

# THE BAPTIST HERITAGE

VOLUME XXV ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 20, 2001

*The stormy wind  
fulfilling  
his word*

The horrific event that transpired in New York City on September 11, 2001, produced consequences that exceed anything that has been proposed in the news publications or discussed on the airways during these subsequent days. The Pentagon assault was designed to insult the military of this nation and to let the world know that our military is not feared. Where or what the plane that crashed in Pennsylvania was intended to attack is a matter of conjecture; it may have been a target within Washington, D.C. as many suspect, or it might have been another objective altogether. As best I am able to interpret the chain of events of that day, the destruction of the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center would appear to have been the primary focus. More than its function as a symbol, as was the Pentagon or as would be a national building or monument, the World Trade Center was the actual financial center of world trade. Its destruction had as its goal, not only to collapse the buildings, but also to collapse world trade and to create

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*a good place to visit  
but  
a better place to belong*



# this and that

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I do not set dates for the Second Coming. I do not devote any effort either to seeking or to interpreting apparent or alleged signs of the return of Christ. My instructions are to "occupy until He comes" not to stand gazing up into heaven. Strangely, I am instructed to look up only when I see the signs beginning to come to pass. That seems to imply to me that as I do the work of the Master, my attention will be so forcefully drawn to the events bursting all around me that I look up with a desire for the LORD to return.

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My first memories of "prophecy preaching" are of sermons relating to the establishment of the modern nation of Israel. One thing is certain, the fig tree had to be planted before her tender branch could put forth leaves. Preachers, in my youth, assured me that the fig tree was planted in the land and warned that summer was surely nigh. In the

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following years, I have listened to godly men and watched unfolding events all directing attention to the time Tribulation, and in particular to the time of Jacob's Trouble. Several obstacles always stood, remaining in the way, restraining a consummation. If my eyes deceive me not, the two major earthly barriers to the universal acceptance of anti-Christ came down on September 11, 2001

I do not say, that I know that this is the time; however, the most restrained observation of the events of the past month still forces the conclusion that the political and religious preparation of this world for the acceptance of anti-Christ is ripen unto readiness for the harvest. All that seems yet to be is persecution for believers. How long until that begins? It may be sooner than we think.

—Pastor Manley

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This is VOLUME XXV and  
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**THE STORMY WIND  
FULFILLING HIS WORD**

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It is indeed “the stormy wind fulfilling His word.”

I do not know how long we believers have before the persecution will begin that is prophesied to come on the people of God before we are caught away; I only know that it will begin. I wonder if it will not begin soon. I am waiting for the Rapture; I know that the Tribulation is not my destiny. However, I have no promise in Scripture that I or you shall not face the persecution that is the foreshadowing of the Tribulation. If I understand Scripture, the days will be dark immediately before the Rapture. I believe that God’s people will be, as Israel was in Egypt, praying with tears for deliverance, looking to heaven for a Deliverer. Before He returns, we will be wanting Him to come. The destiny lying ahead for this world is not a “new day of peace” but “the last days of heaven-sent terror.”

John, the beloved disciple, saw all of this clearer than do I, and he was moved to pray, “Even so come LORD Jesus.” Shall I do less?

—Pastor Manley

**Reprint permission always granted;  
acknowledgment appreciated.**

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a worldwide depression. The passage of time alone will reveal the success or the failure of the attempt. However, the consequences of which I speak are of a different nature than those the terrorists intended; though the results seen are indeed both tangible and material, that pile of debris has a far greater effect—one that is intangible and of a spiritual nature. Only a student of the word of God has access to the tools necessary to understand the fullness of the results of that day. Only a serious student will consider using those tools. The majority of believers, even as the rest of the world, will remain blissfully ignorant of the eternal consequences of that day, which abound with both blessing and cursing.

Expanded from the Wednesday Evening Service,  
October 3, 2001.

**The Eleventh of September  
A Day of Iniquity**

**Psalm 148:8 The stormy wind fulfilling His word**

Though Alabama football fans pause each September 11th to remember the birth of “Bear” Bryant, September 11th was not a day to which many Americans attached significance (our family being a notable exception since our son John was born on this date in 1977.) until this past September 11th. I am not certain as to why this specific day of September was selected. Men and women of the

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mindset of Usama bin Laden do not throw a dart at the calendar in these matters. The date bears significance, if not to others, at least to those involved in the planning of the act. It is not a date without relationship to America or to Islam in the minds of those individuals. In looking for a possible connection, I came across the following interesting associations with September 11. In 1609, Henry Hudson discovered Manhattan Island on September 11. The last battle of the American Revolution was fought on this date in 1782. A battle in which a relative of Zane Grey, Elizabeth Grey, earned a place in history books (at least, in the old history books, such as I studied) by a seemingly suicidal dash to obtain the black powder to enable the fort to continue fighting the attacking British Rangers and a large force of Indian warriors. In 1922, the British began their mandate over the land of Palestine. Chancellor Adenauer of West Germany signed a reparation pact involving Jews in 1952. It should not be unnoticed that Tunisia celebrates the day annually as the Evening of Destiny. The Islamic calendar is most interesting, being roughly eleven days shorter than the Gregorian that we use, requiring thirty-three years for the calendar to rotate so the months will again fall in the same season. (e.g. December is always a winter month; but there are no "always winter months" in

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From a human viewpoint, I know of no possible, better courses of action than these that America is taking. I support what I see as of this day, as an American.

At the same time, as a student of the word of God, I know that every step our President and our leaders have taken is but a step in the preparation of the arrival of the anti-Christ and the coming of the time of Tribulation. This year, the next, or fifty years from now, all of this will be but the foundation for the structuring of the final world kingdom before the return of Jesus Christ. It surely seems to me that we are witnessing the movement into position of the final sets of scenery on the stage of this old world for the final Act where anti-Christ steps forward. And, as I watch, I see no other course for the politicians or nations to take.

Thus, this preacher stands battling two minds. I struggle in a strait betwixt two--between approving what are definitely essential steps to protect the nation and recognizing (and fearing) even while recognizing that these are the distinctly requisite acts that will hasten the coming of anti-Christ and the advent of the Tribulation. Watching prophecy unfold, I stand amazed at how the God of Heaven raises up one and puts down another, ordaining the powers that be, all working His will.

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in that area.

While the west is dominant in the present coalition, it is intriguing to note that the other biblically described areas are showing signs of alignment. Turkey is stepping forward as the leader of the former soviet Muslim republics (mostly ending in “-stan”) that stretch eastward from Istanbul in a rather straight line covering the north of Israel. For several years, Turkey has attempted to create among these nations a “Common Market” to compete with Europe. This area contains the largest oil reserves in the world according to some sources, needing only the funds and political stability to develop them into world powers. Egypt and Iran are on more friendly terms today than for many years. If Sudan and Somalia are brought under control (and if terrorism is to be contained, they must) then the influence of Egypt will rise to a very prominent position. The kings of the east (all scriptural directions concern Jerusalem) are, I have believed for a long while, the Muslim nations stretching eastward all the way from the Iraq to Indonesia and the Philippines. China, Japan, India, Korea, Viet Nam, etc—all have more alliance with the west than with Muslim nations.

As an American, I applaud the national leaders for their actions taken in the defense of this nation.

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the Muslim reckoning of time.) Therefore, important dates falling always in the same Hirji (the Muslim year) month may occur in different months of our calendar. Additionally, translation of the Hirji calendar into Gregorian always has the built-in error of plus or minus one day. No special religious or historical events for the Muslim world fell on or near September 11 that I have been able to determine. I am not familiar enough with the personal history of bin Laden (earliest mention I find of him is in the 1980's) or with the Muslim terrorist record as a whole, which first surfaced in modern times in the 1950's in Egypt, to even attempt to correlate September 11 with an important date in that context. It is certain that no matter what the connections have been in the past for Americans or others, the day will forevermore be identified with the horror of this past September 11.

On September 11, 2001, the religious and political ethos of the world permanently changed. Within the astounding span of almost exactly one hour of time, the centuries-old pair of previously insurmountable barriers to the establishment of a one-world philosophy as the standard for humanity lay buried beneath the rubble of the twin towers of the World Trade Center. In that brief moment, the one hour of Revelation 18 seems to take on a vivid

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reality not present before, as did the inevitability of the rise of anti-Christ. The fall of the Twin Towers changed the spiritual landscape more than it did the physical. The divisiveness of nationalistic elitism and religious exclusivity disappeared from the landscape in that moment of time. One man with one plan on one day in one location in one hour advanced a cause with a rapidity that no other man or group of men has ever accomplished since construction halted on the Tower of Babel, though multiplied thousands have made vain attempts. No one since Nebuchadnezzar has even come close to organizing a one-world government, though the efforts continued through September 10. By New York's midday of the eleventh of September in the year 2001, the goal of dictators, the dream of visionaries, the desire of statesmen for the nearly forty centuries since Nimrod's kingdom was propelled radically toward what now appears to be a desirable and reachable attainment. A truly common cause, the first since Babel provided the only other genuine catalysis for unified human cooperation (that all might worship whatever god each might choose in the same place) that appealed to all humanity (that of organizing a protective universal government to insure survival). The generations-old plot of futurists and fictionists came to life with more urgency and

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Jesus Christ, will be labeled as divisive and as dangerous as these Islamic literalists have been. A zeal to remove all barriers to peace will naturally include all who follow a doctrine of exclusivity. Bible believers cannot be anything but exclusive; that is, to believe the Bible is to believe that "no man cometh unto the Father but by Me (the LORD Jesus)." The child of God has no choice in the matter because "there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved."

The alignment of the nations has been most interesting to watch in the days since September 11. The Bible decrees that in the time of the Tribulation the nations of the world will align into four regional confederations or alliances. The nations of the Western world, the area of the old Roman Empire being led by Anti-Christ will dominate the entire world. However, (Daniel 11th and Revelation 16) the king of the south, the king of the north, and the kings (plural) of the east will have areas of domain, maintain standing armies, and will act in concert or independently as they choose. The king of the north has long been accepted as being either Russia and her allies or the nations around Turkey. The king of the south is a term generally assigned to Egypt. The east always has reference to the land from whence came Abraham and the kings of the east will be centered

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dividuals, they are most religious. They believe they are required to actively, sincerely, and quite literally fulfill the words of Allah. I do not suggest that every Muslim agrees with their understanding of the teachings of Islam. While there are almost as many divisions within the Islamic peoples as there is within Christendom, it is most perilous not to recognize that these men are religious. Political zealots only have the goal of improving the present world; religious zealots have the motivation of preparing one's self and others for eternity. The latter are by far the more dangerous. They kill the innocents to strike terror in the hearts of the populace; they die in the process to draw others to follow their cause. This philosophy has historical precedents to be found in Iran in the eleventh century with the "Assassins." Its revival in the 1950's was intention to produce an Islamic world. OPEC and the resurgence of fundamentalism Islam are the legacy of Gamal Abdel-Nasser of Egypt. I repeat, "It is disingenuous for the political leaders and the media to insist that the efforts of these terrorists are not motivated by their religious belief system."

The danger that exists in a most real way, is that Bible-believing individuals, those who take the Scriptures to teach that there is only one way to heaven and that is through the blood of the LORD

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uniqueness than Hollywood ever envisioned. Earth was not threatened by impending doom from asteroid or meteorite; no untreatable plague was ravaging the nations; no monster had been loosed from the deep and none had arrived from Mars; but the survival of the earth was directly and correctly perceived by all who possessed the means to learn of the events.

American politicians moved with a firmness and cohesiveness not present in this nation since December 7, 1941. American flags became popular around the world—an event not seen since World War II. "God" (whomever each might conceive it/her or him to be) was restored to the nation's psyche by unopposed acclamation between sunrise and sunset on the same day. It was reported that our community's ALCU leader attended, without protest, a prayer vigil. Religion, of every persuasion, was restored to political correctness and presented as a unified whole in a way never before accomplished in America.

Politicians and clerics of wide ranging religious beliefs united at the National Cathedral for an amazing service, all praying to the "same" spiritual being. A Muslim imam, Dr. Muzammil H. Siddiqi (who short months ago publicly raised money for Hamas to aid them to drive the Jews from Israel), and a Jewish

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rabbi, Rabbi Joshua O. Haberman, shared the same pulpit in The Cathedral Church of St. Peter and St. Paul (the seat of both the Episcopal bishop of Washington and the presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church USA), with Rev. Kirbyjon Caldwell, United Methodist pastor from Houston, His Eminence Theodore Cardinal McCarrick, Archbishop of Washington, the Right Reverend Jane Holmes Dixon, Bishop of Washington, the Very Reverend Nathan D. Baxter, Dean of Washington National Cathedral, for prayers and the reading of passages from the Qu'ran and both the Old and New Testaments of the Bible and listening to the Rev. Dr. Billy Graham, Baptist evangelist, deliver the sermon. Adding the accomplished and moving singing of God of Our Fathers, God Bless America, Father, In Thy Gracious Keeping, O God Our Help in Ages Past, A Mighty Fortress Is Our God, America the Beautiful, Psalms 23, The Lord's Prayer, and The Battle Hymn of the Republic, this was a most impressive service. The Cathedral, priding itself as being "home to ecumenical and inter-faith events," certainly lived up to its reputation with this service. Ecumenicity became *the* established national policy with this service on Friday, September 14, 2001. This was not a political convention with various invited clergy having personal participation; this was a national worship service,

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stan. Usama is the personification of religion gone dangerous—the prototype of fundamentalist spiritual fanaticism of whatever religion.

It is disingenuous for the political leaders and the media to insist that the efforts of these terrorists are not motivated by their religious belief system. Every speech and every act of theirs is uttered or undertaken with religious purpose. Bin Laden and his followers, in a very real sense, have only approached the Qur'an, or the "Koran" as it was spelled, as if it were meant to be taken literally and to be followed as a way of actually *living* life. They are emulating the life, the teachings, and the actual practices of the prophet of Allah, Muhammad. Their hatred of the western world does not arise from jealousy, or from covetousness. They do not wish to possess what the west has. Instead, it grows from the acceptance that the decadence of the west is, in its essence, satanic and will destroy the souls of men. The west, due to the influence of Jews and Christians (in their thinking) has made life too materialistic and too sensual; therefore, Jews and Christians must be destroyed to save the world. They require a return to the way of the east—a nomadic, hard, grinding living—so that the souls of men can be prepared for the paradise to come. While the press and politicians describe them as irreligious in-

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dates three conditions: (1) Israel must have a genuine guarantee of safety, (2) the Palestinians must have a homeland of their own, and (3) Jerusalem must serve both, while being completely accessible to the western world of Christendom. The 'extremists' (whether Islamic, Jewish, or Christian) who will not accept this tri-lateral supervision of Jerusalem for the good of all the rest of the world of necessity will be 'contained' or 'removed.' In the present climate, that conclusion focuses all attention directly on the groups and individuals being labeled the "hijackers of Islam." When those radicals, those extremists, those activists, those insurgents, those zealots, are no longer a threat, then those other fanatical fundamentalists, those who have "hijacked" Judaism and Christianity will be easily and summarily handled. When the literalists of these three religions are exterminated, the world will be able to enjoy unlimited peace and unbridled prosperity, or so it seems today to the western world. While there are other bothersome groups, none are of sufficient size to require more than the irritation of a minor surgical "removal" procedure. For the moment, the perils of Red China and of Communist North Korea are to be ignored. Sudan, Libya, Iran, and even Iraq are of lesser concern than is Usama, the Lion of the family of Laden, raging in Afghani-

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led by the President of the United States. This was the religious majority of the nation uniting for a common, cooperative, worship of the god of all. Religious distinctions, for the time, were left buried beneath Ground Zero.

All who will continue to hold to the exclusivity of any belief system can now be identified as decidedly outside the mainstream of American religion. This especially isolates those who believe that the blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the one mediator between God and men, is the only basis for salvation and that all of those who reject the message of salvation in Christ are lost forever. This new distinction will not become an ironclad rule instantly, but the momentum is there to bring this long-awaited one worldwide religion to the forefront. The terrorists are easily now identified as those who are extremist religionists. Divisive, alienating, isolating religious beliefs are now acknowledged as the primary cause of the war. It is the most simplest of facts, some will contend, that if the religious differences were eliminated then turmoil would cease. The message will be sounded, with absolute confidence that peace and safety are attainable only when all religions have accepted that no religion is exclusive.

Politically, the race toward this new "one

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world" gained great impetus. International repercussions were rapid in coming. European and Asian governments raced to be identified with a nation, which mere hours before they were criticizing quite freely and most strongly. Multiplied heads of nations, as though on cue and reading from a single pre-written script, began to speak of oneness as though it were an instituted and irreversible fact, not to be questioned. The multiplicities of the divisions of the world were suddenly reduced to only one partitioning. On that site, the world was divided by the slice of an unseen sword wielded by an evident hand between the "us" and the "them." No third alternative of neutrality remains. There is now only "the civilized" and "the terrorist." From that hour, the world divided into two sets of "us" and two sets of "them," both sets of "us" demanding the exclusive right to remove the other "them" from existence. All humanity has been put on notice to choose between the "us" of the "terrorist" and the "us" of the "rest," which is western civilization. A line has been drawn and no nation or individual is to be permitted to straddle. The Muslim terrorist and the civilization of the western world cannot co-exist.

As of September 11, 2001, the idea of "one world" moved from an academic topic of theoretical attainment to the status of actual implementation.

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The hypothetical became a genuine potential. The western world became "one" almost instantly. The Orient, while slower to desire a close identify with western civilization, nonetheless moved toward the same unity. It is far too simplistic to phrase it thusly—the world divided between those who wear robes and those who wear suits—however, the actual truth is only slightly missed with that statement. As far as the nations are concerned, the only issue facing the world at the moment is whether the one-world that survives, will be a world dominated by the Islamic fundamentalism of Usama bin Laden and the myriads who share his views or will it be what exists now as the rest of the world?

I do not suggest that all matters of differences are completely settled; but it is clear that, for the present, all else has been moved to a status of lesser priorities. Their final resolutions will be reserved for another day. The world's leaders are resolved as never before to settle the matter of Islamic fundamentalism (and all religious exclusivity, in the process), which, of necessity, requires the settlement of the issue of Jerusalem. The world is of one mind that world peace is an undisputable impossibility until the issue of Jerusalem is no longer a point of contention. Peace in Jerusalem will bring, it is thought, peace to the entire world. This inevitability man-

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