

The DEFENDER - September 2015



“... defending the faith once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3)

A monthly publication of the
IN DEFENSE OF TRUTH radio broadcast.



From the Director's Desk: What Does the Future Hold?

As the calendar turns to September our thoughts naturally turn to 9/11, or what has come to be known as Patriot Day. Although Muslim terrorists have continued to target Americans at home and abroad, we have not experienced an attack of the magnitude that was seen on that fateful day in 2001. Lest we be lulled to sleep, a reminder of the big picture as it pertains to Bible prophecy is in order.

In the eyes of the terrorists, America is the Great Satan, while Israel is the Little Satan. As the bigger of the two demons, the United States was accused by the Ayatollah Khomeini of imperialism and sponsoring corruption throughout the world. Israel was given its moniker by former Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, as he claimed they were a “fake regime that would not survive.” In both cases, the mad mullahs and their crazed followers want to do away with the “Saturday people,” the Jews, and the “Sunday people,” the Christians. As far as Israel is concerned, they aren't going anywhere. God has promised them that He would save them so that the world might know that He is their God and they are His people (Ezekiel 38:23). As far as America is concerned, the promise is a bit more conditional.

The Christian Church, or the Body of Christ, also has a glorious future, but the Church doesn't have a nation. We're not given a geographic area, or as some claim, a Christian government or heritage. The Church is a movement of individuals around the world who trust in Christ as their Savior. Whereas the nation of Israel is God's chosen people, only the true believers in America have been promised that He would never leave us nor forsake us (Hebrews 13:5). America the country, although blessed mightily by God down through the years, has been promised nothing. Christians in the United States are fond of quoting **2 Chronicles 7:14**, but that promise was made to King Solomon and the nation of Israel, not us. It's a great suggestion to follow, but there are no guarantees pertaining to us. So what does the future hold for America vis-a-vis terrorist attacks?

We may be subject to an Electromagnetic Pulse attack (EMP). Christians will be raptured, but it may not be before such a catastrophe. We've been relatively free of persecution here, seemingly owing an apology to those persecuted and martyred elsewhere throughout the years. Are there enough righteous people in our land to stay the Lord's hand of judgment, which is overdue for our country? And in light of what our brothers and sisters are suffering around the world, particularly in the Middle East and North Africa, what right do we have to expect any favors from God? We've already been blessed beyond measure through the saving grace of our Lord and Savior. Heaven is our home, which has been prepared for us by Jesus (John 14:2-3). What happens here is really of little consequence in the big picture. And we can praise God for that.

Rev. David Lewis

The End of the World – Part II Old Testament Signs Yet Unfulfilled

By Robert Luthardt, Sr.

Fulfilled prophecy is one of every Bible student's reliable assets for the defense and authentication of God's prophetic Word provided it is rooted in a reliable English translation. God's Word and commandments were set to writing by His chosen Prophets and Apostles who labored under the protective influence of God's Holy Spirit so that the original autographs were without error and infallible in every literary construction (Ps. 119:89; Prov. 35:5; Is. 40:8, 42:9; Matt. 5:17-18, 24:33-35; John 13:19; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 1 Pet. 1:25a; 2 Pet. 1:21). Over 300 prophecies were fulfilled to the letter at Christ's first advent.

Nearly one-third of God's Word consists of predictive pronouncements so that this fact alone uniquely separates God's Word from all humanly derived belief systems, religions and philosophies (Is. 42:9, 46:10; Dan. 2:27-28). God inspired His chosen prophets to record that He will one day gather all nations of the world against Jerusalem; something that has never yet happened (Zech. 12:2-3, 14:2). What could possibly cause such universal hostility?

Certain Muslim-dominated nations fanatically vow to utterly destroy Israel and are heavily armed and warlike. Radical movements are extant, calling for a restoration of the old Caliphate Empire (ISIS is prominent), and war to the death with Israel is the "final solution" of this evil alliance of murderous forces. In particular, the nations of Iran and Syria are the most egregious in their hatred of Israel and the Jewish people. Both nations possess modern missiles capable of striking cities in Israel. These could be chemical, biological or nuclear.

What if Israel were to receive intelligence that Syria was minutes away from launching deadly missiles? And what if Israel responded defensively, although preemptively? Then the prophecy that Damascus is "taken away from being a city" and becoming "a ruinous heap" would finally be fulfilled (Is. 17:1, 9).

Such an eventuality seems inconceivable, especially since other prophecies indicate that Jordan would be conquered in this same conflict. Presently, Jordan is at relative peace with Israel, and negotiations are underway for the construction of a natural gas pipeline from Israel to Jordan. Further, the current leadership in Jordan opposes radical Islamism and terrorism. Still, they are vulnerable for invasion just as is occurring in Yemen and as happened in Iran that was once a peaceful nation.

Biblically and historically, Jordan is comprised of three ancient tribal nations: Edom, Moab and Ammon. Noteworthy is the fact that these are each slated for God's judgment in the "last days" (Is. 11:1-14). This and similar prophecies have never been fulfilled. Israel is to one day occupy those ancient areas of Edom, Moab and Ammon (Ammon is the current capital of Jordan). This same prophecy also predicted the end of animosities between the Southern Kingdom (Judah) and the Northern (Israel). When the Romans sacked and burned Jerusalem, family genealogies were lost in 70 A.D. Few Jews today can be certain of their tribal heritages – Levi could be an exception.

Ezekiel prophesied Edom's total destruction (Ez. 25:12-14) as commanded by God, "Because Edom has dealt (warred) against Judah ... I will also stretch out mine hand upon Edom ... I will make it desolate ... by the sword." Edom is to become a pit, a complete desolation (Jer. 49:2, 7, 13, 17-22; Obad. 1-4, 8-10, 17-18). This total, perpetual destruction has never yet been fulfilled.

While one day Edom will be a complete waste, two other ancient areas of Jordan – Moab and Ammon – will also fall under the future wrath of God. No past conflict has ever yielded anything close to total destruction with no hope of restoration. God has decreed that these areas will yet be "given to the people of the east" and the descendants of Edom, Moab and Ammon (Jordan's present capital) "will be remembered no more" (Ez. 25:10; Obad. 8-10, 17-18; Joel 3:19-20).

These predicted destructions in the future relate to "wars and rumors of wars" and "kingdom against kingdom" and Christ's return at the "end of the world" (Matt. 24:3-7). Just before Isaiah spoke of Moab's destruction (Is. 25:1-2, 10), he prophesied Christ's second coming (Is. 25: 8-9).

Other mercenary armies have swept through these areas in the past, but God showed Isaiah that "the mountains will be protected until Moab shall be trodden down" (vs. 10) also in Jeremiah 48:2-4, 42-43, 46-47). These verses from the only true and living God are yet a present day warning to any daring to curse Abraham or Israel (Gen. 12:3, 17:7-8, 19, 22:17b). God's Word says these condemned areas of Jordan, after conflict, will come under the jurisdiction of Jerusalem. These areas were always promised to Abraham's descendants in perpetuity (Is. 11:12, 14b; Obad. 17-18, 21; Zeph. 2:8-9). A notable future blessing will be for all when the Lord rids the earth of all false religions, false gods, new ageism, etc. (Zeph. 2:11; Phil. 2:10-1).

While Jeremiah 48 speaks of the coming judgment of Moab, chapter 49 depicts the coming devastation of Ammon (Jordan's capital). Israel is to drive out all her enemies in Jordan which is yet future (vs. 2, 7-8, 13, 17-18). The Lord covenanted with Abraham and Israel that this land was to be theirs – FOREVER (Gen. 13:14-15, 15:7, 18, 17:7-8; Ex. 6:7-8; Lev. 20:24; Jud. 2:1). The Lord promised that the Ammonites, the Moabites and the Edomites would one day perish from the Land (Ez. 25:1-4).

The Lord has previewed for us His plans for the "end of the world" (Matt. 24:3) regarding His dealings with nations. Jordan, anciently known as Edom, is still under God's future wrath for unpunished ancient curses against Israel (Amos 1:11-15, 2:1-3). God will use Israel to fully effect the completion of all His judgments upon the nations that hate Him (Malachi 4:1-3). Israel will one day occupy ALL the land promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Just as this has yet to be seen, so too will Edom one day become a "pit, an abyss." Edom's doom is affirmed in other prophecies (Is. 34:6-10; Joel 3:19-21; Deut. 2:4-5; Ez. 35:2-4, 7-9, 15). Moab's devastation is pronounced as well (Ez. 25:8-11; Is. 25:10-12; Jer. 48; Zeph. 2:8-9). Ammon's final overthrow is prophesied in many verses but particularly in Ezekiel 25:1-7 and Jeremiah 49:1-2.

Prophetically, Syria's judgment is closely tied to Jordan's and will be decided in future battles. Many prophetic verses point to entire nations, occasionally capital cities bearing the brunt of God's wrath. A most stunning and ominous prediction declares that Damascus will one

day be a “heap” of ruins. This has never happened in history. Syria is a modern remnant of the old evil Assyrian Empire which once encompassed Turkey, Iraq, Iran, Syria and other countries.

Several prophecies against the ancient Empire were only partially realized when it dissolved in the 5th Century B.C. and some not at all. Syria and Damascus, as the remnant, still carry God’s curse and, interestingly, Damascus was the capital city of that ancient empire. “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God” (Heb. 10:13).

In Isaiah, chapter 10, there are at least four judgments mentioned and only one was realized when Assyria was overrun by the Babylonians. How many are aware that of those “other countries” mentioned above as part of the ancient Assyrian Empire were also part of the former Soviet Union and are still under the heel of the “Kings of the North” (the Kremlin) – Russia? Are the unfulfilled judgments on Assyria also reserved for them (Ez. 39:1-9, 11-12, 17) that God will bring to pass? Also in play are Ezekiel 38 and Isaiah, chapter 10 (5-12, 20-25).

The northern armies from what President Ronald Reagan called “The Evil Empire” will also be utterly defeated by God’s miraculous intervention. Several more prophecies are pertinent regarding Syria and Damascus. “...thus saith the Lord ... be not afraid of the Assyrian ... it shall come to pass IN THAT DAY that his yoke ... shall be destroyed ...” (Is. 10:24-27).

Since God’s wrath against Syria is tied to His ceasing His wrath against Israel, these prophecies could only even begin to be fulfilled after Israel’s restoration in 1948. Before their reestablishment in the Promised Land, their tragic history was pockmarked with untold numbers of pogroms and holocausts. So God pointed to that which was yet future when He declared the Assyrian would be destroyed “IN THAT DAY” in Isaiah, chapter 10, verse 27. Prophetically, terms such as “in that day” signals the end times. While God used ancient Assyria to punish Israel, God will yet bring judgment against Damascus (Is. 31:6-9, 32:1).

What makes the destruction of Ammon and Damascus so important? If Russia is that northern enemy that comes “with hooks into their jaws,” the loss of their closest ally in the mid-east, Syria with its warm water ports, will be devastating to Kremlin designs. So Damascus will be a ruinous “heap” as will Edom (Is. 17:1; Jer. 49:2, 13, 17-20) and when that evil northern coalition advances (Ez. 38:3-4, 8, 18-22) toward Jerusalem, Syria and Jordan are NOT listed in the ill-fated adventure.

God has shown us some signposts, but He alone knows the intricate details of future events. His foundational Biblical truths allows us full assurance that His Word is final (Dan. 4:35).

Keep looking up.

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It Took a Miracle

By Nancy Long

"My Father is omnipotent, And that you can't deny;
A God of might and miracles 'Tis written in the sky,

Tho here His glory has been shown, We still can't fully see
The wonders of His might, His throne 'Twill take eternity.

The Bible tells us of His pow'r And wisdom all way thru,
And every little bird and flow'r Are testimonies too.

Chorus It took a miracle to put the stars in place,
It took a miracle to hang the world in space;
**But when He saved my soul,
Cleansed and made me whole,
It took a miracle of love and grace."**

Words and music --- John W. Peterson

***"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation
hath appeared to all men" (Titus 2:11).***

Over the past few weeks, the thoughts in my mind kept going back to last month's article, "The Wonder of it All", so on the heels of that essay, I decided to carry these reflections forward with, "It Took a Miracle".

"My Father is omnipotent!!!" Omnipotent, having absolute, unlimited power or authority, sovereign, almighty **Omniscient**, infinite, boundless, superior, pre-eminent, all knowing, almighty. **Omnipresent**, being present all over, or in existence everywhere at once, ubiquitous, and again, almighty.

"It took a miracle to put the stars in place; It took a miracle to hang the world in space." The dictionary defines "*miracle*" to be a divine manifestation, a revelation, a supernatural occurrence, something that can't be explained by the intrinsic laws of nature, a wonder a marvel. The Creator, God, I might add, also sustains and keeps that which He has made, in faultless order, in perfect harmony and balance.

The song goes on to say, ***But when He saved my soul, cleansed and made me whole It took a miracle of love and grace."***

Behold, the wondrous mercy of God!! Behold, His marvelous, and extraordinary grace!! Behold, His magnificent salvation!! The Sovereign One of the universe cares for you, and He cares for me individually, and has a unique purpose for each and every one of His children (Psalm 139). *"If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new"* (2 Cor. 5:17).

The more one learns about creation, the more it becomes "jaw dropping" and "mind boggling" and never ceases to amaze. Digging deeper, realizing and understanding that the same God who created this universe, and all that it contains, is the One who commended His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8). Christ died for me. Christ died for you, dear believers. Jesus Christ willingly took my place and yours, on that cruel cross, shed His perfect, precious blood, and paid the required price, so that we could share in the glories of heaven forever for eternity.



9/11 God & Country Service

7 PM @ Cub Hill Bible Presbyterian Church

2927 Cub Hill Road

Baltimore, MD 21234

(will move indoors in event of bad weather)

Featuring:

[Keynote Speaker: Mr. William Federer](#)

Also Featuring:

Michael Peroutka—Institute on the Constitution

Rabbi Neal Surasky—Chosen People Ministries

Delegate Ric Metzgar—6th District Representative

... and special music



Join us for this special anniversary event of 9/11/01.

Free For All Ages!

Check us out on Facebook for all the details!

Our mission through the broadcast of In Defense of Truth and the publication of The Defender newsletter is to earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints (Jude 3). Our vision today is just as strong as it was back in 1963 when Dr. John Dekker began this outreach. We pray that you will continue to stand with us as we hold true to God's holy Word.

The Defender is available, free of charge, on audio CD.
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Listen also to IDOT's "Moment of Truth"

airing Monday through Friday during morning drive time
on WCBM AM 680 in Baltimore.

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WRITE TO US!

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Upcoming Events!

If you are in or around the Baltimore area, we'd love to have you join us for these upcoming events!

Adult Sunday School	10:15 AM
Sunday Morning Worship	11:00 AM
Tuesday Bible Study	1:30 PM
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 PM
9/11 God & Country Service (Sept. 11th)	7:00 PM