

WESTERN WATCHMAN

NEWS AND COMMENTARY, JULY 2010

“Except the LORD build the house, they labor in vain that build it; except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.” Psalm 127:1.

Genesis 2:18: And the LORD God said. It is not good that the man should be alone: I will make him an help meet for him.

Matthew 19:6: Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

It appears that natural disasters are again on the increase in America. Consider recent devastating floods in Nashville and Arkansas, a record tornado outbreak in Minnesota including one funnel that destroyed much of Wadena, damaging hail in Colorado north and east of Denver and serious forest fire outbreaks in Arizona near Flagstaff. There is divine purpose in every act and a rebellious nation needs to face up to its rebellion against God or expect more of the same, only worse.

ISRAEL IN THE NEWS: PSALM 83 WAR IMMINENT, AMERICA COMPLACENT AND COMPLICIT: HERE’S THE LINEUP. The religious system of Islam, along with its various factions and ethnicities, continues the process of a massive buildup of weaponry intended solely for use against the Jewish State of Israel. If I didn’t know any better, I would say a Psalm 83 war is shaping up as this is written.

Jewish historian Dr. Steve Carol and others have been warning about this buildup. Weaponry has been flooding into Lebanon and Syria by land and sea. The Gaza Strip is already a haven for rocket launchers after the disastrous “peace deal” concluded in August 2005 by President Bush, forcing thousands of Jewish residents to evacuate Gaza and turning the entire Strip into a launching pad. Lately, rumblings have been arriving from east of the Jordan River. The nation of Jordan, supposedly at peaceful co-existence with Israel, has been sounding more bellicose in recent months. Egyptian cooperation with Israel has been dwindling, despite permission for Israeli warships to pass through the Suez Canal enroute to the Persian Gulf. Then there is the spirit of Islam that hangs over every nation that surrounds Israel that wants to see the nation destroyed and the land returned to Allah. Many weapons of war have arrived from such diverse nations as Iran, Russia, China, North Korea and yes, even the good ole’ USA. Clearly the world is advancing its efforts to gang up on Israel by all means at its disposal.

Meanwhile the good ole’ USA, one-time ally of Israel, President Obama and his administration, flanked by anti-Israel Jews like Rahm Emmanuel and David Axelrod, continues the heavy anti-Israel rhetoric and threats against the Jewish State, almost outdoing Israel’s Islamic enemies in the effort. Lately they have been “steaming their beans” by concentrating their criticism on two targets: ongoing efforts to construct new

housing in Jerusalem, and Israel's blockade in the Mediterranean Sea, designed to prevent so-called relief supplies such as food and medicine from reaching Gaza City. In reality, much of what is carried in these convoys are weapons for use against – you guessed it – Israel. An Iranian submarine originally constructed in the old Soviet Union recently unloaded chemical weapons in Tyre, with suited HAZMAT crews overseeing disposition of the cargo. The American anti-Israel mainstream snooze media continues its delightful duty keeping the American public anesthetized with fluff and foof. And the American Church, dominated by replacement theologians, doesn't give a tinker's hoot about goings-on in Israel. Replacement Theology claims Israel's existence is an accident, not a prophetic end-time miracle because the Jewish State was destroyed once and for all in AD 70 and the Church has replaced Israel in God's prophetic economy. So the sleep goes on.

Let's examine briefly the identity of nations listed after the prayer in 83:1-5. Beginning verse 6, the first nation mentioned is Edom, that is, the descendants of Esau. This warfare has been going on since before Esau and Jacob were born to Isaac and Rebekah: Genesis 25:21-24. Next are the Ishmaelites, that is, those from the twelve sons of Ishmael the son of Abraham through a relationship with Hagar the Egyptian: Genesis 16, 25:12-18. Today, many Arabic people identify their origin with Ishmael. Next is listed the people of Moab, one of sons of Lot resulting from a relationship with one of his daughters: Genesis 19:30-38. Today the Moabites are found in Jordan. Next are the Hagarenes, apparently similar to the Ishmaelites because of Abraham's relationship with Hagar. Next is Gebal, in early times called Phoenicia, located north of modern-day Beirut in Lebanon. Ammon is the other half of the descendants of Lot through his other daughter, also found today in the land of Jordan and its capital Amman. Next, the children of Amalek are also descendants of Esau and related to the Edomites. These people are from south Jordan, south and east of the Dead Sea and in the area of Mount Seir and Petra. Next, the Philistines are the same people identified as "Palestinians" today. Some are Semitic while others are apparently a blend of Semitic and Hamitic origin such as the late Yassir Arafat. Since ancient Israel, the Philistines have occupied the Mediterranean coastline including the modern Gaza Strip as far north as the city of Ashkelon, located within the boundaries of the modern Jewish state. Few nationalities have historically been as violently opposed to Israel as this group. The inhabitants of Tyre are again found on the Mediterranean coastline in modern Lebanon. Finally, Assur (descendents of one of Shem's five sons and the people of ancient Assyria: Genesis 10:22) includes the people who occupy modern Syria and part of adjacent Iraq. In summary we have Gaza, Lebanon, Syria and Jordan directly involved, with Saudi Arabia and Egypt available for conflict. Sound familiar?

In spite of the surrogate participation of modern Iran (ancient Persia and Elam: Genesis 10:22) and this nation's direct participation supplying arms to Syria, Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Gaza, no mention of any impending judgment on Iran is given in Psalm 83. Apparently this nation's turn will come later, as Iran will be a major participant eliminated in the future war of Gog and Magog: Ezekiel 38 and 39.

One thing appears certain: the outcome: 83:13-17. Examination of these verses reveals that the psalmist is asking God to destroy these adversaries. Question is, how will this be done? Will Israel mount sufficient military force to defeat these enemies with few casualties to Israel itself? Will Israel be God's instrument to complete this judgment? Or will the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob provide the outcome without help from the IDF, IAF or Navy? Time will tell but when the smoke clears, Israel will emerge the victor and the world will know about a dangerous, unseen enemy named **Yahweh**: Psalm 83:18.

I greatly regret using the expression "dangerous, unseen enemy" as a descriptor of God the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ whose direct participation in Middle East events is believed imminent. True, God is righteous and holy, a God of justice and judgment, but He is also a God of tender-loving mercy and kindness. His character is to deal with sin one of two ways: in grace or wrath. Under the grace of God through Jesus (John 14:6) a saint knows Who he has believed: II Timothy 1:12. The world however, that has rejected His grace and mercy will surely receive His wrath: Romans 1:18. There are no exceptions.

RETURN TO THE WORD OF GOD #18: NOW OR NEVER: THE FORGOTTEN CHAPTERS. Today's texts make two things clear: that God never intended man to be alone, and that it was God who initiated the process that brings a man together with a woman. Had mankind just adhered to these simple standards, things today would be a whole lot different and better. But man, a free moral agent, makes choices. His demise began when he chose to ignore the commandment of God relating to the Garden of Eden. This matter will be discussed in greater detail in Chapter 3.

Jesus' quote in Matthew 19:6 makes clear that God instituted marriage – "*What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.*" So now, time to answer a few fair questions. In a given marriage, how does one know God was involved in the joining of a man and woman? Was the counsel of God through His Word sought and understood before the joining together of a man and woman? Did they understand and consider carefully that acknowledgement of God is absolutely essential to a union? Did they study and believe what God says in His Word about the role of husbands and wives in passages such as I Corinthians 7 and Ephesians 5:22-33? Did they understand that Godly participation is essential to prevent a union from dissolution? Do they know Jesus as Savior and Lord? Note questions not asked, such as: Did the couple get a marriage license from the State and pay the applicable fees? Did they undergo a premarital blood test? Did rich Aunt Bessie and Uncle Elmer approve the groom's choice of bride?

Today, marriages are failing right and left, and others undergo grievous suffering because one or more of these elementary questions were overlooked, ignored, trounced on or otherwise left unanswered "due to expediency." A marriage instituted by God **should not** fail and end up in divorce court. Other situations, such as when one party in a marriage comes to Jesus in faith, can still receive God's blessing if the conditions laid down for these situations are believed and adhered to: I Corinthians 7:10-16. God has not called us to war in marriage, but to peace: I Corinthians 7:15, Ephesians 4:29-32.

There is never enough space to cover this crucial topic, but there certainly is time to move ahead to the chapter where the origin of sin is added to the foundation. Good day.

Mark A. Steiner

Denver, Colorado USA

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