
IMPACT OF CURRENT EVENTS ON BIBLE PROPHECY

By John A. Pinkston

As we begin 2007, most people have no idea or concerns about events happening in other parts of the world. Most people are only concerned about their personal welfare and prosperity. The fact is, virtually no one in positions of leadership of our government, churches or schools have any knowledge concerning most current events reported in the news media as it relates to the long-term future of the United States and the rest of the world.

The mainstream churches of the world continue to teach a message ABOUT Jesus without ever examining the message He brought, which is PROPHECY, considering world conditions of our day and revealing news about soon-coming events that will impact not only the United States of America, but every person on the face of the earth.

Christ labels His message as THE GOSPEL. The world has focused on the person of Christ, rather than His Words. In fact, most churches espouse a religion which is diametrically opposed to the words of Christ found in the first four books of the New Testament.

Jesus Christ was not a religious man in the sense of modern-day Churchianity. True enough, Christ performed many healings and other miraculous events. However, the main thrust of His message had to do with human relationships, our relationship to God and a message concerning NEWS EVENTS we will be witnessing in the near future.

Jesus Christ was and is the greatest newscaster the world has ever

seen or known. The news He brought to the world over 2000 years ago concerns news events that have not yet happened, but will soon come to pass. The Biblical term for providing news before it ever occurs is called "prophecy."

During the course of this article, we will look at several current events, that will lead to the fulfillment of many news events Jesus Christ spoke of over 2000 years ago.

Allah and the Pope

As November came to an end, Pope Benedict traveled to Istanbul, Turkey, in an effort to bring Catholics and Muslims together. While in Turkey, the Pope visited a mosque which had only seen one other pope in the past. In order to be permitted into the Islamic place of worship, the pontiff – who has been trying to placate Muslim rage as a result of a speech he made in September – was required to remove his shoes in deference to the anti-Christian and ant-Jewish religion of Islam. According to Vatican sources, the said purpose of the visit to the mosque was to build bridges between Christians and Muslims. However, the

announcement did not placate the anger stirred up by the Muslims who rallied in Istanbul on the Sunday prior to the pope's arrival.

The mob's message to the Catholic leader was vividly spelled out on a large banner above the crowd. The banner read "Jesus is NOT the Son of God. He is a Prophet of Mohammed."

In the Islamic religion, the word Allah means "god." However, their god, which they created, is unlike the true God and Creator of the universe. The Muslim followers of Allah are, in fact, proving that the words of the pope were accurate when he described the religion of Islam as "violent and in virtual opposition to the true teachings of the creator."

As a result of the visit to Turkey, it seems that the pope, instead of shunning the religion of Islam, appeared poised to embrace its followers in order to "build bridges" between the Vatican and the Muslim world.

As an overview of prophecy spelled out in the Bible, we know that, at the end of this age, shortly before the Return of Jesus Christ, the world will settle upon a religion that embraces

virtually ALL FORMS OF RELIGIONS. The man who ascends to the top of this new world religious system is described in the Bible as the FALSE PROPHET.

Christ warned that the world would SEE many who would come, deceiving the whole world. (Matthew 24:11) *“And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.”* Christ goes on to indicate how complete the deception will be by His statement in Matthew 24:24. *“For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.”* This verse indicates that the entire world will be deceived by this new world religion with the exception of the few to whom Christ has revealed the differences between the false prophets and the true ministers of Jesus Christ who teach the unadulterated message that Christ also taught.

The book of Revelation shows that, at the end of this age, when the world-ruling government comes to power for the final seven years of man’s rule on this earth, this world leader will be accompanied by a world religious leader

PROPHET. (Revelation 16:13) *“And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the FALSE PROPHET.”*

Religious War

As the 20th Century came to an end, the world began to experience a type of war which the world has not seen since the Middle Ages, the renewal of religious warfare. The rise of Islam is a replay of the Islamic Wars during the Dark Ages around 1000 AD. Muslims virtually marched across Europe and expanded their power until western Europe finally became unified and strong enough to defeat the armies of Islam and force them back into the Middle East.

Since the ending of the Viet Nam War, the rise of Islamic warfare has continued to expand. Today, the attention of virtually all the world is on the Middle East and the expanding war by the Islamic Fascists, who have stated openly that they seek the destruction of America, Britain and the Jews in Israel. The Islamic forces view the United

#1 enemy. The Islamic extremists intend to bring their religion/government to the entire world. The Islamic leaders, like the Iranian president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, predict that the United States, Britain and Israel will collapse in disgrace because of the war on terrorism in Iraq. Ahmadinejad has repeatedly called for Israel’s destruction and ultimately the overthrow of the governments of United States and Britain.

The Iranian leader sees America as his biggest obstacle to world domination. The war-like rhetoric from Ahmadinejad has led many in government to believe that Iran is seriously working on the development of an atomic weapon, which they could deliver atop one of their intercontinental ballistic rockets to cities in the U.S.

Consolidation of Power

As a result of the Democrats gaining control of both Houses of the U.S. legislature, there will be a louder outcry by these politicians and the American news media for the United States to withdraw all of its forces from



Pope Benedict XVI and Muslim clerics visit the Blue Mosque in Istanbul, Turkey (AP Photo)

leaders are successful in withdrawing American troops, which will happen sooner or later, the stage will be set for the conglomeration of most of the Islamic Middle Eastern countries into a loosely unified force which can have a tremendously bad effect upon the world economy and political instability. Believe it or not, the prophecies of Daniel, in your Bible, speak of a powerful force developing in this end time which is described as the King of the South. As is the case with many prophecies, there can be several fulfillments before the final fulfillment of virtually all of the prophecies during the final seven years of man's rule on this earth, leading to the Return of Jesus Christ.

In Daniel 11, there is just such an instance of history giving us a clue to the news we will soon be reading concerning a great and powerful force which is called the King of the South. In the original consideration of this prophecy, it was referring to two of the four generals who divided the kingdom created by Alexander the Great. This is described in Daniel 11:3-4. The two most important generals spoken of here are Seleucid and Ptolemy. Seleucid became the King of the North, while Ptolemy became the King of the South. However, the battle spoken of here never came to pass between Seleucid and Ptolemy. Therefore, we must continue to search down through the ages to identify who might have been the King of the North and the King of the South. The King of the North did not manifest himself until the establishment of the Great Roman Empire. The Kingdom of the South, which was ruled by Ptolemy and his descendants was headquartered in Egypt. During the time of Julius Caesar (his dictatorship was from 49 to 44 BC) problems arose in Egypt when the son and daughter of the late Ptolemy fought for supremacy and, with Rome's help the daughter won. The daughter was Queen Cleopatra. Her kingdom was the Kingdom of the South mentioned in Daniel 11:6, the king's daughter. *"And in the end of years they shall join themselves together; for the king's daughter of the south shall come to the king of the north to make an agreement: but she shall not retain the power of the*

arm; neither shall he stand, nor his arm: but she shall be given up, and they that brought her, and he that begat her, and he that strengthened her in these times."

History reveals that Julius Caesar, the king of the North at that time, conquered Ptolemy's kingdom of the South. Ultimately, the fall of Egypt led to the suicide of Cleopatra, which ended the reign of the Ptolemies. Rome, then, was in control. This event was a type of what we will see in the future. In Daniel 11:9 (through the remainder of the chapter) provides information concerning the uprising of a new kingdom of the south which will be bound together by their cultures, race and Islamic religion. (Daniel 11:9-12) *"So the king of the south shall come into his kingdom, and shall return into his own land. But his sons shall be stirred up, and shall assemble a multitude of great forces: and one shall certainly come, and overflow, and pass through: then shall he return, and be stirred up, even to his fortress. And the king of the south shall be moved with choler, and shall come forth and fight with him, even with the king of the north: and he shall set forth a great multitude; but the multitude shall be given into his hand [king of the north]. And when he hath taken away the multitude, his heart shall be lifted up; and he shall cast down many ten thousands: but he shall not be strengthened by it."*

These verses are describing a resurrected Islamic power that most likely will have nuclear weapons and control of much of the world's oil supply, giving them tremendous leverage over the countries that make up the European Union. Verse 11 indicates that he (the King of the South) will have some success against the King of the North initially, which, in this case, is most likely the European Union, but in the end, the King of the North will return with greater power, as described in Daniel 11:12-13.

The European Union and its allies will win out against the King of the South and, as a result, they will ultimately move into the Middle East and Jerusalem. (Daniel 11:15-16) *"So the king of the north shall come, and cast up a mount, and take the most fenced cities: and the arms of the south shall not withstand, neither his chosen people, neither shall*

there be any strength to withstand. But he that cometh against him shall do according to his own will, and none shall stand before him: and he shall stand in the glorious land, which by his hand shall be consumed."

After moving into the Middle East and, specifically, Jerusalem, Jesus Christ tells us of an event that the whole world will witness in Matthew 24:15. *"When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)"* This new world leader and his religious side-kick will set up shop in a new temple which has not yet been constructed in Jerusalem and bring a halt to the daily sacrifices which the Jews will have started several years before this event takes place. At this point, the world will be engulfed in major wars and this leader from the North will turn his eyes toward Britain, western Europe and the United States to complete his world conquest. Notice Daniel 11:18 where it mentions "turns his eyes to the isles."

Upon consolidating his power, suddenly the scripture indicates that this individual or governmental system suffers a mortal wound. Daniel 11:19, *"Then he shall turn his face toward the fort of his own land: but he shall stumble and fall, and not be found."* This verse seems to correspond to a statement found in Revelation 13:11-12, *"And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed."*

These two verses seem to indicate that the original leader, or his government, is taken out somehow and a new one stands in his place; this new leader becomes what the book of Revelation calls the eighth beast. (Revelation 17:11) It is this eighth leader who will reign for a period of 42 months, which Jesus Christ describes as the Great Tribulation. (Matthew 24:21)

This same event is also described in Daniel 11:20. *"Then shall*

“And I will break the pride of your power; ...And your strength shall be spent in vain....”

Leviticus 26:19

stand up in his estate a raiser of taxes in the glory of the kingdom: but within few days he shall be destroyed, neither in anger, nor in battle.” In verse 21, we find a description of this evil tyrant who attempts to subdue the whole world. Notice, part of the explanation is given to us in Verse 22. Daniel 11:31 indicates that he will be the one who brings the abomination into the holy place as mentioned by Jesus Christ in Matthew 24:15. *“And arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate.”*

As you read the remainder of Daniel 11, you will understand more clearly what this final King of the North will be like, just before the Return of Jesus Christ.

Pride of Our Power

At the present time, the United States and Western Europe are far superior in military power and economic strength compared to the Islamic world. But, as American resources continue to be drained, fighting the War in Iraq and the many social programs passed by lawmakers in order to “buy the votes” of our citizens, the economic condition of the United States will falter!!.

In Leviticus 26:19, God issues a stern warning to His people. This warning includes all who consider themselves Christians and God’s people. *“And I will break the pride of your power; ...And your strength shall be spent in vain....”*

God plainly warns His people in the United States that, if we continue to walk contrary to Him by stamping out the knowledge of His Laws as expressed in the Ten Commandments and the downright rejection of the Bible as the

inspired words from our Creator God, He will destroy the pride of our power.

On many occasions, I have identified three major areas that represent the pride of our power. The first has to do with our economic clout in the world. The U.S. dollar has been the medium of exchange in world commerce since World War II. Everything, even now, is measured against the value of the U.S. dollar.

During the Nixon administration, due to inflation and other economic pressures, President Nixon removed gold and silver as the foundational support for the American currency. Since that time, the U.S. treasury has recalled virtually all paper money that indicated it was backed by either silver or gold. In so doing, the dollar only has the confidence of those who trade in dollars to establish and maintain its value.

The United States currency now depends upon our friends and enemies, alike, to purchase U.S. dollars to offset the massive U.S. budget deficits each year. At the present time, the Chinese communist government is the largest single purchaser of U.S. debt in the world. When the Chinese communists decide that they no longer wish to purchase American debt, the U.S. dollar and the American economy will be in dire straits until, or unless, we find another country to buy our debts. And we must pay them dearly in interest to do so.

Economic Reality

Is it possible the United States could go bankrupt? According to Economist Lawrence Kotlikoff, as he points out in a recent article, that the U.S. has about \$80 trillion in future entitlements promised – these are unfunded liabilities. This is about six times larger than the whole U.S. economy

is presently generating. To make good on those government promises, future workers will have to pay tax rates ranging from 55 to 80% of their income!

Finally, some knowledgeable and authoritative people are starting to bring this most important national crisis to the attention of the public. The Comptroller General, David Walker, is on a national “fiscal responsibility wake-up tour,” in a non-partisan effort to educate the public to the crisis that looms, not only in the next few years, but as the baby-boomers retire. In the middle of a 15-year term, he is being supported by political liberals and conservatives in his effort to shine a light on the budget problems that loom. He says, “Current fiscal policy is not sustainable, and hard choices must be made ... we are mortgaging the future of our children and grandchildren and creating a shameful legacy.”

Presently, sixty per cent of the federal spending is now mandatory, primary Medicare, social security, interest on the national debt, programs over which the budget process has no control. While the 2005 budget was widely reported as a \$318 billion deficit, on an operating basis, as most companies report, the year’s deficit was easily double that amount reported by the government.

We are now financing our deficits by borrowing from our allies and former enemies and now 50% of our public debt is owned by foreigners. The interest on the national debt is expected to reach about \$200 billion this year, about the same as we spent on Medicare. We currently have a \$46 trillion liability for future promises of Medicare and social security. A new drug bill passed by the Bush administration will easily add another \$8 trillion to the promises.

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In the next 25 years, Medicare spending will grow at nearly five times the rate the economy (GDP) grows. This means that every newborn who arrives will immediately have a debt of \$156,000 on the day they are born.

Mr. Walker points out that time is working against us, so we have to act now. Since we are in a period of economic growth, with relatively low interest rates, it is the perfect time to get our financial house in order. He also says that the real problem is the exponential increase of the deficit 20 years down the line, when the baby-boomers retire and will be dependent on promised payments from the government. At that point, he indicates that the system will collapse. He says that tough choices must be made now and, in fact, it may be too late. He challenges the new congress with the need for better controls on the budgetary process, including authorizing a "line-item veto" which will allow the president to cut items from the budget. This would require a 50% vote of congress which is unlikely, since most political office-holders attain and maintain their positions by promising more and more government aid.

Comptroller General Walker states that, if we don't immediately start dealing with our financial problems, we risk the fate of the Roman Empire, once the most powerful on the face of the globe. These dire warnings come to us from people in financial circles in the government who have a true understanding of just how massive public spending has become.

When it becomes obvious to our people and the world that the U.S. government is bankrupt, the economic strength of the United States, which is one of its primary projections of power, will be destroyed.

God issues a warning to us individually and the nation as a whole concerning personal and national finance in Malachi 3:8-12. "Will a man rob God?"

Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts. And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightful land, saith the LORD of hosts."

It is truly a pity that our preachers and elected politicians aren't screaming at the top of their voices to get our financial house "in order" and the first order of business would be to recognize that God has a claim upon our wealth, since all of it originated with Him.

Political Power

During the last several elections, the world and our citizens have been subjected to the most vicious political attacks any of us living have ever seen. The end result of this latest election is to further divide the country almost down the middle by population count; half the American voters are very happy over the latest changes in congress, while the other 50% are downcast and discouraged.

Unfortunately, no matter how the politicians claim to be less partisan, the fact is this is only lip service. You can be sure that the opposition party will do everything in its power to make those in power look bad. The new democratically controlled legislative body has already indicated that they will begin investigations to find some reason to impeach the president. Just as it was in the last Clinton administration, the remaining two years of the Bush

administration may be totally consumed with endless investigation and the necessity to protect the president and the Republican party. During these next two years, the world will see that the American style of democracy continues to fail the people.

In the process, the American citizens are rapidly coming to the point where they will lose all confidence in both the political parties and the stage will be set for a political revolution which will lead to the New World Order.

At the same time, America's friends and enemies, alike, will perceive that the American political system is in disarray and, as a result, another leg of the American pride of power will be eroded on the world scene. In fact, we see this happening where so many of our allies oppose America's war with Iraq and no longer feel obligated to support the American position in much of our foreign affairs.

This eroding power, because of the internal struggles between the political parties in the United States, will continue to hamper the U.S. government's interaction with foreign countries and reduce our overall influence in the world. This is another sign that the pride of our great power is being broken.

Military

At the present time, our politicians continue to claim that the U.S. military is the most powerful, best military in the world. While that may be the case, there are serious signs that our military power is going to be challenged on the world scene.

Recently, a very sophisticated, Chinese communist submarine trailed, unnoticed, the U.S.S. Kitty Hawk aircraft carrier. This was quite an embarrassment to the U.S. Navy whose pride of its power is expressed in the invulnerability of its aircraft carriers. American aircraft carriers always sail with a fleet of ships surrounding them that are supposed to

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