

THE HISTORY AND PROPHECY OF ISRAEL CONT.

4/12/20

We ended last week going through a sequence of events yet to happen in history. It speaks of the great plan of the enemies of the north coming against Israel intent on its destruction. But it is Jehovah, in fact, who initiates the move against Israel, not the Russians or the Muslims. Next comes the judgement for the man of sin, the Antichrist and his legions. The Antichrist will break his covenant with Israel and proclaim himself God: He will exalt himself above God. His power is from Satan. God's fury will be seen in a great earthquake, hailstones, and fire & brimstone devastates the invading forces.

- At the end of the 7 years of tribulation, after the clean-up, burying the dead, and burning the weapons are finished, God's enemies will have gone down in total defeat. God will say, *I will magnify Myself and sanctify Myself, and I will be known in the eyes of many nations. Then they shall know that I am the LORD. (Ezek. 38:23)*

YOUR KING IS COMING

Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout in triumph, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your King is coming to you; He is righteous and victorious humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. Zec. 9:9

Tell Daughter Zion, See, your King is coming to you, gentle, and mounted on a donkey, even on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden. Matt. 21:5

TRAUMA AND TRIUMPH

- Now we begin stepping into the areas of God's plan that are pretty much all prophetic in nature.
- So, a little review of the central features in God's program for His chosen people will be beneficial.
- The four factors that make up God's program for Israel are: Dispersion, preservation, restoration and reconciliation.
- We can plot the time line along which the nation has moved through history.
- God has set before us a people divinely set apart to be a special testimony to the truth of scripture. Two major elements of God's plan are relevant for us to see.
- Man, at his worst, and God in His faithfulness.
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• MAN AT HIS WORST

- The fiction that "man is basically good" is simply not true. Even if the book of Romans didn't point it out, very plainly, we could make the distinction by just observing mankind. There is none righteous. No, not one! (Rom. 3:10)
- The treatment of the chosen people by the Gentiles across the long centuries proves it. Israel is surrounded by millions of people who want nothing less than the complete annihilation of Israel. Christians are being persecuted, tormented and murdered in many areas of the world today. In fact, persecution in the 21st century is worse than it has ever been at any time in history! All of our education, our enlightenment has not helped man to become good. People are just as wicked now as they were thousands of years ago.
- We, in America, often look at third world countries as backward, unlearned, almost uncivilized. But here, in America, in the wealthiest, in the *most* civilized country, we burn our flag and kill our babies. What does that say about us?!
- We need only look around to witness the rise of the barbarians around us.
- The author shares a somber example from an event in 2011. It was the misnamed Arab Spring that introduced a period of blood-letting almost too terrifying to imagine.

- THE ARAB SPRING

- King Hezekiah built a wall and tunnel system in his day to protect his people from the Assyrians who had pledged to destroy and ravage his people. (705-681 BC)
- Now fast forward to the 21st century. Islamist fanatics like Hamas, Hezbollah, Iran, and Isis (the self-proclaimed Islamic state) have promised to finish what Assyria and other invaders could not.
- The start of the Arab Spring was a small incident in Tunisia (North Africa) that escalated into uprisings against Arab governments, initially in Egypt, Syria, Libya and Yemen.
- What began as a liberation movement was soon commandeered by rabid Islamists (ISIS) whose crusade of barbaric slaughter and mayhem is unparalleled in the 21st Century. Their life's goal was to create a global Caliphate (a ruler), depose existing world leaders, and establish Allah and Islam as supreme.
- ISIS violence has been demonstrated with attacks in, Australia, Algeria, Canada, U.S., Saudi Arabia, France, Libya, Lebanon, Egypt, Denmark, Tunisia, Yemen, Afghanistan, Turkey, Kuwait, Bangladesh, and Indonesia. Most of which are Muslim countries! Yet they have all suffered attacks by ISIS. I list them all so you can get an idea of just how vicious they are.
- Syria had hopes for a few weeks, but that has since been dashed.
- Since 2012 up to 350,000 deaths, 4.4 million are refugees and patches of these countries are ISIS controlled.
- Russia, Iran, the U. S., France and the U.K. have not been able to slow the slaughter.
- The Middle East Research Institute (MEMRI) shared an article with the *Jerusalem Post*. In part it says, *However, it continues, Islamic State "rejects this International order, " and its war against its enemies "has no boundaries other than those which Allah prescribed on the Muslims in their Jihad to make the polytheists submit to Islam's rule-the entire world is an arena for its Jihad; all the Muslims are potential soldiers in its army; and all polytheist combatants on earth, and the Jews among them, are legitimate targets for it.*
- It continues. *Any threat its leaders' issue against the Jews emanates from the promise from Allah that He will enable them to carry it out. As the Islamic State of Iraq leader said in the past. He and those that are with him fight in Iraq while their eyes are on Jerusalem.*
- For what length of time the Islamic State will remain in force is unknown at this time. What is known is the extent to which it is achieving its objectives. Their objective is an Islamic fiefdom.
- Their plan is to seed their own people among the Middle East refugees pouring into Europe. One million refugees entered Europe in 2015. Then another 135,000 in 2016. Most came in peace but radicals who, slipped in with the peaceful ones, do not come in peace. They come with one purpose - conquest in the name of Allah.
- This has proven true by the increase in terrorist attacks and the ever-increasing number of "No-Go" zones. A "No-Go" Zone is an area within a country where the laws of the land do not matter. Authorities have little influence in these areas nor is their influence welcome. Police do not go in and Sharia Courts exist.
- A news correspondent covering the work of the British Parliament and Prime Minister said of the problem facing both Europe and the U.S. *We tell ourselves nothing can be done about terrorism when we should be honest with ourselves: Terrorism is here to stay in Europe because we allowed it to continue. We have encouraged the problem by discouraging integration, as if you have no duty to act like a European when you move to Europe.*
- We are doing the same thing in our own nation. We are allowing each ethnic group to saturate American culture with their own and in the process don't we risk losing our American culture completely?

- We have allowed little ethnic groups to form their own little communities where they expect to live exactly as they lived in the country they have fled. They do not want our customs, culture or ways. However, they do want the benefits, freedoms, and independence that America has to offer. We have allowed this to happen. The result of this type of thinking is the “Political Correctness” that every American is sick of hearing.

- - CHRISTIANS BEWARE

- We know what the grand objective of radical Islam is: To eliminate non-Muslims everywhere in the world and possess their land. Just as vehemently as they fight against Judaism they fight against Christianity. Reliable reports today tell us the extreme efforts to eliminate Christianity are more severe today than ever before.
- Christians in more than sixty countries are facing government persecution and/or persecution from their own families and communities for their belief in Christ. The Center for American Progress says, *what is happening to Christians in these regions indicates what type of society will emerge from chaos. If one of the most important religious groups in the world continues to be forced out of the Middle-East, this bodes negatively for pluralism, tolerance, and the ability of the regions’ people to live interlinked with the rest of the world.*
- Basically, what this describes is a world with one ruler, zero tolerance, mercy or justice, and complete isolation from the rest of the world.
- Thus, we see a glimpse through the open door to a Christ-less world condemned to chaos, without moral chart or compass; moving quickly toward an inevitable and fatal apocalypse.
- This increase in violence, the intensity of the hatred the church is experiencing and the resurgence once again of world-wide Anti-Semitism should all be red flags to the Church. It’s a heads-up for the Church to awaken to the prophetic perspectives found only in God’s Word.
- We should credit the Bible for always telling it like it is. No wishful illusions, no sugar coating and no attempts to make people seem better than they are. God’s Word shows us who we are, and who God is. His Word shows us the fallibility of our human nature - of our need of a savior.
- God’s Word allows us to look into history *before* it takes place. As we look through His word into the future, we must always be aware that God is never the perpetrator of human belligerence. People do that all on their own. We are fallen creatures, every one of us, since the beginning of time. God is not the author of our evil actions. He simply lets us see ourselves at our worst. In doing so, He allows us to anticipate the future and prepare for it. That’s where choice comes in. We see the danger ahead and divert our path.

- - GOD IN HIS FAITHFULNESS

- One grand design shines through all the events recorded in scripture: The reconciliation and establishment of Israel in the glory that Jehovah promised in His prophetic Word.
- Therefore, along with the picture of humanity at its worst, God allows us a preview of His great purpose for His chosen people. Keep in mind we are involved in *eternal* processes. Our time-shaded perspective of history is like a speck of dust on a horizon as broad as eternity itself. From the divine point of view, we are moving through an orderly sequence of events that will bring us to the culmination God prepared in eternity past, where all things promised find fruition. Like the old gospel song says, *we’ll understand it all by and by.*
- Two portions of scripture detail God’s unchangeable attitude towards the Jewish people. The first from the prophet Jeremiah: *They shall be my people and I will be their God; then I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear Me forever, for the good of them and their children after them. (Jer. 32:38-39)*

- The second from Paul, the pharisee-turned-apostle-of-Christ. It illustrates the message of both the Old and the New Testaments regarding Israel: *I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. And so, all Israel will be saved, as it is written: The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob. (Rom'. 11:1,26)*
- Fulfillment of God's program will come in three distinct phases: Breaking the Gentile sword, revelation of the Messiah, and establishment of Israel.

- - BREAKING THE GENTILE SWORD

- We're getting into some really good stuff here! I am going to quote the author for much of it – he says it so well already and in many less words than I could retell it!
- Atheistic Communism, Islamist fanaticism, Anti-Semitic fervor, and cultural God-Hatred are just some of the manifestations of the persistent Gentile uncompromising stance over Jehovah's right to reign over the affairs of men. For some reason other nations have always sought to have Israel under the rule of a greater nation.
- Daniel the prophet, gave us a striking overview of the nations as they are seen from both human and divine perspectives.
- In the human level, the successive world empires look like a colossal statue. King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, dreamed of a great image whose splendor was excellent. (Dan. 2:31)
- In his vision he saw the coming empires of gold, silver, bronze, and Iron entities that joined to form a spectacular statue of human image.
- Later, these empires represented in the image were identified. Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and a Roman system that would have both ancient and modern counterparts.
- The statue was impressive-so much so that Nebuchadnezzar built a replica of it in gold, placed it in a prominent place as a representative of his royal attributes, and required his subjects bow down and worship the image or die.
- This episode reflects the folly recurrent in Gentile history – worship of a system and its leaders, while displacing the worship of Jehovah. The empire or the "state" stands in God's place and demands total loyalty. Often the nation itself creates gods to be worshipped.
- The point is, whether men bow to an emperor, a man-made god (statue) or a humanistic philosophy, the result is the same: God is displaced in people's hearts and they are displaced in God's program.
- God's Word tells us there will not be four great kingdoms as was mentioned earlier from the vision, but 5 kingdoms. *And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. (Dan. 2:44)*
- God introduces us to the concept of a coming divine Kingdom. One in which He will order affairs on the scene of human events.

- God gave His prophet Daniel heaven's evaluation of what the King of Babylon saw: *Daniel spoke, saying, I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea. And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other. (Dan. 7:2-3)*
- These empires described as ferocious animals preying on one another - stalking, crushing, and devouring those who are weaker than they. And so it has been; the strong survive, and the weak are consumed and subjugated.
- Once again, at the very heart of the revelation, God lays bare His eventual response to humanities alternatives to His sovereign rule: *I watched till thrones were put in place, and the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, its wheels a burning fire. (Dan. 7:9)*
- *I was watching in the night visions, and behold, one like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him, His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed. (Dan. 7:13-14)*
- The Bible clearly teaches that before the Messiah's Kingdom is established, the Gentile powers will finally and emphatically be broken.

Ok ladies I'll stop here. If I can keep the lesson to five pages it will mail for one stamp and I can mail it from home. If it goes over in weight I have to go inside the post office to mail them. Thanks for reading our lesson. I miss you all so much!!!