

The Messenger

A Prophetic Bulletin Published by Prepare the Way International

Malachi 3:1 "Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me."

Volume 10, No. 1

March 2012

Arizona's Next 100 Years

Part 1 of 2

By Rob Winters

February 14th, 2012 marked Arizona's Centennial. The number one hundred prophetically represents the "fullness of time". In due season, when Abraham was one hundred years old, he received his miracle - the birth of his promised son Isaac. Likewise, Arizonans are entering into a new era – our appointed, miraculous season of prophetic fulfillment. There are several, significant, prophetic insights surrounding the date and circumstances by which Arizona became the 48th state of the United States of America. These insights give us keys toward fulfilling Arizona's destiny as a state of refuge for our nation (Romans 4:16-22).

The Valentine State

In 1912, President William Howard Taft was prepared to make Arizona a state on February 12, which happened to be Abraham Lincoln's birthday. The following day, the 13th, was considered bad luck, so he waited until the following day, the 14th. Arizona's inauguration on February 14th resulted in our state becoming known as the "Valentine State." Interestingly enough, prior to the 14th century, there were no romantic elements whatsoever associated with Saint Valentine. In fact, the three individuals named Valentine in recorded history were Christian martyrs. Valentine of Terni, who became bishop of Interamna in 197 AD, was martyred during the Christian persecution under Emperor Aurelian. Similarly, Valentine of Rome, was a Catholic priest martyred in 269 AD. Likewise, a third Valentine was martyred in Africa on February 14th.

I Corinthians 15:42-43 "So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power."

Martyrdom is the ultimate expression of self-sacrifice. Without a death to self, we can never experience Jesus' resurrection power. We all want to know the power of His

resurrection, but most are willing neither to experience the fellowship of His sufferings, nor be conformed to His death. As we will discover, death and the promise of resurrection have been a continual theme for Arizona. However, the extraordinary power required to raise that which is dead demands great sacrifice. Therefore, Arizonans must realize that significant sacrifices will have to be made in order to experience the resurrection power necessary to fulfill our divine destiny as a state of refuge for America (Philippians 3:10).

The Phoenix

The city of Phoenix was settled upon the ancient ruins of the Hohokam tribe. In order to survive, the Hohokam developed a canal system that spanned over four hundred miles. In 1867, Jack Swilling established the Swilling Irrigating and Canal Company to restore the canals abandoned by the Hohokam four hundred years earlier. Swilling's partner, Englishman Darrell Dupper, later named the settlement "Phoenix", after the mythological bird that rose from its own ashes. A symbol of rebirth and resurrection, the phoenix emblem not only was found on many first century Christian gravestones, but also became an appropriate name for an Arizonan territory settlement arising anew from the remains of the past.

Arizonans have certainly experienced resurrection over the past one hundred years. However, over the next one hundred years, the selflessness and sacrifice associated with martyrdom will be necessary for the Sun of Righteousness to arise over Arizona with healing in His wings. Clearly, cities of refuge are established as safe havens for evacuees and immigrants. In the Old Testament, Joseph possessed not only the prophetic vision, but also the divine wisdom to make the necessary provision to sustain millions through a seven year famine. In like manner, Arizonans will need this kind of foresight to prepare cities of refuge for those evacuating Southern California due to environmental and economic disaster. Indeed, our time to shine shall come in the midst of deepening darkness. Therefore, the Lord is issuing an invitation to all of us, saying, "Arizona, will you be My valentine?" (Malachi 4:3)

Arizona and Native America

Did you know that one of the most famous people internationally in 1912 was a Native American? When I posed this question to my wife Kay, she answered, "Geronimo?" Once known as "Bright Path", Jim Thorpe became America's hero in the 1912 Olympics held in Stockholm, Sweden. Jim Thorpe participated in a record eighteen events, winning gold medals in both the Pentathlon and the Decathlon, placing first in the broad jump, high jump, discus throw, shot put, 110 meter hurdles and 200 meter dash. However, his fame was short lived, as a year later all his medals were stripped from him when it was discovered that he had played minor league baseball in North Carolina from 1909-1910. After his professional football career ended in 1928, he lived a life of relative obscurity, succumbed to alcoholism, and tragically died of a massive heart attack in 1953. In 1983, the International Olympic Committee

restored Thorpe's records and returned his gold medals to his family. In 1999, the U.S. Congress passed a resolution naming Jim Thorpe as "America's Athlete of the Century".

The future of Arizona is linked to the destiny of Native America. Indeed, the life of Jim Thorpe serves as an arch-type of the intrinsic greatness and importance of Native Americans with regard to fulfilling Arizona's redemptive purpose. Not only does Arizona contain the third largest population of Native Americans nationwide, it hosts a large portion of the Navajo Reservation, which is the largest in the United States. Therefore, Native Americans' exploitation, estrangement and seclusion must be exchanged for their restoration, reconciliation, and incorporation. With regard to the numerous Native American tribes in Arizona, among them the Apache, Chemehuevi, Cocopah, Havasupai, Hopi, Hualapai, Maricopa, Mohave, Navajo, Paiute, Pascua Yaqui, Pima, Quechan, Tohono O'odham, Yavapai, and Zuni - what has been sown in corruption must be raised in incorruption. What has been sown in dishonor must be raised in glory. What has been sown in weakness must be raised in power. The future of Arizona and this nation depends upon it.

The Sinking of the Titanic

On April 15th, 1912, approximately two months after Arizona's inauguration as the 48th state, the largest luxury passenger liner in the world, Britain's Titanic, sank when it hit an iceberg in the North Atlantic Ocean while making its maiden journey from Southampton to New York City. Britain's Titanic was a symbol of their wealth, and presumed invincibility. Indeed, as a nation, Britain believed that nothing could sink their rising economy, influence and worldwide domination. Equipped with only a third of the necessary lifeboats to save those aboard, Britain's arrogant presumption was evidenced by the Titanic's insufficient life-saving provisions. As a result, 1517 people, over two-thirds of those aboard, drowned.

Proverbs 16:18 "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before stumbling."

The sinking of the Titanic served as a prophetic warning to Britain to repent of their national and spiritual pride. Nevertheless, Britain did not respond to the Lord's call to repentance. Therefore, a few years later, they found themselves no longer a dominant, world power and in the midst of a world war. The sinking of the Titanic should also have served as an object lesson to the budding nation of America, warning us of what can happen to a nation given over to pride and spiritual complacency.

The inauguration of Arizona as a state, which occurred just eight weeks before the sinking of the Titanic, suggests that Arizona has a key role in leading America into the repentance necessary to rescue her from destruction. Indeed, the Islamic terroristic invasion of America on September 11, 2001, should have served as a wake-up call to us all. Regrettably, it did not. Instead, up to this point, America has largely ignored the Lord's clarion call to repentance. Although our window of opportunity is closing, it is not too late for us to make a course correction to avoid disaster.

The Sinking of the U.S.S Arizona

December 7, 2011 marked the 70th anniversary of Japan's brutal, stealth attack of the United States at Pearl Harbor, which resulted in the sinking of the U.S.S. Arizona. Interestingly enough, the number seventy is the product of two numbers associated with perfection, namely seven and ten. The product of seven and ten intensifies the significance of these numbers. Therefore, seventy (7×10) signifies perfect spiritual order carried out with all spiritual power and impact.

Solomon declared in the book of Ecclesiastes, "to everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven." When God's power is released to perform His purposes at the perfect time and place, transformation is the result. His power to heal the spirit and soul of any person, race, or nation is wrought through repentance, forgiveness and reconciliation. Forgiveness is necessary to release God's power. Indeed, without the requisition and reception of forgiveness from the Father and those we have offended, we remain bound in our sins and captive to our sorted past. If we refuse to forgive others, we not only prohibit the Lord from forgiving us, but also embitter ourselves and render our faith ineffective. The Apostle Peter asked the Lord if one should forgive an offender up to seven times. Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven." Therefore, the power of forgiveness is represented in the number seventy (Matthew 18:21-22, Mark 11:22-25).

On November 27th, 2011, ten days prior to the 70th anniversary of Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor, a group of Arizonan Christian leaders assembled at three strategic sites, namely, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, the Poston War Relocation Center Memorial Monument near Parker, Arizona, and finally the U.S.S. Arizona's anchor and mast monument at Wesley Bolin Plaza in downtown Phoenix. Via a conference call, confession was made for the atrocities of the Pearl Harbor attack, and the unjust concentration and confinement of Japanese Americans at war relocation centers throughout the United States. Exercising the principle of identificational repentance, those present requested and received forgiveness from the Father for these sins. Releasing the power of forgiveness at this perfect time, at these strategic places, further fostered the healing of Japan and the United States. Moreover, with regard to Arizona, this act of repentance further enabled that which has been sown in incorruption, dishonor and weakness, to be raised in incorruption, glory and power.

In Part 2 of this article series, *Arizona's Next 100 Years*, we will be discussing Arizona's alpha mission and how it relates to America's omega destiny. We also will be taking a fresh new look at the powers of darkness that have been inhibiting Arizonans from fulfilling our redemptive purpose, and what we can do towards fulfilling Arizona's corporate, divine destiny over the next one hundred years.

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