



June 7, 2009

*In Favor Of Biblical Prophecy*

Over the past year we have watched as global economies deteriorated, iconic businesses that seemed untouchable have asked for help and declared bankruptcy, unemployment has skyrocketed and homeowners have been left homeless. Somewhere the anarchists and survivalists are probably thinking that they warned everyone and prepare to brace for the worst, finally able to use the stores and skills that they have been working on for years. Others wait for the end to come and the dark clouds to get thicker while the media inconsistently points to how things are better one day and worse the next. It is more than obvious that we are in the middle of a change that will equalize and reduce the abuses of the economic systems that have been manipulated by greed and the end result may be a more realistic state of affairs. In the course of these events there has been less emphasis on the work of prognosticators such as Nostradamus. Prior to 2007 it seemed that there was a considerable amount of airtime given to explanations of the work of Nostradamus and other more obscure prophets that were touted as declaring the imminence of vast global disaster. As we look at history we find that such shifts and changes happen with some degree of regularity. The point of this article is that such works as the prophecies of Nostradamus have stated a lot of doom and gloom but there is nothing that I have heard or read in them to point to a solution. Even if the prophecies of such people were true, and I don't believe that they are, what good is it to know all the bad if there is no good to counteract it. It has often been said that if one wishes to complain then one should also be willing to offer a solution to a problem instead of just voicing negativity and criticism. In the writings of worldly so called prophets, there are only predictions, predominantly negative in the case of Nostradamus, and virtually no statement of remedy. Now, the prophecy that we find in the Bible is quite different from that dished up by humans. God many times pronounces blessings through his prophecies and then states the negative consequences for actions that are in opposition to his commands. God offers solutions, in veiled forms the farther back we go in the Biblical narra-

tive, becoming more specific as the scriptures progressively reveal the nature of the blessings that God has intended for man. During the Lord's pronouncement of judgment against Adam and Eve for their sin, God states a positive outcome as well when the serpent, Satan, was told, "***And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.***" (**Gen 3.15**). This is recognized as the first prophecy of Christ in the scriptures and speaks of the willingness of God to offer hope at a time of calamity. The writing of the prophets are also misunderstood. Many see the negative aspects of the statements that are made as God pronounces judgments against the children of Israel and other nations. What is not seen in this is that the negative consequences could have been avoided to begin with. Moses warned the people that once they had subdued the land God was giving them He would act against them in the same manner if they did not remember him (**Num 33.56**). The entire book of Deuteronomy, Moses farewell address to the Hebrews, is filled with reminders of the good that God had done for them, the laws and regulations that were to be remembered and the stated consequences that would come upon them if they forgot the Lord. The statements made by the later prophets are indeed filled with the negative consequences that befell the nation for their behavior and lack of faith. It should be noted that these things did not have to happen. Being warned of the consequences of their negative actions, the people were also told the benefits of obedience. God has done the same thing for us today. The end of the world will come one day and God has told us how to prepare for it. The warnings and instructions are clear, and unlike Nostradamus and others, God provides solutions.

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