



Berean Watchmen
Ministries

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The Watchmen

A VOICE FROM THE WALL

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Is Bible Prophecy Relevant to the Modern Christian? Part 1

"And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures like a sound of thunder, saying, Come and see." - Rev 6:1

Introduction

Before entertaining this question, we must first set the groundwork for our discussion. Namely let us first look at the definition of the words regarding a *Prophet* and *Prophecy* and then we will look at what *Bible Prophecy* might be defined as in accordance with the Scriptures.

When one thinks of a prophet or prophecy they would normally think of someone who can *tell the future* or knows *what is going to happen before it happens*.

Webster's 1913 Dictionary defines a prophet as "literally, one who speaks for another, especially, one who speaks for God and interprets His will to man."

It goes on to define prophecy as, "to be an interpreter of the gods, to prophesy" It can mean, "A declaration of something to come; a foretelling; a prediction; esp., an inspired foretelling;" or an "interpretation of Scripture; preaching; exhortation or instruction." It can also mean a prophetic volume or collections of prophecy.

In the case of the Church, however, the most common uses are:

1. Divine foretelling of things to come;
- or
2. A forth telling of Divine things previously revealed.

For the purposes of this article I would like to turn our attention to the first definition, as we are most interested in the 'foretelling' and 'revelations' within Scripture.

If you looked up the word *prophecy* in a thesaurus you'd find similar words like: prediction, forecast, divination, foresight, etc. If we examine the word as it appears in Scripture, we find that it stems from the New Testament Greek word *prophetus(n)* or *propheteuo(v)*. Simply put, the word in this

context means to speak for God, to be a mouthpiece for the Lord - to speak divine revelation from God.

This begs the question - *Is the God of the Bible the only Source for Accurate Prophecy?*

What About: Other Religions? Oracles of Ancient Greece?, Nostradamus? Super-market Tabloids? Psychics? Astrology? Fortune Cookies? The Weatherman? Are any of them worth Listening to? (Sorry to the weathermen and women out there, but I couldn't resist)

"And if you say in your heart, 'How shall we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?'— when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.." - Deuteronomy 18:21-22

The Biblical evidence demonstrates that *true* prophecy always comes to pass. And the mark of a *true* prophet is one whose revelations are never wrong. While some crystal ball gazers may be able to hit upon something that actually does come to pass, it is not because they have had *divine* revelation. It has more to do with the law of averages. If you '*predict*' enough future events, one of them is bound to happen (or something close) eventually.

A good reminder when considering those that 'appear' to be able to tell the future such as psychics, mediums and the lot, is the saying,

"Even a clock that doesn't work, is correct twice a day"

So many people are caught up in this world reading their horoscopes, or visiting psychics to find out what will happen in their future. Inquiring minds want to know, and it seems that we will go to great lengths to find out what our lives have in store for us in the future.

To me the concept of psychics has always



Correct twice a day

puzzled me, for I always wondered why you never see the headline in the morning paper "Psychic wins lottery?"

Don't be fooled. Satan is the best liar and deceiver in the world (He's had a lot of practice). He is sly and cunning and only by knowing what God says through Scripture can we be prepared to spot Satan's tricks in an instant.

I recall my one Psychology class at university (secular university). The students were assembled in their seats and the professor told us to write our names and birthdates on a piece of paper. The papers were then passed forward to the professor for collection. The professor announced that he was going to send them out and have our horoscopes done. At that moment I had wished that I could retract my piece of paper, however in light of the outcome of the experiment my concerns were unwarranted.

The following week the professor handed each of us an envelope with our name on the front. Within the envelope was our horoscope. He gave time for everyone to read the contents of their letters, and then he began to ask questions of the students. The most pertinent questions asked were 'How many thought this was a good indication or representations of their lives?' and 'how accurate we felt the horoscopes were?' I refrained from comment, however, it was quite clear from the reaction of many in the room (approximately 200 or so) that the general consensus was that each horoscope was an accurate representation of each of them.

Next, the professor surprised everyone by asking us to pass our papers to the right of us. To the shock of many, the new papers - the new horoscope now before us - were EXACTLY THE SAME as the original one that had our name on it.

So what does that tell you? I myself had my suspicions validated.

Horoscope's, and the belief in them as being something divine, are another one of Satan's ways of undermining one of God's attributes. Only God is omniscient, but the mere suggestion that psychics have some ability to see the future, usurps our faith in God and places it in the occult practice of *divination*. If I can know what is going to happen from ungodly counsel (or be tricked into thinking that), then why would I need communion with God? Only God has rightly claimed to be all knowing and the master of prophecy. Man's best efforts fall very, very short. Remember even a clock that doesn't work is correct twice a day.

The Apostle Peter talks of this type of

trickery and clever tales of man versus God's truth:

"For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty." - 2 Peter 1:16

False religions, superstitions, false predictions are built upon clever tales, or clever tricks but Christianity is built upon God's revelation of Himself to man through Scripture. Unlike the many tales and legends that have transpired throughout the ages, only the Holy Scriptures have withstood the test of time as being the accurate and inerrant Word of a divine and all-knowing God. History attests to the fact that only the God of the Bible has known and foreseen the things that have transpired in the world. God tells us of his abilities in His Word:

"Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure: Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executes my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it." - Isaiah 46:9-11

"And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and sets up kings. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding." - Daniel 2:21

The Lord determines what will happen in history and future and He brings it to pass as He so predestined. The historical precedence of this fact suggests without question that this same omniscient God knows what is yet to come.

A timely message for us today is the foolishness revolving around May 21, 2011 by Harold Camping and his followers. Listen to God's ominous warning to those who dare to claim they speak in His name when He did not send them.

"But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die." - Deuteronomy 18:20

With such a warning as this you would wonder why people would even pretend to speak for God, but yet they still do.

Deuteronomy continues to instruct on how to identify these false prophets. It is so simple in application, and yet people choose

"Horoscope's... are another one of Satan's ways of undermining one of God's attributes."

to believe the false prophet regardless of the outcome of this test.

“And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the LORD hath not spoken? When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: Thou shalt not be afraid of him.” - Deuteronomy 18:21-22

While researching this very topic I came across this old Chinese Proverb that is simple in verse and yet so truthful to the point at hand.

“It is very difficult to prophesy, especially about the future”

Biblical Reliability

Well we all know of the reliability of the local weatherman, and we see the error of horoscopes and psychic readings, but what about the reliability of the Word of God?

“Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.” - 2 Peter 1:20-21

“... your word is Truth.” - John 17:17

“Your Word is true from the beginning; and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever.” - Psalm 119:160

“Surely the LORD God does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.” - Amos 3:7

“For the Word of God is living and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing apart of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” - Hebrews 4:12

So says Scripture, now how about a look at some historical proof?

Prophecy Fulfilled - Christ the Messiah

One of the most amazing events of prophecy occurred many years ago in the birth, life, death and resurrection of the one called 'Christ'.

Many of these prophecies were misunderstood or not recognized at the time of His coming, but Christ on the 'Emmaus road' *“And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.”* (Luke 24:27)

Christ at that time began to point out in the Scriptures (the Old Testament at that time)

everything that was written about Him. Later in the upper room when He had appeared to His disciples he continued:

“And He said to them, These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and in the Prophets and in the Psalms about Me. And He opened their mind to understand the Scriptures.” - Luke 24:44-45

Christ is the story. Christ is the scarlet thread of redemption woven throughout Scripture and He spent some time opening their eyes, and showing them where He could (and can) be found within Scripture.

Although there are many more, here is a small sampling of the prophecies that referred to Jesus Christ at his first coming.

- He would be born of a virgin - Isaiah 7:14
- He would be the Son of God - Isaiah 9:6
- He would be born in Bethlehem - Micah 5:2
- He would ride triumphantly into Jerusalem... yet meek and lowly... and riding on a donkey - Zech. 9:9
- He would be betrayed by a friend. - Psalm 41:9
- He would be meek and humble - Isaiah 53:2
- He would come out of Egypt - Hosea 11:1
- We would turn our backs on Him and look the other way as He went by. - Isaiah 53:3
- He would be rejected by Israel. - Isaiah 49:7
- He would suffer... be brutally beaten and suffer. - Isaiah 52:14
- He would be beaten, bloodied and die for our sins. - Isaiah 53:5-7
- Yet he would remain silent during his ordeal. - Isaiah 53:7
- He would be crucified. - Psalm 22:14-17
- He would have stakes... nails... driven through his hands. - Zech. 13:6
- He would be mocked during His time of suffering and death - Psalm 22:7-8
- His side would be pierced. - Zech. 12:10
- He would be buried in a rich man's grave. - Isaiah 53:9
- He was innocent... without guilt... without sin. - Isaiah 53:9



Three men on the Emmaus Road

“One of the most amazing events of prophecy occurred many years ago in the birth, life, death and resurrection of the one called ‘Christ’.”

- He would be raised from the dead. – Psalm 16:10
- He would be a sacrifice for all our sins. – Isaiah 53:10
- His side would be pierced. – Zech 12:10
- He would be buried in a rich man's grave. – Isaiah 53:9
- He was innocent... without guilt... without sin. – Isaiah 53:9
- He would be raised from the dead. – Psalm 16:10
- He would be a sacrifice for all our sins – Isaiah 53:10



The scrolls of Isaiah (Dead Sea Scrolls)

Essenes, a Jewish sect living in Qumran, 2000 years ago.

These scrolls and writings (now known as the Dead Sea Scrolls) contained at least fragments of every book of the Old Testament except the Book of Esther. They are considered one of the greatest discoveries in modern times. It is manuscript evidence like this that proves, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that the Old Testament, and its many prophecies concerning the Messiah, was finished long before Jesus was even born.

The Skeptic Says...

"Maybe Christians inserted those prophecies back into the Old Testament after Jesus lived."

Our Answer?

Hogwash.

There exists today hundreds of manuscript copies of the Old Testament that predate the time of Christ's birth. These ancient copies of the Old Testament, dating back to the third century (300) B.C., verify that these prophecies concerning the Messiah were already in place.

In 1947 a shepherd boy, tending his father's sheep in Qumran (to the north and west of the dead sea), made an amazing discovery while looking for a lost sheep.



Cave at Qumran



There in Qumran, in a cave that had laid untouched for nearly two thousand years, he discovered an ancient collection of hand written copies of the Old Testament. These scrolls had been hidden in caves by the

The Skeptic Says...

"Perhaps Jesus was not the Messiah, but just accidentally or even deliberately set out to fulfill these prophecies"

Deliberately?

Well firstly it would be hard to think of anyone deliberately setting out to fulfill prophecies that would result in a short life and an excruciating, drawn out death on a cross.

Secondly; it would be impossible for a man to deliberately choose, the lineage he was born into, the time period in which he was born or even the city in which he is born.

There are 332 distinct prophecies about Christ that can be found in the Old Testament. These prophecies were written down hundreds to thousands of years prior to Christ's birth and death.

Accidentally?

To offer some compelling evidence and thinking towards answering this question, let us assume that the probability of fulfilling any of these 332 prophecies was given a 50/50 chance. That is, let us assume that the chance of any of these occurring in one man's life was given a 'coin flip' chance of coming to pass.

For an example, let's take a couple of the prophecies and apply this probability to each one. Let's say for starters:

- He would be born in Bethlehem - Micah 5:2

Remember now, for the sake of argument we are saying that at the historical time of Christ's birth a person had a 50% chance of being born in Bethlehem. Now you and I both know that the probability was much lower than 50%. The world was a very large world by then, and there were many cities and towns. However, for the sake of our experiment, we are assuming that everyone born in the time of Christ had a 50% chance

of being born in Bethlehem. That means we had 1 chance in 2 of being born there.

Ok, now on with another.

- He would be born of a virgin - Isaiah 7:14

Let's say there is a 50% chance of being born to a virgin in the time of Christ's birth. Now we can recognize the ludicrous nature of this assumption, but for the sake of the argument we apply a 50/50 chance that someone could be born of a virgin in that time.

We have two distinct prophecies, each with an arbitrary 50% chance of occurrence. Mathematically then it means that the probability of one man fulfilling both of them is:

1 chance in 4 (25%)

and so on...

Assuming then that each of the remaining prophecies were given a 50/50 chance of occurring, I have calculated the probability of one man fulfilling all of these prophecies as:

1 chance in
1,329,227,995,784,920,000,000,
000,000,000,000,000

To put this in perspective, the chances of winning Canada's Lotto 649 jackpot is 1 chance in 13,983,816.

Peter Stoner, a mathematician, and Professor Emeritus of Science at Westmont College, in his book *Science Speaks* (Moody, 1963) calculated the odds of a single man fulfilling just eight of the prophecies that Jesus fulfilled as the mathematical improbability of:

1 chance in 100,000,000,000,000,000

That is one chance in 100 quadrillion of fulfilling just 8 of the prophecies that Jesus fulfilled.

To put this into perspective we need a word picture. If we had 100 quadrillion 1 x 1½ inch tiles we could cover every square inch of dry land on planet earth. That's a lot of tiles!

No charlatan soothsayer, crystal ball gazer, horoscope or weatherman could ever hope for the kind of odds demonstrated by the 100% fulfillment of all prophecies in Scripture. And the reason is simple.

"I, the Lord, have spoken it; it shall come to pass, and I will do it; ..." Ezekiel 24:14a

Conclusion

When examining the prophetic abilities of anything or anyone outside those written in the Holy Scriptures, one thing becomes clearly evident:

In order to accurately predict the future one must either be an omniscient God or one must have a direct connection with the ONE who does meet that requirement – a prophet of God.

We have so far looked at some exciting prophecies and proofs that demonstrate the accuracy of God's Word and the amazing fulfillment of prophecy at Christ's first coming.

"... For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." – Rev 19:10

Even more amazing is that there are 7 times more prophecies about His second coming, than there were about His first.

There are 2,163 prophecies about The Second Coming of Christ in the Bible. References of His Second Coming are found in 17 books of the Old Testament, and every author of the New Testament mention his Second Coming at least once. The Second Coming is mentioned in every book but three of the New Testament.

Based on the historical evidence of the accuracy of the first coming predictions we can have seven times more assurance that Christ will return! Although we do not know the day, nor the hour, we must however remain diligently working in the harvest field. We can be certain that our Lord is coming soon.

And so I must ask.

What will he find you doing?

Until Next time.

Go Serve your King.

- J.R. Hall

"The 2nd coming is mentioned in every book but three of the New Testament."



The Harvest Fields

On the Question of Women Pastors & Elders

In Evangelical circles this seems to be a hot topic these. The other day I was asked my opinion on this again, and as such I penned the following argument from Scripture.

I do not do this to cause strife, or contention. I do not do this to push my own agenda in any way shape or form. Rather I do this to call our attention back to the Scriptures. *Back to the source* as the reformers might say.

In this day and age, there certainly is a social climate which would suggest complete equity in all things for women and men. The trouble I am faced with in light of these modern social conventions is that the Bible makes it quite clear that women are not to be pastors or elders. While I admit that this viewpoint is not popular, I have to ask, "Since when is God's Word a popularity vote?" Many churches are moving toward the inoffensive view of allowing women in these leadership roles within the church. I find it curious however, that the offence they are seeking to avoid, can only be taken as an offence by someone who does not completely understand God's pre-designed role for women. Regardless, churches and denominations are taking a passive stance on this matter and are accepting the social climate as the relative norm. This to me is unacceptable. The answer, "just because my neighbor is doing it", is not an answer to the question, *'Is the concept Biblical?'* And that is the only question that matters.

We all know that in the garden of Eden Adam was created first, and that he was given authority to tend and keep the garden (cf. Gen 2:15). God's creation was repeatedly called good in Genesis 1 and it is interesting (and relevant) that the first time God said there was something NOT good in the world was that Adam was alone. All animals were brought forth in front of Adam to name and out of all the animals and critters, none were found to be a suitable 'helper comparable to him' (cf. 2:20). Eve was therefore created from Adam's side, from a rib. I

have always enjoyed the imagery of the fact the wife was taken from the man's side, to stand beside him (not behind or in front), and under the arm, to be protected by him. Woman was the suitable helper for man, and although Scripture tells us the role is subordinate to that of the man, it is by no means lesser in value than his. To suggest otherwise would be to suggest that Jesus, who was clearly subordinate to God the father (cf. Matt 28:18, John 6:38, John 14:28), was less than the Father. A statement that would be clearly false.

Likewise in the church, a subordinate role does not make one less important than the other. All are equal before God, whether, Jew, Greek, slave, free man, male or female.

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus." – Gal 3:28

I believe that women are a very important part of the church. And perhaps even underutilized to some degree. There are many young ladies in our church that need the role models of Godly older women to come along side them and give them advice and Godly teaching. I would certainly say that with certain topics ladies are much better teachers of ladies. And in some cases this might also be more appropriate depending on the subject. Now on the subject of gender, there may in fact be many women in the church who are better at teaching and preaching than many of the men, but giftedness is not a basis for over-ruling God's purposes and calling for church leadership.

We must go *'to the source'* as I mentioned earlier. We must read and obey God's commands on this issue. To do otherwise is to invite trouble down the way. History attests, that whenever societal norms counter the design of the Creator God, things go very poorly. (e.g., premarital sex and promiscuity, alcoholism, drug abuse, kids raised without both parents, etc).

"I do not do this to cause strife, or contention."



“And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence. For Adam was formed first, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.” – 1 Tim. 2:12-14

There are all kinds of theological tidbits in this verse, but we’re concentrating here on the authority structure set up by God. It is very clear here that, in the context of the church, a woman is not to be in a position of authority over a man. However, this would not extend to the secular world. The context of these passages is clearly within the church.

Now what about Phoebe and the other women of Romans 16? Well there can be no doubt that there were many women who were great helpers in the early church, but none would have been in a place of authority. We can know this by the other verses that suggest what is required for church leadership. Paul tells us:

“A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach;” – 1Tim 3:2

One wife. Scripture does not say one spouse. Note also the reference here:

“one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence” – 1 Tim 3:4

Who is to be the head of the household in a Christian family? The man... not the wife. (cf. Eph. 5:22-23) The reference here is clearly addressing men.

Incidentally these same criteria are extended to Deacons.

“Likewise deacons must be reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money, holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience. But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being found blameless. Likewise, their wives must be reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things. Let deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.” – 1 Tim. 3:8-12

If we defined ‘*deacon*’ as the early new

Testament church did, then they too must be men. Now some translations render Romans 16:1 as *“I commend to you our sister Phoebe, who is a deacon of the church which is at Cenchrea.”*, but I think the Greek word is key here. The word that is sometimes rendered “*deacon*”, is the word ‘*diakonos*’. It is a word used 31 other times in the New Testament to mean essentially ‘servant’ or acts of ‘service’.

- Paul calls himself a minister (*diakonos*) of the gospel in Col. 1:23, 25.
- Paul went to Jerusalem to serve (*diakonos*) the saints, (Rom. 15:25).
- Mary spoke to the servants (*diakonos*) at the wedding in Cana (John 2:5).
- It is used of serving tables in Luke 17:8 and Acts 6:2. Jesus came not to be served, but to serve (*diakonos*), (Mark 10:45).
- The government is called a minister (*diakonos*) of God in Romans 13:4.
- And the Bible tells us that Tychicus is a minister (*diakonos*) of the Lord (Col. 4:7) as is Timotheus (1 Thess. 3:2).

It should be noted that only the newer more ‘liberal’ Bible translations render the word *diakonos* in Romans 16 as deacon or deaconess such as the NLT, NRSV and RSV. The word is rendered as servant in the ASV, ESV, HCSB, ISV, KJV, NASB, NKJV and even the old NIV (1984), although the new NIV and the TNIV renders it as ‘*deacon*’ (which should tell us all about the soundness and direction that the NIV has gone since 1984 – believe me there are other questionable changes and we should be warned that the modern NIV is not the NIV of old).

We can also go back to the Old Testament to see the precedence of gender roles in ordination. The Old Testament mentions over 700 priests by name, and every single one of them was a man. This significance here is that the priests were ordained by God to hold the very important office of ministering the sacrifices. Now



“A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach”

“This confederacy, which wishes the final destruction of the modern-day Jewish State of Israel, is the topic of this study.”

Deborah was mentioned as a Judge over Israel, but that was a secular office, and not something that translated to the context of a ‘minister’ or a religious title. The context of 1 Timothy 2 remains the same. In the God designed Church the normal and

proper person to hold the office of Elder, Pastor and Deacon is to be a man.

I don’t think I can hold any other view. God said it and I believe it.

- J.R. Hall

The Palestinian Confederacy



The Palestinian Confederacy is a chapter in the book called Isralestine, The Ancient Blueprints of the Future Middle East. (2008)

All the men in your confederacy Shall force you to the

border; The men at peace with you Shall deceive you and prevail against you. Those who eat your bread shall lay a trap for you. No one is aware of it. (Obad. 1:7, NKJV; emphasis added)

The prophet Obadiah had a prophetic vision regarding the Edomites. He declares that the Edomites enlist in a future confederacy that ultimately forces them to a border. Obadiah 1:10, 18 makes it clear that the confederacy forms to fight Israel. Thus, we can deduce that the border in question must be Israel’s.

Obadiah 1:7 says - “your” confederacy, “you” to the border; peace with “you,” deceive “you,” prevail against “you,” “your” bread, a trap for “you.” The fact that Obadiah uses “you” or “your” seven-times in combination suggests the Palestinians play a key role within the confederacy.

The prerequisite reading to this study is Psalm 83, whereby Asaph foretells the formation of an Arab confederacy seemingly consisting of Palestinians, Syrians, Saudis, Egyptians, Lebanese, Hezbollah, Jordanians, Iraqis, and Hamas. This confederacy, which wishes the final destruction of the modern-day Jewish State of Israel, is the topic of this study. The premise for interpretation is that the Psalm 83 confederacy appears to be the same as

the confederacy contained in Obadiah 1:7.

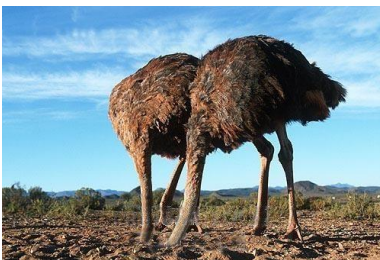
Furthermore, the Palestinians of today have a contingency of Edomites amalgamated within their overall composite population. Thus, when this study refers to Esau, his descendants, or the Edomites, it finds its closest association with their modern-day equivalents, the Palestinians.

All the men in your confederacy - The whole (kol), or entirety of the confederacy is of the same conspired mindset. All the confederates agree with Esau, the lead member of the confederacy, “your confederacy.” They are all of common cause, and this cause drives or forces Esau’s descendant Edomites to a border or boundary.

Shall force you to the border - The confederate consensus is that the Palestinians must man the borders. Since this confederacy has mandated the destruction of the nation Israel as per Psalm 83:4, this suggests the strategic area of their deployment to be the borders surrounding the reforming nation of Israel.

The men at peace with you - The men, “all the men,” each one, are at peace (shalom) with the Palestinians. This is technically Esau’s confederacy, and the men who conspire with him pledge their allegiance to his cause. However, the prerequisite for achieving such peace is that Esau, as lead member, holds down the frontline at the borders of Israel. The Palestinians are to entrench themselves in the Isralestine territories that most closely surround Israel.

Shall deceive you and prevail against you - Inherent in the conditional peace and support that the Palestinians



The world’s outlook on the Middle East

receive from “all” of the Arab men in alliance with them is their obligation to occupy these borderline territories. In essence, they are not encouraged to assimilate themselves as citizens within the outer lying confederate member territories. This would be unsound strategic deployment of the Palestinians. In fact, most of these member nations make it very restrictive for Palestinians to become naturalized citizens within their respective nations.

They are to maintain their own distinct ethnic identity. Though many of them have ancestral roots from among the surrounding confederate Arab nations, they are discouraged from calling themselves Syrians, Egyptians, Saudi's, etc. We call them the Palestinians, in spite of the fact that up until 1948 no such ethnic label ever existed. Until that time, the world knew them as the Arabs of the grossly undefined territory of Palestine. Though they are currently predominately a population of refugees, mutual confederate consensus leads them to believe that they deserve their own state and citizenry therein. This propaganda promoted by the Arab community has become the successful deception of “all” the men of Esau's confederacy.

The prevalent belief among all the nations listed in Psalm 83:6–8 is that the Palestinians are a distinct people, deserved of their own state. Their belief is that all of Israel, including the Gaza Strip, and the West Bank, is to become earmarked territory for the drafting of another Arab State in the Middle East called Palestine. This goal discourages the successful establishment of an Isralestine scenario, whereby Israel exists cooperatively in the region, with the Palestinians specifically and the Arabs generally. This is the reason for the confederate call to eradicate the nation of Israel as the Jewish State:

They [all the men in Esau's confederacy] have said, “Come, and let us cut them [the Jewish State] off from being a nation, That the name of Israel may be remembered no more.” (Psalm 83:4, NKJV; emphasis added)

The Arab nations who participate alongside the Palestinians in this

momentous quest leave the Palestinians little choice but to fight for their own Palestinian statehood. The Palestinian inability as a displaced population group to assimilate adequately into the outer-lying Arab nations leaves them no option but to remain in a refugee status indefinitely. Thus, “all the men” of the Palestinians confederacy have “deceived” them, the Palestinians, and “forced them to the border” of Israel, and in so doing have “prevailed against” them.

Those who eat your bread - All the men of Esau's confederacy are eating Esau's bread in contrast to their own. Again, we see Obadiah use the pronoun “your” in this passage. It is your, Esau's, confederacy, and your, Esau's, bread. Esau is the one who invites all the others to his table to deliberate over his Palestinian plight. They break Esau's bread and agree with him, that Israel must perish as the resolution to the Palestinian problem. Esau does not request these men to open their national borders to his descendant people; rather he beckons their assistance to destroy the descendants of his twin brother Jacob. In essence, the Palestinians request support to destroy the Jewish State, and replace it with a Palestinian State.

The symbolism of these Arab nations eating bread together finds association with a common confederate cause. Deuteronomy 8:3, Matthew 4:4, and Luke 4:4 declare that man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God. It is possible that the prophet Obadiah alludes to the eating of bread in this passage as a spiritual thread that binds these Arabs together religiously. All of the members of Esau's confederacy are predominately Islamic.

They digest Esau's baked bread possibly referring to their ideology that it is the will of their god Allah that they form an allegiance with the Palestinians to destroy the Jews. Islam does not favor the existence of the contrasting religion of Judaism, especially in their Middle East neighborhood. The Jewish State of Israel has its religious roots in Judaism, and this is generally problematic for their Arab Muslim neighbors. The confederacy of Esau is

“We call them the Palestinians, in spite of the fact that up until 1948 no such ethnic label ever existed.”



The Agenda of Israel's Neighbors

motivated to destroy Judaism, and promote Islam, throughout the entire Middle East.

Shall lay a trap for you - "All the men" who participate in Esau's confederacy entrap his Palestinian descendants. The Hebrew word utilized by Obadiah for trap is mazor, and can refer to an ambush, or as defined by Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionary, to a turning aside from truth, a treachery, a plot, or a wound.

What Obadiah likely alludes to, is that the Palestinian descendants of Esau have allowed themselves to be deceived by "all the men," in their confederacy, and as such have turned aside in a treacherous act from some truth. What truth could they have turned aside from, which ultimately proves to trap or ambush them? This truth must have something to do with the Jewish people and their Jewish State, since this is what the confederacy is attempting to destroy according to Psalm 83.

The truth is that nobody can destroy the Jewish people, according to the covenant their God made to their patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The LORD promised these patriarchal fathers of the Jewish people an everlasting family tree. In order for the predominately-Islamic confederacy of Esau to accomplish its mission, which is the effectual destruction of the Jewish State, it must attempt to destroy every last Jew in the world. If there were any Jew left, the potential would exist for that Jew to restore a Jewish State in his or her ancient promised land. Furthermore, other scriptures refer to the eternal existence of a Jewish State in the land between the Nile River of Egypt and the Euphrates River of modern-day Iraq.

Therefore, the minor premise is that the confederacy of Esau must believe that they can destroy the Jewish people and their potential for any current or future Jewish state, and the major premise is that the God of the Jews, who promised the eternal existence of a Jewish people and a Jewish state, is in essence a promise-breaking liar. Esau thoroughly knew that the God of his grandfather Abraham and his father

Isaac made these promises to the Jewish people in ages past, but his descendants down through the ages have turned aside (mazor) from this truth. They have allowed themselves to be successfully deceived into thinking that they can prove the Jewish God to be a liar. They contest the Jewish claims of being heirs of the Abrahamic Covenant and often attempt to substitute their patriarch Ishmael as the rightful heir, rather than Isaac; however, this is all part of the deceit of their religion, Islam. The truth they seem to have turned aside from is that the God of the Jews intends to preserve the Jewish people forever. This is a dangerous miscalculation that will ultimately lead to the destruction of Esau's confederacy.

No one is aware of it - Neither Esau nor all the men in his confederacy realize how severe this miscalculation is. They will leave the God of the Jews no choice but to make an end of their confederate effort aimed at the destruction of the Jewish people and their Jewish State. They will force the enactment of the curse-for-curse-in-kind clause contained in the Abrahamic Covenant (as specified in Genesis 12:3). They will attempt to destroy the Jews, but the Jews will destroy them instead (Ezek. 25:14, Obad. 1:18).

The modern-day Jewish state of Israel will not be eradicated from the formerly recognized territory of Palestine. The Israel of today, which has become superimposed upon the Palestine maps of yesterday, has providential protection. No adequate tool can be found to exist in the confederate arsenal that can blot out the Jewish survival clause contained in the Abrahamic Covenant. - Bill Salus



Bill Salus describes himself as having a strong calling to discern Bible prophecies applicable today. He came to the inescapable conclusion that the Bible has many unfulfilled prophecies intended for today's international audience.

He also believes prophecy is not just for the scholarly, but also for every person.

He is an eschatology researcher, speaker, teacher, author and host of Prophecy Update Radio. You can learn more about Bill at his website: <http://www.prophecydepot.net/>

"What Obadiah likely alludes to, is that the Palestinian descendants of Esau have allowed themselves to be deceived by "all the men," in their confederacy."

News Bites

Blueprints for the Holy Temple

In his recent USA speaking engagement tour, (January 2011), Rabbi Chaim Richman of the Temple Institute revealed to the public for the very first time detailed construction plans for the Chamber of Hewn Stone: the seat of the Great Sanhedrin which is a central component of the Holy Temple complex on the Temple Mount. These complete and highly intricate plans constitute the first stage of an historical undertaking of the Temple Institute: the drafting of blueprints for the entire Holy Temple complex. These plans, drawn up by a top Israeli architectural firm hired by the Temple Institute, take

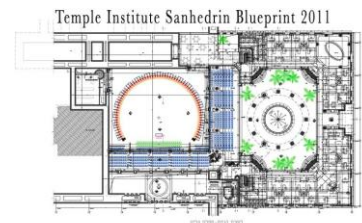
into account the specific requirements of the Sanhedrin assembly hall, known historically as the Chamber of Hewn Stone. At the same time these plans incorporate modern technological infrastructure necessary to a twenty-first century facility: this includes internet ports, wireless communications systems, computer data storage, elevators, air conditioning and underground parking. All these modern amenities, and many more, have been integrated into the Sanhedrin structure without compromising the integrity of the great assembly's physical or spiritual character.

No land can be prepared, no foundation can be laid, no wall can be erected without a detailed architectural plan first being drawn up, approved by engineers and presented to the appointed site manager. The plans you are viewing on this page fulfill every requirement necessary for the immediate commencement of work on this aspect of the Holy Temple complex.

Full Article at:
<http://www.templeinstitute.org/blueprints-for-the-holy-temple.htm>

Editor's Note:

A third temple? Hmmm where have I heard that before... Oh yeah Revelation 11:1-2.



Big Brother is watching You

January 17, 2011 – FoxNews.com

Apple Inc.'s iPhones and Google Inc.'s Android smartphones regularly transmit their locations back to Apple and Google, respectively, according to data and documents analyzed by The Wall Street Journal—intensifying concerns over privacy and the widening trade in personal data.

Google and Apple are gathering location information as part of their race to build massive databases capable of pinpointing people's locations via their cellphones. These databases could help them tap the \$2.9 billion market for location-based services—expected to rise to \$8.3 billion in 2014, according to research firm Gartner Inc.

In the case of Google, according to new research by security analyst Samy Kamkar, an HTC Android

phone collected its location every few seconds and transmitted the data to Google at least several times an hour. It also transmitted the name, location and signal strength of any nearby Wi-Fi networks, as well as a unique phone identifier.

Google declined to comment on the findings.

Until last year, Google was collecting similar Wi-Fi data with its fleet of StreetView cars that map and photograph streets worldwide. The company shut down its StreetView Wi-Fi collection last year after it inadvertently collected e-mail addresses, passwords and other personal information from Wi-Fi networks. The data that Mr. Kamkar observed being transmitted on Android phones didn't include such personal information.

Apple, meanwhile, says it "intermittently" collects location data, including GPS coordinates, of many iPhone users and nearby Wi-Fi networks and transmits that data to itself every 12 hours, according to a letter the company sent to U.S. Reps. Edward Markey (D-Mass.) and Joe Barton (R-Texas) last year. Apple didn't respond to requests for comment.

Read more:

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703983704576277101723453610.html#ixzz1T9eGjTGz>

Editor's Note: *The Bible tells us that the antichrist will have the power over buying and selling over the whole earth. This kind of technology, willingly put in place by the consumers need for latest technology, may in fact be the prelude to such worldwide tracking system.*





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*"...Now these [Bereans] were more noble... in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so."
- Acts 17:10-11*

Berean Watchmen Ministries is a non-profit charitable corporation registered under the Province of Saskatchewan, Canada

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.bereanwatchmen.com

Letter's from our Readers

Q: Do you think the antichrist could be alive today?
- A.R.

A: A popular subject of discussion and debate in the realm of eschatology has always been the topic of a character known as "Antichrist." The Antichrist has casually been referred to as a charismatic world leader that is to come onto the world stage and take control of the world politics and religion uniting the planet under one common umbrella of control. There are many theories out there in regards to the nature of the antichrist, and as to the personage of the antichrist, however the ultimate authority on the matter remains the clues and statements we find within Scripture.

There has been much reckless speculation as to the naming of the antichrist throughout history. Several writers and theologians have developed intricate numeric schemes in an effort to identify either his name, or his identity. Scripture on the other hand is clear to say that there will ultimately be no doubt as to his identity as his deeds and doctrine will bear witness in exposing himself to the world. The Bible also tells us that the man will not be revealed until he signs a peace treaty with Israel (Daniel 9:27) and that the current church (Christians indwelt by the Holy Spirit – *the restrainer*) are taken out of the way in an event we call 'The Rapture' (2 Thess. 2:1-9)

The most important thing to remember in answering the question, "Is the Antichrist alive today?" is that Satan does not have the attribute of foreknowledge or omniscience as God. Satan only knows the future as it is written in Scripture, and believe you me, when you've had 6000 years to study them, he undoubtedly knows Scripture better than most evangelicals.

Satan does not know when his moment in the limelight will be. All he does know is that for now he has free reign to roam the world seeking whom he may devour (cf. 1 Peter 5:8), that he is currently the prince of this world (cf. Eph 2:2) and that he stands as our accuser before God (cf. Job 1:9-11; Rev. 12:10). But as for the future, he knows what the Scripture says.

The Bible tells us that at some time in the future Satan will have a puppet, the antichrist, to rise in power and take over the world. This man will proclaim himself to be God, and many believe that he will in the latter part of his reign, become indwelt by Satan himself. Satan, like us though, does not know the day or the hour that this time will be, so it is very plausible to surmise that he in fact has had a 'chosen one' – a man in every age, ready to assume the role of the Antichrist.

Perhaps this is why history has many 'types and shadows' of antichrists. For instance Antiochus Epiphanes who sacked Jerusalem and persecuted the Jews between

171 and 164 B.C. Antiochus erected a statue of Zeus inside the Jewish temple and sacrificed a pig on the Altar. This single act of desolation so incited the Jews that it began a revolt which ended with Jewish independence for the first time since 586 B.C. The celebration of *Hanukkah*, meaning 'dedication' (of the sanctuary) is done in honor of that independence in 164 B.C.

The temptation here is to apply future prophecies of the antichrist to come, to these past events. For example Daniel chapters 11 and 12 speak of an event similar to that being described here. However, later verses such as Matthew 24:15 would seem to indicate this is also a future event. It is surmised therefore that there is a dual fulfillment to this prophecy, both with Antiochus in years past, and the Antichrist to come in years future.

The point is, that Satan stands ready for his 'day in the sun' if I can use such a term. It is wise therefore for us to watch and be ready, but at the same time realize that the man of sin (antichrist) will not be revealed until after the rapture. That is why we are called to watch for Christ, and not keep our eyes searching recklessly for the antichrist. (cf. Matthew 24:44-51)

- J.R. Hall

Upcoming Events...

Digging Deeper 2012

Erindale Alliance Church,
Saskatoon, SK, Canada

March 16, 17 and 18th, 2012
Stay tuned for more details!

Overheard

"My main ambition in life is to be on the devil's most wanted list."

- Leonard Ravenhill