

Sermon Title: God's Crazy Prophetic Warnings, November 17, 2012 (Scripture is from ESV)

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9:10

Introduction

Good evening everyone. I'm privileged to speak once again at Joint Prayer Meeting. If you have been attending for a while, then you might remember that about this time last year I gave a message titled, "Prostitution, Witchcraft, and Korea's Parents." That message was a culmination of lessons learned from praying for and investigating both the sex trafficking and the illegitimate control being exercised among many different sectors of Korea. If you haven't listened to the message yet, then I want to encourage you to go to New Philadelphia Church's media section and find it and listen to it, especially if you are Korean or you are living in Korea.

Tonight's message is going to be similar in style and also just as important. I want to encourage you to follow along as close as you can. It's going to be a lot of information packed into one message tonight, so I've made a Powerpoint presentation to help you all out as you listen. The title of tonight's message is, "**God's Crazy Prophetic Warnings**." The title might seem odd, but you will understand just how true it is after listening to this message.

Slide 1 - *God's Crazy Prophetic Warnings*

I want you all to open your Bibles to Isaiah chapter 9. We are going to read verses 8 – 10. These verses are going to provide the framework for tonight's message.

Isaiah 9:8-10 – The Lord has sent a word against Jacob, and it will fall on Israel; and all the people will know, Ephraim and the inhabitants of Samaria, who say in pride and in arrogance of heart: The bricks have fallen, but we will build with dressed stones; the sycamores have been cut down, but we will put cedars in their place.

These words were spoken by the people of Israel after the Assyrian empire had made an initial attack on the country in 732BC. God had sent initial judgment upon Israel, and rather than repenting the Israelites instead responded in defiance that they would rebuild their nation on their own in an even greater way, without ever acknowledging God. **They were defiant before God.** After this verse Isaiah then prophesies of Israel's judgment that would come just ten years later when Assyria would completely conquer Israel in 722BC. Please keep the context of these verses in mind as I preach this message.

Before I go any further, let me say a prayer for us...

Pray

Recently I read a book called, "The Harbinger," by a Messianic Jew named Jonathan Cahn.

Slide 2 – *Harbinger Book*

Pastor Marcus and Pastor Jon have read it as well. It is from this well researched book that I am going to present you all some "crazy, prophetic warnings" God has been revealing to the church through 9/11 and through the economic downfall of America. The details I'm going to share tonight are all from solid sources and can easily be researched.

Before I get into the details though, let's briefly review what happened on September 11, 2001. Islamic terrorists, spurred by their hate for America's support of Israel and America's other actions in the Middle East, hijacked four different planes on that day. They directed two of the planes into the two World Trade Center towers in New York City. A third they directed into the Pentagon in Washington DC. The fourth was apparently directed by the terrorists for the Capitol in Washington DC, but when the passengers on the flight tried to regain control the terrorists ended up crashing the plane in a field in Pennsylvania.

Here are some pictures of what happened on 9/11.

Slide 3 – Twin Towers Before Attack

Here we see the twin towers of the World Trade Center. The World Trade Center was actually not limited to just those two towers, but was a plot of land with a number of towers for the main purpose of world trade and international business. The twin towers were the tallest two towers of the World Trade Center and were at one time the two tallest towers in the world. They were a symbol of America's economic prosperity.

Slide 4 – Airplane Attacks

This is a picture of the second airplane going into one of the towers. Most of you likely saw this happen live on the news. It was perhaps one of the most shocking events ever recorded live on TV.

Slide 5 – Explosion

This is a picture of what happened just after the airplane exploded as it flew into the tower.

Slide 6 – The Towers Collapse

Perhaps even more shocking than the airplane attack was the collapse of the towers. I can still remember my stomach dropping as I watched the towers fall on live TV inside my college dormitory. The events of 9/11 were so horrific that I had no desire to eat that day. That day a Christian friend asked me if I would like to fast with him on behalf of the victims and their families. I agreed, and September 11th 2001 was the first day I ever fasted as a young Christian.

Slide 7 – The Aftermath

This picture was taken eight days after the attack. The wreckage would require over a year of cleanup work. I circled at the bottom right two men who are standing at ground zero. Their smallness in light of the destruction shows just how devastating the collapse of the towers was.

Slide 8 – Pentagon Pre-Attack

This picture is of the Pentagon, which is the headquarters of the United States Department of Defense. It is located in the capital of America, Washington DC, and it is a symbol of the US military.

Slide 9 – Pentagon Post-Attack

This is a picture of the Pentagon some time after it was hit by the airplane. While the damage to the Pentagon was not nearly as severe compared to the Twin Towers, the attack on the building was a huge wake-up call to Americans for how vulnerable their capital city was to terrorist attack.

Book Report

Now it is time to share from the book.

Slide 10 – Harbinger: One that indicates or foreshadows what is to come...

The word harbinger means: “one that indicates or foreshadows what is to come.” In the book the author shares nine harbingers relating to the events of 9/11 and the prophetic meaning of each harbinger. The verse that the author shapes all of his harbingers around is Isaiah 9:10.

Isaiah 9:10 – The bricks have fallen, but we will build with dressed stones; the sycamores have been cut down, but we will put cedars in their place.

Remember the context of this verse. It was the **defiant response** of Israel to God’s initial judgment on the nation. With Isaiah 9:10 in mind, let me begin sharing the nine harbingers. It’s going to start slow but build up dramatically.

Please turn to your neighbor right now and say, “God’s going to shake you up.”

The First Harbinger – The Breach

The first harbinger, or first prophetic warning, is “the breach.”

Slide 11 – The First Harbinger – The Breach

The events of September 11th proved that America was not as secure as it once thought it was. **The hedge of protection that Americans had enjoyed for so long had been breached.** It was clear that the favor and grace the nation had enjoyed for so long was no longer as strong as before. Christians could easily argue that just as God’s hedge of protection over Israel was beginning to be lifted in 732BC, God’s hedge of protection over America was also beginning to be lifted.

Many Americans can remember that just after the events of 9/11, the song God Bless America returned to baseball parks and was sang around the country. Many people gathered and prayed on behalf of the nation and there was a short period of awareness. But soon the song was removed, the “need” for prayer diminished, and people returned to their regular lives just as before. But regardless of whether people acknowledge it or not, 9/11 demonstrated there was a breach, or hole, in the wall. This was the first harbinger, foreshadowing events to come.

Slide 11 – The Second Harbinger – The Terrorist

I’m not going to linger on each harbinger because there is a lot to share. It is going to build up. Let’s go to the second harbinger.

Slide 12 – The Second Harbinger – The Terrorist

Who were the people to attack and then conquer the Israelites? The Assyrians. What were the Assyrians known for? You can research this and I remember learning it myself in world history in high school, the Assyrians were known for: Terror. Assyrians burned cities to the ground, mutilated their prisoners, flayed alive those who rebelled against them, and nailed their skins to the wall for public display. They were masters of terror.

What was the purpose of Assyria? In Isaiah 10 God speaks that they are the rod of his anger and that they are sent against a godless nation. Isaiah 10:7 states, “It is in his heart to destroy and to cut off nations not a few.”

What was the language of the Assyrians? Akkadian, a language that has been extinct for some time. In the modern world, the closest language to Akkadian is: Arabic.

Where was the location of ancient Assyria? Present day Iraq, the country that America went to war against in response to terror.

So Assyrians were known for terror, and could have been described as terrorists. Their language was closest to Arabic, the language of Al Qaeda. The location of Assyria is the same location that America went to war against in response to terror.

The Third Harbinger – The Fallen Bricks

Interesting coincidences, right? I’ve barely started... let’s go on to the third harbinger...

Slide 13 – The Third Harbinger – The Fallen Bricks

At this point the author begins taking us through Isaiah 9:10. “The bricks have fallen.” The initial response to the devastation on 9/11 was silence. Wall Street shut down. Hollywood was quiet. Airports were closed. Everything stopped, but only for a moment....

The Fourth Harbinger – The Tower

Then the people began to speak loudly, particularly America’s leaders. And the words were the same across all political party lines, “We need to rebuild.”

Slide 14 – The Fourth Harbinger – The Tower

Remember Isaiah 9:10? “The bricks have fallen, but we will build with dressed stones.” The ESV is one of the few translations that does not use the word, “rebuild.” Nearly every other translation states, “The bricks have fallen, **but we will *rebuild* with dressed stones.**” Those were the defiant words of Israel.

After the events of 9/11 the New York City mayor, the governor of New York, the president of the United States, various senators, and others would all state the words, “We will rebuild!”

And there was a very strong quote given by a US senator who would run for president in 2004...

Slide 15 – The Fourth Harbinger – The Tower (Kerry’s Quote)

Senator John Kerry, “I believe one of the first things we should commit to—with federal help

that underscores our nation's purpose—is to **rebuild** the towers of the World Trade Center and show the world we are not afraid—WE ARE DEFIANT” (spoken September 12, 2001).

And so America began plans for “The Freedom Tower.” The construction still has not completed and there have been delays time and time again. They decided to change the name from Freedom Tower to “One World Trade Center.” And they are planning to build three other towers as well.

The Fifth Harbinger – The Gazit Stone

The construction of the towers had to start with a cornerstone. And that leads us to the fifth harbinger...

Slide 16 – The Fifth Harbinger – The Gazit Stone

Isaiah 9:10 states, “We will build with dressed stones.” That word “dressed” in Hebrew means, “Gazit,” which means a stone quarried and chiseled from mountain rock. This stone was far greater than the bricks that had originally been toppled. As the Israelites turned to dressed stones to rebuild they were acting in defiance to the judgment God had put on them.

On July 4th, 2004, the cornerstone for the first new tower was set. It was a quarried stone from the mountains of New York. And can you guess what the governor of New York, the tallest man in this picture, said of this stone during laying of the cornerstone ceremony?

Slide 17 – The Fifth Harbinger – The Gazit Stone (Governor quote)

Governor Pataki: “Today we take twenty tons of Adirondack granite, the bedrock of our state, and place it as the foundation, the bedrock of a new symbol of American strength and confidence. Today, we, the heirs of that revolutionary *spirit of defiance*, lay this cornerstone...”

Not only did he make it clear that the cornerstone was a dressed stone from New York, but he made it clear the cornerstone was being laid in defiance of what had happened to America.

The Sixth Harbinger – The Sycamore

So we have covered the first half of the verse, let's move on to the second. The second half of Isaiah 9:10 reads, “The sycamores have been cut down, but we will put cedars in their place.”

Slide 18 – The Sixth Harbinger – The Sycamore

The sixth harbinger is the sycamore tree. After the dust settled from the towers collapsing, onlookers were surprised to find a tree that had been struck down, protecting Saint Paul's Chapel from damage. Saint Paul's Chapel, because it was protected, became a place of shelter and rest for the firefighters who were working hard right after 9/11. It also became a place of sanctuary for the many mourners in the city. This tree that protected the chapel would become a symbol of 9/11. It would be uprooted and its roots would be made into a special memorial, set before the same Saint Paul's Chapel in New York City.

And what type of tree was this that was destroyed and then uprooted on 9/11? **It was a sycamore tree.** I need to add that the very chapel that it protected, Saint Paul's Chapel, was where America's first president, George Washington and members of congress held a prayer

meeting immediately after he was inaugurated. Washington DC wasn't the capital at that time so George Washington was inaugurated in New York. In American history, the very first meeting of the president, the Senate, and the House of Representatives was essentially held at this very same Saint Paul's Chapel in 1789. And the purpose of that meeting was prayer. Some would say the nation was established there at Saint Paul's Chapel, which would become Ground Zero. And the only reason why the chapel was not destroyed by the twin towers was because of this sycamore tree that protected it. Not even one window broke in the church despite all the destruction around it. Few people took this to heart though.

The Seventh Harbinger – The Erez Tree

So the sycamore tree was cut down, just like in Isaiah 9:10. And you wouldn't guess what tree was put in its place, would you?

Slide 19 – The Seventh Harbinger – The Erez Tree

Isaiah 9:10 says a cedar tree would be planted in place of the sycamore. But the Hebrew reading of the word cedar is "Erez," which is more of a generic word for the pine family. A cedar tree is an evergreen, like other pine trees around the world.

In November 2003, in the same exact spot where the sycamore tree was uprooted, a ceremony was held where a pine tree was planted in its place. A reverend from Saint Paul's Chapel commemorated the pine tree with this quote, "This Ground Zero Tree of Hope will be a sign of the indomitable nature of human hope." So, indeed, the sycamore tree was replaced with an erez tree, with Americans unknowingly fulfilling Isaiah 9:10.

The Eighth Harbinger – The Utterance

In order for Isaiah 9:10 to be completely fulfilled though, it would need to be spoken by representatives of the nation.

Slide 20 – The Eighth Harbinger – The Utterance

This leads us to the last two harbingers: The Utterance and The Prophecy. The utterance would come after the previous events have been fulfilled... the bricks falling, the dressed stone being set, the sycamore being uprooted, and the ezin tree being set in its place. And then *on the three year anniversary of 9/11*, the vice presidential candidate John Edwards would give a speech centered on a specific Bible verse.

Here is how his speech began, "Good morning. Today on this day of remembrance and mourning, we have the Lord's word to get us through: The bricks have fallen, but we will build with dressed stones; the sycamores have been cut down, but we will put cedars in their place."

Slide 21 – The Eighth Harbinger – The Utterance (with name)

And here is how his speech ended, "The cedars will rise, the stones will go up, and this season of hope will endure."

Senator Edwards didn't realize he was uttering a verse of defiance that brought God's judgment upon Israel. He wasn't the only senator to get it wrong though.

The Ninth Harbinger – The Prophecy

Slide 22 – The Ninth Harbinger – The Prophecy

Nearly three years earlier, the day after 9/11, the Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle would address congress to pass a joint resolution expressing the response of the Senate and the House of Representatives regarding the terrorist attacks from the previous day. Senator Tom Daschle's speech was short and it began with his words of mourning from what had happened. But then at the end of the message he stated the following, and I quote...

“Nothing can replace the losses that have been suffered. I know that there is only the smallest measure of inspiration that can be taken from this devastation. But there is a passage in the Bible, from Isaiah, that I think speaks to all of us at times like this. ‘The bricks have fallen down, but we will rebuild with dressed stone; the fig trees have been felled, but we will replace them with cedars.’ That is what we will do. We will rebuild and we will recover.”

Slide 23 – The Ninth Harbinger – The Prophecy (Senator Tom Daschle)

So Isaiah 9:10 wasn't spoken by just one witness, but by two. Two witnesses. Senator Tom Daschle prophesied the verse on September 12th, 2001. Senator John Edwards spoke it after its fulfillment on September 11th, 2004. In line with the verse, America had defied the terrorists and rebuilt on its own. America had held on to its hope in itself... not in God, but in itself.

What Follows

And so now the nine harbingers have been completed. These harbingers are all supposed to foreshadow what is to come. The Twin Towers have fallen. The Pentagon has been attacked. The chapel where President George Washington, the Senate, and the House of Representatives held their first meeting was spared, but barely. To say that God never warned America would be ridiculous. But sadly America responded with Isaiah 9:10, both in word and in deed.

When Israel responded with Isaiah 9:10 after Assyria's initial attack in 732BC, greater judgment followed them ten years later with complete exile to Assyria.

When America responded with Isaiah 9:10 after 9/11, greater judgment would come, with America unknowingly bringing it on itself.

We have now arrived at the point where we will see God the most vividly. I have just shown you clearly how America fulfilled Isaiah 9:10 by responding to 9/11 in the same way as Israel responded to Assyria's initial attack. **At the root of both Israel and America was a trust in their own self-sufficiency.** And because their faith was in man and the methods of man, God could not bless them.

For Israel there was one completely clear sin they had made throughout their history. It was their neglect of the Sabbath year. In Hebrew, it is pronounced: Shemitah.

Slide 24 – The Forgotten Sabbath Years

The Shemitah, or Sabbath year, was to happen every seven years. It was written about in Exodus, Leviticus, and Deuteronomy, with God repeatedly emphasizing it. But sadly Israel never paid any attention to it. To them, the Sabbath year likely required too much faith.

They had not learned their lesson from the manna in the wilderness, and rather than trusting in God for their provision they chose to be self-sufficient. Their neglect of the Sabbath year was a clear act of rebellion against God. **It demonstrated that their faith was more in the land than in the creator of the land.**

And this lack of faith led to judgment, with the people of God being overcome by the Assyrians and later by the Babylonians. And their judgment lined up completely with the Shemitah...

Slide 25 – The Judgment of the Shemitah

2Chronicles 36:20-21 – He took into exile in Babylon those who had escaped from the sword, and they became servants to him... until the land had enjoyed its Sabbaths. All the days that it lay desolate it kept Sabbath, to fulfill seventy years.

For America, even before 9/11, the nation was walking more and more in self-sufficiency and trusting in its economy more than God. And just as Israel's punishment had clear, vivid lines drawn to the Sabbath years, you will see the same for America...

What followed 9/11 was the largest point crash in Wall Street history up to that point. By the end of one week of trading stocks in the United States had lost an estimated 1.4 trillion dollars in value because of the crash. In just one week 1.4 trillion dollars was gone.

The government feared economic collapse. And to add to that, because the impending wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the government knew it would have to spend massively on behalf of its military, draining its economy even further. The government desperately needed America, and the world for that matter, to keep their trust in America's economy. The government needed Americans to spend their money and not fear any economic collapse. **So America's answer to saving the economy was to lower interest rates.** In fact, they would soon lower interest rates so low that the rates would be lower than the rate of inflation, essentially creating free money.

Think about this, currently in 2012 in America the average credit card interest rate is 17% and the average student loan interest rate is 4%. If the average credit card rate was much lower, then more young people would be tempted to get a credit card and purchase many things with it, knowing that the interest rate is low and they would have time to pay back the debt. This is what happened in 2001 and 2002 as a result of the lowering of the interest rates.

Slide 26 – Economic “Rebuilding”

The interest rates of America dropped from 3.5% before 9/11 to 1.75% in December that year and all the way down to 1% the following June. The extremely low interest rates brought forth easy loans, easy borrowing, and easy mortgages. And those in turn resulted in both a housing boom and a building boom. And from these low interest rates credit bubbles and housing bubbles began to form.

Slide 27 – Economic “Rebuilding” Effects

The standard cautions and restraints involved in borrowing and loaning would be thrown away. Banks would make loans they never otherwise would have made, consumers would spend money they never otherwise would have spent, and people would buy houses they

never otherwise could have afforded. Personal debt, government debt, and corporate debt all mushroomed. ***this paragraph taken directly from *The Harbinger*, page 14

Fannie May and Freddie Mac, in particular, blew up over the years because of the low interest rates. In 2008, seven years after 9/11, about half of the American mortgage market was owned or backed up by those two corporations.

Seven years after 9/11, the housing bubble burst.

Slide 28 – Economic Collapse of September, 2008

Fannie May and Freddie Mac collapsed together on September 7th, 2008. Two days later the financial firm Lehman Brothers would begin to crumble. And then on September 11th, on the 7th year anniversary of 9/11, Lehman Brothers would fully collapse. Seven years is the biblical period of time that concerns a nation's financial and economic realms. **And seven years after 9/11 everything that had been gained economically was lost in that month of September 2008.**

What is interesting is that the government chose to bailout these corporations, releasing them of over 5 trillion dollars worth of debt!!! In Korean that is 5 만억불!!!

So there was a release of debt, just as there is in the Sabbath year. And if we look closer it gets even more alarming...

Slide 29 – The Judgment of the Shemitah

Deuteronomy 15 is one of the main chapters detailing the Sabbath year. It starts out in verse one with a very clear command...

Deuteronomy 15:1-2 – At the end of every seven years you shall grant a release. And this is the manner of the release: every creditor shall release what he has lent to his neighbor. He shall not exact it of his neighbor, his brother, because the Lord's release has been proclaimed.

At the end of every seven years. Seven years after 9/11, Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and Lehman Brothers would all collapse requiring 5 trillion dollars of debt to be released. But God wasn't just paying attention to our calendar; He was also paying close attention to the Hebrew calendar.

Jewish rabbis and historians have their own calendar. Instead of the year 2012, the Hebrew calendar is in year 5773. In the Jews' eyes, the Christ has not yet come, so there is no BC or AD. The Jewish rabbis and historians have also kept clear track of the Sabbath years throughout history. The next Sabbath year will begin September 14, 2014.

That means that the previous Sabbath year began in 2007.

Slide 30 – The Judgment of the Shemitah

The last Sabbath year according to the Hebrew calendar began on September 13, 2007 and ended on September 29, 2008. The last day of the Sabbath year as we read in Deuteronomy 15 is the day for the canceling of debts. So what happened on September 29, 2008?

Slide 31 – The Judgment of the Shemitah

September 29, 2008 marked the greatest stock market crash ever in the history of the United States. Already that month the economy had been falling apart because of Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and Lehman Brothers. But there was hope that there would be another government bailout plan that might help the economy. But when news was released on the morning of September 29, 2008 that the bailout plan had been defeated by Congress, Wall Street collapsed.

And how much was the bailout plan going to be?

Slide 32 – The Crash of September 29, 2008

700 billion dollars. There is that peculiar number 7.

Now you wouldn't be able to guess how much of the stock market was wiped away on September 29, 2008, would you?

Slide 33 – The Crash of September 29, 2008

7% of the stock market. On the last day of the Hebrew Sabbath year that happens every seven years, 7% of the stock market was wiped away.

Now can you guess how many points the stock market dropped on September 29, 2008, the last day of the Sabbath year?

Slide 34 – The Crash of September 29, 2008

777 points. That number remains the record today for the greatest amount of stock market points lost in one day.

Seven years after 9/11, on the last day of the Sabbath year that happens every seven years, a 700 billion dollar bailout plan was rejected by Congress resulting in a 777 point drop in the stock market and 7% of the stock market being wiped away. Coincidence? I find that hard to believe. And it gets crazier.

The previous record for the biggest drop in the stock market was 684.81 points on the day the stock markets reopened after 9/11. I bet you can guess which day that was by looking at our next slide.

Slide 35 – The Previous Shemitah

The previous Sabbath Year before 2007 and 2008 began on September 30, 2000 and ended on September 17, 2001. September 17, 2001 was also a significant day in time. After 9/11 the markets would be closed until September 17th, when they would reopen. On September 17, 2001 the stock market had, up to that point, its greatest drop in points in the market's history.

Slide 36 – The Previous Shemitah

The point total lost in the stock market on September 17, 2001 remained the number one record loss for America until seven years later, according to the Hebrew calendar, when the market dropped 777 points.

Following the 777 point drop in 2008 were many more huge plunges for the American stock market. But still to this day the 777 point drop remains the greatest drop in one day in the stock market's history.

Transition to Sermon

I shared all this information tonight because I believe God has some specific messages He is conveying through all that I have shared. One of those messages is about the symbols of America.

Slide 37 – Lesson from the Symbols of America

As I mentioned before, the Pentagon is a symbol of America's military. It represents America's security and trust in their military for their protection. The Twin Towers had represented the economic power of America that so many Americans and people of the world had put their trust in. Both the symbol of the military and the symbols of the economy were attacked on 9/11. What is God showing us through this?

Slide 38 – Lesson from the Symbols of America

God is showing us that everything of the world that you put your trust in over God will face judgment. God cannot bless idolatry. Stop trusting in man's ways.

Whenever you have the choice between what will require faith in God or what will require faith in the things of the earth, you must always choose what will require faith in God. Lot and Abraham experienced so much increase together that they had to part ways. Lot chose the land that looked the most fertile and promising. Abraham went the other way knowing that he would be blessed by God regardless of how the land looked. Lot's faith was in the land. Abraham's faith was in God. In the end Lot lost everything except for his two daughter, while Abraham continued to increase and increase.

Proverbs 16:25 – There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.

Everything of the world that you put your trust in over God will face judgment. But when you commit your way to the Lord and follow in His ways, your plans will indeed succeed.

There is one other message I want to share from what we have covered tonight.

Slide 39 – Lesson from the Sabbath Years

The chart you see on the screen is the DOW market, or stock market, just as it begins its horrible plunge in 2008. From this graph alone you can see the stock market nearly cut in half, and it is only the beginning of the plunge. So many corporations went bankrupt because of the stock market drop. So many people lost their jobs and lost their homes.

The chart you see on the screen brings a lot of fear to most people. Applying the chart to this room could mean a ¼ of you being okay, ½ of you having your pay cut dramatically, and a ¼

of you losing everything. The chart demonstrates that riches are unstable and that things could change at any moment.

But what do the Sabbath years demonstrate?

Slide 39 – Lesson from the Sabbath Years

God has everything under control. While that chart was screaming, “Loss!” “Instability!” “Fear!!!”, the Sabbath years and all the sevens showing up show just how in control God is over all the details. It was a 700 point drop for the stock market. It was 777 points.

The book of Revelation speaks of the judgment of the world economy. We read that in the future people must receive the mark of the beast in order to buy or to sell. And Scripture states that **anyone** who receives the mark of the beast will not enter heaven but will rather go to Hell. That means that in the last days Christians will not be able to buy or sell anything. For any weak believer in those days, I imagine they will give in to the antichrist and receive the mark just so they can eat. But for strong believers, they will not give in.

In Isaiah 55 God calls his people to come buy wine and milk without money and without price. God tells His people to listen to Him and they may eat what is good and delight themselves in rich food. This is because God rules over the economy. God’s people are not limited by the economy or by their surroundings. There is no limit for God’s peoples’ provision, because we worship a limitless God who loves us.

Even as the world continues to grow darker and even as the world economies continue to suffer, God’s people will prosper. Our trust is not in the ways of man, so we will not face the judgment that the world faces. We can instead rest peacefully in God’s goodness and the knowledge that He has everything under control.

Nahum 1:7 – The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; he knows those who take refuge in him.

Let’s pray...

- Praise the Lord for His provision and repent for any self-reliance and any trust in the ways of man, money, education, etc... release all these things to God (my degree no longer being of “worth”)
- Have those stand who are struggling with fear and anxiety regarding their future... for the entrepreneurs and the ten year commitments: God is calling us to not trust in man or in our education or in our money or in our job. We cannot judge ourselves or our future according to the world around us, like Lot did. Instead we need to judge our future like Abraham did, trusting in the Lord.
- Altar call for those trying to run from God’s calling on their lives (those who avoid reading about North Korea because they fear God will send them in the future)... **surrender** your future and surrender your heart... their own way will not be blessed, but God’s way will be blessed
- Pray for America and entrust your family to the Lord, He will watch over them

Cahn, Jonathan. *The Harbinger*. Lake Mary, FL: Frontline, 2011. Print.