



The Trumpeter

Ezek 33:3 If when he seeth the sword come upon the land, he blow the trumpet, and warn the people;

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Economic Meltdown! What Does it Mean?

Some unfortunate but interesting and unprecedented days have come upon not just the USA but almost the whole world. As many of us have watched, many banks and businesses have lost economic footing, some faced with closing for good. Others settling for mergers with other companies or being bought by another. The teachers in the prophecy community have written various opinions about the prophetic importance of this historic development. Many calls and emails have come to the Lion of Judah office asking for my assessment. I have three observations.

1.) Israel: I think first and foremost we need to look at our political position concerning Israel. The United States, since 1991, has adopted a ludicrous position to pressure Israel to give land to the Palestinians to allow them to have their own state thinking this will accomplish peace in the Middle East. (By the way, a state was already established for this purpose in 1946 called Jordan).

This thinking is faulty in two ways. First, if peace would come between Israel and the Palestinians as a result of Israel giving them land, why didn't giving Gaza to the Palestinians in 1995 bring peace? Instead it has brought war and terrorism. Second, God has stated over and over in the Bible that He would bring the Jewish back to "their own land" in the last days. (See Ezekiel 34:13, Ezekiel 36:24, Ezekiel 37:14, Jeremiah 23:8, Jeremiah 42:12). He would bring them to "their own land", **not someone else's!** A question naturally arises: **How can God be in the process of restoring the Jewish people back to their own land while politicians force them to give it away?**

God has promised that He would retaliate against anyone engaged in the policy of "**dividing His land**" (Joel 3:2), or in this case, giving part of it away. The United States has been bullying Israel to give up land since 1991 and God has been making good on His promise that He would retaliate. He has been sending one natural disaster after another that directly corresponds. These disasters served as warnings but have not been heeded. This is because there has been a disconnect between God's warnings about His Land and our policies about the Land. The U.S. heads of State will not associate any natural disaster with a corresponding policy to force

Israel to give up more land. Hurricane Katrina, as an example, formed the same day the U.S. pressured Israel to ask the last Jewish family to give up their home in Gaza to the Palestinians. Coincidence? Not likely! (For details about the tracking of these disasters and how they correspond to U.S. policy to force Israel to give up land for the past eighteen years, see the book *Eye To Eye* by Bill Koenig). The United States has placed herself at odds with God in this issue!

The Obama Administration continues down this reckless path. Obama's Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, has boldly insisted that there will be a Palestinian State. Now God has gotten more serious with His warnings, He has touched our money. Borrowing more and bailing out more will not fix the problem. God is bigger than our piddly efforts to work around Him, even if we print money into the trillions! If the United States were to cease pressuring Israel to give up land, it is my belief that our economy would improve.

The land of Israel is a piece of real estate that has a covenant of God attached to it. God has stated that He would bless those who bless Israel (Genesis 27:29). God cannot tolerate the mishandling of His Land through either ignorance or arrogance. **We have no business meddling with it! We would do well to get our hands off of it!**

2.) Materialism: A spiritual disease of wanting more and more, and bigger, and more, and more, and bigger, and more, has infected our society for the past several decades or so! There is nothing wrong with having things as long as they can be afforded. We however have raised up a generation that believe we can just go into debt to have what we want, one that thinks we can borrow our way to prosperity. It is this thinking that is at the heart of our economic situation. Our lust for things that we cannot afford has become a huge problem! As a result, the U.S. national debt now stands at almost eleven trillion dollars. **DEBT** has caused the economic collapse!

3.) World Economy: This economic crisis has forced, more than ever, the international bankers to work together. They are cooperating, trying to find a way to get things back on track. We've realized through this crisis that the world's economies are now more dependent on each other than we were ever willing to admit. This is prophetically significant because the Bible claims that in the last days, a global economy will emerge. All the economies of the world will be linked together and will eventually be controlled by a politician from one worldwide government (Revelation 13:16-17). The present economic situation has brought us closer to that world economy as indicated in a Fox News story posted March 8, 2009. The headline reads, "U.S. to Push for Global Stimulus". "Global", is the key word here. A world economy is coming!

Bible Prophecy and the News

World's biggest banks to meet in London - AFP - March 7, 2009 - Chief executives of leading banks from Japan, Europe and the United States will meet in London to discuss regulation of the financial sector, according to a report. The British government will host the talks on March 24, ahead of an April summit of Group of 20 leaders, the Nikkei economic daily said, without naming sources.

Comment: The current economic problems has served to make the world bankers and financiers work more together on an international basis. Working on that global scale brings us much closer to prophesied world economy of Revelation 13. **The speed at which it is developing is stunning!**

FBI Probing 530 Corporate Fraud Cases - Associated Press - February 11, 2009 - The FBI is conducting more than 500 investigations of corporate fraud amid the financial meltdown. FBI Deputy Director John Pistole is describing the bureau's efforts to the Senate Judiciary Committee. Pistole says there are 530 active corporate fraud investigations, and 38 of them involve corporate fraud and financial institution matters directly related to the economic crisis.

Comment: As billions of dollars are poured into the failing economy, businesses, banks and insurance sectors, we find there are opportunists who love their own pleasure more than anything else and are spending the money on frivolity. One would think that respecting that the taxpayer's dollars and being grateful would be the normal response. Looking through the lens of Bible prophecy however, this selfishness is no surprise. II Timothy 3:1,2 & 13 declare that *"in the last days, perilous times will come. For men will be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy...But evil men and imposters will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived"*. This sums it up pretty well of where we are today!

Russia plans navy bases in Libya, Syria, Yemen - Reuters - January 17, 2009 - Russia has decided to establish naval bases in Libya, Syria and Yemen within a few years, Itar-Tass news agency quoted military officials as saying on Friday, in a sign of Moscow's growing foreign policy ambitions...Russian media reported that opening a naval base in the Libyan port of Benghazi was among the main issues discussed during Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi's visit to Moscow in October last year.

Comment: This is very important in the development of end-time prophecy! Ezekiel 38-39 speak of a day when Russia will come against Israel on the mountains of Israel. This would be the location of the Golan Heights. Lebanon and Syria are both nearby and Russia placing naval bases there make it much easier for Russia to place an army in the neighborhood of the nearby Golan Heights, the place where God has said in Ezekiel 38 that He will judge the combined armies of Russia, Iran, and others. That day draws closer. As stated in a previous *Trumpeter* article, the birds that God says He will use to eat the flesh of the dead soldiers of this evil army are already gathering.

Gay Portland Mayor Won't Resign Over Lying About Relationship With Teen - Associated Press - January 25, 2009 - The mayor of Portland, Ore., told city commissioners Sunday he will not resign despite calls for him to do so after he admitted he lied and asked a teenager to lie about their sexual relationship. Mayor Sam Adams publicly apologized this past week for lying early in his campaign about the relationship with an 18-year-old man in 2005.

Comment: Society continues to experience this steady infection of scandal and moral rot. What is possibly most surprising is the lack of shame that many of those who are discovered in scandals like these seem to display! However, God is not surprised. He stated that in the last days, men would proceed from bad to worse. (II Tim.3:13).

Disgraced pastor faces more gay sex accusations - Associated Press - January 25, 2009 - Disgraced evangelical leader Ted Haggard's former church disclosed Friday that the homosexual scandal that caused his downfall extends to a young male church volunteer who reported having a sexual relationship with Haggard, a revelation that comes as Haggard tries to repair his public image. Brady Boyd, who succeeded Haggard as senior pastor of the 10,000-member New Life Church in Colorado Springs, told The Associated Press that the man came forward to church officials in late 2006 shortly after a Denver male prostitute claimed to have had a three-year cash-for-sex relationship with Haggard.

Lutherans propose allowing gay pastors in committed relationships - February 20, 2009 - Tennessean.com - One of the nation's largest Protestant denominations would allow gay clergy in committed relationships to pastor local churches, under a new proposal from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Officially, all unmarried clergy in the 4.9 million-member denomination must remain celibate. But since 2007, Lutheran bishops have agreed not to discipline gay clergy who are sexually active.

Comment: A wave of homosexuality is sweeping the landscape! Jesus prophesied it in Luke 17:28. He compared the days just before His return to the days of Lot in which the practice of homosexuality was rampant (story in Genesis 19). The Ministry is one of the last places one would expect to find those practicing homosexuality! The ministers are to be calling people to be delivered not just from homosexuality, but from all sin. The Bible makes this plain in I Corinthians 6:9-11. It says there, *"Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God"*.

One last thought: The church should not condemn those who are caught up in sin of any kind, but while calling it "sin", should be prayerful and supportive, understanding the Devil's tempting power! Neither should the church consider it acceptable for someone to remain in a sin so named in the Bible. Also, the church cannot consider it acceptable for someone practicing a sin so named in the Bible to stay in leadership in the church.

Huge gas reserves discovered off Haifa - Jerusalem

Post - Jan. 18, 2009 - Three massive gas reservoirs have been discovered 80 kilometers off the Haifa coast, at the Tamar prospect, Noble Energy Inc. announced on Sunday. The Tamar-1 well, located in approximately 5,500 feet of water, was drilled to a total depth of 16,076 feet. The thickness and quality of the reservoirs found were greater than anticipated at the location. Charles D. Davidson, Noble Energy's chairman, president and CEO, said in an announcement that his company was "extremely excited by the results. This is one of the most significant prospects that we have ever tested and appears to be the largest discovery in the company's history." Speaking on Army Radio Sunday morning, an exhilarated Yitzhak Tshuva, owner of the Delek Group Ltd, one of the owners of the well, called the discovery "one of the biggest in the world," promising that the find would present a historic land mark in the economic independence of Israel. "I have no doubt that this is a holiday for the State of Israel. We will no longer be dependent [on foreign sources] for our gas, and will even export. We are dealing with inconceivably huge quantities; Israel now has a solution for the future generations," Tshuva added.

Comment: Welcome news, especially to Israel! No surprise to Bible prophecy students. God said that in the last days when Israel has come back to her land, God would send her the wealth of the nations. (See Isaiah 60:5 & 11). This will be ultimately fulfilled during the reign of Jesus on earth, but God has already started. Israel has a 188 billion dollar gross domestic product today, up from almost 100 billion in the year 2000. That's almost double in just nine years and all this being accomplished among hostile Arab neighbors against whom Israel must defend herself. Still, Israel is attracting more and more foreign investors with companies like Microsoft, and Nokia. Foreign investment in Israel went to 21.1 billion dollars in 2006, a 293% increase over 2004. This discovery of natural gas will surely bring even more investment to Israel! The presence of natural gas means that oil is close by and if oil is discovered in Israel, the Israeli economy will soar to new heights!

For recent oil exploration in Israel see <http://www.zionoil.com/>

Jewish Birth Rate Rising - Israelnationalnews.com -

February 24, 2009 - The latest figures released by the Central Bureau of Statistics show that the number of Jewish births has increased by 45 percent in less than two decades, from 80,400 in 1995 to 117,000 in 2008...Demographer Yoram Ettinger said the statistics were cause for celebration among those who desire a strong Jewish majority in Israel.

Comment: Increasing the numbers among Jewish people after they come back to the Land is exactly what God said He would do. God declares in Ezekiel 36:8-11, "But you, Oh mountains of Israel, you will put forth your branches and bear your fruit for My people Israel; for they will soon come. *"For, behold, I am for you, and I will turn to you, and you will be cultivated and sown. "I will multiply men on you, all the house of Israel, all of it; and the cities will be inhabited and the waste places will be rebuilt. "I will multiply on you man and beast; and they will increase and be fruitful; and I will cause you to be inhabited as you were formerly and will treat you better than at the first. Thus you will know that I am the Lord".*

Famous Quote:

"About the time of the end, a body of men will be raised up who will turn their attention to the prophecies of the Bible, and insist on their literal interpretation in the midst of much clamor and opposition." Sir Isaac Newton (AD 1643 - 1727)

United Methodist group observes 'catastrophe'

of Israel - OneNewsNow - February 6, 2009 - The United Methodist headquarters in Washington, DC, is hosting a month-long exhibit that portrays the founding of Israel as a catastrophe. The display, which is titled "60 Years of Dispossession," chronicles what Palestinians call the "Nakba" -- the Palestinian word for "catastrophe." Palestinians use the word to describe Israel's founding, an event that is reviled in the Arab world.

Comment: The United Methodist Church has **placed herself at odds with God on this issue!** God has stated over and over in the Scriptures that He would bring the Jewish people from the lands where they were scattered and bring them into their "own land". See Jeremiah 16:15, Ezekiel 34:13, Ezekiel 37:14, Ezekiel 39:28, to name a few. God has not brought the Jewish people to someone else's land! He has brought them to their "own land" as the above listed Scriptures declare. He delivered a stern warning in Joel 3:2 that He would discipline those who would divide His Land. Saying that Israel has no right to the Land of Israel is not a good place to be with God!

Mystery Roar Detected From Faraway Space -

Foxnews.com - January 09, 2009 - Space is typically thought of as a very quiet place. But one team of astronomers has found a strange cosmic noise that booms six times louder than expected. The roar is from the distant cosmos. Nobody knows what causes it...the newly detected signal, described here today at the 213th meeting of the American Astronomical Society, is far louder than astronomers expected. There is "something new and interesting going on in the universe," said Alan Kogut of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md.

Comment: A lion's roar? The Lion of the Tribe of Judah (Revelation 5:5) perhaps? There is no explanation so far, but to consider that it might be Jesus, the Lion of Judah, roaring from Heaven, preparing to show Himself, not as a baby from Bethlehem, but as a Lion, is very interesting!

Turkey's drift away from the West - Jerusalem Post

- Jan 14, 2009 - A decade ago, Western and Israeli leaders could count on Turkey as an ally. A solid NATO member, Ankara took decisions based on pragmatic calculations of interest - and erred on the side of caution if at all. But under the rule of the Islamic conservative AKP, this has changed...Indeed, Turkey's international behavior suggests that its attachment to the West is tenuous at best - and eroding...In the face of Hamas rockets, Israel could have expected more understanding from a country long suffering from aggressive PKK terrorism. The vehemence with which Turkish leaders attacked Israel, and their apparent willingness to convey Hamas' position to the United Nations, came as a surprise to many.

Comment: This is an understandable and predictable development. In Ezekiel 38:6, Beth-togarmah is listed as one of the allies that accompany Russia and Iran when they come against Israel. Many believe that Beth-togarmah is modern Turkey. With Russia and Iran both hostile to Israel and nearing the time that they will bring their armies against Israel, it is no surprise to see Turkey redevelop her animosity, as it was in the Turkish, Ottoman Empire, against Israel. She will pay a very high price for her hatred of Israel! She will be among those who God says He will feed to the birds. (Ezekiel 39:4 & 17).

Easter or Passover?

In most church traditions and in Western society as a whole today, Easter is associated with the resurrection of Christ. As I grew up, I along with almost everyone else, celebrated Easter, recognizing the beauty of the little Easter eggs, the cute little rabbits, the chocolate bunnies, special church services, the talk of new life, marked increase of church attendance, et cetera.

Just a few years ago, my curiosity arose when I suddenly started thinking, "What do rabbits and eggs have to do with the resurrection of Christ", and how did we acquire the word "Easter"? In my quest to learn the answer to this question, I started with the Bible. The only appearance of the word "Easter" that I could find in the major recognized Bible versions was in the King James version at Acts 12:4. This is a very unfortunate translation because the word "Easter" doesn't come close to the word "Passover", which is the accurate translation of the word "pascha" (Greek, for Passover) that is found there. A new question arose. Why did they substitute Easter in place of Passover?

Easter, according to Encarta Encyclopedia, was originally a pagan festival honoring *Eastre*, the Anglo-Saxon name of a Teutonic (Germanic) goddess of light, spring, and fertility. At the time of the vernal equinox, the day in the spring when day and night are of equal length, sacrifices were offered in her honor.

The council of Nicaea, a great meeting of ministers and scholars in 325 A.D., ruled that Easter should be celebrated throughout the Christian world. Perhaps Encarta's *Eastre*, was just another name for a goddess originating in Babylon. Her name was Ishtar. Her name appeared in different forms in every society in the ancient world. She was worshiped among the Babylonians, perhaps as early as 3500 B.C, as the Great Mother, the queen of Heaven, the queen of war, and the goddess of fertility. Why didn't the Council of Nicaea rule that the world should celebrate Passover, instead of Easter? Why did they rule that the world's most sacred event, the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ be remembered by using the name of a Babylonian fertility goddess?

Passover is the feast that observes the night before the Jews were allowed to leave Egypt. They were to paint their door posts with the blood of an unblemished lamb in order for the Lord to "pass over" them when taking the life of all the firstborn in Egypt (see Exodus 12:1-14). Jesus, on the very eve of His death, celebrated Passover, not Easter, with His disciples.

When God originally gave instructions for the Passover, He stated that it was to be a "*statute forever throughout your generations*" (Leviticus 23:14). Paul, the Apostle, states "*...Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed. Let us therefore celebrate the feast...*" (I Cor. 5: 7-8). The prophet Ezekiel indicates that during the coming time of Jesus reign on earth, "*In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month, you shall have the Passover...*" (Ezekiel 45:21). Even with Jesus present on earth, this great feast will still be observed every year as a memorial of what He accomplished as our Passover lamb. Jesus Christ, being the unblemished lamb of God, was the fulfillment of the Passover. He was crucified, buried, and was resurrected during this feast.

Passover and what it stands for, is the event we are to remember at this time of year! Celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ is a great honor the Lord has left in our care, but why should we do it using the name of a Babylonian fertility goddess? Jesus is more than the Easter Bunny! He is the Passover Lamb of God! As we continue to celebrate this great event, why don't we call it what it should have been called all along and what it will be called after Jesus returns, Passover?



Gary Fisher -
Founder/Director

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*Speaking Engagements -

- *Osterville Baptist Church-Osterville, Maryland March 15, 2009
 - *Passover Teaching and service - Victory Free Will Baptist Church Springfiled, TN - March 22nd, 2009-Call for reservation
 - *Passover Teaching and Service - Orchard Church - Franklin, TN - April 12, 2009 - 10:30 A.M. Please call for reservation.
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