



Ralph Woodrow Evangelistic Association

P.O. Box 21, Palm Springs, CA 92263-0021

Email: ralphwoodrow21@gmail.com

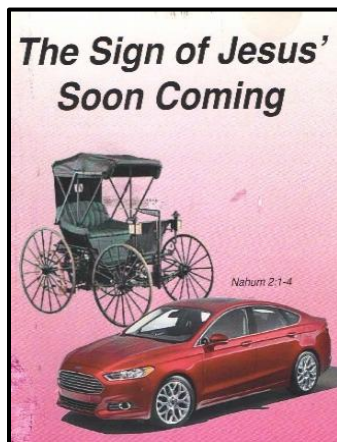
Phone: 760-327-6049

DEAR FRIENDS IN THE FAITH:

The enclosed article, “*Seven Women SHALL Take Hold of One Man*,” shows that this prophecy by Isaiah was fulfilled **long ago**. Attempts to apply prophecies like this to more recent times, commonly ignore *context*. Mormon leader Brigham Young had **56** wives during his lifetime. Sixteen of them bore him a total of **57** children. But polygamy in Salt Lake City, as the article shows, was *not* the subject of Isaiah’s prophecy.

This article also shows that when Nahum spoke of “chariots” (Nahum 2:3-6), he was *not* speaking of **automobiles**, as some have taught.

Years ago, I received in the mail a copy of the booklet pictured here, which claimed: “Nahum described *modern automobiles* as marking the time of Jesus’ return”!—that His return would be in the year **2013**! Readers may ask, “How did he come to this conclusion?” Briefly stated, this is it, as inconsistent as it is:

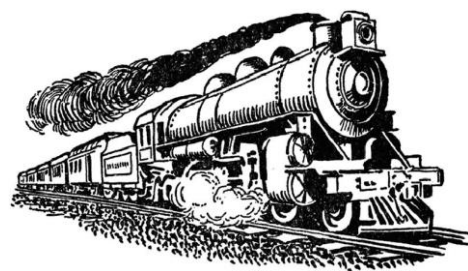


In **1893**, Charles and Frank Duryea constructed their first automobile and tested it on the streets of Springfield, Massachusetts. When the disciples of Jesus asked for a **sign** about the time of His coming (Matt. 24:3), He mentioned the days of Noah (Matt. 24:37). Back in the days of Noah, there was a time period of **120** years (Gen. 6:3). Building on this, the author of this booklet concluded:

“The beginning of the **sign** was given in **1893**; therefore”—figuring in 120 years—“it *must* end in **2013**, give or take a little.” I assume his date setting was well-intended, but (obviously) it did not happen!

Attempts like this—to place passages like Nahum 2:3-6 in a modern setting—are seriously flawed!

I have on my bookshelf a book written in **1917** which used (*misused*) the *same* passage—not as a description of the automobile—but of a **train** pulled by a steam locomotive. “The shield is made red” was said to be the headlight of the locomotive. “The valiant men in scarlet” were the engineer and fireman—both appearing as scarlet or red from the flames as the door of the firebox was opened to shove in more coal!



“He shall recount his worthies” was the conductor collecting tickets. The words “they shall stumble in their walk” described people stumbling as they walked through the fast-moving train. The reference to the “palace”—wrested from its obvious meaning—was applied to the train’s sleeping cars. These were called, back then, “Pullman *Palace Cars*”!

It has been called “**headline theology**”—a preacher having the Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other. Often prophecies that have already been fulfilled are minimized or *ignored*, and attempts are made to give them a modern-day meaning. Fortunately, most Christians know better and are not taken in by things like this.

Years ago, a prophecy preacher (who supposed Benito Mussolini was the Antichrist), quoted the phrase “noise of thy VIOLS” (Isa. 14:11) as a reference to Mussolini playing the violin!

Some supposed President Roosevelt was the “Beast” of Revelation, requiring everyone to receive a “**NUMBER**” (Rev. 13:16-18). This idea ignored the fact that everyone received a *different* number (not the number 666). Numbers, as such, are not evil; even the Bible has a book of *Numbers*!

The term “**WATER GATE**” appears 5 times in the book of Nehemiah, having no connection with Washington DC and the Nixon scandal.

Back when the ATOMIC BOMB was much in the news, some supposed Jesus' words about "the abomination of desolation" (Matt. 24:15) actually meant "the **A-bomb** of desolation." (The *parallel* verse, Luke 21:20, disproves this!)

Some suppose the letters USA in the word "Jerusalem" are significant. But these letters are only an *English* transliteration and are not contained in the actual name *Yerushalayim* (ירושלים).

Because the Levites, Israel's religious leaders, were assigned **48** cities (Num. 35:7), there was a time when some supposed that America's **48** states had some special link. But that number changed in 1959 when Alaska and Hawaii were granted statehood!

When the TWIN TOWERS in New York collapsed on 9/11/2001, some tried to link it with a prophecy given by Zephaniah:

And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD, that there shall be the noise of a cry from the **fish gate** [*the nearby Fulton Fish Market*], and a howling from the **second** [*Tower 2 collapsed first*], and a great **crashing** [*as the towers fell*]...a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress...against the **high towers** (Zeph. 1:10-16).

Bits and pieces in verses like these may provide some interesting similarities, but a text without *context* is a **pre-text** (making it say what someone wants it to say).

Two fancy words from the Greek—with *opposite* meanings—are **exegesis** ("to lead out of") and **eisegesis** ("to lead into"). Simply put, "exegesis" lets the text speak as intended, while "eisegesis" makes it say what one reads *into* it. Unfortunately, it seems "eisegesis" is quite common.

At the close of the Old Testament (Mal. 4:4, 6), we read:

Behold, I will send you ELIJAH the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children...

Prior to the birth of John the Baptist, it was revealed to Zacharias that his son John would "turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord" and would "go before Him in the spirit and power of **Elijah**, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children," as Malachi had said (Luke 1:15-17).

Years later when John began his ministry, he was asked: "Are you Elijah?" He answered, "I am not" (John 1:21). He was not the Elijah who had lived centuries before—not the *literal* Elijah—but in "the spirit and power of Elijah," his ministry fulfilled the Malachi prophecy.

This point was confirmed by Jesus himself. He spoke of John the Baptist as the messenger mentioned in Malachi (Mal. 3:1), and that **John** was the "Elijah" who was to come (Matt. 11:9-14).

On another occasion, the disciples asked Jesus: "Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?" To this Jesus replied: "**Elijah has come already**, and they did not know him..." Did the disciples understand? *Yes!* "Then the disciples *understood* that He spoke to them of **John** the Baptist" (Matt. 17:10-13).

By minimizing or ignoring this explanation, some suppose "Elijah" is yet to come. Over the centuries, there have been men who developed a large following. This, coupled with the belief that *they* were living in the end times, caused people to believe this one or that must be Elijah who would usher in the return of Christ. Three names come to mind:

John Alexander Dowie (1847-1907) had built quite a following, even to founding the city of Zion, Illinois. Herbert W. Armstrong (1892-1986) built up a large following from his radio programs and publications. William Branham (1909-1965), believed by many to have a unique gift, drew huge crowds to his meetings.

These men were not wrong on "everything" they preached. But they were not *right* on "everything" either! All have now passed from this life showing that claims about being "Elijah" were not correct.

Jesus told the disciples that Malachi's prophecy about the coming of "Elijah" was fulfilled by John the Baptist. They "understood" this. My belief is that this is past, **fulfilled—not future**. But it is not my intent to belittle some who may see it differently. After all, it is not what we believe about JOHN, but what we believe about JESUS, that is most important! (John 3:16; 20:31).

The ministry of "Elijah" was linked with "the day of the Lord," which has caused some to believe it must be **yet future**. However, in Scripture, "the day of the Lord" referred to various times when God in some special, unique way stepped into human affairs. Biblical examples would include the fall of Edom, Egypt, Babylon, and Jerusalem.

These *dark* times of destruction were commonly described in **apocalyptic** language—sun darkened, moon not giving its light, stars falling into the earth, etc. These are elaborate figures of speech that were never meant to be taken *literally*. Most stars are much larger than the planet earth! If all the stars crashed into the earth, *there would be no earth left!* (cf. Rev. 6:13-16).

The "day of the Lord" that was *imminent* when Peter preached on the day of Pentecost, was fulfilled in AD 70 when the Romans destroyed Jerusalem and the temple, one stone not being left upon another. Peter had heard Jesus say it would happen within *that generation* (Mk. 13:3; Matt. 24:34). When Peter quoted the passage from the book of Joel, I don't believe he took it out of context (Acts 2:16-21).

One more thing....

Also included in this mailing is the **fifth** in a series I have written regarding the King James ONLY teaching. I realize that much of this is *technical* information and some may find it BORING! However, a study about **words**—how they are formed, develop, and are translated, can be enlightening. In this article, you can read in a comparatively short time, things it has taken me **years** to learn.

Yours Sincerely in Christ,

Ralph Woodrow