

Prophecy in Perspective

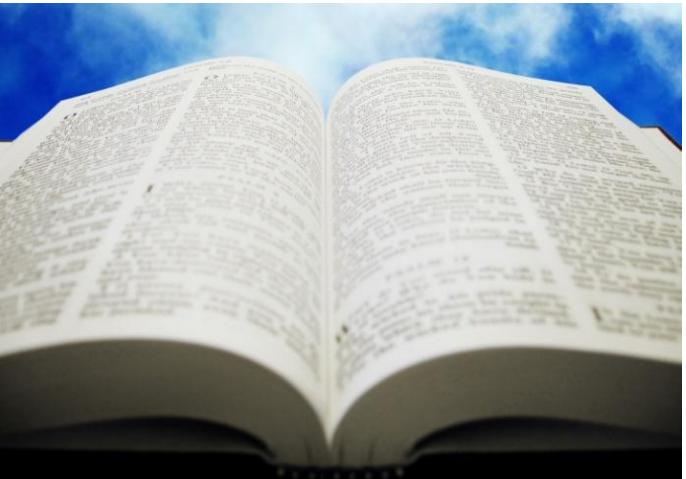
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An email newsletter
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Latter Days Indicator: Christians Are Getting Soft on Biblical Truth

Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints. For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ. (Jude vss. 3-4, KJV)

When Christians are soft on truth, then the world will assume that the Bible is neither true nor important. This unhealthy view of the Bible is one of the reasons why there is such a shallow and relativistic morality in America today. Not taking the Bible seriously seems to be a growing trend among some pastors and Christian leaders today. This same trend has been seen in Europe for many years now. In America, many pastors do not preach many of the hard themes of the Bible. Few are promoting the truth about Biblical marriage as one man and one woman for life, nor how God has given only one way of salvation, nor even how Jesus promised to return. I believe that many are becoming soft on biblical truth for fear of causing divisions in their churches which may result in decreased attendance and giving, or a decrease in book sales. Christian publishers and

broadcast networks may have a big part in pressuring preachers to avoid potentially divisive issues. As the Lord's return draws near, Christians need to begin to honor the Bible, and thus honor the God of the Bible, by presenting the Scriptures as absolutely true. This will take courage, yet it will bring great fruit to the glory of God.



Iran figures fairly prominently in Bible prophecy and will be a part of the end times coalition that, along with Russia, will attack Israel (Ezekiel 38-39). Iran, a

dishonorable and deceptive enemy to Israel and the United States, was strangely coddled by President Obama over the past years. Yet, as Jeremiah asked, "***can a leopard (change) his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil***" (Jeremiah 13:23, KJV). A few days ago, as a recent article described, the Trump Administration took a hard stand, instead of a soft one, so characteristic of the previous Obama Administration: "**Trump administration: 'We are officially putting Iran on notice.'**" President Donald Trump says the US is putting Iran formally 'on notice' after the country tested a ballistic missile. He was echoing the comments of National Security Adviser, Michael Flynn, who has accused the Iranian government of 'malign actions' over the test. Washington earlier declared the test to be 'absolutely unacceptable' (BBC News). At the

writing of this edition of *Prophecy in Perspective*, the Trump Administration is announcing that new sanctions against Iran are likely to be in place by the end of the day!

Isaiah said: "**When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him**" (*Isaiah 59:19b, KJV*). If a secular leader, like the President of the United States, can stand firm against Israel's and our enemies, i.e. Iran, then why cannot Christian leaders take firm stands against the rising of diabolical evil against God and His people from the Word of God?

In the book of Jude we find warnings to Christians in the last days to beware of growing apostasy in the church. According to Jude, as the return of the Lord for the Church draws near, there will be a growing influx of false teachers into the churches who will be attractive to most people, but who will actually lead people away from God's truth. There are a number of ways that Jude describes these false teachers of the end times. World's Bible Handbook says: "Jude describes false teachers who deny the Lord and give license to sin (Jude, vs. 4). He points out their principles and practices, and gives Old Testament illustrations of sins leading to apostasy:

1. Israel ----- unbelief: vs. 5
2. Angels ----- rebellion: vs. 6
3. Sodom and Gomorrah ---- immorality and perversion: vs. 7
4. Cain ----- self-will: vs. 11a
5. Balaam -----covetousness; mercenary (serving for money): 11b
6. Korah ----- rejection of God's authority: vs. 11c

I believe that demonic powers have been and are now flooding America. These powers have had greater opportunity than at any time in American history to gain a foothold over the population and churches of the land. These demonic forces are highly organized and have found much ground in

the lives
and
ministries
of many

men (and women), over which they have held influence, to cause doubt in God's Word and greater dependency on pleasing man. I believe that, under demonic influence and to gain popularity and financial prosperity, many teachers are deliberately importing New Age and unscriptural contemplative spiritual formation teachings and meditative techniques among their followers that are introducing a dangerous and injurious new spirituality into the church, especially among youth. Growing numbers of authors are producing what amounts to counterfeit scriptures which draw susceptible Christians away from the Bible.



We should not lose sight of the reality that the past eight years in America have brought the opening of a flood gate of demonic activity in America. The Obama lead Government has done more to advance the cause of evil and perversion in America than at any time previous in our history. Yet, there has been great advancement in the purposes of God prophetically since the Bible predicts that this would be the condition of things as history moves into what biblical eschatologists call the end times. There is now a resistance to and actual reversing of Obama's leftist agenda that has already begun under the new Trump Administration. This is why we are seeing and will continue seeing the rise of violent rebellion through the demonic anarchists in the land.

The hatred and utter contempt that leftist Socialists and anarchists have for God and God's people, as well as for Christianity and Judaism, especially when they are in political favor, seems to drive them crazy with rage. Jesus said that this will be the condition in the latter days (Luke 12:23). It is amazing to see how fundamentalistic those on the political and religious left are in their intolerant and hateful views! Such is demonic leftism, it is always totalitarian and seeks to stamp out any resistance. Such will be the future Antichrist, who will be the ultimate leftist (Revelation 13). Satan, who the Bible tells us, "***prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour***" is who we Christians are commanded to "***resist***" by being "***firm in the faith***" (***see 1 Peter 5:8-9 NASB***). It is time for Christians and Christian leaders and preachers to stop being soft on biblical truth!

We should pray that the Lord will encourage each of us to continue seeking His coming in these interesting but challenging times. We can never afford to stand down from the growing onslaught against the living God and His purpose in the world today (Ephesians 6:13-18). God will always be faithful to those who truly wait upon Him and faithfully serve Him (1 Samuel 2:30). If we grow weary or wander from His ways in our lives we can know that He never changes and always desires us to return to Him (Matthew 11:28; Isaiah 55:7). It is time to truly take God and His prophetic word seriously! Events predicted in prophecy are being fulfilled faster every day! Prayer is still powerful and will be used by God to change things in the world that will not change if we do not pray (witness the recent Presidential election!). Yes, prayer will change us as well! The church will grow in holiness and conviction through prayer. The world needs to see what true believers in Jesus Christ look like, so that they can see what Jesus Christ Himself looks like. He is The Way, The Truth and The Life, Who is coming again at any moment to rapture us home to our Father's House, where there are "many mansions" prepared for those who believe in Him!(1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; John 14: 1-4).

NOTICE: For those of you in the Atlanta area, Dr. Downing will be conducting a Bible study entitled "God's Unfolding Purpose" on Sunday afternoons from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. in room 1370 at First Baptist Atlanta, beginning Feb. 12th and concluding May 7th.

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