

America's Judgment

Shortly after 9/11 David Wilkerson wrote a newsletter showing how the fall of Israel was foreshadowing the demise of America. At the time, he had no idea how prophetic this would be. He showed how in Israel's history they had rejected God so He brought an enemy against them, as a type of warning to repent of their sins. Rather than repent, they became more proud and had a defiant spirit. As a result God sent the enemy back a second time to finish the job. The Biblical text Wilkerson used for the first warning was from Isaiah 9, which we will look at more closely in this newsletter. However, at the time Wilkerson was writing his letter, he had no idea how prophetic his message would actually be.

There was a common cycle in which Israel would turn away from God and then God would send prophets but Israel would just reject them. This went on until God finally lifted his hand of protection and allowed enemies to come upon Israel. Instead of realizing they were in trouble and repent, they simply became more proud and defiant saying that even though they had been attacked, they would only become stronger and more powerful themselves. We read in Isaiah, "The Lord sent a word into Jacob, and it hath lighted upon Israel. And all the people shall know, even Ephraim and the inhabitant of Samaria, ***that say in the pride and stoutness of heart, The bricks are fallen down, but we will build with hewn stones: the sycamores are cut down, but we will change them into cedars***" (Is 9:8-11).

Like Israel, America was attacked by an enemy on 9/11 and God allowed the twin towers to fall. On Wednesday, September 12, 2001, the very day after the towers fell, Senate majority leader, Tom Daschle addressed the world on behalf of Congress. As recorded in the Federal Register Daschle said: "Mr. President, it is with pain, sorrow, anger, and resolve that I stand before this Senate, ***a symbol for 212 years of the strength of our democracy***, and say that America will emerge from this tragedy, as we have emerged from all adversity, united and strong... But there is a passage in the Bible from Isaiah that I think speaks to all of us at times such as this: ***The bricks have fallen down, but we will rebuild with dressed stone; the fig trees have been felled, but we will replace them with cedars. That is what we will do. We will rebuild and we will recover. The people of America will stand strong together because the people of America have always stood together. And those of us privileged to serve this great Nation will stand with you.***" Daschle proclaimed the very defiance Israel had when they were attacked.

Since 2001, 5 leaders have followed the resolve of this pledge to rebuild, seemingly unaware of the defiance they are showing as seen in Isaiah. The 1851 English Translation of the Greek Septuagint by Sir Lancelot C.L. Brenton translates Isaiah 9:10 showing a fascinating connection as well. It states, "The bricks are fallen down, but come, let us hew stones, and cut down sycamores and cedars, and let us ***build for ourselves a tower.***" As we know, a tower has been built to replace what had fallen. Is this just coincidence, or was Wilkerson prophetically predicting the fall of America in detail?

Amazingly, Israel continued their defiance by saying that the sycamore trees were cut down but they were going to plant the better cedars. These cedars were known as conifer trees from Lebanon and they were considered to be the finest of trees. Again, Israel was saying they were going to come back stronger just as Daschle had said America would do. Israel's history was

being played out when the last northern tower fell, causing a beam to smash into a famous sycamore tree. In fact, they took the roots of the tree and made a sculpture of it as a symbol of the roots of our nation (you will see why later). Afterwards, on November 22nd, 2003 the New York sky was filled with a large crane lowering a conifer tree to this very spot, calling it the “tree of hope” to replace it. The foundations had been exposed and the sycamore had been replaced by cedars.

Rabbi Jonathan Cahn reveals the significance of these trees: “The Bible records the sycamore tree as being a *sign of judgment*. It even says in Egypt the sycamore tree was struck down as a sign of judgment. On September 11th, a freak event happened in the devastation: a steel beam from the North Tower was hurled from the sky. As the Tower fell, it went through the air and struck down an object: it was a tree. The next day [when] the people returned to ground zero, they found a tree lying on the ground, pierced by the beam of a falling Tower. There, at Ground Zero was a sycamore tree – struck down...after the tree of Isaiah 9...a harbinger of judgment... ‘the sycamore has fallen’and strange, eerily, the people made a display of it, not realizing what it was in the Bible... and put it on display, its roots exposed...not realizing, as if to draw more attention to the sign. And a sculptor was commissioned to make a cast of it. He poured metal into the cast: *he cast it into bronze, the Biblical metal of judgment*...an image of the fallen sycamore to be displayed on Wall Street. The significance of the bronze sycamore root sculpture is chilling. In May, 1792, twenty-four stock brokers met underneath a buttonwood tree, along Wall Street in New York City. The Buttonwood 8 Agreement would be birthed as the golden calf of commerce, the bull of the New York Stock Exchange, but would be delivered, uprooted and cast in bronze. The buttonwood tree is more familiar as the American sycamore. *This memorial on Wall Street* would come to represent the riches of a nation uprooted, overturned, judged and displayed in bronze: and yet another idol. . . ‘the sycamores are fallen but we will put cedars in their place...’ ... *Two years after September 11th* ... a strange site was seen on Ground Zero, a crane, a different crane, was lowering a different object... the object was being lowered to a place where there had been a hole in the ground, it was being laid over the place where the fallen sycamore tree had been struck down...It would have been natural to replace the sycamore tree with a sycamore tree, but the Scripture says we will replace it with an arez [cedar] tree... The object lowered was an arez tree, a conifer tree, the same as the cedar of Lebanon... [At] the ceremony as the tree was coming down to where the sycamore was, there was a clergyman there....he said: ‘We are gathered here today on *holy ground*. Ground hallowed by its witness to the dust, and death and destruction of September 11th. The ground is sanctified by our presence here as we dedicate this Tree of Hope in *witness the divine within each of us*. It replaces a sycamore tree destroyed on September 11th 2001 by the collapsing Towers. Our prayer is that this Ground Zero Tree of Hope will be a sign: *a sign of the indomitable nature of human hope*. As we walk this hallowed ground, may this Tree be an icon of hope, a symbol.’”

This bronze sculpture of the sycamore roots placed on Wall street is a clear sign of God’s judgment on the foundation of our country. Because the New York Stock Exchange was formed by signing it under the buttonwood tree (sycamore), shows why this sycamore tree was considered to be so important. Castings its roots was symbolic of the economic foundation of America. The very place in which Wall street was formed, this statement of strength would be cast into bronze, the Biblical metal of judgment.

Indeed, the bricks had fallen but America was going to replace them with stones. Just as the leaders of Israel made their statement of defiance saying that they were going to build higher and better, even setting up stones as a symbol of their power, America has done the same. In fact, 7 months after the sycamore tree was replaced with a cedar, a huge 20-ton stone was hewn out of rock and set up at Ground Zero in defiance of God and the enemy. The governor of New York and the governor of New Jersey were there to dedicate it at a special ceremony in remembrance on July 4th, 2004. Governor George Pataki said, "Today, we the heirs of that revolutionary **SPIRIT OF DEFIANCE**, lay this cornerstone and unmistakably signal to the world the unwavering strength of this nation, and our resolve to fight of freedom." Notice he even called it a "spirit" of defiance. Though they think they are shaking their fists at only an earthly enemy, the do not realize they are actually defying God in their refusal to repent.

Then, just a few months later on the anniversary of 9/11, John Edwards said at a 2004 gathering: "Good morning. Today on this day of remembrance and mourning, we have the Lord's Word: 'The bricks have fallen, but we will build - with dressed stones: the sycamores have been cut down, but we will put cedars in their place....' Let me show you how we are building and putting cedars in those three hallowed places, the Towers, the Pentagon and the Field. Walk with me through this day and you will see that while those bricks fell and the sycamores cut down, our people are making those cedars rise... Each time that bell tolls it calls us to a greater purpose. To never forget: it calls us to always remember that when we walk together this day that the cedars will rise and the stones will go up." Isn't it amazing that the verses of Isaiah that are actually speaking of God's judgment upon Israel are continually repeated in our country; not realizing that we are pronouncing that same judgment upon ourselves. When this verse is quoted it is as if we are identifying America as the country under judgment. Of all verses in Scripture, why is this the one that has been singled out? Could God be telling us something? In fact, February of 2009 President Obama gave his speech to Congress and once again quoted "we will rebuild." Could this mean we will actually fall?

Let's look more closely at the financial foundation of our country --Wall Street. Scripturally, the land was to receive a Sabbath rest every seven years. In addition, every sabbath of seven years (49 years) there was to be a forgiveness of debts. Even today rabbis symbolically forgive debts during this time. In Israel's history, what God intended to be a blessing turned out to be a curse because they refused to give the land its Sabbath rests. God caused Babylon to come and take them into captivity for 70 years as He promised, "Your land will be laid waste, and your cities will lie in ruins. Then the land will enjoy its sabbath years all the time that it lies desolate and you are in the country of your enemies; then the land will rest and enjoy its sabbaths. All the time that it lies desolate, the land will have the rest it did not have during the sabbaths you lived in it" (Lev 26:33-35). The land was a symbol of their wealth and prosperity just as Wall Street is that foundation for us today. Not only has the foundation of our roots been exposed with the sycamore tree, but after 9/11 the stock market crashed - but in an interesting way. Immediately in September of 2001 as advertised in the newspapers, the stocks lost 7%. This was a striking figure of Biblical symbolism. Then, seven years later in 2008, the economy was shaken again on the exact 7th anniversary of 9/11. In fact, on the Hebrew calendar this was the 29th of Elul, the very day that debts were to be wiped out. It is no accident that the stocks lost 7% because of a bill in congress for \$700 billion and 777 points were lost. Is God revealing His fingerprints as He warns us?

Further support of Israel as a pattern of America may be seen in the history of its establishment. In 1789 George Washington was inaugurated and proclaimed America a Godly country. He even warned, "We ought to be no less persuaded that the propitious smiles of Heaven can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right, which Heaven itself has ordained." In other words, Washington was saying that if America ever turned away from God, the blessings would be removed. Immediately after his speech he went to pray in a stone Chapel. This is similar to when Solomon dedicated the Temple and then prayed at the Temple. When destruction came, it came to the very place of the oath when the Temple was destroyed. In other words, Judgment returns to the land of consecration. Guess where Washington prayed? In lower New York City at St. Paul's Chapel which was at the corner of Ground Zero, in fact, this church owned Ground Zero. Only one building in this area survived and it was perhaps by Divine intervention that it was St. Paul's Chapel. It has been said that the sycamore tree (which was destroyed) protected it. Is it an accident that this was the very ground in which America was consecrated to God by Washington in prayer? Where did Washington make his speech? At Federal Hall, which on 9/11 caused its very foundation to crack.

As in Israel's history, they were first attacked by a smaller enemy, but it wasn't long and that enemy grew in strength because Israel refused to repent. As I travel throughout America, not only do I see a refusal of the world to repent, I see churches that are continuing to compromise on the Word of God and, themselves, refusing to repent, let alone preach repentance. As God has promised, "If My people, who are called by My name, will **humble** themselves and **pray** and **seek** My face and **turn** from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land" (2 Chron 7:14).