



Prophecy in Perspective

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An email newsletter

Our Times - *Prophecy in Current Events*

Latter Days Bad Behavior

I have written in previous newsletters on the significance to Ezekiel 38 and 39 in latter days prophetic events. This prophecy reveals a future invasion of Israel by Russia with the assistance of Islamic and anti-Israel nations. I believe this invasion will likely happen just after the rapture of the church. If this view that these chapters in Ezekiel speak of an all out invasion of Russia and the Islamic nations, including Iran, against Israel, are correct, then we have every reason to believe that we are currently witnessing the unfolding of this prophecy! President Barak Obama may actually be helping to draw this prophetic alignment together.

President Obama and his administration are headstrong, as through driven by some unseen force, to allow, among other concessions, for Iran to run hundreds of centrifuges in, formerly secret, deep underground bunkers. Under Obama's direction, they are intent on securing a treaty with a country that has been the leader in state sponsored Islamic Terrorism. Iran is lead by men who are anti-Semitic, anti-Israel, anti-Christian, anti-democratic. Iran truly exemplifies the spirit of Antichrist in their desire for Israel's and America's destruction and for world dominance.

Iran is a Shiite Islamic state. The Shiites believe they represent true Islam. The Shiites are watching for the coming of the Mahdi, or 12th Imam (Islamic teacher), who will, they believe, establish a world-wide Caliphate. My research has found much evidence that Barak Obama is either a Shiite Muslim or is very sympathetic toward this sect of Islam.

(See article by Daniel Pipes, at <http://www.danielpipes.org/comments/139806>)

In 2014, Mr. Obama unleashed evil upon the world by swapping five hardened Islamic terrorists in exchange for the release of Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl. Obama's total withdrawal of our troops from Iraq and his amateurish dismissal of ISIS merely as a J.V. terrorist group has permitted them to develop a foot hold in Syria and Iraq. Iran was allowed to secure high political and military presence and position in Bagdad and in the newly developing Iraqi government. Obama's neglect to take reasonable action to halt the invasion of Iraq by ISIS ultimately resulted in a grand opportunity for Iranian intervention. Evil loves a power vacuum. Was Mr. Obama deliberately leaving a power vacuum in Iraq to allow Shiite Iran to establish a strong power base in Iraq? Today, as Iran is feverishly seeking domination in Iraq, this terrorist state is working hard to take over

Yemen! Additionally, Iran is being permitted to develop its military and nuclear capabilities. As I stated above, Iranian leaders believe that a chosen leader called the Mahdi will appear at the time when Israel's destruction is accomplished. Does Barack Obama hope to be the global leader to fulfill the spirit of the Mahdi predictions in Shiite Islamic writings? It should be plain to all that President Obama is not naive, but intelligent, deliberate, driven, and goal oriented. Further, only the willfully ignorant would discount the evidence that Barak Obama is anti-Israel, pro-Islamic and pro-Iranian.

Even now, Russia is seeking to move closer to Israel militarily through establishing control over warm water ports in southern Ukraine. Iran is building their navy at a fever pitch. They even now possess missiles that are capable of reaching Israel and possibly even the United States. All they need is the nuclear capability to destroy Israel with certainty and swiftness. Mr. Obama's apparent disdain for Israel's newly reelected Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, is evident to the whole watching world. The signals are being clearly telegraphed to the Islamic world, that they have a friend in the White House! It is plain for all to see that our President is more friendly with Iran than he is with Israel. The Ezekiel 38 and 39 scenario, certainly seems to be taking shape.

We are living in very interesting and motivating times for Bible believing and committed Christians! God has made an unconditional covenant with Israel! (Genesis 12:1-3) Neither the Jew nor Israel will ever be destroyed! But any nation that aligns itself against Israel will face God's wrath and destruction! (Psalm 2) Jesus said: **"Heaven and earth will disappear, but my words will never disappear."** (Matthew 24:35) Yet, as Christians, we are on the winning side! But we are also on the hated side. The devil is doing all he can to keep prophetic truth from Christians and the world. Many preachers, especially of the Emerging Church, are relegating Bible prophecy to the category of forbidden teaching! Many others are confusing it, are denying it, or are misapplying it. So, it is important for every believer to go back to the Word of God for themselves and get familiar with the wonderful and amazing prophecies of the Bible. The fact of the return of Jesus Christ is well established in the Scriptures. World events in our day point to the undeniable reality that all that the Bible says will happen is happening right before our eyes.

Amazing Apostasy in the Latter Days

Today, many churches and ministries continue to grow in their promotion of neo-liberalism, occultism, and heretical Emergent Theologies. Paul warned Timothy to **"Preach the word...For the time will come (a reference to the latter days) when they will not endure sound doctrine, but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears, and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables."** (read 2 Timothy 4:1-5)

The Presbyterian Church in the USA has now approved the freedom for any of its churches or pastors to perform same-sex marriages! (see video at <http://oga.pcusa.org/section/ga/ga221/ga221-marriage/>). In addition, Emergent Church leader, Brian McLaren, questions the Scriptural teaching of the Second Coming of Christ:

The phrase "the Second Coming of Christ" never actually appears in the Bible...if we believe that Jesus came in peace the first time, but that wasn't his "real" and decisive coming--it was just a kind of warm-

up for the real thing--then we leave the door open to envisioning a Second Coming that will be characterized by violence, killing, domination, and eternal torture.

This vision reflects... a return to trust in the power of Pilate, not the unarmed truth that stood before Pilate, refusing to fight. This eschatological understanding of a violent Second Coming leads us to believe that in the end, even God finds it impossible to fix the world apart from violence and coercion...

If we remain charmed by this kind of eschatology, we will be forced to see the nonviolence of the Jesus of the gospels as a kind of strategic fake out, like a feigned retreat in war, to be followed up by a crushing blow of so-called redemptive violence in the end.

The gentle Jesus of the First Coming becomes a kind of trick Jesus, a fake-me-out Messiah, to be replaced by the true jihadist Jesus of a violent Second Coming. This is why I believe that many of our current eschatologies, intoxicated by dubious interpretations of John's Apocalypse, are not only ignorant and wrong, but dangerous and immoral. (Popular Handbook on the Rapture, pp 188-189)

In the above section we see Brian McLaren twisting the concept of the "Second Coming of Christ," a thoroughly sound and essential Scriptural teaching, into a non-biblical concept, a lie that makes Jesus out to be a "trick Jesus," a "jihadist Jesus of a violent Second Coming!" McLaren characterized the teaching of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, as "dangerous and immoral." Little wonder why the growing trend in the Emerging Church in America is to ignore Bible prophecy. This is a clear symptom of a general apostasy of the American church and departure of preaching from the Bible as the Word of God.



One Presbyterian USA minister in Oregon tells his members that he doesn't believe in God and that he does not require his members to believe in God either. He still claims that he is a Christian and states that he is offended when people tell him that he is not a Christian. He tells his church members: "bring your own God-or none at all." In an article on churches that embrace all religions and all lifestyles, Michael Snyder writes:

If you want as many people to attend your church as possible, why limit yourself to just Christians? All over America, "radically inclusive" churches that embrace all religions and all lifestyles are starting to pop up. Church services that incorporate elements of Hinduism, Islam, native American religions and even Wicca are becoming increasingly common. And even if you don't believe anything at all, that is okay with these churches too. In fact ...



one Presbyterian minister in Oregon is even inviting people to "bring their own god" to church. But if these churches don't really stand for anything at all, what is their purpose? And what does the popularity of these churches say about the future of religion in America? (New Trend: 'Radically

Inclusive' Churches That Embrace All Religions And All Lifestyles By Michael Snyder, on March 24th,

2015, please see this entire article at <http://endoftheamericandream.com/archives/new-trend-radically-inclusive-churches-that-embrace-all-religions-and-all-lifestyles.>)

There are movements in the Anglican or Church of England to attract believers of pagan religions such as the Druids and Wiccans. One Anglican leader stated: "Ministers are being trained to create new forms of Anglicanism suitable for people of alternative beliefs as part of a Church of England drive to retain congregation numbers." ("God Discussion," June 25, 2013) "The new move could see famous druids such as druid leader Arthur Pendragon move to Anglicanism." (The Telegraph, March, 28, 2015) Also growing in America is Christian Wicca, where people are encouraged to believe in Jesus and practice Wicca and other forms of nature religions.

(See, "Hidden Traps of Wicca" at <http://www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting/teens/hidden-traps-of-wicca>)

As Christians living in the days just prior to the coming of the Lord Jesus, we need to be discerning about these and many other unbiblical trends and teachings that are arising in contemporary Christendom. We should stay close to the Scriptures in what we teach, preach and learn, as well as continuing to witness for the Lord, serve Him faithfully, and watch for His any moment return!

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***Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming...?  
(2 Peter 3:3-4a)***

***"That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; but speaking the truth in love may grow up into Him in all things, which is the head, even Christ!"  
(Ephesians 4:14)***

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Prophecy in Perspective, Copyright, vol. no. 84 - March 28, 2015

As usual, if you would like to subscribe to this newsletter at no charge, please send your name and email address to: sgdowning@bellsouth.net. Also, you can purchase his books: "Good News From a Far Country", A study in the book of Daniel [\$15- SORRY - THIS BOOK IS SOLD OUT - Reprints coming soon]; "Becoming Mighty in Spirit...through Revelation's Prophecies" [\$10]; "Becoming Mighty in Spirit...through Developing a Prophetic Walk...A study in the lives and ministries of Elijah and Elisha" [\$10] by contacting him. **Dr. Downing's newest book, "Fearless Faith, A Study in the Prophecies and Precepts of Ezekiel" is available to those taking his study class, "Fearless Faith." For time and location of this class, contact Dr. Downing thru his website or direct email.**

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