



Prophetic Observer

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Keeping Time On God's Prophetic Clock

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Afghanistan in Bible Prophecy

by James Collins

Like most Americans who were alive at the time, I will never forget September 11, 2001. As a young, enlisted soldier, I was outraged at the sights I saw on television. My anger deepened when the twin towers of the World Trade Center fell, the Pentagon was attacked, and Flight 93 went down in a Pennsylvania field. I wanted to fight – to defend my country against the evil aggression of radical Islam.

The events of 9/11 changed the direction of my life. Not long after, I was commissioned as a U.S. Army Chaplain. God's call to minister to our armed forces took me to countries and places that are not on most maps and the names of which I cannot pronounce. On those overseas deployments, I often held the hand of a soldier as he took his last breath.

My ministry stateside included death notifications. That means I had to put on my dress uniform and knock on some stranger's door and tell them that their son or daughter, husband or wife, dad or mom, was killed in combat. Many, many times, I was called upon to officiate military funerals and memorial ceremonies. Over 400 times, I stood before a flag-draped coffin and tried to bring words of comfort to a grieving family.

As a Combat Veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn, Operation Inherent Resolve, and Operation Enduring Freedom, I understand the price the Global War on Terror has cost the United States. It has cost us our brightest and our best. We have paid with the blood of our brave soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines. It was a cost we were all willing to pay for the country that we love.



However, like many of those I served with, I find myself stunned in disbelief by the recent events in Afghanistan. Where are we twenty years after 9/11? Isis is making a comeback in Iraq, and the Taliban control all of Afghanistan. In fact, the Taliban are even more powerful now than they were twenty years ago because of all the American weapons, vehicles, aircraft, and equipment that were left behind in Afghanistan.

America's swift and total abandonment of its U.S. Air Force in Kabul, Afghanistan, has even mainstream fake news media anchors confused. They

found it almost impossible to find the words to cover for the president's inability to form a cogent thought in answer to questions.

President Joe Biden stood before microphones on Wednesday, August 18, 2021, and ranted about how COVID vaccines would be mandated, with only a slight mention of the thousands of Americans left stranded in Afghanistan while the vicious Taliban horde moved to take over the country. Biden seemed oblivious to questions even from his friends in the fake news media. While Afghan women and girls as young as five years of age were being taken as sex slaves and the families of Afghanistan were being slaughtered, Biden seemed to have no idea about how to deal with what the American or Afghanistan military should do to handle the cut-and-run strategy his administration chose to employ.

Afghan women were seen literally tossing their little children across barbed-wire fences to American military personnel to get them out of the country on C-17 and other

aircraft that the U.S. Air force were trying to fly out of the Kabul airport in the panic to evacuate as many as possible.

Some of those flights saw men hanging from anything they could grasp while the planes lifted off. Some fell hundreds and even thousands of feet to their deaths. One aircraft had to make an emergency landing because the landing gear would not fully retract. That was because some men, trying desperately to flee the Taliban, had tried to hide in the massive landing-gear area to fly to safety. They were crushed to death, of course.

Then on August 26, 2021, more than 100 people were killed, including at least 13 U.S. service members and 90 Afghans, at the Kabul airport when two blasts ripped through crowds trying to enter the American-controlled facility. A suicide bomb attack at the airport's Abbey Gate was followed by an assault by gunmen that disrupted the final push of the U.S.-led evacuation effort. It was a tragic way to end our twenty-year involvement in Afghanistan.

With Afghanistan back in the news, people have been asking, "Does Afghanistan have a role in Bible prophecy?" The answer is: Yes, Afghanistan does have a role in Bible prophecy.

In Ezekiel 38, written over 2,600 years ago, the prophet Ezekiel prophesied that an alliance of nations will form in the last days, just before Christ returns, and that alliance will include Afghanistan. Actually, Ezekiel identifies the nations in this alliance as "Magog, Rosh, Meshech, Tubal, Persia, Cush, Put, Gomer, and Beth-togarmah." I don't blame you at all if none of these names make any sense. After all, these don't sound like the names of any nations on earth today. However, keep in mind that Ezekiel named the nations of this alliance as they were known in his day, and each one represents an identifiable nation currently in existence.

In fact, long before Russia became a world power, scholars identified Rosh as the nation of Russia and Gog as its ruler. And of course, right up until March 21, 1935, the world knew the nation of Iran as Persia – the same Persia referenced by Ezekiel. So, Persia is a clear reference to Iran.

Today, Bible scholars call these nations the Gog Magog Alliance. To help you understand this alliance, let me give you the name of the country in the time of Ezekiel and the country's name today. First, Rosh is Russia. Magog consists of the modern nations of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Afghanistan. Persia is Iran. Cush is Sudan. Put is the modern country of Libya. Meshech, Tubal, Gomer, and Beth-togarmah are in present-day Turkey.

In the history of the world, such an alliance of nations

has never existed. Yet today we see it coming together right in front of us. In the 2,600 years since Ezekiel recorded his prophecies, these nations have never been part of an alliance of any sort. That all changed in the late 1980s when Russia began allying herself with the Arab nations in the Middle East.

The Bible says in Ezekiel 38:8 that the Gog Magog alliance will form and come against Israel "in the latter days." The Hebrew word used in this passage to describe the latter days is "acharith," and it generally translates as the "after-part, latter part, or end." In other words, this alliance will form in the last days just before the return of Jesus Christ.

Ezekiel provided additional clues as to the timing of the Gog Magog attack against Israel. In Ezekiel 38:12, Russia's ruler (Gog) says to himself, "To take a spoil, and to take a prey; to turn thine hand upon the desolate places that are now inhabited, and upon the people that are gathered out of the nations, which have gotten cattle and goods, that dwell in the midst of the land." The ruler of Russia (Gog) will attack the land when it's filled with the exiles who return from among the nations. The target of this future invasion is the modern-day state of Israel.

God Himself confirms this when He says the invasion will occur after Israel had been "gathered out of many people" (Ezekiel 38:8). In Ezekiel 39:27, God says it will happen "When I have brought them again from the people, and gathered them out of their enemies' lands." This return home from among many nations has happened only once in all human history: The 1948 regathering of the Jewish people and the restoration of Israel in the Promised Land.

So, I believe the situation in Afghanistan is setting the stage for the Gog Magog war. With the United States leaving Afghanistan, Russia has already been making moves to strengthen its presence there. Today's headlines point to the fulfillment of the Ezekiel 38-39 prophecies soon, and those prophecies point to the fulfillment of all the Second Coming prophecies in short order.

Never have so many signs of the Second Coming been present, and never before has it been more important to share the Good News. So, make sure to tell everyone you know that Jesus is the only way, and He is coming soon.

As heartbroken as I am about the situation in Afghanistan, I still find myself hopeful about the things God is doing at the end of this age. I continue to pray for repentance and revival in the world while I also pray come quickly, Lord Jesus.

Maranatha!

Is America Under a Futility Curse?

Dozing Presidents, Woke Generals and an Out-of-Control Medical Bureaucracy

Pastor Larry Spargimino, Ph.D

Many are wondering if God has rightly abandoned America. Are we being justly abandoned by God because of our sins? Is the fact that America has been plagued with a variety of problems which seem to have no solution the result of God's activity? Are we under a futility curse?

God has given warnings about nations that flagrantly disregard His standards, especially a nation that has been richly favored by God, such as Israel. One of the penalties: Futility. "And I will set my face against you, and ye shall be slain before your enemies: they that hate you shall reign over you; and ye shall flee when none pursueth you. ... And your strength shall be spent in vain ..." (Lev. 26:17, 20).

We need to assess contemporary events in the light of Scripture. Romans 15:4 says: "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning ..." God's revelations to Israel can be instructive in helping God's people understand our world today. This should not be surprising. Second Timothy 3:16-17 tells us that all Scripture is inspired by God, and is "profitable."

George Washington's Prophecy and President Biden

Following the inauguration of Joe Biden as president, Jonathan Cahn gave a prophetic warning for Biden and America. Cahn began his 13-minute, on-camera video released on social media with the warning George Washington gave during his very first presidential address to the nation: "The propitious smiles of heaven cannot be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right that heaven itself has ordained." Indeed, how true. Thanks to a sleepy president and "woke" generals, the Taliban is now the fifth most technically-equipped military in the world. They are armed with U.S. equipment that should have been destroyed before we abandoned Afghanistan to unspeakable misery.

Biden's performance has been disappointing (I am being nice). America is now facing a loss of inalienable rights, runaway inflation, a wide-open southern border, shutting down a U.S. gas pipeline, forced vaccine mandates that can't be medically justified, a crusade for "transgender rights," not to mention the latest disaster in Afghanistan. Will our allies ever trust us again? They shouldn't with Biden as commander-in-chief. Little Taiwan is left shivering in the cold. The Chinese communist

behemoth to the west knows that it can trample Taiwan without any resistance from America, other than a presidential frown for good show.

In his prophetic warning, Cahn mentioned the slaughter of the unborn, and then gave a warning to Biden that even made me shudder: "To you, Mr. President, and all who have joined you in this agenda ... heed this warning. This day will pass. The applause of men will fade. This administration will inevitably be over. The world will pass away, but you will stand before God and give account. For it is written in His Word that we will each stand before God and give account."

Dr. Michael Brown, messianic scholar, social commentator, and revivalist, is always soft-spoken and non-abrasive, but even he wrote: "The story of almost 20 years of American involvement in Afghanistan has ended in unmitigated disaster. In fact, it would be difficult to imagine a worst-case scenario than the present one ("Ask Dr. Brown," 8/17/21).

How can we ever forget the images of people hoping to escape the country, swarming the runway, and some clinging to departing aircraft during takeoff—sometimes with such disastrous results that their bodies were seen falling from the sky as they evidently could no longer hang on as the plane ascended.

Why did this happen? The Taliban gave control of the airport to Biden, but he refused it. Airport security was put in the hands of the Islamists. At the writing of this column, there are still 24 Sacramento-area students trapped in Afghanistan after the U.S. military pulled out of the country in compliance with the demands of the Taliban. What? We caved in to the demands of the Taliban? Yep, sure did. Here's another shocker. The suicide bomber that murdered 13 of our troops, including one heroine, Johanny Rosario Pichardo, plus almost a hundred Afghans, was actually in the sights of an American drone ready to fire a missile to take out the killer, but the order to take out the target was never given. When you have leaders with no character and are bereft of even a glimmer of morality you will have a tragedy. Expect many more.

Former president Donald Trump said Biden's botched withdrawal from Afghanistan is the "single most embarrassing moment in the history of our country." President Biden, on the other hand, claims it was a great success. Do you believe Donald Trump or Joe Biden?

The Disgrace of Godlessness

Biblical futility curses bring shame and disgrace. “And I will break the pride of your power” ... (Lev. 26:19). A report in *The Epoch Times*, titled “Beijing Continues to Capitalize on U.S. Withdrawal from Afghanistan for Propaganda Campaign,” brings this out. The Taliban takeover provides fresh inspiration for Islamic radicals worldwide while at the same time providing a safe zone for terror cells that can launch attacks on Europe and America.

A recent sermon, titled “War on Islam,” and preached recently by Canadian imam Younus Kathrada at the Muslim Youth of Victoria Center sounds a note of victory: “Look at all the money spent by Jews and Christians to destroy Islam. Look at what the West tried to do for 20 years in Afghanistan. And now what has happened? Islam has overcome! Islam will overcome! As for the Jews and Christians, they are not our friends. We must stand with our brothers in Afghanistan and support Sharia Law! We say, Allahu Akbar!” Indeed, “Righteousness exalteth a nation: But sin is a reproach [“disgrace”] to any people” (Prov. 14:34).

The Covid Crisis

Suppose you have a loved one who was hospitalized two weeks ago with COVID. His condition has been getting progressively worse. Soon he will be put on a ventilator. It doesn't look good. You know of two people who were put on a ventilator and they expired. You tell the doctor that you know there is an alternative treatment that a group of doctors claim really works. It's called hydroxychloroquine, or HCQ. The doctor cuts you off before you can say another word. “It doesn't work. It has bad side effects,” he snaps back at you. “But doctor,” you plead, “my loved one is getting worse and you are not helping him. Please, doctor, give HCQ a try.” The doctor shakes his head and walks out.

Question: Would you be angry at the doctor? Even if there is only a one-in-ten chance that an alternate treatment would work, shouldn't the doctor give it a try? What's the doctor afraid of? The person might actually recover and the medical bureaucracy might get angry?

The death rate from COVID is soaring. Hospitals can't handle the increased number of patients. It's a disaster. Cities and states going into lockdowns. Businesses are closing. Families are suffering. Marriages are coming apart at the seams. Does somebody somewhere want this to happen? Could that be possible?

America's Frontline Doctors are a group of physicians who believe that the COVID crisis is being mishandled. They are a

small number of courageous physicians in the U.S. and around the world who put their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor on the line. They have been villainized, de-platformed because “they are spreading “false” information,” and have had their character and integrity maligned. They believe in treating COVID patients early using HCQ to prevent hospitalization, mechanical ventilation, and death. Dr. Keith Rose, MD, though not an official Frontline doctor, has been on our show. He says HCQ is highly effective, and anyone who says they don't work is either intellectually dishonest or have not used the medications correctly. Rose has treated 3,000 COVID patients—the oldest being 90 years of age—and has had 100% success. Rose claims that forcing masks on school children is “child abuse.” “There is no medical justification for it, and much science against it.”

Dr. Stella Immanuel, MD, who owns Rehoboth Medical Center in Houston, has treated 7,000 patients. Only eight died. In his book, *God and Cancel Culture: Stand Strong Before It's Too Late*, Steve Strang said that Immanuel found an article from several years ago that proved that hydroxychloroquine is a potent inhibitor of SARS-COVID. She calls HCQ a “cure.” “I can't understand why they want Americans to die when there's a cure,” Immanuel writes. She is from Africa and notes that when visitors come to sub-Saharan Africa they are advised to take antimalarial drugs, which is what HCQ is. “If you notice, most countries that are malaria-endemic that are taking those quine drugs, their COVID deaths are not that high,” commented Dr. Immanuel.

Some of the knee-jerk reactions can be traced to what has been called “the Trump Derangement Syndrome.” On May 18, 2020, President Trump endorsed HCQ and said he was taking it. When Donald Trump, Jr. tweeted a Frontline doctors' video, his Twitter account was restricted for sharing “content that may pose a risk to people's health.” All videos of America's Frontline Doctors were then stripped from Facebook and YouTube, and the organization's website was taken down. While most doctors in America want only the best for their patients, it is time to stand up and say “Enough is enough!”

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