

The Middle East In Prophecy
Wednesday February 25, 2015
Part Ten

AMERICA IN PROPHECY and THE RECKONINGS

1 One of the most oft-asked questions about Biblical prophecy is this: Where does the
2 United States of America come in? Are we involved?

3
4 Recently we had **Joel C. Rosenberg** with us. He often tells audiences that America is
5 not mentioned in Bible prophecy. His readers and listeners are surprised by his response.
6 His reasoning is this: *The Bible doesn't say what happens to us. But by the absence of*
7 *our being clearly defined in the text, it means something has happened. The question is*
8 *'what?' What will happen to us that will neutralize our ability or desire to be an*
9 *influential player in the last days of history before there turn of Jesus Christ?*

10
11 In one of his books, *Implosion: Can America Recover From Its Economic and*
Spiritual Challenges in Time?, Rosenberg outlines several potential scenarios he
believes could explain why the United States isn't mentioned in Bible prophecy: Our
nation, facing \$16 trillion in federal debt and \$120 trillion in total unfunded
obligations, could implode economically. Rosenberg continues, "Perhaps the U.S. is
hit by a surprise nuclear or military attack, blind-sided by a series of terrorist attacks
or devastated by an unprecedented spate of natural disasters. America could
suddenly lose tens of millions of people in the rapture, triggering any number of
cataclysmic events. Or it could be a combination of these events."

12
13 **Rabbi Jonathan Cahn**, whose best-seller, *The Harbinger*, believes the absence of any
14 clear reference to America in end-time prophecy is a warning of America's fall from its
15 position as head of nation.

16
17 **Jerry B. Jenkins**, co-author of the 16-volume *Left Behind* series observes, "We live in
18 scary times and people are curious about the future and interested in things beyond
19 themselves. As for the U.S. facing judgment or disaster, it seems we're in the middle of
20 it. Drought, fire, floods and tornadoes - these are not new, but they're worse than ever."

21
22 Jenkins' co-author **Tim LaHaye**, says the world is on the "verge of chaos, just as the

1 Bible predicted in the end times and many people are getting ready for something
2 catastrophic.” LaHaye added, “Israel is the super-sign. The Jews were scattered to
3 almost every country in the world for 1,900 years, and in the last 100 years they have been
4 brought back to their homeland. The whole world’s focus is on this super-sign that we
5 prophetic teachers have been talking about for 150 years, and now it’s gaining
6 momentum.”
7

Evangelist **Perry Stone**, founder of Voice of Evangelism, also believes that Israel and America are linked spiritually and prophetically. “America is almost a reflection of Israel,” wrote Perry. “Israel crossed the Red Sea to get to the Promised Land. Our founders crossed the sea to get to America. Israel and America were both divided between the North and the South. Israel had 13 tribes while America had 13 colonies. Based on those parallels, the same blessings promised to Israel are promised to America; but likewise the same curses Israel experienced for disobedience would also be experienced by America for not obeying God’s commands.

8 There are some who believe Scripture makes some “veiled” references to the United
9 States. In Ezekiel, the prophet wrote (38:13) about Tarshish and all her young lions.
10 Some believe this is a reference to England with her Royal Coast of Arms which includes
11 a lion. The United States, having come from England, would then be one of the “young
12 lions.” This is pretty far-fetched, it seems to me. I think it’s stretching in an effort to
13 make a questionable point.
14

15 **Franklin Graham** agrees that the Bible does not specifically mention the U.S., although
16 he has expressed concern about the nation’s “moral spiral downward,” noting that
17 President Obama’s support of same-sex marriage essentially amount to “shaking his fist
18 in God’s face.” Graham added, “Look at the spiritual decline of this nation and where
19 we are today. Unless we repent as a nation and reverse course, I think God is going to
20 bring quick and swift judgment on this nation.”
21

22 The late prophecy scholar and preacher **Grant R. Jeffrey** painted a rather bleak picture of
23 our nation’s future. In his book *Grant Jeffrey’s Final View of America* - p. 38 he argued
24 that America is being systematically plundered by international financiers and powerful
25 socialist forces both within the U.S. and overseas. “In a very short time, the United
26 States will be pushed to the sidelines of world events. All of this is taking place just
27 ahead of the emergence of the prophesied antichrist. Satan’s representative on earth will
28 consolidate his power and establish his dictatorship, first over the revived Roman Empire

1 and soon after that, over the entire world. And the American Empire, which rose to
2 power with the blessing of God, will be so weak that it won't play a notable part in the
3 culminating events of the last days.”
4

5 Last year, **Billy Graham** issued a letter calling America to repentance. “My heart aches
6 for America and its deceived people. The wonderful news is that our Lord is a God of
7 mercy, and He responds to repentance. In Jonah's day, Nineveh was the lone world
8 superpower-wealthy, unconcerned and self-centered. When the prophet Jonah finally
9 traveled to Nineveh and proclaimed God's warning, people heard and repented. I believe
10 the same thing can happen again, this time in our nation.”
11

12 It is my opinion that the Bible does not address where America fits into the last days
13 because America will no longer be that relevant. I emphasize, this is only my opinion
14 and God can certainly change that if He so chooses.
15

16 The Reckonings 17

18 “reckoning” – “the settlement of accounts, an accounting for things gone; a day of
reckoning” Webster

19
20 There are several “reckonings,” when mankind will answer to God. Among them, Paul's
21 warning of the “reckoning” for believers when we receive our rewards (according to our
22 works - I Corinthians 3). We cannot earn salvation for it is the gift of God; however, all
23 rewards **MUST** be earned. 1 Cor. 3:14 **If any man's work abide which he hath built**
24 **thereupon, he shall receive a reward.** Rewards are NOT automatic with salvation.
25

26 There will be the reckoning when the nations stand before God to answer for their
27 treatment of Jews and tribulation saints. Matthew 25:31-46 **When the Son of man**
28 **shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the**
29 **throne of his glory: [32] And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall**
30 **separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:**
31 **[33] And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. [34] Then**
32 **shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father,**
33 **inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: [35] For I**
34 **was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a**
35 **stranger, and ye took me in: [36] Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye**
36 **visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. [37] Then shall the righteous**
37 **answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty,**
38 **and gave thee drink? [38] When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked,**

1 and clothed thee? [39] Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?
2 [40] And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch
3 as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto
4 me. [41] Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye
5 cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: [42] For I was an
6 hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: [43] I was
7 a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison,
8 and ye visited me not. [44] Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw
9 we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did
10 not minister unto thee? [45] Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto
11 you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. [46]
12 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life
13 eternal.

14
15 I have dealt with these “reckonings” in this and other studies. But today we turn the
16 spotlight on the most solemn “reckoning” of all:

17
18 THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT

19
20 *The Great White Throne Judgment, where sinners stand in the presence of a holy and just*
21 *God to give an account for their sins, is one of the most awesome revelations given to us*
22 *in the Word of God. Our concept of the righteousness and holiness of God has been so*
23 *adulterated and diluted that we look upon God only as a God of love Who would be too*
24 *kind to chasten anyone or to judge them for their sin and iniquity. Yet the Word of God*
25 *reveals that there must come a time when God will deal with sinners in judgment. While*
26 *it is not pleasant to deal with this, we feel that we must be faithful to the revelation of the*
27 *Word of God and bring this awesome subject of the Great White Throne to your attention.*
28 PROPHECY FOR TODAY / D. D. PENTECOST / ZONDERVAN / P. 172
29
30

31 The original sin of mankind is told for us in Genesis 3. When Adam and Eve sinned at
32 the spurring on of Satan, the serpent, God pronounced three curses:
33 • The serpent - Satan Genesis 3:14 **And the Lord God said unto the serpent,**
34 **Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every**
35 **beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the**
36 **days of thy life:**
37 • The earth - Genesis 3:17 **....cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt**
38 **thou eat of it all the days of thy life;**
39 • Human beings - Genesis 3:16-19 **Unto the woman he said, I will greatly**
40 **multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth**
41 **children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.**

1 [17] And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of
2 thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou
3 shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat
4 of it all the days of thy life; [18] Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to
5 thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; [19] In the sweat of thy face shalt
6 thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken:
7 for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

8
9 Thank God, one of those curses has been lifted. Galatians 3:13 Christ hath
10 redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written,
11 Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

12
13 But the other two curses remain - the one on the planet itself and the other on Satan. In
14 Revelation 20 God deals with one of those curses relentlessly:

15
16 **Rev. 20:11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose
face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.**

17
18 I believe the order of the end-time is this:

- 19 1. The Rapture - Christ catches the church away
- 20 2. On earth - the Tribulation headed by the trio from hell: Satan, the father;
21 Antichrist, the son and the False Prophet, the unholy spirit
- 22 3. In Heaven the raptured saints go to the judgment seat of Christ (I Cor 3) and the
23 Marriage Supper of the Lamb Rev. 19:7-10 **Let us be glad and rejoice, and give
24 honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself
25 ready. [8] And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and
26 white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. [9] And he saith unto me,
27 Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And
28 he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God. [10] And I fell at his feet to
29 worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of
30 thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of
31 Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.**

32 **Matthew 25:10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they
33 that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.**

- 34 4. The Second Coming of Christ Rev. 19:11-16
35 **And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him
36 was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.
37 [12] His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had**

1 a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. [13] And he was clothed with a
2 vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. [14] And the
3 armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen,
4 white and clean. [15] And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he
5 should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth
6 the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. [16] And he hath on his
7 vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF
8 LORDS.

9 5. The Millennium - 1,000 years of Christ's reign on earth

10 6. THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT - our subject today Rev. 20:11-15

11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth
12 and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. [12] And I saw
13 the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and
14 another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of
15 those things which were written in the books, according to their works. [13] And the
16 sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead
17 which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. [14]
18 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. [15] And
19 whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

20
21 This judgment will not take place on earth, for God will have already destroyed it in order
22 to create a new one. 2 Peter 3:10-13 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in
23 the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the
24 elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein
25 shall be burned up. [11] Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what
26 manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, [12]
27 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens
28 being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? [13]
29 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth,
30 wherein dwelleth righteousness.

31
32 Some writers have observed that the GREAT WHITE THRONE will not be in heaven,
33 the dwelling place of God, because SINNERS WOULD NEVER BE ALLOWED IN
34 THAT HOLY PLACE. So this throne is located in some undetermined (to us) place.

35
36 Note: it is a WHITE THRONE. In the Bible, white is always the symbolic
37 representation of holiness and purity. There will be no frivolity or horse play here.

38
39 Who will be judged? ALL THE LOST....THOSE WHO HAVE DIED OUTSIDE OF
40 JESUS CHRIST.

1 There will not be a single person who has ever lived who will not be brought to physical
2 resurrection. John 5:29 **And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the**
3 **resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of**
4 **damnation.**

6 THE TWO RESURRECTIONS

7
8 There is a resurrection unto LIFE (the rapture and those tribulation martyrs later) and
9 there is a resurrection unto JUDGMENT AND DEATH.

10
11 It is interesting to me that in Revelation 4 we see a detailed word picture of the throne
of God when the REDEEMED stand before Him. Over His throne there is a
rainbow, always the sign of God's mercy. But in Revelation when the unsaved
stand before Him, there is no mention of a rainbow. The day of mercy is OVER.

12
13 Those who were resurrected to LIFE (because of Christ Jesus) will have already been
14 with Christ during the Millennium for a thousand years. The unredeemed must now
15 stand before Him, the righteous Judge, face to face. "The multitudes of the lost of all
16 ages are gathered to stand before the One who has just demonstrated the enormity of His
17 power and the righteousness of His judgment by simply speaking a word and dissolving
18 the heavens and the earth." Pentecost / Ibid / page 179

19 THE BOOKS

20
21
22 Following WWII, some of the Nazi hierarchy who had been captured alive were brought
23 to Nuremberg, Germany, to stand trial for crimes against humanity. And while some
24 were clever in their defense, they were condemned because of the Nazi pre-occupation
25 with keeping records. The Holocaust victims had been carefully catalogued by their
26 captors and at their trial, THE BOOKS WERE OPENED.

27
28 Thus it will be at the Great White Throne Judgment. God has kept careful records of
29 every moment of every life of everyone who has ever lived. WHO THEN HAS ANY
30 CHANCE AT THIS JUDGMENT? ONLY THOSE WHOSE PAGES HAVE BEEN
31 BLOTTED OUT BY THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST! When you gave
32 Christ your life, all the books were blotted out. The judgment was paid at Calvary. But
33 at the Great White Throne, there will be multiplied tens of millions who have ignored
34 Calvary and its Christ and the Cross. Their records will be intact. Every detail of each
35 life, not blotted out by Jesus' blood, will be read.
36

1 Ah, but there's another book - the BOOK OF LIFE. This is the register of those who
2 have accepted Jesus. Remember the famous plea from the many times we have
3 dramatized "Heaven's Gates and Hell's Flames:" **"Angel, is my name in the book?"**
4

5 If a person's sins have not been blotted out by Christ's blood, and that person's name
6 does not appear in the book of life, the eternal death sentence against the sinner stands
7 and because the sinner would not avail himself or herself of the provision of the grace of
8 God, that person must then pay his or her own sentence. Rev. 20:15 **And whosoever**
9 **was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.**

10
11 **DOES THIS ALL SEEM FAIR? OR IS GOD CRUEL AND ARBITRARY?**
12

13 You see, Hitler will be there. Nero will be there. Genghis Khan will be there. The
14 sinner will plead, "But, God - I'm not like those awful people? I didn't do those
15 atrocious things in life? Was a good person!"
16

17 Here's the dilemma now faced by the one standing before God: that person will not be
18 judged against the life of some terrible human being. No, the standard is someone else
19 altogether: Romans 3:23 **For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;**
20 Well....what (or Who) is the glory of God? John 1:14 **And the Word was made flesh,**
21 **and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of**
22 **the Father,) full of grace and truth.** There it is! The standard of which we have
23 come so short is none other than Jesus Christ!
24

25 But who can measure up to that standard? No one. That's why THE NEW BIRTH IS
26 MANDATORY. Christ literally comes into our lives, our bodies, our minds, our spirits,
27 our souls! As Paul wrote, Col. 1:27 **To whom God would make known what is the**
28 **riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the**
29 **hope of glory:**
30

31 You can readily see why all of our "good works" are not nearly enough to save our souls.
32 Only Christ's very life in us can do that. Small wonder Jesus declared to Nicodemus in
33 John 3, "You must be born again!"
34

Here is the critical point we must comprehend: NO ONE IS SENT TO HELL
BECAUSE OF WHAT HE OR SHE DID....THEY ARE SENT TO HELL
BECAUSE OF WHAT THEY WERE.

1 At creation, God told Adam that in the day he ate the forbidden fruit he would die. He
2 and Eve disobeyed but they did not physically die. In fact, they lived for a long, long
3 time. But the moment they sinned, the spirit of God within them died. When they were
4 created, God breathed His life into them: Genesis 2:7 **And the Lord God formed**
5 **man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and**
6 **man became a living soul.** That of Adam and Eve that died when they sinned was the
7 very indwelling life of God! They became the parents of the human race, a race now by
8 definition of people with dead souls. **THIS AGAIN IS WHAT JESUS SAID WE HAD**
9 **TO BE BORN AGAIN - BORN SPIRITUALLY!**

10 11 SATAN "GETS HIS!"

12
13 At the end of this Great White Throne Judgment, God will fulfill the third curse He made,
14 this one on Satan himself. Rev. 20:14 **And death and hell were cast into the lake of**
15 **fire. This is the second death.**

16
17 The "lake of fire" is a term used through the New Testament as the place of eternal
18 punishment. I believe it is a real place with real people. It is beyond any imagination
19 of man to comprehend.

20
21 I know one thing for sure: **SATAN WILL NOT BE IN CHARGE THERE!** Paul wrote
22 in Philippians 2 that Jesus will be in charge of all "things in heaven and things in the
23 earth." Who will be in charge in Hell? Christ Himself. Think of it: the rebellion is
24 over! And even in Hell, "At the name of Jesus every knee will bow...and every tongue
25 will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of the Father." Even the inhabitants in
26 Hell will of necessity recognize he Savior they ignored on earth. They will never again
27 have any connection with the Father God, never see His face, never enjoy His blessing
28 and provision.

29
30 There will be degrees of punishment in Hell.

31
32 Just as there will be degrees of reward in Heaven (I Cor. 3) so there will be such levels in
33 the regions of the damned. Rev. 20:13 indicates that the lost would be "**judged every**
34 **man according to their works.**"

35
36 Yet another indication of differing punishments in Hell is found in Jesus' own words that
37 we find in Luke 12:47-48 **And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and**
38 **prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many**
39 **stripes. [48] But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be**
40 **beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much**

1 **required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.**

2
3 Lest someone think, “Oh well, maybe I’ll get lucky,” you want to avoid Hell which is
4 forever with no parole possible.

5
6 When one thinks of eternal punishment versus the grace of God and eternity with Him in
7 our glorified bodies, there is no reason to “play around with the world of Satan” here, but
8 to serve God with all our hearts and minds and souls and strength.

9
10
11 Next week: THE FUTURE OF THE PALESTINIANS

12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40