



Prophecy in Perspective

Dr. Scott Gregory Downing
An email newsletter

The Days Are Short, Use Them Wisely!

America is more divided now and more confused about truth than at any other time in our history. This is what eight years of Obama and radical Alinsky-type liberalism has brought us to. Yet the radical liberals in American politics and religion are not the only problem. The other is compromising conservatism, both in politics and Christianity.

Right now, our President is in Great Britain attempting to talk them out of leaving the European Union. The European Union is the way that countless Muslim migrants have been able to make their way into and across Europe because, under EU terms, the borders between the countries are fairly non-existent. To those who keep up with Bible prophecy, President Obama is understood to be a radical "one-worlder." That is, he politicizes virtually every controversial matter to further drive the United States, and now, Great Britain into a deep state of guilt unless they cooperate with his view of the world. Could Obama's view of the world be one in which he becomes the ultimate leader over a future global order, or kingdom?

Russian war planes are fearlessly and freely buzzing our war ships and aircraft in pretend attacks. "Russian jets simulated attacks within 30 feet of the Navy destroyer as it sailed in international waters in the Baltic Sea. A few days later, Russian jets came within 50 feet of a U.S. plane in international airspace." (Suzan Jones, CNS.com News) As of today, the death of the rock star, Prince, has brought a quicker public response from Mr. Obama than the growing threat that Russia or Islamic terrorism poses to the free world. Russia, and many Islamic nations, especially Iran, according to the Prophet Ezekiel, will move to conquer Israel in the perhaps very near future (see Ezekiel, chapters 38-39).

But radical, anti-American and anti-Christian liberalism is not the only problem today! There is also great compromise going on in political and Christian conservatism. There is a need for a great deal of prayer, and for repentance on the part of Christians in America for their increasing spiritual and moral lethargy. This lethargy among Christians is a growing apathy toward the Anti-Christian and anti-family issues that are on center stage today. I praise God for the few that are standing strong on the traditional family, and pro-life issues. Today, the liberals even want us to allow men who are pretending to be women, to use women's bathrooms. These efforts to corrupt and weaken the United States and the church are not being opposed except only by a few. It is evident that both conservative political and Christian leaders are, for the most part, losing their way these days.

As we watch the prophetic scenario unfold in our days and draw closer to the coming of the Lord to rapture His church, we see that the present day presidential election campaign is basically tied in knots. The confusion that we are witnessing in America is not of God. It is time for Christians and for church ministries to get back to the Bible and to seek clarity in these confusing times. As Christians, we should seek out and speak out biblical teaching that encourages prophetic and doctrinal clarity as well as holy living. In these confusing times, we need to stand strong for God's truth. But to do this, we need to know God's truth. Doctrinal and prophetic truth are the two most necessary elements that are needed to encourage believers to stand strong for truth in these confusing and compromising times. In theology, the study of prophecy is also called, **Eschatology**. This is one of the most neglected areas of theology today in terms of overall teaching in churches and ministries. What is important about the study of prophecy, or eschatology? Why is this study, so neglected today? Theologian, Charles Ryrie answers this way:

Because there is much divergence in this area of doctrine, and because some things are not crystal clear, some assume that eschatology should be given a lesser importance than other areas of biblical truth. Is there any area of doctrine that has not been debated? Think of the Trinity, or the nature of the person of Christ, or church government, or predestination, or eternal security, or the effects of Adam's sin. And think of some of the difficult concepts to interpret in these areas, concepts like the tri-unity of God. Deity and humanity united in one Person, the meaning of only begotten, the concept of imputed sin, etc. Yet we do not, nor should we, shy away from a detailed study of these teachings. Similarly we must not slight what the Bible says about the future. (Charles Ryrie, Basic Theology, p. 440).

Could it be that the confusion that we are seeing in America and even in the world today is not only because of the evil influences of Satan? It is possible that Christians have just gotten lazy in their study of the Bible and have become compromising in their stands for biblical truth? There is a real need for cleansing in our Christian lives and our Christian fellowships! Are preachers speaking out against their church members living together? Are they preaching the importance of avoiding immorality and the evils of drinking and drugs? These are not mere legalisms, but real indicators of the disease of sin that is gaining ground in Christian fellowships around the country. Finally, is the gospel of salvation through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone being proclaimed faithfully? We are in dark days today, and the world needs faithful and strong witnesses for God's truth, through Jesus Christ and the Bible.

For Preachers, Sunday School teachers and Mission Leaders around the world to make a difference through faithful Bible teaching, a great place to start is to teach the basics of Eschatology, or Bible prophecy! It is amazing that the very area of theology that is being the most neglected today is the very one that God can use to bring people to the place where they will be the most encouraged to come to know and to live for Jesus Christ. Again, Charles Ryrie shows us the importance of the study of prophecy:

For the believer, the knowledge of prophecy:

1. Provides joy in the midst of affliction (2 Corinthians 4:17)
2. Cleanses and encourages holy living (1 John 3:3)
3. Is profitable, like all Scripture, for a number of important needs in the Christian's life (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
4. Gives facts about life after death (2Corinthians 5:8)
5. Gives truth about the end of history

6. Gives proof of the reliability of all Scripture, for the number of prophecies that have come to pass precisely as predicted cannot be accounted for by chance but only by God.
7. Draws our hearts out in worship to the God Who is in complete control and Who will accomplish His will in history. To slight prophecy is to miss these benefits.

I believe we can see the end times prophetic picture materializing before our eyes. Truly, the days are short and we need to use our time wisely. Paul said: **"making the most of your time, because the days are evil (Ephesians 5:16, NASB)**. But, to see this we have to truly have "eyes that see" (Ezekiel 12:2). The real hope of the return of the Lord will arise out of a real love for the Lord. Also, Paul speaks of a crown that the Lord will give to all those that **"love His appearing" (2 Timothy 4:8)**. Remember that the Lord Jesus' coming for the church is called **"that blessed hope" (Titus 2:13, KJV)**. Do you have this hope of the Lord's return in you? Is the promise of His coming impacting your life, preaching, teaching and witness? Today, be sure that you know Him by faith by receiving Him as your Savior: **"But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the children of God, even to them that believe on his name" (John 1:12)**. Then, study His Word, obey Him, and walk in victory as you watch for His coming at any moment!

On this issue of ***Prophecy in Perspective*** we celebrate God's amazing grace for allowing us to publish **100** issues of this prophecy newsletter!
Thank you for being a part of this outreach and teaching ministry!

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