



The Prophetic Concerns of the Students of God's Word

*¹Oh, **rebellious children**, says the LORD, **who carry out a plan, but not mine; who make an alliance, but against my will, adding sin to sin**; ²*who set out to go down to Egypt **without asking for my counsel**, to take refuge in the protection of Pharaoh, and to seek shelter in the shadow of Egypt;**

— *Isaiah 30:1-2*

*The Egyptians are human, and not God; their horses are flesh, and not spirit. **When the LORD stretches out his hand, the helper will stumble, and the one helped will fall, and they will all perish together.***

— *Isaiah 31:3*

I am not a prophet, I have not received a dream from the Lord, I am not attempting to form my own cult. I guess the final caveats are that I'm not usually the purveyor of a doomsday message or overtly political in public. But as devastating and debilitating the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have been, there is something that has been looming larger and larger on our horizon which appears to be the inevitable prophetic trigger for something that will in all likelihood make us soon forget this worst of years. It is not mainstream news but it has experienced enough coverage to focus the attention of the prophetically astute.

It has not only been at the top of the list among small but rarely publicized Christian circles, but in the mainstream Israeli press itself there has been the oft-publicized realization that during the Donald Trump presidency, which has been very favorable in most areas where Israel is concerned, the fulfillment of Ezekiel 38-39 where a coalition led by Russia, Iran, and Turkey conducts a Middle Eastern war through the geographic vicinity of Syria, has been flickering and spurting toward full ignition. And because of the already stated complete inevitable turnaround of the new, incoming administration, it seems unavoidable that this is the opportunity those antagonists of Israel have been seeking, the final launch of that seminal prophetic event.

In the wake of the unified kingdom under David and Solomon, there are several times when Israel attempted to effectively replace their covenant with God by seeking an earthly treaty of protection from another nation, one of those instances recorded in Isaiah above. In the ancient world, when a political treaty was formed, it included an obligation to consider and even worship the other party's false god(s). Because of this, Israel was not just prohibited from making such alliances but was instead provided an exclusive treaty in what we call the book of Deuteronomy which eerily follows the exact, same format as a Suzerain treaty of the ancient world. They were never to make a treaty with another nation because they have a binding treaty with God alone. But that is exactly what the modern-reconstituted nation-state of Israel has done from its very beginning in

"Is This the Greatest Prophetic Fulfillment of Our Time?", Page 1 of 3

1948. Their main reliance for nearly 70 years has been on the United States in nearly every arena of politics, economy, military and so forth. And that is coming to a biblically predicted conclusion, a dreadful remedy to return to them to a right relationship with God.

No, I'm not criticizing U. S. involvement in Israel. We all know very well that God blesses those who bless Israel and curses those who curse Israel. (Gen. 12:3) I am pointing out a side-effect where Israel itself is concerned, that it has come to depend on an earthly entity, and as we all know, all it takes is one election to completely change a government's mind. This January, an inauguration will take place which will, in a single day, initiate a profound change in status from long-time ally to becoming a foe and main roadblock to peace in the Middle East. Their hostile neighbors will become more important to America than Israel. The leadership of Russia, Turkey and Iran will not be blind to the vacuum they are eager to fill, never realizing they are the fulfillment of Ezekiel's Gog and Magog scenario crucial to the final transition to Daniel's final week of years. Do not be fooled by the new President's claims to the contrary; he will cut off as much political, financial and military support as possible as no previous administration. As an ex-military intelligence analyst I can assure you that completely independent, non-God fearing political watch dogs have been anticipating this for some time. It's a shame when non-believers see something most believers do not. They see something inevitable without the need to consult God's Word.

Small-scale fighting has been taking place in and around Syria and escalating these past 2-3 years. It is a regular topic of coverage in the Israeli press accompanied by editorials stating it is so inevitable that Israel should make the first move. U. S. forces on a limited scale, but military hardware on a grander scale, have been involved to such a degree that their withdrawal will make an astounding and immediate difference in the plans and aims of both sides. The Gog and Magog coalition will see this as their opportunity for success. And why will this conflict not repeat the previous miraculous victories of the recent past? There is going to be a divine price to be paid for both Israel and the U. S. in the character of what God stated in Isaiah above. Perhaps it was different in the past, but at present neither is in a right relationship with the One True God and both will necessarily fall.

As I have mentioned many times before for at least a couple of decades now, this particular biblical scenario needs careful watching because it is a staple of teaching where the Messiah is concerned within both modern Judaism and Islam. Many rabbis claiming divine, prophetic revelation have eagerly predicted an imminent fulfillment of a Talmudic teaching that in the course of Gog and Magog the Messiah will come, and Islamic scholars have been just as zealous to pronounce it will conduct the way for their messiah, the Mahdi. Both of these religions have a built-in predisposition for accepting the Antichrist who can then be all things to all people and the same event can accomplish spiritual slavery for both sides at the same time.

To many of us it is obvious that it is Gog, the leader of Magog, who is called the King of the North in Daniel 11. He will obviously replay some of the text leading up to 11:36 which has enjoyed a partial historical fulfillment in the Seleucid figure of Antiochus Epiphanes IV, but this final figure will fulfill all that has been reserved for the final Antichrist alone to the end of the chapter.

*¹In the first year of Darius son of Ahasuerus, by birth a Mede, who became king over the realm of the Chaldeans— ²in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, **perceived in the books the***

["Is This the Greatest Prophetic Fulfillment of Our Time?", Page 2 of 3](#)

number of years that, according to the word of the LORD to the prophet Jeremiah, must be fulfilled for the devastation of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years.

— Daniel 9:1-2

Daniel did not receive a dream or special divine revelation, but simply took the Lord at His already given Word. It was plainly stated and recorded in Jeremiah and by faith we know that God is incapable of going back on or altering His already given Word.

Daniel observed that the 70 years of the Babylonian Captivity was coming to a foreseeable end, and without even asking, God provided to us through Daniel the plan for the seventy **weeks** of years. We are the generation who is supposed to recognize that based on the fulfillment of God's Word alone, the 70 weeks are coming an end. Daniel 9 is a perfect model of how the End Times Christian should behave when recognizing the imminent fulfillment of God's prophetic Word: prayer, fasting, and even mourning so as to intercede for the spiritual preparedness of the Bride of Christ.

This small-scale dress rehearsal involving the COVID-19 pandemic has shown how little effort it took to close down churches, disband even small Christian gatherings, and set legal and political precedent for a larger shut-down prophetically anticipated to come. If our faith was shaken by a medical mask and social distancing, how will we navigate the global scale of apostasy already ramping up in much the same way as what is presently taking place in Syria?

This is not a fire and brimstone message. This is asking the tough question whether we are ready or not to meet the return of Christ per the final parables He gave in the Olivet Discourse. Perhaps we need to reevaluate what is truly important and seek not just our own repentance and return to God's Word, but intercede for every church-goer who still remains affiliated with Christ.

In Him,

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