

THE ARC OF EMPIRES

SEEING GOD IN THE CRISIS
IN AMERICA



Scott Webster
with Marlon Jameson

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SEEING GOD IN THE CRISIS IN AMERICA

This book deals with what Christ defined as the biggest challenge of the last days – deception. Crisis is hitting the earth with increasing intensity and the urgent battle is for sight of God in the midst of it all. This book reveals how God is Sovereign over these events and how they are marshaling the nations towards the fulfillment of His ultimate plan. The Arc of Empires provides a compelling description of the macro-design of God's End-time movements and identifies how we need to position ourselves in order to find hope, confidence and salvation in the midst of the downward spiral of the world's systems.

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SWM PUBLISHING ATLANTA, GA

ISBN: 978-0-9818466-2-0



9 780981 846620

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SWM Publishing
Marietta, GA

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The Arc of Empires

Published by:

SWM Publishing

1860 Sandy Plains Road, Suite 204-410

Marietta, GA 30066

ISBN 0-9818466-2-0

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Cover Design: Daniel Bodinof & Khyron Danclair

Book production by:

Silver Lining Creative, *A Division of Pivot Point Publishing*

SilverLiningCreative.com

PivotPointPublishing.com

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Printed in the United States of America.

Dedication

We dedicate this book to our brothers in Christ living in the U.S. including those who are not yet saved but who are destined to be our brother through faith in Christ. And to their children and families. May you discover a secure place to stand with the Lord and a new partnership with His Sovereignty as He deals with the earth in this ultimate time.

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Preface

This book provides a spiritual explanation for the crisis in America and the nations of the earth. It delves into political, economic and social issues, but at the core of the book is a word from God that brings light and illumination to what is taking place in our nation right now and what will happen in the future. God is dealing with the nations, and America finds itself at the center of Divine purpose. We must discover what He is doing and how He expects us to respond.

There are a number of people who we specifically had in mind in writing this book. First, this is for our brothers in Christ who have been walking faithfully and consistently with God. You have prayed, repented and worked, yet there is deep frustration because the nation continues to deteriorate. This word from God does something that is personally very important to us: it explains why the nation has continued to spiral downward despite the prayers and efforts of so many good people, while at the same time providing spiritual direction and a way forward. It is intended to reignite faith and hope in your spirit, to point you towards God and His goodness, and to remove any aspect of being unconvinced concerning God's purpose for you, your family and the nation.

This book is also for a second category of "brothers" — those who are our brothers but don't know it yet. It is for those who are destined to come into the Kingdom of God, but who remain trapped in the system of this world. You are not yet saved and perhaps there is an insufficient

understanding of the nature of God. You may be thinking that He is judgmental and vindictive and that life in the future will be hard and bleak. This book is intended to bring hope and redefinition to the harvest of souls yet to come in to His glorious Kingdom.

What the Book is Not

Now that we have established what the book is and who it is for, it would also be helpful to describe what the book is not.

It is not political in the sense that it doesn't fit into the categories which seem to dominate the thinking about the nation. The first of these trumpets that America is plunging downward while enthusiastically enumerating all of its ills. But neither can this book be categorized into the second class which waves the flag and insists the nation will be restored to greatness tomorrow (or if not tomorrow, at least at the next election).

We can also say that it is not simplistic or religious. For many this will be unlike other books you have read because it doesn't provide a narrow or one dimensional answer. We can assure you it won't cover the same old ground and it won't push upon the nation tired answers that don't work. While not religious, we are unapologetic in our spiritual outlook and want to state plainly that it is based on principles from the Word of God which we apply to believers who have faith in Christ.

Finally this isn't a word of doom. It doesn't focus on things the nation has done wrong that have made God angry. There may be many of these things not only in our nation but in every nation of the earth—but that is not the angle of this book because that is not what God spoke to us. God is redemptive. This is a core part of His nature and therefore all words from God must come from a heart filled with redemptive hope and possibilities.

Our Premise—There Must be an Explanation

The times are tumultuous and uncertain, but God does have a purpose. As we think about what is happening there are three possible explanations for all the crises:

Possibility #1: These events are random, each one occurring without any connection to the others or to any central purpose. This view holds that things will return to normal soon enough. To believe this we have to accept that the economic meltdown, political impasse, wider social decay, natural disasters of epic proportion – all of which are occurring with increasing frequency and intensity – are purely arbitrary and therefore ultimately meaningless. This possibility holds the view that God either does not exist, or, if He does, He is not actively involved in the affairs of men and nations.

Possibility #2: A second explanation is that the devil has gone crazy and is taking the earth to hell in a hand basket. He has unleashed crisis, or at the very least mankind has degenerated to some low state and all hell is breaking loose, and we have to pray that God gets involved to “fix it.” At the core of this view is that the nation is decaying, and there is a cry of alarm and a search for solutions that are usually political in nature. This view is held widely among believers, but there is a problem with this scenario in that it contradicts the definition of God as the Sovereign One, in charge of all things including light and darkness, blessing and disaster. The problem is this: if we say that God is not in charge, then we must answer the question of “how can He be God when all these things are happening outside of His will?”

The first possibility denies God exists and puts man at the center (because man defines what is important and meaningful rather than God), while the second explanation accepts that there is a God but denies His sovereignty and wrongly places darkness front and center. Therefore both of them must be rejected.

Possibility #3: The third and final explanation is that God is completely in charge, He has a purpose and He is leading the earth towards ultimate outcomes. The crises are not random and darkness, though it does exist, is not in charge. God is firmly in control and despite people's misconceptions, He is working in the earth through the crises. This explanation refutes the thin, plastic view of God which offers simple and quick answers which evaporate before our eyes when the next crisis hits. Realizing that God is in charge even in the darkness and tumult of the earth, produces internal confidence and strength, releasing within us boldness and the power of a relevant faith. It redefines our view of God Himself and as a result we are given the opportunity to become more like Him. Therefore it is not only an explanation for the crises, it is also a call to personal transformation. It is the view we put forth in this book which contains these two key aspects: a) a spiritual explanation for the crisis, b) a call to personal transformation as we embrace Biblical definitions for how we must live in the crisis as we move towards the End of Time.

Who we Are and What is our Agenda

It's difficult to define yourself in a paragraph or two, but a few high points might help you know a little bit about us. I (Scott) had a pretty ordinary childhood as our family moved from one military base to another as my father flew for the Strategic Air Command (SAC) division of the Air Force. During an uneventful college experience I got saved in 1980 and immediately began to grow and be groomed by the Lord as a leader in the church particularly in the area of the prophetic. There are some formative things in my background and some key processes that shaped me; for those who want to know more you can access the link below.¹

It was in my role as a budding prophetic leader that I met Dr. Noel Woodroffe, who invited me to Trinidad in

¹ www.arcofempires.com/authors

1990 as part of a larger team for a national prophetic conference, an event that proved pivotal for both him and me. A strong relational connection emerged with Noel and I returned to Trinidad every year to minister both in his church (Elijah Center) and the apostolic network he subsequently founded. Going to Trinidad was not just another ministry trip for me. Beyond the ministry there was a “discovery” of God’s relational design and I found refuge and divine placement in connection with him and within the apostolic network. I have been serving with and standing alongside Dr. Woodroffe ever since.

It was in 1995 on one of my visits to Elijah Center that I met Marlon Jameson, who had recently come to the church and was himself being targeted by God as an emerging leader. The Caribbean is located in what is referred to as America’s “backyard” so Marlon grew up very conversant with the happenings and norms in the U.S. If my academic career was uneventful Marlon’s was intense, including graduate degrees in international relations and experience lecturing in the International Relations field.

We are distinct individuals with varied educational, cultural and personal backgrounds. Marlon and Alana’s children are the same age as mine and Kathy’s grandchildren. But we have come to be very much alike in the most important ways: our value system and our worldview have been radically changed and defined by the Kingdom of God in a way that diminishes the definitions imposed on us by our distinct cultures.

Beyond being co-authors Marlon and I serve on the leadership team of Congress WBN. We will explain our name more fully later in this volume, but we can say here that the name “Congress” is not related to a government entity. It describes our global apostolic network of churches, along with other initiatives into the fields of education, commerce,

leadership, community building, etc. This book is an initiative of Congress WBN designed to resource the Body of Christ including those who will yet come to faith in the last great harvest. This book is the third in a sequence entitled The New Prophetic Dimension Series; a set of writings that describe the current positions of the prophetic designed to resource the Body of Christ.

It is written to equip you to know what God is doing in the earth and to prepare the Body of Christ for greater partnership with the Lord and His End-Time purposes. It is not the will of God for any of us to be fainting in terror or in distress and He does not want us clinging to irrelevant definitions that cannot be sustained in light of the onset of crisis. As God's people, we have a right to know what God is doing. We must make sense out of the chaos of our world and defeat the perplexity of the times.

A brief editorial note before we begin. I am the lead author of Parts 1 and 2, which contains a prophetic scan of America's history and assessment of where the nation stands right now, as well as what will happen in the future. Marlon is the primary author of Part 3, which contains a series of teachings and spiritual realities that empower us to stand securely in a time of crisis. Although there were clearly demarcated responsibilities, the entire book is a collaborative work to the point that each page is the product of our combined efforts, individual section assignments notwithstanding.

It is our prayer that just as we came to a place of joint ownership of the word from God that forms the basis of this book, that it would now become your spiritual possession also. We are asking for God to fill you with insight and faith to stand strongly while crisis rages all around us.

Part 1

**DESCRIBING THE
LANDSCAPE**

Whatever exists now has already been, and whatever will be has already been; for God will seek to do again what has occurred in the past.

Ecclesiastes 3:15 (NET)

Chapter 1

“Modern America is Like Ancient Egypt”

I was enjoying a week at the beach with my family when the Lord spoke this word into my heart and mind. It is a short phrase, only six words, but the impact of it is vast and its ramifications so far reaching that it requires this book to explain and apply. I didn't “see” or “hear” the six words. Instead the concept appeared in my mind as a fully formed and solid chunk of divine thought. As a revelation from God it was new and inspired, yet it wasn't totally out of the blue. Several things were at work within me that formed a context into which the word fell and found a place of resonance.

I was already writing and I intended to continue while on vacation, sneaking in a few minutes early or late as the days unfolded. I was working on a book that addressed the widespread chaos that seems to have been unleashed on America and the rest of the world – Marlon was assisting me with that project also. From the financial meltdown to natural disasters to wider society which seems compelled to plunge deeper and deeper into darkness, it is clear that something is going on and we were seeking to explain what is happening and why.

My week at the beach was in mid-2012 during the run-up to the presidential election, one of the most divisive times in American political history. I was especially

grieved by the way believers were thinking about the choice between presidential candidates, and in a wider context, how the church has approached politics generally over the last 20 years. People didn't seem to have a spiritual context through which to see what is happening in America and the preoccupation with political solutions (or alternately political problems that must be fixed) robbed people of the ability to see the spiritual reality behind all of the tumultuous events. I was trying to finish that book before the elections to help bring understanding, but I was not succeeding in my self-imposed time frame.

There was another key factor that defined the context this word from the Lord fell into. The week before our beach trip I was part of an intense week-long seminar where our leaders, about 200 people from 30+ nations who form the upper management structures of our Congress, had gathered for a critical meeting that changed the direction of our corporate advance. Over the past few years God had been leading us towards greater engagement with the Body of Christ. God loves His Church and the more we grew and matured the more we found Him burdening us to love the Body of Christ also. Not just love them as in holding a view of benevolence towards those who are redeemed, but love demonstrated by sacrificially serving and looking for ways to more deeply engage with God's people.

Loving the Body of Christ included freely providing them whatever resource He had given to us and offering ourselves as a place of sanctuary for those who will flee from those portions of the Church which are corrupt or vastly undernourished. I am speaking specifically of the Church in America, which has been used so powerfully by God but which now finds itself, at least in some segments, unequipped to withstand the crises which are hitting with increasing intensity.

As I sat on the beach and watched families playing or went to dinner with my family, these are the things that were going through my mind. I was offended at the thought of someone else’s children suffering because they are living in a place of intense crisis and confusion when there is spiritual resource that could easily be given. The Lord had activated a sense of compassion within me and the care and burden for my brothers simply would not turn off, and it was during this time that God opened to me this sweeping prophetic insight:

Modern America is like Ancient Egypt

It is from this word that we derived the title of the book. It describes the Arc of Empires, one ancient and one modern, which compare so perfectly that one is a prophetic metaphor for the other.

A Word from God is Empowering

The word from God surprised me—not because it is bad, but because I asked Him about America, and He pointed me towards understanding Ancient Egypt. I

This prophetic word is like that scanner – it looks beyond the surface of things.

wouldn’t have imagined in a million years that an ancient empire holds the key to understanding modern America but the comparison leapt into my heart and mind.

It was almost like a scanner you go through at the airport with the new wave millimeter technology, where you put your hands above your head and the thing scans your physical image to ensure passengers are not carrying anything dangerous. That’s what the voice of God was like in this case. God hit the start button, the scanner started on one side and moved all the way around, revealing a clear image of what is really happening in the nation. This

prophetic word is like that scanner — it looks beyond the surface of things and brings revelation in three powerful dimensions:

a) It empowers us to have discernment of the spiritual reality that lies behind the political, economic and social happenings in America today. What is happening with the government, the economy, in wider society? We can't afford to have mere opinions. In the midst of so many chaotic and destabilizing events we have to know what is going on from God's point of view. The origin of the problems does not begin with politics or economics. It begins with God. He is doing something and there is a coherent spiritual explanation that makes sense of all the crises and turmoil, and He wants us to know what He's doing. This prophetic comparison lifts us above the crises and lets us see into God's mind, which is the only thing that can remove confusion and change us from being destabilized to being secure.

b) It reveals the future as we look to see what will occur in America in the years to come. The prophetic has the power to prepare us for what will come. This comparison is powerful because the history of Ancient Egypt becomes predictive for us. It reveals the pattern of impending events, where things are going and what kind of events will occur in America in 2014 and beyond. Prophetic understanding shapes our outlook and prepares us for imminent happenings which are ready to be released into the earth. These things *will* come and God wants us to be equipped to live in a future He is speaking about now.

c) It more fully unveils the nature of God as the Sovereign One. Perhaps the greatest need for believers today is to come to new sight of the Sovereignty of God. The Church has known Him as the one who blesses, saves, delivers and provides for us — and of course He does do all

those things. But beyond knowing God in the immediacy of our personal lives, we have not fully comprehended His bigness and His intention and ability to use all things for His purpose. This is especially true for those of us living in the U.S., a nation used so powerfully by God in history but which is now in decline. There are so many bad things happening: economic meltdown, natural disasters, political instability, societal decay, etc., that it looks to our natural minds that God is not in charge. This prophetic comparison helps us understand that just as God was totally in control of and directing the outcomes in Ancient Egypt, so He is directing life in Modern America. It brings us into clearer sight of God as the One who is superintending the sweep of history in the United States, both the centuries of blessing and also now during a time of destabilization. This prophetic comparison reveals that we don't need to pray for God to get involved in the crisis. He is already involved and His purpose is redemptive.

Our Approach

We have organized the book into three parts. In this first section entitled Part 1 we introduce the word from God that is the core of this book. We then define the terms we are using to ensure we are all on the same page, and look at how God speaks through metaphors since the word from the Lord was given as a metaphor. We explain what we are comparing between the two empires and why.

Part 2 details the prophetic comparison that Modern America is like Ancient Egypt through examining twelve (12) *Key Prophetic Similarities* which are categorized into four phases that track the development within both empires: a) *The Ascent* b) *The Decline* c) *The Hardening* and d) *The Confrontation*. As we go through them you will see how perfectly the two empires compare; it's almost as if God put

the account of Ancient Egypt in the Bible for us to understand as we approach the last days.

The third section will focus on how God expects us to respond to what He is doing. It explains specific initiatives the Spirit is birthing within us to make us ready for ultimate events, a series of characteristics we call *Transformation Imperatives*. These can be applied by every believer and within every church—these imperatives have the power to equip us to walk in partnership with God in a day of crisis, and therefore to lift us “above” the crisis.

God is calling us to Himself and lifting us into greater partnership as we move towards the End of Time!

Epilogue

If you are reading this, then hopefully you have read this book in its entirety and have been challenged by its call to action and responsibility. The core motivation behind this book is to bring illumination and understanding concerning God's purpose in the midst of our present global environment of escalating crisis and perplexity. We are fully aware that what we have said here in many instances, challenges some basic assumptions that are held about Modern America and its role in the unfolding purposes of the Lord, the role and responsibility of the Church, the movement towards the End and most critically, about God Himself.

We are also aware that in some instances, this book, while it would have provided some answers and solutions, would have also raised some further questions. This we see as a good and beneficial thing. We hope that these questions launch you into deeper inquiry into the mind of God, His purposes and our placement within those purposes. After all, it is the glory of God to conceal a matter and the glory of kings to search it out. Keep searching and you will find.

To leaders, pastors and ministers of the Church, we would like to indicate clearly our desire for this book to be received as an invitation to dialogue. It is our desire to open discussion about the issues raised in this book and the prophetic word that the Lord has given to us about Modern

America and the current unfolding events in the Earth. We consider the opportunity to interact, discuss and share an invaluable one in the process of understanding what the Lord is doing in the Earth today. We invite you to visit our website, read our blogs and additional material and post your own responses. We would be happy to respond to queries and we will be keeping track of the feedback as it comes in. Please go to www.arcofempires.org/interact.

To our brothers in Christ, we hope that this book has provided an empowering perspective on what is taking place around us in the world today and has brought significant sight, hope, confidence and stability as you face the inevitable future. It is God's desire that we walk in light and understanding of His movements. It is our God-given right as His people to know the Divine Plan! We trust that you have been challenged to take up a new posture with respect to God's unfolding purposes and have accepted in your heart the challenge to walk in committed partnership with God through the Crisis to the End of Time. Our desire in writing has been two-fold: a) to bring you into a new appreciation of God's purpose to raise up a mature Church for the End Times, and b) to convince you that you are ordained to be a part of that great company of believers.

To those who do not yet know the Lord, now is the time! We hope that this book has explained in clear spiritual terms that we are living in a time unlike any other in the history of the earth. We have never been this close to the Finish, and as a consequence, the intent of the Lord to finalize all things is greatest in our time. We hope that this book has issued a call to you to make a decision that changes the direction of your life and brings your life into alignment with the plan of God. Our prayer is that beyond the perspectives shared on the escalating crisis in the Earth, that you have seen the heart of a Sovereign, re-

Epilogue

demptive God whose overriding desire is that all should live and none should perish.

God is undoubtedly in the Earth. His feet are upon the nations and the full weight of His presence is being brought to bear upon the structures of life here in Time. As we see the escalating crisis around us, let us all look beyond this Earth to our life in eternity and begin to live in its eternal values and standards while still here locked in Time.

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