

The Harbinger - A Commentary-Part 1.1

A book by Jonathan Cahn. A New York times best seller, copyright 2011. Written post 9/11 and the economic collapse GFC of 2008. He says "What you are about to read is printed in the form of a story, but what is contained within the story is real."

I am reminded of a past American president who said "If I am right 50% of the time I consider myself most fortunate." We know that God speaks to us. However, if you believe you are hearing correctly from God most of the time, you are likely wrong. I say this from personal experience and from other believers I know who 'thought' and 'didn't' get it right. Some made significant decisions based on what they 'thought' they heard, and later lived to regret them. So, as you listen or read what is said here or what Jonathan Cahn has to say in his book, be careful, because what you think is obviously right to you, maybe in fact be wrong. Or the other way around.

This commentary is not meant to be either in favour or against what is spoken of in the book. The purpose is to put before you the facts so that you can be challenged as to whether any of this is relevant to America, our country Australia, or other nations.

The characters in the book are The Prophet, Nouriel a journalist and the receiver of the message and Anna, a publisher or head editor of a news corporation. The book is a masterfully written fictional story encompassing historical data of ancient Israel and current events in America. We are shown how prophecy in ancient Israel brought a warning to the nation of impending judgement prior to its overthrow by the Assyrians. What we are presented within the book are the nine warnings given and Israel's defiant response to God's warnings. When we come to America, the book contrasts the same nine harbingers (warnings) and how each played out in recent American history. For Israel the prophecy was given prior to the events taking place and Israel being destroyed. Whereas in America, there appears to be no specific prophecy given to the nation, but the the same nine harbingers have an ominous parallel to events that took place in America as they did in Israel. Is it just coincidence or something more, and if it is something more why has it been ignored and what is the likely outcome?

01. A Statement When the nation of Israel was formed, they used God's name and continued to use it for some time. But then a kind of spiritual amnesia began to set in and they used it with less and less meaning behind it. Then they began merging him, confusing him with all sorts of other gods. And then they began turning against him, subtly at first, then outright, and finally brazenly, driving him out of their national life and bringing in idols of their own choice to fill the void. Most were gods from the nations surrounding them. They rejected their initial strongly held beliefs, standards and moral ways, and exchanged them for more liberal, sensual, profane, loose living, compromise, blending of truth and of course financial greed. Everything was now upside down from what it was. What was once considered right was now outdated and not tolerated anymore. What was previously immoral was now pursued and celebrated. Finally, the God they once worshipped and followed was banned from all public arenas and his laws removed from their legislation. To top it off they killed their children, not as we we do now by a more sophisticated way than the past. To which nations do you think this statement may be applied?

02. The Story The story involves an ancient message. The message was originally given to the nation of Israel. It was a warning from God to the nation to turn away from their wicked ways and return to him. Our questions should be: 1) Has this same message now been repeated to the nation of America, and does it have the possibility of being repeated in some form or other to other nations including Australia? 2) Even if the Harbinger is just a good story, do you see enough evidence in America today of corruption, lawlessness and moral decline to warrant a national warning and even judgement? 3) If you were on the jury, and after having carefully considering all the evidence given in the nine harbingers, would you find enough facts presented and circumstantial evidence to bring a guilty verdict on the nation?

The message comes from Isaiah 9:10 "***The bricks have fallen but we will rebuild with hewn stone. The sycamores have been cut down but we will replace them with cedars.***"

The message is delivered from the prophet to Nouriel by giving him nine seals, one at a time. Each seal contains part of the full message. Every seal is a token with a picture and ancient writing on it. Nouriel's task is to decipher and unfold the message of the seal. (Each seal is symbolic of a document sealed with a wax emblem. It would come from a person of authority and was considered to be authentic.) Each seal, in this case, is a harbinger (something that comes before, the foreshadowing of a future event). They all form part of the ancient mystery.

03. Background to the first Harbinger There was a small brown package in the post addressed to Nouriel. It contained an ancient looking clay seal, nothing else, no letter...nothing. A few days later he went for a late afternoon walk by the Hudson river in New York. He sat on a park bench and took the seal from his pocket. A man was already sitting on the bench, to his left, he was of middle eastern appearance, thin build, dark hair, a short closely cropped beard and wore a long black leather coat. They began conversing. The man asked Nouriel for a look at the seal. He told Nouriel it was an ancient seal from the kingdom of Judah in Israel. He continued saying "Seals in those days were used to communicate messages by kings and rulers. The seal would let you know that the message was real, from someone important, and was to be taken seriously, and would contain the fingerprint of the one who sent it." "So it was from God?" Nouriel asked. "Yes" he answered. "So it was about Israel?". "Yes, but more than just about Israel." he replied. "It's about America as well." He paused, before looking directly at Nouriel "You see, ancient Israel was in covenant with God, they were a blessed people as long as they remained faithful to God. But they didn't. They turned away from him, and in return for blessings they received curses." "So what has this to do with America?" Nouriel asked. "Everything" he answered. "You see, when America was formed, she was formed on the same *pattern* as ancient Israel. She became the most blessed nation, the most prosperous nation of the modern world. A nation who defended the persecuted and those unable to protect themselves. A gracious and generous nation, one that upheld righteousness, a vessel of redemption and a light to the world. But like Israel, they have turned away and are still turning." "So what are you saying" Nouriel asked "Is America in danger of judgement?" The prophet paused, "The answer to your question is *yes*...Yes. America is in danger of judgement." "So what's going on?" Nouriel enquired. He looked away from him into the distance, as if giving himself time to formulate what he was going to say. "There were nine harbingers that manifested in ancient Israel in the nation's last days. Each one was a sign. Each one a warning of judgement. It's all happening again according to the same *pattern*, according to the judgement of ancient Israel. These nine harbingers are now appearing in America."

04. The First Harbinger: The Breach Some weeks later after the strange encounter, Nouriel was in lower Manhattan, in Battery Park, looking across the water towards the statue of Liberty. He had made no progress in unravelling the meaning of the seal. It was then that he saw him. He was looking at the statue as well. Without turning he said "Nouriel, what have you discovered?" "Nothing, except the seal has inscriptions, symbols and one main symbol." "What do you make of the main symbol?" "I don't know. It's a line with a 'V' in the middle of it." "It's an image of a wall, Nouriel, it's a wall of protection, and the 'V' is not a 'V' but a breach in the wall. It's a gap, an opening in the wall. The wall is broken, the sign that an enemy has entered in. It's the removing of the hedge of protection. It's what happened to ancient Israel. In the year 732 B.C. Israel's enemies invaded the land and wrought havoc. The calamity traumatised the nation. But it took place on a limited scale. It was a foreshadowing of something much greater and much more severe - a warning - a harbinger of future judgement, so great that if it ever came to pass, the nation would never recover."

"So, the warning is the removal of the *hedge of protection*." Nouriel responded. He continued, "It would never have happened had Israel remained inside the will of God. It was their wake up call to return to God. They took no notice of the prophets. They refused to consider anything was wrong and that the nation had departed from God. Instead, they fortified their defences and strengthened their walls." "So what happened after they missed their wake up call?" Nouriel asked. "Time passed, everything began to return to normal, so they thought, but it was an illusion. The problem and the danger only increased with every passing year. It was a period of grace, given to them in mercy, that they might change their course and avert the coming judgement. **The first harbinger is 'the breach'**, the nation's security has been breached, and their illusion of invincibility shattered." "And this is going to happen, this has something to do with America?" Nouriel whispered. "Yes, it does, and so it did" he replied "It's walls were breached." "When did it happen." "September 11." he responded "on that day the walls of America's national security were breached. It happened right here," he said pointing to the sky. "The most powerful nation on earth with the most sophisticated defence system ever built... it's wall of defence was breached. Then came the repeating of the same mistake. America responded to the calamity as if it were only a matter of security and defence..and nothing more. It would proceed to strengthen its national defences and fortify its walls of protection. There was no pausing to ponder, or ask if anything else could be wrong, if there was any deeper significance behind the attack, no searching of its ways. "Was God behind it" Nouriel asked. "Evil men were behind it, but it was the sounding of an alarm to wake up a sleeping nation. In the months and years that passed after 9/11, after an initial response of remorse, the nation returned to business as usual, as if it was still immune to destruction. So it was in the last days of ancient Israel. But it was an illusion, a fatal illusion" There was a long silence broken only by the sound of the seagulls. He reached into his pocket and handed Nouriel the second seal.

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