

# Prophecy in Perspective

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An email newsletter  
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## America: The Nation of The Unknown God?

The Lord had called the Apostle Paul to come into Europe and proclaim the Gospel there. Paul came eventually to the city of Athens which, I believe, is spiritually similar to America today. Paul found the men of Athens to be "religious in all respects" (Acts 17:22). He spoke to a group of philosophers there who liked to



ST. PAUL PREACHING TO THE THESSALONIANS  
For ye remember, brethren, our labour and travail: for labouring night and day  
we preached unto you the gospel of God. . . . (I Thessalonians 2: 9)

gather at a place called the Areopagus. He was actually invited there to present his views on religion. The Epicurean and Stoic philosophers he had some conversations with were intrigued by what he was teaching especially since he was speaking about the resurrection. Some simply called him an "idle babbler" (Acts 17:8), but since the Athenians liked to hear new things, they gave him an opportunity to speak to their assembly and city council at the Areopagus. Here, Paul boldly proclaimed to them, **"...you are ignorant of the very thing you worship" (Acts 17:23b)**. He taught, unapologetically, the truth about the One true God, His love and provision for us through Jesus and how they were in error and needed to repent and believe in Him. Some believed, but others sneered. Paul, non-the-less was faithful! (Pictured left, Paul preaches in the European and Greek City of Thessalonica)

Again, America today is much like Athens and the Areopagus. Recently, President Trump suggested to visiting Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, that "I'd like to see you hold back on settlements for a little bit." But the Bible does not compromise on God's promises to Israel to establish them in their land in the latter days. Israel is a sovereign nation. I believe President Trump was actually seeking to be gracious to Mr. Netanyahu. He may even be open to a one state solution, as well as to relocate the American Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Yet, Israel has a right to settle their lands and to build settlements as they deem necessary. Mr. Trump wants America to be "Great Again." But any nation's greatness is heavily determined by how it treats Israel. President Trump may not realize that God does not negotiate regarding Israel! President Trump needs to bless Israel to be the nation they deem they should be, without telling them what their enemies tell them: "stop building settlements." God said specifically to Abraham, **"And I will bless**

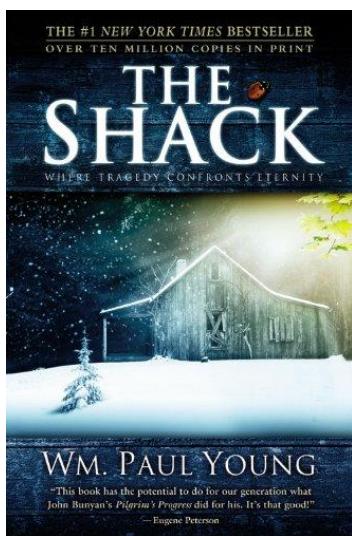


***those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed" (Genesis 12:23).*** God does not regard "The Art of The Deal!" He is the God of the Covenant! His Covenant with Israel through Abraham and affirmed by the prophets, is nonnegotiable! No doubt, President Trump has a high regard for Israel and much respect for Prime Minister Netanyahu. This is very refreshing after eight years of the toxic attitudes toward Israel exhibited by President Obama.

Paul, at the Areopagus, saw many things including a lack of religious and spiritual depth that is similar to America. President Trump seems to be content with a similar lack of depth in his understanding of God and His ways. He, like so many in America today, while affirming faith in God Who is Creator, seems to allow God to remain undefined in their minds. God is set forth only in popular terms by political and religious, even Christian, leaders.

But the real God of the Bible has sent Jesus Christ to die for the sins of the world and to rise again from the dead. Jesus also promised to come back! He is the God Who established Israel, and through the Jewish people, sent the Messiah into the world. This is also the God Who promised to re-establish Israel back into their land in the latter days. Many at the Areopagus sneered when Paul got into specifics about the judgment to come, Jesus Christ, and His resurrection. Today, America is generally open to anything spiritual, but most, even in churches and among many preachers, do not want to affirm anything like judgment to come or the reality that

Jesus is the only way to heaven.



For example, soon the heretical book, [The Shack](#), will come out as a movie! No doubt, it will be widely applauded, just as the book was. But the Christians, and preachers who affirm such works as these are similar to those at Athens, who always like to hear something new, but who do not want to commit to real biblical truth!

Paul wanted the people of Athens to understand that God is more than, "***An Unknown God,***" which was inscribed on one of their altars (Acts 17:23). He is the One and only God Who gives life, Who will not be conformed to man's philosophies and spirituality, Who is Creator of all men, calling for repentance. He is the God Who will judge the world and Who sent Jesus Christ to die for our sins

and raised Him from the dead (Acts 17:24-31). Those who are serious about knowing the One true God understand that He knows the future and has revealed a great deal about that future through Bible prophecy. God has also clearly delineated His intentions for Israel's future.

The fact that the Jews have returned to their homeland of Israel is the most amazing fulfillment of Bible prophecy in the 20th and 21st centuries! There are now more Jews in Israel than in any other country including the United States! We are truly on the brink of the coming of the Lord! This is why today we are seeing great global changes and upheavals: politically, geologically, and spiritually! Israel, instead of being hindered in settling their land needs America to encourage them to return to the God of the Bible, the God of Israel! Also, they need to be encouraged to return to righteousness and to separate from the sins of Sodom, and those of aborting the unborn! America should lead the way as an example to them, to encourage them to settle their land and depart from iniquity. Unfortunately, especially in recent years, America has allowed marriage to be redefined, and innocent unborn children to be aborted. If America would repent of gross sin,

this would truly be America being "great again," by bowing as a nation to the One True God of Israel in faith, humility and moral uprightness.

You can know the One True God by trusting in Jesus Christ as your personal Savior! The Bible is clear that Jesus is going to return first for His Church, then later, to the earth with His Church to establish His global Millennial Kingdom. Paul predicted: "***For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).***

The Prophet Zechariah predicted: "***And the LORD will be king over all the earth; in that day the LORD will be the only one, and His name the only one. All the land will be changed into a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem; but Jerusalem will rise and remain on its site from Benjamin's Gate as far as the place of the First Gate to the Corner Gate, and from the Tower of Hananel to the king's wine presses. People will live in it, and there will no longer be a curse, for Jerusalem will dwell in security.***" Do these verses tell us to keep Israel from settling their land? No they do not, and never will! God will establish the Jews in their land of Israel, forever!

President Trump may not be acquainted with the clear pronouncements of Bible prophecy regarding Israel. Let the preachers and Bible teachers put away all the prosperity, replacement, spiritual formation, contemplative, Emerging and other types of heresies so trendy in the church today, and encourage President Trump to seek the true God of the Bible. We do not have time to waste and must get back to preaching truth! We do not serve "AN UNKNOWN GOD," but the One True God of the Bible! **It is time for believers to pray for President Trump, and many of the leaders in America to get to know God in a deeper and more Biblical way!**

**Jesus is coming soon!**

**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. Hope to see you there!

*Prophecy in Perspective, Copyright, vol. no. 113 - February 17, 2017*

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