

God's Sovereign Purposes and a Report on the Armenia Trip

I. SURPRISING INFORMATION ABOUT ARMENIA IN GOD'S END-TIME PURPOSE

A. The Scripture provides an unusual amount of information about the role of six Gentile nations in the end times—***Egypt, Iraq*** (Babylon), ***Iran*** (Persia/Media), ***Syria*** (Assyria), ***Jordan*** (Edom and Moab), and ***Armenia*** (land of Ararat, Noah). The Scriptures describe how the Lord will use these Gentile nations and what they will do, especially in the context of the Antichrist's empire.

B. God called the people from three ancient kingdoms to blow the trumpet to rally and prepare the nations to stand against Babylon (Jer. 51:27). The people of Ararat, Minni, and Ashkenaz are associated with the people of modern-day Armenia. A careful reading of Jeremiah 51 makes it clear that the ultimate fulfillment of the destruction of Babylon is at the end of the age (Rev. 18).

²⁷Set up a banner in the land, blow the trumpet among the nations! Prepare the nations against her [Babylon], call the kingdoms together against her: Ararat, Minni, and Ashkenaz. (Jer. 51:27)

²"Babylon the great is fallen...and has become a dwelling place of demons..."³For all the nations have drunk of...her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through...her luxury"...⁸her plagues will come in one day...she will be utterly burned with fire...¹⁰alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come." (Rev. 18:2-10)

C. Noah's story in God in "the mountains of Ararat" (Armenia) gives insight into Armenia's national calling—God's covenant, Noah's altar of worship, God's rainbow, the "Great Commission" mandate to fill the earth with the glory of God (Gen. 8–9).

D. Armenia's spiritual heritage

1. Armenia was the first nation to make Christianity its official national religion, in AD 301. They are referred to as an "island nation in the midst of a sea of Muslim nations." Today, 99% of Armenians claim to be Christian and the country has only one mosque

2. The genocide of 1.5 million Armenians was carried out 1915–23 by the Ottoman government (modern-day Turkey), related to their refusal to convert to Islam. Today, about 3 million Armenians live in Armenia, and 7 million live outside the country (in the diaspora).

3. An outpouring of the Spirit began in Armenia in 1891, 15 years before the Azusa Street Revival began in 1906. Demos Shakarian, of Armenian origin, founded the Full Gospel Businessmen's Fellowship in America in 1952, and led many in receiving the gift of tongues.

4. Armenia has significant parallels with Israel: In only two cases did God make a covenant confirmed by a physical sign—His rainbow (Gen. 9; mountains of Ararat/Armenia) and His presence in the fire (Ex. 19; 2 Chr. 7; Israel). Both nations suffered a holocaust. Most of their population has lived outside their land. Israel endured 400 years of oppression under Egypt; Armenia suffered under the Ottomans for 400 years (1518–1918). Israel endured 70 years of oppression under Babylon; Armenia was under Soviet control for 70 years (1922–1991).

II. ARTHUR SIMONYAN AND WORD OF LIFE CHURCH

- A. Word of Life Church in Yerevan has 10,000 active members. It is the largest evangelical church and TV presence in the fifteen former Soviet Union nations and in the Middle East.
- B. In 2007, pastor Arthur Simonyan received a strong word to raise up 24/7 prayer and worship, so he searched the Internet for a people who were doing this. He visited IHOPKC for 30 days in 2009.

III. WE WERE SURPRISED BY OUR SENSE OF CONNECTION WITH ARMENIA

- A. In Jan. 1984, Bob Jones told me that the Lord would connect us with a movement based about 35 miles southeast of LA which had a banner in the spirit over them, called *compassion and worship*. He was speaking about the Vineyard Ministries in Anaheim, California, under John Wimber (1934–1997). He said that the Lord wanted the *prophetic and intercession* of Kansas City to cross-pollinate with the *compassion and worship* of the Vineyard Ministries.
- B. In Oct. 1987, Bob Jones heard the audible voice of the Lord say that John Wimber would call me in Jan. 1988. John did call, and I went to LA that month. On June 5, 1988, Bob again heard the audible voice of the Lord saying that John would call to open three large doors to me. Bob said it would be a “Holy Spirit seminary season” for me that would last three years. He said this was *a warning and not a promise*, because I did not know how to “go out and come in” before the Lord and the people in the context of a million people. In Nov. 1988 John asked me to go to Scotland with him.
- C. John asked if a “sign” might confirm Paul Cain’s visit to him. Paul prophesied two earthquakes—one local, the day of his arrival in Anaheim (he didn’t know travel dates at the time; earthquake occurred Dec. 3, 1988), and one international, on the day of his departure (Armenia, Dec. 7, 1988).
- D. In June 1988, Paul Cain prophesied that “*the wind would be knocked out of communism by November 1989,*” and that years later “*communism would be revived in combination with Islam.*”
- E. In January 1990, Bob Jones prophesied that we would take a one-million-dollar offering for Bibles for Russia. In Bob’s vision Jesus was driving a bus that represented the young adult movement with 24/7 prayer. In July 1990 we collected \$1.4 million in two offerings for Russian Bibles.
- F. On May 29, 1985, our church received the keys to our “new” sanctuary next to Truman’s home. Noah’s rainbow and a dove were painted on one wall. We painted over it about three years later.
- G. Gabriel’s word to Daniel was that in the midst of restoring Jerusalem and the temple, Israel would face many troubles. Haggai 1:3-11 describes the economic pressures (drought), passivity in building the house of prayer, and accusation and persecutions against them Nehemiah 4:1-6.
²⁵“...understand that from the...command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah...the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times.” (Dan. 9:25)
- H. When God’s timing and purpose intersect in a place where believers respond passionately with faithfulness, then God’s purpose occurs even in the midst of weak people and great difficulties.
²“And every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.” (Jn. 15:2)