

PostExilicProphets 22-03-02a

This is Wednesday, the 2nd of March, 2022. We're going to deviate slightly from our study in the post-exilic prophets and take a look at the current events. It's always fun to do a current event special just to keep everybody from falling into too familiar a pattern.

And we've had a number of events in recent days that cause us to ask ourselves the question, should we be thinking or doing something different than what we are? How should we evaluate the incursions abroad? And does this spark any recognition of things that are in Bible prophecy? There's been a huge proliferation of to be kind and not say prophecy, not, I would say a lot of people who think there is a hook into prophetic material in recent events. So is it is or is it ain't? I'll offer some thoughts on that tonight, but it's always good in terms of exercise of our ability to apply what we know to have a perspective on the world, to live as the Lord Jesus would have us to live, to represent Him, to function as His body on this earth in whatever times. And so when something new and different happens, it's a challenge to maintain that perspective and remember who we are and why we're here.

So hopefully our investigations tonight, our analysis and thoughts will contribute to that goal. Let's ask God's blessing on our fellowship and on our investigation of His word tonight. Father, it is a wonderful blessing.

It enhances our sense of security, our feeling of peace and rest to remember that you are fully in control of history. You have been for millennia. You will be for all of the remaining time in this age and in this world.

We're grateful to be related to you directly through the Lord Jesus Christ, to be securely held in your hands and in His, to be secured with the presence and power of your Holy Spirit, to be guided, nurtured, cleansed, strengthened and equipped by the truth of your word. We pray that as we spend this time together in fellowship and in looking at the events of the world around us in the light of your word, that the Holy Spirit will enhance all of those qualities, will produce His fruit in our lives so that we can live the time that remains to us in a way that is pleasing in your sight. We ask it in Jesus name, amen.

I'm gonna divide our time tonight into two parts. One is obviously taking a look at what is happening in the world at large. And then secondly, what the scriptural perspective is.

I thought that that might naturally start by the first session being current events and the second session being scripture. And I thought, no, I wanna do scripture first. And you'll see that as we review the things we're going to take a look at, that this is the framework that should always guide us.

We should start with who we are and why we're here and what God's word says. And we can fit everything else into that rather than looking at circumstances, then saying, is there a verse? Is there an aphorism? Is there something I can poke that with to make it stay in its place? So what

I'm going to do, I'm not going to invent anything. I'm not going to be original here.

I am going to rely on a resource, which I have mentioned to you a number of times in the past. There is none better if you don't have one, get one. I think I've made that recommendation enough that probably all of you have it, but it is J. Dwight Pentecost's wonderful expository look at prophecy.

It is called Things to Come. It was written back in the 1950s, published in 1958, never superseded, never topped, nothing better. And the fact that it has not had to be updated or changed, at least to my knowledge, if they've made an updated edition, I don't know about it.

And you don't need it. This one is everything you need. It is the pinnacle distillation, in my humble opinion, of everything you need to know about the prophetic word of God.

It is organized. It is sequential. It is credible.

And it's one of my favorite go-tos, one of my half dozen regularly consulted references, along with the New Treasury Scripture Knowledge and a few others. So what I'm going to do is move in my edition. As I've told you, there's a really colorful dust jacket that has disintegrated from my copy.

I've got the rags and tatters. That thing has been taped so many times. Anyway, it looks real nice and neat now.

You would not know how much I've used this because the dust jacket sacrificed itself on the book's behalf. But I'm going to turn to the vicinity of page 325 in this is a section entitled the Gentiles in the Tribulation. Now, why am I doing this? Because the arrangement of nations and the confederations that appear and are noted and expressed and described in the prophetic passages dealing with the Battle of Armageddon, which is really not a battle.

It's a campaign. I could talk to you about the word that is used there. It's really a misnomer.

It's not the Battle of Armageddon. It is a lengthy campaign of Armageddon. And Armageddon itself is a bit misleading because the Vale of Megiddo is only one small part of this giant sweeping area where this conflict is going to center and ultimately resolve.

So having said that, I don't think, oh my gosh, we're in the tribulation because we're in the chapter that talks about the nations in the tribulation. Those confederations don't spring up overnight. They will have existed for some time.

So my first suggestion tonight, my point one here is, as we look at international developments, we are watching for alignments that prefigure those that are described in the world after we're gone. They don't arrive ex nihilo. They will form, develop, and solidify in the years prior.

And they can't all come about in the three and a half years of false peace. Many of these will have existed for many years. So what we are watching for, which has not yet appeared, but

could appear in the near future, are these alignments, these confederations, these alliances.

And as they begin to form, you will know the time is near. Jesus talked about looking at the sky, looking at the signs of the times. This is that idea.

And it's exciting. So our first objective is to see, is there anything happening in the present that looks like these groups of nations are beginning to cohere and take a form that is reflected in scripture? Because up to this point, they never have. So to understand that, we're going to first of all, see, well, what are those described confederations, those kings and so on? What do they look like and where are they located in the 70th week? And that will tell us what to watch for in these days prior to the 70th week.

So that's our first goal. Secondly, in my opinion, and I haven't really looked to see if anybody agrees with me or not, but in my opinion, it is of intense significance that Jesus twice says that Satan and Satan's seat is located in Turkey. So as you watch unfolding events, in my opinion, which could be wrong, but I think you want to especially watch Turkey and I'll have more to say about their current alignment a bit later, but the seven churches of Asia that have those words of prophetic warning from the Lord Jesus are all in that area.

And Turkey isn't going to just drop out of sight. So number one, how closely are world confederations and alliances aligning with what is described for the end times? Secondly, where is Turkey? And those are about the only two points I have. That's mainly what I'm watching.

I would add a third point and it is not to worry. We are not in the grip of principalities and powers, rulers of the darkness of this age or the physical manifestations of their power in kingdoms and governments and wars. We are securely held in the hands of God.

The last thing we want to do is become subjective with our eyes on ourselves. What's going to happen to me if prices go up? What's going to happen to me if my cell phone quits? What's going to happen if, and looking at circumstances, looking at other people, what are they going to do? What are these nations going to do? What is this war going to turn into? It's all three forms of subjectivity in one go. Eyes on self, eyes on people and eyes on circumstances.

What a tragic failure for us in this church with how much we've been granted to see in the word of God to fall apart at the end and become like any other chicken licking with the sky falling. Heaven forbid, let's be better than that. Let not your hearts be troubled.

You believe in God and you believe in me. Your destination is heavenly mansions, so keep your cool. Look upon it as a spectator event.

It's kind of exciting. We live in amazing times. People in history prior to this point never had the access to news, film, awareness of what's going on in far away places like we do.

And it's kind of cool. I think it's great. It doesn't worry me.

It doesn't keep me up at night. God is in his heaven and I'm in his hands. And that is the single post around which everything else can revolve.

Don't lose your peace. If you start losing your peace, get your nose back in the word of God, get your head back into prayer and let God talk and we talk. Communication with God.

God has not given us a spirit of fear, but a power of love and a sound mind. If you begin to feel like you're losing it, you know what to do. How does the power of God come into the life of the believer? It's the spirit of God and the word of God.

The spirit is intimately involved, essentially involved in prayer. If you are praying and you're an effectual, fervent, righteous prayer, God is going to channel peace in and through that process of prayer. And he is going to use the Holy Spirit to bring to our souls, our hearts and our minds, those truths that we have treasured away over the years.

So whatever the news turns out to be, don't lose your peace. Any unbeliever can be troubled. Any baby Christian can panic.

And start lobbing sweat grenades and coming unglued. Heaven forbid that's us. We have no excuse for that.

We've got plenty of truth. We know how these things work. And we should be excited to see things converging, if and when they do, into what looks an awful lot like the final form.

Those are my three points. These things are to be compared to what the final alignment is, since we think we're close to the end of days. Keep your eye on Turkey because we're keeping our eye on Satan.

Satan's seat is in Turkey, has been for 2000 years. Why has Turkey not been intimately involved in world wars and things like that? Wasn't the time of the end, but keep an eye on Turkey. That's my view.

And thirdly, whatever the first two may resolve to, we have an obligation to be ready for the judgment seat of Christ. To be able to pass the evaluation with lots of fruit of the spirit, lots of gold, silver, and precious stones that easily passes through the flames and becomes resources and assets and opportunities for life and service in the kingdoms to come. So with that introduction, what I'd like to do is quickly review what Dr. Pentecost has to say about the alignment that scripture describes Old Testament and new for the last days.

So beginning here, and let me just say that there are four entities. You can think of this in the compass directions, and you've heard these terms before. There is a King of the North.

There is a King of the East. There is a King of the South. Oddly enough, there's not a King of the West, but there is an entity in the West, and it is the 10 nation confederacy, often called the revived Roman empire.

And that is West. So there are four powers or aggregations of power that are talked about in the end times. And we're going to take them starting in the West, because that's kind of where we are, and we'll move around the clock to the North, the East and the South.

Who are they in the modern day? What are the comparables? So let's begin with the 10 nation confederacy, often called the revived Roman empire. And I think that's as good a name as any, I don't know if it will center in Rome or have anything to do with Rome, but it takes the place of what in earlier days constituted the Roman empire. So where is that and what is that? The scriptures tell us unequivocally that the world empire that Rome once possessed will again be restored.

There's a guy named Jennings who says this. He says, my purpose is to gather such light as it has pleased the God of all grace to give in his word as to the extent and limitations of that revived imperial world power. The future empire was assumed to have precisely the same geographical boundaries as at that time.

This I take to have been a fundamental mistake for it ignores completely the introduction of another and that a basic and characteristic element into the earth. Mere geographic boundaries are but little in accord with the peculiarly spiritual character of this era. The introduction of a distinct spiritual element demands even for earthly boundaries, a spiritual measurement.

So we're not looking for a woodenly literal recreation of the Roman empire. Turning the 17th chapter of the book of Revelation, we see the whole stage filled with two personalities only, a beast and a woman. These two picture the future prophetic earth.

There can be no argument or discussion as to this speaking of both the civil and ecclesiastical conditions that will rule and characterize that part of the earth that is within the limits of the boundaries of prophecy. The whole of it will be filled with what shall answer to this beast and this woman. The two are thus indissolubly co-related and tell us to what end all are trending.

And that is that there will eventually be one world empire and one world church. And these will cover the whole of what is now called Christendom. The one empire supporting the one church and the beast in the scripture supporting the woman.

The woman is supported by the beast. So that wherever one of these may be, there will inevitably the other be too. That the boundaries of the one inevitably mark the boundaries of the other.

We are compelled to see the boundaries of the empire will be the boundaries of the professed but utterly apostate Christianity and vice versa. The boundaries of the apostate church will be exactly coterminous with those of the empire. Remembering when this was written and Jennings is earlier than Dr. Pentecost.

There's one update that I would offer. I think that has a lot of traction. I think it's got a lot of

validity.

I think what the earlier scholars and Bible interpreters did not see coming is the replacement of religion in terms of church with religion in terms of science. The religion of humanism, the religion of man by man's efforts. It's a super religion.

It's a beyond mythology, beyond divinity or deity. It is the religion of man. Man is so smart.

Man can solve his own problems. Look at all of the advances. Look at what technology and science have accomplished.

We are God. And the religion that has built up around that God, the God of human ingenuity, I think is this final apostate religion. In a nutshell, I believe what passed in years gone by for the revived Roman empire.

And remember, Roman empire, they thought, well, the Pope, the Catholics, that's what it will be. But you look at the European Union, it doesn't matter how many countries are in there. The 10 toes could be a literal number of 10 nation confederacy, or it could just mean all of the toes you need for those feet are there.

10 is kind of a number of human completion. When you've got all 10 fingers and all 10 toes, you say, hey, that's a healthy baby, right? So it is going to be full. It's going to have everything it's supposed to have.

I personally believe based on what we've seen over the last 40 or 50 years or 60, that the revived Roman empire is essentially some form of the European Union. Look at the countries that are in it and the territory that is coincident with the ancient Roman empire. But the religion, the religious aspect of it is science, technology, everything from transhumanism to the political correctness, the woke-ism, the ethics and morality that now are built on human ideas.

That's, in my view, the religion. That is alliance number one. Quote, unquote, revived Roman empire, king of the West, whatever you want to call it, that's the first entity.

Do we have something like that today that we didn't have when some of us were children? Yes, we do. There was no EU until recent decades. So this is a new development, relatively new in the sweep of history.

And so now you have that piece in place. It has this religion of human standards of morals and ethics and morality and what we'll decide is and isn't good and its own system of appeal to power instead of divine power or invoking a deity or calling upon a deity. It is science and technology.

That's alliance number one. The second alliance, and this actually goes to a page or two forward to the king of the North, which these are the powers aligned against the Roman empire in the last days. This 10 nation Confederacy has enemies.

Sound familiar? You could superimpose NATO on EU. But Dr. Pentecost says, as each of the four successive powers had enemies who contested their right to rule, the four being those of the vision in the book of Daniel, the head of gold, the shoulders and arms of silver, belly and thighs of brass and the legs of iron, the four previous or Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and then Rome. Each of those four successive powers had enemies who contested the right to rule.

So at the time of the end of Gentile world power, which by the way will be the fifth iteration, five being a kind of number of completion as well. There will be kingdoms and federations of nations who contest the authority of this Roman empire. This is what I would call the EU, NATO, the European powers.

The first is the Northern Confederacy. The first power arrayed against the authority of the beast and his armies. And by the way, Antichrist is not gonna be coming from Russia.

He's not gonna be coming from Asia. He's not gonna be coming from Africa. He is gonna be the head of the EU slash NATO slash revived Roman empire.

That's his base of power. So you wanna watch those nations for the rise of someone who unifies them against common enemies. Who are those enemies that are common to these Tentos or however many nations make up those Tentos.

It is the Northern Confederacy. The great Northern Confederacy is described in Ezekiel chapter 38, verse one through 39, verse 25. It's also in Daniel chapter 11, verse 40.

This is what you find in Ezekiel 38, verse two. "Son of man, set thy face toward Gog, the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshach, and Tubal." So in Ezekiel 38, three, the prince of Rosh is called Gog. His land is Magog, Magog.

So you have Rosh, Gog, his land is Magog and Magog is composed of three parts, Rosh, Meshach, and Tubal. Interestingly, these names have come down in distorted form to the present. Rosh is Russia, Meshach is Moscow, and Tubal is Tobolsk, Tobolsk.

These names have just morphed over the centuries, but this is the Russian empire. So do we now have the stirrings and the beginnings of the reconstituting of a Russian empire? Yes, we do. And distilling a lot of this here, let me just say that as I turn two more pages, the identification of Rosh as modern Russia is well authenticated and generally accepted.

Allied with Magog, allied with Rosh, will be many peoples with thee. This is Ezekiel 38.15. Who are these many peoples that are allied with Russia? The first nation federated with Russia, according to Ezekiel 38.5, will be Persia. What is Persia today? Iran, Iran.

Do we see yet formal ties and alliance with Iran and Russia? It's in process, isn't it? You can see that they are going to be philosophical fellow travelers because of their antipathy to the West and the West's antipathy and animosity toward them, right? So does it make sense that Iran would confederate with Russia at a certain point, perhaps formally confederate and formally

ally and join forces? It's not hard to imagine in this modern day. Not always that case, but it is certainly the case today. So according to Ezekiel 38, one of these nations confederated with Gog and the land of Magog, the Prince of Rosh is Iran.

The second ally is called Ethiopia. This name is used in scripture nine times to refer to the area in Africa and 11 times to refer to the land of Cush. So anytime you see Ethiopia in scripture, you have to figure out, well, is this African Ethiopia or is it Cush, which is a portion of Arabia, Arabia.

Wouldn't it make sense that with oil being the issue, you have Iran, you have a portion of the Arab states allying themselves with Russia. That is the second ally. There are going to be five allies named these many peoples.

The first is Iran in the modern day. The second is Cush, which is some portion of Arabia. The third is Libya or Put.

It is usually identified with the Libya in Africa, but when you look at scripture, talking about the movement of forces in that great final campaign, these people would have to march right through the battlefield to join up with the King of the North and then march right back down where they already came. And so that location doesn't make good sense. But if John Davis in his dictionary of the Bible is right and Put is South or Southeast of Cush and the Cush of prophecy is adjacent to Persia, then we can look for the people of Put to sally forth from the same part of the earth, out of which will come the rest of the nations who may be joined together in the great Northeastern Confederacy.

Thus, Put may be located as adjacent to Iran. So it is another unnamed area. It may have a name in the modern day, but in the biblical times it was called Put, but this is something adjacent to Iran and to the Arab areas that join with them.

So that is the third Confederate. The fourth is Gomer. Gomer, if you swap places with the R and the M, you can figure out who this is.

Instead of G-M-R, put G-R-M and then put a Y on the end. This is Germany. Gomer is Germany.

Valuable information is given in the Talmud. Gomer is there stated to be the Germani, the Germans. The descendants of Gomer moved northward and established themselves in parts of Germany.

This seems to be an established fact. Supported by almost all commentators and historians. That's the fourth ally.

The fifth ally in this Northern Confederacy is Togarmah. This is generally identified as Turkey and or Armenia. Turkey or Armenia.

So if we were very, very close to the time of our exit and the beginning of the 70th week, we would see and we'll see alignments that comport with what scripture says. The scripture is true

and cannot be broken, Jesus said. So these alliances will take place and I suspect they will exist well in advance of the rapture and the inception of the 70th week.

When the single charismatic powerful ruler of the EU will emerge. Right now, the EU doesn't have a single charismatic leader, but they will. What could bring such a thing about? What would cause the EU to feel like they needed a Churchill? How about conflict on their Eastern borders? How about a real existential threat from a powerful group of neighbors? Somebody rolling up territory, moving West.

So that's the Northern Confederation. This could also include Siberia. Siberia, the Turks and Armenia are those that could make up Togarmah.

That brings us to the Kings of the East. According to Revelation 16, 12, Palestine, which will have become the center of the activity of the Roman leader and his armies will be invaded by a great army coming from beyond the Euphrates known as the forces of the Kings of the East. This represents a second great alliance of powers challenging the authority of the beast.

And then he gives a couple of pieces of analysis. It can thus be concluded that the second great opposing Gentile force will be that comprised of the coalition of nations in Asia, read China. So Kings of the East, basically China and everybody who allies with China.

Third is the King of the South, a third power in conflict with the Roman Empire is the King of the South mentioned in Daniel 11, verse 40. This power advances on Palestine and sets off a movement of nations that brings about its destruction. Evidently this King of the South is allied with the King of the North for they simultaneously invade Palestine in Daniel 11, 40.

There's general agreement among interpreters that the King of the South has referenced to Egypt as Egypt is frequently referred to as the land of the South in scripture. This could be any part of North Africa, almost certainly including Egypt, maybe not limited to it, but including it. So in studying the alignments of the Gentile nations at the time of the tribulation period, we find there will be this federation of nations that has become the final form of the fourth kingdom of the Roman Empire under the leadership of the beast.

This is Revelation 13, one through 10. That's your 10 toes of the iron mixed with clay. Secondly, the Northern Confederacy, Russia and her allies.

Thirdly, an Eastern or Asiatic Confederacy and fourth, a North African power. The movements of these four allied powers against Palestine in the tribulation period are clearly stated in scripture and constitute one of the major themes of prophecy. This should basically be reviewed for us, but it's good to just kind of load it up into our heads because we're going to pause here and take our break.

When we come back, we're going to look at what is currently taking place in Europe and the Middle East and Asia. And to what extent does it prefigure or look like it could lead to this very clear prophetic view of the world as it will stand in the end times. So that's what we'll look at

when we come back.