

Who's Who in Prophecy

From Ronald L. Dart's Program Notes

As you study the Old Testament prophets, it will become clear that they are often speaking about the last days of man on the earth. Or perhaps, more accurately, the last days before the return of Christ and God's dramatic intervention in man's affairs. But as you read the prophets, they only seem to talk about ancient countries in the Middle East, Israel, Moab, Ammon, Egypt, Assyria, Babylon. As you read along, do you get the impression that the rest of the world doesn't matter? That the Middle East is the only place where anything important is happening on the world scene?

In fact, it seems that the most powerful force in the modern world, the English speaking people in general, and the United States in particular, are not even players at all. That is, unless we are overlooking something very important—biblical identity.

For a very long time, there were those who made the case that the United States and the British Commonwealth are actually the ethnic descendants of Ephraim and Manassah, the two sons of Joseph, the son of Israel. Even the British royal family have sometimes believed that they were the physical descendants of King David of Israel.

In its earlier forms, this theory was no more racist than society in general, but in later years it has become identified with movements that are flagrantly racist. The original appeal may have had a lot to do with a simple match between what Israel was supposed to look like in the latter days, and what modern nations matched that pattern. The match was close enough to allow a lot of credence to the theory.

So what are we to make of this? When the Bible speaks of an ancient people in a latter day context, how are we to take it? Obviously, we ought to be looking at the intent of the writer, but the man who wrote these prophecies down had no idea that his prophecies would be over 2500 years in their final fulfillment.

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We also have to ask: what was the intent of the Holy Spirit that moved men of old to write these things down? As I see it, the prophets seem to identify nations in at least five different ways. Probably the most obvious is geographically.

Let me give you an example. In Daniel 11, there is a comprehensive prophecy that begins in Daniel's day

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Why Plan Your Estate? . . .

If you don't have a plan for your estate, the government does. You've worked hard for the wealth you have accumulated, and you, not the government, should decide how your real and personal properties are divided. You may be like Ron and me with no children to leave your earthly possessions to. So what do you do? The tax advantage from good estate planning can also be sizable. Learn how your gift to CEM is one of the easiest ways to show your support for the values we represent, and to preserve those values for the future. Call 1-888-BIBLE-44 and ask for our *FREE* Estate Planning brochure that will provide you with valuable information you can only get from an attorney or tax advisor.

The Unraveling of the United States, Part 2

By Richard Glasgow

The week ending April 20, 2013, was not a good one for America. First came the terrorist bombing at the Boston Marathon finish line which took the lives of four unsuspecting innocents and seriously wounded or maimed almost 200 others. Later that week in West, Texas, a fertilizer plant caught fire, causing a massive explosion, leveling nearby homes and apartments. At this writing the body count is 14, but many more are still missing. Virtually everyone in this small Czechoslovakian community has been affected by the devastation. No one suspects terrorism in the West explosion, but people are still asking and wondering what's going on in our country, as nearly every week we experience some sort of disaster.

Last year I read Jonathan Cahn's best-selling book, *The Harbinger*, an intriguing novel based on a prophecy in Isaiah against ancient Israel. The prophecy is real and it's dual. It was written for the ancients and it was written for today. The amazing prophecy is accurately documented in historical records of our founding at George Washington's inauguration and is corroborated with recent documents since the terrorist attack on 9/11.

On Inauguration Day this past January, Cahn was invited to speak at President Obama's Prayer Breakfast. In his captivating speech, he reiterated the prophecy detailed in *The Harbinger*. His message is one every American needs to hear because it's a message from God, right out of the pages of Isaiah. It's available on YouTube for anyone who cares to see and hear it.

When people wonder what's going on in this country, they can know. But all too often the source of that essential information is neglected, minimized, marginalized, or rejected. There's a dire warning in Hosea 4:6: "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children."

That verse is applicable to everyone, regardless of nationality, because God is going to judge all nations. If prophecies are written and harbingers (warnings/signs) are given in the pages of the Bible, how will people know about them if they never crack open the book?

We've been blessed in this country to have a natural and supernatural hedge around us

providing protection from our enemies. But has that hedge now been lifted? You have to wonder. It may be stamped on our coinage that we trust in God; at one time, we really did trust in God. Now? Not so much! There was even a time when the Bible was used as a textbook in schools. Now it's not even allowed.

Our country is unraveling to be sure, but not because God is necessarily causing it to happen. He probably hasn't even had to touch his "smite" button. We and other countries around the world are unraveling because we're living the way we want—and our way causes destruction and calamity. That's not to say he's never going to "smite" us. At some point, horrific judgments are going to befall us.

God is just, and we will ultimately have to pay for our egregious national and personal sins. Could we, as a country, turn back to God, or is it too late for that?

There could be a spiritual revival. Even if there's not a national revival, there can be a revival in your family, in the church, among your circle of friends, and even in your community; but it will require vigilance, dedication, fasting, and much prayer. It could happen. . . but it has to start with you.

Calendar of Events

Feast of Tabernacles, September 18-26, 2013. Opening night service September 18 at 7:30 p.m. We want everyone to know you are welcome to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles in Hot Springs, Arkansas with us. CEM will host a festival which includes all worship, state-of-the-art YEA program for children and teens, educational and Christian living seminars for adults, and family-inclusive activities and opportunities you've come to expect at a CEM-sponsored Feast site. After much prayful consideration, CEM will not be sponsoring a festival site in Fort Walton Beach, Florida this year. We at CEM feel that we've been led to this decision for all the right reasons. The two most important are that Christ may be glorified and it gives CEM the opportunity to serve more of God's people.

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and continues all the way to the time of the end. It has been variously interpreted from time to time, but there is a fairly broad assumption that in the very last days, this will happen.

“And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over. He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon. He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape’ (Daniel 11:40-42).

Most readers would be inclined to think that this is a reference, not necessarily to ethnic Egyptians, but to the geographical plot of land that has been historically known as Egypt. The people who live in Egypt today seem dominantly Arab. They do not seem to be the original ethnic Egyptians.

The prophet does not use the same term for Edom, Moab and Ammon. In fact, he refers to the “Children of Ammon” which suggests an ethnic identification. But there is another, obvious distinction. Moab and Ammon were men. Egypt is not a man, but a country. Egypt looms large in the Old Testament prophets, because it played a huge role in Israel’s history.

This also seems to say that it is to play a rather large role in the end of history as well. There are over 200 references to Egypt in the prophets, many of them aimed at the last days.

So when you read of a nation in prophecy, you have to consider whether the Scripture is talking about the geographic designation of a piece of land.

The second possibility is that the prophecy is speaking of a people ethnically, even if they have migrated away from their original geographic location.

This becomes much more difficult. Take the prophecy we just read in Daniel 11:40-41. “And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over. He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon.” This sounds like an ethnic description—the children of Ammon. The prophecy, though, sounds like an invasion from the north that doesn’t cross the Jordan River.

Historically, Edom, Moab and Ammon were all given an inheritance by God across Jordan from Israel and to the south. Are those the same people? Ethnically, it is impossible to say. Perhaps God in his heaven has a genealogical computer that would put even the Mormons to shame, but lacking access to that, we really can’t be sure. It should be noted, however, that just because Alexander the Great came through the area, the whole area did not become ethnically Greek.

People still tend to marry their own people and stay within their families and culture. The people from Turkey to India speak Arabic and share the same religion, but even they know

they are not all the same people.

It may be that Edom, Moab and Ammon are still the same people that have always occupied the Transjordan. There is one prophecy that suggests it: “Moab hath been at ease from his youth, and he hath settled on his lees, and hath not been emptied from vessel to vessel, neither hath he gone into captivity: therefore his taste remained in him, and his scent is not changed” (Jeremiah 48:11).

But the spread of Islam by the Arab world, coming after centuries of wars and migrations across the land, have left the issue in doubt. Perhaps this is as it should be. It is frustrating to the would-be prophets who want to know what is going to happen and when. But the purpose of real prophets is to help us understand what is happening and why. There are many uncertainties in prophecy which would-be prophets pretend to erase, but they never quite make it. Perhaps the most important question to be asked about the ethnic identity of nations at the end time is who is Israel?

The problem with Israel is more difficult because they were all deported from their land and some of them never returned. What people often call the lost tribes of Israel are the ten tribes of the north that were carried away into Assyria long before the fall of Jerusalem.

The prophets said that they would be scattered among the heathen. That being the case, you wouldn’t expect to be able to trace them one by one and know where they all ended up. Nor would you expect to find them together someplace not knowing who they were. Unless, of course, God brought that about by some miracle.

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After all, he does have that giant genealogical computer. If Israelites in captivity had children by their captors, those children would be deemed Israelite by God if the father was Israelite.

“Again the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, thy brethren, even thy brethren, the men of thy kindred, and all the house of Israel wholly, are they unto whom the inhabitants of Jerusalem have said, Get you far from the LORD: unto us is this land given in possession” (Ezekiel 11:14-15). In Ezekiel’s terms, the house of Israel is a

reference to the ten northern tribes, who had gone into captivity before Ezekiel was born.

“Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Although I have cast them far off among the heathen, and although I have scattered them among the countries, yet will I be to them as a little sanctuary in the countries where they shall come. Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will even gather you from the people, and assemble you out of the countries where ye have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel. And they shall come thither, and they shall take away all the detestable things thereof and all the abominations

thereof from thence. And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh: That they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God” (Ezekiel 11:16-20).

Space does not permit a further explanation, but we have reason to believe God keeps track of all these things. Order this *FREE* CD titled, *Who's Who in Prophecy*, and learn the staggering truth that will enlighten you as never before. It's absolutely fascinating. You'll enjoy it.

Weekend Bible Study Makes Strides

by Paula Hughes

Ronald Dart began the Weekend Bible Study (WBS) programs in February 2008. Since then, hundreds of programs have been added to the archives. In April 2011, CEM began to feature guests hosts for the WBS. Richard Crow completed the Deuteronomy series that Mr. Dart began. Richard Glasgow made an in-depth study of the minor prophets. John Klassek, a native of Australia, gave us a revealing look at the Book of John. Dr. David Antion provided many messages, most recently exploring *The Weightier Matters of the Law*.

At the end of June the WBS featured guest host Lenny Cacchio on how Benjamin Franklin's religious beliefs changed during his lifetime, and the impact on the founding of the United States. Also in a patriotic/historical theme was his next message, *Seek the Welfare of the City*. This timely message explores what the Scriptures have to say to

Christians about participating in civil government.

CEM is very pleased to announce that beginning on July 5, 2013, we will once again feature Ronald Dart on the WBS. CEM has recovered and re-mastered the complete Epistles of Paul Bible Study series prepared by Ronald Dart in the 1980s. This particular study is one Ron is intimately familiar with, as he taught this as a college level course for several years. Join Ron Dart as he explains the Apostle Paul's letters to the first century churches.

Here at CEM, we hope you will join us as Ron begins this fascinating study. Access the WBS from our homepage at www.borntowin.net. Under the Audio tab, select "Weekend Bible Study." Listen to the current study each week any time after it posts on Friday afternoon. All archived studies, going back to 2008, are still available.



In Memory

CEM expresses deepest sympathy to Ron and Allie Dart as they mourn the death of Allie's last living aunt, Gertie Lacey, who would have been 100 years old in November. She was a delightful person who was like a mother to Allie and her siblings. She'll be greatly missed.

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*That the man of God may be
proficient and equipped
for every good work.*