



Prophetic Observer

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Keeping Time On God's Prophetic Clock

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Where Is the United States in Bible Prophecy?

by James Collins

Where is the United States in Bible Prophecy? I am often asked this question. If you are a patriotic American like me, then it is only natural to speculate about the future of our nation. I grew up in a country where we stood up each morning in school and recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the



American flag. At little league ballgames, we proudly rose with reverence during the playing of the “Star-Spangled Banner.” Before I could shave, I enlisted in the United States Army where I served for over twenty-eight years. During my time in the military, I deployed to combat on multiple occasions. I often held the hand of an American soldier as he took his last breath. As an Army chaplain, I officiated over four hundred military funerals. Over four hundred times in my life, I stood before a flag-draped coffin and offered words of comfort to a hurting, grieving family. If the Lord carries, when I die, my casket will also be covered with an American flag. I love the United States.

However, the America that I grew up in is no more. We live in a time of decline in our culture. The problem is not simply that individual people are godless. It goes much deeper than that. Our leaders themselves are committed to godless policies and Christless activities. Murder, rape, pillage, and various other forms of utter dishonesty are practiced in the name of government today.

As the United States declines, I cannot help but remember the great nations that once were, and now amount to very little. There was the nation of Babylon, of which the prophet Daniel spoke to Nebuchadnezzar, and said, “Thou art this head of gold.” (Dan. 2:38). Where is Babylon today? Buried

beneath the sands of Iraq. There was the Media-Persian empire, which conquered Babylon. Where is it now? Gone. There was the Grecian-Macedonian empire, which grew under Alexander the Great. What happened to Alexander’s empire? Very quickly, it dissipated and came apart. What about the Romans? Rome ran the world, once upon a time. Nevertheless, all historians who write about ancient Rome talk about how decadence and gross immorality entered at the highest levels. Raving homosexuals ran the country until Rome was nibbled to death and finally conquered by the barbarians who surrounded it.

The Holy Roman Empire is gone. The Turks once ran the entire Middle East. What happened to France since Napoleon? And what about Spain? Spain was once a most significant nation. Now it is nearly irrelevant. Britain, that empire which used to go around the world, is virtually gone. Even the United States of America should be looked upon with great concern by decent, culturally-oriented people. We are in a state of decline.

Many brilliant theologians believe the United States (and specifically New York City) is Babylon the Great as referred to in Revelation 17–18. Considering the wickedness described in those chapters and the current state of wickedness in our nation, I can see why scholars see a parallel between Babylon and America. However, there is much debate as to whether this Babylon is New York City, Rome, or a literal rebuilt Babylon. For what it's worth, I think that the Babylon of Revelation 17–18 refers to the demonic religious system of the False Prophet and the economic system of the Antichrist because her octopus-like arms reach far beyond any single city. Certainly, the United States would be included as part of the Antichrist's one-world "Babylonian" system. Nonetheless, I believe that Revelation 17–18 refer to a literal, rebuilt city of Babylon in modern-day Iraq. Six times in Revelation the Antichrist's last-days capitol is called Babylon (Rev. 14:8; 16:19; 17:5; 18:2, 10, 21). While it is possible that Babylon is a code name for New York City, nothing in the text indicates that it is to be taken symbolically. So, it is best to take it as a reference to literal Babylon.

There are people who believe the future method of escape for the Jewish remnant in Israel as described in Revelation 12 is a reference to the United States. The Bible says that the Jews will fly into their wilderness hiding place on the "wings of a great eagle." Since the symbol of the United States is the eagle, some see this verse as referring to America. However, the Bible is its own best interpreter. The phrase "wings of an eagle" describes how God brought the Israelites out of Egypt (see Exod. 19:4; Deut. 32:11). God is the eagle, not the United States.

Another passage of Scripture that is often said to be a reference to the United States is Isaiah 18. This chapter describes a powerful nation whose land is divided by a great river. Since the United States is divided from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico by the Mississippi River, some believe the nation in Isaiah 18 must be the United States. However, Isaiah 18 fits into a longer section, chapters 18 through 20, that is one connected prophecy dealing with the ancient nations of Cush and Egypt. The river referred to is undoubtedly the Nile.

So, where is the United States in Bible prophecy? The answer is the Bible contains no specific prophetic mentions of America. Still, we are covered by general prophecies that relate to all nations, but beyond that, our end-time destiny is a matter of speculation. General prophecies that apply to the United States include those that predict all nations will be blessed through Israel (Gen. 18:18; 22:18), all nations will come against Israel over control of Jerusalem (Zech. 12:3), all

nations will be judged (Isa. 34:2–3), and all nations will cease to exist except for Israel (Jer. 30:11; 46:28).

I believe that the United States is not mentioned in Bible prophecy for two reasons. First, America is no longer a superpower at the end of this age because of our moral and spiritual deterioration. Second, I believe the United States will be powerless after the Rapture. If the Rapture happened today, America would be devastated because, despite all our moral failings, the United States still has more Christians than any other nation in the world. When the Lord removes all believers in the Rapture, chaos will ensue in this country. America will be left too weak to be a player in the international end-time scene.

Nevertheless, I still believe there is hope for the United States in these last days. The Bible says, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord" (Ps. 33:12). There is not a one of us who has not sung at some time or other, "God bless America, land that I love." Yet, we have come to a place where America is at a crossroads; the choices that we make today will have so much to do with the days to come.

The decline of the United States will not be solved by some politician. The answer is not in the White House or the State House. The answer is in the church house and in your house. There must be a new heart, a new spiritual content, a new sense of purpose built into the life of our nation. We must have spiritual revival. If America is going to be great again, it will be because of a final revival before the Rapture. The only hope for a culture which finds itself in the midst of circumstances such as these is Jesus Christ.

Recently, Billy Crone spoke about revival. He said, "It starts with us. If you want the darkness to go away, shine the light. You go into a dark room, you want to get rid of it, how do you dispel the darkness? You go over to the wall and you what? Flip on the light. And it is time for the Christians to stop condoning the darkness. It's time for us to get back to God's truth, shine the light of His truth so that the darkness can be dispelled so revival can take place."

Wouldn't it be awesome if God gives us one final revival before the end of this age? God placed you and I here at this pivotal time in history for a purpose. National revival begins with personal revival when we look in the mirror, repent, and turn toward God. Then we need to push back against the evil that is in this country, get busy sharing the gospel, live a godly life, and look for the blessed hope and appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ (Titus 2:13).

Who knows? Maybe God will bless America again. Perhaps the United States' last days can be our best days.

Loving the Way Jesus Loved

Pastor Larry Spargimino, Ph.D

“Jesus beholding him loved him”

—Mark 10:21

The Bible has the amazing ability to help people who are walking with Jesus to walk a little closer to Him. I am sure most of my readers know what I am talking about. You are walking with Jesus but you are not completely satisfied. You certainly don't blame the Lord. You need renewal. How does the Word of God function in this kind of a situation?

Second Timothy 3:16–17 tells us that the Bible has been given by divine inspiration. It is literally “God-breathed”—*theopneustos*—“inspired.” That doesn't mean that the Bible is inspiring—though it is. But the point of this scripture is that the Word of God is “profitable” because it is the very breath of God. In His goodness God has given us His Word and that Word is “profitable ... for reproof, for correction. ...” It helps us fine-tune our thinking and living.

God's Word is profitable for those who are on-course, but perhaps drifting off-course, and need to make correction—which is a valid need for every Christian, even the most faithful and the most mature. In fact, the most faithful and mature would be the first to admit “I need to rethink this issue.”

Many Christians felt that 2020 was the worst year they can remember. Many are suffering from “election burnout,” which has left them feeling betrayed by candidates, misled by the media, and groaning from what they are sure was election fraud. But has all of the confusion and disappointment led us away from loving like Jesus loved? Has our zeal for righteousness led us far away from the example our Lord and Savior set for us?

This brings me to fundamental focus of this article: “Do I love the way Jesus loved?” “Do I need a course correction?” “Has my animosity against radicals who are seeking to destroy everything I hold dear taken something from me that I must regain?”

In Mark 10:17–22 we read of the rich young ruler. He thought pretty highly of himself. He was not like the penitent publican who said “God be merciful to me a sinner” (Luke 18:13) and was commended by Jesus. The rich young ruler asked, “Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?” This man had a respectful attitude. He ran to Jesus and



he knelt before him. He also addressed Jesus respectfully with the words “Good Master.” Immediately, however, Jesus stopped the man in his tracks. “Why callest thou me good? there is none good

but one, that is God.” Cultists like to use this statement to teach that Jesus was denying His deity. Not at all. This man had not yet confessed Jesus as God, so Jesus was responding to him on his level of understanding. The man did not need a theology lesson. He needed a change in his priorities and he needed to be humbled. The ruler doesn't have a clue. He asks, “What shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?” He thinks he is the master of his destiny. Just tell him what to do and he will do it. Then God will be in debt to him. God will owe him eternal life.

I want you to notice how Jesus handled the situation. He was painfully honest. In verse 21 we read: “One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.” Now this is not the way to be saved, but it is the way to be broken and humbled. Jesus was quite frank. He told the rich young ruler exactly what he needed to hear. However, let's not neglect the motive that moved Jesus in this interchange. At the beginning of verse 21 we read, “Then Jesus beholding him loved him.”

A Course Adjustment for the Conservative Movement?

It is obvious that we are living in times of severe intellectual and moral upheaval. Simple, basic logic seems to be a solitary stranger in the land. As a matter of fact, the statement “two plus two always equals four” is being contested. James Lindsay, a mathematics professor from Portland State University got into a Twitter war with a radical over the question: “Does two plus two always equal four?” One individual statement said, “‘two plus two always equals four’ is not an objective fact, but a cultural notion resulting from Western imperialism and colonization.”

As Christians walking in the footsteps of Jesus, what are we to do with people like this? Are we to hate them? Ignore them? Start a conversation by warning them they are going

to Hell?

Many Christians feel we are being pushed into a corner and losing the culture war. We are outraged because gay marriage is the law of the land. Abortion rights are considered healthcare. Prayer has been taken out of the schools. Some school districts are mandating that LGBTQ history is taught in elementary school. When we are motivated by fear and anger we become defensive. We clench our fists and get ready to fight. But it's hard to show love and even experience genuine love when you are defensive. Real love has to go on the offensive—as God did when He sent His Son. Being a Christian and knowing that the absence of biblical morality is causing our nation to implode doesn't give us the right to voice our Christian convictions with anger and venom in our voices. Fear and anger are not sustaining emotions for the Christian.

Let's be realistic. We have no guarantee that if we love people the way Jesus loved people they will follow Jesus and commit to Him. But persistent and tenacious love provides the best chance we have. We Christians must ask ourselves: Have we become so closely aligned with a particular party that we are more interested in winning an election and winning an argument than in loving the way Jesus loved?

As I read emails, articles, and conservative materials, it seems that too many Christians are living in fear. They believe that the ship of faith is sinking. "Should I surrender?" "Should I build a bunker and hide?" "Is it all over?" Such fear puts us in a protective mode. Such fear paralyzes, divides, and plants seeds of suspicion that quickly grow. Love requires vulnerability, but fear puts us in a defensive mode. That's exactly what happened to the Pharisees. They struggled to maintain their exalted status despite the Roman occupation. The more Jesus' popularity grew, the more defensive they became. Jesus' miracles and healings made them outraged. They were losing their authority.

What About Basic Christian Convictions

Loving the way Jesus loved doesn't mean we cast Christian convictions to the wind and forget there is a right and there is a wrong. Pastor Choco De Jesus grew up in Humboldt Park, a Puerto Rican community in Chicago. On June 4, 1977, vicious gang warfare erupted between the Latin Kings and the Spanish Cobras. When the police arrived, they opened fire. At the time, the department was almost entirely white. Choco grew up in a bad environment, but was saved and came to pastor New Life Covenant Church. Under his leadership it grew to a membership of 17,000. He tells his story in the book *Love*

Them Anyway: Finding Hope in a Divided World Gone Crazy (Charisma). He asks, "If you say you follow Jesus but are not loving like Him, then what's the point?"

Choco became very influential in the inner city. He had the opportunity to become alderman, but had a storm of opposition from the LGBTQ community. He invited their leaders to a meeting. For an hour, people asked questions. He was also bombarded with insults. Someone asked, "Would you be willing to change what's on your church's website about homosexuality?" The church's website states that homosexuality isn't God's design for marriage and, in fact, it's a sin. "No," Choco said, "we aren't going to change the website." Another asked, "Well, then, are you willing to make a public statement that you accept the freedom for people to choose a homosexual lifestyle?" Choco answered, "Everybody knows I don't accept the homosexual lifestyle, so it's already public."

At the end of the meeting, Choco told them plainly, without raising his voice (in the interviews I did with him he is very soft-spoken), "For thirty years, you have fought for tolerance. You've insisted that people accept your lifestyle as equally valid as traditional marriage, but tonight, you've been intolerant of me and my faith. You've called me a hypocrite, but tonight, you've been hypocritical" (pp. 127–131).

How Far Are You Willing To Be Stretched?

For those of us who have daughters, here is a challenging question, though the same principles are relevant for those who have sons. What do you do if your sixteen-year-old daughter gets pregnant out wedlock? Multiple choice:

- A. Beat up your daughter and lock her in a room for a month
- B. Shoot her boyfriend
- C. Blame your wife
- D. Love your daughter, keep channels of communication open, and seek a godly home for the baby soon to be born.

We must stand for righteousness as Jesus did. Never forget that. But we must love them anyway.

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