

The Coming Trade War!



by Peter Salemi

Specific curses were to come upon the nations of Israel and overtake them! One of those curses would be a trade war with a foreign nation that would decimate their economies.

What is a trade war? Investopedia defines it as, "A negative side effect of *protectionism* that occurs when Country A raises tariffs on Country B's imports in *retaliation* for Country B raising tariffs on Country A's imports. Trade wars may be instigated when *one country perceives another country's trading practices to be unfair* or when domestic trade unions pressure politicians to make imported goods less attractive to consumers. Trade wars are also a result of a misunderstanding of the widespread benefits of free trade" (emphasis added).

The above is exactly what Donald Trump accuses China of doing. Donald Trump jumped nimbly onto this bandwagon with campaign slogans promising to revitalize America's weakened position in world trade – mostly by relying on protectionist measures:

- First - he would halt the negotiations to draft the Transatlantic Partnership Agreement between the US and the EU and refuse to ratify the already-signed Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement.
- Second, he would either find a way out of NAFTA or would completely revise the terms of that treaty with the other parties (Canada and particularly Mexico).
- Third, he would use bilateral agreements to frame American trade and economic relations with the rest of the world, while simultaneously moving away from a policy of multilateral or even global regulation of world trade (to the extent that the US is ready to refuse to take part in the work of the WTO).

- Fourth, he would completely revise the terms of America's trade and economic relations with China: increasing the typical level of import duties on Chinese goods to an average of 45% and adopting protectionist measures in connection with what is known as Beijing's currency war (the artificially weak yuan compared to the US dollar) (ZeroHedge.com).

Obviously the dogged and headlong pursuit of such a consistently protectionist program could not only strain relations with many of Washington's trading partners, but could even trigger a trade war. In June the US president-elect thus described American-Chinese economic relations, "We already have a trade war and we're losing badly."

Trump's protectionist mantras are already being echoed around the world. America's trading partners are considering retaliatory measures. These are primarily the countries with which the US has the largest trade deficits. In 2015 America's biggest trade imbalances were with the following five trade partners (in billions of dollars): China - 365.7; Germany - 74.2; Japan - 68.6; Mexico - 58.4; and Vietnam - 30.9. China's currently astronomical magnitude of foreign exchange reserves is the flip side of the active trade surplus with the US that China has been building up each year. During the 15 years of its membership in the WTO, China has stockpiled a favorable balance of \$3.5 trillion from its trade with the US.

The first true test of the Trump White House's relationship with China may come in April, when the US Treasury releases a report looking at China's currency. Trump has long maintained that China has been devaluing its currency in order to stack the deck on exports in its favour.

Louis Kuijs, head of Asia economics at Oxford Economics and a former senior China economist at the World Bank, said it was "more legitimate now than at any time in the last 10 years to talk about the risk of something pretty close to a trade war", he said.

"Anyone with a stake in Chinese exports, especially to the US, should be worried," said Kuijs, adding that US and European companies that assemble products in China would also see their bottom lines affected.

If a trade war starts, it is likely to start with targeted hits, said Pei. If Trump wants to placate his base in the Midwest he could target Chinese steel, for example. China is engaging "in at least questionable" practices in the steel industry, says Pei. "The industry has so much overcapacity and they are exporting a lot of cheap steel and that is disrupting."

Tariffs on those goods would also disrupt trade right across the Asia Pacific region, said Pei. Some 35% of China's exports in 2015 was "processing trade", where China imports components from other countries and assembles them for exports. A trade war with China on those goods would cause collateral damage on imports from Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and others.

Who would ultimately win the trade War between China and the USA?

"Eswar Prasad, a former head of the Chinese division at the International Monetary Fund, argues that 'over the long term China comes out a winner no matter what.'" (A Trade War Against China Might Be a Fight Trump Couldn't Win by Eduardo Porter).

"China is becoming a leading member of the international community," Mr. Prasad wrote in his new book "Gaining Currency," but not, "as the West prefers, by being co-opted into *existing institutions* under the current rules of the game." Instead, China is "co-opting other countries into the *system of rules it wants to dictate*."

America simply has lost its power and influence in the world and has become the world's largest debtor nation. It just does not have the resources to go into a trade war with China. The Bible says that the USA and the west will lose the trade war and eventually be taken over by China.

Low Wages

Because these countries are operating at a much lower standard, of living, wage costs can be kept MUCH lower than those in the United States, and producers of consumer goods are able to manufacture top-quality commodities at much lower prices than those the US & Canada are able to produce.

Many businesses in the USA and Canada have gone to Mexico and China due to wages, and Yes, American manufacturers have gone out of business-or they have been bought out by Chinese or other foreign manufacturers!

Billions of dollars that has been bled from America and Canada has been sent overseas and has boosted the economies of many nations especially China. Many American companies have set up shop there and the middle class has grown and China is now the second largest economy in the world, next to the United States. That is all USA money, technology, labor etc...set up in another country so they can benefit while the USA loses! One of the curses God said would happen to his people Israel was, "The fruit of thy land, and *all thy labours, shall a nation which thou knowest not eat up;*" (Deut 28:33).

Deuteronomy 28:51 also says that a foreign nation, "And he shall eat the fruit of thy cattle, and the fruit of thy land, *until thou be destroyed* [economically it is speaking of products for trade]: which *also* shall not leave thee *either* corn, wine, or oil, *or* the increase of thy kine, or flocks of thy sheep, until he have destroyed thee." China has benefitted from importing American and Canadian companies and also buying up their companies as well; but this has *destroyed* the economies of the west. American and Canadian manufacturing has been decimated by companies moving to China. Chinese companies have bought Canadian and American companies only to *benefit* China. They have also imported Chinese workers to work for them on American soil in those companies.

God said he would bring a *foreign nation* upon us that will be the head of other foreign nations in a great alliance which would break our national economy, and would ultimately place us in a state of siege!

A Siege is Coming!

The Bible prophesied that a siege is coming, (Deut 28:49-58).

A siege is, "the act or process of surrounding and attacking a fortified *place in such a way as to isolate it from help and supplies*, for the purpose of lessening the resistance of the defenders and thereby making capture possible." (Dictionary.com, under "siege" emphasis added).

Another source says, "a military operation in which enemy forces surround a town or building, cutting off essential supplies, with the aim of compelling the surrender of those inside." (Google search).

Anciently, an attacking army arriving at the site of a major enemy city would be confronted with a system of walls, probably protected by moats, battlements, drawbridges, and the like.

The Bible speaks of the "sieges" of various cities, particularly *Jerusalem*, prior to its destruction by Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. Large "siege trains" of men, animals, and "machines" would laboriously draw near. Then, "trenching" would begin, to inch closer and closer to the defensive city walls. Implements of the siege were towers on wheels, so bowmen could be raised to a level equal to defenders on the walls, catapults, which could hurl flaming bundles of oil-soaked rags inside the city, and shielded battering rams to break down the gates.

But long prior to the actual attempt to break into the city, the city would be surrounded, *and all flow of goods cut off*. Only those cities that had their own water supply, and which had stockpiled sufficient food, could survive for long periods of time. *Famine*, and death by starvation, was the result (Isaiah 29:1-8).

Today, as in the case of Japan after the American, British, and Dutch embargo of 1941, whole nations *can be cut off from their sources of supply*. Japan was then and is now a "bicycle" economy. She possesses few adequate sources of raw materials, and must *import* practically everything. She must then *export* manufactured commodities in order to purchase food, and more raw materials.

Japan imports oil, coal, iron, cobalt, copper, manganese, aluminum, potash, tin, rubber—dozens of raw materials used in modern manufacturing.

The time was when the United States was virtually self-sufficient in most raw materials.

Not anymore!

Today, the U.S. is utterly *dependent* upon foreign supplies to fuel its massive economy. The U.S. imports about *half* of its oil, and massive amounts of rubber, chromium, steel, tin, cotton, and other raw materials. Primarily, the imports into the U.S. represent consumer goods, such as automobiles, electronic devices, textiles and agricultural products.

Should a *major trading partner and their allies* decide to *punish* the U.S. for perceived "unfair trade practices," like in the Arab oil embargo in the early '70s, the effects to the U.S. economy would be immediate, and massive.

One of the most chilling scenarios is that of retaliation by the Chinese, to whom we have "exported" huge amounts of our debt. Should the Chinese suddenly decide to quit purchasing government paper to help finance our burgeoning deficits, our economy could collapse. As God says, "...borrower is servant to the lender... He shall lend to thee, and thou shalt not lend to him: *he shall be the head, and thou shalt be the tail.*" (Prov 22:7; Deut 28:44).

So how can a *siege* occur with the modern methods of warfare? THROUGH TRADE WAR! If U.S. goods are no longer bought anywhere in any foreign markets, and we are unable to sell- that would be a very serious situation, indeed!

But, what if we were also unable TO BUY? If the products we need for our economy are cut off?

Bible prophecies say we are headed towards national disaster from within, products that foreign markets won't even buy due to the curses God will put on our national products like grain and cattle-what if the United States and Canada desperately needed to buy from foreign nations, the basic foodstuffs and necessities of life just to survive? Cutting these things off from us will really weaken our nations to the point of surrender! This would spell complete doom to our peoples. The complete takeover of our countries would be ripe for the picking. Any nations military could easily take over our nations.

God says this is exactly what is going to happen. God says that there would be a scattering of the power of the Holy people of God-Israel (Daniel 12:7). Their power will be gone, economic as well as militarily. Ezekiel writes, "They have blown the trumpet, even to make all ready; *but none goeth to the battle*: for my wrath is upon all the multitude thereof." (Ezekiel 7:14). The military as a whole will not function do to economic problems that we will have. Wars cost money!

Notice this prophecy is Deuteronomy 28, "The LORD shall bring a nation against thee from far, from the end of the earth, *as swift* as the eagle flieth; a nation whose tongue thou shalt not understand;

"A nation of fierce countenance, which shall not regard the person of the old, nor shew favour to the young...And he shall besiege thee in all thy gates, until *thy high and fenced walls come down*, wherein thou trustedst, throughout all thy land: and he shall besiege thee in all thy gates throughout all thy land, which the LORD thy God hath given thee." (vv.49-50, 52).

God says that a foreign nation will *besiege* us!

What kind of a siege? In modern military times, the old-fashioned, outdated methods of besieging a country or a city are completely obsolete EXCEPT THROUGH TRADE! Today, we have bombers flying at better than 1500 miles an hour! With guided missiles, jet planes, hydrogen bombs, nuclear submarines, it is nothing short of amusing to conceive of a siege through MILITARY means.

But, it is strikingly clear when applied to world trade! This siege will *not* be military but economic!

Verse 53 says, "And thou shalt eat the fruit of thine own body, the flesh of thy sons and of thy daughters, which the LORD thy God hath given thee, *in the siege*, and in the straitness, wherewith thine enemies shall distress thee:" Starvation to the point that people will turn to cannibalism because our inability to buy from other nations-cutting us off from trade; or the inability of buying from within our nations due to hyper-inflation and the collapse of our dollar.

When the value of the U.S. dollar plummets, anyone who holds dollar-denominated assets will sell them at any cost. The biggest holders are foreign governments who own U.S. Treasuries.

Altogether, foreign countries own more than \$5 trillion in U.S. debt. If China, Japan or other major holders started dumping these holdings of Treasury notes on the secondary market, this could cause a panic leading to collapse. China owns more than \$1 trillion in U.S. Treasuries.

This is how you make a nation totally helpless and subject to a military take over.

Gill Commentary comments on this verse, "This shows the cause of it, a famine by reason of the closeness of the siege, *so that no provisions could be brought in for their relief; and all within being eaten up*, and everything that was eatable, even the most nauseous and disagreeable, they would be led on to this strange, unheard of, and barbarous action, eating their own children." (emphasis added).

This foreign nation is not the neighboring nations that speak the same language or have the same heritage as the nations in the west. It will not come from Australia, New Zealand or Britain. No, instead, the coming siege which will put irresistible pressure on the U.S. economy will come from "a nation against thee from far, from the end of the earth, as *swift* as the eagle flieth; a nation *whose tongue thou shalt not understand*" and a "nation of fierce countenance."

The *swiftness of world trade*, typified by the eagle, does mean modern jet air cargo, where goods can be delivered overnight around the world. It can also apply to the speedy information super-highway, the Internet, and the ubiquitous FAX machines and cell phones which supply virtually instant communications around the world.

But the "high fenced walls"-the barriers-to world trade were. Those walls were then, and are today, the restrictive tariffs countries erect to protect their national interests in world trade war.

But will we survive? From *within* God describes impending NATURAL disasters-calamities in the weather, rapidly spreading disease epidemics that will effects us on a national scale! "A third part of thee shall die with the *pestilence*, [disease epidemics] and with *famine* shall they be consumed in the midst of thee: and a third part shall fall by the sword round about thee; and I will scatter a third part into all the winds, and I will draw out a sword after them. "When I shall send upon them the *evil arrows of famine, which shall be for their destruction, and which I will send to destroy you: and I will increase the famine upon you, and will break your staff of bread:*

"So will I send upon you famine and *evil beasts, and they shall bereave thee*; [wild animals infecting our cattle with tuberculosis and other diseases] and pestilence and blood shall pass through thee; and I will bring the sword upon thee. I the LORD have spoken *it*." (Ezekiel 5:12, 16-17).

One third of our populations will die because of *famine* due to the inability to buy or sell due to trade *within* and *without* with foreign nations. That same third will also die due to diseases infecting our food. These problems from *within* will have us become totally weak and subject to a take over from foreign nations.

China-The Nation

God specifically speaks of a "nation" coming from a far that will "besiege" the peoples of the USA through trade war. When the USA is prostrate and on her knees economically, and the military will not be able to function, China will take over militarily and occupy our nations.

China will give a deadly blow to NATO. China will engage in trade war with the United States and China will take over and occupy the USA, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.

Ezekiel prophesied that Gog (China) will attack our nations *economically*-through trade war, and then take them over *militarily*.

In Ezekiel's prophecy Gog says, "And thou shalt say, I will go up to the land of unwalled villages; *I will go to them that are at rest*, that dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates, *To take a spoil, and to take a prey*; to turn thine hand [have power over] upon the desolate places *that are now* inhabited, and upon the people *that are* gathered out of the nations, *which have gotten cattle and goods* [have become rich], *that dwell in the midst of the land*." (38:11-12). Although economically broken there are still riches in the land that the most wealthy, and what the governments will still possess in the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand that will still amount to a great "spoil." Similar examples were Egypt in the days of Moses. After the 10 plagues that devastated them there were still spoils that were taken by the Israelites (see Gen 15:14; Ex 12:36). Many former empires when they fell, the attacking armies always took the spoils that was left in the land.

Now the phrase "having neither bars nor gates" and "without walls" This is very appropriate ancient terminology for a people who have "let down their defenses." An ancient city's primary defensive weapons against attack were a strong wall and strong gates which could withstand sieges, battering rams, etc... A city without walls and gates was a "sitting duck" for an attacker. As noted above the military as a whole will not function do to economic problems that we will have. Wars cost money!

We are protected by two vast oceans so no outside army can just come up and attack us with ease. We were prone to wars that ravaged Europe like World War 1 & 2. This can only mean North America, Australia and New Zealand, we "dwell safely" in these lands. But, due to our geographic situation, the phrase those who are at "rest" and "dwell safe" actually means

"*unsuspectingly*," (Pulpit Commentary) in the *context* of this verse; we believe because of our geographic situation we cannot be attacked and *we do not expect* an attack, but this will change when Gog realizes we are defenseless.

Notice verse 14 it says, "In that day when my people of Israel dwelleth safely, *shalt thou not know it?*" The Pulpit Commentary says, "viz. that Israel is dwelling safely and *unsuspectingly*? Assuredly; because the barbarian chieftain will then be on the watch, as it were, *to spy out Israel's defenseless condition, and to fix upon the most opportune moment for an assault.*" (emphasis added). When China realizes the effects of the trade war has rendered the West defenseless, he will know it will be the time to attack and take it over.

Gog-China is after our raw material and resources and the land which China so desperately needs for its economy and huge population. This source writes, "No doubt, China has undergone a full-on food-production miracle over the past generation, but *there's zero chance that its farms will emerge as a global exporting powerhouse*, as its vaunted electronics factories have done. As this report notes, China's total farm output has tripled since 1978. But it has to feed nearly a fifth of the globe's people on just 8 percent of its arable land. *Meanwhile, nearly 20 percent of China's farmland has been polluted by runoff from industrial waste and/or excessive agrichemicals, its government recently acknowledged. On top of that, the country's water resources are extremely limited.*" (Article, "6 Charts That Show How We Became China's Grocery Store and Wine Cellar" by TOM PHILPOTT, emphasis added). China needs land, water and resources for its huge population. Our lands can provide that for them.

Of course the West's allies of Saudi Arabia and Japan protest this as it says, "Sheba, and Dedan, [Saudi Arabia] and the merchants of Tarshish [Japan], with all the young lions thereof [Singapore, The Philippines, Taiwan], shall say unto thee, Art thou come to take a spoil? hast thou gathered thy company to take a prey? to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil?" (38:13). E.W. Bullinger Companion Bible Notes says this is a "protest" to the invasion of the United States and the West.

The K&D Commentary says of this verse, "A *covetous desire* for the possessions of the people of God, and envy at his exalted position in the centre of the world, are therefore the motives by which Gog is impelled to enter upon his predatory expedition against the people living in the depth of peace. *This covetousness is so great, that even the rich trading populations of Sabaea, Dedan, and Tarshish (cf. Eze 27:22, Eze 27:20, and Eze 27:12) perceive it, and declare that it is this alone which has determined Gog to undertake his expedition.* The words of these peoples (Eze 38:13) are not to be taken as expressing their sympathies (Kliefoth), but serve to give prominence to the obvious *thirst for booty which characterizes the multitude led by Gog...*" (emphasis added). This is the true motivation of China to take over the lands and resources of the west for their own needs and peoples.

This alliance of Gog will come in with virtually no resistance whatsoever except for pockets of militias that will resist, "And I will call for a sword against him throughout all my mountains, [nations of Israel] saith the Lord GOD:" (v.21). Interesting that many militia's in the United States especially, are beginning to really organize themselves and being prepared for an attack.

Yes-as much as we might like to Ignore it, as much as we might HOPE it isn't true, a SIEGE IS COMING! You are being WARNED, right now! The message of your Bible is clear and timeless as it is timely. The United States has opened the *gates to a trade war it cannot and will not win*, unless we repent and return to God Almighty!