



WHERE IS AMERICA IN BIBLICAL PROPHECY AND FUTURE GLOBAL EVENTS

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Part I

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INTRODUCTION

After World War II, America had just soundly defeated the nations of Germany and Japan and quickly became a recognized nation of power and industrial might. Since that time, America has risen to a nation of unrivaled global power and influence exceeding all previous dynasties such as the Egyptians, Medes-Persians, Greeks, Romans, and British Empire. Today, America still ranks as the dominant global economic and military superpower. Remarkably, America can also be classified as an empire, as by definition – *“an empire has the capability to exert power, influence, and dominance over a large part of the world.”* Without question, America has become the defender of freedom around the world, used its military to defend its multiple allies, oppose expansionist ambitions of its enemies, and excelled in space exploration.

However, the foundation and resultant uniqueness of this nation was not originally founded on a cornerstone of economic and military strength but from Christian origins and its ability to embody the truths of the Scriptures that clearly guided the founders as they formulated the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, and the U.S. Constitution. The declared purpose of the original colonists was to establish a new government based on the principles of the Bible and the open recognition of God. As a result, America was founded as a Christian nation and has been blessed beyond any previous nation. It is a fact that Christian principles has made America stand above all other nations and

has resulted in the common reference to America as exceptional (or American Exceptionalism). The foundational principle of a nation founded on biblical principles is summarized in Psalm 33:12 – *“Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord; and the people whom He hath chosen for his own inheritance.”*

Interestingly, a modern perception by many Americans is that America is too robust and durable to fall from its current position of the world leader. However, Webster’s New World Dictionary defines history as – *“an account of what has happened,”* and *“all recorded past events.”* When these definitions are applied to a past history of the world, we find that all previous civilizations were not immune to an unexpected demise. As an example, a study in the 2002 issue of Scientific American magazine indicated that the overall average lifespan of recent civilizations is about 305 years. As an example, consider the lifespan of three great world civilizations:

- Babylonians – Less than 100 years
- Medes and Persians – About 200 years
- Greece – About 300 years

With the preceding thoughts in mind – particularly the history of previous great civilizations – a key consideration should be what is the tentative longevity of America, will America play any future role in global history, and most importantly, will America be a part of biblical prophetic events. Let’s take a closer look at biblical prophecy and then the likely place of America as a continued world leader in future global events.

BIBLICAL PROPHECY

Even though no nation is invincible and unassailable, it is not easy to recognize or admit that America will not last forever in its current form of the world superpower and/or will continue to offer its present level of security and benefits to its inhabitants. Unfortunately, when searching biblical scriptures, one cannot find America specifically listed with other nations that participate in future prophetic events such as the Gog/Magog and Armageddon wars. As a result, it is somewhat surprising – and disappointing – that the greatest nation in the history of this earth that was founded on God and biblical Scripture is not clearly mentioned in Bible prophecy.

However, in view of history and the present moral/financial condition of America, is it possible that modern America is currently at the pinnacle of its power before beginning a precipitous reduction of global influence? Any truthful examination of current moral and political ethical conditions would likely constitute enough evidence to justify a judgment of God on America. Sadly, this

perspective raises a substantial question – why has divine judgment been withheld from a nation that has enjoyed the blessings of God – but to a large degree – has also turned its back on God? Thankfully, it is possible that America is still receiving Godly favor for two fundamental reasons:

- America has been a primary source of Christian influence in the world (global evangelism). From a biblical perspective, the Good News must reach a global audience before the return of Christ as found in Matthew 24:14 – *“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come”*
- For the most part, America’s support of Israel (that has varied depending on various political administrations). Remember that God pledged in the Abrahamic promise in Genesis 12:3 – *“I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you”*

As the future condition of America can be historically viewed as uncertain, it is assured there is an apparent dilemma between two possible viewpoints when looking for America in Scripture – (1) not *specifically* mentioned in biblical prophecy, and (2) only mentioned *indirectly* in biblical prophecy. As a result, Christian bookstores carry numerous books on this subject in addition to a measurable amount of emphasis among speakers and authors that focus on biblical prophecy. With the previous thoughts in mind, let’s focus on the two perspectives that America is either not specifically mentioned or mentioned indirectly in biblical scripture.

NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED

While the Bible does mention numerous nations in biblical prophecies either specifically by name such as Israel – or names that were common when the applicable scriptures were written such as Rosh (Russia), Persia (Iran), Cush (Ethiopia), Put (Libya), Tubal (Turkey), and Magog (Central Asia) – America (or the United States) is not mentioned. This fact can be a result of two perspectives:

- End times prophecy is predominantly concerned with Israel and its immediate neighbors so it may be possible that other geographic regions are not a focal point in biblical prophecy. As an example, all of the Americas are not mentioned (this can also include Australia, New Zealand, etc.)
- During the end times, America may not be a nation that is capable of being mentioned with other nations that will be at the forefront of end time’s prophecy. Remember that because the modern nation of America was unknown to biblical prophets/authors has no bearing on its absence in Bible prophecy as biblical Scripture is inerrant

MENTIONED INDIRECTLY

Although the Old and New Testament in the Bible does not directly mention America either by direct reference or specifically by name, there are some scholars and authors that believe America is *indirectly* described in biblical prophecy. Following are some of the more common viewpoints, some of which require imaginative exegesis and/or inventive interpretations:

- *Great nation divided by rivers.* Some believe that America is the fulfillment of Isaiah 18:1-7 as this passage talks about a nation that is feared due to its military might/conquests and is a land divided by a river (verses 2&7) that is believed to be the Mississippi River. The primary problem with this view is that the referenced nation is identified as Ethiopia or Cush in verses 1&2
- *Similar to Babylon.* The viewpoint that there is a similarity between the Babylon of Revelation 17-18 and America/New York City is that both are extremely rich, immoral (expanded in Part II), rests assured in the belief of invulnerability, and is a dominant world power. Taken in its proper context, Revelation 17 actually refers to Mystery Babylon (biblical symbol for false religion), and Revelation 18 is referring to the actual City of Babylon. Therefore, many Bible scholars believe the parallels of Babylon in Revelation and modern America is inserting a preconceived viewpoint into these passages
- *A great eagle.* There is a perception that the great eagle mentioned in Revelation 12:13-14 is the prominent national symbol of America. However, a quick review of Exodus 19:4 and Deuteronomy 32:9-12 indicates that the term eagle is a graphic depiction of God's providential protection of Israel as wings in the aforementioned verses speak of protection, not America
- *One of the nations.* The term "the nations" are mentioned as participating in the end time's war and may apply to the participation of America with other nations. These references can be found in Isaiah 66:18-20, Haggai 2:6-7, Zechariah 12:2-3, Revelation 20:7-8, etc. The end times war occurs at the end of the thousand year Millennium and is specifically described in Revelation 20:7-8 – "Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea." Although these passages list all nations that are in the four corners of the earth, America may or may not be a representative nation at this time
- *Merchants of Tarshish.* The account of Sheba and Dedan and the Merchants of Tarshish that are found in the Ezekiel 38 war of Gog and Magog is likely the most popular and recited portion of scripture that is used to justify the presence of America in Bible prophecy. In the Ezekiel account, specific

nations are listed that will form an alliance, led by the leader of Russia to advance on Israel, take the land and kill it's Jewish inhabitants. Not surprisingly, virtually all of the aforementioned nations are either Islamic or pro-Islamic and exist on the world scene today

Note: It must be stated that there is some debate regarding the definition of some of the following nations, and most importantly, the definition of Tarshish

The nations listed in Ezekiel 38 are (depending on which translation/source is used):

- Gog (*this name is the exception to the listed nations and represents a leader, likely of Russia*)
- Magog (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and possibly Afghanistan)
- Rosh (Russia)
- Mesech and Tubal (portions of Turkey)
- Persia (Iran)
- Cush (Ethiopia)
- Put (Sudan, Libya and possibly Algeria and Tunisia)
- Gomer (Turkey and/or modern-day Germany)
- Beth-Togarmah (Turkey and Armenia)

Following this list of nations, there are three additional locations by the name of *"Sheba, Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish with all its young warriors"* that are mentioned in Ezekiel 38:13 – *"Sheba, Dedan, the merchants of Tarshish, and all their young lions will say to you, have you come to take plunder? Have you gathered your army to take booty, to carry away silver and gold, to take away livestock and goods, to take great plunder?"*

A noteworthy number of proponents of the *America in this prophecy view* believe the following:

- *Sheba and Dedan* are relatively easy to identify as they were ancient names for the lands that are now known as Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Oman, and the Gulf states
- It is believed that the best translation of *"the merchants of Tarshish"* seems to be a colony of Phoenicians located in modern Spain. More recently, this phrase could apply to Spain, Holland, and Britain. However, notice that Ezekiel also refers to *"and all her young warriors (or lions)"*
- It is argued that Scripture associates Tarshish with the West, and England is another location known as Tarshish. Therefore, the *young lions* of Tarshish

could be a reference to the colonies that emerged from Europe, including America (United States). However, if Tarshish was in England, then the “*young lions thereof*” could be a reference to America, Australia, New Zealand, and Canada. Interestingly, the symbol on the English flag is a lion

WHERE IS AMERICA IN FUTURE GLOBAL EVENTS

Part II

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INTRODUCTION

In Part I of this series, we discussed the fact that America is not directly mentioned in Bible end times prophecy and is noteworthy from the perspective America was founded on the *open recognition of God*, democracy, and is also the most powerful and influential nation on earth. Yet, as we briefly considered the history of previous great civilizations we found that they were not immune to an unexpected demise. If history indicates the *overall* lifespan of civilizations is about 200 years, the average lifespan of *recent* civilizations is about 300 years, and America is not specifically mentioned in Bible prophecy, can the future status of America as a continued global superpower be perceived as ambiguous, tentative, and/or uncertain? If so, then what conditions, environments, or circumstances could restructure America into an inconsequential or minor nation in global events?

As a starting point, in 1887, Alexander Tyler, a Scottish history professor at the University of Edinburg had this to say about the fall of the Athenian Republic some 2,000 years prior:

“A democracy is always temporary in nature; it simply cannot exist as a permanent form of government. A democracy will continue to exist up until the time that voters discover that they can vote themselves generous gifts from the public treasury. From that moment on, the majority always votes for candidates who promise the most benefits from the public treasury, with the result that every democracy will finally collapse over loose fiscal policy, which is always followed by a Dictatorship.

The average age of the world’s greatest civilizations from the beginning of history has been about 200 years. During those 200 years, these nations always progressed through the following sequence:

- *From bondage to spiritual faith*
- *From spiritual faith to great courage*
- *From courage to liberty*
- *From liberty to abundance*
- *From abundance to complacency*
- *From complacency to apathy*
- *From apathy to dependence*
- *From dependence back into bondage”*

Professor Joseph Olson of Hamline University School of Law in St. Paul, Minnesota, points out some interesting facts concerning the last Presidential election:

- *“Number of states won by Obama (19) and Romney (29)*
- *Square miles of land won by Obama (580,000) and Romney (2,427,000)*
- *Population of counties won by Obama (127 million) and Romney (143 million)*
- *Murder rate per 100,000 residents in counties won by Obama (13.2) and Romney (2.1)”*

Professor Olson adds – *“In aggregate, the map of the territory Romney won was mostly the land owned by the taxpaying citizens of this country. Obama territory mostly encompassed those citizens living in low income tenements and living off various forms of government welfare.”*

Additionally, Professor Olson believes the United States is now somewhere between the *“complacency and apathy”* phase of Professor Tyler’s definition of Democracy with about 40% of the nation’s population already having reached the *“governmental dependency”* phase (current statistics indicate this percentage is much closer to 50%).

When comparing the America of yesterday to the America of today, it readily becomes obvious that although the current American military is the most powerful and advanced military in the world and can protect this nation from an *external* attack, there are multiple *internal* elements that are negatively influencing the moral health of America. To enhance a perspective on the future direction of America, lets begin by looking (in no particular order) at five primary factors that are dramatically and collectively restructuring America – (1) abortion/murder, (2) the open rejection of God, (3) energy, (4) the national debt, and lastly, we will consider a fifth element from biblical prophecy that will significantly restructure America – (5) the Rapture.

*Note: Before we continue with considering the **current** Restructuring of America, it should be noted that this does not supersede the ability of a revival to change the*

direction of America as confirmed in 2 Chronicles 7:14 "If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

THE RESTRUCTURING OF AMERICA

MURDER

The massive murder of infants from abortion is a biblical and secular stain on the heart of this nation. Since the 1973 Supreme Court case of *Roe v. Wade*, 58 million abortions have been performed in the United States from 1973 to 2014. According to the American Family Association, that equates to about 3,315 human beings that lose their life every day in America due to abortion in addition to 3 out of 10 women in America will have an abortion by the time they are 45. Unfortunately, these figures have become so repetitive that they have become meaningless to the point that it is common for politicians (including the president) to endorse the pro-choice position and be elected by approving Americans. Regardless of race, income, or level of education of any woman who has had an abortion, it is a medical fact that there are psychological scars that remain long after the procedure that has negatively affected millions of American women and related families.

The Greek word *brephos* is used in the Bible to refer to both an unborn child and an infant. By the time a baby is conceived, he or she is recognized by God as a human being (Jeremiah 1:5 *"before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou came forth out of the womb I sanctified thee"*). Consequently, the Sixth Commandment of the Bible as found in Exodus 20:13 states *"thou shall not kill"* applies to all human beings, including unborn babies. Additionally, remember that unborn babies are considered human beings by the United States government (i.e., Federal Unborn Victims of Violence Act).

From a biblical perspective, the 1973 legalization of abortion in America was a direct violation of the biblical Sixth Commandment. From a secular viewpoint, the legalization of abortion in America is a direct violation of the United States government definition of a human being. Since 1973, the right to life has not been considered an inalienable right given by God but a subjective right determined by the Supreme Court with the end result that God does not honor the abortion perspective as stated in Proverbs 6:16-17 – *"This does the Lord hate...hands that shed innocent blood."*

OPEN REJECTION OF GOD

Although it is easy to imagine that some people openly and aggressively reject God – remember that many similar words can be substituted for the word reject such as discard, disgust, throwaway, castoff, and distaste – it is a fact that a

growing number of politicians and people in America have openly – and some aggressively – rejected God. This should be a troublesome perspective for America when God clearly states in Jeremiah 1:16 – *“I will pronounce my judgments on my people because of their wickedness in forsaking me.”*

Lets summarize some primary examples of the current American rejection of God:

- On June 17, 1963, the Supreme Court ruled that reading the Bible and prayer in public schools was forbidden even though they had been included in America’s schools since the founding of this country. Additionally, by the 1990’s the deceiving viewpoint of *“separation of church and state”* had successfully removed God from public schools and most governmental institutions. It has been said that the four greatest problems in schools during 1963 were noise, talking, chewing gum, and trivial pranks. Not surprisingly, by the 1990’s some of the greatest problems in schools were assault, rape, drugs, robbery, promiscuity, pornography, and SAT scores plummeting downward. Recently, school shootings have become more common since the 1999 Columbine Colorado school massacre
- The phrase *“America Vs. the Ten Commandments”* summarizes the on-going effort to remove the Ten Commandments, Nativity Scenes, and Christmas Carols in schools, courthouses, and other public places that has been responsible for the deepening anti-God secularization of America. It seems ironic that the biblical Ten Commandments that have served as the basis of civil law in the Western World for over 2,000 years should now be the center of a national legal battle! Interestingly, John Quincy Adams, the 6th President of the United States stated the following – *“The law given from Sinai was a civil and municipal, as well as a moral and religious code...laws essential to the existence of men in society and most of which have been enacted by every nation which ever professed a code of laws.”*

Previous American generations have never questioned the legality, reliance, display, and use of the Ten Commandments that are comprised of five primary attributes:

- Authorship by God (Exodus 32:16)
- Eternal (Psalm 89:34)
- Perfect (Psalm 19)
- Consequences (Isaiah 13:9)
- Responsibility (Ecclesiastes 12:13)

However, when comparing the five primary attributes of the Ten Commandments, particularly “Responsibility” as found in Ecclesiastes 12:13 *“Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man”* to the eroding American moral values of today, it is easy to see why there is a strong continued effort to remove the Ten Commandments from public view. The public display of the Ten Commandments was first questioned in 1980 in *Stone v. Graham* when some parents challenged a Kentucky state law that required posting a copy of the Ten Commandments in each public school room. By a 5-4 decision, the United States Supreme Court ruled that the Kentucky law violated the Establishment Clause of the Constitution. Since that time, the movement to remove the Ten Commandments from public view has accelerated from activist legal groups and applied to various venues such as the Oklahoma State Capitol, Bloomfield New Mexico City Hall, Alabama State judicial building, and many others.

Additionally, conflicts and objections, often through legal action over the display of Nativity scenes on public properties and the singing of religious Christmas Carols in public places also continues to garner objections from American atheistic organizations, the ACLU, and the Freedom From Religion Foundation. As a result, Nativity scenes and Christmas Carols are rapidly disappearing from the American culture and contributing toward the demise of America’s Christian heritage. It should come as no surprise that America is becoming increasingly violent as evidenced by random mass shootings (malls, etc.), bombings (Oklahoma City, Wall Street, Centennial Olympic Park, Boston Marathon, etc.), and an increased frequency of public safety officer shootings

- An unapologetic example of rejecting God was publicly exhibited during the 2008 and 2012 National Democratic Party Convention platform approval process. In the platform, the affirmation of open sex, government provided contraception (i.e., Sandra Fluke during the 2012 convention), approval of abortion (murder), and the removal of God from the platform have characterized the current Democratic Party as the “anti-God” party in addition to affirming the sins of Romans 1:21-32 (see next section)
- Romans 1:21-32 specifically describes *five* national consequences for *continually* rejecting God that are directly applicable to modern America. In preparation to looking at this portion of scripture, let’s first look at Romans 1:18-20 for a foundational starting point – (18) *“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, (19) because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. (20) For since the creation of the world, His*

invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse."

These verses clearly state that:

- *Unrighteousness*: A result of ungodliness; a lack of conformity in thought, word and deed to the character and law of God.
- *Suppress the truth*: Mankind chooses to resist and oppose God's truth by holding fast to their sin
- *What may be known of God is manifest in them*: Mankind has knowledge of the truth
 - *God has shown it to them*: God has shown the truth
 - *So that they are without excuse*: Mankind (and America) is without excuse

Now, let's look at the five national consequences for rejecting God as outlined in verses 21-32:

FIRST CONSEQUENCE

A God rejecting nation becomes a nation of fools

Verses (21-22)

(21) "Because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and they're foolish hearts were darkened. (22) Professing to be wise, they became fools."

Summary

- *Although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened:* Although mankind knew God, they became fools. When mankind rejects the truth, the darkness of spiritual falsehood replaces it
- *Professing to be wise, they became fools:* Although unrighteous mankind believes they are intelligent, they are fools (rejection of scripture, the biblical account of creation, etc.)

SECOND CONSEQUENCE

A God rejecting nation accepts secular spirituality

Verses 24-25

(24) "Therefore, God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, (25) who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever."

Summary

- *God also gave them up:* This is a judicial term that is used for handing over a

prisoner to his sentence. God removes his restraint and allows their sin to run its course

- *Uncleaness*: Often used for decaying matter. Here, it speaks of sexual immorality that begins in the heart and moves to the body
- *The lusts of their hearts*: In this context, this refers to sexual sin and indicates the first step is pornography and an obsession with sex. The sexual revolution (sexual liberation) generally began in this country during the 60's and 70's and included increased acceptance of sex outside of traditional marriage, contraception and the pill, public nudity, normalization of pornography, free love, homosexuality (and other alternative forms of sexuality) – all of which were (and are) willingly highlighted by the media and Hollywood
- *Who exchanged the truth of God for the lie*: A denial of the existence of God and his right to be obeyed and worshiped and accepting false replacements (radical environmentalism, global warming, mysticism, humanism, various cults, etc.)

THIRD CONSEQUENCE

A God rejecting nation accepts homosexuality as normal

Verses 26-27

(26) "For this reason, God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. (27) Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due."

Summary

- *God gave them up*: See previous comments on verses 24-25
- *Vile passions*: Homosexuality (man or woman). During the 70's and 80's, the homosexual revolution quickly followed the sexual liberation movement with a growing mainstream acceptance of LGBT ideology, other deviant forms of sexuality, Queer Theology and the Emergent Church
- *Women*: Women are mentioned first to illustrate the extent of homosexual depravity. Normally, women are the last to participate in moral collapse.
- *Men*: Describes male homosexuality even to the point of burning with lust for other men
- *Receiving in themselves the penalty*: This phrase centers on the law of sowing and reaping (Gal. 6:7-8) evidenced by the disease of HIV/AIDS

FOURTH CONSEQUENCE

A God rejecting nation becomes corrupted and violent

Verses 28-31

(28) *“And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting. (29) Being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness, full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, (30) backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, (31) undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful.”*

Summary

- *God gave them over:* See previous comments in Second Consequence (V24)
- *Debased:* In the Greek, this is translated as discarded as a result of too much impurity; worthless and useless
- *To do those things which are not fitting:* America is becoming a nation where the previous “unthinkable” is becoming more mainstream. Several examples are deviant sexual behavior, public murder, open attacks against God, etc

FIFTH CONSEQUENCE

A God rejecting nation refuses the truth and approves of unrighteousness

(32) *who, knowing the unrighteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.”*

Summary

- *Knowing:* Not ignorance but blatant rebellion
- *But also approve of those who practice them:* Become accomplices by willingly approving of the listed unrighteousness that is listed in verses 29-30. The following are three current approval examples:
 - (1) President Bill Clinton’s approval ratings increased after the 1998 Monica Lewinsky scandal (he is still revered as a political leader)
 - (2) Hollywood and the public at large enthusiastically endorsing the Ellen DeGeneres show and other shows with effeminate actors
 - (3) The May 2014 Presidential Proclamation for LGBT Pride Month for June 2014

Part III

February 17, 2015

ENERGY

Energy is the primary commodity that all global economies depend on for their success or failure. Plentiful natural energy resources coupled with strong leadership and a comprehensive management plan for the present and future can provide the foundation for a durable and energetic economy that is not dependent on outside sources. Today, the enormous available energy resources

in America means this country is at the threshold of substantial job creation, a revitalized economy, and the ability to lead the world in energy production. However, excessive governmental interference, burdensome regulatory obstacles, and onshore/offshore Federal lands that have promised affordable energy and energy dependence are still inaccessible due to outdated moratoriums and bureaucratic delays and have hampered America's recent and current energy program. Yet, a December 2011 report from the Institute for Energy Research revealed the vast energy resources that are currently available to America as a nation and the American people. In short, America is blessed with multiple energy sources to sustain economic needs and growth for many generations.

Energy must be considered from a multi-faced viewpoint that consists of the primary elements of oil, coal, and natural gas (although wind and solar are advancing into being a viable source of energy, they will not be considered in this discussion as they currently are minor forms of energy – about 19% in 2012 and 2013). Not surprisingly, oil and its numerous derivatives are the primary form of energy that support the wheels of both military and civilian forms of mobility, electrical power, heating/cooling applications, recreational opportunities, and most importantly from the typical American consumer's perspective, the ability to operate a vehicle on a daily basis.

At this point and before continuing with our discussion of energy, let's define non-renewable energy and renewable energy:

Non-Renewable Energy

Non-renewable forms of energy draw on resources that will eventually dwindle and/or become depleted such as oil, natural gas, and coal.

Renewable Energy

Energy that comes from resources that are naturally replenished such as sunlight, rain, wind, tidal waves, and geothermal heat.

Before considering the subject of oil, coal, and natural gas energy, and America's dependence on these energies, let's take a brief look at a *sidebar* that illustrates how insubstantial and readily influenced the world economy can be and then draw a conceivable parallel to biblical prophecy. Let's begin by asking the question "*Why are gasoline prices at the pump so low*" and then draw a "*potential correlation to the status of Russia as prophesied in Ezekiel 38.*"

Why Are Gasoline Prices At The Pump So Low?

As every American person who drives an automobile is well aware, the current price of gasoline is currently around \$2 in many areas and has had a noteworthy

impact on the spending power of many Americans. However, a common question is *“why has the price of gasoline rapidly fallen from \$3 plus per gallon to around \$2 per gallon in about 4 to 5 months?”* The answer is easily answered from a perspective of international power and control.

Although the price of oil is based on numerous factors such as supply and demand, increased efficiency, weak economic conditions, geopolitical upsets, and a growing transition from oil to other fuels, it is a fact that the price of oil (per barrel) has fallen about 50% since June 2014, when it was \$115 a barrel. Currently, it is about \$52 a barrel that comes after about five years of stability. However, due to increasing oil consumption from countries such as China, oil production could not match demand so prices spiked around \$115 per barrel.

Though these prices led to high prices at the pump, they also stimulated oil companies in Canada and America to start drilling (fracking) for newly discovered – and hard to extract – crude in North Dakota’s shale formations and Alberta’s oil sands. As the supply of oil increased due to Canadian/American production of shale oil in addition to the return of Libya’s oil fields and a decreased global demand, the global supply of oil began to exceed the actual demand and unused oil began to be stockpiled. As a result, the price of oil started to sharply fall in September of 2014. The resulting drop in oil prices caused many oil observers to wonder if OPEC – the world’s largest oil cartel that controls 40% of the world market – would cut production in order to raise prices back to their former elevated levels.

During November of 2014, OPEC had a meeting in Vienna designed to best respond to the drop in oil prices. On one side of the table were countries (such as Russia, Venezuela, Angola, and Iran) that wanted OPEC to cut production to raise oil prices, as these countries need high prices to pay for their government spending. On the other side of the table was Saudi Arabia, the world’s second-largest producer of crude oil. Quoting from oilprice.com *“Saudi Arabia met with Russia before the November OPEC and proposed that if Russia cut production, Saudi Arabia would also cut production and get Kuwait and the Emirates at least to cut with it. Russia said No, so Saudi Arabia said, fine, maybe you will change your mind in six months (the next OPEC meeting is in June 2015).”* This was a result of Saudi Arabia not willing to sacrifice their own market share to restore the price, as cutting production would shift the main benefits to countries they detest such as Russia and Iran. Therefore, Saudi Arabia did not reduce their production of oil.

As a result, these events have resulted in three key global repercussions. First, Russia needs the price of a barrel of oil to be over \$90 to finance their economy,

government spending, and global expansion initiatives. With a combination of Western sanctions and the current price of oil below \$50 a barrel, the value of the Russian Ruble is collapsing with the Russian economy facing a potential meltdown (oil revenues make up 45% of the government budget). Second, Iran needs oil prices to be above \$100 per barrel to balance its budget. A current low oil price has placed Iran in a precarious economic condition. Third, the Venezuelan economy is also heavily dependent on high oil prices. With rampant inflation, current oil prices could cause Venezuela to default.

A Potential Correlation To The Status Of Russia As Prophesied In Ezekiel 38

So, what does the aforementioned brief history of the price of oil, Saudi Arabia and Russia have to do with Russia, and a potential correlation to Ezekiel 38? Remember that Ezekiel 38 is a vivid description of a northern confederacy of Islamic nations led by Russia who will invade the Promised Land (Israel) with the intent to destroy Israel. Of particular interest is Ezekiel 38:4&9 that states, (4) *"I will turn you around, put hooks into your jaws, and lead you out, with all your army,"* (9) *"You will ascend, coming like a storm, covering the land like a cloud, you and all your troops and many peoples with you."*

Many biblical scholars and prophecy authors have speculated and theorized about the conditions that would cause Russia to lead an invading coalition against Israel. Remember that Russia considers Israel a valuable prize for three primary self-seeking reasons such as (1) a warm water entrance into the oceans of the world, (2) Russia needs oil, and (3) mineral deposits in the Dead Sea. However, based on the preceding overview of the global price of oil and its realistic affect on world economies, it is possible – from a *speculative perception* – that in addition to Russia's need and hatred of Israel, a failing Russian economy could provide the incentive and motivation for Russia to attack Israel.

Now let's look at the current status of oil, coal and natural gas as the *mainstay* of America's source of energy and then follow with a brief look at the current administration's policy of developing, advancing, and protecting America's energy resources.

Oil

Without question, oil is the predominant source of energy that drives the American economy. However, on October 17, 1973, the Arab world boldly displayed a show of unity and economic power by reducing its production of oil below the previous average in addition to attempting an embargo on nations that supported Israel, predominantly the United States and the Netherlands (a result

of Israel winning the 1973 war over the participating Arabic nations). Many people will remember the price of oil per barrel quickly increasing fourfold and causing alarm in America as well as creating long lines at service stations with the introduction of odd-even days for service. This graphically illustrated the dependence of America on specific foreign countries (most of which do not like America). As a political response to this oil dilemma, President Nixon quickly promised the American people "*energy independence within 10 years.*"

However, since that time the Middle East has become a major player in the global oil market that has allowed the prospect of being able to control a major percentage of global oil production. This also has the potential of being able to blackmail other nations – primarily Europe, Japan, and smaller emerging industrial nations. In addition, America has become the largest user of oil in the world since President Nixon's 1973 promise. As an example, in 1973, America was importing 35% of its oil. By 2005, it was importing over 60% and between 1973 and 2005, America's oil production fell by more than a third in addition to a declining production of natural gas. Not surprisingly, President Nixon's 1973 promise became the repetitive promise of every succeeding president with little adherence to our growing dependence on energy.

However, a recent unconventional energy revolution – as a result of an American technological breakthrough – has enabled newly accessible and massive quantities of shale oil and natural gas that is creating a revolutionary perspective on America's ability to produce energy and become *energy independent* from external imports. The aforementioned technological breakthrough is the result of "*Hydraulic Fracturing*" that now allows the ability to extract oil (and natural gas) from shale formations in North Dakota, Texas, and some other locations. As a result of its massive shale reserves, the America that used to be the world's largest oil importer is now positioned to be the world's largest producer of oil and natural gas beginning in 2015 and substantially shift the balance of America's oil supply away from the Persian Gulf! As an example, America has an estimated recoverable oil shale resource of between 1.7 and 2.6 trillion barrels (depending on source of data). For reference, 1 trillion barrels is nearly 4 times Saudi Arabia's current proven reserves.

Note: For informational purposes, hydraulic fracturing (also known as fracking) is a new technique that has revolutionized the production of oil and gas from shale deposits in America. This process fractures shale/rock by a hydraulically pressurized liquid made of water, sand, and chemicals (a list of chemicals can be accessed at fracfocus.org). These elements are injected under high pressure into a wellbore to create cracks in deep-rock formations enabling petroleum and natural gas to flow more freely to the surface. Interestingly, when the hydraulic pressure is removed from the well small grains of

hydraulic fracturing elements will continue to hold the fractures open. After two to five days of hydraulic fracturing, a well can supply oil or natural gas for 20 to 40 years and has the potential to reverse a 40-year decline in American crude oil production in about 5 to 6 years!

Natural Gas

Natural gas is comprised of two elements – carbon and hydrogen – is part of the family of hydrocarbons, and comes out of the ground as a gas. It is an abundant and readily available form of energy in America that comprises about 30% of the energy that is used in America and is commonly used to heat and cool buildings, fuel vehicles, generate electricity, power industrial furnaces, and is a critical building block in American manufacturing processes. Several examples of the importance of natural gas are over 50% of the homes in America are supplied with natural gas and 34% is used to generate electricity. Compared to oil and coal, natural gas emits 30-45% less carbon dioxide per unit of energy produced. As a result, natural gas is perceived to be the most important energy source for the future of American energy, particularly from the perspective of being less hostile to the environment and global warming supporters.

Recent technical innovations like hydraulic fracturing in America's vast shale deposits has also opened the door to immense natural gas deposits primarily in North Dakota (Bakken oil field) and Texas (Eagle Ford Shale and Permian Basin). It is now estimated that America has at least a 100-year supply of natural gas and the ability to produce more of this energy than any other country in the world making America the top producer of this energy. As an example, the reserves of America dwarf the reserves of all other countries. Obviously, this source of energy has potential implications for enhancing America's economic stability, energy security, and foreign policy considerations.

Coal

America is the "Saudi Arabia" of coal and has more recoverable coal reserves than any other country on earth and is one of our most important fuels. The recoverable amount of coal in America is estimated at 262 billion tons, which is enough to last over 200 years and larger than the combined five largest non-American countries of India, Australia, China, Russia, and the Ukraine.

Coal is found in most states (34) and that means it can be mined and then strategically delivered to any location in the country for the purpose of making heat, electricity, industrial-commercial applications, etc. Interestingly, coal is used to generate about 50% of electricity in America and is used in every state to generate electricity.

Energy Summary Overview

Now, let's take a brief look at the present administration's policy of developing, advancing, and protecting America's energy resources, although it should be remembered that the Presidents who followed President Nixon's 1973 energy independence promise allowed America to become the largest user of oil. Additionally, there is more of an increasing emphasis on the environment and global warming that has had a measurable impact on America's energy program. Therefore, the following current energy overview is not a political impression but a factual overview.

From the perspective of a starting point, the Obama administration American Energy policy – Advancing American Energy – has been publicly clarified at the White House Internet website that can be found at www.whitehouse.gov/energy/securing-american-energy and is reproduced as follows:

Advancing American Energy

“President Obama’s All-of-the-Above Energy Strategy (energy, climate change, and our environment) is making America more energy independent and supporting jobs. Since the President took office, domestic energy-related emissions have fallen to their lowest level in 20 years, and our dependence on foreign oil is at a 20-year low – and declining. America is producing more oil, gas, and renewable energy, and the U.S. is becoming more energy efficient overall. These trends are increasing our energy security, cutting our carbon pollution, and enhancing our economic growth. The President has taken unprecedented action to build the foundation for a clean energy economy, tackle the issue of climate change, and protect our environment.”

Of great interest to the American public and in direct contrast with the overview of the President's stated Advancing American Energy program are *highlights* of a March 2013 interview of Dan Kish of the Institute for Energy Research on Forbes.com, and articles that appeared in the January 18, 2015 edition of the Washington Times and January 13, 2015 edition of the New York Times as follows:

- Interview with Dan Kish, Senior Vice President of the Institute for Energy Research

Obama's War On Drilling

“North America’s land areas contain twice the combined proved oil reserves of all OPEC nations, and enough natural gas to provide for our electricity needs at current usage rates for more than 500 years. The U.S. Treasury Department makes it very clear that they now regard oil and gas production as a problem. Their remarkable reasoning is that unless taxes are raised, it will encourage the overproduction of oil, gas, and coal. It is very apparent that the real intent is to make oil and gas more expensive in order to make

the heavily subsidized, unreliable and costly “renewable” energy programs they are pushing more cost-competitive.”

- Washington Times

The President Goes To War

“President Obama has gone to war. But not with the Islamic State group, Iran, North Korea or any foreign threat. Mr. Obama, at the urging of environmental extremists, has declared war on America’s oil and natural gas producers. His weapon of choice is a new Environmental Protection Agency regulation to cut methane emissions by up to 45% by 2025. The new war on oil and gas comes after the presidents skirmishing with coal that has damaged the economy, killed jobs and raised the price of energy for millions of Americans. In the campaign of 2008, Mr. Obama promised that his energy policies would “bankrupt” anyone who “wants to build a coal fired power plant.” Under his plan, he said “electricity rates would necessarily skyrocket.” Edicts and regulations imposed on coal-fired energy producers are ultimately expected to wipe out 600,000 American jobs and raise the average family’s electric bill by more than \$150 per year. Clearly, however, the result (from new methane regulations) will be fewer jobs, higher electricity, home heating and gasoline prices, and a renewed reliance on foreign oil, often from hostile countries. Mr. Obama’s renewed war on oil and natural gas has little to do with the environment, and much to do about with attacking the fossil fuel industry on behalf of the global warming alarmists who have been his most reliable allies.”

- The New York Times

*Obama Is Planning New Rules On Oil
And Gas Industry’s Methane Emissions*

“In President Obamas latest move using executive authority to tackle climate change, White House Officials on Wednesday announced plans to impose new regulations on the oil and gas industry’s emissions of methane, a powerful greenhouse gas. The White House says it can make the moves under the Clean Air Act, rather than by trying to push legislation through the Republican-controlled congress.”

Although there are many other sources that overview the current emphasis on replacing America’s abundant oil, gas, and coal resources with varying types of renewable energy, it is easy to see that although this is an admirable goal that can have numerous benefits, it is also a process that will not happen in a short period of time. Therefore, if America’s abundant energy resources are not developed and/or utilized in an effective and prudent manner, America’s dependence on foreign energy sources will continue to place America’s economy and strength in a hazardous and potentially volatile dependence on foreign nations.

THE NATIONAL DEBT

When considering the multi-faceted issue of the national debt, it is necessary to consider three primary perspectives that consist of America's existing Welfare State, America's Debt, and the American Dollar. Let's look at each one in more detail.

Welfare State

Wikipedia defines Welfare as *"the provision of a minimal level of well-being and social support for all citizens, sometimes referred to as public aid. In most developed countries welfare is largely provided by the government."* Welfare subsidies in America can also be referred to as Social Programs designed to aid the needs of the U.S. population. The term "American Welfare" does not begin to describe the totality of resources that are used to aid the needy as the total of the welfare budgets are larger than the entire budgets of most every other country in the world. As an example and *not* counting Social Security and Medicare, State and Federal governments now spend over a trillion dollars a year on welfare programs.

The war on poverty began in 1965/66 under President Lyndon Johnson and over the past 50 years has cost American taxpayers over \$22 trillion. Adjusted for inflation, this spending is three times the cost of all American military wars since the American Revolution. Yet, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, the war against poverty has been minimal. Some examples are highlighted by the following statistics:

- According to the most recent numbers from the Census Bureau, 49% of Americans are receiving benefits from at least one government program every single month
- More than one out of every three Americans live in households that are now on welfare
- 10.5 million households receive welfare benefits from three or more programs
- Welfare is rising even as unemployment declines
- With Medicare and Social Security, over 49.5 percent of the American population are living in households now dependent on government for a significant portion of their income
- Over the past 6 years, SNAP (food stamps) and TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) or SSI (Supplemental Security Income for the Disabled) has increased 36 percent
- Food stamp recipients have increased from 19 million to 51 million – more than the combined population of 24 states
- Half of all children born today will be on food stamps at some point in their life

When applied to the financial health of this country, the preceding statistics are reason for grave concern for two primary reasons:

- The more people who become dependent on government programs and assistance the more difficult it will become to reduce and/or eliminate those programs. As an example, despite the fact that welfare states in European countries have become too expensive, attempts to reduce benefits has met with enormous resistance. Therefore, the number of people on some type of welfare will continue to increase
- A healthy/strong economy cannot rest on a consistent decline of people who produce the foundation of this nation's wealth. From another perspective, America's wealth is steadily being decreased

To conclude our look at the American Welfare State, let's briefly consider an article that appeared on the Opinion page of the January 22, 2015 issue of the Medford Mail Tribune newspaper. The article was authored by George Will, opinion writer for the Washington Post and was titled "America's Mushrooming Welfare State" and was taken from an article originally authored by Nicholas Eberstadt of National Affairs quarterly. Following are several quotes from the article that should be of great concern to America:

"The structure of U.S. government spending has been completely overturned within living memory, resulting in the remolding of daily life for ordinary Americans under the shadow of the entitlement state. In two generations, the American family budget has been recast: In 1963, entitlement transfers were less than \$1 out of every \$15; by 2012, they were more than \$1 out of every \$6."

"For many women, children and even working-age men, the entitlement state is now the breadwinner of the household. In the last 50 years the fraction of civilian men ages 25 to 34 who were neither working nor looking for work approximately quadrupled."

"As a growing portion of the population succumbs to the entitlement state's ever-expanding menu of temptations, the costs include a transformation of the nation's political culture, sensibilities, tradition, the weakening of America's distinctive conceptions of self-reliance, personal responsibility, self-advancement, and perhaps a rending of the national fabric."

Debt

It is not surprising that the national debt has exploded in recent years and is still currently expanding at a rapid rate. As a result, America has the largest debt burden in the world today at about 18 trillion, or a debt-to-GDP (gross domestic product is defined as *"the monetary value of all finished goods and services produced*

within a country's borders") ratio of 101%. From a simplistic perspective, this debt burden is a result of a federal government that *spends more than it collects* – which results in a deficit. This deficit is added to the national debt that results in an expansion of the national debt – a simple result of overspending. Therefore, as the government continues to overspend, the national debt continues to rise. Unfortunately the term national debt and the sum of 18 trillion dollars are used so frequently they have become mundane with little meaning. Therefore, let's attempt to put our national debt into perspective and see how we arrived at our current debt dilemma.

Initially, how did America's debt become so large? History indicates that prior to 1974 the percentage change in America's debt was in the single digit range (as an example, 1966-1973 was 5.1%). However, the period of greatest debt expansion occurred from 1980 to 1991 (13.4% under Presidents Carter, Reagan and Bush), followed by 10.9% incurred during the period 1974 to 1979 (Presidents Nixon, Ford and Carter), and followed by 10% incurred during the period of 2008 to 2014 (President Obama). There are three primary reasons why the national debt began to dramatically increase after the early 1970's:

- The decision by President Nixon in 1971 to detach the American dollar from the gold standard – known as the Nixon Shock. In response to Nixon Shock, President Nixon publicly stated his intention to resume direct convertibility of the dollar but reforms to the Bretton Woods system were unsuccessful (see the following section under The American Dollar). By 1973 the Bretton Woods system was replaced *de facto* by a system that was based on freely floating fiat currencies that remains in place to this day. Consequently, the amount of money that could be printed was no longer limited resulting in a nation with a *fiat* currency. This meant that the gold that had previously backed the dollar was replaced by the good faith and credit of America's government. Because the dollar was no longer redeemable for gold, the government was now able to overspend as long as the national debt limit was not exceeded, additional money could be printed as necessary, and Congress and the President passed bills
- In the absence of an equal amount of gold to dollars, the need to closely monitor the national budget was no longer a priority, the national debt ceiling could be steadily raised to stay ahead of the increasing national debt, and congressional bills habitually contained pet projects, entitlements, line items and other similar additions that enhanced the probability of reelection for members of Congress. Not surprisingly, the economic boom from 1982 until 2008 was disrupted by the collapse of the housing market and the stock market that was primarily a result of America's massive debt. Since 2008, the national debt has exceeded \$1 trillion per year

- The previously mentioned 18 trillion dollar national debt is only a part of the true national overall debt picture. The far greater fiscal challenge is America's unfunded pension and health-care liabilities that typically are not reported. For years, the American government has not produced the type of financial statements that are required of most significant for-profit and non-profit enterprises. Although the U.S. Treasury balance sheet does list numerous liabilities, it does not list unfunded liabilities such as Social Security, Medicare, and Federal employee's future retirement benefits. For the year ending 2011, these three liabilities exceed 86.8 trillion dollars, or 550% of the nation's GDP

Even though the current *true national debt* is over 18 trillion dollars plus 86.8 trillion dollars of unfunded liability, the debt will continue to rise due to demographics and increased entitlement spending. As more retirees receive Medicare and Social Security and entitlements continue to increase (welfare, etc.), higher deficits will be the norm as the national debt continues to increase. Obviously, the current fiscal policy of the American government cannot possibly be sustained much longer as just the unfunded liabilities are catastrophic for future taxpayers and economic growth. As an example, Social Security is projected to be insolvent by 2033.

The American Dollar

In 1944, the United States signed the Bretton Woods agreement that specified the conditions for the United States to exchange U.S. dollars for gold at a fixed rate of \$35 per ounce. As a result, currencies of participant nations were linked to the U.S. dollar and central banks would buy or sell U.S. dollars to keep their currency within a permitted fluctuation band. Thus, the U.S. dollar became the world's official reserve currency. However, this procedure continued until 1971 when the U.S. broke the terms of the agreement due to a lack of sufficient gold reserves to back the U.S. dollar (see the first bullet under Debt in the previous section).

Quoting from J.P. Morgan/Insights – *“More recently, a prolonged period of U.S. dollar weakness against the currencies of its major trading partners, persistent current account and budget deficits, and a policy of quantitative easing by the U.S. Federal Reserve have led investors to question how much longer the dollar's status as the world's de facto reserve currency will remain unchallenged. This question has important implications for the U.S. economy since worldwide reserves held as foreign exchange total 6.5 trillion. A rapid reallocation of these reserves would weaken the U.S. dollar and cause interest rates in the U.S. to rise.”*

Interestingly, the previous prophetic quote from J.P. Morgan was written in 2009 as the U.S. dollar is currently under attack by Russia and China. The following is a sampling of current financial articles on this subject:

- Examiner.com (October 2014)

*China will use gold and gold pricing to
force global currency reset*

“One of the purposes behind China’s creation of the new Shanghai Gold Exchange is to eventually take over global price controls for the monetary metal away from the Comex (Commodity Exchange, a division of the New York Mercantile Exchange), and then force a global currency reset by raising the price of gold to its actual value.

This will have a devastating affect on derivatives and ongoing use of the Comex futures market to suppress gold prices, and protect the dollar. This will also cause a massive chaos in the fiat currency markets (America).”

- InvestmentWatchblog.com (May, 20-13)

“New Currency Order: US Dollar Losing Reserve Status”

“For years now, the collapse of the dollar has been in the cards. Recent developments show mounting pressure on the dollar’s reserve currency status. We are seeing the advent of the new currency order. There will be a number of more or less equal blocks: a dollar zone, a Yuan zone, and the euro. These will later be able to converge to even more cooperation in the Money Power’s relentless march towards World Currency.”

- CNBC.com (February 2013)

Is the Dollar Dying? Why US Currency Is In Danger

“The U.S. dollar is shrinking as a percentage of the world’s currency supply, raising concerns that the greenback is about to see its long run as the world’s premier denomination come to an end. When compared to its peers, the dollar has drifted to a 15-year low, according to the International Monetary Fund, indicating that more countries are willing to use other currencies to do business. If the dollar loses status as the world’s most reliable currency, the United States will lose the right to print money to pay its debt. It will be forced to pay this debt. The United States Congress, in both its houses, as well as the President are demonstrating a total lack of fiscal credibility.”

In summary, the American government has expanded our money supply 400% in just six years by printing \$4 trillion new dollars out of thin air, borrowed \$9.4 trillion, and has more than doubled our national debt since 2006. Various websites are indicating that global governments and investors are questioning the current safety of the U.S. dollar. If the U.S. dollar were to lose its *reserve currency* standing, it will become much harder for our government to borrow money and have our military stationed in over 150 countries. As a final note, if a currency is destroyed, all markets and a nation are also destroyed.

THE RAPTURE

For a moment, consider the prospect of millions of American's *instantly* vanishing with no visible trace of their whereabouts and leaving a massive disorder and void in this country that other countries would likely fill in a short period of time. The Rapture is a prophesied future event that is described in three main New Testament passages and are found in John 14:1-3, 1 Corinthians 15:50-57, and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. The term Rapture is taken from 1 Thessalonians 4:17 – *“Then we who are alive and remain will be **caught up** together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.”* The words **caught up** come from the Greek word *harpazo* that means to seize, snatch, or to take away suddenly.

*Note: Before considering the affects of the Rapture on America, it should be noted that there is a significant amount of debate regarding the **timing** of the Rapture that can be briefly summarized as occurring before, during, and after the Tribulation. For discussion purposes, let's consider the current popular viewpoint of the Rapture occurring prior to the Tribulation (Pre-Trib).*

Although this event will apply to every Christian in every nation, consider the affect on America – who has the largest Christian population – when people from all walks-of-life suddenly disappear. According to the respected research Barna Group, about 85% of Americans claim to be Christians – which is a debatable classification. However, the Barna Group notes that the percentage of *“born-again”* Christians is around 41% and 10% are identified as evangelical Christians. Using the conservative figure of about 10% of the current American population of over 300 million we find that at least 30 million Americans will suddenly disappear. To put this event into perspective, 30 million people is *twice* the combined population of four of this nations largest cities of Los Angeles, New York City, Houston and Chicago.

It is easy to visualize that the sudden removal of this amount of people will instantly change every area of the American society that we know today such as confusion in the stock market, a meltdown of millions of mortgages, a military with missing personnel, calamities in industry and government, and so on. In short, the entire American economy will be changed into a chaos of confusion in addition to losing the *salt and light* of this nation as found in Matthew 5:13-14 – *“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.”* When all Christians are removed from the earth, the restraining ministry of the

Holy Spirit will also be removed with a resulting catastrophic affect on the entire world, and particularly America.

CONCLUSION

Even though the Bible is silent on the subject of America in end time prophecy and there are many people who would like to see the continuation of the greatness of America, it is far more important that believers are busy with the work of preaching the gospel, living a godly life, and being ready for the blessed hope and appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ as outlined in Titus 2:11-13 – “*We should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.*”

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