The World Tomorrow Radio Broadcast Transcript Outline of Bible Prophecy - Episode 08

Great Tribulation for Disobeying God's Commandments

Herbert W. Armstrong

Continuing now, with vital, dynamic prophecy. What's prophesied to happen to the United States? It is the biggest subject of prophecy and 1/3rd of your Bible is prophecy. This is the one most vital factor in the topsy-turvy world conditions of today. Yes, we're concerned about a lot to things but the biggest thing that we ought to be concerned about is what is forming, what is happening right now that is prophesied to directly affect and to happen to the United States as I've been saying; you have to know where the United States is mentioned in the Bible prophesies to understand it. We're mentioned more often than all other nations put together in the Bible. But we're not mentioned under our on name, The United States, we weren't known by that name when the Bible was written.

And in the Bible you'll find modern nations mentioned by the names of their ancestors. For instance, the Turkish people are descended from Esau who's often called Edom in your Bible and where you find Edom or Esau that means the Turkish people today if it's a prophecy pertaining to today! Now, in like manner, while some of the nations are mentioned in their present day names like Egypt and Syria and some of those. You'll find in Ezekiel, the thirty-eight chapter, a prophecy that all Bible students, virtually all I think, recognize it's speaking about Russia today but it speaking not about the name Russia. It doesn't use the word Kremlin; it doesn't use words like that. It says, Son of man, set thy face against Gog, (G. O. G.) in the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him, and say, [who's he talking about?].

If you can't identify these nations you don't know who it's talking about, then you don't understand prophecy. Now you turn back into the tenth chapter of Genesis, and you begin to find the identity of some of these peoples and of some of these nations. And you begin to find that these are all descended from Japheth and they were the yellow races and the Asiatic nations, even including over into Russia. And, we find by running it down and tracing it that is speaking about Russia. Now, I think nearly all Bible students understand that, I'm just mentioning something that everybody does agree and understand. Calvary have been the very symbol of the Russian armies and it speaks about all thine army, horses and horseman here in verse four, and actually Meshech is merely a changed spelling of the modern name Moscow. Tubal is Talbot, which has been the capitol city of Russia in Asia. And it's generally known that's speaking of them.

But where are we mentioned in prophecy? Well, now, once again, let me just tell you if you don't understand you'd better get our booklet The United States in Prophecy that will explain it. What ever happen to God's people Israel? You think the Jewish people are all there is of Israel? Oh, no, they're not. I have explained that Israel is divided into two nations. The southern kingdom was called Judah and they became know as the Jews. And the first place the word Jews occurs in your Bible, (2 Kings 16:6), the Jews were at war against Israel. Israel was fighting against the Jews; different nations altogether. The Northern kingdom was called Israel.

They were driven out in 721 B. C. They were to be punished and the promises made to Abraham withheld from them for 2520 years from 721 B. C., that's 1800 A. D. And my friends, they migrated northwest from Assyria where they had been taken captive and there we lost site of them. And we find, by prophecy and by connecting prophecy with history, we find that they migrated to northwestern Europe and the British Isles. And the people that are now in northwestern Europe and the British Isles, the first history, the first historic record we find of them, they were coming from the very spot where the so-called lost ten tribes of Israel were last lost site of. I've shown you that God gave his people Israel a sign, that would identity them as his people. A sign, which was his Sabbath incidentally, that would reveal to them who God is. The God that sanctified them and made them His people. How they rejected that sign and how the first king that they set over them when they rejected Rehoboam, the son of Solomon, the son of David, had set up the two golden calves and introduced idolatry into the kingdom and then had changed the annual Sabbath days..., or Holy Days that God had given them from the seventh into the eight month, and the seventh day of the week to the eight day. And when we pick them up in history, later these same people were observing what we call eighth day or.., it's the day after, the first day, or the day after the Seventh day I should say of the week. It is therefore what we call the first day of the week. And they rejected God's sign by which they should know that He is God and by which they should be known as His people.

Now the very two commandments that God had stressed when He said, keep my commandments and I'll make you prosperous and you can have the blessings that were promised unconditional to Abraham; were to avoid idolatry and Sabbath breaking and those were the same identical commandments of God that Israel did rebel against. And I read it to you in the twentieth chapter of Ezekiel. That God had given them His Sabbaths to be a sign between Him and them. And that He gave them His statues and His judgments. But what did they do? They walked after their fathers idols and observed their ways. And then He said to their children, later, another generation, I said unto the children in the wilderness walk ye not in the statues of your fathers, neither observe their judgments nor defile

yourselves with their idols or their ways. I am the Eternal your God; walk in my statues; that is God's ways. Keep my judgments and do them; that's God's ways. Hallow my Sabbaths, that's God's ways but they went after their father's ways; different days altogether; different things. My Sabbaths, they shall be a sign between me and you that you shall know that I am the Eternal your God. Not withstanding, the children rebelled against me, they walked not in my statues; neither kept my judgments to do them. They polluted my Sabbaths and their eyes were after their fathers idols.

Idolatry and Sabbath breaking. Therefore they were driven out and lost and since they lost the sign by which they should be known, they thought they were Gentiles! They've always thought they were Gentiles but I've shown you that the Jewish people after their captivity realized that they had been driven out because of that very thing. And they had been punished with the greatest national punishment that God Almighty ever metes to a nation and His own chosen people at that, because of those two great sins and so, the Jewish people became very, very much set against Idolatry and against Sabbath breaking. And so they began to invent a lot of ideas of their own; rules and regulations to make the Sabbath a hard straight laced yoke of bondage and they had 65 rules and regulations, the traditions of men that Jesus rebuked by the time of Jesus Christ. Whole chapters in the New Testament are devoted to the message of Jesus Christ straightening them out on that and showing them how to observe the Sabbath. And He is the mediator of the New and not of the Old Covenant! Oh how mixed up some people are. They try to say that He preached an Old Covenant message for three and one-half years and spent that whole 3 1/2 years preaching an Old Covenant message just so He could knock it in the head, immediately, after He got through. And that He nailed it all to His cross. Oh, what poppycock and what ignorance and what nonsense some people do believe. God help us then to understand.

Well, that birthright promise of national greatness and power was withheld for 2520 years until 1800 A. D. And in 1800 A. D., my friends, the British and the American people were as nothing. Just little insignificant nations. But by 1804, London dominated the world as a financial center. And we came into such great wealth and such great power as no nations or people had ever acquired before, because God promised it to Abraham. Now, I've covered that in previous broadcasts, now what about us? We are Israel today. Not Judah, but Israel. And never, never are the Jewish people called by the name the House of Israel or the Kingdom of Israel. Never is that name applied to them. Jewish people are Israelites and they're called, O, ye men of Israel and by names and words like that in the New Testament and in other places but never are the Jewish people called kingdom of Israel or house of Israel. Those are things to remember and the nation Israel had its capitol anciently in Samaria; Judah, or the Jewish people in Jerusalem. And so Samaria stands for

Israel and then again Rachel, who was the mother of Joseph stands for Israel. You'll notice names like in the Bible. Those are a key to understanding the Bible and that identifies us. Now with that in mind, let's go on.

I've shown you, my friends, that a Great Tribulation is coming; the very next thing prophesied. First, the famine and the disease epidemic to be accompanied almost simultaneously or immediately afterwards by an invasion and of a power that's going to rise up in Europe that is going to get the jump on the communist and will invade us and is going to start war on us even before the communists get around to doing it because they're so slow moving. The communist would do it otherwise and they're are going to attack us later but they are not going to attack us until this happens. Now, we do know that the Jewish people were to go back to Palestine and by the time these final events happened that the men of Judah, which are the Jewish people, are to be in Palestine. Now, then, this Great Tribulation is to follow and it is both national and individual, I've shown you that. Jesus said in (Matthew 24), and speaking in verse eight, lof the pestilence, and of the famine that is to come and we're a fore taste of the drought now and there is a terrific national drought coming that'll be accompanied by such disease and epidemics that one-third of our people are going to drop dead and in spite of all Polio vaccines and everything of the kind, my friends, things are coming that doctors will never know anything about or be able to cope with. It is in your Bible. Now, that is the beginning of the tribulation — verse eight.]

And then in verse nine, "Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted," [and that's speaking of Christians, privately and individually] and shall kill you And then the latter half of this sentence is speaking nationally of a national invasion]: "you shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake" — (Matt. 24:09). Now, verse twenty-one, ""then shall be Great Tribulation, such as was not from the beginning of the world to this same time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved (alive)." [In other words, human life would be annihilated from off the face of the entire earth. And we, now for the first time in the history of mankind, have reached the time when scientist tells us that mankind can be wiped off the face of this earth. Einstein knew that! He knew that! The great scientists of the world have known that.] "Except for these days should be shorten, there should no flesh be saved alive but," [Oh, listen, to this.] "For the elect's sake [You'd better be glad those elect are here. For the elect's sake those days shall be shortened. — (Matt. 24: 21-22).""

God Almighty is going to intervene; God will step in and interfere. Now, just before that happens, something terrible is going to happen to the United States. I want you to notice, this Great Tribulation, my friends, is the time of our national trouble. It's the very time of our national trouble!

I want to show you that. Will you turn real quickly with me, now, to Jeremiah, the thirtieth chapter (Jer. 30)? I've given this to you before now real quickly let's go through some of these prophesies. Here is what is foretold in your Bible! One-third of your Bible is prophecy. Listen, the Bible is the book of Israel, it pertains to Israel it concerns other nations only as they come in contact with Israel. Because, God whole plan, God's whole purpose being worked out here below, is centered on the people He chose: Israel. They're not His favorite people, they're not His pet people, He doesn't love us more than He loves the Chinese, the Japanese, and the Arabs, the people of Africa or any other part of the world. It is merely a matter that He chose us and do you know why? Because our forefather Abraham obeyed God; kept His commandments. God is supreme ruler as well as Creator. That's the thing the world has forgotten. That's the all important thing. That God set the laws in motion and God only can reveal the way to live and everything that we need.

Now look, here's this prophecy for our people. All prophecy is concern with Israel. It centers around Israel and we are Israel. And if you don't know that, get that booklet The United States in Prophecy, my friends, you can't understand Bible Prophecy unless you have that key. That's a veritable key to an understanding of the prophesies. Why the prophesies of the Bible have been grievously misunderstood and no wonder, because this vital key that is needed to unlock prophetic doors to understanding had become lost. That key is a definite knowledge of the true identity of the American and the British peoples in Biblical Prophecy. Where is the United States mentioned? Where are we in the prophesies? Write in for that booklet The United States in Prophecy. There's no charge just send the call letter of your station and your request for the booklet before you forget it you can't understand your Bible without it. That's a challenge. I say that you're ignorant of your Bible; you're actually ignorant; you don't understand it until you get this. Now I hope that really stuns you enough to study and see whether this is true because I want to tell you there was a minister down in Florida that wrote me a letter about fifty years ago. What he told me just what I now told you. He said, Mr. Armstrong, if you don't know that.., you're just ignorant. You know, that stung me to the quick. I would.., would anyone to call me ignorant? Why that was..., I didn't take it as an insult and I certainly didn't mean as an insult to any of you listener either. I mean it just the way he meant it to me. But, I want to tell you one thing, I went to one of the public libraries and I had to dig this thing out and I had to spend years getting it. Well, you don't have to do that, this booklet here will give it to you so that you can study it with Bible in just a matter of hours, you can get it. All boiled down and condensed. And I've had to sort a lot of chaff out from the wheat. Because there's a lot of teaching on that subject that is not true. And because there's some error being taught on that subject, a lot of people seize on a few points of error then they ridicule and sneer at the whole truth. My friends, it is the truth. You better study it and understand your Bible, it

vital; we're coming down to these times. The only thing that counts now is the conditions in this world to where we're headed and where we're going. We're in the last days. If you want to know what the end of the world is you'd better know about these things. It doesn't mean about the earth's existence. Well, here is this prophecy; the thirtieth chapter of Jeremiah.

(Jeremiah 30:3) Lo, the days come, saith the ETERNAL, that I will bring again the captivity of my people Israel and Judah, saith the ETERNAL:

That is speaking of the second coming of Christ and the deliverance of His people from a captivity and it shows right there, that at the time of the second coming of Jesus Christ; God's people Israel, whoever they are, are going to be in a state of captivity. The Jewish people are scattered in all nations all over but this is Israel. Well, of course the Jewish people have their own nation in Palestine now. And even there they're going to be in a state of captivity too and we're going to be in a state of captivity if we do not wake up and return to our God! I've shown you the two great sins for which our forefathers were punished; we're guilty of those same two sins now today!

Only, we don't know what an idol is anymore. An idol isn't just a statue that supposed to be an image of Christ, or something or some other God of some kind. Your automobile might be your idol or your television set could be your idol if you put it to a wrong use. A whole lot of thing can become an idol. And, I want to tell you, our land is full of idols. It's full of churches, but it's also full of idols and we don't seem to know what our idols are. I had an idol and it wasn't anything like that at all. God took it away from me and I had to give it up. It had to be torn out and it was a lot harder than tearing a tooth out of my mouth. It was very painful to give up. But it was the one thing that my whole heart was set on. The thing I hope to be and to make of myself. My whole life's ambition. God tore it out root and branch. I had to give it up and I had to suffer. And I had to make a surrender and give myself over to God instead before I could ever become his child. And before He could ever use me. My friends, you'll have to find what is your idol. Your idol won't be the same as I had. You've go a different idol maybe. But, most of us have had a lot of idols. One man's idol is his own intellectual capacity. He thinks he's pretty smart and pretty bright. Maybe you have to be brought down and find out there are other people who are smarter than you are. I know a man whose idol is his wealth. Maybe he will have to lose it, or else he will never gain the Kingdom of God. What ever your idol is, my friends, you've got to give it up. You can't worship an idol and God too. Now, what is your idol?

Listen, He's going to bring again the captivity of His people Israel and Judah says the ETERNAL and I will cause them to return [where?] to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it. Now that means that wherever they are, they're going to be away from that time,

now the Jewish people, the only Jewish people that are in a nation are in that land now, and you see the people that this is speaking of are a nation that are away from that land and they are going to be taken captive away from a land and brought to that land. It isn't speaking of the nation you call Israel over there now. I want you to notice that point.

Alright, verse four (Jeremiah 30:4). "And these are the words that the ETERNAL spake concerning Israel and concerning Judah." [That concerns our people and also the Jewish people.] For thus saith the ETERNAL; we have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace [This is a time of war, listen.] ""Ask ye now, and see whether a man doth travail with child? Wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness? Alas, for that day is great so that nothing is like it, whatever it is, it's the greatest of it's kind. What is it? It's a time of trouble. The greatest time of trouble the world has ever known. What is it? The Great Tribulation! So great, there has never been anything like it since there was a nation. Here it is. That day is great! So that none is like it even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.""

Not that he wont get into it, he will get into it and then be saved out of it after he gets into it. He is going to get into the greatest time of trouble that ever happened to any nation. Now what was it that I read to you about the greatest time of trouble that ever happened to a nation, then shall be Great Tribulation, that's trouble, such as was not from the beginning of the world to this time nor every shall be; except those days should be shorten no flesh should be saved alive — (Matt 24: 21-22). What did I read to you, my friends, about Daniel and what Daniel says about it, Daniel 12. Here it is just before the return of Christ and the resurrection of the dead:

(Dan 12:1-2) And at that time Michael [The Archangel] shall stand up, the great prince that standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation [It's speaking of nations and national trouble, since there was a nation even at that same time, same trouble] and at that time shall thy people be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, [The second coming of Christ, now that shows the resurrection at the second coming of Christ].

Here in Jeremiah's prophecy, he shows taking the remnant of Israel that was in captivity, back to Palestine. They'd been in captivity away from Palestine. They've been living away from Palestine. Now, at last, after all these years, they are going back to Palestine. It isn't speaking of the Jewish nation that's over there now. Not at all, it's speaking of Israel as

well as Jews, and there are plenty of Jews that are not there now, incidentally too.

(Jer 30: 7) "Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it, it is even the time of" whose trouble? Here's that Great Tribulation. That Great Tribulation is time of whose trouble, my friends; Jacob! Now who is Jacob? Where is Jacob today? It is not just the time of Jewish trouble. You think that there are enough Jews in the world about 15 - 17,000,000 Jewish people, you think there are enough of them with the few that are in Palestine; the rest scattered in all the nation over the earth, but just the trouble on them will be the greatest time of trouble that has ever happened in the world... I should say not! No, but when it involves the British Commonwealth of nations, when it involves the whole United States as well as all the Jewish people, when it involves all of the democratic nations of northwestern Europe, then I tell you my friends, we're getting into the worst time of trouble that this world has ever known and that's exactly what your Bible is talking about. Some people say, which Bible do you use? I'm talking about your Bible, I don't know whether you have a Roman Catholic Dowdy Bible, I don't know whether you have a King James Protestant Bible, I don't know whether you have one of these more modern Bibles, and more modern English, the modern Revised Standard; which ever you have it is in your Bible. There are some differences in translations; there are some errors in translations, but they are just slight enough that when I talk about what is in your Bible, I tell you my friends, which ever one you have, you are going to get it. You can get the truth, if you want it. I don't mean that everyone is a hundred percent correct, either. But, they are near enough that you can get to enough of the truth, if you are willing, the main thing is where your heart is? Are you self-willed, you want your own way, or are you willing to surrender to God now. Look, verse eight,

(Jer 30: 8) It shall come to pass in that day, saith the ETERNAL of hosts, [Here is thus sayth the LORD] that I will break his yoke from off thy neck, and will burst thy bonds, and strangers [That's Gentile nations] shall no more serve themselves of him. Let me catch that in the Revised Standard here, let's turn to this real quickly, here if I can get it real quickly, Jeremiah the thirtieth chapter, and here I have it and that was in verse eight, verse eight, let me read it to you here, (Jer 30: 8-9) "And it shall come to pass in that day, says the ETERNAL of hosts, that I will break the yoke from off their neck, and I will burst their bonds lits speaking of Israel], and strangers [or Gentile nations] shall no more make servants of them [of Israel]. But they shall serve the ETERNAL their God and David their king, whom I will raise up for them. [It's speaking of a time of the resurrection of the dead. David, King David of ancient Israel, shall be resurrected and he will be raised up from the dead and be King over Israel and Jesus Christ will come at His second coming as the King of kings and the LORD of Lords over every nation on the face of the earth. And at the

time He comes, there will be a yoke on Israel's neck. He says, I will break that yoke from off their neck. Who's going to put that yoke on our neck? Will you turn real quickly back to Isa 47, I only have a few moments.

Isaiah 47, verse one: Come down, and sit in the dust, O virgin daughter of Babylon, Now, this isn't ancient Babylon six hundred years before Christ, it's the daughter of that Babylon, a virgin daughter of Babylon, this is a prophecy for the far, far future, not a history of that day, O daughter of the Chaldeans: [That Babylon was always called in the male gender as a he, here is one that is a daughter. And my friends, the feminine gender is always spoken of as a church and the male gender as a civil government. And here it's speaking of a religious element here that is going to get into politics and rule over the political power it's speaking of. It's a modern thing, this is not the ancient Babylon, Listen: thou shalt no more be called tender and delicate. Just compare that to Revelation 17 and Revelation 18, you'll see the same thing speaking of the same power exactly.] Now, the fifth verse, (Isaiah 47:5) Sit thou silent, and get thee into darkness, O daughter of the Chaldeans: Thou shalt no more be called [What?], the lady of Kingdoms [lady means a religious organization or church that entered into politics and ruled over nations. That's exactly what it is speaking of and you turn to Revelation 17 and there you'll find it described!] — KJV.

(Isaiah 47:6) I [says God] was wroth with my people [That's Israel], and I have polluted mine inheritance [That's Israel, why? Because of their sins and He is going to punish us to straighten us out less we destroy our ownselves. God loves us and He is going to let us be punished for our own good if we wont heed His warnings without the punishment, Listen:], I have given them [that's Israel, His inheritance,] into thine hand [This daughter of Babylon] and thou didst shew them no mercy; upon the ancient or Israel had thou very heavily laid thy yoke.

[There is the power that had the yoke on us. There it is and it's the very power that you find in Revelation 17. And there you find that the civil government under that power is to rise up and to resurrect the ancient Roman Empire! And it's coming right now in Europe! And that very thing, my friends, is going to get the jump on the communist powers and going to invade us. Oh, there is so many more prophesies on it. I wanted to get over here to Micah 5, and so many other prophesies; I'll come to them tomorrow. I'm am going to give you more and more and more prophesies that shows you what is prophesied to happen to our nation. One third of our people are to die in the famine and the pestilence, another third by the invasion that's coming IF WE DON'T WAKE UP AND RETURN TO OUR GOD!]...