

## **Auburn Baptist Church**

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### **The House of Ahab**

## **Part 1: The Metamorphosis of a Nation**

*1 Corinthians 10:11*

Occasionally, I like to take a different approach to the weekly sermon which usually consists of speaking about a Biblical topic, explaining and expounding on it's meaning and then teaching on how we can apply it and live it out in our Christian walk. Instead I like to teach about other aspects of our faith, topics that deepen our understanding of God and His Word and how He works. This new sermon series is one such topic.

About four years ago, I brought you a series of teachings based on a book entitled *Harbingers* by Messianic Rabbi Jonathan Cahn. In that book and series, we talked about the warning signs that God has given to America that divine judgment is coming if we do not repent and return to Him. These warnings, or harbingers came in the forms of the terrorist attacks on 9/11, the downfall of America's and the world's economies as a result, the rebuilding of the World Trade Center, and many more.

Rabbi Cahn was gifted by God with another revelation concerning events that have recently occurred in America. This revelation can be found in his most recent book, *The Paradigm*. After reading and studying this book, looking at the Scriptures he quotes, the resources his research turned up, and the conclusions he comes to, I must say that I agree with him that the revelations he writes about in this book are indeed divinely originated.

Thus today, I want to start bringing to you these revelations as found in Scripture and written about in Cahn's book, *The Paradigm*. I think you will be as awed by the evidence of God's providence as I was. First, we're going to lay some groundwork and cover some familiar territory before we launch in to the new next week.

### **I. BIBLICAL FORESHADOWING**

If you have studied Biblical prophecy you will be familiar with the concept and reality of Biblical foreshadowing. It is the fact that certain people, countries, and events in Scripture serve as patterns, pictures, or foreshadows of other people, countries, and events that come later in history.

An example of this would be the life of Joseph, son of the patriarch, Jacob. Joseph was rejected by his brothers, accused falsely by an employer, imprisoned and suffered for sins he did not commit, and ended up saving the nation of Israel from destruction from famine. The things that happened to Joseph also happened to Jesus the Messiah. Christ was rejected by those who knew him best, accused falsely of heresy, imprisoned and suffered for sins he did not commit, and

ended up saving those who come to him in faith and repentance. Joseph's life was a foreshadow, a pattern, a template, an example, a paradigm of the life of Christ.

Lest you think this is a concept that I created or is made up by man and not from God, I point you to the words of the Apostle Paul in **1 Corinthians 10:11**. Speaking about the idolatry and sins of the ancient Israelites who defied God, ignored His Law, and experienced God's judgment, Paul says, "**These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come.**"

Though perhaps the easiest to recognize, Joseph's foreshadow, or example of what Christ would experience and accomplish is not, by far, the only one found in Scriptures. Joseph is an example of a personal foreshadow, but Scripture also contains national foreshadows or patterns. In previous years I've brought to you teachings showing how the ancient nation of Israel serves as a foreshadow of our own modern nation of America (see sermon series *Israel and America: Sister Nations*). This connection between the ancient Northern Kingdom of Israel and America is where our new series, entitled *The House of Ahab* begins.

## **II. METAMORPHOSIS OF A NATION**

Ancient Israel will serve as the example or prototype. Specifically, the Northern Kingdom, called Israel with Samaria as its capital went through a major spiritual transformation over the generations of its existence. Rabbi Cahn calls it a metamorphosis.

Israel had been founded by the will of God for His purposes. The people were established and protected by God and instructed on how to live and remain under that protection and divine blessing. However, as years go by and new generations take the place of the original ones, major spiritual changes begin to occur. Israel forgot and turned away from the God of their ancestors. They began to worship the gods of the nations' surrounding them.

The northern kingdom started with creating the golden calf to worship as a substitute for going to the temple of God which was located within the territory of the southern kingdom of Judea. Then other idols of wood and stone began taking the place of the One invisible God. By creating their own gods, they could create their own truth and morality. In turn, they expunged God from the public squares, government, culture, education systems, and very lives. This led them into a descent into materialism, carnality, and sensuality.

Though paganism had always been among them, it was on the outskirts. Paganism was done in secret. It was taboo and prohibited by law or custom. But when Israel started to depart from the ways of God and His absolute truth, pagan practices began to "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."<sup>i</sup>

### **1. SEXUAL SINS AND CONFUSION**

These paganistic practices materialized in the culture of ancient Israel in some specific ways. First, they appeared as a new morality in the area of human sexuality. The chief pagan god adapted by Israel from the surrounding culture was Baal. "Baal was carnal, a deity of impulse

and passion. He dwelt in a pantheon marked by sexual licentiousness".<sup>ii</sup> Priests and priestesses of Baal often oversaw and partook in acts of sexual immorality. Sexuality was severed from the sanctity of marriage and became the possession of the temple and culture. It was removed from the privacy of the marriage bed and put on public display to increasingly saturate the culture and erode the institution of marriage.

Along with the destruction of marriage, came the confusion of personal sexuality.

"If nothing was sacred or of any value, neither were the natures and distinctions of male and female - gender. And if gender has no absolute value or purpose, then one could do with it whatever one wanted."<sup>iii</sup>

Thus, we have the homosexuality in the form of male priest/prostitutes called *kadeshim* in the temples and shrines of Baal who took the place of women in sexual acts of worship to the Canaanite gods.

## **2. ABORTION**

The second specific way in which paganism practices which were once taboo began to infiltrate and be accepted and promoted in the ancient Israeli culture was through the killing of human children on the altar of the gods.

The god Baal demanded human life as sacrifices. He didn't want grain or livestock. In return for increase and prosperity the ancients would offer up the lives of their own children. After all, if nothing was sacred, then why would a child's life be considered sacred in their eyes?

They would basically place their infant children into the hands of a bronze statue that would have a raging hot fire burning within or underneath it. Thus, they were burning their children alive as sacrifices to a statue. **2 Kings 17:17** describes it this way, "**They sacrificed their sons and daughters in the fire.**"

This was a religion that they readily embraced when they turned their backs on God, absolute truth and His morality. As time went by, the practice of killing the innocent went from being taboo and detestable and grave evil, to a practice sanctioned by the government and later considered an incontestable right.

A metamorphosis had taken place in ancient northern Israel in which they started out as the children and followers of God, established by Him, ordained by Him with and for His purposes only to turn their backs on Him, accept the practices and gods of surrounding cultures, create their own morality and descend into deep apostasy as seen by the acceptance and forced practice of homosexuality and the killing of innocents.

## **III. AMERICA - UNDERGOING A MODERN METAMORPHOSIS**

Since, ancient Israel is the prototype or the pattern or paradigm, it begs the question who is the antitype? What nation is following the same pattern? If you said America, of course you would be correct.

American civilization was dedicated from its inception to the will and purposes of God, just like its ancient counterpart. However, several generations later, in the mid-twentieth century, we too began to undergo a metamorphosis in our cultural and spiritual realms. With the turning away from God an acceptance and embracing of pagan practices began to appear.

Idols of money, success, prosperity, addictions, self-indulgence, materialism, and self-worship take the place of wooden or stone idols of the past. The culture at large begins to disintegrate as truth is no longer absolute but subjective. A new morality is created that allows for the tolerance, and then embracing and then promoting of practices that were once considered taboo or even illegal.

### **1. SEXUAL SINS AND CONFUSION**

As our American culture has continued to ignore the will and purposes of God we have seen a coarsening and desensitizing of society. Since marriage is no longer considered sacred we can redefine it into whatever we want. Biblical marriage is marginalized and sexuality is removed from the private realm to be placed in the public dimension. We don't have temple prostitution today, but instead we are bombarded with pornographic images.

Likewise, today we have divorced sexuality from marriage and gender. Thus, we now have the mainstreaming, celebration and enshrinement of homosexuality, transgenderism, and the confusion of gender in every possible way and/or form.

### **2. ABORTION**

We have also adopted the practice of sacrificing our children. We may not have altars of Baal today, but instead we have the altar of convenience and self-interest upon which we kill our unborn children in a manner called abortion. The idea that such an act could be considered sacred like it was in ancient Israel seems unlikely, but listen to the words of Patricia Waird-Bindle, a woman who literally oversaw the killing of tens of thousands of unborn children:

"Abortion is a major blessing, and a sacrament in the hands of women..."<sup>iv</sup>

Ginette Paris, a feminist author, wrote a book entitled, *The Sacrament of Abortion* in which she even connects abortion with the ancient pagan rituals found in Israel.

"It is not immoral to choose abortion; it is simply another kind of morality, a pagan one."<sup>v</sup>

"Our culture needs new rituals as well as laws to restore abortion to its sacred dimension..."<sup>vi</sup>

This is the culture in which we find ourselves today. It is a culture that has turned its back on God and His will and purposes and embraced idols and morality of our own making. We have redefined what is acceptable and celebrate what God considers detestable. We are a modern shadow of the ancient nation of Israel.

This should be no surprise to you as I have taught on this subject before. However, this is a big, overarching picture of what is occurring in country today. Would you be surprised if I were to show you that this pattern or foreshadowing holds true on a much more minute, even personal scale?

What if we can look at the actual players, or leaders of ancient Israel during this time of metamorphosis and see that they have modern-day American individuals who have followed their examples in character, action, and even timing? Is that possible?

It is. Rabbi Cahn found this connection and in doing so has given meaning to many of the unbelievable and irrational events that have occurred in our nation in the last 40 years. As unthinkable and improbable as it sounds, the people, events, and purposes of a nation that existed more than 2500 years ago, have once again played out on history's stage in 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century America (not just in the large overarching sense, but also on a much more minute scale.)

In Israel the apostasy of the nation deepened and quickened the approach of God's judgment with the coming to power of the house of King Ahab. In modern America, our apostasy deepened and quickened the coming divine judgment under the influence of a familiar political dynasty. This is what we are going to look at next week. In preparation for our comparison you may wish to familiarize yourself with the ancient lives we are going to be discussing. They can be found in Scripture in the following passages:

**1 Kings 16:29 - 22:40**

**2 Kings 1:1 - 10:36**

#### Sermon Sources:

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<sup>i</sup> Cahn, *The Paradigm*, (Lake Mary: FrontLine, 2017), 7.

<sup>ii</sup> Ibid., 8.

<sup>iii</sup> Ibid., 9.

<sup>iv</sup> Fish Eaters, accessed June 24, 2017, [www.fisheaters.forums/index.php?topic=2871173.0](http://www.fisheaters.forums/index.php?topic=2871173.0). This site includes this citation: Patricia Baird-Windle...quoted in an August 29, 1999 interview with *Florida Today*, and in "The 'Sacrament' of Abortion: An Interview With a Retired Abortionist." LifeSite Daily News at <http://www.lifesite.net>, August 31, 1999.

<sup>v</sup> Ginette, Paris, *The Sacrament of Abortion*, translated by Joanna Mott (Washington, DC: Spring Publications, 1992), 56, accessed June 5, 2017, <https://books.google.com>.

<sup>vi</sup> Ibid., 92.