

**Living Free Ministries**  
**Zoom Message 12**  
**Sept. 21, 2020**  
**Return & Repentance**  
**Judgment upon America**

(Notes from Jonathan Cahn's Harbinger II: Chapters 4-8)

**Jonathan Cahn – A Prophet & Watchman for America**

A Watchman, in ancient Israel, would stand on the city walls in the watchtowers, looking for the first sign of danger, an enemy, or an approaching army. If he saw the first sign of danger coming, He was to blow the trumpet, the ram's horn....sound the alarm, so that those in the city would know, so that those who had ears to hear the warning could be saved.

Jonathan Cahn, Messianic Rabbi, has been called as one of God's watchmen and a prophet at this time. God gave him the command to write the Harbinger books 1 & 2, and sound the alarm ...warn the people (Harbinger means "warning").

**The Judgment & Warning for America – "Harbinger" ...**

Some people have read his first book and heard him sound the alarm, but many have not. Some have taken warning, but most have not. Cahn said "many are still asleep, and in danger."

So the Lord asked him to write the Harbinger II – because there's more he is to do, and to be revealed to the people. The Lord gave him more revelation in the Harbinger II.

**Why Is Our Nation Being Warned?**

***Why is the nation given a warning? Because of danger and judgment coming. A nation that stands in danger of judgment is one that wars against the will of God. And even more specifically, is a nation who has known the will of God, the ways of God, and the blessings of God...but has turned away and now wars against them.***

Ancient Israel was the one nation that was dedicated, from its inception, to the will of God.

America was the other nation that was founded after the pattern of ancient Israel....founded on the principles of God's Word.

We can see God's heart by what happened to ancient Israel when they turned against the ways of God.

Judgment is not the heart of God, not for a nation or for a person. Judgment is His necessity. Redemption is His heart, as He wills that none should perish and longs to save, to grant mercy and forgiveness, to heal and restore.

Judgment came upon ancient Israel, and they were destroyed. Why this matters to us in America today, is that the fall of ancient Israel reveals the "template" and progression of a nation heading into judgment.

What happened in that template is that God called them, sent prophets and messengers to warn and plead with the people of Israel to return back to Him. But they wouldn't return...they wouldn't listen. They hardened their hearts to the point where the only way to reach them was through a shaking. And it is the necessity of good to bring evil to an end, that judgment must come – but it is the heart of God and the heart of good to bring salvation, to call back, to warn, and to even allow the shaking of nations that those who would hear His calling would come back and be saved.

How did God send that shaking to ancient Israel?

*The nation's hedge of protection was lifted, and an enemy was allowed to strike the land...to wake them up that they might return.* So we can see God's response toward a nation that knew and followed Him but then turned away from Him, but how He responded to ancient Israel in judgment.

***So how does this affect the nation of America whose nation was founded on God's Word and principles?***

America has also hardened its heart to the voice of God, and has turned away from God's ways and will, and likewise came the first shaking where the hedge of protection was lifted.

***It occurred on Sept 11, 2001. The hedge of protection was lifted and America was struck by its enemies, a wake up call, that the nation might return to Him.***

But like ancient Israel, America did not return to God and His ways after 9/11.

So according to God's template of how He handled ancient Israel, after the shaking in Israel, *the nation was given a chance to turn back, a window of time, years of grace in which to turn back to God.*

This reminds me of what God's Word says in Malachi 3:6...

*"I am the LORD, and I do not change."*

But ancient Israel, in that window of time, never returned, and the window came to an end. The judgment fell. The nation was destroyed. But remember that judgment is not the heart of God. He is a just and holy God and will not allow mixture to be ok – evil to be mixed with good and call it ok. He is a righteous, just and holy God.

## The Enemy Enters Through the Gate of a Nation

The great cities of the ancient world had walls around them. Within those walls were **gates** to allow the people who lived there and visitors access to go in and out.

*The gate was the city's portal* to the rest of the world, the center of trade, through which commerce and merchandise poured, the place of markets, of buying and selling and trading. *The gate was also a place of power*, where the elders sat, where decisions were made, and cases judged.

*The gate became the symbol of a city's power or a kingdom's greatness. The gate would become the embodiment of the city itself or the kingdom, empire, or civilization by which it stood.*

**The gate is the most vulnerable place in the wall.** That's why it was closed and bolted. When the enemy would attack, they would come to the gate. The attack will always focus on the gate. As the onslaught continued, the gate weakened and eventually the doors to the gate fell to the ground, the enemy/army enters, and it was over. The city was lost.

When judgment came to the nation of Israel, it would most often involve the attack of the enemy. And, it would begin with the enemy coming to the gate. When the enemy appeared at the gate it meant that the judgment was beginning.

So Moses warned the nation of what could happen if it turned away from God...

*"They shall besiege you at all your gates..." (Deut. 28:52)*

The days of judgment would begin when the enemy came to the gate...

*"...your enemy shall distress you at all your gates." (Deut. 28:55)*

So in the days of judgment, the enemy would cause distress at the nation's gate. Through the prophet Ezekiel, the Lord said this: *"I have set the point of the sword against their gates." (Ezek 21:15)*

The gate would become the focal point of violence. And after the judgment had fallen on the city of Jerusalem, it would be written: *All her gates are desolate...Her gates have sunk into the ground. (Lamentations 1:4; 2:9)*

So the destruction at the gate will embody the nation's judgment.

***Judgment begins at the gate...A nation's judgment begins at the nation's gate.***

## America's Gate – New York City

America may not have walled cities like the ancient civilizations, but it does have a gate. The gate of America is New York City. It is the portal of American civilization...the island of Manhattan, the Hudson River, the New York Harbor, New York City.

The land on the other side is called the *Gateway*.

This gate has been the center of American trade. And within it are the central markets, the focal point of the nation's buying and selling, and the embodiment of power, wealth, and greatness.

The Statue of Liberty was patterned after the ancient Colossus of Rhodes, Helios, the Greek sun god. . The words on the poem of the statue's pedestal, 'I lift my lamp beside *the golden door!*', the doorway, the gate to America.

What did the beginning of Israel's judgment involve? The appearance of its enemies at the gate.

Because America has turned away from God, God's judgment upon America had to begin at the gate – New York City on 9/11 2001. The nation's enemy appeared at America's gate.

The terrorists came from across the world, from the Middle East to manifest themselves in New York City – That was the day that America was struck...the sign of judgment. The location was at the edge of lower Manhattan, which is the part of the city that most exactly constitutes the nation's gate, that overlooks the river, the gateway.

The attack began as the first plane crossed the river, the gateway, to its target. The second plane then flew up the New York Harbor, the gateway itself. So the calamity not only took place at the nation's gate but at the very specific entrance of that gate, at the gate of the gate of the nation.

*"They shall besiege you at all your gates." (Deut. 28:52)*  
*"Your enemy shall distress you at all your gates." (Deut. 28:55)*

So the biblical pattern is this...the gate is the entry point, the portal through which judgment begins.

Remember the biblical pattern.....first comes the strike, the warning, and then a window of time. What happens at the gate represents the beginning. What happened on Sept. 11, 2001 was the beginning, the entrance point of judgment. If the nation doesn't turn back...then what began that day moves inexorably to its conclusion.

## The Twin Towers of 9/11

In the ancient civilizations and ancient Israel, because the gate was the vulnerable part of the wall, they had to strengthen the gate by building towers by the gate. The gate was the place of the towers. And in those ancient times, they would build a tower on each side...two towers...built of the same materials and in the same image. So standing at the gate would be two matching towers, twin towers.

The gate of America, New York City, was the place of its high towers. Twin Towers. The World Trade Center. So the beginning of our nation's judgment began when the terrorists attacked our twin towers at America's gate!

### Critical Time We Are In

9/11 was the beginning of our judgment, the warning, 19 years ago. We have had our window of time. America was founded for the purposes of God. But it became a *high tower that turned against the foundation on which it was built. So unless it returns to that foundation...the tower will fall. (The nation will fall).*

### The "Wall" of Defense

The first 3 signs of the beginning of judgment from ancient Israel. – The Gate, the Towers, and the Wall. There are 3 focal points of siege.

To an ancient city, the wall was its defense. It's protection against the attacks of its enemies. Once the wall was breached, it would only be a matter of time before the city's destruction.

This is another sign of judgment. On the day that begins a city's judgment, its wall of protection is broken. Not only a city, but a nation, a kingdom, a civilization. The day that a nation sees the breaching of its wall of protection...the wall of a civilization is broken.

***America does not have walls like ancient civilizations.***

***The wall of America is its defense, its structures and systems of defense, its military, its weaponry, its intelligence systems, its operatives around the world. The ancient walls of defense have been replaced by modern departments of defense.***

***The Defense Department of America is the Pentagon. So the attack on 9/11 on the Pentagon was the 3<sup>rd</sup> sign of biblical judgment. Our enemies attacked our wall of defense, our wall of protection, and it was broken.***

The Pentagon, in Washington D.C. was built in the shape of a fortress with many walls. But those walls were breached on 9/11.

*"...until your high and fortified walls, in which you trust, come down..."*  
(Deut. 28:52)

Looking at Isaiah's prophecy about the day of judgment when every high and lofty thing is cast down. It says that the judgment will fall...

*"Upon every high tower, and upon every **fortified wall...**"* (Is. 2:15)

Notice that the attack on 9/11 in America, there are two signs of judgment joined together, and the two signs occurred on the same day. The attack came first at the nations gate and towers in New York City, then came the breaking down of the wall in Washington D.C. So the terrorists came first to the nation's high towers, the World Trade Center...and then to the nation's wall, the Pentagon.

***All 3 signs of judgment: the gate, the towers, and the wall were struck by the enemy on the same day. The gate was broken into, the towers fell, and the wall was breached. The 3 signs that signal the beginning of a nation's judgment – and all in one day – Sept. 11, 2001.***

And what does this mean?

The breaking down of the wall is that which begins judgment and opens the door for destruction. The breaching of the wall is a warning...a warning that the nation is not safe. It's unprotected and lies in danger. A nation that departs from God's will, in the end, will find no safety in its walls, in the defenses on which it relies. And if it does not return, then it will find on that day, that the walls in which it placed its trust will come crashing down.

We have been given a window of time since 9/11 , 19 years, and there has not been a return to God during that period of time. Instead, there has been more corruption and immorality that has plagued our country and more people have turned away from God and His will and ways.

The next chapter in the book is about the series of Jewish prayers (The *Selichote* which refers to forgiveness of God) that contained scriptures and were spoken at appointed times.

***The selichotes were pleas for God's mercy in light of the nation's sin, specifically a nation that had known the ways of God but departed from them.*** So they involve the confession of sin and its pleas for God's mercy. They also involve judgment.

The people came before God to confess the sins of their nation, to acknowledge the justice of judgment, and to plead with Him for mercy and restoration. Judgment is the context behind their cries for mercy and restoration...the day of national judgment. The *selichote* are prayers ordained for the days of national judgment.

For the Jewish world, the appointed times fall in the last days of the Hebrew month of Elul, the days leading up to the Feast of Trumpets. It is then that the first prayers of *selichote* are spoken.

The Return, that the Lord has called for our nation on Sept. 26, will be a time for us to pray, repent for the sin of our nation, to speak prayers at that appointed time and plead with God for His mercy and grace.

### **America's Foundation Uncovered**

When a building is destroyed, what is it that is exposed?  
*Its foundation.*

God laid the foundation stone on which America rose as a nation. Just like He did with Israel. At the height of their blessings, the nation turned away in corruption. Its cities were filled with immorality, its streets with bloodshed. Again and again, God called the nation to return and repent, but it only grew more defiant and evil. So He said this:

*"I will break down the wall you have plastered with untempered mortar, and bring it down to the ground, so that its foundation will be uncovered." (Ezek. 13:14)*

Remember the biblical pattern.....first comes the strike, the warning, and then a window of time. What happens at the gate represents the beginning. What happened on Sept. 11, 2001 was the beginning, the entrance point of judgment. If the nation doesn't turn back...then what began that day moves inexorably to its conclusion.

It is a principle of judgment: the nation will be brought back to its foundation. The high towers crumbled back to their foundation...brought down to the ground. Our foundation has been uncovered. As Jonathan Cahn shares in his book, *Harbinger II*, the Lord has revealed that our window of time has just about come to its last hour. What will we do as a Nation *under God*? Will we bow, submit to evil and corruption, immorality? Or will we stand up for God's righteousness, and what is Holy, Just and – His Word, His Will, His Ways, His principles? Now is the time to choose. It's the time to return. Let's not go past the point of no return!

***The Time has Come...  
To Humble Ourselves, Return to Him and Repent!***

*2 Chronicles 7:14*

*“If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves,  
and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then  
I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their  
land.”*

***Let’s Join Jonathan Cahn for a Day of Prayer and Repentance  
Over Our Nation***

***“THE RETURN”  
Saturday, Sept 26, 2020***