

“Uncle Sam, Where Are You?” by Jon Ikin

It is said that Columbus discovered America. A lesser known fact, however, is that he also wrote a volume on eschatology called, “The Book of Prophecies”, published in 1501. How interesting that the man most closely associated with America’s beginnings was also interested in the end times! Yet that very connection, of America and prophecy, is one that puzzles many Bible scholars to this day. *Just where is America in prophecy? And what does the Bible say about her future?* As prophecy expert Tim La Haye has written, *“One of the hardest things for American prophecy students to accept is that the United States is not clearly mentioned in Bible prophecy, yet our nation is the only superpower in the world today.”* It seems a puzzling mystery.

So why should we care?

This is not a subject which interests everyone, but it should. In fact, it should be of intense interest to all believers around the world, not just Americans. Let me give you four reasons why I believe this is true:

- 1. America contributes the most to world mission.** Nobody in the world supplies as much to the evangelistic cause as the American church. Over the last century they have provided 75% of missionaries and at least 75% of the financial support/material aid. In fact, since World War II there have been over 1,800 mission agencies set up and over 350,000 individual missionaries sent out from this one nation. If we are at all concerned about the Great Commission we should be concerned about America’s future.
- 2. America is the second home of Israel.** Consider this: there are more Jewish people living in the United States than in the land of Israel itself or any other individual nation today. In fact, they make up something like 3% of the total population of the USA. Those who claim to love Israel should be very interested in the future of America. They provide a second home to many Jewish people and much of Israel’s military and financial support as well.
- 3. America is an Evangelical stronghold.** Whilst it is true that the United States exports more than its fair share of false teachers, it is also the home to some of the most faithful ministers of the Gospel too. Think of the men you know who are standing firm and are outspoken for the Word of God today. Are not many of them American? Many of us are seriously indebted to the teaching that we have received from American pastors and Bible teachers. If we want this to continue we should be concerned about the destiny of our trans-Atlantic neighbours.
- 4. America is the heartland of pre-millennialism.** There’s no escaping it: the number one country for Christians who believe and teach premillennial doctrine in our world today is America. The great names of prophecy literature are almost all American. Just scan your book shelf and see if it’s not true. Similarly, the few Bible colleges in

the world that actually teach their students the fundamentals of premillennial prophecy are nearly all American. If we care about the message of the Lord's return, we will surely be interested in the United States' future.

So you see, there are a number of good reasons why we should be interested in this subject and why we should pursue the question of America in Bible prophecy. But having said all that, we must be on guard against...

False Flag Identifications

Many Christians who are keen to discover America in prophecy have seen 'stars and stripes' in Bible passages when they are not really there. For instance, some have imagined that the reference in Isaiah 18:2 to "*a nation powerful and treading down, whose land the rivers divide*" is about North America - but it isn't. The chapter clearly says it is about Ethiopia (Cush) in its opening verse.

Similarly, Obadiah's reference to an eagle making its nest in the stars (Obadiah v4) has been interpreted as a reference to the American moon landings ("the eagle has landed") but again, it isn't. Whilst the message of Obadiah has great *application* to America, the verse itself is clearly about Edom (v1). There, they had rock cities high up on cliff faces where the eagles also made their nests, but there were no Apollo landings there!

Then in Matthew 21, the parable of the vineyard has been made to teach the Kingdom-transfer from Israel to America. "*Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it.*" (Matt.21:43). However, America wasn't a nation when the Lord Jesus spoke these words and most Bible teachers would say it is a reference to the Times of the Gentiles in general, not to one nation exclusively.

And finally, the reference to "*eagles wings*" in Revelation 12:14 has been made into a prophecy about the United States Air Force helping Israel escape from the Antichrist in the middle of the Tribulation. However, a simple cross reference with Exodus 19:4 will show that it is actually a comparison with the first exodus when the Lord brought Israel out of Egypt with great speed and divine help. Certainly the USAF were nowhere to be seen in the days of Moses!

All these cases of mistaken identity are 'false flags' on a very important subject. The only possible reference to America in Scripture is the reference to "*Tarshish, and all their young lions*" in Ezekiel 38:13, were, Tarshish is possibly Britain (known to the Phoenicians by this name), and 'the young lions' are the countries that have come out of her (ie, Canada, America, Australia, etc). Apart from that the Scriptures make no direct reference to America at all, much to the disappointment of some Bible students.

So where do we go from here?

At this point, most prophecy teachers begin to argue from silence rather than from Scripture. They make the point that if America is not mentioned specifically in the end times then something must have happened to her, and they begin to suggest various possible causes of her demise (nuclear war, etc). However, there is another way of viewing America's future in prophecy which is probably more helpful. That way is to consider her destiny in light of *general prophecies* which apply to all nations. If we do this, I believe we can gain some real traction on the subject and can foretell a number of definite outcomes. These are all the more vivid in light of the America we know today. Let's see what they are and how they can be applied:

1. America Will Be Conquered By Conspirators

The Bible makes it clear that in the last days there will be world leaders who are conspiring against the Lord and the true Gospel. Psalm 2 says, *"Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying, 'Let us break their bonds in pieces and cast away their cords from us.'" (Ps.2:1-3).* This psalm was applied to Pontius Pilate and Herod by the apostles (Acts 4:25-27), but that was only one level of its fulfilment. When we read Psalm 2 as a whole it is obvious that it is eschatological in content, stretching to the last days of the Last Days. In this period world leaders will conspire against the Lord and against the Gospel. Perhaps nowhere has this become more visible than in the case of the United States of America. Whilst other nations are open in their defiance of the Lord (eg, through atheistic Communism), America has struggled with conspiratorial groups from its earliest days, most particularly the Freemasons and their other aliases. According to Masonic historian, Manly P. Hall (33rd Degree), *"Not only were many of the founders of the United States government Masons, but they received aid from a secret and august body existing in Europe, which helped them to establish this country for a peculiar and particular purpose known only to the initiated few."* Apparently Hall believed that as many as 56 of the signing members of the Declaration of Independence were Masons. Their roots were in the secular Jamestown colony rather than the godly Pilgrim Fathers, and their influence has been widespread. Take Washington DC's architecture, for instance. You'll notice they didn't choose Christian symbols for their buildings, but occultic Egyptian ones. The Washington Monument is a case in point. This Memorial is clearly an Egyptian obelisk, and is 6,666 inches tall, with a 666 inch base. Coincidence? You decide. Or take the Great Seal on the back of the US dollar bill. Everyone knows that this is a Masonic symbol featuring the Great Pyramid and the eye of Horus looking through it's capstone. Around the sides in Latin are words to the effect of, *'Announcing the Conception of the New World Order'* (Novus Ordo Seclorum). An announcement in plain sight that something sinister is planned for America's future. We could go on, but really this conspiracy is an open secret. Little wonder Christianity is being gradually removed from every corner of public life. Powerful movements are even seeking to have the words, *"under God,"* removed from the Pledge of Allegiance. We wonder how long it will remain given that voluntary prayer has already been

removed from Public Schools, the Ten Commandments have been removed from courtroom walls, and the teaching of creation has been prohibited in some states. As the Bible says, *“evil men and imposters will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived,”* (2 Tim.3:13). Sadly, the day will come when these groups will be allowed to have their short day, and as the Lord Jesus said to His disciples, *“you will be hated by all nations because of Me”* (Matt.24:9). Sadly, *“all nations,”* includes America. The conspirators will be granted temporary success in the end times.

2. America Will Be Damaged By Debt.

James 5 tells us that in the last days there will be a financial meltdown like no other. *“Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you! Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have heaped up treasure in the last days.”* (v1-3). This ‘capital punishment’ from the Lord could come with the fall of Economic Babylon at the end of the Tribulation (Revelation 18) or even before. Whenever it happens the effects will be devastating. Even gold and silver, which normally hold their value, will be ‘corroded’ (probably a reference to losing their value, since gold doesn’t physically deteriorate). For America such financial Armageddon could mean that she is the first tree to fall in the coming financial storm. Her national debt is now measured in *trillions* of dollars. Think of that. Even the New York City debt clock has run out of digits. Some have suggested that she should change her name to the I.O.U.S.A! When she lost her triple-A rating President Obama tried reassuring people that, *“No matter what some agency may say, we always have been and always will be a triple-A country.”* But that is not true. People are losing faith in the dollar – especially China who are pushing to use a different currency (the Euro) as the international reserve currency. This could mean, *“Sundown on the Union,”* as Bob Dylan used to sing. Some writers have suggested that she might trade weapons technology for debt relief, but in reality she would probably need to give the whole shop in order to get out of trouble. If not now, certainly later it will be doomsday for the dollar. She will be seriously damaged by debt.

3. America Will Be Reduced By The Rapture.

The next anticipated event in Bible prophecy is the rapture of our Lord Jesus Christ where He will come in the air to take His church home to glory. *“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.”* (1 Thess.4:16-17). This world shaking event, which we believe to be before the seven year Tribulation period (1 Thess.1:10), will have an impact on every country that has received the Gospel, and especially America. As Charles Dyer has written, *“Can you imagine the effects on our country if over 28 million people – people in industry,*

government, the military, business, agriculture, education, and communications – disappear? That is approximately double the entire population of New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago, and Houston all rolled together!...America could not support an army in the Middle East because the military would be needed at home to control the chaos!”¹

Similarly, Dr David Jeremiah has added, *“This means that not only would the country lose a minimum of 25% of her population, but she would also lose the very best, the ‘salt’ and ‘light’ of the nation. Who can imagine the chaos in our country when all the godly people disappear...leaving only those who have rejected God? It is not a pretty picture.”²* Make no mistake about it, the rapture will reduce America’s population and spiritual temperature very quickly. Another certain event on her horizon.

4. America Will Be Absorbed By The Antichrist

The Bible tells us that when the Antichrist comes he will arise out of a revived Roman Empire and will establish a one world government under his own leadership. Daniel 7:23 says, *“...The fourth beast shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, which shall be different from all other kingdoms and shall devour the whole earth...”* The fourth beast in Daniel’s vision of Gentile empires is Rome, which will be revived in the last days. When it returns, it will be global in its impact. *“And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marvelled and followed the beast”* (Rev.13:2). In the Antichrist, the world is going to have a new Caesar and a final world empire. When this happens America will also be drawn in. She may be the main superpower now, but even the man in the White House will bow to the man on the white horse (Rev.6:2). In fact, the move towards globalism is already afoot for America. She is involved with most globalist organisations such as the Trilateral Commission, and The Council On Foreign Relations; she is signed up to the Kyoto Protocol as part of a global effort to tackle climate change; ever since the Gulf War she has had to make an appeal to the UN before taking military action (showing that the UN is now really in charge); and she has a “trans-Atlantic economic integration plan” signed by Bush, Merkel and Barroso in the Rose Garden of the White House. This plan is designed to eliminate barriers to trade. In George Bush’s own words, *“It is recognition that the closer the United States and the EU become, the better off our people become.”* Yes, America will be absorbed by the Antichrist and his world empire in the last days.

5. America Will Be Wrecked By Wrath

Following the rapture of the church there will be a seven year period of judgment called the Tribulation. This time of wrath which the Lord will pour out on our planet will be in response to man’s rebellion and sin. As Paul said to the Colossians, *“Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience.”* (Col.3:6) During this terrible time ‘the American dream’ will become ‘the American nightmare’. The land of the free and the home of the brave will be wrecked by the wrath of a holy God as the Seal, Trumpet and

Bowl judgments of Revelation are poured out. As Chinese Evangelical Dr Thomas Wang said in an open letter to President Obama, *“We have glaringly shaken our fist in defiance to the Almighty. We may be sure that He will take up the challenge.”*

6. America Will Be Claimed By Christ

Although the immediate future does not look encouraging for America, her ultimate end will be glorious and positive. The Lord Jesus Christ will return at the end of the Tribulation, defeat the Antichrist, and set up His Messianic Kingdom on the earth. Then the words of the seventh angel will be fulfilled: *“The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!”* (Revelation 11:15). All the different dominions of men, including America’s fifty two states, will be brought under the righteous rule of our great Saviour. He will put right all that is wrong, heal all that is broken, and restore all that the devil has taken. *“Jesus shall reign where’er the sun doth his successive journeys run...”* What a glorious day that will be for America. The West will finally be won. The Liberty Bell will ring out for real freedom as all men come under His glorious authority. The dream of the Pilgrim Fathers will be a greater reality than they ever imagined. America will be claimed by Christ.

Conclusion

In conclusion let us say that America may not have any *specific* prophecies in Scripture, but we certainly can plot her course using general ones. Let us be satisfied with what we can know and trust God for what we can’t. *“The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law”* (Deuteronomy 29:29). And above all, let us be prayerful for America even as we pray for our own country. So much depends on her in these critical days. If ‘blessing’ means true full-blown revival, then *God bless America*.

¹ Charles H. Dyer, *The Rise of Babylon*, p168

² David Jeremiah, *What in the World Is Going On?* p138

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