

BABYLON

"...will be utterly burned with fire"

by

DAVID W. DYER

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“...will be utterly burned with fire”

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Unless otherwise indicated, all quotations are from
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“A Grain of Wheat” Ministries
P.O. Box 644
Leominster, MA 01453 U.S.A.
or
davidwdyer@yahoo.com**

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*“Because [the prophets] have seduced My people, saying, ‘Peace!’ when there is no peace...”
(Ezek 13:10).*

*“Then I said, ‘Ah, Lord God! Behold, the prophets say to them, “You shall not see the sword, nor shall you have famine, but I will give you assured peace in this place.” ’ And the Lord said to me, “The prophets prophesy lies in My name. I have not sent them, commanded them, nor spoken to them; they prophesy to you a false vision, divination, a worthless thing, and the deceit of their heart” ’
(Jer 14:13,14).*

“They have also healed the hurt of My people slightly, saying, ‘Peace, peace!’ when there is no peace” (Jer 6:14).

INTRODUCTION

Nothing ever remains the same. One of the most constant things in this world is change. Perhaps we do not realize this to the extent that we should. Sometimes the changes are so slow (at least from our perspective) that we do not notice them. Nevertheless everything changes.

The climate, along with the sea level and other factors, changes – and always has throughout the centuries. Empires and nations rise and fall. Peoples come and go. The history of this earth has never been a history of constancy but always one of change.

Most human beings do not like and even resist change. Change is often upsetting to us. It makes us uncomfortable, often for good reason. Many times changes on this earth involve stress, emotional turmoil and even danger.

Regional and/or international realignments might involve wars, famines and even persecutions. If you look at the daily news reports, you can see that such things are happening to others, in other nations, right now.

For many, their personal security is linked very closely to familiarity, sameness and predictability. They appreciate familiar surroundings, reliable employment and long-term relationships with their friends and family. This is only natural and human. But it is not the normal state of the world.

It seems that from time to time, God, who controls such things, grants to a nation or people a time of stability. This is a time of blessing. The inhabitants of such a country enjoy tranquility and a freedom from the many upheavals which so often plague our planet.

But when and if such a nation begins to reject God, when and if they begin to disobey Him and behave in ways which displease Him, then this blessing will disappear. The time of peace and tranquility will end.

Then it is very possible, if not probable, that God will bring judgment upon them. Since these folks enjoyed God's blessing of peace and prosperity but did not retain their fear of Him and therefore began to dishonor Him in their thoughts and actions, He just might see fit to judge them.

No one of us can assume that just because things have been a certain way in our lives for many years that this condition will continue. Although it is easy to expect that tomorrow

will be just like today, there is nothing which guarantees this. In fact, such a continuation of sameness goes against the entire history of the world. Further, it is not even rational to expect that any nation which sins against God and rejects Him in many ways could continue to experience His protection and blessing.

There are many warnings in God's word concerning the judgments which will occur at the end of this age. The principle thrust of many of these passages is this: If we are not walking in intimacy with Jesus, these catastrophes will happen suddenly and unexpectedly. But if we are in communion with Him we will be forewarned, giving us time to prepare ourselves.

Most people imagine that everything will stay just as it always has been. Yet it will not. We read: "For when they say 'Peace and safety!' then sudden destruction comes upon them" (I Thess 5:3). Those whose eyes are focused upon this world or some aspect of it will experience a sudden, violent change in their circumstances. May God grant us mercy so that we would not be taken unawares.

D.W.D.

