

# Prophecy in Perspective

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An Email Newsletter

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

## Is History Repeating Itself?



British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain, right, speaks to Adolf Hitler's interpreter Paul Schmidt during their meeting at the Hotel Dreesen at Godesberg, Germany, in September 1938. Days later, Chamberlain signed a peace agreement that, though reviled in retrospect, was his best choice at the time. ([http://www.slate.com/articles/news\\_and\\_politics/foreigners/2013/09/13](http://www.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/foreigners/2013/09/13))

British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain was sincerely, but naively convinced by the deceptive Adolf Hitler, that he was to be trusted. Just before the outbreak of WWII, Chamberlain returned after a meeting with Hitler to tell England that we now have, "peace in our time" (Eerily, Barak Obama used this same phrase in his second inaugural speech.) "A year after Chamberlain waved the paper on which he had signed the Munich Agreement, ceding the sovereignty of Czechoslovakia in return for Hitler's promises of peace, Germany had invaded Poland and Britain was at war." (Joel B. Pollak, Breitbart, Obama, "Peace in Our Time," Jan. 22, 2013) History shows us over and over how easy it is for the gullible to be deceived by evil men. Recently there was a phone meeting between Barak Obama to the new

Iranian president, Hassan Rouhani. John Kerry also had a meeting with his Iranian counterpart, Mohammad Javad Zarif. Both Obama and Kerry are exhibiting characteristics that are eerily reminiscent of Chamberlain's naiveté in his September, 1938 meeting with Adolf Hitler. Is Iran the new rising Nazi-type nuclear threat to Israel and even to America? Are these two American leaders falling into a trap that will have devastating consequences for Israel? Time will tell.

But what we do know is that Iran is not to be trusted. Their "new tone" is likely hiding their announced goals and desires: the destruction of Israel and America. The Bible predicts that in the latter days one will arise whom Daniel calls, "**the Prince that shall will come.**" He will arise through deceiving the nations into believing that He brings a "new tone" to the peace table. Many nations, including Israel, will be taken in by him (Daniel 9:26-



(<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east>)

27). But his real intention will be Israel's destruction and the death of all the Jewish people. Too bad our leaders too often ignore the warnings of Scripture. Too bad voters do as well!

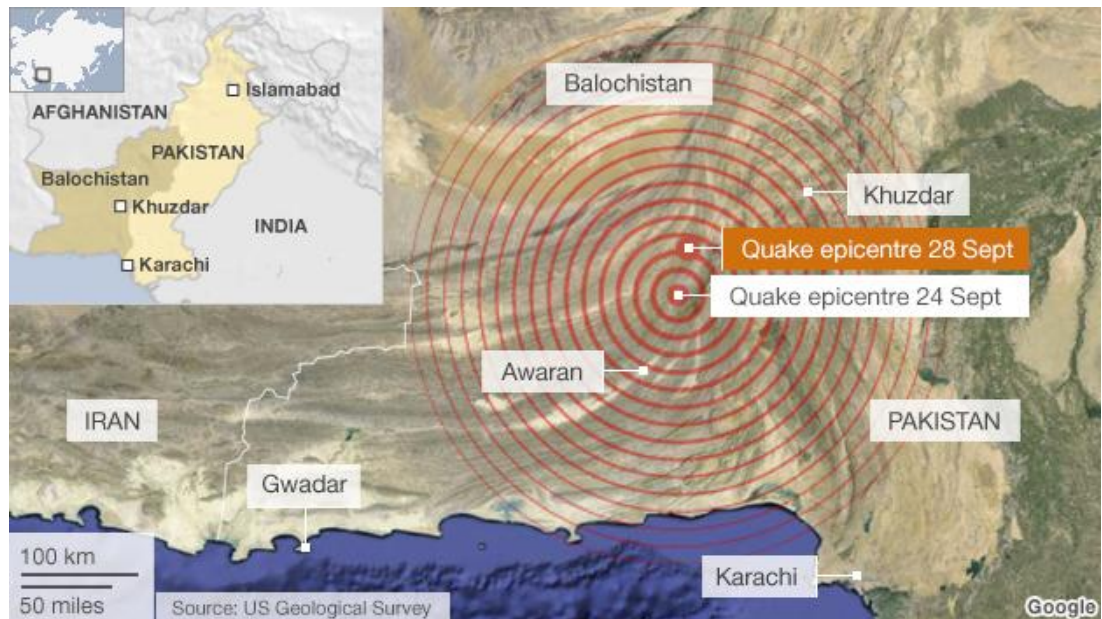
### Pakistani Quake Area Struck Again



"A 6.8-magnitude earthquake has struck south-west Pakistan, in a region where at least 400 people died in a quake earlier this week. Reports said the quake hit remote Awaran. An official told Pakistan television that communications already damaged by last Tuesday's quake had been cut off. Efforts to help thousands left homeless by the first earthquake have struggled against poor roads and separatists. The US Geological Survey said Saturday's tremor measured 6.8 magnitude and could be felt

across Balochistan province. Pakistan's Meteorological Department classed it as an aftershock measuring 7.2 magnitude. Abdul Rasheed Baloch, the deputy commissioner of Awaran district, told Pakistani television that one village, Nokjo, had suffered damage to most of its buildings, leaving people trapped under debris. 'The telephone system has been damaged and we are not able to talk to someone and find out the exact information about the

losses... but we have reports of severe losses in that area,' he said, according to Associated Press. Eight of those who died in Saturday's tremor were from Nokjo, officials said, with another four killed in the Mashkay area. An Agence France-Presse reporter in Awaran said hundreds of patients being treated after the last quake fled a hospital in panic as the latest tremor struck. Saturday's quake was felt as far away as Karachi. An office



worker there described his chair shaking: 'At first I thought it was a delusion or a false feeling. But all my colleagues ran out of the office. The shakes were heavy.' Officials have estimated that about 300,000 people were affected by the earlier, 7.7 magnitude quake which leveled mud and homemade brick homes, injuring hundreds. Many survivors have been sleeping in the open air or in tents. Rescue and relief efforts after the earlier quake have been hampered by the region's poor road network. Officials have appealed to separatist military groups operating in the area following attacks on army units involved in providing assistance. Pakistan's official paramilitary force, the Frontier Corps, has been leading rescue and relief operations. It already had thousands of soldiers deployed in the area because it is fighting a long-running separatist insurgency by Baloch nationalist rebels.

The violent force of Tuesday's 7.7-magnitude quake caused the creation of a new 200m (656ft) long island off the coast of Pakistan near the port of Gwadar." (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia>)



Earthquakes are mentioned throughout Scripture as indications of God's judgment and of God's preparing the earth for the coming of Jesus Christ to rule in His Kingdom, the Millennium. The earth is already beginning to go through the "birth pangs" that are predicted for the second coming of Jesus Christ. According to Bible prophecy, much of the present day geography is Divinely scheduled to be changed dramatically. It is interesting to see how a new island has appeared off the coast of Pakistan as seen in the above article. The Bible predicts that the earth's land masses will be moved. Many land masses will disappear and new ones appear in the latter days. This kind of geological movement is described in many places in the Bible as an indication to the world that the living God is in control of His creation.

Isaiah says: **"And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it" (Isaiah 2:2).** This verse tells us that God will literally make Jerusalem the highest point on the earth. This does not mean that it will be higher than Mount Everest, but all the earth will be geographically brought into conformity with Jerusalem as being the highest and most beautifully prominent place on the face of the earth during the Millennium. High places will be brought low and low places will be brought up. As beautiful as the geography and geology of the earth is now, it bears the indelible marks of judgment from the flood of Noah's time. The geography, geology, climate, etc. of the earth is very out of balance. God purposes to rectify these imbalances and to restore the pre-flood pristine environment that the earth seems longing to regain. All competing landscapes, mountains, valleys, seas, lakes, rivers will be brought into a place of highlighting and directing all attention and glory to Jerusalem, the future home of the returned and reigning Lord Jesus Christ.

Again, as Isaiah says: **"Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain" (Isaiah 40:4).** Then, also the prophet Micah foresees the high glory and geographical elevation of Jerusalem as the earth's central place of worship during the Kingdom of God, the Millennium: **"But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it" (Micah 4:1).** As we see the fulfillment of the Lord's prediction of **"earthquakes in divers places,"** in the latter days (Matthew 24:7), we can be assured that God is both judging the wicked and rearranging the earth's surface, as well as the heavens to prepare for the coming of the Lord, Jesus Christ, to reign on the earth. John writes in Revelation: **"And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places" (Revelation 6:14).** Isaiah 24:3-4, shows us that latter day disturbances will signal the approaching return of the Lord: **"The earth will be completely laid waste ... the earth mourns and withers, the world fades and withers..."** Disturbing climactic events such as the recent Colorado floods bringing great devastation of loss of life, livelihood and property signal us to pay close attention to the "signs of the times" (Matthew 16:3). In Romans 8:22 we read: **"For we know that the whole creation groans and travails in pain together until now."** While these events are not new, they seem to be increasing in frequency and intensity. God is speaking to the nations of the world that He is actively working to get their attention and for them to repent of their false God's and of their neglect and

mistreatment of God's nation of Israel. The message that God wants the world to hear is the gospel of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, that He died for the sins of the world and rose bodily from the grave. He has ascended to heaven and He promised to return again to rapture us to our prepared place in His Father's House. This is the message that the world needs to hear: Jesus has come to the earth to save mankind, and He is coming back again!

## **Upward Call** - *Our walk in view of prophecy*

### **Emergent Church, False Answer to Nominal Christianity**

Nominal and carnal Christianity is the common form that we see in these latter days of the Church Age. This nominal commitment to the Christian life is the result of a lack of interest in the return of Jesus Christ. Nominal Christianity in the church today is leaving an opening for false forms of spirituality like the Emerging Church to infiltrate ministries and churches with a New Age form of Christianity. In my view the Emergent Church is one manifestation of latter day church apostasy. If each believer is well acquainted with the doctrines of the End Times through personal study and sound Bible teaching, then there will be a greater commitment to a holy walk of faith and they will generally understand how and why they need to avoid the trends of Emergent Christianity. Unfortunately, many are confusing Israel with the church and assuming that the church will bring the Lord back eventually by doing good works and through having outstanding church programs, the latest music, and corporate management methods. Many are trying to get people past nominal Christianity by "building the kingdom" through human focused effort and dependence on non-Christian organizations, net-working with peers and encouraging mystical techniques that border on occultism to accomplish this.

The social-gospel has been around a long time. It is making a strong comeback in many youth ministries and start up churches today, but with an Emergent twist of Contemplative Spirituality, often with a strong hyper-Calvinist and Charismatic bent. It stresses doing good works to "build the kingdom" for God, but it really is only depending on man's power. Emergent teaching is really more "relational and psychological" rather than "doctrinal and biblical." Along with this emphasis often comes the teaching and practicing of Contemplative/Meditative-Spirituality. This involves practicing "spiritual disciplines" which involve emptying the mind in order for God to "speak." Contemplative/Meditative-Spirituality is really being pushed in the Emerging Church. The preaching of the Emerging Church often consists of an open kind of theology that does not like to draw conclusions as to what one must believe. Much of the Chrislam movement comes out of the Emerging Church mentality. Preaching against homosexuality, abortion, and on political issues, from a biblical and conservative view, and especially, preaching on Bible prophecy is a big "no-no" to many of the proponents of the Emerging Church. One telling mark of this movement is often an emphasis on personal experience with God, however one conceives of Him, and a de-emphasis on doctrinal truth with a general avoidance of teaching on the doctrines surrounding the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. The Emerging Church trends toward ecumenicism and Roman Catholicism.

The problem of nominal and carnal Christianity is not solved by the existential/humanistic/quasi-Christian philosophy of Emergent Christianity. Instead, true Christianity is that which is based on the belief in and clear teaching of the Word of God. When Christians grow in truth, and understand the reality of the imminent return of Jesus Christ, then the believer takes seriously the need to be holy and to be ready for the Lord at any moment. What a great incentive to preach the gospel to the ends of the earth, to help those who are hurting and to minister to the needs of a lost world. In the words of W.B. Blackstone:

O, that the Church would work a hundredfold more earnestly for the conversion of souls and the edifying of the body of Christ, that the bride might be complete, and thus hasten the coming of her Lord, ever listening to catch the midnight cry: "**Behold the Bridegroom cometh**" and "**so be ready to go out to meet Him**" (**Matthew 25:6**). (Jesus is Coming, W.B. Blackstone, 1898, 1908, 1932, Fleming H. Revell Company)

**"Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.**

**For the Son of Man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch.**

**Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping.**

**And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch."**

**(Mark 13:13-17)**

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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](http://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](mailto: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.)*