

The Sign of Jessica Lynch Joseph Herrin (4-17-03)



Jessica Lynch

God has been giving some very large testimonies of His displeasure regarding America's involvement in dividing up the land of Israel to create a Palestinian state. It has only been a couple of months since the world witnessed the space shuttle Columbia disintegrate, with the debris first being reported from citizens living in Palestine, Texas. Columbia is the female personification of America, and the capital of the nation even bears this name. The prophetic symbolism of this disaster was discussed in the article "The Disintegration of Columbia."

Through the media the entire world was made a witness to the Columbia disaster, and the prophetic import of this event was therefore given a wide audience. Now, only a short time later, the world has been focused on America's war in Iraq. The news has been dominated by this event, and in the midst of it a story has come forth of a young woman in America's military whose supply convoy was ambushed, and she was taken hostage. Of all those captured from this convoy, this one person became the focus of all the television networks attention, of the newspapers, radio and magazines.

Why was Jessica Lynch singled out for attention? On the surface it could be suggested that all the media focused upon her because she was a young and attractive white female, and as such she elicits much sympathy among the majority of American citizens. Yet there is much more behind her media exposure, for Jessica also serves as a prophetic testimony, and she was unique among those ambushed in a number of ways.

There were nineteen people in the convoy that was ambushed, and nine of their members were killed. Four were rescued the same day, and five who surrendered to the Iraqis were taken captive and transported from one location to another until they

too were rescued by marines. Among the members of this convoy only Jessica was so badly wounded that she could not be transported with the other, but she had to be hospitalized and kept under guard. In this, Jessica was once more separated out, though no one other than her captors were aware of this at the time. The media had no idea that Jessica was being kept in a place apart from the others. Only after her rescue was her situation made known.

Since her rescue the news has once again been filled with stories about her ordeal, and a movie is even planned to tell her story. Yet there is more to the story than personal tragedy and triumph. There is prophecy in it.



Jessica Lynch's Home in Palestine, West Virginia

From the beginning of coverage of this news event it has been reported that Jessica's hometown is Palestine, West Virginia. How very curious that the name Palestine should be a part of Jessica's story. I happened to turn on the news one evening and I watched an account on Jessica Lynch where her parents were interviewed at their home in Palestine, West Virginia. Only a few minutes later, on the same newscast, a reporter spoke of President Bush making a strong statement that day about moving forward to begin the establishment of a Palestinian state. The newscaster suggested that the timing of President Bush' remarks were intended to quell some of the protest in the Arab world against America's war in Iraq. It was suggested that America was offering the Arabs a gift of appeasement in pressing forward in creating a Palestinian state carved from the land of Israel.

Such connections in the word Palestine appearing in both news segments should stand out. The Lord is speaking openly about America's determination to create a Palestinian state. Here in two months there have been two major tragedies in the news that have prominently focused upon small towns in America that were each named Palestine. The first being the Columbia space shuttle disaster, and now the story of Jessica Lynch. What I would like to share is that even as the name Columbia is attached to the female personification of America, Jessica Lynch is also a prophetic

symbol of America.

When I heard of Jessica's rescue, what stood out was the description of the injuries that she sustained. Jessica sustained numerous injuries, and they symbolize the specific type of judgment coming to America. Before I describe her injuries and what they relate to, I want to give two Scriptural examples of God using someone's physical condition to deliver a prophetic word.

Acts 21:10-11

As we were staying there for some days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. And coming to us, he took Paul's belt and bound his own feet and hands, and said, "This is what the Holy Spirit says: "In this way the Jews at Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles."

I Kings 20:35-38

Now a certain man of the sons of the prophets said to another by the word of Yahweh, "Please strike me." But the man refused to strike him. Then he said to him, "Because you have not listened to the voice of Yahweh, behold, as soon as you have departed from me, a lion will kill you." And as soon as he had departed from him a lion found him and killed him. Then he found another man and said, "Please strike me." And the man struck him, wounding him. So the prophet departed and waited for the king by the way, and disguised himself with a bandage over his eyes.

Both of the above examples involved prophets, and a physical imposition to a person's body was a key to a prophetic word being delivered. Numerous other examples could be cited, but I will be content with offering these two. We can see that there is Scriptural precedence for a person, and their bodily condition being used to deliver a prophetic message.

The news has reported that Jessica Lynch suffered two broken legs, and a broken left arm. These injuries are a mirror image of what happened in America on the date of 9-11. The two broken legs correspond to the two towers that were shattered. The economy of America is represented in these broken legs. The linkage to the economy was seen clearly in the towers that fell, for they were the "World Trade Towers" and they were clearly related to the economic might of America. They were located only a few blocks from Wall Street and when they collapsed it led to the unprecedented step of stopping all trading on Wall Street for a period of a few weeks.

America's economy is like her legs. It is what gives her standing in the world, and they are the source of her great stature. Sadly, her elevated economic status has also led her to pride and to many sins. In her pride, the government of America has stretched out her hand to touch the land of Israel and to give her land to a people who are strangers to the promises of God. To appease the Arabs, who are the sworn

enemies of Israel, but whose oil America covets, President Bush and his advisors have chosen to establish a state of Palestine from land that Yahweh promised to Abraham and his descendants.

The Scriptures allow for aliens to dwell with Israel in her land, but they do not allow for the inheritance of Israel to be taken away from Abraham's offspring and given to foreigners. For America and the nations to judge with righteous judgment, they should look to the word of God and abide by the boundaries that God has chosen. These boundaries are clearly described in numerous places, including the following passage from Ezekiel.

Ezekiel 47:13-23

Thus says Yahweh God, "This shall be the boundary by which you shall divide the land for an inheritance among the twelve tribes of Israel; Joseph shall have two portions. "You shall divide it for an inheritance, each one equally with the other; for I swore to give it to your forefathers, and this land shall fall to you as an inheritance. This shall be the boundary of the land: on the north side, from the Great Sea by the way of Hethlon, to the entrance of Zedad; Hamath, Berothah, Sibram, which is between the border of Damascus and the border of Hamath; Hazer-hatticon, which is by the border of Hauran. The boundary shall extend from the sea to Hazar-enan at the border of Damascus, and on the north toward the north is the border of Hamath. This is the north side. The east side, from between Hauran, Damascus, Gilead and the land of Israel, shall be the Jordan; from the north border to the eastern sea you shall measure. This is the east side. The south side toward the south shall extend from Tamar as far as the waters of Meribath-kadesh, to the brook of Egypt and to the Great Sea. This is the south side toward the south. The west side shall be the Great Sea, from the south border to a point opposite Lebo-hamath. This is the west side. So you shall divide this land among yourselves according to the tribes of Israel. You shall divide it by lot for an inheritance among yourselves and among the aliens who stay in your midst, who bring forth sons in your midst. And they shall be to you as the native-born among the sons of Israel; they shall be allotted an inheritance with you among the tribes of Israel. And in the tribe with which the alien stays, there you shall give him his inheritance," declares Yahweh God.

The word of God declares that it is an evil thing to move a boundary marker, and curses were spoken on those who would do such a thing. How much more grievous of an error is it when God is the One who has established the boundaries and man reaches forth his hand to move them?

Deuteronomy 19:14

"You shall not move your neighbor's boundary mark, which the ancestors have set, in your inheritance which you will inherit in the land that Yahweh your God gives you to possess.

Deuteronomy 27:17

“Cursed is he who moves his neighbor's boundary mark.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen.'”

Hosea 5:10

The princes of Judah have become like those who move a boundary; on them I will pour out My wrath like water.

It is not a trivial thing in Yahweh's eyes for a man, even the President of the United States, to reach out his hand to nullify the boundaries God has established and to replace them with those of man's devising. For this reason judgment will come to those who do these things. In the sign of Jessica Lynch we see that one of the judgments to come to America is that her economy will be shattered, and because of this she will no longer maintain the standing that she presently has among the nations. She will be laid low. In all of the pictures shown of Jessica since her rescue from the Iraqis, she has been shown laying down. She is unable to stand. This represents the condition that will come to America over the matter of Palestine.

Jessica Lynch also fractured her left arm, and this also has a correlation from 9-11, for on this date the Pentagon, the seat of America's military power, was struck. However, whereas the symbols of her economy received a double hit, her military received but a single hit. This is shown also in Jessica's body, for she broke both legs, but only one arm.

The arm is symbolic of military power, and during the war in Iraq a frequent picture that has been displayed is Saddam's military parade grounds. Either end of this parade ground is marked by a massive entryway that is formed by an arm reaching out of the ground holding a sword. On either side of the road one of these massive arms arises and the swords meet in the center. This is symbolic of Saddam's military power. It is perhaps not a coincidence that the word armament has been shortened to arm, and the media often speaks of an “arms race”. They are referring to a race to achieve military superiority. So the very word “arms” speaks of military power. That Jessica had one of her arms broken speaks of a judgment coming to America's military, though it will not be as complete as the judgment to her economic might.

The right arm is typically the arm used for attack, while the left arm is used for defense, and it would have been the arm to hold the shield in ancient days of warfare. That Jessica's left arm was the one broken speaks of America's diminished ability to shield herself from the attacks of others. On 9-11 this was first demonstrated, but even more severe attacks are coming which America will not be able to ward off. She will still be able to strike back, but her immunity from attack within her own borders will be removed.

Another significant injury that Jessica sustained is a fracture to her lumbar spine. The backbone represents the courage and resolve of a person or nation. We speak of someone who is bold and courageous as having a lot of backbone. We also speak of someone who stands fast in the face of adversity as having steel in their backbone. Conversely, a coward or person of weak resolve is spoken as spineless, or as having a yellow streak down their back. This injury to Jessica's spine represents a breaking of America's boldness and resolve as a result of fears that will assail her. Even as Jessica will require a lengthy amount of time to recuperate, so too America will enter a period where she will have to "lie low" for a while, and not exert herself in world affairs.

The name Jessica also hold prophetic import. On the website www.behindthename.com , we are given this definition:

JESSICA f *English*

This name was first used in this form by Shakespeare in his play 'The Merchant of Venice', where it belongs to the daughter of Shylock. Shakespeare probably based it on the biblical name *Iscah* meaning "YAHWEH beholds" in Hebrew, a minor character in Genesis.

Yahweh does behold all that goes on in the world, and His eye is ever upon His chosen people and their land, to watch over them and protect them.

Zechariah 12:2-9

"Behold, I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that causes reeling to all the peoples around; and when the siege is against Jerusalem, it will also be against Judah. It will come about in that day that I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples; all who lift it will be severely injured. And all the nations of the earth will be gathered against it. In that day," declares Yahweh, "I will strike every horse with bewilderment and his rider with madness. But *I will watch over* the house of Judah, while I strike every horse of the peoples with blindness. Then the clans of Judah will say in their hearts, "A strong support for us are the inhabitants of Jerusalem through Yahweh of hosts, their God.' In that day I will make the clans of Judah like a firepot among pieces of wood and a flaming torch among sheaves, so they will consume on the right hand and on the left all the surrounding peoples, while the inhabitants of Jerusalem again dwell on their own sites in Jerusalem... And in that day I will set about to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

Since Israel once more became a nation in 1948 she has experienced one war after another as her Arab neighbors have attempted to drive her into the sea and destroy her completely. Yet time after time Yahweh has given her victory. She has been "like a firepot among pieces of wood and a flaming torch among sheaves." Those who have risen against her have been destroyed.

Even the mighty U.S.S.R. suffered judgment due to reaching her hand out against Israel. The U.S.S.R. sold billions of dollars of equipment to Israel's enemies and sent trainers and advisors by the thousands to instruct her enemies in how to destroy Israel. Yet in both the Six Day War and the Yom Kippur War these Soviet trained and equipped nations were destroyed and they themselves ended up giving territory back to Israel. The Soviet economy then suffered the judgment of God as it completely collapsed and the citizens of Moscow would wait in line all day for a loaf of bread. The Soviet military was also wounded as it suffered defeat in Afghanistan and had to pull out after a long and bloody conflict. The Soviet Union collapsed and the Berlin Wall came down, and who can deny that these things occurred as a judgment against this nation for stretching her hand out against Israel?

Even so, America will not escape the wrath of God if she attempts through economic and military coercion to divide up the land of Israel and give it to the Palestinian people. Jessica Lynch is a picture of Columbia. She is a female personification of America, and her injuries are a prophetic message to the U.S.A. and the world. On an encouraging note, it has been reported that Jessica should fully recover from her injuries over time, and so too may America as she follows the counsel of the Great Physician.

Jessica and her convoy suffered great loss when they strayed from the path they were instructed to follow. Whether by ignorance or intent, America too will suffer loss if they stray from the path God has instructed her to follow. America needs to consider the words of Scripture.

Deuteronomy 27:17

"Cursed is he who moves his neighbor's boundary mark.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen.'"