

# Will the Harbinger scenario come about in America?

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Several years ago I read Jonathan Cahn's book *The Harbinger*, and to refresh my memory before I read his second book, *The Mystery of the Shemitah*, I recently read it again.

If you are not familiar with the first book, I would encourage you to read it. It is a fictional story about a man who is visited by a prophet who explains through a series of seals how America is falling under the same judgment as Israel did over two thousand years ago.

I don't want to be too specific about describing the book, otherwise I might spoil it for those who haven't read it yet. However, I will tell you that the entire book is written primarily around one verse, Isaiah 9:10, which the author translates from the Hebrew text, "The bricks have fallen, But we will rebuild with hewn stone; The sycamores have been cut down, But we will plant cedars in their place.

The New Living Translation Bible reads, "Our land lies in ruins now, but we will rebuild it better than before. We will replace the broken bricks with cut stone, the fallen sycamore trees with cedars."

According to the author, the significance of that scripture applies both to Israel and to America, because both nations were established by God. In Israel's case, as God's chosen people through whose lineage Christ the Messiah would be born, and in America's case, as a nation that was founded on Judeo-Christian values as a Christian nation.

Israel fell away from God and essentially became a pagan nation, even though the prophets Elijah, Elisha, Hosea and Amos repeatedly warned them to come back to their roots and to God. In 732 B.C., Israel was attacked by the Assyrians, who destroyed their cities. The rebuilding mentioned in the verse was not spoken in the context that they would rebuild with God's help, but that they would do so because of their own greatness.

That attack was allowed by God to warn His people to return to him, but it went unheeded. Just 10 years later, the Assyrians attacked again, and this time Israel ceased to exist.

Cahn makes the case that the 9/11 attack in New York City was allowed to occur to serve as a warning from God, who wants America to return to him. Another warning came seven years later when the housing bubble burst, shaking America's economy, as well as the world's. Cahn suggests that America will eventually meet the same fate as Israel if it does not turn back to Him.

As I was reading his book, I thought how much Cahn had concluded from just one verse in the Bible. In fact, this verse is preceded with a Messianic prophecy in verse 6 with one that many of us are familiar with: "For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. And the government will rest on his shoulders. These will be his royal titles: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

After Isaiah 9:10 comes verse 11 describing God's reaction to Israel's arrogance and rejection to Him. "The Lord will reply to their bragging by bringing Rezin's enemies, the Assyrians, against them" and a description of the wrath of God that lasts through 10 and when chapter 11 begins with another Messianic prophecy.

Whether Cahn is on the right track, that America is going to meet the same fate as ancient Israel did if it does not turn back to God, I can't say for certain, but it is obvious that we are on the same path in our systemic rejection of God.

Israel, over time, forgot who God was and the life that He had commanded them to live. From generation to generation, as more and more knowledge of God was lost, Israel increasingly adopted the ways of pagan nations, including the ritual sacrifice of their children at the altars of Baal.

America still has thousands of churches; but many churches in America are changing to adapt to the culture of a fast-food, immediate gratification society. We are beginning to stop the study of the Bible, feeling satisfied with hearing perhaps ten verses per Sunday. At that rate it would take nearly sixty years to cover each verse only once.

How can we expect to remain knowledgeable enough about the Bible and about who God is to even be able to sustain even the softest of attacks on our faith? The answer is already evident when we see some churches promoting abortion, homosexuality, and earth worship as acceptable in God's eyes, despite the fact that Scripture clearly states otherwise.

Whether you choose to believe the Bible, or Cahn's suggestion that America is under the judgment of God, there is no denying that America has stepped onto the same slippery slope as ancient Israel did, and that this nation is at great peril from many directions. Question is, will we turn back to God before we fall to the same fate as Israel?



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