

Prophecy in Perspective

Dr. Scott Gregory Downing
An Email Newsletter

Our Times - *Prophecy in Current Events*

Ariel Sharon

You might remember the news reports in September of 2005 which showed the Jewish settlements on the Gaza Strip being destroyed and the Jews being removed, by their own government. I recall watching this with my father. We were both shaken by the awful cries of the people, families, rabbis, entire communities being heartlessly pulled apart and the buildings, including synagogues, bulldozed. Certainly, this was not pleasing to God! God will not sit idly as His people are assaulted, even by their own government! These were my thoughts at that time. And time has proved this to be true! Soon after the Jews were removed from the Gaza and the lands given over to the Palestinians, then Prime Minister and Israeli war hero, Ariel Sharon, who had given the order for this to take place, suffered a massive stroke. He has been in a continuous vegetative state for the past eight years. I believe that God is speaking to us in this situation in a prophetic way. This tragic situation is yet another indication that God's Word is true and that we are indeed in the latter days. Let's look at a couple of articles to catch up with what is happening and what has happened in this interesting and tragic situation. As your read, be sure to pay careful attention to the time line and sequence of events.

Doctors say Ariel Sharon in Critical Condition, Life in Danger

By JPOST.COM STAFF, [GIL HOFFMAN](#), [TOVAH LAZAROFF](#) 01/02/2014 10:45



Former Prime Minister Ariel Sharon (Reuters)

Former Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is in critical condition, and his life remains in danger due to a deterioration in the function of vital organs, the head of Sheba Medical Center at Tel Hashomer, Professor Ze'ev Rotstein, told reporters on Thursday that Sharon, who was reported to have been suffering from serious kidney failure, was not on dialysis, but that doctors were administering antibiotics due to numerous infections.

As you read the following you will see that Sharon's condition seems to be more than a series of mere coincidences.

"Between 16 and 30 August 2005, Sharon controversially expelled 9,480 Jewish settlers from 21 settlements in Gaza and four settlements in the northern West Bank. Once it became clear that the evictions were definitely going ahead a group of conservative Rabbis, led by Yosef Dayan, laced an

ancient curse on him known as the Pulsa diNura, calling on the Angel of Death to intervene and kill him.

After Israeli soldiers bulldozed every settlement structure except for several former synagogues, Israeli soldiers formally left Gaza on 11 September 2005 and closed the border fence at Kissufim. While his decision to withdraw from Gaza sparked bitter protests from members of the Likud party and the settler movement, opinion polls showed that it was a popular move among most of the Israeli electorate with more than 80% of Israelis backing the plans.

On 27 September 2005, Sharon narrowly defeated a leadership challenge by a 52–48 percent vote. The move was initiated within the central committee of the governing Likud party by Sharon's main rival, Benjamin Netanyahu, who had left the cabinet to protest Sharon's withdrawal from Gaza. The measure was an attempt by Netanyahu to call an early primary in November 2005 to choose the party's leader.

On 18 December 2005, Sharon suffered a mild stroke heading in a convoy to Havat Shikmim, his ranch in the Negev. An analysis of his MRI showed that Sharon was suffering from cerebral amyloid angiopathy (CAA), a disease that weakens the blood vessels in the brain and increases the risk of hemorrhage. He suffered specifically from a relatively unusual type called a paradoxical embolism, in which a clot from the venous circulation crosses over into the arterial circulation through a congenital hole in the heart and goes to the brain, causing a transient speech and motor disturbance. To prevent another clot from forming, Sharon was treated with enoxaparin. This treatment received criticism because anticoagulation therapy increases the risk of brain hemorrhage, particularly given his diagnosis of CAA. Although Sharon wanted to leave after just one day, he was released from the hospital after two days, at the hospital's insistence.

He continued to take daily shots of enoxaparin, and a cardiac catheterization procedure to repair the hole in his heart was scheduled for 5 January 2006. However, on the evening before, Sharon suffered a massive cerebral hemorrhage at Havat Shikmim. His family awaited the arrival of one of Sharon's personal physicians, Shlomo Segev, from his home in Tel Aviv. Half an hour later, after Sharon collapsed again, the attending paramedic ordered emergency medical evacuation, but it took twenty minutes to get him into the ambulance. Segev arrived at the scene just as the ambulance was leaving. Instead of being taken to the nearby Soroka Medical Center in Beersheba, the ambulance headed for Hadassah Ein Kerem Hospital in Jerusalem – almost an hour's drive away. Although a staff member had suggested during the evacuation airlifting Sharon to hospital by helicopter, Segev feared that transferring him to a helicopter would worsen his condition. After a seven-hour operation that successfully stopped the bleeding in Sharon's brain, Sharon was placed in the neurological intensive care unit and on a ventilator. He subsequently underwent an operation lasting 14 hours. Sharon remained in an induced coma to relieve intracranial pressure. (Ariel Sharon, from Wikipedia)

Sharon has been in a continuous vegetative state ever since.

As you read the above underlined portions you can easily see how Mr. Sharon's affliction of strokes occurred just after his government ordered removal of the Jews from Gaza/ West Bank and his giving these lands over to Israel's enemies. Previously, Mr. Sharon promised that he would never surrender Jewish territory. It is truly of God's grace that Benjamin Netanyahu, who stood opposed to this action is now the Prime Minister of Israel. The particular curse that was declared against Mr. Sharon is not to be viewed by Christians as being from God. It has some kabalistic influences which are occultic in nature. Further, this specific curse is associated with hopes of the coming of a Jewish messiah, but this particular messiah is not based on Scripture

and may even refer to the Antichrist himself. We must remember that Jesus predicted the arising of many false messiahs around the time of His return (Matthew 24).

Yet the fact that this curse was formally pronounced by Jews against a Jewish leader highlights the passionate disagreement that exists in Israel today as to how to proceed in view of the reality of Israel's enemy's threats to destroy them. Sharon accepted the United States two-state solution for Israel and many conservatives do not. I have pointed out in previous articles how our support of a two-state "road map to peace," has evidentially been answered time and again by God in various disasters that have come upon America over the last twenty or so years since this man made "solution" was first advanced.

What the student of prophecy and of the Scriptures should take away from this present situation is that God will certainly judge any who come against Israel in any way. While man may cast his own curses which come out of his own misguided understanding of the "will of God," yet, God Himself promised that any who seek to diminish Israel will be cursed by God Himself (Genesis 12:1-3). As Christians, we should pray for Mr. Sharon and for the peace of Israel in these latter days when God's prophetic Word is coming true every day.

The Church Today - *Doctrine and Prophecy Today*

I believe the coming of the Lord cannot be far off. Of course, the Bible plainly shows us that the rapture could occur at any moment (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). The Bible also clearly predicts that there would be a growing apostasy in the Church as the time of the Lord's return approaches. Many would grow less interested in the Lord's return, because they will grow less interested in the Lord and more and more interested in themselves (2 Peter 3:3-4, 2 Timothy 3:1f). False teachings that homosexuality and other deviations from God's Word will become accepted and common place in the Church in the latter days. Compare 2 Peter 3:3-4 regarding "mockers," in the latter days and the rise of affirmation of personal preference of selfish "me-first" relationships over proper "other-oriented" relationships taught in God's revealed Word in 1 Timothy 4:1-3, and 2 Timothy, 3:1f.

Why are these sinful and rebellious conditions arising today? Believers have become "lukewarm" in the Church (Revelation 3:15). This is often because teachings have become less biblical and more psychological, pushing what we might call a "gospel of self." This was predicted for the Church in the latter days in Revelation 3:17, **"Because thou sayest, 'I am rich...'"** So many today are looking for self-fulfillment, and preachers are encouraging them to do so.

This is why there is such a rash of unbiblical self-fulfillment and self-focused teachings and books out these days. Many of these are introducing New-Age, Mystical forms of "Purpose Driven," "Seeker Sensitive," "Spiritual Formation," spiritual practices and disciplines that are of man and not biblical. Watch for more books to come to continue the current craze, of unverifiable, and unbiblical "to heaven and back" stories as well as devotionals and books that add to the Word of God by claiming that Jesus is speaking directly, line upon line and page after page! These writings are selling like "hotcakes." They are certainly leading indicators of the coming Church Apostasy. I do not fault the Christian publishers for wanting to sell books and make a living, but I certainly pray that truth will become more important than profit and they will become more courageous and simply tell some authors these days: "No thanks! This book is heretical!"

Remember that Paul warned about the pitiful spiritual condition of the Church that turns from the Bible to listen to the teachings of **"another Jesus."** ***"For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him" (2 Corinthians 11:4).*** The deceiving spirits that are coming upon the churches today are definitively leading many away from the Bible through writings that add to the Word of God. Beware of latter day substitutes for the Bible! It is a very dangerous thing to presume to add to the Word of God. The Bible says in Proverbs 30:5-6, ***"Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar."*** (Also see the somber warning of Revelation 22:18-19)

I think that we would do well to put aside our often un-healthy dependency on man-made devotionals and focus on God and His truth in 2014 as we continue to watch for the Lord's coming. Here is a suggestion that I believe will be of great profit to you spiritually. This consists of simply systematically reading a portion of the Bible through each day of this year. Reading roughly three chapters per day in the Old Testament and a half of a chapter in the New Testament each day will enable you to read the entire word of God in one year. You might want to read one section in the morning and the other in the evening. You can certainly vary this approach as you wish. You can easily begin this today, not as a duty or as a discipline, which are both ultimately of the power of the flesh, but begin this as a wonderful privilege. There is no better or more fulfilling exercise spiritually and emotionally than to spend a prayerful and focused time in the Word of God. I believe the Lord will reveal Himself to you and strengthen and encourage you in amazing ways.

If you have a pen and note book along with your Bible then you can also read certain portions from the Psalms and Proverbs, and other parts of the Bible such as the gospels and epistles in a prayerful and devotional way that will build you up spiritually. I have practiced a similar approach for years. This will build you in the knowledge of God's Word and will. This approach will also help you to grow in discernment and in your prayer life. God will bless His Word mightily as you read and study the Bible faithfully, prayerfully, obediently and expectantly! Feel free to mark in your Bible as this will be a great aid to you when you go back to review those passages and verses that have been especially meaningful for you. Marked verses are also a great help when witnessing to the lost or when sharing an encouraging word with a friend or loved one. Even more, these verses and passages will be an amazing help to you when you come under the attack of the devil in spiritual warfare (Ephesians 6:13-18).

In the days ahead, as you watch for the Lord's coming, prayerfully determine that you will seek the Lord with all your heart. Some of the most important things the Lord has to show you may well lay ahead as you learn more about Him through a consistent and intensive study of the Bible.

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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 name and email address to: sgdowning@bellsouth.net. Also, you can purchase his book, "Good News From a Far Country", a study in the book of Daniel [\$15]; "Becoming Mighty in Spirit...through Revelation's Prophecies" [\$10]; or his latest book, "Becoming Mighty in Spirit...through Developing a Prophetic Walk...A study in the lives and ministries of Elijah and Elisha" [\$10] by contacting him. **Dr. Downing is teaching his NEW book, "God's Unfolding Purpose and Unfailing Power."** Contact him for space availability and location and/or to obtain a copy of this book.*