prophecy must be fulfilled in the great tribulation period, after which the Messiah will return to the earth and establish His kingdom.

Meanwhile, during the seven years of the tribulation, Daniel's 70th week (Daniel 9), the false Messiah will be revealed to the world, and many, especially among the Jews, will receive him as their messiah. He will deceive them by exhibiting in vague ways, several markings of the true Messiah: a deadly wound that will be healed (Revelation 13:3), the performing of many "**signs**" (**which will be**) "**lying wonders**," (**2 Thessalonians 2:9**) and will be given great "**power**" (**Revelation 13:4**). He will speak "**great things**" (**Daniel 7:8**), he will have great wealth and power and even worship through the work of his clever and deceptive associate, the false prophet, who will be very much like a counterfeit Holy Spirit (Revelation 13:11-12).

The Bible warns us in great detail of the nature and manner of deception that the enemy, Satan, will bring upon the world as we come closer to the end of the Church Age.

Paul said, "**Let no man deceive you by any means.**" One mark of the latter days is deception. The word for deception here in 2 Thessalonians 2:3 is "to deceive wholly, or to delude thoroughly." Paul is warning this early church to be aware of false teachers who are trying to mislead them on the teaching of the second coming of Jesus Christ. They were bringing in much confusion. They were teaching that the tribulation had already started. So Paul here walks them through the truths regarding the times leading up to the coming of the Lord, and the time and manner of the rising of the Antichrist.

In verse three Paul said, "**that day shall not come, except there come a falling away (lit. departing) first...**" In other words, there will first be an event that is described as the "departing." The Scripture speaks of a *spiritual departure* from the faith just prior to the coming of Christ for His church at the rapture. But, here Paul may well be speaking of the predicted *physical departure* that is he has already explained in great detail in his first letter to the Thessalonians (4:13-18). Paul explains that only after this "departing," can "that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition."

There is indeed something about the presence of the church in the world that Paul wants to impress upon the church that is actually preventing the revealing of the Antichrist. He goes on to explain that while the "**mystery of iniquity doth already work...He who now letteth (hinders) will let (will hinder) until He (the Holy Spirit) be taken out of the way**" (**verse7**). Only "**then shall that Wicked be revealed**," the Antichrist (**verse 8**).

Paul tells the Thessalonians that they do not need to be "**soon shaken in mind, or be troubled**," by the false teachings that were abounding in their day (verse 2). So we do not need to be shaken in our minds or troubled by the events we are seeing around us in the world today. These are all indications that the coming of the Lord is near and that the Lord will not allow things to go beyond a certain point of deterioration, disorder, or destruction to the point where the Bride of Christ, the church, will come under the control of the Beast. In fact, it is impossible for him to be revealed so long as the true, born-again, church is on the earth.

What an amazing and loving God that we serve who will not allow His children to come under the judgment of the great tribulation! Satan's man of sin cannot be revealed so long as we are here because the Holy Spirit who indwells each and every believer keeps him from rearing his diabolical head. These wonderful prophetic truths and warnings are given to us to keep us from being led astray by every wind of doctrine. May we study them and believe them with all of our hearts. And may we be active and dynamic witnesses for Jesus Christ!

The Antichrist will be a false messiah to the unbelieving Jews and Gentiles of the Tribulation. That is why we need to be about the business of making disciples through our daily personal witness to the lost. Many are being deceived today by the misunderstandings and outright false teachings about the rapture. We should thank the Lord of the Scriptures who has left us with an inerrant Word, and "**a more sure word of prophecy**" (**2 Peter 1:19**).

A King who Ignored God

When a nation's leader forgets God and rules by the sinful whims of people who have also rejected God, the sinful preferences of the immoral soon become exalted and viewed as virtuous. This is especially true in a culture such as ours that so idolizes celebrities. The result of this is God's pulling back His protective hand over that nation and making them vulnerable to enemies that will loot them of all things of real value. Satan is presently looting us of the family and the freedom to worship God and to preach truth!

This biblical pattern of God's removing His hand of protection is now being seen in the United States of America. As a nation we were founded upon biblical truths and principles of government. But, God has been rejected and now we are seeing the consequences.

Recently, our President led our country into a new moral low by publically affirming same-sex marriage. In 1 Kings 14:22, Judah, under the leadership of king Rehoboam the son of Solomon brought Judah to an all time spiritual and moral low point. He therefore made Judah vulnerable to her enemies through the Lord's lifting His hand of blessing from that land. The Scriptures describe how:

"Judah did evil in the sight of the Lord, and they provoked him to jealousy with their sins which they had committed, above all that their fathers had done. For they also built them high places, and images, and groves (places for false worship) on every high hill, and under every green tree. And there were also sodomites in the land: and they did according to all the abominations of the nations which the Lord cast out before the children of Israel!" (1 Kings 14:22-24).

Such is the description of a nation that has turned its back on God. Under the godless leadership of Rehoboam, the people were affirmed in their sinful and rebellious lifestyles. Soon, Judah's enemy,

"Shishak, king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem, and he took away the treasures of the house of the Lord, and the treasures of the king's house; he even took away all: and he took away all the shield of gold which Solomon had made" (1 Kings 14:25-26).

Sin progresses in an individual's life just as it does in a church or denomination or a nation. That which is viewed as wrong at first will eventually be received as acceptable if its introduction and promotion is subtle and persistent. Sometimes, all you need is a well known and respected personality, such as a president, a movie star or a known and popular teacher or author. The general population, being under little or no Bible teaching have no solid understanding of truth. So the nation slowly is drifting away from God and going the way of selfish preferences.

In Genesis 19, after Lot chose to live in Sodom, he found it to be a beautiful place. The people of Sodom apparently welcomed Lot and his family there and soon even his daughters married from among the young men in the city. The people also made Lot a city elder. The city was rich and prosperous. There were however, certain rights that were given to the citizens of the city to practice their "life-styles" without interference. Yet the evil of that city which permitted these immoral practices came into horrible focus one night when angels visited Lot and his family with a mission to take them out of the city and then to destroy the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah.

The angels had a difficult time getting the family to leave as they had become settled there and had grown accustomed and even approving of their abhorrent and immoral "lifestyles." Yet, the Lord had determined to destroy those cities. He is determined to do the same today as God does not change, and He **must** judge wickedness. Political leaders, preachers, and people in general eventually grow accustomed to sin through its subtle and persistent promotion in society and in the church. Recently we witnessed President Barak Obama expressing to the nation how he had "evolved" on the issue of



same-sex-marriage. But the Lord will have the last word, and we can be sure that our God does not "evolve," but He does judge. The Bible clearly tells us this in the words of Galatians 6:7, ***"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."***

Anyone can subtly become hardened against truth because of the ***"deceitfulness of sin" (Hebrews 13:13)***. It is evident that our President has allowed himself to become hardened against God's truth. He stated that his new position on



same-sex marriage, which is a flat contradiction of the Bible (Genesis 2:24), is based upon Jesus' teaching of the "golden rule" to ***"love your neighbor as yourself" (Mark 12:30-31)***. Yet Jesus intends our love for our neighbor to be based on truth and especially upon His own clear commandment on marriage: ***"For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh" (Matthew 19:5)***. To encourage his neighbor to live in a relationship that flatly denies the words and commandments of our Lord is not loving his neighbor, but is actually leading him into sin! Again, this does not express love for his neighbor, but a careless and selfish abuse of power to promote an agenda which will only lead to judgment upon those who follow such deception. Sin begins with a subtle deception, then goes on from there to conquer the soul and then, the church, then, the society. In the cautious words of Alexander Pope:

*Vice (sin) is a monster of such frightful mien.
That to be hated needs but to be seen,
But seen too oft, familiar with her face
We first endure, then pity, then embrace.*

God certainly does love all sinners. Jesus died for sinners so that any ***"who believe on Him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16)***, ***"for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23)***. Yet, the Bible is clear how the presence, affirmation and practice of homosexuality represents the pinnacle of rebellion in the nation. The sodomite life-style is soundly condemned in the Word of God (Leviticus 18:22; 20:13; 1 Corinthians 6:9; Revelation 21:8).

In Romans, Paul tells us that it is after man gives up the truth of God and exchanges that truth for false worship and rejection of God, then God will give that land and people up ***"to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves" (Romans 1:24)***. In Romans 1:26-27, Paul calls these ***"vile affections."*** Therefore, President Obama's affirmation of same sex-marriage is not a blessing but is the result of a curse that God warned would come upon any nation that follows the godless course that America has followed in the past decades. We have aborted our precious children; we have kicked God out of our schools. Our seminaries and colleges have denied and even ridiculed the Bible. Husbands have been unfaithful to their wives, and wives, have been unfaithful to their husbands. We have been guilty as a nation of undercutting the biblical institution of marriage and the family in many ways. Denominations and churches have compromised God's Word and have replaced worship with entertainment. Little wonder that God is doing exactly what He said He would do, just as His Word prophesied over and over again, He is giving us over to do and be exactly what we want! But there will be a high price to pay for all our pleasures of sin.

Not just because of the sin of homosexuality only, but for all our sins and our official Presidential approving of sin, is there any wonder why we are seeing the enemies of Israel and of America attacking us? The Lord has, to a great extent, pulled back His hand of protection from us. Also, is there any real mystery why the U.S. is suffering under such an economic crisis today, along with much of Europe who has been in rebellion against God for decades? Our problems are not economic or even political, but spiritual. What does America need today? Repentance! This is repentance of all sin, including abortion, adultery, pornography, homosexuality, idolatry, lying, covetousness, cheating, stealing, hatred of God, and hatred of our neighbors.

The solution is not just as simple as getting someone new into the White House. We have hope only in the Lord. God clearly gave us the solution to our national crises. It begins with God's own people. This solution was revealed to King Solomon, during the early days of his reign, when he was following hard after the Lord his God. Let's look at what God said to Solomon about how to resolve the issues of sin that devastate nations:

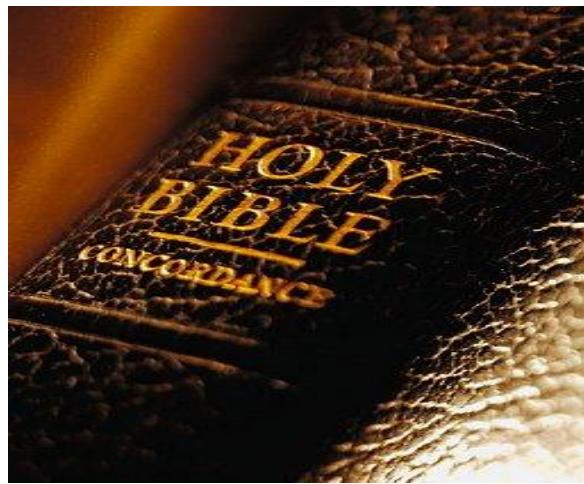
"Then the LORD appeared to Solomon by night, and said to him: 'I have heard your prayer, and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice. When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people, if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land'" (2 Chronicles 7:12-14).

Upward Call - How to walk in view of Prophecy

Popular Preachers who are soft on truth

We are living in serious times when a great deal of prophecy is being fulfilled through a widespread departure from truth (1 Timothy 4:12-3; 2 Timothy 3:1f; 2 Peter 2:1-3). There are growing numbers of political leaders, such as our President and Vice-President, who are willing to re-define marriage, and there are growing numbers of so called evangelical preachers who are willing to go along with it as well. Those who do so are false teachers who have rejected the clear statements of the Word of God for the doctrines of man (Matthew 15:9; Colossians 2:22). Where are the great men of God of the old days who stood for truth no matter the threat to their popularity? The Lord will hold preachers especially responsible for misleading their people. And the people, who are true Bible-believers are responsible to come out from false teaching. James wisely warned would-be Bible teachers, "**My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment**" (James 3:1, NKJB). And Paul placed the responsibility upon Christians who are under false teaching to leave and find a church that teaches truth. Paul wrote: "**Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you**" (2 Corinthians 6:17). It is vital in these latter days of apostasy in many churches that Christians not seek a church for its programs or popularity, but for its stand for truth.

Pray for our government leaders to take a firm stand on truth. Pray that they get saved! And pray that, in these latter days when many preachers and church members are not enduring sound doctrine, but "**after their own lusts (are) they heaping to themselves teachers, having itching ears...**" (2 Timothy 4:3), that God will raise up Bible teachers and preachers who will expound the eternal truths of the unchanging Word of God. The Bible predicts there will be less and less expositors of Biblical truth in the last days and more and more simply giving their own opinions to gain popularity (2 Peter 2:1-3). All of this proves that the time is short, for Jesus said: "**Surely I come quickly!**" Amen! Even so, come, Lord Jesus! (Revelation 22:20)



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