



Glenn Brown

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441 ½ Lark Drive

Grand Junction, Colorado 81504

telephone 970-434-1377

THE PARADIGM

(Introduction to the book by Jonathan Cahn. I'm not sure about the modern political connections Jonathan makes, but the big picture is, in my opinion, undeniable.)

“A paradigm is defined as a pattern, a model, a template, a prototype, an archetype. Paradigms appear throughout the Bible. On Mount Sinai, Moses was given a pattern or paradigm from which to build the Ark of the Covenant and the “Tabernacle” or Tent of God’s Presence. Much later, there was a paradigm or blueprint for the building of the Temple in Jerusalem.

The prophets used paradigms. They performed prophetic acts of symbolism, such as the tearing of a robe, the breaking of a clay jar, the burying of a deed in the ground. These were prophetic models of events yet to come. The tearing of the robe would foretell the tearing away of a kingdom from its king; the breaking of the jar, the destruction of a city; and the burying of the deed, the restoration of a nation.

Paradigms appear as well in the accounts of biblical characters – the life of the patriarch Joseph, a man rejected by his brothers, falsely accused, and suffering for the sins of others, yet ending up the savior of a nation - a foreshadow of the coming Messiah. Beyond this, paradigms appear also in the chronicles of Israel’s history – patterns and warnings for generations yet to come. Concerning this last realm, the apostle Paul wrote: *Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition...* (1 Cor. 10:11)

The paradigm we are about to open will not only reveal but also warn concerning a fatal mistake made in ancient times that is now being reenacted in our time. But how could an ancient template speak of modern events, much less reveal their details? The answer is that God is sovereign. He knows every event before it takes place. Further, He works all events, every action and reaction, together for the outworking of His purposes. God is able to interweave and interconnect any one event with any other event and thus join two worlds together, the ancient and the modern, even when the two are separated by a chasm of ages.

The paradigm will reveal a nation, America, and Western civilization, undergoing a metamorphosis that closely follows the course of an ancient transformation – that of ancient Israel. Israel was founded to reveal and represent the one, true God to the world. America was founded by the Puritans to be an Israel of the New World. There were two Israels in ancient time, the northern kingdom, known as Israel and also Samaria, and the southern kingdom known as Judea. Our focus will be on the northern kingdom

So what exactly happened? Israel had been founded for the will and purposes of God. But in time the nation began falling away from God and turning to idols of wood and stone. This resulted in a descent into materialism, carnality, and sensuality. And since they were now creating their own gods, the metamorphosis would also represent a turning away from absolute truth and an embrace of subjectivity. If they could create their own truth, then there could be no more absolute truth. Thus they could now overrule the Word of God and create new laws to nullify the laws of God and a new morality to nullify the standards they had once viewed as immutable.

They began driving God out of their public squares, out of their government, out of the instruction of their children, out of their culture, and out of their lives. They expunged His Word from their public discourse and His law from their consciousness. And by driving God out, they created a vacuum into which they brought still more gods. There had always been those among them who lived at war with biblical morality, but they did so from the sidelines of their society. Their practices were taboo, prohibited by law or custom, and performed in the shadows. Now such things began emerging from the shadows. In time they would be tolerated and then accepted and then established and then enforced. What the nation had once opposed and shunned it had now become. The metamorphosis was complete.

A Canaanite deity would eventually dominate the nation's culture. His name was Baal. Baal was the most prominent god of the Canaanite pantheon. His images depict him wearing a conical helmet and holding a spear in his raised right hand in readiness for combat. He was the god of war, lord of the sky, master of wind, rain, and storms. He was also the god of fertility and thus of prosperity. To invoke his favor, the Canaanites would build altars on their high places, in their valleys, and in the middle of their groves. His worship grew more blatant, more gross, more brazen.

With their new god came a new morality which was vile and debased. The culture grew increasingly coarse, harsh, and crude. In the cult of Baal, life was not sacred but debased. Nothing was sacred. There was no absolute right and wrong. Then life itself could have no absolute value, worth, meaning, or purpose.

In the biblical worldview that Israel had once followed, man was sacred, woman was sacred, and the union between the two was sacred. It was to be contained in the sacred vessel of marriage. But in the cult of Baal, marriage and sexuality had no value and no sanctity. Baal was carnal, a deity of impulse and passion. He dwelt in a pantheon marked by sexual licentiousness. In his temples were priests and priestesses who oversaw and took part in acts of sexual immorality. Sexuality was placed on public display. Idols of the Canaanite fertility goddesses, clay images of naked women, were now everywhere. The culture became sexualized. This would in turn weaken and erode the institution of marriage. It was a spiral.

But that wasn't the end of it. Baal's war against God's order would go further. If nothing was sacred, neither were the natures and distinctions of male and female – gender. In the first attack sexuality was divorced from marriage. In the second it was removed from gender, biology, and nature. In the shrines of Baal was a class of people called the *kadeshote* who were prostitutes consecrated to pagan deities. It was their ministry to perform sexual acts in the shrines of Canaan. Another class of people was called the *kadeshim* who were male. They were male prostitutes. They performed homosexual acts in the Canaanite shrines and temples. In the ancient Hebrew Scriptures, the *kadeshim* are called the *indiellagmenoi*, or the changed ones. So the religion of Baal would involve the confusion of male and female, the obliteration of the distinction between the two.

Baal demanded sacrifices more precious and costly than grain and livestock. He demanded human life. If his worshippers would offer up their own children, then he would bless them with prosperity. That was the price of the new morality – the lives of their children. Ancient historians describe parents offering up their child to Baal by placing him or her in the bronze hands of the idol. Underneath its arms raged a fire in which the child would be consumed. The bible describes it in just one verse: *And they caused their sons and daughters to pass through the fire...* (2 Kings 7:17)

Jonathan then shows how the pattern has been followed in our nation. Step by step, he shows how America has been following this ancient pattern down to the present time: How God has been driven out of the public square; how a new morality has become accepted and now legitimized; how our society has become sexualized; how there is now great confusion between the genders; how homosexual marriage is now a right in law; and how the murder of the innocent is now championed as an unquestionable right, a sacred right – a sacrament. He quotes a woman named Patricia Waird-Bindle: *Abortion is a major blessing, and a sacrament in the hands of women. Our culture needs new rituals as well as laws to restore abortion to its sacred dimension.*

Jonathan goes on to show how King Ahab, Queen Jezebel, and King Jehu are closely patterned and emulated by recent leaders in our own nation. If you have not read *The Paradigm*, I recommend it to you.

THE COMING SECOND AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY/CIVIL WAR

In my view, Rick Joyner has proven to be an accurate prophet on the national stage. He reports that last year he received an extended prophetic dream about what he has named "The Coming Second American Revolutionary/Civil War." If you are interested, you can click on his name or his monthly [Morning Star Journal](#). I believe Rick's prophecy follows very closely with Jonathan Cahn's book, [The Paradigm](#). The following is from Rick:

"Since having the dream about the coming second Civil War, many national voices, both Christian and secular, have begun to say that we are in a civil war now. If we count a war of words and some violence, you might conclude that. However, we are still not in the civil war that I saw in my dream. Many are seeing that the divisions in our country are now so great, and getting worse by the day, that it is extremely likely we will end up in some level of internal conflict, a civil war. I understand since having the dream that it is inevitable. Even so, I believe that the cost of the rising conflict can be reduced in every way by prayer, repentance, revival, an awakening, as well as by serious government reform.

What I saw in the dream was devastating, but it seemed to be focused in only certain parts of the country. There will be safe regions and cities of refuge. Our preparations need to be done in faith, not fear. Here is a shocking factor proven by studies: As many as 90% of evangelical Christians have been taught more by the spirit of the world than by the Spirit of Truth. The worldview of most Christians has been learned from the earthly, carnal perspective of the secular news, education, and other sources rather than from the Lord. For this reason we can expect most who claim to be Christian to be on the wrong side of the coming conflict, at least for a time.

So how do we prepare for this? First, we can start by caring more for knowing the truth than we do for entertainment. The word entertainment comes from the concept “to detain from entering.” There is a legitimate place for recreation, which comes from the words “to re-create,” but mindless entertainment is robbing many of their purpose in this life and the ability to know and discern the truth. If we would take this next month to remove the things in our lives that are wasting time and instead use the time to seek the Lord and get to know Him better, then there is nothing more profitable we could do to be ready for the future. Being ready is not just so we can be safe, but so that our lives are on solid ground and we can help pull others out of the quicksand.”

THE WHEAT AND THE TARES

During my final years as a pastor, my church was a small group of about 40 people. During that time, a man in our fellowship, Mr. X, had a problem in the area of alcohol addiction. It was causing problems in his marriage. We had prayed about it many times, and I began to think he was not really serious about his Christian commitment.

I went through a mental exercise, completely internal, that I will share with you: The thought came to me, “This church is not going to be successful in the area of numbers or outreach, etc., but if we really got serious, we could be the purest, holiest church in town, and this would greatly please the Lord.” Therefore, I thought, I would probably need to ask Mr. X to leave our fellowship. “We can’t have someone in our church who is just playing games with God.”

Then I thought, “Well, there are a couple of guys, Mr. Y and Mr. Z, that have told me they can’t seem to shake their addiction to pornography. I’m probably going to have to ask them to leave also. And how about Mrs. K? She is causing problems by trying to control her grown kids, and her family misses church about half the time. They will probably have to go. I worked through everybody in the church (you get to know people really well in a small fellowship), and I couldn’t find anyone worthy to stay in my holy church.

Then I got to Doris, my wife. Doris was as sweet as a bunny and was always doing acts of kindness for people behind the scenes. She also put a firm hand on my impulsiveness and compulsiveness and helped me in more ways than I can recount. But she was no Mother Teresa. I was like the old Quaker who had an honest conversation with his wife: “Martha, methinks that no one in our fellowship is worthy to enter heaven but me and thee, and sometimes I wonder about thee.”

Gosh, if I had to kick even my own wife out of my super-holy church, I was likely to get pretty lonely. Besides that, my members’ offerings were keeping our heads above water. Then I ran across Jesus’ parable of the wheat and the tares starting at Matthew 13:24. Jesus taught that a man sowed good wheat seed in a field, but that his enemy sowed tares among the wheat. *At harvest time, the servants went to the owner and asked if they should go and pull up the tares. He said, No, lest you uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and then the reapers will bind up the bundles of tares and burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.*

The reality is that in the church there are tares among the wheat, and there are extreme cases when a pastor must discipline and even remove certain members. See 1 Corinthians 5. But in most cases we don’t have the wisdom or discernment, or the authority, to start pulling up and throwing out suspected tares. Thank the Lord there is a just and merciful Judge who has that responsibility, and He will do that difficult and painful work in that Day.

Two Great Verses to Encourage Us This Month

Do not rejoice over me, my enemy; when I fall, I will arise; when I sit in darkness, the Lord will be a light to me. (Micah 7:8)

There is no other God besides Me, a just God and a Savior; there is none besides Me. Look to Me, and be saved, all you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. (Isaiah 45:21-22)

God Bless

Glenn

e-mail address casabrn441@gmail.com

WEBSITE: www.glennbrownministries.com

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