



AMERICA: IN THE EYE OF GOD? – PART III



By Wilfred Hahn

To date in this series, we have concluded that, without a doubt, America was definitely in God’s eye when He created the Universe. We left off Part II with this question: Did the Lord purpose to use America as a benevolent or punishing force against the Jews and Israel? Could America have a similar role to the great ancient Persian king, Cyrus? Or, despite its great mandate, will it end up no different than all the rest of the Gentile nations?

After all, the second largest population of Jews today (behind Israel itself) is found in North America. It has been the Golden Age of the Jew in the U.S. (and Canada) since the early 1950s. This would certainly have been a protective, Cyrus-like role for the Jew ... at least at the outset.

But, frankly, it is much too early to answer this question. Why? It is not until the last chapter—the ending—that such questions can be answered.

No doubt, America has been decidedly supportive of the Jew and Israel (though certainly not unwaveringly). But what will the future yet hold?

Anything could happen. No scenario regarding the Jews in North America can

yet be ruled out. The history of the Diaspora has shown ominous patterns with respect to the treatment of the Jews during this present Age of the Gentile. America’s recent interventions into the affairs of Israel and its handling of Israel’s enemies would certainly not be the actions of another Persian Cyrus.

In any case, it may be more fitting to compare America to other powers that at one time harbored large populations of Jews during the Diaspora. Here we think of Spain in the 1400s, and Russia in the late 1800s. Over the past two millennia many nations have cast out the Jew.

In the end, we are reminded that all the nations will forsake Israel in the last days. Says the Lord: “I will gather all na-

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tions and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. There I will put them on trial for what they did to my inheritance, my people Israel, because they scattered my people among the nations and divided up my land” (Joel 3:2). All nations are accused of dividing the land of Israel. Most certainly, America is taking part in this today.

Therefore, all nations will be judged and punished. “The day of the LORD is near for all nations. As you have done, it will be done to you; your deeds will return upon your own head” (Obadiah 1:15).

The Fruits of Pride and Haughtiness

Not only does God exact justice and raise His hand against those who persecute the “apple of His eye” (Zechariah 2:8). He also takes into account the godless conduct of each individual nation.

One characteristic that God punished often is pride. The Lord detests pride ... namely, national arrogance. There are innumerable indications of this in the Bible. Says the Proverbs writer: The LORD detests all the proud of heart. Be sure of this: They will not go unpunished” (Proverbs 16:5); “Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall” (verse 18).

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allowed that they be defeated (for example, see the account of the defeat at Ai in Joshua 7). The kings of Judah that walked righteously and depended upon the faithfulness of God, were protected (i.e. Abijah, Asa, Jehoshaphat, Uzziah, Hezekiah). Wicked kings such as Jehoram, Ahaz, and Joash were not.

Even the righteous kings were vulnerable to pride for periods of time. For example, “[...] after Uzziah became powerful, his pride led to his downfall” (2 Chronicles 26:16); and also 2 Chronicles 32:26, where we see that “[...] Hezekiah repented of the pride of his heart.” We conclude from this, that whether righteous—perhaps a Christian—or not, arrogance can bring catastrophic consequences.

We see that nations other than those of Israel or Judah (entities that were not in a covenant with God) were brought down because of their pride. For example, Tyre was punished because, “In the pride of your heart you say, ‘I am a god; I sit on the throne of a god in the heart of the seas’” (Ezekiel 28:2). Also Moab, “[...] how great is her arrogance!” (Isaiah 16:6). Even the great Nebuchadnezzar—the “head of gold” himself—was deposed from his royal throne and stripped of his glory because, “his heart became arrogant and hardened with pride” (Daniel 5:20).

The same can happen to America. Its arrogance, as with any other nations, will not go unnoticed. In recent decades, America has staked its hope in its economic might; the macroeconomic theo-



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Incredibly, many believe that its recent economic challenges are attributable to “lack of consumer want.” Its recent presidents have said that it is the will and resolve of its people that allow it to overcome its obstacles, and that it will “build bigger and better” should it face any setbacks.

Near-term Geopolitical Outlook for the U.S.

Lately, geopolitical analysts have been arguing that major new global initiatives have no chance of going ahead unless they are supported by at least two key players. Who are they? The United States and China. Yes, believe it or not, China is now considered by some to be a co-leader of the world.

And surely, during these past few decades, some very significant geopolitical shifts have been underway in the world. China, after nearly two centuries of slumber and isolationism, has re-emerged. It has in mind to establish its control over the South China Sea and is speedily ramping up its military outlay, particularly on its Navy.

Also, Russia is reasserting itself. The Muslim world, too, is in a state of upheaval with much more instability to come. The ancient nations of Iran and Turkey are rousing even as the old, historically Christian-influenced world is crumbling, succumbing to its liberal and humanist values.

That said, we still doubt that China will ultimately play a leading role in the final endtime events. The Bible mentions no specific role for China. However, we think it is possible that a rising

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China, along with other Asian nations, may very well contribute important influences as well as trigger the responses of the nations of the Roman-derived West. That would, of course, include the Roman Offshoot nations such as the United States, Canada, and perhaps others.

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Thoughts to Ponder

America, which indeed has played (and likely will continue to play) a significant and enabling role in the time-line of God's dealings with Israel (and the nations; and the souls of mankind), will at some point be deposed. It will reign no more. This applies to all nations.

As we have speculated, if America is or is not to be a member of the last-day 10 king coalition described in the Bible (the most complete account of this coalition is given in Revelation 17), either outcome holds significant implications for its earthly stature. In either case, it would seem logical to conclude that America must lose power and influence. Time will tell.

In the end, it is Israel that receives glory. "Although you have been forsaken and hated, with no one traveling through, I will make you the everlasting pride and the joy of all generations" (Isaiah 60:15). While America continues to be a great power for now, ultimately, once God has judged the nations of the world, it will be Israel that will be the head, and not the tail (Deuteronomy 28:13).

Zechariah describes this outcome most majestically: "Shout and be glad, Daughter Zion. For I am coming, and I will live among you," declares the LORD. "Many nations will be joined with the LORD in that day and will become my people. I will live among you and you will know that the LORD Almighty has sent me to you. The LORD will inherit Judah as his portion in the holy land and will again choose Jerusalem. Be still before the LORD, all mankind, because he has roused himself from his holy dwelling" (Zechariah 2:10-13).

Before that happens, God has purposed that the Gentile nations would be used one last time to discipline and punish the Israelites (Hosea 10:10).

Could mighty America itself be disciplined by God? This is, of course, all within the power of God. He is the one that considers nations "[...] like a drop in a bucket; they are regarded as dust on the scales; he weighs the islands as though they were fine dust" (Isaiah 40:15). He is the One that laughs at the



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machinations of the nations. “[...] The Lord scoffs at them” (Psalm 2:4).

Nebuchadnezzar—he whose dynasty is shown as the third head on the 7-headed beast of Revelation 17—himself confirmed this outcome, saying that “[...] the King of Heaven [...] is right and all his ways are just. And those who walk in pride he is able to humble” (Daniel 4:37).

John the Revelator shows this symbolically. “The heavens receded like a scroll being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place” (Revelation 6:14). And, “In that day the LORD will punish the powers in the heavens above and the kings on the earth below” (Isaiah 24:21).

Here we see the consistency of the Bible from beginning to end, both in symbol and in word. “Mountains” (these representing the might of nations) and “islands” (nations of the world) are being deposed from their rule. Both earthly

kings (representing nations) and “powers in the heavens above” (the Serpent and his demons) will be punished. Mentioned here are the participants of the “Man/Satan Collusion” (a collaboration of demons and mankind) against God, that are represented by the 7-headed beast.

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Then the day comes where, “The eyes of the arrogant will be humbled and human pride brought low; the LORD alone will be exalted in that day” (Isaiah 2:11; also Isaiah 3:17).

What next for America—good or bad actions?

The Bible tells us in advance the free-will choices of nations and people. Whether yes or no—though we know in advance the final outcomes according to the Bible—this does not release anyone to lose hope or participate in an evil which might be inevitable according to prophecy. Christians, whether individual citizens of America, Canada, or other nations, remain free to continue making free-will choices that honor God. In His grace, He is inclined to leave choices to every generation. There is (almost) always the opportunity for the present generation to repent and change its ways. (MC)