

## Prophecy Update Fall 2015

**Introduction:** I have taught for years that I believe we are near the time of the end. The events of the past few weeks convince me even more so that this is true.

We have recently seen a major shift in the balance of power in the world – A paradigm shift. The United States of America has been the bastion of freedom in the world for many years. A place of refuge for the oppressed. A place of freedom for the slave. A place of opportunity for the poor. A place of freedom of religion. A place that truly believed that all men are created equal in the sight of God.

A nation that rescued other nations from oppressors and conquerors such as Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union.

What made America great?

1. We have been a nation with a large body of committed Christians that sent missionaries all over the world to evangelize other nations.
2. We have been the greatest friend of Israel – God’s people who sinned against Him and went into captivity to other nations for nearly 2000 years, but are now back in the land, fulfilling many ancient prophecies in the Bible, and being kept and protected by God. We have been their greatest friend.
3. We were founded on the principles of the Bible. Other nations had Kings, absolute rulers. But our forefathers recognized from the pages of scripture that man is basically evil and power will bring corruption. A balance of power was needed, so that no one man, or group of men could rule over the others. So they established our government according to the Bible, which says in Isaiah 33:22, “For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; He will save us.”

The Lord is our judge – we established the Judicial Branch of government – the legal system. The Lord is our lawgiver – we established Congress, the Senate and House of Representatives, to make our laws. The Lord is our King – we established the Executive Branch, the President, to preside over the governmental process – but the President is subject to the laws made by Congress, and the interpretation of those laws made by the judicial branch. The whole system is designed so that no one person can usurp power over the rest and take control of the country. And it has worked well for nearly 250 years.

One of our early Presidents, John Adams, said this: “Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.” By religious people, he meant Christians.

Indeed his statement is true. But somewhere along the way, we lost our way. In our political, economic and military success, we forgot the Lord of Heaven who gave us this success.

It began in the late 1940s with the so-called Constitutional concept of the separation of Church and State. That was never in the Constitution. The Constitution protected the Church from the State. Somehow all that got reversed, and the State said it needed to be protected from the influence of the Church, and more specifically, the Bible.

So we kicked God out of the schools in the 1960s, eliminating the Bible and Prayer from the halls of learning and education. We said about Jesus, “We will not have this man to rule over us.” We traded allegiance to Jesus, the “Prince of Life,” for a “Culture of Death”: a culture violating all of God’s commandments. We have sown to the wind, and we are now reaping the whirlwind. Since 1973 we have had over 55 million abortions in this country. We have a drug epidemic we cannot control. A suicide rate that is the highest ever recorded. Venereal diseases are rampant in our sex-crazed society. AIDS

is killing young and old alike, especially men in the prime of their lives because of their lascivious life-styles. Homosexual marriage is now the law of the land, imposed on us by an out of control Supreme Court which is not authorized by our Constitution to make laws. We are in an age of lawlessness! It's not just the laws of God; men won't obey the laws of man. And that is within the highest political offices in this land.

What has all this brought us? We are the greatest debtor nation in the history of the world. We have a vacuum of leadership and politicians who do not understand or who do not want to understand what the Word of God says about how we should live. And we are on a rapid spiritual, moral, economic, political and cultural decline.

For years, we were the world's only superpower and we tried to protect the downcast, brokenhearted and oppressed. We tried to help build righteous nations but we were wrong in thinking democracy was the answer. Remember the words of President John Adams, "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

President George Bush was flabbergasted when the Palestinians in the Gaza strip elected Hamas as their leaders. He thought that given a chance, people would elect good leaders. No, people driven by hatred of God and Israel will elect evil leaders. Democracy is not the answer. Jesus Christ is the answer to the problems of mankind. Jesus Christ is the only solution to the wicked hearts of men. Our intentions may have been good, but we failed. Unredeemed men cannot be made good by democracy. They must be washed in the blood of the lamb, Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

A study of Bible prophecy finds the United States strangely absent or referred to indirectly at best. There are scriptures that may speak of our country, but we are not sure. What does that mean? It means the United States is not a major player on the world stage in end time's events. We

essentially become irrelevant. And that is happening right before our eyes. The times of our influence on the world scene is rapidly fading.

Due to the weakness of our leadership, Russia in recent weeks, along with Iran, has moved into the Middle East, established land and naval military bases in Syria, and told the United States to stay out of Syrian air space. And we are obeying the commands of Russia. Russia and Iran said they were there to fight ISIS, but the first people they bombed were the allies of the United States. Allies who were committed to fighting the cruel Syrian dictator Bashar Al Assad. To further complicate matters, Russia and Iran were recently joined by China in their commitment to fight the enemies of the Syrian Dictator. China sent an aircraft carrier through the Suez Canal which has docked in a Syrian Port. You will hear a lot of empty talk and condemnation from our President and Secretary of State, but the United States is not about to take on Russia, China and Iran militarily. And don't think they will be leaving the region anytime soon. They plan to dominate the Middle East. Russia's leader Putin wants to control the area, and also wants access to the huge natural gas field recently discovered off the coast of Israel, and a huge oil deposit in the Golan Heights of Israel. Ultimately however, he wants the greatest plum of all – the country of Israel itself.

Last week 3000 Republican Guard troops from Iran came into Syria along with 2000 troops from Cuba. It seems one of their main intentions is to humiliate our President because he just made deals with Iran about Iran's nuclear weapons program, and just re-established diplomatic relations with Cuba. Humiliation of our President is humiliation of our country.

We have led from behind and we are now left behind in our influence in that part of the world. And for the first time, we appear to be abandoning Israel, our only true friend, and the only truly democratic nation in the Middle East. The Bible says concerning the descendants of Abraham in Genesis 12:3, "I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee." If we curse Israel we will be cursed.

This paradigm shift of power in the Middle East is the most significant event on the prophetic calendar since the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, and the retaking of Jerusalem by Israel in 1967. As the sun sets on America's influence, the world is becoming a much more dangerous place. The world will now be run by dictators, who hate Israel, hate Jews, and hate Christians. And this shift of power in that region sets the stage for the time of the end.

For years, Islamic nations around Israel have tried, without success, to conquer Israel. Russia is getting tired of these defeats. Now the Russian Bear herself is poised in Syria, just a few miles north of Israel, ready to pounce. And the enemies of Israel are emboldened. They are like sharks. They smell blood in the water. Israel is being attacked from within by Muslims living in Israel, with repeated stabbings and other efforts to kill and terrorize Jews, but the major threat is an attack from outside their borders by Russia and her allied nations.

In Ezekiel 38, the Bible says one day Russia will attack Israel with a large confederation of other nations. They will come with overwhelming force to finish the job once and for all. But they will meet with doom on the mountains of Israel, for they are not fighting against men, but the very God of Israel Himself, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. The world may abandon Israel, but God will not.

Now, let's look at Matthew Chapter 24 and Ezekiel Chapters 38-39 and study what God has to say about the time of the end.

Let me first say this. We are not to be afraid: Jesus said in Luke 21:28 "And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh."

1. Matthew 24:1-14

- a. Quick summary of the time of the end:

- i. Rapture: no man knows the day or the hour.

- ii. Great Tribulation; time of Jacob's Trouble.
- iii. Battle of Armageddon
- iv. Second Coming of Christ
- v. Millennium – 1000 year reign of Jesus Christ on this earth
- vi. Eternal Kingdom – New Jerusalem

**b. Read Matthew 24:1-14**

c. Signs of the times:

- i. Age of deception V. 4
- ii. False Christs, false Messiahs V. 5
- iii. Wars V. 6, 7a.
- iv. Famines V 7
- v. Earthquakes V 7
- vi. Pestilences V 7

d. Matt 24:8 Beginnings of sorrows

e. Matt 24:9 Believers afflicted. In this world you shall have tribulation.

- i. V 9 - Kill you – recent shooting in Oregon: “Are you a Christian?” Demonic, Satanic
- ii. ISIS
- iii. V 9 - Hated by all nations
- iv. V 10 - Many offended – conviction of sin? The hate for us to talk about sin – the “S” word. E.g. Abortions, homosexual marriage today. Many are offended now when we call sin what it is – Sin! And we tell them the consequences of continuing in their sins.
- v. V 10 - Betrayal. Communist nations – children are taught to betray their parents. Without natural affection. Hate one another.
- vi. V 11 - False prophets – deception

- vii. **V 12- Iniquity or Lawlessness shall abound** – we see this today in our nation. Men will not obey the laws of God or the laws of man. Even our leaders do not enforce the laws.
- viii. V 12 - Love of many will grow cold. Price of serving Jesus Christ will be too great for some.
- f. Matthew 24:13 Endure to end – will be saved. Implies this is the time of the Great tribulation where men are taking the mark of the beast, the antichrist.
- g. 24:14 Gospel will be preached in all the world.

## 2. Study Ezekiel 38-39

- a. Read first 6 verses
  - b. Show Picture of Ezekiel 38 Nations
  - c. First time in history Russia and Iran are partners with one another.
  - d. Iran has said it will annihilate Israel. Wipe them off the map.
  - e. Russia moves into Syria. Iran moves into Syria.
  - f. Iran has troops at the northern border of Israel. Damascus is only 36 miles from Israel. 36 miles is nothing in this day of modern warfare with supersonic jet planes. Recipe for disaster, especially for Iran, but Israel could pay a big price also in an encounter with Iran and Russia.
  - g. Prime Minister Netanyahu met with Putin to make sure they did not encounter one another in combat. Interesting – Putin tells the U.S. to stay out of the airspace, but does not tell Israel. He knows Israel will say absolutely not!
- ## 3. We are not to be afraid: Jesus said in Luke 21:28 “And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.”
- a. Corrie Ten Boom:
    - i. You look at the world and you’ll get distressed.
    - ii. You look within and you’ll get depressed.

- iii. You look at Jesus and you'll find rest.
- b. Billy Graham:
  - i. Story about Einstein, the smartest man in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
  - ii. Train to Princeton.
  - iii. Conductor
  - iv. Couldn't find his ticket
    - 1. Felt in his coat
    - 2. Trousers
    - 3. Briefcase
    - 4. Seat beside him
  - v. Conductor said, Dr. Einstein, we know who you are and we know you bought a ticket. Don't worry about it. Just stay on the train.
  - vi. The conductor took up other tickets.
  - vii. Leaving the car, looked back and saw Dr. Einstein on the floor looking under his seat for his ticket.
  - viii. Went back to him and said "Dr. Einstein, we know who you are, you can stay on the train."
  - ix. Dr. Einstein replied, "Young man, I know who I am, I just don't know where I am going!"
- c. Billy Graham said to the group, "I know who I am, and thank God, I know where I am going."