

What In The World Is Going On?

The string of events began at Boston's Logan Airport at 7:45 a.m. one year ago this morning. American Flight 11, a 767 with 92 on board, was supposed to fly from Boston to Los Angeles, but over New York state it was diverted and forced to fly south — directly into the north tower of the World Trade Center. A long day of carnage had then begun.

Back in Boston, United Flight 175, another 767 with 65 aboard, was already in the air, also bound for Los Angeles. It was 15 minutes behind the first flight when it, too, was hijacked. As news cameras rolled, the plane hit the south tower of the World Trade Center.

As onlookers watched in horror, the twin towers were engulfed in a fiery inferno. The hijacked planes had each just begun a cross-country flight to California, packed with as much as 200,000 pounds of fuel.

Trapped office workers first hung out windows, clinging precariously to the building, then several jumped 60, 80 even 100 floors to certain death as they were being burned alive.

Meanwhile at 8:10 a.m., American Flight 77, a 757 with 64 aboard, had taken off from Washington Dulles Airport, bound for Los Angeles. It, too, was hijacked and looped back into the Pentagon. It sliced in at an angle, leaving a deadly and ugly gash in the US military's nerve center.

Horrified people in both cities fled on foot, as the landscape turned into a war zone. The hijackers had hoped for even more devastation: an 8 a.m. out of Newark Airport, United Flight 93, a 757 with 45 people aboard, was bound to San Francisco when it was hijacked as well — but it crashed short of its goal, coming down in rural western Pennsylvania, where eyewitnesses watched in horror. We now know that it was headed for the White House on that fateful day.

Within the next hour, both World Trade Center towers collapsed as their steel girders literally melted in the intense heat. The implosion blanketed New York City in a cloud of toxic smoke and ash, and killed hundreds of rescue workers and thousands of victims still trapped inside.

Officials compared it to Pearl Harbor, but this time the enemy was unknown. In less than two hours, the landscape of New York City and the confidence of the United States were utterly devastated. One year later, definitive numbers are still not available on the casualties, and it will be years before the financial impact of 9/11 can be ascertained.

World reaction ranged from astonishment to absolute horror as people on every continent watched the terrifying images from the United States fill their television screens. But in the West Bank and in Lebanon thousands of Palestinians celebrated. In the town of Nablus, Muslims danced in the streets, chanted "Allah is great!" and distributed candy to passers-by in a traditional gesture of celebration. Others fired weapons into the air in wild celebrations, and Iraqi television played a patriotic song that began "Down with America!" as it showed the World Trade Center towers collapsing.

One year later, it is unknown if the war in Afghanistan has resulted in the death of millionaire Muslim terrorist Osama bin Laden, the mastermind behind the attacks. The efforts of the free world have been thwarted in a major way by the Taliban and other fundamentalist Muslim regimes who call bin Laden a hero of Islam.

One year later, it is also obvious that while national security issues have drastically changed, little else has changed in North America. 9/11 should have been a spiritual wake up call, but statistics show that people's religious beliefs and practices have not changed in the past year. Surprisingly few people said the terrorist attacks have had any impact on their religious faith. Only 12% admit to such an affect.

During the past twelve months, there has been no lasting change in people's religious practices. Immediately after the attacks, church attendance spiked for several weeks, rising to about half of the adult public attending religious services during a typical week. That attendance boon proved to be short-lived, though, as levels were back to normal by November.

Despite having watched the figures closely during the past twelve months, researcher George Barna professed his amazement at the outcomes. "I was among those who fully expected to see an intense spiritual reaction to the terrorist attacks. The fact that we saw no lasting impact from the most significant act of war against our country on our own soil says something about the spiritual complacency of the American public."

Barna also indicated that even after the initial shock of the attacks, our leaders have focused on the restoration of pre-attack ways of being. "None of the agents of influence seemed bent on seizing the attacks as a teaching moment or as a time to ignite deeper self-examination among Americans. For the most part, our response to the attacks has been to restore continuity and comfort as quickly as possible, without much energy devoted to moral, spiritual or emotional growth."

WHAT DOES ALL THIS MEAN? IT MEANS THAT THINGS ARE GOING TO GET MUCH WORSE!

Zechariah 12:3 And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it.

Luke 21:25-28 ²⁵And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; ²⁶Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. ²⁷And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.

- The United Nations has passed more resolutions concerning Jerusalem than any other subject.
- During their 2000 years of exile, the Gentile nations have screamed at the Jews, "Go back to Jerusalem where you belong!" – now those same nations are saying, "No, you can't have Jerusalem!"
- After the collapse of the Ottoman Empire and WWI, the nations of the world met at Versailles to decide what should be done with the lands belonging to collapsed empires. Men like Woodrow Wilson (US) and Lloyd George (UK) decided that the minimum to be done for the 16 million Jewish people would be to give them the historical land of Israel (including all of Jordan and the East & West banks) – still a tiny area for 16 million people!
- In 1920, the British Mandate began; they gave 80% of the land designated for the Jews to the Arabs and established the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan – leaving Israel only 20% of what was promised! And 60% of the Jew's portion was desert!
- In 1947-48, the British pulled out, leaving Israel with no weapons; they fought the Arabs for the whole of the land; in 1967, the Jews finally captured the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Temple Mount after 2000 years.
- The Jews have had an attachment to the Biblical land of Israel for 3500 years; this has no parallel in the history of nations!
- The Arab world has 4,560,000 square miles of land area; Israel has 7,992 square miles of land area – less than 1/500th (1/5 of 1%); the Arab world has 21 nations – now they want a 22nd within the state of Israel!
- The Arabs have fought six wars with Israel since 1948 and lost every one of them; no nation in history has been required to give back conquests gained when they were attacked, but the world expects Israel to because of anti-semitism!
- Yassir Arafat, Osama bin Laden, and the terrorist groups Hamas and Hizbollah all hide their alliance in the common goal to wipe out Israel and any who support her. They also hide the fact that it is not only the "radical fringe" of Islam, but ALL of Islam that promotes violence against the "enemies of Allah."
- It is hard for North Americans to understand the depth of this hatred. Today, in the Palestinian Authority, it is a crime punishable by death to sell land to Jews. The still unrepealed Palestine National Covenant still calls for the "liberation" of Israel by violence. Little girls on Palestinian TV sing songs glorifying suicide bombers.
- **Here are direct quotes from the Palestinians in their own media:**
 - Yassir Arafat (October 21, 1996) – "We know only one word: Jihad, Jihad, Jihad!"
 - Yassir Arafat (August 5, 1997) – "We must organize our homes and our movements in order to endure the coming battle, which we shall initiate."
 - Yassir Arafat (June 19, 1995) – "We will continue this long Jihad, this difficult Jihad, via deaths, via sacrifices."
 - Afafat's top PLO religious authority, Sheikh Ikrama Sabri, in a sermon (September 12, 1997) – "O Allah, destroy America! Paint the White House black!"
- Violence and terrorism have been the means of spreading Islam from the very beginning by Mohammed and his successors. That is the teaching of the Koran. Their goal is the destruction of Israel and the eventual subjugation of the entire world to Islamic law!
- The slaughter of innocents is an honorable Islamic practice. Iran cleared minefields in its war against Iraq by using thousands of young schoolboys to walk along in front of troops and tanks; in one minefield alone in 1982, 5000 children were torn to bits exploding the mines. Such fanatical sacrifice is considered to be the highest achievement in Islam.
- Ayatollah Khomeini: "The Purest joy is Islam is to kill and be killed for God."

- To the Muslim, violence and bloodshed are the highest expression of religion and the sure way to eternal reward. This encourages the most effective terrorists: suicide bombers. These fanatics are not looked upon as mentally unhinged, but they are honored as martyred heroes on a thousand poster walls in Islamic countries.
- Both the Koran and the writings of the Prophet Mohammed call for war against all non-Muslims.
- Surah 9:5, 29, 41 – “Slay the idolaters wherever ye find them, and take them (captive), and besiege them, and prepare for them each ambush ... fight against such of those ... as believe not in Allah ... go forth, light-armed and heavy-armed, and strive with your wealth and your lives in the way of Allah!”
- Islamic law promotes incarceration without due process, the use of torture, political assassination, the cutting off of hands, feet, ears, tongues and heads, and the gouging out of eyes.
- Islamic law does not recognize freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of assembly, or freedom of the press. This is why non-Muslims are routinely denied even the most basic civil rights. Right now in Afghanistan (the nation harboring Osama bin Laden), several people are incarcerated, facing the death penalty for “promoting Christianity.”

- **WHERE COULD THIS ALL FIT IN BIBLE PROPHECY?**

1. **Revelation 18** describes the financial and political center of the Antichrist’s kingdom falling “in one hour” – with the events of 9/11, we have certainly seen how that could happen!
2. **Daniel 2** declares that Antichrist will rule the world through a “ten-toed kingdom” in the last days. Twenty years ago, scholars generally interpreted this to be the European Community, but that theory has lost some impetus because the US remained such a controlling force in the world economy. Could it be that the world will demand more control of the world’s finances be moved to “neutral Europe” after this attack? If so, that would follow the trend of Bible prophecy.
3. **Ezekiel 38** declares that a coalition led by “Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal” (the area occupied by the former Soviet Union) will march in a war on Israel. Twenty years ago, scholars thought this might be a war between communism and the free world. But most of the former provinces in this area are MUSLIM – this will be a war between Islam and Israel! And God will once again fight for Israel!

SO WHAT DO WE DO? DO WE PANIC? NO, WE PRAY! AND WE ANTICIPATE THE COMING OF THE LORD!

Luke 21:28 And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.

God protected Noah’s family when judgment fell on the world! God protected Israel when judgment fell on Egypt! God protected Daniel in the lion’s den! God protected the Hebrew boys in the fiery furnace! God protected Paul and Silas in an earthquake! God can protect you as well!

GOD WAS THERE ON 9/11!

Acts 27:21-24 But after long abstinence Paul stood forth in the midst of them, and said, Sirs, ye should have hearkened unto me, and not have loosed from Crete, and to have gained this harm and loss. [22] And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man’s life among you, but of the ship. [23] For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve, [24] Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee.

SONG: I WAS THERE

*“I would give anything to go back to the morning of September 11 and tell him how much I appreciate everything he has done for me. But I think he knows that now. In my eyes, he has died a hero, and how much more could you ask for?”
- Marianne Keane, daughter of World Trade Center victim*

- What if your life were to suddenly be shattered today? Look with me at these three snapshots of a tragedy:
 - What if you were FIVE FLOORS ABOVE where the plane struck the World Trade Center Tower, you saw the flames and knew that you had FIVE MINUTES to live. You have a cell phone – who do you need to make things right with?
 - What if you were FIVE BLOCKS AWAY from the tower and saw your office, your entire career, crumble into dust before your eyes? Are you sacrificing your family, your marriage and your relationship with God for things that don’t matter?
 - What if you were FIVE FLOORS BENEATH the tons of rubble that descended in an instant. Today you would be in eternity. Would you be saved or lost? God loves you, but you have to let Him in your life! **Do you have a hope?**

Romans 5:5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

Lisa Jefferson was at work at the GTE Airfone Customer Care Center in Oakbrook, Illinois, a Chicago suburb, when she first heard news of the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, D.C. A supervisor with more than 18 years of experience at her job, she came out of her office to get more information. Just then, at about 8:45 A.M. CDT (9:45 EDT), the operator at Station 15 received an urgent call. The operator signaled for Lisa's assistance.

"She told me she had a real hijacking situation on her line," Lisa says. "I asked her what airline and the flight number. She told me it was United Flight 93. She appeared to be traumatized, so I told her I would take over.

"When I took over the call, there was a gentleman on the phone. He was very calm and soft-spoken. I introduced myself to him as Mrs. Jefferson and told him, 'I understand this plane is being hijacked. Can you please give me detailed information as to what is going on?' "Then Lisa began going through her GTE Distress-Call Manual, asking questions such as, "How many people are on board? How many hijackers? Are they armed? Are there any children on board?"

The man answered Lisa Jefferson in an equally calm manner. He was sitting next to a flight attendant who helped him relay the information: 27 passengers in coach, 10 in first class, five flight attendants, and no children that he could see. "He told me that three people had taken over the plane," said Lisa, "two with knives and one with a bomb strapped around his waist with a red belt. The two with knives had locked themselves in the cockpit. They ordered everyone to sit down, as the flight attendants were still standing. One of the flight attendants just happened to sit next to Todd in the back of the plane. The hijacker with the bomb pulled the curtain that divided first class from coach so the passengers in the back couldn't see what was going on."

But Todd did see two people on the floor. "He couldn't tell if they were dead or alive," said Lisa. "The flight attendant told him she was pretty sure it was the pilot and the copilot.

"I asked the caller's name and he told me, 'Todd Beamer.' He told me he was from Cranbury, New Jersey. "At first I thought Todd was whispering or keeping his voice down low to prevent detection, so I told him that if at my point he thought his life might be in jeopardy for being on the line with me to put the phone down but try not to hang up-to keep the line open so I could at least hear what was going on.

Let's Roll!