



# Prophecy in Perspective

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An Email Newsletter

**Our Times** - *Prophecy in current events*

## **The United States Leadership Still Does Not Get It!**

*"Now it came to pass at the end of seven days that the word of the LORD came to me, saying, "Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore hear a word from My mouth, and give them warning from Me: When I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand. Yet, if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul." Ezekiel 3:16-19*

The Lord brought this "Watchman Passage" to my mind and heart in the early days of my ministry. It has guided me through the years by reminding me of the importance of spiritual, moral, and ethical leadership which is vital to any local church, denomination or nation. As I read this passage again I am impressed to believe that there is great application here, not only to me, but to all pastors of the Word of God to guard truth and to seek to bring people and nations to the knowledge of the truth. This responsibility also involves warning the nations' leaders of the real danger of NOT guarding the things that are important to God. Today, our nation's leadership of the US is not guarding Israel's interests, and, therefore, they are not guarding our nation.

I believe our financial and job woes, as well as many other problems today, like the border and illegal immigration issues are the direct result, not just of our bad policies toward Israel, but of our evil heart toward God. What we think of Israel, and how we stand or do not stand with them is a direct result of our spiritual state in America today. Now let's look at some recent issues regarding Israel...

In an article in the Jerusalem Post, dated 12/1/11 entitled: "US Uncertain Israel Would Advise Before Iran Strike," a Reuters News Service reporter said that a top military officer stated that the "US still is convinced that sanctions, diplomacy are the right path to take on Iran." He also said that "Israel may not share that perspective, and the US fears fallout on the world economy if Israel strikes Iran."

Also, in the interview, aboard a US Military Aircraft, the "top US military officer told Reuters on Wednesday he did not know whether Israel would alert the United States ahead of time if it decided to take military action against Iran. As the interview continued...

General Martin Dempsey, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, also acknowledged differences in perspective between the United States and Israel over the best way to handle Iran and its nuclear program.

He said the United States was convinced that sanctions and diplomatic pressure was the right path to take on Iran, along with "the stated intent not to take any options of the table"- language that leaves open the possibility of future military action.

"I'm not sure the Israelis share our assessment of that. And because they don't and because to them this is an existential threat, I think probably that it's fair to say that our expectations are different right now," Dempsey said in an interview as he flew to Washington from London.

Asked whether he was talking about the differences between Israeli and US expectations over sanctions, or differences in perspective about the future course of events, Dempsey said: "All of the above." He did not elaborate.

He also did not disclose whether he believed Israel was prepared to strike Iran.

Iran is facing new sanctions after the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reported earlier in November that Tehran appeared to have worked on designing a bomb and may still be conducting secret research to that end.

Iran says its nuclear program is peaceful.

The sanctions push got added momentum on Wednesday as diplomatic sources said Britain would support an embargo on Iranian oil imports. But Iran sees its nuclear program as a source of power and prestige and it is unclear whether sanctions will alter its cost-benefit analysis.

There has been concern that if world powers cannot nudge Iran into serious nuclear negotiations, then Israel, which feels threatened by Iranian nuclear aspirations, will attack.

Asked directly whether Israel would alert the United States ahead of time if it chose to go forward with military action, Dempsey replied flatly: "I don't know."

There is no doubt that we are witnessing a prophetic development of the highest order. The continued rising tensions of the world's super-powers each one pushing their own agenda at Israel's expense is predicted throughout the Word of God.

One of the key statements of this official was: "I'm not sure the Israelis share our assessment of that. And because they don't and because to them this is an existential threat, I think probably that it's fair to say that our expectations are different right now."

Indeed the expectations of our president and his administration are as different as night and day, and as different, we might even say: as Judaism and Christianity are from Islam. And the lack of willingness on the part of our present Administration to recognize Iran as a clear and present danger to Israel and as a true "existential threat," is inexcusable.

We hear much "diplomatic speak," which seems to be designed to distract and even to mislead the public so they remain relatively unstirred by the realities of this rapidly developing global threat. I believe that the present position of our President toward Israel as articulated in his desire for Israel to return to its pre-1967 borders adds to global tensions and does not hinder the real possibility of Israel being attacked by her enemies such as Iran.

As I have stated previously in *Prophecy in Perspective*, we should pray for our President and those in diplomatic positions around him to take a strong position toward Israel of undeniable support. This support can be easily articulated in a general policy of supporting Israel's right to exist within its present defensible borders as well as Israel's right to defend itself in any way it deems will best insure its security and continued existence.

We should be very grateful for this military official being so clear about the present situation with Israel. He has been open enough to express how this problem is very serious to Israel, and to the world. We can also see from what he has said, and we students of prophecy already understand that: Our United States Leadership still does not get it!!!

## Has Israel Already Struck Iran?



Leave it to the Israelis to be capable of hitting the Iranians in such a way that they can cause damage to their nuclear development plans, yet also leave room for deniability. There is much mystery surrounding an explosion several weeks ago, on "November 12 that hit an Iranian military base near the town of Bid Kaneh. This explosion is known to have killed 17 members of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps and Maj. Gen. Hassan Moghaddam, chief architect of the Islamic Republic's ballistic missile program." "The mysterious explosion..rocked the Iranian city of Isfahan, which hosts a nuclear facility involved in processing uranium fed to the Natanz fuel enrichment facility." (Jerusalem Post, Nov 30)

Some have accused Israel's Massad of orchestrating the blast. Some say that this was a gas explosion. But whatever the source and target of this, I call it a "providential" explosion," Israeli intelligence officials are reported as saying that there was 'no doubt' that the blast damaged a uranium enrichment site, and asserted that it was 'no accident.' (Jerusalem Post, Nov. 30)

***"Now will I rise, saith the LORD; now will I be exalted; now will I lift up myself. Ye shall conceive chaff, ye shall bring forth stubble: your breath, as fire, shall devour you. And the people shall be as the burnings of lime: as thorns cut up shall they be burned in the fire. Hear, ye that are far off, what I have done; and, ye that are near, acknowledge my might." Isaiah 33:10-13***

## Upward Call - How to walk in view of Prophecy

This is why it is so important for Christians, who believe in the Bible and Bible prophecy, and also who desire to encourage genuine world peace, to pray and vote for those to be in government who are strong supporters of Israel. We can no longer coast along as Christians believing the old myth of "separation of Church and State," and that Christians, Bible studies, and preaching should not "get involved in politics." This lie of Satan has been successfully used for generations in America to get the Church to withdraw from speaking to political leaders as to how they should be leading our nation. I believe the withdrawal from speaking to political issues and positions, through the years, is in direct proportion to the church's withdrawal from preaching the Bible and sound doctrine moving to emphasize felt needs. Preaching has become less prophetic and convicting and more "warm and fuzzy."

I believe it is high time to get back to the Word of God, beginning in our own individual lives. And then to truly begin to pray for the nation's preachers to preach as the prophets of old, and to speak to the issues and needs at hand for conviction and real conversion. The result of this will be, I believe, directly reflected in the voting preferences in the land.

We heard years ago that "It's the economy, stupid." But our economic problems are symptoms of a deeper issue which is the issue of sin. When we are convicted that we have a Holy God, and that our sins have separated us from Him as a nation then we will more clearly see events as they really are.

I believe God is mercifully allowing and even sending the natural disasters and political confusion that we are witnessing as a nation to show us that He is calling us to Himself. Sin will always meet with disaster. As a nation we have forgotten that important Biblical principle and warning: ***"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Galatians 6:7)***. This is true for individuals, and begins with us as individual children of our Heavenly Father. What is happening in the big picture today is very much the result of the unfaithfulness and spiritual compromise of us as individual believers. Then this extends also to our families which need to stay whole and if divided

to become as whole and healed as God will lead us to become as we are submitted to Him for healing. Then this spiritual faithfulness to God must extend to our local churches and denominations. There is the dire need today of American Christians getting back to the Word of God and to the preaching of the gospel and holy living. And, as I said before, there is the great need for Christians, preachers, and churches to relate the truths of the Bible to the state of our nation! And, as I said at the start, to become "watchmen" on the walls of our families, churches, towns, and of our nation. God's Word will not return void, as the prophet Isaiah stated: ***"So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."* Isaiah 55:11**

## **The Church Today - Doctrine and Prophecy Today**

There is a great deal of compromise among so-called Christians these days who feel it is their mission to introduce their fellow Christians to the "New Spirituality." This new spirituality is very attractive to Christians who believe that there is something more beyond the teachings of the Bible and Jesus Christ that we can benefit from. I have included a lengthy article from an important web site called: "Lighthouse Trails Research Project" (<http://www.lighthouse Trails research.com>) that will be very important for students of Bible prophecy to become familiar with. This organization is very helpful in gaining an honest perspective on the development of Christian apostasy in these latter days.



**Book Review:** *Little Wave and Old Swell* (with Foreword by Ken Blanchard) (released by Beyond Words Publishing) is packaged as a children's picture book, one that moms and dads will sit and read to their young ones at bedtime. The story is woven within the pages of colorful abstract paintings of the ocean and the sky. It begins with a conversation between *Little Wave and Old Swell*:

"What is it, Old Swell?" Little Wave asked his teacher. Little Wave was gazing out at the place where the sky and sea meet. He had seen other things rising out there—clouds and ships and whales. But never had he seen anything like the long, dark line that lay across the horizon. Old Swell knew that Little Wave had never seen land and that he would not understand. So he answered like the sage he was, "That," said Old Swell, "is *Destiny*."

And so goes the story of the journey of Little Wave and his dialogue with Old Swell.

At first, the story could seem harmless enough, but the cover inscription will cause discerning Christians to grab another bedtime tale. It reads: "Inspired by Hindu swami Peramahansa Yogananada. The book is written by New Age proponent Jim Ballard, so it would naturally make sense that he would be inspired by the Hindu guru (a whole page and a painting of the guru is devoted to him in the back of the book). What will throw many off, and no doubt cause some Christians to question their concerns about the book, is another inscription on the front cover. This one reads: "Foreword by Ken Blanchard, known by most for being a business leadership figure and for his *One Minute Manager* books, professes to have become a Christian in the mid 80s (see his biography, *We are the Beloved*). However, for over twenty-five years, he has been writing the forewords and endorsements to books that teach and/or promote Buddhist and eastern-style meditation. His foreword to the book *What Would Buddha do at Work?* came out in 2001.

Some may say, *so what if Blanchard endorses these books – what does it really matter?* If Blanchard was not a professing Christian and very well accepted by many evangelical Christians (he has spoken at Saddleback at least a few times), his endorsing of eastern religious writers and teachers might not be so serious. But when a man or woman represents Christianity, the Bible is clear that he or she is responsible (especially one who is in leadership) for their words and actions. Readers grabbing a hold of *Little Wave and Old Swell* may find Blanchard's outstanding endorsement of the book license to read it and embrace the spirituality behind it. (Quoted from Lighthouse Trails Research Project, 12/2/11)

Do not forget how clearly the Bible warns us how: ***"The Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy..." (1 Timothy 4:1-2)*** Do

we really need more than the Bible and other teachers besides Jesus and the Biblical writers? Should we look to Hindus, Buddhists, and Moslems for insight and guidance? The Bible clearly warns us that this is precisely what we should avoid doing. Let them accuse you of being "close minded." The Bible calls this **"bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:5)**. We are assured by the Holy Spirit that **"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:15-17)**. As we look for the Lord's return, may we, as Christians, not go running after every wind of doctrine, but to love and be faithful to our Lord Who, through His cross, gave all to bring us to the Father!

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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.)*