



The tribe of Issachar understood the times and knew what Israel should do

Issachar Ministries UK seeks to be a people who understand the times, listen to the Lord and know what should be done

Issachar Comments Papers

Expounding biblical concepts on the world scene today

The Coming Storm

May 2014

"Put the trumpet to your lips!" Hosea was told; because the people had broken the covenant and rebelled against the Lord. "O our God, we acknowledge you!" they said; but they were empty words because they had rejected the word of the Lord (Hosea 8.1-2). "We are a Christian country!" declares our Prime Minister, but they are empty words because truth has been rejected by this nation.

In my quiet times I have been hearing, *"Put the trumpet to your lips!"* and I have to respond. For 20 years I was the editor of the magazine *Prophecy Today* which had the largest Christian magazine circulation in 1990s' Britain. Month after month I worked with a small team spreading before the Lord the news of what we were hearing and seeing in Britain and around the world and then declaring what we believed to be the word of God for our times.

Throughout those years we were fighting for the soul of Britain, warning about the consequences of the forces of change that would bring trouble upon the nation and calling for repentance and change. Today, that trouble is everyday news. Last year in Issachar Ministries we warned that a red line would be passed in the nation with the Same-Sex Marriage Bill which would bring inevitable judgement. That line has now been crossed in our nation, added to which other things are threatening on the international horizon. So what should Christians be doing? I see the storm clouds gathering and I hear the wind in the trees. Our nation is in deep trouble and believers need to be watching as well as praying. Look at the facts.

Russia and the West

The tensions between Russia and the West are increasing. The Crimea has rejoined Russia and many Russian speakers in Eastern Ukraine would like to do the same. They have occupied government buildings and declared their intention of remaining there until the Government in Kiev gives way to their demands. If the Government uses force to remove them this would provide a convenient justification for Russia sending in their army to protect those who claim to be Russians.

The Kiev Government is already looking to NATO for assistance in strengthening their forces which is creating a highly charged atmosphere between Moscow and Washington. President Putin is not the kind of man to back down and Obama sees America's worldwide supremacy being lost if he is unable to support Ukraine against what is perceived to be Russian aggression. ***One small incident could spark a full-scale war.***

These are the facts on the ground but what is likely to happen? Is Europe heading for yet another conflict which could so easily spill over into a Third World war?

The Middle East

What about the Middle East now that negotiations between the Palestinians and the Israelis have broken down and neither side will talk to the other? The 'two state solution' appears to be dead in the water which is something that will please the hardliners on both sides of the divide. The Palestinians refuse to accept the existence of Israel and the Israelis claim the whole land to be their biblical inheritance. One small incident could spark a full-scale war.

These are the facts on the ground but what is likely to happen? Israel is surrounded by hostile Arab nations all armed with sophisticated weaponry waiting for the moment to pounce. Can Israel survive yet another conflict? Could such a conflict be

confined to the Middle East or would it spill over into a Third World war?

Terrorism

In Nigeria Islamic terrorists have captured 200 Christian schoolgirls because they do not believe that women should be allowed to have education - especially not Western education. In Egypt 400 men have been sentenced to death because they belong to a different sect of Islam. Whichever group is in power will persecute the others. In Syria the Muslims continue to slaughter each other on a colossal scale with no regard to the sanctity of life. On a smaller scale the same thing is happening in Iraq. In both countries Christians are suffering. Islamic militants' hatred of Jews and Christians threatens the peace of the world and they are steadily growing in strength in Western Europe and the USA.

The Church

These are just some of the tensions building up in a divided world armed with weapons of mass destruction but is there any word from the Lord? The church in the West continues to sleep peacefully while the storm clouds darken, happily chanting "*As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end, Amen*" which comes from the wrong translation of Ephesians 3.21 in the Authorised Version. The Bible certainly does not say that the world has no end. 2 Peter 3 describes the apostolic teaching on the eventual destruction of the world by "*ungodly men*" which is based upon the teaching in Isaiah 24 where "*the earth is completely laid waste*" and "*defiled (polluted) by its people*". Will the church in the West give a prophetic lead to the nations or decline and crumble with Western civilisation?

Signs of the Times

So how do we read the signs of the times? Ezekiel 38 and 39 warn that the great conflict in the Middle East will start through an attack from the North involving what is now Turkey, Iran and Iraq, Azerbaijan and Russia. There are a number of things prophesied to happen before these events are fulfilled. I have been spreading this before the Lord since receiving a several warnings from respected friends who study the Bible and watch world events. The lunar and solar eclipses of the next two years which coincide with Hebrew biblical festivals add a sense of urgency to those who seek to understand what God is saying to us today and I have also been looking back at some of the prophecies which we published in the magazine *Prophecy Today*.

Carmel/Jerusalem Gathering

In April 1986 I was part of the leadership team that brought together men and women with prophetic ministries from around the world. We spent a week together in prayer seeking God on Mt Carmel in Northern Israel and we all agreed that the major word God was saying to us was found in Haggai 2.6-7 "*In a little while I will once more shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land. I will shake all nations.*" This word is repeated in Hebrews 12.26 which is one of the last books to be written in the New Testament, indicating that the prophecy was still in the future at the end of the first century A.D. This Scripture was reported to an international gathering in Jerusalem of some 5,000 the following week together with several other prophecies.

Central Message

A number of the prophecies given at Carmel referred to God's purposes for Israel. The central message from Carmel that went out from Jerusalem was,

"It will not be long before there will come upon the world a time of unparalleled upheaval and turmoil. Do not fear for it is I the Lord who am shaking all things. I began this shaking with the First World War and I greatly increased it through the Second World War. Since 1973 I have given it an even greater impetus. In the last stage, I have planned to complete it with the shaking of the universe itself, with signs in the sun and moon and stars. But before that point is reached, I will judge the nations, and that time is near.

It will not only be by war and civil war, by anarchy and terrorism, and by monetary collapses that I will judge the nations; but also by natural disasters, by earthquakes, by shortages and famines, and by old and new plagues and diseases. I will also judge them by giving them over to their own ways; to lawlessness, to lovelessness, to selfishness, to delusion and to believing a lie; to false religion and an apostate church; even to a 'christianity' without me.

Do not fear when these things begin to happen, for I disclose them to you before they commence in order that you might be prepared and that in the day of trouble you may stand firm and be overcomers."

World System Cracking

In November 1997 in *Prophecy Today* we published a prophetic word which was given in the parish church of St John and St Peter in Notting Hill London.

"The world system is creaking at the seams - it will break up and end - bringing unhappiness and turmoil. Some of my people speak of revival and peace - but no peace can come upon a world and the system which is godless and corrupt, which owes no allegiance to the Prince of Peace. Do not be deceived, for even the lull in the middle of the storm in the midst of bad weather, does not signal the end of the storm.

Revival may bring a lull in the storm, but the storm gathers force to break again with unrelenting violence. The strong storm clouds already fill the horizon and these darken the ends of the earth. Some look up in fear and try to escape the storm - but there is no hiding place. The anger of dark forces will make the blood of my people flow. It is time to count the cost.

The defence of man's pride will be broken - the pride of life, the trust in the power of wealth and position will not save. It will come, the storm will come. Do you not already hear the howling of the wind and see the darkening of the skies to bring near the time of judgement of nations, and peoples, both great and small? Some of my people will be taken, but some will remain in the hour of judgement, when light and darkness meet for final contest over the souls of men.

Therefore, decide today whom you will serve - your very souls depend on this decision. Choose life beyond life, even through the blood of sacrifice, if needs be."

Time of Trial

I would not be faithful to my Ministry calling if I did not speak now of the warnings that I am hearing that a cataclysmic time of trial is now on the horizon. Several of the prophetic words sent to me recently by friends have indicated dates when these signs will begin. I have not heard a specific word from the Lord, so I will not name dates but I simply know that the days are drawing close and I believe that the next three years will be times of severe testing. It is therefore essential for believers to be prepared for times of both social and financial stress that will accompany world events which will be beyond our control.

Comfort and Strength

In the midst of all this upheaval the Lord is giving solemn promises to his people, to those who belong to him, that he will never leave them or forsake his people. But now is the time to form groups of believers in every neighbourhood for mutual comfort, strength and support in the testing days that lie ahead. Simply being a member of a traditional congregation may not be sufficient to provide the cover needed. It was through prayer in the family and small groups that the faith of the Jews survived in Babylon and this is how the faith of the first Christians survived in the Early Church under Roman persecution. This is how the faith will survive in the days to come.

The Father's Love

In the First Letter of John he sent a strong warning to the Christians under severe persecution from Rome which is relevant for us today.

"Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.... But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth.... How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!...This is the message you heard from the beginning: we should love one another... But every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard is coming and now is already in the world. You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world."

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