

Great

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848 Stewart Dr. Suite 200, Sunnyvale, CA 94085

Tel:408-636-0030, Fax:408-636-0033

Email:info@gcciusa.org



The Future of America and Israel

Thomas Wang

"Where is America in Bible prophecy?" I have been asked.

Indeed Bible prophecy does mention the names of many countries of the end time, such as, Babylon (now Iraq), Persia (Iran), Greece (Syria), Roman Empire (European Union), Gog and Magog (Russia), Togarmah (Turkey), Put (Libya), Cush (Ethiopia), even kings of the east (China? India?). But strangely enough, the most influential country in the world during the past century and the only super power today the United States of America, seems to be missing and not mentioned at all in Bible prophecy!

In this regard, some servants of God offered two opposing points of view:

- 1. America is a country of religious freedom established by the Puritans (Christians) of Europe, who crossed the Atlantic Ocean to the New World in the 16th century. American culture, ethnicity, faith, politics, education, society, family style, ethics, morality, etc., are basically an extension of Europe. Therefore all Bible prophecies concerning Europe would automatically include America.*
- 2. The other point of view: Although America has European roots; but many peoples have immigrated into the country from Asia, Africa, and Latin America especially since the 2nd World War. America today differs greatly from Europe in many respects including worldview, morality and mat-*

ters of faith. Today's Europe has deteriorated more than America in deserting God, disobeying God and opposing God. Europe under the influence of the European Union will eventually become the Anti-Christ Kingdom. Thus it does not include America.

Recently, Marvin Rosenthal, editor-in-chief of Zion's Fire Bi-monthly, published an article, "God's Vortex over Jerusalem" in its September-October 2006 issue. He presented clearly a view of America in Bible prophecies. Since it is a rare article on the topic, we have obtained his permission to publish the last part of it which touches on the America-Israel relation and America's condition in the end time. His article as quoted below, should offer a strong reminder and warning to Christians, churches and the American society today.

America was the midwife of Israel's rebirth. President Harry Truman, against the advice of his Ambassador to the United Nations and the State Department, insisted that the United States support the partition plan of the United Nations to divide Palestine into two parts and create a Jewish and an Arab state. Without American support, which, in turn, influenced many other nations to vote in favor of the partition, the plan would have gone down in defeat.

It was America who quickly recognized Israel's status as a nation on May 15, 1948, prompting other nations to follow suit. This was critical for Israel's early survival.

It was America who gave large sums of money to help the fledgling nation.

It was America who provided Israel with military intelligence and sophisticated military equipments through all of her wars.

It was America who stood up for Israel, blocking blatantly unfair resolutions and championing her cause at the United Nations.

Pro-Israeli lobbyists in Congress and the White House, support from a large segment of the Christian community, plus the State Department and Pentagon's realization that a powerful, democratic Israel in the Middle East was in America's best interest, influenced America's foreign policy for fifty years.

As a result of her support of Israel, America experienced the fruit of the divine promise given to Abraham, "And I will bless them that bless thee" (Genesis 12:3).

But now, in what is clearly post-Christian America, things are radically changing. Some men debate whether America was ever truly a Christian nation. What is beyond debate is the fact that America was greatly influenced by Judeo — Christian, biblical principles. It is that fact, more than anything else, which made her the greatest nation in history.

Those days are forever gone. In my opinion, there will be no revival to turn America away from her self-destruct mode. To think otherwise is like throwing water into the wind. America has passed the point of no return — probably in the nineteen sixties or seventies. It is not a question of what God can do. It is the fact of what we, as a nation, have chosen to do.

We murder millions of children each year through "legal" abortion. And we think God does not see — or worse, that He does not care.

We approve and sometimes applaud a homosexual lifestyle and call it "gay." And we think God does not see — or worse, that He does not care.

We take illegal drugs and drink alcohol in epidemic proportion. And we think God does not see — or worse, that He does not care.

We pollute our souls with pornographic

material for so — called "adult only" mature audiences on television, the computer, and movies. And we think God does not see — or worse, that He does not care.

We took God and prayer out of our schools and public squares and wonder why we have generation of millions of very confused young people. And we think God does not see — or worse, that He does not care.

We mock our leaders and think it is funny, or beyond that, we call them murderers and traitors. And we think God does not see — or worse, that He does not care.

Our courts often lack the most basic common sense; justice is often slacked, and judgment is perverted; our educational system has failed; our colleges and universities dispense knowledge without wisdom; Hollywood is morally and ethically bankrupt and yet, has a lot to say concerning things of which they know very little; our business environment is callous, often dishonest, and driven by the "bottom line." Our media no longer even attempt to report balanced news. They are motivated by a political agenda wed to very little integrity.

America has an enemy without. But what has made the enemy without possible has been the greater enemy within — our moral decay.

The nation I love is quickly becoming like a basket of summer fruit — decaying, smelling, and ready for the trash heap. I loathe writing those words. Quite frankly, it breaks my heart. Unfortunately, they are true words and must be said, even if many people do not want to hear them.



There are certain unchanging laws in the universe. One of them is this: God is not mocked. Men cannot turn up their noses at God for long and get away with it. Whatever a man or a nation sows, it will reap (Galatians 4:4). America is sowing to the wind; America will soon reap a whirlwind.

I am not a prophet, nor the son of a prophet. Here I give only my opinion, an opinion based on my understanding of the character of God, the sinfulness of America (all the more grievous because of the Gospel light which has shone so brightly upon our shores), and the rapidly unfolding events in the Middle East. Judgment will soon fall upon our country - a year, five, perhaps ten or fifteen years.

- * It may come from a natural catastrophe, such as a mega earthquake or tsunami.
- * It may come from a terrorist attack, which can take many forms as varied as a nuclear explosion, the knocking out of our computers by an atmospheric explosion with unbelievable consequences, or biological or chemical attack.
- * It may come from Europe, China, and Japan by simply withdrawing their investments from America and destroying our economy.

If our economy is devastated, or there is a major shortage of fuel and food, the moral fiber of our country is such that there will be riots in the streets and anarchy. Our technology has brought us so much, and we have become so materialistic that we will not know how to cope with little.

American Jews will quickly become the scapegoat. The more so if devastation is brought about by terrorists whose insatiable, satanic hatred is, above all else, directed against the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob — so that Jews will be blamed for all that has gone wrong in America. In second place will be the Bible-believing Christians. They will resist much that will be occurring and will be viewed as uncooperative, problematic, and divisive.

As a result, Israel will be totally abandoned by the one nation which, for more than fifty years, stood behind her. And America will continue her rapid demise as a superpower and bastion of freedom, truth,



and Christianity.

Israel will be isolate, alone, and vulnerable — with no hope of human deliverance. She will be surrounded by the nations of the world.

But then, cut off, helpless, surrounded, and on her back, she will be forced to look up, and only then will she see “the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory” (Matthew 24: 30). Concerning the day, the Lord taught,

And they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.....In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness (Zechariah 12:10; 13:1).

No story ever told, no book ever written, no film ever directed can ever begin to compare with the pathos, emotion, heroics, and redemption of that moment of history.

Everyone and everything will be drawn into the vortex of God. For some, it will be for deliverance — for others, it will be for judgment. And the Lord will rule the nations from Jerusalem.

Even so, come, Lord Jesus. We need you desperately.

The above article by Marvin Rosenthal gives us a strong warning and reminder. His view regarding Israel is based on explicit Bible prophecies and his assessment of America's future is important and timely. Despite his pessimistic yet reasonable view of

America's future of deterioration and self-destruction, we will continue our effort in prayer and proclamation for repentance and change of course of this once Christian nation.

Dr. David Reagan, in his book "America, the Beautiful? ----The United States in Bible Prophecy" has this to say in its last paragraph:

What then are we as Christians to do as we face the future? Are we simply to resign ourselves to our nation's ultimate destruction? No! A thousand times, No! We are to pray for our nation and its leaders. We are to stand for righteousness. We are to walk in holiness. And we are to live clinging to hope, remembering that our hope is not in riches or military power. Our hope, our only hope, is the Lord Jesus Christ.

During the past century, God used America to bless many peoples in the world including the Chinese. It is time today for us to return the favor by doing all we can for the "Re-evangelization of the West" or "Reverse Mission". We are truly entering a new era on global missions.

*By God's grace, Great Commission Center International published a book "**America, Return to God**" in May 2006. A total of 500,000 copies were distributed to leaders of America of various sectors and at different levels. It invoked many heated responses, both positive and negative. Human and financial resources permitting, we wish to publish a second book "**Europe, Return to God**". Churches in many European countries have sent numerous missionaries to China over the past two centuries; they left their homes, culture, and endured much pain and hardship to share the gospel, planting churches, and building schools for us and among us. We cannot and should not forget their labor of love. It is only natural and reasonable that we should love them in return.*

May all Christians and churches in the world be God's oracles at this crucial hour. Let us proclaim Biblical warnings and teachings to all nations and all peoples with the hope that they will turn to God, be His witnesses, and look forward for His second coming! Amen!

"America, Return To God" Prayer Rallies Documentary DVD Ready For Release

A 15-minute documentary DVD of the "America, Return to God" Prayer Rallies in nine cities, namely, Dallas, Arlington, Los Angeles, San Francisco Bay Area, New Jersey, Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore and New York, is ready for release in early February. The DVD shows the fervent prayers of Christians of different ethnicities for America's spiritual awakening. It also encourages churches to conduct area-wide "America, Return to God" Prayer Rallies each year to ask God to heal our land, and to reclaim America to be "one nation under God."

Churches and Fellowship groups are urged to order your DVD from GCCI. Free-will donations for the production and postage are appreciated.





GCCI Thanksgiving Dinner

GCCI held a Thanksgiving dinner in the evening of December 10, 2006 in San Francisco Bay area. 250 guests attended, some drove from as far as Sacramento and Stockton. Participants enjoyed fellowship with one another as a traditional family year-end dinner.

The dinner was accompanied by musical performance at a professional level. Pastors Ken Liu and David Fung sang solos, while Mrs. Liu played harp.

The dinner speaker was Rev. John Sun, chairman of GCCI Board, who flew from Vancouver, Canada. With a sincere attitude and an entertaining style, he gave an excellent message, challenging participants to recognize the vision, take up the mission and support the ministry.

Rev. Thomas Wang, President of GCCI, shared the experience of the past year including when GCCI initiating the movement of "America, Return to God". America is a country founded under God's grace by the Puritans. Sadly, after slightly over 200 years America is no longer a Christian nation. Many people no longer believe in God, nor follow Biblical principles, and even consider anti-Christian attitude as fashionable. America today is becoming a mission field instead of a mission-sending base. Chinese churches today should evangelize both the third world peoples as well as the Americans.

The meeting introduced a documentary DVD, showing scenes taken in nine major American cities last September when GCCI organized "America, Return to God" prayer rallies. Men and women, young and old, earnestly prayed for America, with a conviction that God will answer the prayers that America

will return to Him and be healed.

Dr. Sharon Chan, vice-president of GCCI introduced the Chinese version of the *Perspectives on World Christian Movement*, which was off the press last October. Many rushed to purchase the book after the dinner.

At the end, the participants were led by Rev. Jack Hu to pray in unity for the huge deficit for the publication of the book of "America, Return to God". Thank God, donations totaling about US\$50,000 were received that evening.

More donations are needed to cover the deficit. Please send your love gifts to GCCI, 848 Stewart Drive, Suite 200, Sunnyvale, CA 94085, USA.



Participants fervently prayed for America.



Rev. John Sun preached at the dinner.

WORLD MISSION NEWS

Myanmar: In the past decade, Christians has grown from 6% to nearly 9% of the 50 million population. Most of this has been among the minority groups in the nation. <1% of the Buddhist Bama people (70%) know the Lord.
<East Asia Insight, www.us.omf.org, Autumn/06>

Thailand: Early last year the Department of Education designated Chinese as primary foreign language and decreed that all schools will offer Chinese classes before 2008. This will create great demand for people to enter the country as Chinese teachers.
<China Evangelistic Mission News, www.cemhk.org.hk, 7/06>

USA: Early October last year, the pastor of a church near Dallas ended Sunday services half hour early, then asked the 2,345 attendees to go to grocery stores and bring back items for 3 local Christian pantries. The pastor commented later that the 24 tons of requested food collected not only met the critical shortage of the pantries, it also helped the congregation focus on the needs of the poor.
<Dallas Morning News, 10/28/06>

China: Churches have been growing rapidly in suburban Dangshan. There are more than 100,000 Christians and 120 unregistered house churches.
<Christianity Today, October/06>

India: For reasons unknown, a group of 10 elephants stampeded a small village. They destroyed everything including a 8-year old church. When the believers returned, they began to share the gospel with their neighbors. Many came to Christ and two new churches began.
<Mission Network News/ www.joelnews.org, 11/17/06>

Indonesia: To continue helping Christians in the tsunami-ravaged Aceh province. an agency has helped construct and develop a radio ministry to provide ongoing encouragement and teaching to the churches. With 18 broadcasters and 4 staff, they present a variety of programs from family subjects to discipleship training.
<Mission Network News/ www.joelnews.org, 11/12/06>

Uganda: the First Lady and the Minister of Education and Sports have urged that the Bible be read daily to all school children. This is involving well over 8 million students and teachers. They have chosen World Bible Transla-

tion Center's Easy-to-Read English Bible for its simplicity in reading and understanding. Anyone wants to help supply Bibles to Uganda may contact www.wbtc.com.
<Mission Network News/ www.joelnews.org, 11/15/06>

Japan: Only 0.7% of the people are Christians. But facing recent tense situation with North Korea, the Japanese have been rather uneasy making them fertile gospel ground. The Jesus Film Project is distributing quite successfully its film on a DVD that is more interactive and also includes black Gospel choirs and singers.
<Mission Network News/ www.joelnews.org, 10/19/06>

Israel: The number of evangelical Christians is quite small. But they are effective in reaching out to the Jews who feel threatened by the problems with Hezbollah in the north and Hamas in the south with a sense of despair and gloom. They are also winning the Muslims to Christ. Last year 10 new churches have been started in the West Bank some with over 100 members. In one town they estimate to have 500 turning to Christ.
<Mission Network News/ www.joelnews.org, 10/19/06>

Tibet: With the recent completion of the sky train into Tibet, it makes it much more accessible. However, veteran missionaries warn of the danger of "drive — by evangelism": people going in for very short time and distribute tracts, or preach on the streets, or just act very bold and open before leaving. This often creates aversive reaction leaving consequences for Christians living there full time.
<Mission Network News/ www.joelnews.org, 11/16/06>

USA: The American Tract Society has come out with a tract of the same name as the new movie 'The Nativity Story.' It has actual scenes from the movie on its cover and Scripture references inside. It helps people to find the biblical account of the story before or after seeing the movie and to be interested in the central figure of Christmas.
<Mission Network News/ www.joelnews.org, 11/30/06>

Mexico: Most Mexican speak Spanish, but over 6 million of them speak 300 languages and dialects that have no Scripture in their mother tongue. A team of seminary students, faculty and local pastors is working to remedy this.
<Mission Network News/ www.joelnews.org, 11/16/06>

Responses from Asian Church Leaders to the America, Return to God Movement

First of all, let me thank you for your faithfulness and dedication in the service of His Majesty. I am always appreciative of the vision and conviction you have for our beloved homeland but also for our adopted country.

Recently, your effort in “America, Return to God” movement is indeed a courageous action. It is a clarion call for America to wake up before it is too late. I am saddened that people who immigrated to America have the desire to enjoy its freedom and receive the benefits that America can give. But yet, they are not troubled about its downfall destiny. We as Chinese Americans are no different. We try to separate ourselves from the society thinking that as long as we keep our own house in order, we will not be affected by the moral bankruptcy of the nation. I think we are greatly mistaken! And may the Lord have mercy on us.

In my recent conversation with your office, I learned that the financial burden on publishing the book is tremendous and there is still a huge amount of deficit outstanding. On behalf of our church, I would like to share a small portion of the cost. Attached is a check. Please accept it with our thanks and support. We are indebted to you and for what you are doing in summoning America back To God.

May the Lord continue to strengthen you and bless your ministry to not only for and on behalf of the Chinese churches but also the community and the world at large.

Joseph Lao (Rev.)
Senior Pastor
First Evangelical Church of Cerritos, Cerritos, CA

I am a Malaysian and serve in a prayer ministry. Let me thank you and your team for coming up with such an excellent book. The Lord placed a burden in my heart to pray for the President and the Secretary of States of the United States since early 2004. There were 4 of us in the team who are praying for both of them and the USA. We had made two special trips from Malaysia to Washington D.C. just to pray for your nation and are still praying for your nation.

May the Lord continue to prosper and bless the labor of your work unto Him. Have a blessed year!

Leong Dai May
Malaysia

Your love and commitment to our host country has redeemed somehow our shameful tradition of individualism and selfishness. We are proud of what you are doing. Western nations today need to be reminded of their founding legacies and their faith in God. Chinese churches as well are in need of such teaching and encouragement.

Therefore, in addition to prayer, we do wish to support the America, Return To God effort by offering our “five loaves and two fishes.”

Kan-Chor Lam (Rev.)
Danwa Chinese Baptist Church
Danville, CA

Transform World: USA2007

July 2007, Washington D.C.

Transform World: USA 2007 is one of the streams among dozens of worldwide Transform World initiatives. It seeks to build a community of servant catalysts on God's mission for the transformation of USA. The movement aims to recover the Christian principles that originally made this nation great. Recognizing our country's need for transformation, we hope to gather a community of servants of God who are eager to act as catalysts to reestablish the Judeo-Christian worldview which inspired the early founders of the USA.

Purpose:

1. To revisit the cultural values and Judeo-Christian Worldview revealed in the historic monuments that made the nation great.
2. To repent of things that have evidenced our national departure from the founding worldview and values of the nation.
3. To reconcile some of the divisions which have brought us pain and alienation.
4. To reflect on the Judeo-Christian Worldview values in seven culture molders including:
 - The Arts and Entertainment
 - Business and the Market Place
 - Church and other Religions
 - Media and Technology
 - Education
 - Family
 - Governance

Date: July 3, 2007 for Tour of the Historic Monuments
July 4-6, 2007 Transform World: USA 2007 Conference

Place: Washington D.C.

Program Overview of Transform World: USA 2007 Conference:

Day One: Repentance and Healing
Day Two: Reconciliation
Day Three: Renewal of church and reformation and society

The conference will be co-chaired by church leaders of different ethnic groups. More details will be announced later.

By Luis Bush, International Facilitator, Transform World

