

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

John
5:39



A Bi-Monthly Newsletter of B'rit Hadashah Ministries

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ISAIAH 53 AND THE SUFFERING OF MESSIAH

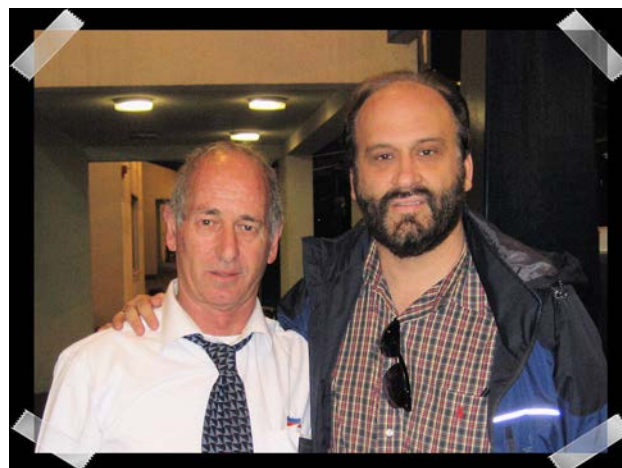
Kenny Gee and I landed in Tel Aviv. Right away our gospel outreach began with the car rental shuttle driver. His name was Shlomo. Shlomo was there to drive us to the car rental place. He was listening to the radio about how Hamas had just fired 137 rockets into Israel from Gaza. The Lord opened a door for Kenny and me to share how even the current U.S. administration does not strongly support Israel's right to defend itself against such unprovoked attacks. But we assured him that the God of Israel has promised the Jewish people that all who oppose them and seek their destruction will be cursed and overthrown in the end by the Lord as promised in Genesis 12:1-2. Shlomo wondered aloud if Israel will ever have peace with the evil likes of Hamas and the PA around. Amazingly his bewilderment seemed to suggest he was looking for an answer to this question from us—two complete strangers! The answer he was to shortly learn from our words is found in the Gospel of Yeshua the Messiah. We shared with him we come to Israel to let the Jewish people know the Lord has brought peace between the sinner and God through the atoning death of Yeshua the Messiah on the tree. Three days after this Yeshua rose from the grave to conquer our greatest enemy—death—and has given eternal life to all who believe in Him for the forgiveness of sins.



by
Todd Baker

Real peace with God can only come first when we acknowledge each one of us has sinned against God and receive His full pardon of forgiveness by accepting the payment for our sin when the sinless substitute Yeshua the Messiah died for us in our place. I was able to then use the fact of my teaching a verse-by-verse study of Isaiah at the congregation I lead in Dallas to inform Shlomo how Isaiah had many things to say about the Messiah and especially how the prophecies relating to His suffering and death in Isaiah 53 were uniquely fulfilled in the sufferings and death of Yeshua. Shlomo's

curiosity over hearing the Gospel from Isaiah compelled him to accept our invitation to receive a Hebrew Bible with both the Old and New Testaments with Messianic Gospel reading materials placed inside so he could read and study for himself. He shook our hands firmly and thanked us for this several times. When I went



Shlomo was the driver to the car rental location and was happy to receive a Hebrew Bible with the New Testament included.

inside the rental car facility, Kenny stayed outside and watched as Shlomo poured through the pages of the brand new copy of the Scriptures we gave him to learn about this true Messiah we proclaimed to him. He then came back out of his shuttle bus to thank us again for the peace and hope in Messiah that can be found through the Jewish Scriptures. He was amazed and very grateful for the Gospel we shared and the Scriptures we gave him!

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As always, special thanks go out to Zola Levitt Ministries / To The Jew First Ministry for their ongoing funding contributions to B'rit Hadashah Ministries, helping to make these mission trips to Israel possible.

The Nine Harbingers Preceding G-d's Judgment on the United States - Part 2



by Robin Hopper
(Aviel b'Meir)

When I started this study, it was after I was given a book for my birthday. The book was **The Harbinger** by Rabbi Jonathan Cahn. The first 19 pages of the book confirmed to me what I have been talking about the past three or four years. I would suggest that you get a copy for yourself.

Continued from Part 1 found in the May/June 2012 issue of this newsletter..

The Third Harbinger: The Fallen Bricks

"The bricks have fallen."

"The bricks have fallen." The ancient prophecy in Isaiah was being played out. When the hedge of G-d's protection fell from around Israel and the Assyrians attacked ancient Israel... that is what was in the ruins, fallen bricks. G-d was calling his people back to H-m but would they listen? The hedge had been breached; the "Bricks had Fallen"; this was not just a sign of what had happened but also what would happen if the people, the nation, did not change course and turn back to G-d (Teshuvah-הוּשָׁבָה -to turn from and back to-Repent).

The most noticeable sign of the invasion was the toppled buildings, the heaps of rubble left in its wake—the third harbinger. Now come forward two and a half thousand years; the bricks have fallen—"Ground Zero".

As the dust of what had been the Twin Towers settled on New York... people began to emerge, and as they watched their television sets, their computer screens, one image was evident. It was the enormous heap of rubble that had been the World Trade Center. The Twin Towers of the World Trade Center had fallen just as suddenly as the buildings and walls had in ancient Israel. The ruin of ground Zero was filled with glass, steel, and concrete, but more than that it was also filled with bricks. The prophecy made two and a half thousand years ago opens with a picture of collapse, the ruins of collapsed buildings. It is the exact same picture of collapse and the ruins of buildings that America encountered following 9/11.



Do you remember the days that followed 9/11? No one really had to say it. It was as if everyone had a sense about it... it was as if the voice of G-d seemed to be calling out to the nation to come back to Him. For a short while, the people of America seemed to heed the call; the people of America looked like they were responding... the nation seemed to turn from the superficial; people seemed to become more spiritual. The nation even took the Name of G-d out of the closet and was publicly proclaimed on Capitol Hill and New York City. The pews in houses of worship were filled, people gathered in prayer. In those first dark days following 9/11, it appeared there would be a true national turning. It appeared to be a spiritual revival, but it was a revival that never materialized.

So how did America's response to 9/11 compare to that of ancient Israel's response in Isaiah 9:10 (9). *It was exactly the same.*

Unlike the other three harbingers, the fourth harbinger is brought to life on American soil... not by her enemies, but instead it was set into motion by her own leaders.

Fulfillment:

On September 11, 2001, the bricks of the Twin Towers fell and the Pentagon was partially destroyed. *"The Bricks Had Fallen."*

On September 12, 2001, Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, on a joint Resolution of Condemnation of the attacks, addressed the world as a representative and leader of the United States just as was done in 732 BCE in ancient Israel with these prophetic words. So it is said once again, but this time in America. "The bricks have fallen..."

On September 11, 2004, Democratic Vice Presidential Candidate John Edwards spoke to a prayer breakfast for the Black Caucus saying, *"For three months, the 16-acre site had the look of post world War II Berlin with its buildings skeletonized and reduced to piles of bricks."*

The Fourth Harbinger: The Tower

"The bricks have fallen, but we will rebuild with quarried (hewn) stone."

So *"The bricks have fallen"*; that was the third harbinger. So what is the fourth harbinger? **"But we will rebuild."** It continues with **"with hewn stone."** In ancient Israel, the destruction came about with the falling of bricks made of clay and straw. They were weak and insubstantial. They would be replaced, but not with more clay bricks... they would be replaced with something much stronger ... hewn stone.

A building made of stone would be much more resistant to any future attack. The hewn stone signifies their intent to come out of this attack stronger than they were before the attack. Again this is about defiance; it is not about being humbled by the catastrophe.

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Search the Scriptures

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The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

(Matthew 18:23-35)

Part 5



²³“Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. ²⁶The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, ‘Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ ²⁷Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’ ²⁹So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ ³⁰And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. ³¹So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. ³²Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, ‘you wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. ³³Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?’ ³⁴And his master was angry, and delivered him to the tormentors until he should pay all that was due to him. ³⁵So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.”

After his charitable lord lent the money to the servant, the embezzling servant did not even think once of repayment afterwards, not until, of course, he was absolutely forced to by his crediting lord. The evil man typically borrows but does not pay back his debt. **“The wicked borrows and does not repay”** (Psalm 37:21). Oh how this characterizes so many of us sinners and saints alike! When was the last time we sincerely gave hearty thanks for the plush, soft grass so comfortable to walk on and so verdant to behold, or for the sparkling, clear waters we bathe and drink, or the life-sustaining air we breath, and the many, many other splendid blessings unnoticed and taken for granted without due payment of thanks? Our Lord is so very, very gracious, fellow believer. **“He is ever merciful, and lends, exceedingly, abundantly above all that we ask or think”** (Psalm 37:26; Ephesians 3:20). **“Oh, that men would praise the Lord for His goodness and for His wonderful works to the children of men”** (Psalm 107:21). Let us, beloved, be ever avid to join the Psalmist in a chorus of agreement when saying, **“O give thanks to the Lord for His mercy endures forever”** (Psalm 107:1). This is a command of God, not a request.

Summing up, we find the servant in total bankruptcy without human recourse, devoid of sufficient financial payment and lacking moral integrity. **“He was not able to pay.”** Immediately thereafter, we discover the servant's wife, children, and all that he possesses are committed to be sold by his lord. Everything under man's jurisdiction is actually under the sovereign domain of God. All of the servant's property really belonged to his lord. The

servant's wife was given to him by his lord. **“A prudent wife is from the Lord”** (Proverbs 19:14). The same with his children: **“Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord”** (Psalm 127:3); and all his possessions, **“The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof and they that dwell therein”** (Psalm 24:1).

All of us owe our Creator tremendous gratitude for the good things He gives us. The servant was obviously negligent in the mishandling of his lord's borrowed funds. The lord, as a ground of some slight repayment, withdrew all rights and possessions the servant owned because of his utter failure to pay in exactitude the money lent him. Equally the same for us: God will in no way grant us absolute exemption from our awful debt until payment is made in the same proportion to the sum. **“For to whom much is given, from him much will be required”** (Luke 12:48). Will a man rob God? No. God says He will not clear the guilty of their unpaid debt. Although God is merciful, forgiving iniquity, He will by no means clear the guilty (Exodus 34:7). Not a jot or tittle of the law will be done away with. If man is to make proper payment to his Creator for all that has been given to him in this life, he must, in hopes of divine acceptance, give full obedience to God's moral law without the slightest infraction. If he violates the law of the Lord in one area or another, he annuls his own right for effective reimbursement. Of course both the writer and reader know well man is quite incapable of making perfect payment. Why is this so? The answer is because the intrinsic propensity toward sin constantly prevents a man from yielding perfect obedience. Even the smallest

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Later in the evening, the Lord allowed us to have a pleasant conversation with a young Israeli lady. Her name was Bar. When she learned of why we come to Israel often, Bar opened her heart up and shared on behalf of Israel the new wave of worry, stress, and concern over Iran's possible attack on Israel once the Muslim regime builds a nuclear weapon. Here we were able to comfort Bar from the Word of God. We alluded to Ezekiel 38-39 where the Lord will incinerate the armies of Iran and its coalition of nations when they foolishly decide to invade Israel from the north. Moreover, God has given forgiveness, peace and all we need for a personal relationship with Him through the Jewish Messiah who we can pointedly identify through the



Bar was unfamiliar with the Tenach and accepted a complete copy of the Bible in Hebrew.

Messianic prophecies He would fulfill as given in the Tenach (the Old Testament). To our surprise, Bar had not heard of the Tenach when asked by us if she read or owned one. When we rephrased the question and used the word "Bible" instead, Bar knew what we were talking about. She accepted a copy of the complete Bible in Hebrew as we encouraged her to think for herself and read the list of Messianic prophecies we gave her that only Yeshua as the Messiah fulfilled. We also suggested she look them up in the Scriptures we gave her. Now we pray the Holy Spirit will do His work and open her eyes to see that Yeshua is none other than the Messiah of Israel in whom we have redemption through His blood and the forgiveness of sins (Colossians 1:14). ✠



The Nine Harbingers... Continued from page 2

The vow would become reality—new buildings, bigger, stronger, and taller, would rise up where before only destruction and that which had been laid waste had stood. The new construction would become the materialization and eyewitness of a nation's defiance of G-d's call.

In the wake of the tragedy, the nation responds without humility, repentance (Teshuvah-תשובה), nor reflection. Instead they respond with pride and defiance. Their leaders vow and proclaim "we will rebuild." The pledge to rebuild bigger, better, stronger, and taller than before, was meant to inspire. The intent of the construction is to symbolize the resurgence of the nation. It will be their towering witness of defiance... the rebuilding of the fallen, and of the nation itself—the Fourth Harbinger... the Tower.

The first sign of defiance was the leaders of ancient Israel proclaiming "We will rebuild." If the mystery holds and has now been applied to America, we would expect to hear the same declaration, the same three words, in the aftermath of 9/11, now proclaimed by the leadership of America.

From the mayor of New York City aftermath of the attack: "We will rebuild."

From the state's senior senator: "We will rebuild."

From the state's governor: "We will rebuild."

From the state's junior senator: "We will rebuild."

From the mayor at the time of the rebuilding: "We will rebuild, renew, and remain the capital of the free world!"

From the president of the United States: "We will rebuild New York City."

In one way or another, each leader would end up proclaiming the same exact words of defiance as two and a half thousand years ago in ancient Israel. The words were followed up by action. As in ancient Israel, in America the words were likewise followed up with action. The ruins of Ground Zero were cleared away, and then a sign was erected with these words: 'A new icon will soon rise above the Lower Manhattan skyline... the Freedom Tower.' The Tower! It was to be an icon of defiance. Defiance.

Fulfillment:

Even before the rebuilding, even before the dust had started to settle over Ground Zero after the attack on 9/11, Senator John Kerry

delivered a speech on September 12, 2001 in which he stated: "I believe one of the first things we should commit to... with federal help that underscores our nation's purpose...is to rebuild the towers of the World Trade Center and show the world we are not afraid... WE ARE DEFIANT!"

September 12, 2001, Senate Majority leader Tom Daschle on a joint Resolution of Condemnation of the attacks addressed the world, as a representative and a leader of the United States, just as it was in 732 BCE in ancient Israel when these prophetic words were spoken; so it is also spoken in America.

"The bricks have fallen, but we will rebuild with hewn stone."

Following the pattern of the rulers of Israel, on the day of the 9/11 tragedy, then New York City Mayor Rudolph (Rudy) Giuliani stated: "We will rebuild: We're going to come out of this stronger than before."

Rebuilding on Ground Zero was going to be America's statement of defiance to those who dared to attack us. A statement of defiance; exactly what the ancient vow was...a statement of defiance.

Two and half thousand years later, the governor of New York would proclaim the same thing from the site of Ground Zero.

Governor George E. Pataki of New York stated on July 5, 2005: "Let this great Freedom Tower show the world that what our enemies sought to destroy...our democracy, our freedom, our way of life... this tower will stand taller than ever; we will be politically stronger, economically stronger. The skyline will be made whole again."

In 2005, real estate developer Donald Trump was interviewed by MSNBC and at that time he stated: "What I want to see built is the World Trade Centers stronger and maybe a story taller. And that is what everybody wants. The 'New York Post' came out today strongly for that...we should have the World Trade Center bigger and better."

An article in 2009 stated, "The 102-story building, under construction at the 16-acre site, was named the Freedom Tower in the first Ground Zero master plan. At the time, officials said the tallest, most symbolic of five planned towers at the site would demonstrate the nation's triumph over terrorism. Now the building is called the One World Trade Center."

Out of the ruins of the national tragedy emerges the fourth harbinger, the most gigantic of the harbingers, a Tower...and the most soaring demonstration of defiance to ever stand on American soil. ✠

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your prayers, your words and your financial support as the Lord leads your heart.

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violation disqualifies and brings the whole penalty of the law down upon the transgressor. **"For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all"** (James 2:10).

God instituted the law as a test of perfection—allowing man the opportunity to pay his debt through obedience to the law. This, however, proved, and continues to prove, futile every time. The case appears hopeless. The servant is sold under the enslavement of his unpaid debt. And so like the great apostle Paul, the servant in his horror comes to the awful realization that he, a descendant of Adam's fallen lineage, is "sold under sin" (Romans 7:14). Here in verse twenty-five, our Lord seems to be painting a succinct picture of unregenerate, sin-ridden humanity in the person of a deficit servant from which **"the Scripture rightly has concluded all under sin"** especially personified in the actions of the defaulted servant (Galatians 3:22). Yes, man is foolish enough to exchange his eternal soul for "the pleasures of sin for a season" losing everything and gaining nothing in the end. **"For thus says the Lord, you have sold yourselves**

for nothing. Behold, for your iniquities have you sold yourselves. For what shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Isaiah 52:3; 50:1; Mark 8:36-37). A soul gains nothing when trafficking with sin, but eternal loss.

"The servant therefore fell down and worshipped him, saying, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all'" (Verse 26).

Upon hearing the dreadful doom of divine judgment sentencing him guilty as charged, the servant immediately, in the anguish of heart, prostrates himself before the feet of his lord desperately beseeching him for mercy and forbearance in the forlorn hope of escaping the terrible penalty of his great debt. The servant's response on hearing the stern voice of the Almighty no doubt reechoes the shuddering words of the prophet Habakkuk crying for life-preserving mercy in the midst of the horrible fierceness of

holy wrath: "O Lord, I have heard your speech and was afraid...in wrath remember mercy" (Habakkuk 3:2). †

