

SIN & CONSEQUENCES – PART II

We began this series last time by reviewing the correspondence between Washington's attempts to pressure Israel to give up land to the Palestinians with the occurrence of various disasters within the US. And wouldn't you know it, Bill Koenig came out with an updated list of events that covers just what has happened this year alone.

UPDATE ME PLEASE

Our last list of curious 'coincidences' wound up with Hurricane Katrina which struck New Orleans at the time that the Israeli settlers were being forcibly removed from Gaza. In this latest offering, Koenig details major FEMA disasters that struck the US at or around the same time that either Secretary of State Rice was visiting Jerusalem to pressure Israel in the peace process, or when President Bush was conducting Quartet meetings with Israeli Prime Minister Olmert. Here's just a sample of some of these events.

- January 13-19 – Rice visits Israeli, several Arab countries Germany & Britain. There are FEMA level winter storms in Missouri, Oklahoma Texas. California orange crop is ruined. Record hurricanes nearly shut down Britain & Germany while the Secretary of State was there on the ground..
- The Quartet meets on February 2nd – A series of Tornadoes devastate Florida.
- March 25-27, - Secretary Rice is back in Israel. Tornadoes rip through New Mexico.
- President Bush authorizes \$59 million for Abbas' Fatah party. Under US pressure Olmert & Abbas begin regular meetings on April 15th. Storms and flooding on April 15-16 lead to FEMA declarations in 8 states.
- June 17-19 – Olmert is in Washington meeting with President Bush. Talks aimed at strengthening Abbas. Storms and flooding hit New York and Texas during the meetings.
- August 7-8 - Under pressure from Washington, Jewish settlers are forced out of Hebron. Storms, tornadoes and flooding spell another FEMA disaster for New York.

We need not belabor the details. Still there seems a direct correlation between US actions that would compromise God's Word and direct and timely punishments. Mr Koenig discovered "nine major FEMA disasters and... two other crisis" that coincided with American involvement in the peace process.¹

But if that isn't enough for you there is more. Prophetic writer David Herzog writes of three such events. In each case he describes a personal prophetic connection. Herzog describes how he was warned at the time of the forced evacuation of Gaza not to stay in New Orleans. It was only when he got to Arizona that he heard about the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. It was in September of 2001 that President Bush first announced his intention to create a Palestinian State. The next day saw the 9/11 terrorist attack. Then in late January 2003, Mr Bush once again confirmed his resolve to divide "the God given land of Israel". The next day the Space Shuttle Challenger broke up, - with the first ever Israeli astronaut aboard...over Palestine, Texas.² Coincidence? It seems God is more than trying to get our attention here. He's shouting 'Stop it! Don't mess with My land'.

And that's exactly what we are doing. Mr Herzog summarizes it rather nicely. These are the aims and practical effect of US pressure.

"1) Divide Jerusalem and give the Temple Mount to the Muslims

2) To cede all of Judea and Samaria and allow the establishment of an Arab terrorist state called Palestine with Jerusalem as its capital. ("West Bank" is the biblical Judea and Samaria, the heartland of Israel promised to the Jewish people by God's everlasting covenant.)

3) To give Palestinians control of the mountain ridge overlooking Israel, placing all the large population centers within range of Katusha rockets.

4) To expel hundreds of thousands of Jews from their cities in Israel, thus changing the entire demographics of the nation of Israel."

So we see the devastation that follows on the heels of America's choice to repeatedly go against God's plan. Is that really God's character, to judge our nation for its sins, or were these curiously timed events mere acts of nature? Take Hurricane Katrina for instance. Some in the religious community have stated that the hurricane, along with the tsunami that killed upwards of a quarter million, are truly acts of the judgment of God. One Rabbi tells us that there is a direct connection between Katrina and the removal of the Jews from Gush Katif. Rabbi Garlitzky of Chabad Lubavitch announced that, "No one has permission to take away one inch of the land of Israel". Many see strange similarities between the destruction of Katrina and that wrought by forced evacuation of the Settlements.³ Even the Hebrew words have a numerical equivalent. Katrina's is 374. Two separate Torah passages have that same numerical equivalent: Genesis 50:17, which reads "**They have done you evil**", and Exodus 14:15, which says, "**The sea upon the land**". And so it is argued. They are making an obvious connection with the promise God gave Israel in Genesis 12:3. "**I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.**"

You see, God's character is both love and holiness, - mercy and judgment. Students of the Bible know that God is unchangeable, His Word immutable. We know too that the Father exists in perfect holiness. When Isaiah had a vision of the Lord he became violently humbled and full of fear. He cried out, "**Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts.**" Isaiah saw his sin, and could only cry out for mercy. Perhaps he saw in that moment what the writer revealed in Hebrews 12:14, that we must live in pursuit of holiness, "**...without which no one will see the Lord**". Jesus gave the standard in the Sermon on the Mount. "**Therefore you shall be perfect just as your Father in heaven is perfect.**" (Matthew 5:48) In Ephesians 5:1 Paul spells out what we must do. "**Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.**" He gets more specific just a few verses later. Ephesians 5:5 tells us, "**For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God**". And then in verse 6, he follows with a most solemn warning. "**Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.**"

Does God judge nations and people? We know from His word that He does. He judged the Northern and Southern Kingdoms of Israel when they fell into sin, turning them over to be conquered by their neighbors and then allowing those nations to be punished themselves for the mistreatment of His people. The prophets warned that judgment was coming, and surely it came. God judged the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah when they persisted in their wickedness. Recently archaeologists have found their remains, burned from above it seems, just as the Bible has said. Their sin was the rampant perversion and homosexuality described in the Genesis account. They were consumed with their lusts, and so God consumed them. God judged and punished the whole world for sinfulness, saving only Noah from the destroying flood. Yes God is a God of mercy; - but He is a God of Holiness too. God cannot stand to look at sin. And so He is a God of judgment, of all that is unclean, of all that persist in rebellion against Him and His Word.

There is God's promise of judgment and punishment. And here we are a nation flaunting the standards established in His Word. We have kicked God out of school, yet seek His protection. We have allowed the murder of 40 million with the legalization of abortion. We have sentenced millions of children to a life of poverty, and drug use, and delinquency and failure, by encouraging a culture where father's need no longer take responsibility for their children. We have celebrated sin with gay festivals and porn festivals, and internet pornography, and public drunkenness and rampant drug use, - and in the case of Katrina, - in New Orleans itself. And yes, we know that "**...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God**". (Romans 3:22-23) But now we're messing with something very dear to God's heart; - *His* land!

So God promises to curse and bless according to the way that we treat His people, the Jews. Joel 3:1-2, only confirms that earlier promise. "**...I will enter into judgment with them there on behalf of my people and my inheritance, Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations; and they have divided up my land.**" There it is; - judgment for dividing God's Land. Some scoff. Yet it was not strange in this nation's early history for men to see natural disasters and wars as the judgment of God. No less respected a man than President Lincoln saw the hand of God in the great suffering that afflicted this nation by the Civil War. In his second inaugural address, Lincoln recognized slavery as a great sin for which "...the providence of God" gave "to both North and South, this terrible war, as the woe due to those by whom the offence came". Should we be so incredulous to believe that God should so honor His Word once again?

David Herzog reminds us that Britain lost its empire when it “agreed to divide” Palestine between Jews and Arabs. Here is God’s promise revealed in Psalm 105:8-11: **“He hath remembered his covenant for ever, the word which he commanded to a thousand generations. Which covenant he made with Abraham, and his oath unto Isaac; And confirmed the same unto Jacob for a law, and to Israel for an everlasting covenant: Saying, Unto thee will I give the land of Canaan, the lot of your inheritance”**. Canaan, (Palestine), is God’s to give. He gave it to the Jews.

Finally, there is this. Bob Jones received a prophetic word in 1997 that there would be a major earthquake along the New Madrid fault that would destroy 6 cities; including Chicago, St Louis and Memphis, physically dividing the country along the line of the Mississippi.⁴ Others have seen the same. Yet we must be careful in judging prophecy. The Bible calls for 100% accuracy. Still, we have the word of Amos 3:7. **“Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.”** We know that we are a nation liable to the judgments of God. So let us pray: First that we realize our error and desist from pressuring Israel, - second that we turn from our sin, - thirdly that we wake up as a Church and a nation to the danger we face, - and finally that God grant us mercy rather than judgment. Seek His face!!

REINVENTING JESUS

Beware ‘The Oprah’! Starting New Years Day, *Oprah & Friends* will be using Satellite Radio to broadcast a year long course, - 365 lessons, - of the cult classic *A Course in Miracles*. The 1975 book was channeled by a being claiming to be ‘Jesus’. This “inner voice” (read: satanic presence) presented “new revelation” to one Helen Schucman, - that in short, - stood the Bible on its head. The workbook for the ‘course’ itself, states plainly “This is a course in mind training” dedicated to “thought reversal”. Here are some of the gems being presented as ‘new truth’. “God is everything I see” (Lesson #29) & “My salvation comes from me.” (Lesson # 70)⁵

For the most part, Oprah’s latest foray into indoctrination presents the usual New Age doctrine that we’ve seen before in countless forums; - proclaiming its total tolerance of all behavior and belief systems with the marked exception of Biblical Christianity. Here’s just a sampling of some of what’s being offered up.

- “There is no sin”
- “The journey to the cross should be the last ‘useless journey””
- “The Name of Jesus Christ as such is but a symbol...used as a replacement for the many names of all the gods to which you pray”.
- The Creator and the creation are one
- Because there is no sin, we have “no need of salvation”⁶

In short, this is but the recycled New Age drivel made doubly dangerous by the fact that it is being pushed by the most powerful media personality of our day. The Jesus she is presenting is NOT the Jesus of the Gospels. The Scriptures leave no room for this fuzzy tolerance of evil. 1John 2:22 tells us plainly: **“Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son.”** Enough said!

A PEACE DESTINED TO FAIL

[A COMMENTARY]

“And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease” (Daniel 9:27)

Don’t fool yourself. If you’re looking for some magic formula to come out of Annapolis or the meetings that follow that will lead to a lasting peace in the Middle East you are being deluded. The situation seems to be developing however that sometime soon we will see the conclusion of some agreement that will purport to do just that; - bring **“peace and safety”** to the region. Even now, diplomats and world leaders are intoning that mantra; - calling for a “two state solution” that will usher in an era of “peace and security”. There’s a belief and a hope that the creation of a Palestinian State alongside Israel will usher in that era of peace. Presidents and world leaders are enamored with creating it through the division of God’s

Land of Israel. But God's Word informs us clearly that this artificial state will be of temporary, fleeting construction. It is God's will that this be so. But there are some very real human reasons that it will work out that way.

In fact are several factors that doom this peace project. First and foremost: It is a flight from reality in that it ignores the truth of the situation. You see, there are no real Palestinians in the ethnic sense. We've covered that before, so I won't beat it to death. But suffice it to say that when Egypt and Jordan controlled the majority of the area, prior to the '67 War; - there was no Palestinian movement calling for an independent state. The Palestinians are ethnic Arabs and the Arab state that was carved out of the old British administered territory was Jordan, (or at that time) Trans-Jordan. That's the Arab state.

Secondly, these so called 'Palestinians' do not want peace. They want Israel! Hal Lindsey's most recent article drives home this point. The Annapolis Conference was convened to set up this very 2-state solution; - Jews and Arabs living side-by-side in their own homelands. Yet the assembled Arab states led by the Chief Palestinian Negotiator and the Saudis categorically rejected even the idea of Israel as a "Jewish state", where "religious and national identities are intertwined". Did he mean, like the majority of the Arab / Muslim nations of the region, where non-Muslims are discriminated against, persecuted and often rendered illegal? Lindsey sees this conference and the peace process in general as a disingenuous "'hudna operation'". That is a ploy by the Arabs to negotiate advantages until they are in a strong enough position to destroy the Jews.⁷ He's right ! It took only a day for a Fatah spokesman to repudiate Annapolis, saying that they had made no commitments.⁸

Thirdly, - and precisely because of point #2, the Palestinians are attempting to negotiate a state that will strip Israel of its ability to effectively defend itself. Add Judea & Samaria & East Jerusalem to Gaza and you leave a small, wasp-waisted country, easily within range of Palestinian rocketry. Then return part or all of the Golan to Syria and you've literally given up the high-ground to the enemy.

Such a peace of course, will require a some sort of 'guarantee'. Daniel tells us that it will be Antichrist himself who will "confirm" the "covenant"; And break it three and one-half years later; - putting an end to the newly restored Mosaic-sacrificial system at a rebuilt Temple. Don't think that that is so far-fetched. News came out of Israel this week that Temple Institute has completed fashioning the High Priest's golden headplate, in which, - the Jewish priests believe, - resides the Divine Presence of G_d. Plans are nearly in place to re-build the Temple. They have refashioned the Temple Menorah, begun work on garments for 120 attending priests and are working through the blueprints and plans for the Temple construction project itself. The Antichrist will at first approve a peace plan that will include the restoration of the Temple services, - before ultimately ending them. He will be driven to this by the purposes of Satan himself.^{9 10} But it will no doubt be fed by the fanatical-anger of the Muslim street. We seem at the very door of these epochal prophetic events.

WHAT'S IT MEAN ?

Here's the deal. On December 3rd the American intelligence community issued a National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) that found that, - surprise, surprise, - Iran had stopped being serious about pursuing nuclear weapons back in 2003. The current NIE contradicts one issued back in 2005. It did say however, that while it had stopped its nuclear weapons program, it continued enriching weapons grade uranium, and would be capable of producing its own nukes by 2010.¹¹ At the same time, Tehran rejected Western interference in its nuclear program, with chief negotiator Larijani telling EU head Javier Solana "None of your proposals has any standing". Still, President Bush says Iran remains a danger and that all options (read: a military strike) remains on the table.¹² But the US position is significantly weakened both for further sanctions and certainly for attacks against Iranian nuclear facilities. Israel however is dismayed with military and political leadership feeling abandoned in the wake of Annapolis. The Iranian danger still is very real. They continue to test and improve ballistic missiles and have called for the destruction of the Jewish state. It is Tehran that has fed the insurgency in Iraq, and lent support to Hezbollah and other terror groups. Still sanctions, - for the moment seem dead. And Iran seems poised to assume its role as the Persia that is a major player in the Gog / Magog invasion of Israel as described in Ezekiel 38.

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- ¹ Bill Koenig, 2007: Nine Major FEMA Disasters..., World Watch Daily, November 2007
- ² David Herzog, Urgent Word To America, My Church, November 30, 2007
- ³ Aaron Klein, Did God send Katrina as judgment for Gaza, World Net Daily, September 7, 2005
- ⁴ Bob Jones Earthquake Prophecies given 12/31/97 at Charlotte, NC
- ⁵ Warren Smith, Oprah and Friends" To Teach Course on New Age Christ, Herescope, November 9, 2007
- ⁶ All quotes taken from the Workbook, Teacher's Manual & Text of A Course in Miracles as quoted by Warren Smith, Oprah and Friends" To Teach Course on New Age Christ, Herescope, November 9, 2007
- ⁷ Hal Lindsey, Shades of Munich at Annapolis, World Net Daily, November 30, 2007
- ⁸ A day later..., DEBKAFfile, November 28, 2007
- ⁹ Hillel Fendel, Temple Institute Announces: High Priest's Crown is Ready!, Arutz Sheva, December 4, 2007
- ¹⁰ David Bay, Special News Alert, Cutting Edge Ministries, December 3, 2007
- ¹¹ Bush Drops Military Option, DEBKAFfile, December 3, 2007
- ¹² Iran was, Iran is and Iran will be a danger to the world, DEBKAFfile, December 4, 2007