

## **For Just Such a Time as This**

‘A handyman working for a Jewish temple in Allentown, Pennsylvania, had asked for a raise and was turned down. He decided to quit and went out to look for work. First he went to a Catholic church and was told that in order to work there he would have to answer one question. The priest asked, “Where was Jesus born?” The man answered, “Pittsburgh”, and was thrown out. He then went to a Baptist church. The minister told him that in order to get a job there he would have to answer a question. He was asked, “Where was Jesus born?” The man answered, “Philadelphia”. He was tossed out. Walking away he met the rabbi who was looking for him. The rabbi exclaimed, “The board approved your raise. Please come back immediately”. The man said to the rabbi, “I will come back only if you answer a question. Where was Jesus born?” The rabbi says, “Bethlehem”. “HA!” cries the man. “I knew it was somewhere in Pennsylvania!”

Well, same name, different country! Now though, why is there a city named “Bethlehem” in Pennsylvania? To widen the question, Why are 28 communities in 22 states and 1 U.S. territory named “Bethlehem”? To further widen the question, why are there well over 1,000 American place names that come straight out of the Bible? Seems to me that indicates that a whole lot of

people who settled and named cities, towns and villages in the United States not only owned Bibles, but actually read them and knew the stories, histories, people and places within its pages. Conclusion? America was so filled with Christians and the Christian faith that, indeed, it was, founded as a distinctly Christian nation, unlike any other the world had ever known. America has always been, and will always be, a Christian nation! Or until, perhaps when the Lord Jesus returns and snatches up His church, the Christians, in the rapture.

Speaking of Biblical names scattered all over the American landscape, did you know there are many “Ninevehs”? Nineveh, we recall, was the famous, great capital of the Assyrian Empire that overthrew the northern kingdom of Israel back in 722 B.C. It’s most well-known in the Bible, as recorded in the Book of Jonah, for being the depraved, sin-filled cesspool metropolis, capital city of Assyria. If ever there was a city ripe for God’s judgement since Sodom and Gomorrah, Nineveh was it. But shortly after a total solar eclipse and an earthquake the same year, which they recognized as a sign, they heard Jonah’s preaching warning them that in 40 days God would step in and overthrow their city, amazingly and miraculously, the entire city woke up, straightened up, humbled themselves and repented. They took God seriously, not least of which the king himself. And God relented and spared them. But, as humans are so wont to do, they all too quickly forgot about God as the crisis passed and life returned to “normal”.

Back into sin and rebellion against God's way they went, and less than a hundred years later, the great, "invincible" Nineveh was destroyed by the Babylonians. Ultimately why? Nineveh was the hub of the ancient demon goddess ishtar. The grand temple of this idol was in Nineveh where drag queen priests were celebrants, sacrificing children to this satanic evil. Sound familiar? But did you know that a statue looking very much like ishtar was erected this past January on top of a New York city courthouse? A larger copy of it was made, 18 feet tall, and moved from New York to the University of Houston, to promote abortion and memorialize the late Supreme Court justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

So what's the deal with the many Ninevehs in America? Well, it just so happens(!) that there are 11 Ninevehs in the path of the coming total solar eclipse on April 8th. Just coincidence? The secular, God-less world news media wants to treat this eclipse, as it has all the others, as just another interesting astronomical phenomenon. But as God told us in Genesis 1:14-18 that He created the sun and moon and stars to be signs, to demarcate time periods, regulate day and night, to divide light from dark. So if there are special "astronomical" events, then, we, the people of God, the people who have God's Holy Word right at our fingertips, need to sit up and pay attention because God is speaking!! Do you hear Him? Are you starting each day reading His Word? He'll speak if you will listen.

The path of next month's eclipse enters the U.S. in Texas,

and crosses over 11 Ninevehs, one even in Missouri, in the next county north of where I grew up. Do you think the Lord is trying to say something? Nineveh, Nineveh, Nineveh, Nineveh, Nineveh. Maybe He wants us to think about Nineveh, the famous one, the one Jonah the prophet preached to. Would you agree? The eclipse happening on April 8th is the third consecutive sign from Heaven, the third warning. No other nation is known that God has clearly marked on its territory *three* times that judgement is coming unless there is repentance. For ancient Nineveh, Jonah told the Ninevites that judgement would come in 40 days. Fortunately, after having seen the sign of the eclipse and felt the earthquake, Jonah's preaching was taken seriously and the people did repent. So what happens in 40 days after next month's eclipse? It's the Eve of Pentecost, May 19th. And what happened on Day of Pentecost, Shavuot in Hebrew, in about the year 33? The Church was born! The Holy Spirit of God came down and the world has never been the same! What might well happen this May 19th?

We can all feel the tension building in our nation, and in the world. The absolute depravity, cesspool of corruption that characterizes so many of our national leaders, the bureaucracies, even local governments, school boards, even neighbors who grievously sin in secret, while acting respectability in public, must be rooted out for America to be saved. And God has every intention of doing just that because He is not done with us yet. Not by a long shot! But the ride is going to be very bumpy! Even now our