

The Harbinger - A Commentary-Part 1.2

What did you say! A token, a seal, a national warning! Do you think I am a person who lacks intelligence? Do you think I live in the 5th century BC? I am a progressive and enlightened person! America being under the judgement of God! What on earth are you talking about? Do you take me for a fool?

No, no, of course not. But you are talking like someone did in Israel, in the last days just before the nations downfall. I did ask you to not rush to a conclusion or become judgemental until you had listened carefully to the whole story. Just have a little patience. After you have listened to what the nine harbingers have to say, you can go on your merry way and forget all about it...if that's what you want do.

The Second Harbinger: The Terrorist

01. The seal was similar to the first, except it had figures of men on it. He did give me a clue though. The prophet said "The mystery of the second seal is to be found somewhere by the ruins of an ancient people." "What did the figures look like?" Anna asked. "They were men with squarish beards, in robes and with some sort of head covering. Some were holding bows and arrows. All were very ancient looking." "So what did you do?" "Well, I went to the Metropolitan museum, it's an enormous building filled with artifacts and heaps of ancient stuff. It was impressive as I had hoped. I started in the Egyptian wing and then through Rome, Greece, Persia and Babylon but nothing matched the seal. Then I made my way up the staircase to the Department of Ancient Near Eastern Art. That's where I saw it. It was impossible to miss. It was gigantic. "What was gigantic?" she asked. "Massive stone walls covered with reliefs of giant figures-warriors and priests. I took out the seal and compared it to the figures on the wall. They were an exact match!" "An exact match." Anna squealed. "Who were they?" "They were the ancient Assyrians."

02. A voice behind me said "The walls come from the palace of Ashurnasirpal, king of Assyria, from the city of Nimrud, ninth century B.C. "Impressive" I responded, not being able to contribute anything useful or informative. The voice continued "The ruins of an ancient people." With that I knew it was him. "How did you know I would be here? Do you frequent museums?" "Why wouldn't I, you did."and he added "you've done well, Nouriel." He continued "The ancient Assyrians came from the mountainous regions of Mesopotamia. By the dawn of the first millennium B.C. they had begun their rise to power and soon most of the ancient middle east was under their rule. They were a militaristic people. They devised new technologies of warfare. Their empire was a war machine. They were among the most brutal people ever to have walked the earth. The very mention of their name instilled dread and fear to all in the ancient world. "But why such dread and fear?" I asked. "One word describes it Nouriel, said the prophet '**Terror**'. The Assyrians made terror into a science. They flayed alive those who rebelled against them, nailing their skins to the walls for public display. The Assyrians were the masters of terror. "So the Assyrians," I said "They were the ones who caused the breach?" "Correct", he replied "In 732 B.C., with the nation's hedge of protection lifted, the Assyrians invaded the land of Israel causing a national calamity. "So that must have made it all the more terrifying for the people of Israel...that it was the Assyrians?" "Exactly, there could not have been any clearer warning of the coming judgement. And years later when Israel's final judgement came, it was from the Assyrians. The Assyrians were the epitome of evil."

03. Terrorism is defined as: *the systematic application of terror, violence, and intimidation to achieve a specific end.* "So the second harbinger is the terrorist?" He nodded in response. "The Assyrians are the fathers of terrorism, and those who plotted the calamity of 9/11 were their spiritual children. The Assyrians were children of the middle east, so too the terrorists. The Assyrians spoke a language called *Akkadian*. The tongue is long extinct, but the closest of all tongues to it today is Arabic." "The tongue of Al Qaeda and the 9/11 terrorists" Nouriel queried. "Yes, in fact the the words and speech patterns used by the terrorists mirror those used by the ancient Assyrians." "Are there any other similarities?" "Yes. The Assyrian invasion" said the prophet "would ultimately draw Israel into military conflict and war. So too the attack of 9/11 would draw America into military conflict - a global war against terrorism, encompassing a war in Afghanistan and another in Iraq. In April 2003, American soldiers would enter the Iraqi city of Mosul. Mosul in part is built over the ancient city of **Nineveh**, which was the ancient capitol of the Neo-Assyrian empire. In 9/11, while the main terrorist attack was directed at the twin towers of the world trade centre, being the seat of economic power, Flight 93 was aimed at capitol hill, the seat of government. Had it been successful it would have traumatised America even more psychologically than the trade centre. "Do you see the parallels?" he asked. We had been walking as we spoke, but had now returned to the wall. He stopped, and I sensed

our time together was coming to an end. He then pointed upward to the figure above him on the relief...a giant Assyrian archer. "Israel thought the danger they faced were just the Assyrians, as America thought it was just the terrorists. However, the real danger was not outside but within. Both Israel and America over time had moved away from their God. And now, the same sign that signalled the judgement of ancient Israel two and half thousand years before reappears in the modern world - the sign of the Assyrian, the attack of the terrorist. "And what does that mean for America?" Nouriel asked. "That is the question, isn't it Nouriel?" the prophet replied.

He handed me the next seal - the seal of the third harbinger.

...to be continued.