
Absolute Truth & Prophecy

Robert Palaszewski

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THEY KNEW NOT GOD – PART II

“...and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the LORD, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel.” (Joshua 2:10)

Last time out we began to make the case that like ancient Israel, ours is a generation that has lost its way. With all that we are experiencing: Are we now under the judgment of God? By looking at the Scripture, we'll begin to examine how, in the past, the God of our universe has dealt with a people in rebellion.

AN HISTORIC PRECEDENT

What we dealt with in Part I was the gradual collapse of Biblically-based Christianity in the West. It's not that its not growing. In places like Africa and China people are flocking to Jesus despite persecutions and hardships. Yet here in America and in Europe, the faith has been compromised by a flood of competing ideas from Islam, to the New Age and Eastern religions. And outside of strong pockets of faith, - the remnant, if you will, - what we see is a march toward an eclectic form of universalism; - fertile soil for the coming One World Faith. It's being driven by a healthy dose of the Serpent's question to Eve found in Genesis 3:1: **“Has God really said”**. Everything in God's word is questioned, analyzed, put under a microscope, made exception to, excused, - or rejected as being too narrow or ancient and therefore meaningless. And if no one way is completely right – then all ways are paths to God. It's a proposition that allows Man to define his own existence, raising him to near-divine status. It's been long in the making.

Now Israel faced many times such as this in its history. Judges 17:6 describes one era when **“In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes.”** (KJV) Proverbs 12:15 gives God's opinion on that way of thinking. **“The way of a fool is right in his own eyes.”** (KJV) This new post-modern thinking that tells us that TRUTH doesn't exist is fully opposed to Scripture, - [and logic, by the way]. In John 14:6 Jesus said, **“I am the way, and the truth, and the life.”** And God's word, is the very expression of that TRUTH! So let's see how Israel made out when they rejected God's way. We'll begin in Judges 2.

Now after wandering in the desert for 40 years under Moses, the next generation of Israelites established a proper relationship with Jehovah God in the period when Joshua led them in the conquering and possession of the Promised Land. **“So the people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the LORD which He had done for Israel.”** (Judges 2:7) This was a time when Israel was obedient and dedicated to the things of the Lord. Now there are many parallels between the founding of Israel and the US, - too many to cover in any detail here. Suffice it to say that this country started out the same way. We too were dedicated to God at our founding. A cross was planted in 1607 at the landing of the Virginia Company in 1607. In the dedication the colonists declared, **“...by the providence of Almighty God, hereafter tend to the glory of His Divine Majesty, in propagating of the Christian religion to such people as yet live**

in darkness and miserable ignorance of the true knowledge and worship of God.”¹ This was the declaration of a people who were declaring their purpose and that purpose was directly in line with the charge of Scripture to **“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.”** (Matthew 28:19) That same dedication was echoed again in the words of the Mayflower Compact that settled in Plymouth 13 years later. “In the name of God, Amen. We whose names are underwritten, the loyal subjects of our dread Sovereign Lord King James, by the Grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, etc. Having undertaken, for the Glory of God and advancement of the Christian Faith and Honour of our King and Country.”²

So here, - as well as in Israel, - that was the heady start. But soon those ‘originals’ died off and the new generations slipped into apathy, forgetting their faith. **“When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the LORD nor the work which He had done for Israel.”** (Judges 2:10) They had lost their sense of history; - their connection to the reality of God. And what does a people do that does not know God? **“Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served the Baals; and they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; and they followed other gods from among the gods of the people who were all around them, and they bowed down to them; and they provoked the LORD to anger. They forsook the LORD and served Baal and the Ashtoreths.”** (Judges 2:11-13)

In short they served the gods of the world system. Isn’t that what we are about today? Baalim & Baal represent the male version of the fertility gods of the region, Ashtoreth, the female form. This was a forsaking of the LORD, the God of the fathers, to give homage to a feckless, pagan deity, - much as the confused, New Age – influenced ‘seekers’ of today, glam on to the ‘divine feminine’ and other manifestations of that heretical, hybrid monstrosity. So what did God do? He judged! **“And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel. So He delivered them into the hands of plunderers who despoiled them; and He sold them into the hands of their enemies all around, so that they could no longer stand before their enemies. Wherever they went out, the hand of the LORD was against them for calamity, as the LORD had said, and as the LORD had sworn to them. And they were greatly distressed.”** (Judges 2:14-15) *So just how far does this parallel hold? Has the America of today abandoned God just as the ancient Israelites did thousands of years ago? Are we too ripe for God’s judgment? Is it already beginning? We’ll begin to examine those questions next time.*

MEANING FROM MYSTERY

Cindie Palaszewski

“For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:6)

We hear this passage from Scripture every Christmas, but do we really ever ponder it’s meaning? I’ve been given a fresh revelation this Christmas that I’d like to share with you.

When we look out on the night sky away from the city lights, we can see close to 5,000 stars. Pretty incredible! In 1995, the Hubble space probe concluded that there are billions of galaxies, each containing billions of stars. Many of these stars make our own sun look like a mere dot on a piece of paper. Try to picture this: By one estimate, there

are more than 10 stars in the universe for every grain of sand on the earth. Wow! It's hard for my mind to even go there!

Now, go back and read Isaiah 9:6 again. The very God who created all the stars in all the galaxies came down to our little planet as a baby. Why? He did it for us. **"God so loved the world that He gave His only son"** John 3:16. How else could a sinful man dwell with such a holy God? We needed a perfect, sinless offering to give to God and God knew the only offering that would work would be He Himself. So the God who made the Universe and everything in it became a humble baby, born to a virgin, to live and die for us. That is an amazing concept to think about this Christmas.

God's gift to mankind is Jesus, who provides a way for us to live a perfect eternity with God. But there is one thing we need to do before the gift becomes ours, and that is, we actually have to accept it.

Now if you have yet to receive this precious gift and all of God's promises, take a moment and ask that same Jesus who died for you, to become all the more real to you. Tell Him you're tired of trying to live your life by your own accomplishments. Tell Him you're ready to relinquish everything to Him; all of your troubles, all of your fears and concerns. Tell Him you're sorry about all the times you've messed up your life because of your own selfishness. Then tell Him you want the peace that comes from having an intimate relationship with the God of the universe. Revelation 3:20 says, **"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me."**

Why not ask Jesus for more this Christmas? Not more in material wealth. That will all be gone someday. But more of Him! May His wonderful mysteries unfold in your life now and forever.

YADAS

REGIONAL CURRENCIES ON THE WAY – News broke that two groups of nations are gearing up to launch their own multi-national currencies in the near future. Many economists see this as the necessary intermediate step on the road to a one world currency as prophesied by John in Revelation 13. This economic pillar is only one of three, - the others being political and spiritual, - by which the coming one world government under the Antichrist will exercise control over the entire globe. It looks like Scripture is describing a process of regional amalgamation on the way to the ultimate goal of total planetary control. **"The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast."** (Revelation 17:12-13) Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar and Kuwait plan to form the Gulf Monetary Council in 2010. That union will have – according to the UK Telegraph – a financial clout about equal to China's. In addition it will create a petro-currency in competition with the special arrangement that has existed between the US dollar and the petroleum markets. Up until now, oil has been available only for dollars.³

Meanwhile some Latin American nations are advancing the use of the sucre, with Cuba agreeing to use the emerging currency to pay for a future shipment of Venezuelan rice. ALBA nations consist of Venezuela, Bolivia, Cuba, Nicaragua, Honduras, Dominica, Ecuador and 4 other Caribbean countries. The actual currency will be introduced in electronic form and will be used to reduce the "reliance on the US dollar and Washington in general."⁴

ON THE IRANIAN FRONT – In an attempt to flex its military muscle and stave off an Israeli attack, Tehran test fired a missile with enough range to hit both Israel and Europe.⁵ The Iranian government also announced that it would be producing “new generations of more efficient centrifuges” for its nuclear program. It was caught building a trigger for a nuclear weapon just earlier this month.⁶ Thai security officials impounded a shipment of North Korean weapons that were likely headed for Iran.⁷ In response to all the Iranian activity, the Pentagon announced that it would conduct exercises to counter an Iranian missile attack. The most recent drills have targeted launches from North Korea.⁸

COMING: ENVIRONMENTALISM WITH TEETH – Despite the failure of Copenhagen to achieve a landmark victory for the proponents of man-made climate change, they may have achieved a backroom deal that will prove significant. Thirty eight nations have been meeting since June under the auspices of the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP). Their purpose: To create a global regulatory organization with real – though now unspecified – powers to take charge of the planet’s natural resources and manage the environment worldwide. According to one of their documents, the countries involved are preparing for “multiple global crises related to food, fuel, freshwater and finance”. As a another document points out, they are testing the waters for the establishment of a “global environmental architecture”, or a form of world government.⁹ [Ooooh, *I feel so comforted! Big Brother really loves us!*]

HATED “FOR MY NAME’S SAKE” – Christ warned us that as His return neared, Christians and Jews would be the target of growing hate and persecution. **“Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake.”** (Matthew 24:9) In China recently, “hundreds of police and hired thugs” smashed into a Christian worship center, injuring dozens and jailing the pastors of the mega-church of 50,000 members. Police armored vehicles now make sure that the facility remains closed.¹⁰ In Eritrea in northeast Africa, 3,000 have been jailed for their faith, many in solitary confinement, many more have just “disappeared”. India has been the home to “wave after wave of highly coordinated Hindu raids”. The casualties have included over a hundred confirmed deaths, 4,000 homes burned and 50,000 Christians forced to flee.¹¹ While in Egypt hundreds of Muslims descended on a Christian community there, looting and burning scores of shops. And pastors have been murdered in cold blood in Somalia, Columbia and Russia.¹² And in Moldova, a former Soviet Republic, the spirit of the pogroms reared its ugly head as an Orthodox priest led a mob of dozens in attacking and destroying a menorah¹³ Finally, dozens of Arab Christian leaders got together in the Holy Land to denounce Israel and publicly reject the link between Jews and God’s promise of the Land to Israel. “It is unacceptable to turn the Word of God into letters of stone”, they wrote in their statement, concluding that it is this “fundamentalist, Biblical interpretation that brings death and destruction. They went on to declare that the “Israeli occupation of Palestinian land is a sin against God and humanity”.¹⁴

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Want to get a deeper understanding of what you’re reading? If you have any issues or questions you’d like us to address – or if you’d like this Newsletter’s author, Rob Palaszewski, to come and speak to your church or organization please contact us at rob@atpministry.com

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 - ² Mayflower Compact, US History .Org, viewed December 16, 2009
 - ³ Ambrose Evans-Pritchard, Gulf petro-powers to launch currency..., UK Telegraph, December 15, 2009
 - ⁴ Single currency a step closer for ALBA nations, Global Times (China), December 14, 2009
 - ⁵ Iran Test-Fires Its Longest-Range Missile, FOX News, AP, December 16, 2009
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 - ¹⁰ Fast-growing Christian churches crushed in China, AP, December 10, 2009
 - ¹¹ Doug Bandow, Religious Persecution Update, American Spectator, December 11, 2009
 - ¹² The Frightening Rise of Christian Persecution, This Is The End of The World as We Know It, December 1, 2009
 - ¹³ Officials say priest attacks menorah in Moldova, MSNBC, December 15, 2009
 - ¹⁴ 'Christians of the Holy Land denounce Israel, Israel Today, December 11, 2009