

The Harbinger - A Commentary-Part 1.7

Do you think if we translated last week episode about the sycamore into an Australian context so the people of our nation would understand it, we would say something like ‘The gum trees have been cut down but we will replace them with ironbark. Stick that up ya mate! Well, the fires have burn’t our gum tree forests, and in America their pine forests.

The Seventh Harbinger: The Erez Tree

01. “Anna rose from her chair. “Nouriel, would you excuse me for a moment, I just need to make sure the office is shut for the night before we continue.” Nouriel gazed out to the city skyline. It was early evening. The city was illuminated by the deep hues of blues and reds of twilight along with the incandescent lights of the buildings. “So ...” she said returning to her chair “you were in the boat. What happened next?” “After a week had passed, I returned to Central Park, there are lots of trees there, I thought I might get a clue. There’s a fountain in the park, it’s on a terraced area. I was just sitting there on the coping gazing at the nearby trees when he walked up to me. “Do you like fountains Nouriel?” he asked. “This one is called the Bethesda fountain, and the statue is called ‘*the angel of the waters*’. It’s from the gospel of John.” He then explained the significance of the fountain and that Bethesda in Hebrew means ‘*the house of mercy or the place of loving-kindness. Kessed... mercy..love*. Don’t forget that, through all this, don’t forget that judgement is his necessity, but his nature and essence..his heart..is love.”

02. “So Nouriel, if the sixth harbinger is the Sycamore, then the seventh harbinger has to be...” “the Cedar” Nouriel added. “Then what does the tree on the seal mean?” “I have no idea.” “It isn’t that hard Nouriel, their sycamores have fallen but they replace them with cedars. It’s all about the vow. The goal wasn’t just restoration but defiance. It’s the same as ‘stone’ is stronger and more durable than ‘clay bricks’. “Oh, I see now.” Nouriel said quietly. “That’s good” the prophet added, “Sycamores are common but the cedar is tall, strong, straight and majestic, able to withstand the strongest gales. So, instead of hearkening, heeding and repenting the nation of Israel determines to act in a spirit of defiance.” “The strongest gales would be like.. what?” Nouriel asked. “Like the nation’s coming day of judgement. It’s the same thing they did with the quarried stone, the same act in a different form.”

03. “And what about the word ‘cedar’? Nouriel asked. “The english word ‘cedar’ is the one most often used to translate the Hebrew of ‘*Erez*’. However *Erez* means much more than ‘cedar’. He led me over to a tree nearby. “You see this”, he said “this is an evergreen, it has pine cones and needles. It’s a conifer, or *coniferous* tree. The botanical name for it is *Hierobotanicon* and it defines the ‘*Erez*’ tree.” “So the Erez is a conifer?” Nouriel asked. “Yes, but it is a particular type of conifer. The Erez tree would fall under the botanical classification of ‘*pinacea*’. This classification includes the cedar, the spruce, the pine, and the fir.” “Good night” Nouriel shook his head. He went on, “So the most botanically precise translation of the vow would be, ‘but we will plant *pinaccea trees* in their place.’ The Erez tree becomes another symbol of the nation and it’s defiance-a symbol of their confidence in their national resurgence, their tree of hope. But it was a prideful, self centred godless hope. They plant it in exactly the same position as where the fallen sycamore tree once stood. It stood as a witness of the nation’s false hope, and a living omen of it’s rejection of the warning given.**the seventh harbinger is: the Erez Tree.**” “So the sign is the appearance of the Erez tree?” “Yes” he said “it’s planting.”

04. “And has the seventh harbinger manifested?” Nouriel asked, adding, “when the fallen sycamore was removed and put on public display, the new tree would have had to have been exactly the same species, and planted in exactly the same place as the sycamore.” “Correct Nouriel, you are getting better.” The prophet smiled. “In late November 2003, two years after the fall of the sycamore, a strange sight appeared at the corner of Ground Zero. A crane lowered the tee over the courtyard for it to be planted in exactly the same spot as the fallen sycamore. According to biblical prophecy, the sycamore must be replaced by a conifer tree. And it was...with needle like leaves and cones. The sycamore at Ground Zero was replaced with an ‘Erez’ tree, matching the conifer tree of the ancient middle east.” “Mind blowing” Nouriel shouted “It’s like out of a movie...it’s surreal! Who was behind all that? No one as usual I guess!” “That’s right Nouriel, no one had any idea of what they were doing, no one knew they were fulfilling the ancient prophecy to the exact letter.” Nouriel was jumping up and down by this stage, “No one! No one! Where did the tree come from?” “The tree was a gift donated by an outside party, just like the Gazit stone.” “And I suppose it just happened to be the exact same species, *the pinacea*?” “Yes, it was Nouriel, calm down a bit. It was, to be exact the ‘*picca albies*’ which is the sister tree to the cedar of Lebanon.” Nouriel could not contain himself. “Unbelievable! The sister tree, how exact can you get, donated by some generous person who had no

idea what on earth they were doing. So both parts of the ancient prophecy were fulfilled in the same place...at Ground Zero?" "Yes" but not only that," the prophet continued, "they made it into a public event, as they did with the Gazit stone. An event specifically centering on the replacement of the fallen sycamore by the planting of the new tree. And the ceremony was officiated by a local spiritual leader. As with the laying of the Gazit stone, the words spoken had nothing to do with repentance; instead, they exalted the human spirit in defiance of calamity. It was another echo of the ancient vow two and a half thousand years ago. They too transformed it into a sign, the officiant bestowed on the tree a name. He proclaimed: *This Ground Zero Tree of hope* will be a sign of the indomitable, meaning unconquerable, nature of human hope. He also said: This Tree of hope is planted in the very same spot where the sixty year old sycamore stood the morning of September 11, 2001." Nouriel, having calmed down, said "They couldn't have matched it anymore precisely than if they had recited Isaiah 9:10 word for word. and nobody was trying to make it happen. They all just happened to do it!

05. "Just think about it Nouriel. Who could have put it all together? The tower fell because of the terrorists. It happened to fall exactly as it did in order to strike down that one particular tree. The tree just happened to be a sycamore, which just happened to be growing at the corner of Ground Zero. The tree that would replace it just happened to be a gift from outsiders who had nothing to do with anything else, but who just happened to feel led to give it. Their gift just happened to be the fulfillment of the biblical Erez tree, which just happened to be the same exact same species of tree spoken of in the ancient vow-the tree which must replace the sycamore. They just happened to lower it into the same soil the fallen sycamore had stood. And the man who led the ceremony just happened to bring it all together without knowing that he was bringing anything together. No one knew what they were doing or saying. It wasn't a matter of intent. It was the manifestation of the seventh harbinger." Nouriel thought for a moment " They were all stepping into the ancient footsteps - and they thought it was their own." The prophet nodded.

06. "And concerning the future...what does it mean?...is there any hope for America?" Nouriel asked. The prophet paused because his answer had to be accurate and unambiguous. "When you see the Erez Tree planted in the same place as the fallen sycamore, it's an omen, a warning...but there is hope, Nouriel. But when a nation such as this places its hope in its own powers to save itself, then the hope is false. Its true hope is only found in returning to God. Without that, its Tree of Hope is a harbinger of the day when its strong cedars come crashing to the ground." "That would be a very sad day." Nouriel concluded.

They had been walking while talking but now approached the park gates. The prophet stopped, and turning gave Nouriel the seal of the eighth harbinger. "The last two harbingers are not like the others," he said, "and yet like them all. One speaks of what is, and the other speaks of what would be." "Great" Nouriel responded "wish me luck!" "I don't believe in luck, Nouriel." And with that the prophet looked left and right and left again before crossing the street and vanishing into a crowd of New Yorkers.

...to be continued.

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