

Family Night Special Feature Study
What in the World is Going On?

What in the World is Going On Study Schedule

WEEK	DATE	TOPIC	SUMMARY
SIX	February 25	America in Prophecy	America is one of the most powerful nations in the world. Why do we not see this powerful nation in the End Times prophecy?

NOTE:

Allow Dr. David Jeremiah to challenge you with his pertinent message, *What in the World Is Going On? 10 Prophetic Clues You Cannot Afford to Ignore* and discover the hope we have in Christ.

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Joyce Center @ University of Notre Dame

113 Joyce Center.....Notre Dame, IN 46556 Start: 7:00 pm Doors Open: 5:30 pm

Study #6 – America in Prophecy

David Wilkerson delivered a sermon in 1989 at Times Square Church in New York City that caught his audience by surprise. He proclaimed to the audience that America had passed the point of no return in its great rebellion against God. Listen to these opening words:

“America is dying. The country’s wound is incurable. It is now in the final throes of a terminal disease. The great empire is crumbling!”

- Respond to this statement by Wilkerson.

One of the most often asked questions by American Christians when looking at the topic of Biblical prophecy is: **Is America seen in prophecy?** The answer to this question can be unsettling for many people that are fixing their hopes up the salvation of mankind through a government, a financial institution, or even a great political figure.

- *Why is this such an unsettling question for many American Christians today?*

In order to understand America’s role in prophecy then we must first understand America’s past, present, and where it is headed. This gives us a more clear picture and answer as to America’s role in God’s End Time scenario.

Past: A Faithful Foundation

There is no doubt that God has blessed America. It is one of the most powerful nations in the world and has been powerful for at least 150 years or more. It has been a country that has come to the aid of other countries in their time of distress whether that distress was caused by economic turmoil, war, or even natural disasters. We are a country that has done great things for humanity and we have attempted to further the cause of Christ through missionary work.

- **75% of all world missionaries come from our country**
- **95% of the world’s population has access to the message of Christ.**

America has had a strong and faithful beginning. We have read about the faith of our founding fathers and the strong conviction that they had with regard to dependence upon God and independence from the dictatorship of a government that would suppress their freedom to worship their Heavenly Father.

April 30. 1789 – George Washington – First Inaugural Address – there is no truth more thoroughly established, than that there exists in the economy and course of nature, an indissoluble union between virtue and happiness; between duty and advantage; between the genuine maxims of an honest and magnanimous policy, and the solid rewards of public prosperity and felicity: since we ought to be no less persuaded that the propitious smiles of Heaven can never be

expected on a nation that disregards the external rules of order and right, which Heaven itself has ordained...."

March 4, 1865 – Abraham Lincoln – Second Inaugural Address – Fondly do we hope, fervently do we pray, that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away. Yet, if God wills that it continue until all the wealth piled by the bondsman's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn with the lash shall be paid by another drawn with the sword, as was said three thousand years ago, so still it must be said "the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether." With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.

Declaration of Independence

- "the Laws of Nature and Nature's God..."
- "all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights..."
- "appealing to the Supreme Judge of the World for the Rectitude of our Intentions..."
- "with a firm Reliance on the Protection of Divine Providence..."
- "And for the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.

During the past two centuries America has been a nation that sought to be led and guided by God seeking to honor Him with her actions and devotion. America has changed drastically over the last 50 years and has made some decisions that would not be favorable in the sight of God. Consider the passages below and respond to the following questions.

Psalms 33:12 – Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people he chose for his inheritance.

Proverbs 14:34 – Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people.

Matthew 7:24-27 – "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

Questions to Consider

- *Describe what these passages state about a nation under God.*
- *What are the characteristics of a nation under God?*
- *What happens when a nation does not follow God any longer?*

Present: Shaking of the Foundation

It is a fact that America has a Godly foundation but in recent years the foundation has been shaken and may be even starting to crumble. We look around the world today and we can quickly observe that America is not the super power that she used to be. She does not carry the same weight of influence that she once did in the world community and she is not leading the world in social reform for the greater welfare of mankind.

America is a land that is in an internal crises of faith, morality, and ethics. It is truly imploding from the inside out and it is becoming its own worst enemy. David Jeremiah in his book "What in the World is Going On" points out several facts to note about America from the past to the present that has allowed to be a nation blessed by God but what happens to a nation when it turns away from.

Fact #1 – America was founded on God and His Word

The first fact draws on our previous section where we studied the fact that America was founded upon God and His Word. It was the source of moral code and ethics in order to govern the people by Godliness, truth, and moral absolutes.

“I know there is an objection among many people to teaching children doctrines of any kind, because they are liable to be controverted. But let us not be wiser than our Maker. If moral precepts alone could have reformed mankind, the mission of the Son of God into all the world would have been unnecessary.” – *Dr. Benjamin Rush – Signer of Declaration of Independence*

2 Timothy 3:16 – All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.

The indictment against America today that is leading to her downfall is that she is no longer a Christian nation seeking the Word of God as a foundation of all matters. The reality is that she is doing everything she can to get God literally taken off or out of the foundation of this country.

When local officials in North Carolina placed "In God We Trust" on the front of the Davidson County Government Center, they soon found themselves in federal court facing a complaint that they were violating the separation of church and state. – May 24, 2005¹

Federal appeals court rules Pledge of Allegiance unconstitutional because of words 'under God'... SAN FRANCISCO – For the first time ever, a federal appeals court Wednesday declared the Pledge of Allegiance unconstitutional because of the words "under God" added by Congress in 1954. – *Associated Press, 06/26/02*²

- *What are other ways that the government is taking the Word of God out of the foundation of the country?*

Fact #2 – America has been a friend to Israel

The second fact that we observe about America is that it has been a long time ally with the nation of Israel. We have always been a friend to the nation of Israel and sought to help them in their times of distress but times are changing. When times get difficult and we have to choose sides, where will our government stand?

Genesis 12:3 – I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

- *What happens when a nation is for Israel according to God's Word? What happens if it is against Israel?*

Fact #3 – America has been a Free Nation

The other fact that we observe is that America has been a free nation since its birth. Anyone who loves freedom and promotes freedom understands that freedom come at a great cost.

John 8:32 – Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

But the fact is that freedom in our country seems to be in a limited quantity as well. True freedom comes from God alone and it is not hinged upon man's law but God alone. We seem to be losing more rights instead of gaining more rights in this country. The conservative Christians are slowly losing ground in the

¹ Daily Herald. http://mathaba.net/0_index.shtml?x=223176

² http://www.boston.com/news/daily/26/pledge_allegiance.htm

battle for reclaiming the Biblical foundational rights that our country was founded upon. Today our freedom is being threatened by the erosion of our culture. Compare these two definitions and reflect on where we are at as a country:

- **Democracy** – Government by the people ; *especially* : rule of the majority **b**: a government in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised by them directly or indirectly through a system of representation usually involving periodically held free elections.
- **Socialism** – 1: Any of various economic and political theories advocating collective or governmental ownership and administration of the means of production and distribution of goods 2 a: a system of society or group living in which there is no private property **b**: a system or condition of society in which the means of production are owned and controlled by the state 3: a stage of society in Marxist theory transitional between capitalism and communism and distinguished by unequal distribution of goods and pay according to work done

Galatians 5:1 – It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

- *What does it mean to have freedom from a Biblical perspective?*
- *How is freedom lost according to Scripture?*

Future: A Foundation in Ruins

We have seen America at its height and we now may be seeing America reach a new low in its history. There are several reasons as to why we do not see America mentioned in prophecy. The first reason is that America is a fairly young nation. The second reason is that America may be left powerless after the rapture. The third reason is that America may be attacked by an enemy and left powerless. The fourth reason is that America may not play an important role in the end times scenario due to the fact that she is no longer a super power. We may look back and say that is impossible because we are the most powerful nation in the world.

- *Are we the most powerful nation in the world today? Explain.*
- *Where does a man or a nation get its power from?*

In *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, author Edward Gibbon discusses several reasons for the great civilization's demise, including the undermining of the dignity and sanctity of the home and the decay of religion. America has been compared to the Roman Empire in secular and religious ways. Regardless of its ultimate legacy, America is a civilization on the decline. A couple of centuries from now (or sooner), someone will write a book called *The Decline and Fall of the American Empire*. Historians will lament the loss of a once-great civilization that brought prosperity to the world and tried to make it safer for democracy. The glory that was the United States will lay in ruins, brought down not by terrorists but its own debauchery and complacency. Even before cultural decay was apparent, a man named Dr. Carle Zimmerman wrote a book called *Family and Civilization* in 1947. He reviewed the decline of multiple civilizations and empires and found eight patterns of domestic behavior that signaled the decline of a civilization. There are eight factors that contribute to the downfall of a nation:

- 1) Marriage loses its sacredness; is frequently broken by divorce.
- 2) Traditional meaning of the marriage ceremony is lost.
- 3) Feminist movements abound.
- 4) Increased public disrespect for parents and authority in general.
- 5) Acceleration of juvenile delinquency, promiscuity, and rebellion.
- 6) Refusal of people with traditional marriages to accept family responsibilities.
- 7) Growing desire for and acceptance of adultery.
- 8.) Increasing interest in and spread of sexual perversions and sex-related crimes.³

**What does the future of our country look like?
Look to Germany, Europe, Rome, etc...**

³ <http://lashawnbarber.com/archives/2004/02/25/brstronglatest-column-america-on-the-declinestrong/>

Clinton ripped for downplaying human rights in China

Before arriving in China last week, Clinton said issues such as religious persecution in China "can't interfere with the global economic crisis, the global climate change crisis, and the security crises." - One NewsNow.Com (02-25-09)

Abortion not necessary to treat breast cancer aggressively

"Typically, women who have been diagnosed with breast cancer when they are pregnant are very strongly recommended to have a, quote, 'therapeutic abortion,'" Brind explains, "because it is viewed [that] if you have the abortion, then we [the oncologist's staff] don't have to worry about being very conservative with the treatment of the cancer [and] can go at the cancer full blast, use more aggressive treatment -- and therefore have a better chance at curing the cancer." - One NewsNow.Com (02-25-09)

Supreme Court to decide dispute over cross in Mojave

The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to hear a case concerning an eight-foot-high cross in the Mojave Desert. The World War I memorial to veterans has been in California's Mojave National Preserve since 1934. Originally constructed of wood, a pipe cross was erected in the mid-1990s. But the American Civil Liberties Union and a former National Park Service employee filed suit nearly eight years ago because the cross is erected on federal property. They won the first round. - One NewsNow.Com (02-25-09)

Even though America is not specifically mentioned in the end times prophetic scenario. The fact is that they are alluded to in this manner.

Mt. 24:4-14 —Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ, ' and will deceive many. You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains. "Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

- *What role do you think America plays in Biblical prophecy?*

Bibliography

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