

## 50. What About the United States of America?

- One cannot ignore the United States of America when discussing end-time events. America's global influence and leadership, economic clout, military might and wealth are unsurpassed. The United States has been Israel's strongest ally through the years and for the most part, has been a friend to Israel. So what role, if any, will America play in the end times? Before this question can be answered, we must first make some assumptions, otherwise there are countless possible scenarios. One, we will assume that the rapture is imminent and that America is still the world's only superpower when the rapture occurs. Two, we will assume that the Ezekiel 38 battle occurs shortly after the rapture (within a few months, at the most; refer to 1 Thessalonians 5:2-3). Three, we will assume that the Great Tribulation begins shortly after the Ezekiel 38 battle (within a few months, at the most; refer to Luke 17:26-30; 2 Thessalonians 2:6-9). Given these assumptions, we can narrow down America's end-time role to three possible scenarios.

- Scenario 1: America will have a minor role or no role following the rapture because the disappearance of millions of believers will set in motion the downfall of America. This is a very common view because many Christians believe that the antichrist will arise from a European nation or a nation in the Middle East. In order for the antichrist and Europe or the Middle East to have a dominant role in the end times, America must have a minor role, at best.

- Scenario 2: America will recover after the rapture but will play a minor role in the end times because the United States will submit to the will of the one-world government and the antichrist. This is not a common view because it is highly unlikely that a strong America would be willing to give up its global leadership role and submit to a one-world government and to the antichrist.

- Scenario 3: America will recover after the rapture and will play a major role in the end times because the antichrist will be a United States leader. This appears to be the most likely scenario if the rapture occurs while America is the world's only superpower. America will have many challenges after the rapture, however, in spite of the panic, confusion and turmoil, a majority of America's leaders will be left behind to pick up the pieces. America's military would remain formidable and her economy would probably recover with time. The United States of America is not specifically mentioned in Scripture but New York City certainly fits the description of "the great city" of Babylon the Great (Revelation 17-18). Babylon the Great is described as a great and strong city which reigns over the kings of the earth (Revelation 17:18, 18:10). This implies that the great city is the world capital of a global empire and will reside in a powerful, wealthy and influential nation. The city will have a bustling seaport (Revelation 18:17-19) and the merchants of the earth will become rich from her and by the wealth of her sensuality (Revelation 18:3, 11-18). The United Nations (UN) is an international organization that basically functions as a world government and its headquarters is located in New York City. After the rapture, it is possible that the UN will provide the foundation for a one-world government that will become Babylon the Great. Since Babylon the Great will be a world empire, virtually every nation, including America, will be a part of one of its 10 kingdoms (regions). This scenario would

explain how the antichrist, who is not even one of the original 10 kings of Babylon the Great, has the authority to make a firm covenant (peace treaty) with Israel on behalf of the one-world government at the very beginning of the Great Tribulation (Daniel 7:19-25, 9:27; Revelation 17:8-18). Four horns are mentioned by Zechariah (1:18-21) and Daniel (8:8, 22-23), which represent four end-time Gentile powers. The antichrist will arise from one of these horns (Daniel 8:9) and that horn probably represents the United States of America. For additional information, refer to Daniel 8 and Zechariah 1.