

History in the RE Making:

Woe *Looking Back on “9/11”* to Israel, Moab, Philistia, Assyria, Tyre, Edom, Egypt, Babylon, Sidon, The United States...

No, the Bible does not *specifically* refer to the United States; but if history is a teacher, and if God is the same yesterday, today, and forever, then perhaps we would do well to learn from the past. Someone once said: “Those who do not learn from history’s mistakes are bound to repeat them.” History’s mistakes? Like a prophesy being given about a nation’s judgement and demise because of its reprehensible characteristics—and that prophesy being ignored, thus subsequently fulfilled?

And just what *were* those reprehensible characteristics that brought about those nations’ demise? The Old Testament Prophets, such as Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Amos, Obadiah, Zephaniah, and Haggai make it quite clear: injustice, idolatry, unrepentance, oppression, profanation, perversion... *Sound familiar?* Habakkuk refers to Babylon, and Nahum refers to Nineveh, concerning their respective sins and consequential doom, in such alarming coincidental parallel to nations in our world today, that it is, to say the least, quite unsettling.

Biblical prophesy is a difficult subject. For most laymen, prophetic accounts are esoteric and arcane passages that tend to confuse more than elucidate. Other than the prophetic accounts of the Old Testament’s minor and major Prophets, as well as John’s apocalyptic and eschatological account found in Revelation, the Bible, for the most part, can be enjoyed with a certain sense of straightforwardness. The Creation account; the historical accounts of Israel’s inception and unique relationship with God; the wisdom literature of Solomon; the poetry of the Psalms; the synoptic gospels giving an account of Jesus’ life and teachings; and the writings of Jesus’ disciples that promulgated what He taught, are all insightful and instructional. But when the prophetic accounts come into the picture, all kinds of unfamiliarity shrouds the natural understanding of the average reader.

Does the Holy Spirit give *just anyone* the ability to decipher and have a meaningful understanding of these complex prophetic accounts? The present writer, for one, has read these various accounts numerous times; and as of the date of this writing, the meaning of most of these prophetic

accounts remain an enigma to him. Some folks seem to believe that they have the world’s entire future all laid out in perfect systematic continuity since they have such a firm grasp of these prophetic accounts! Personally, the present writer believes that, at best, these prophetic accounts are adumbrational glimpses of certain truths that God desires to reveal to particular members of humanity to convey things that He wants them to know, *providentially giving them the ability to understand.*

Thus, the present writer believes that, although there may be unsettling parallels between ancient nations and nations of today, we would do well to *learn from the parallels* rather than try to infer a *direct and divinely intended reference to present-day circumstances.*

With that being said, what *are* some of these unsettling parallels?

“Even if Babylon *reaches the sky and fortifies her lofty stronghold*, I will send destroyers against her” (Jeremiah 51:53 NIV; my emphasis). The twin 110-story World Trade Center towers certainly match “...reaches the sky”; and the “...lofty stronghold,” can easily be paralleled to the Pentagon which headquarters and represents the United States’ military might. And who wouldn’t describe the terrorist attackers as “destroyers”?

Again, in Isaiah (Ch. 14) and Ezekiel (Ch. 28), we find intriguing parallels (which are also thought to be, by some, parallels of Satan’s fall: certainly an uncomfortable complex parallel): “In the pride of your heart you say ‘I am a god’... you have gained wealth for yourself...I am going to bring foreigners against you, the most ruthless of nations; they will *draw their swords against your beauty of wisdom and pierce your shining splendour*...They will bring you down to the pit, and you will die a violent death...then will you say, ‘I am a god’?” (Ezekiel 28:2ff. NIV; my emphasis).

Hello! Of course you can see how this passage is riddled with bristling parallels to how much of the international community has characterized the arrogance of the United States! This is not good!

What impact did “9/11” truly have upon this nation? Does this nation suffer from the ills of ancient nations that God dealt with in stern justice? And who is it *exactly* that will “die a violent death”? Be careful that you don’t let anthropomorphism deceive you! When a *nation* suffers, that nation is the *people that inhabit it and comprise it*. That means you and me! If people are not impacted by events in their lives that clearly encourage them to fear God and reconsider their lives before Him, then they are *directly-involved recipients* of a *nation* that will receive its just retribution!

So, let’s bring this whole question of accountability down to size; down to the personal level; down to personal terms: ***What will the LORD have you to do*** in light of the warnings that you received from “9/11”? It’s your move... JRG 2002