

# Prophecy in Perspective

Dr. Scott Gregory Downing  
An email newsletter

## The Resurrection of Jesus Christ... Proof of Prophecy and Promise of Eternity

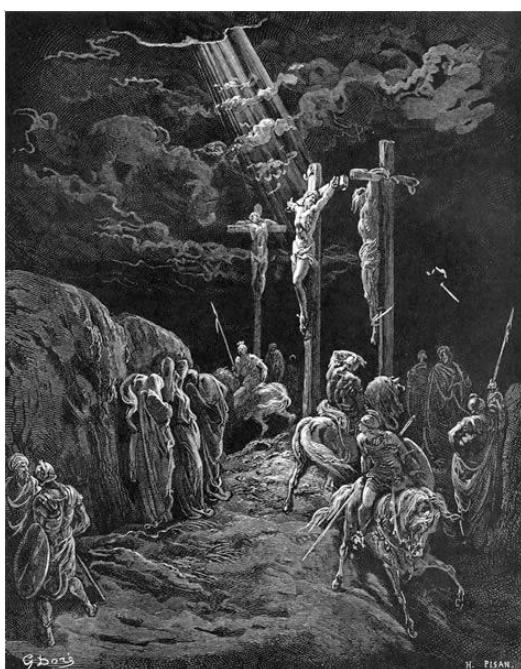
This past week, we were all shocked and horrified as we saw the death and carnage that the self-styled, "true followers of Muhammad," brought to the unsuspecting citizens of Brussels and to the world! From this we were also embarrassed at witnessing President Obama in Cuba and at a baseball game smiling with Raul Castro, then also in Argentina doing the Tango. It reminded me of the old story of Nero playing the fiddle (Lyre) while Rome burned (Right, Art work depicting the burning of Rome during the time of Nero, 64, A.D.)

Ancient historians believed Nero set the fire himself in order to make room to build a new stadium. He blamed the Christians for it and established a premise for their persecution. Mr. Obama, as a friend to Islam, will not ever admit that Islam is at the root of modern day terrorism. Obama, like Nero, subtly despises biblical

Christianity and Christians. Could it be that he, like Nero, has another goal in mind? Perhaps the establishment of a new world Islamic order, with himself as the leader?

Satan, the father of lies (John 8:44), is truly at work in the world and in America. Christians themselves are being blinded by the devil's wiles and kept confidently distracted from the disaster that is developing around them. Christians may know who they are voting for in the upcoming Presidential election, but are seemingly ignorant, or uncaring about the real possibility of the Lord's return before November! The satanically inspired confusion, carnality, and godlessness that is being portrayed by the candidates are also clear indicators that we are in the last days. The predicted apostasy of Christianity is clearly upon us (1 Timothy 4:1; 2 Timothy 3:1-13).

Is there any hope? Yes! Isaiah 53 clarifies our predicament and gives



us the only solution: "***All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all***" (*Isaiah 53:6*). God the Father laid upon Jesus Christ our iniquities. Jesus willingly took our sins upon Himself and died on the cross in our place. Then, three days later, He rose again. Further, the Bible is clear, that He is coming back again to rapture believers to heaven. Paul encouraged believers to be ready for the Lord's coming.

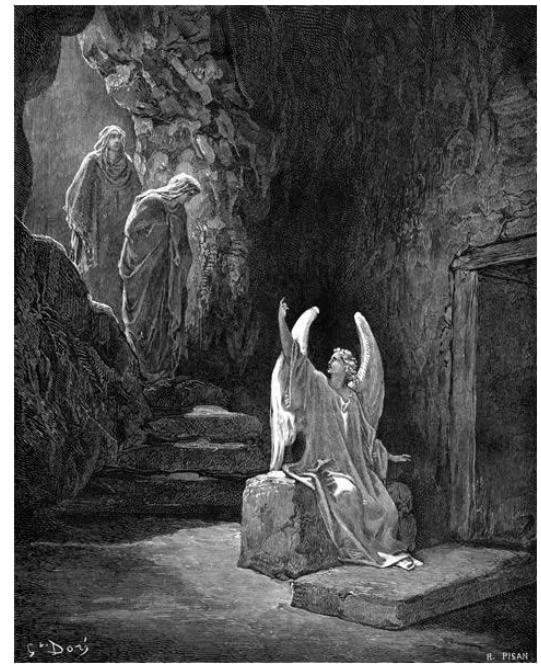
***"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore, comfort one another with these words" (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18).***

The doctrine of the Lord's return is not to give us an excuse to withdraw from the world, but to be dynamic witnesses of the Lord and of His gospel until He comes. We are to point to the cross on which Jesus died for the world and then to the empty tomb out of which He arose to give us life. (Right, the angel announces to the women that Jesus is arisen).

Then we are to point to the reality of the Holy Spirit who indwells and empowers Christians to be faithful witnesses in a lost and confused world. Finally, as we faithfully live for Jesus Christ, and because we are born-again by faith, Jesus will return for us to remove us from the earth before the start of the tribulation period, Jesus specifically stated this in Revelation 3:10:

***"Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth."***

And also in John 14:3, Jesus promised about the rapture:



***"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."***

This reality should give us confidence in these violent and confusing times. Remember that the Lord Jesus Christ, Who said: "***I am the Resurrection and the Life***" (*John 11:25*), will be with you in all of your trials to give you victory (*1 John 5:4*). The disciples were gloomy on Friday and Saturday, but Sunday came, and Jesus was alive again! Maybe you have been experiencing sorrow or loss, but remember that Jesus rose again! If you know Him as your Savior, you can be sure that you will live with Him forever.

And, in these days, be sure to celebrate the victory of the Resurrection of the Lord with much prayer for America. My prayer is that a truly godly man will occupy the White House as President! And that America will seek the Lord, beginning in His true churches. Repentance in America will not come as long as Christians are compromising by living in sin and by abandoning the reality that we are commanded to invite the lost to receive Jesus Christ as personal Savior. While we wait for the Lord we should: "***Approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ***" (*Philippians 1:10-11*).

You and I can be sure that Jesus Christ is still Lord over all and that He will fulfill every word of His promises. He promised the faithful church at Philadelphia: "***Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown" (Revelation 3:11).*** You can be sure that Jesus Christ will answer your prayers and empower you to holy and victorious living this Easter season, and every day as you faithfully serve Him and watch for His return.



## *Happy Resurrection Morning*

*Prophecy in Perspective, Copyright, vol. no. 99 - March 26, 2016*

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