

## FFA and July 18<sup>th</sup> Part 1

We all know by now that there is a shaking going on in our movement. Many people have tried to understand why this shaking is occurring. They have tried to come up with prophetic or theological reasons for it. It's not my intention to address those questions unless people specifically ask. So we are hoping people take the opportunity to write any questions that they have and pass them to us and we will try to address them during our presentations. What I want to do in my presentations at least the first few depending on how long it takes, is to address some of the reasons why FFA and this movement have developed very different scenarios of end time prophecy. Both parties claim to be using William Millers rules. We all claim to be using divine methodology. And yet we find ourselves today in very different positions. Coming to different conclusions.

So I want to read some extracts from an open letter that was written by FFA. I am not sure exactly when this open letter was written or when it was published. I am not even sure how I got hold of this copy. It's at least a few months old I think but I am not a hundred percent sure. It's an open letter from FFA.

"Dear friends. I don't expect you to read very far into this letter before you throw it into your waste bin or trash can but I must send it to you in spite of that reality. I am under conviction to not only tell you but provide evidence that on July 18th 2020 Islam is going to detonate a Nuclear device in Nashville Tennessee. I fully understand that you are about to end your reading of this letter. I understand the absurdity of this claim but I am prepared to defend it if given ample time to do so."

So there is an open letter that FFA is writing to the inhabitants of a city called Nashville in the United States. This letter serves as a warning to the residence of that city telling that on July 18th 2020, that's this year in a few months, Islam is going to detonate a nuclear device in their city. Most people would look at this claim and think that it's absurd, it's foolish. They recognize that it sounds silly but they say that they are willing and able to defend the claim that they make. So at least for the first few presentations, depending on how long we take, I want to examine the methodology that has been used to develop this claim. So we can not only understand how divergent the views of FFA and ourselves have become, but as we compare their methodology with ours, it's my hope that we will gain a confidence in the methodology that we are using to develop our model of end time prophecy compared to theirs. Reading on...

"My problem in trying to warn you of this even is it requires information on a hand full of subjects that you may or may not have any inclination to consider. Therefore my intent in this letter is to identify the warning I am under obligation to provide and then give a brief explanation of how this warning can be demonstrated to be valid. Hopefully the overview of these issues will prompt you to go to the July 18th 2020 website where the defense of each of these issues is presented in a thorough fashion."

So the second paragraph basically says that FFA recognize how difficult it is to accept their claim. The reason why it's difficult for people to accept it or to even understand is because they have to use multiple lines of evidence, or what we might call line upon line or layer upon layer, to develop these conclusions that they have come to. So what they intend to do in this letter is to give a brief overview of how they have come to these conclusions. If after reading this a person is inclined to read what they teach, he is inviting them to go to a new website that they are creating where they will go through each on of these arguments and defend them. It is my understanding that FFA have not developed sufficiently everything that they claim in this introductory thought, this open letter that they sent out.

"The subjects all have a relation to biblical prophecy and all of the subjects are interconnected. One subject is the United States of America which prophetically is the 6th kingdom of Bible prophecy and the kingdom that succeeds the 7th kingdom of Bible prophecy which is the United Nations. As the United States ends its history as the sixth kingdom of the world, transcends into the seventh kingdom of the United Nations, Bible prophecy specifies that Donald Trump is the final president of the United States."

So all they are doing here is referring to Revelation 17. If you go to Revelation 17 I am sure we are all aware there is brought to view a beast that has 7 heads. Now Revelation 17 is important for us to understand because it forms part of the series of prophecies. Beginning in chapter 12 moving into chapter 13 and then concluding in chapter 17. In fact those three chapters are identified on the 1843 chart. So you see a central column in the chart. To the left of that column is the book of Daniel and to the right is the book of Revelation. The imagery that you see here (on the bottom right of 1843 chart where the picture of the Dragon then the picture of the Beast of Revelation 13 is, and also on the bottom left of chart where the beast of Revelation 17 is) are the stories of Revelation 12, Revelation 13, and Revelation 17. You see a similar representation here (1850 chart) but it is not as clean or straight forward as it is in this story line (1843 chart). So all they are identifying is that in Revelation 17 there is a beast and that beast has 7 heads. It's the same beast that is brought to view in Revelation 13 and Revelation 12. Revelation 12 it's identified as a great red dragon, Revelation 13 it is identified as a beast that is like a leopard and in 17 it is identified as a scarlet colored beast. But that animal in all three chapters is the same animal. It is just represented or symbolized in different ways. What they are identifying in this paragraph is that when you go to the last two heads the speak about the sixth and seventh kingdom. Those numbers 6 and 7 are referring to the 6th and 7th head of that beast. So just in case we are not all familiar with that, if you turn to Revelation 17:3

17:3     So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

So this beast with 7 heads that is brought to view in Revelation 17 is the same beast as the one in Revelation 13:1. In Revelation 13:1 it speaks about a beast rising up out of the sea again having 7 heads and ten horns. If you drop back to Revelation 12:3 that same animal is identified as a great red dragon again having 7 heads and 10 horns. All they state in this open letter as a fact is that the 6th head is the United States and the 7th head is the United Nations. Without proving it, it's at this introductory thought that FFA and ourselves begin to diverge and disagree. If you write an open letter to the general public or even Adventists and you identify a kingdom called the United Nations, everyone knows who you are referring to and we do not believe that the 7th head of Bible prophecy is the United Nations as it exists today. Which is the proposal or the explanation that FFA are giving here in this letter. So that is the first point in which we disagree with them.

The model that they have that the United Nations is the 7th kingdom of Bible prophecy, we believe to be incorrect. Depending on how our studies go this week, we may or may not explain why we teach that or why we understand it that way. If we don't get that opportunity to do that here, we have explained it in the recent camp meetings in Africa this year. It's probably around 30 - 40 videos. It's at this first juncture that we disagree with the conclusions that FFA are coming to. They identify another point that President Donald Trump is the last President identified in Bible prophecy.

"President Trump has been clearly typified by many Biblical leaders and is clearly marked in God's word. His Presidency and his struggle with the democratic party is also a subject of prophecy. It provides a backdrop for another subject that is marked prophetically. That subject is that there is to be another Civil War in the United States. This reality is fairly easy to recognize. For citizens of the United States the intensity of division that has taken place between liberal and conservative Americans this day and age is manifested in the News on a daily basis."

So they continue this thought with President Donald Trump. They make the claim that he is identified in many Biblical stories. It speaks about the struggle that he is having with the democratic party as being a subject of Bible prophecy and this struggle is another subject that comes to bare upon their prophecy of July 18. That subject is that they predict that there will be Civil War in the United States. They say that it's easy to recognize this because you can already see a division occurring in American Society. The division is based upon peoples belief of liberalism and conservatism. So they are predicting that there will be Civil War in the United States. They then go on to say the following...

"With these dynamics identified in God's word, we also find that Islam is a specific and well documented subject of Bible prophecy. Islam's role is to bring all men on planet earth together in order to combat Islam. Islam is the issue that pushes the world into a One World Government as the world attempts to address the escalating warfare brought by the Islamic religion. That war which is the third World War begins in earnest when Islam strikes the United States with an Atomic weapon on July 18th 2020. In order to uphold a date such as this, it is necessary to consider and apply Biblical Chronology. Islam and Biblical Chronology are subjects along with the United Nations, the United States and Donald Trump that must be understood to recognize the validity of this warning. Of the many prophetic lines that address Donald Trump, there is one other that must be considered as well. That is the line of Russia and it's current leader, Vladimir Putin. The book of Daniel identifies a specific struggle for control of the world that takes place between Russia, Putin, and the United States and Donald Trump. Another world power player that Bible prophecy addresses in the struggle is portrayed prophetically as working behind the scenes and that power player is the Roman Catholic church."

So this is quite a complex paragraph. They are going to introduce a number of different stories that all converge together. So the first one is that they introduce the subject of Islam. And together with the story of Islam they speak about what they call prophetic chronology. They say that everybody will come together in order to combat or resist or fight against Islam. So it says that all men, I presume that they mean all nations on planet earth, will all come together to fight Islam. It says that this issue brings all the world into a one world government situation in order to address Islam. What they claim is that the war with all the world joined together against Islam, that that is the third World War. This third World War begins this year on July 18th and they use the words "In earnest". In order to prove all of this a person must be familiar with Biblical chronology. Islam, chronology, the United Nations, the United States, Donald Trump. These five subjects must all be understood so that you can recognize the validity of this warning message that they have. Then there is one more. That is the story of the Protagonist of the United States. The enemy of the United States. Russia. So they compare Russia with the United States, Putin with Trump. So there are six stories that are being brought to view here. Then they introduce a 7th. Another world player that Bible prophecy addresses in this whole struggle is the Roman Catholic Church. So they have introduced these seven subjects. Let's see if we can list them out. Islam, chronology, the UN, the USA, Trump. Russia and Putin, Roman Catholic Church. All these things need to be understood in order to accept a study of July 18th.

Now there are so many reasons why we disagree with what's being portrayed in this singular paragraph. They claim that all of the world will join forces, come together, in order to fight or to resist Islam. So on that point we disagree. We don't find evidence that that is the case. Now the reason why FFA come to that position is based upon a superficial understanding of a prophecy concerning Islam in the book of Genesis that says every mans hand fights against Islam essentially. So we believe that this is too simplistic a concept or model. What it does not address is the world documented proxy wars that are being currently faught in the Middle East. There are also subjects of prophetic history from the past. As an example, if you go to Revelation 9 and it speaks about the first and second woes, the 5th and 6th trumpet of Bible prophecy. We understand the prophecy that was given by Josiah Litch that connects to August 11, 1840. In that story we see four European powers that come together to deal with Egypt, an Islamic nation. On the surface it seems as though there is this unified response that addresses the subject of Islam but of course that is based upon a very superficial reading of that history. Because what we tend to disregard is firstly that that struggle was created by two Islamic powers fighting against one another. So those four European powers are actually supporting Islam at one level and they are also waring against Islam on another level. Because Islam is not some homogenized entity. It is not a singular entity. Also what we tend to neglect is the role of France in that history and how it was supporting Islam in that struggle. So we disagree that the whole planet will united together in a struggle against Islam.

Then they talk about Biblical chronology. This is almost comical, it's almost embarrassing to talk about because the way FFA now handle prophetic chronology can only be described as outright fanaticism. Again I am not sure if we will take the time to just briefly explain what they are doing but they develop dates at the end of the world based upon a convoluted understanding of what they call Biblical chronology. They take multiple calendars and transition from one to the other with very little rhyme or reason. It all seems to be based upon observational studies and the develop way marks that they place importance upon which is where they get on of these important dates for them, July 18th. So we disagree on the way they portrayed the role of Islam. We disagree on the use of Biblical chronology. We would call it numerology. We have already identified that their understanding of the role of the UN at the end of the world is wrong. The UN as it currently exists is as their title portrays it to be. Nations that are united together. Voluntary partners. The reason why this is so important, we read earlier about the fight or the struggle within the United States between the Republican and Democratic parties. The reason why that is significant is because during the presidency of Barak Obama, during those 8 years of his presidency, he actually tried to place the UN in what he would consider it's rightful place. The way we would describe it, it would be a multilateral union. He attempted and in many ways succeeded in removing the USA from it's premier position. So a few years ago in 2015-16 when you heard the battle cry that was coming from the Republican party, particularly Donald Trump, when he spoke about making America great, what he was in fact reffering to was not just to make America economically prosperous again because that work had already been successfully undertaken by Barak Obama. It had been done quietly without fan fair. No what Donald Trump was reffering to when he wanted to make America great, he was reffering back to something that occurred 25-27 years back in history. 1989, 1991 history when the USA had defeated the Soviet Union and it claimed that a new era had dawned upon the world which they call the new world order. You can go onto YouTube and you can watch that speech by President Bush Senior. Now like many Adventism conspiracy theorist, this movement believed that that speech was reffering to the UN. FFA had not changed their position since then. Adventists saw that that speech was a reference that the UN would be the 7th kingdoms of Bible prophecy. In fact what that call to arms was all about, that call to war, was a public declaration that after having defeated it's arch enemy the Soviet Union, Russia, that there was nothing now to prevent the United States from forming a new world order. That new world order was that the United States would be the sole power in the world and everyone would be subserviently to the United States. Their strategy was going relatively well

until two problems arose. One of them was Russia. If I can say it this way, the resurrection of Russia the King of the South. They had not counted upon Vladimir Putin coming to power and disrupting their plans. They also hadn't taken into consideration Barak Obama who struck, I think we don't realize how severe a blow it struck to that Republican vision. In 8 years he successfully destroyed their complete project. I think people don't realize what a force for good his Presidency was in putting a check or a hold upon these plans that the Republican party had put into place. So when Donald Trump says he wants to make America great again, what he is referring to, besides other points, is that he wants to undo the damage that has been done by President Barak Obama by the Democratic party. He wants America to achieve its divine role in prophetic history. We would understand that to be the glorious land. That was his mission. So what he desired to do was to dismantle or break or to weaken the United Nations.

We then go on to the subject of the struggle between the United States and Russia. Once again whilst we may superficially agree that there is a struggle between the United States and Russia, we disagree with FFA on the details of that struggle, that fight. The last point they bring up is they claim, they call it that power player the Roman Catholic Church. So once again we disagree with their understanding of the prophetic role of the Papacy at the end of the world. It's clear that FFA believe in some kind of conspiracy between the Papacy and the United States. That there is some kind of secret alliance between them. Once again this is based upon a superficial reading of Revelation 16 and EGW comment of the three fold union at the end of the world. Spiritualism, Catholicism and apostate Protestantism and when these three entities join together we see some kind of conspiracy that the United States, the United Nations and the Papacy all join together to fight Islam...

"The warning message that we are identifying speaks to the political struggle between Russia, the United States, and the United Nations. But it also speaks to the religious power struggle between Islam, Catholicism, Protestantism and the back sliden SDA church. The SDA church was given prophetic light which they have chosen to hide under a bushel rather than fulfill their responsibility. That responsibility included giving this very warning message. It is from the writing from the prophetess they claim to believe and accept that Nashville is marked as being destroyed by a ball of fire and her description easily fits the description of a nuclear weapon. Nashville was not the only city the prophetess identified would be struck by a catastrophe. Over 100 years ago she spoke of the time when the great buildings of New York city would be destroyed. She identified among other things that when this occurred, the fire engines would not be able to put out the fires."

So this paragraph, remember their target audience is the world, so they are going to identify Ellen White in these terms "their Prophetess". And when it says "their prophetess" it means the prophet of the SDA church. So they speak third person. EGW is their prophet, not our prophet. Because they want to make the point that this is what SDA are supposed to believe.

So there is a warning message that speaks about a political struggle between three powers that they bring to view. Russia, USA, and United Nations. We agree that there is political struggle between those three powers. They also talk about a religious power struggle between Islam, Catholicism and Protestantism. They also introduce the SDA church. I guess we would not agree that there is some religious power struggle there that includes the SDA church. They claim that SDA's have been given great prophetic light, that we have chosen to hide that light and not do the work that we have been given to do. Then they go on to say...

"Part of the responsibility that SDA'S had included giving the message about Nashville."

So they claim that we should have read the spirit of prophecy, we should have recognized this prophecy that Nashville is going to be destroyed, we should have understood that that was going to be a nuclear attack and the SDA church should have warned the world. But because they have not done that, FFA is doing that work instead. This is where you begin to see an interesting narrative that develops because what they do whether they realize this or not, and what I mean by that statement will become clearer as we go on in our studies, what they say is that not only did EGW speak about a nuclear attack upon the city of Nashville, she also spoke about the destruction of two buildings in New York. Obviously they are speaking about 9/11. They quote "the great buildings of New York city". So what they are going to do is they are going to use their understanding of the Spirit of Prophecy that spoke about a dream EGW had where she saw buildings in New York being destroyed. They claim that that vision or dream was fulfilled at 9/11. So 9/11 was the fulfillment of that EGW quote that is found in Testimonies to the church Vol. 9 and Life Sketches 411, which is also found in the Review and Herald July 6th 1905. So they take those statements and those documents and they see a fulfillment of them at 9/11. they say that Adventists did not do their duty in warning the world of 9/11 and they are also not doing their duty when it comes to the warning about Nashville. So they say this...The responsibility that was on the SDA church, besides speaking about that political struggle and the religious struggle, they were to give one more warning, and that warning they should have got from EGW writings. Because they claim to believe her writings. And EGW writings say that Nashville will be destroyed by a ball of fire. That ball of fire, they say, is an exact or easy description of a nuclear attack. They say that that was not the only city that EGW identified as being struck. The other one was New York... So what they are going to do is use a compare and contrast technique. They are going to say if the quote from Testimonies to the church Vol. 9, which identified 9/11, if that was true, and they say it was, they know it was because it happened, if that came to pass, then we have the evidence that the Nashville Catastrophe will also come to pass. So that is the logic they are going to use. They say the we have proof that Nashville will be destroyed because we saw that New York was destroyed. And at least on one thing we can agree. FFA are using a consistent Methodology as they consider New York and Nashville.

We will discuss that in detail as we go through our study.

"The warning that we are providing consists of religious and political elements that requires some deep consideration. With this in mind we have created a website where we make a Biblical defense for all these seemingly absurd claims that those who wish to take warning might do so. It is certainly my hope that you will avail yourself of the information we are offering before it is too late. For whether you here or not this letter is being sent in order that I might fulfill my responsibility as a watchman for not to do so would mean that the blood of all those who perish in the coming nuclear strike would be required at my soul."

So I don't think that this document is being released. It may never be released I don't know. Maybe it would be rewritten, but it does give an insight into the thinking of FFA. So there is this warning of both a religious and a political nature and they are saying that people need to think seriously about these warnings. In order to help people, they are creating a special website where they will lay out their arguments in some kind of systematic fashion. They agree that these claims seem absurd. I guess we all agree on that, they are absurd claims. But they say that it's up to the individual to look at the material and decide for themselves. They say... we have sent you the warning and therefore if you die your blood will be at your own hands... that they have done their duty in warning you. So they believe that people will perish on July 18th when the nuclear attack happens. Then they quote from Ezekiel Chapter 3:17-21. Ezekiel 3 is the famous passage which speaks about Ezekiel being a watchman over the house of Israel. Perhaps we should read some of this.

3:17 Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me.

3:18 When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked [man] shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.

3:19 Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.

3:20 Again, When a righteous [man] doth turn from his righteousness, and commit iniquity, and I lay a stumblingblock before him, he shall die: because thou hast not given him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he hath done shall not be remembered; but his blood will I require at thine hand.

3:21 Nevertheless if thou warn the righteous [man], that the righteous sin not, and he doth not sin, he shall surely live, because he is warned; also thou hast delivered thy soul.

Now of course when you read this passage you can see how heavily altered this passage has been changed by FFA. For one thing this speaks about a message to the house of Israel specifically. This warning message is based upon the sin of God's people. This warning that is being given to them is concerning the eminent destruction by Babylon. Already their Kings have been taken captive and the destruction of their cities is about to happen. So they have taken all of that story, a people that have already had warning after warning that are already in captivity to Babylon and now Babylon is about to completely destroy their nation. They are going to take that story and they are going to change it significantly. It's not Babylon, it's Islam. This is not Israel it is the world. The world has not already had open interaction with their group who are going to punish them. This destruction that is about to happen to them is an overwhelming sudden surprise. It's not like that in this original setting.

What we want to understand is that FFA have significantly changed the context of this prophecy to make an application for today. The reason why that becomes significant is because one of the arguments that we have today between themselves and ourselves is that we no longer follow God's word. We are manufacturing information and we are not following a plain reading. So I just want to identify that the claim that they make which is based upon Ezekiel 3, is they are taking that statement and they are stretching it into a completely different scenario. They finish this open letter with the following statement.

"This passage is not being inserted to confer that FFA or elder Jeff is a prophet. He is not. This passage though is applicable to any Bible believer and it is included so that you might understand why I have inserted myself into your life this day."

Perhaps this closing paragraph is the most toxic of all of this letter. It's the one that you should find the most troubling, and the reason for that, I don't know if you picked it up, is because they say. They are going to quote from Ezekiel 3 because it is applicable to any Bible believer. So what they are saying is that the only people in Nashville that can be saved or helped are whom? Christians. If you are another religion, if you are no religion, then this letter will not help you. If you don't believe in this Christian God, you are already destroyed, there is no hope. This is the prophetic model that FFA has. If you see the situation that it has already developed and has continued to ripen in the United States, it's a struggle between a right wing, Evangelical, Christian Philosophy. So if you look at what's going on in America, there is a struggle between Christians and everyone else. And those Christians are those people with a very specific perspective. They are right wing Evangelicals who have a very specific and rigid way of understanding prophecy and morality. Everyone who doesn't see things their way, whether you are not a Christian, you could be of another religion or an atheist, or what you might be identified as being liberal, then you don't fit into that category. FFA got this same world view that this warning message is only targeting those people who are Bible believers. If you are not a Bible believer none of this will help you which means you are lost. You are already lost and you have no opportunity of being helped. Think how ugly that model of God is. That if you don't believe in Him already, you are already eternally lost because this model only allows Bible believers to be saved. And not just any kind of Bible believer, it's Bible believers who hold a very similar world view to the one that FFA hold to which is essentially the same view that the Republican party hold to.

Now ask yourself the question if you were God and you were trying to save a city, would you create a message or a warning that only Bible believers would understand and accept? Of course you wouldn't. Because there would be no hope for, I don't know what percentage it is of the people that live in Nashville, but at least 50% of the people are already going to die because they are not Bible believers. What kind of a God would do that? It's the God that FFA serve. It's a model of God that they have. We want to distance ourselves from that God because we don't serve a God that would do something like this. We have abundant evidence that God has given a warning message for all of the world. Whatever your religious persuasion is, whether you are a person of faith or no faith. Whatever your religious persuasion, whatever your political persuasion, whatever your sexual persuasion is, whoever you are, we believe in a God that would send a warning message that everyone could understand and recognize. Having recognized the warning message they would have an opportunity of being saved. They are being warned of a catastrophe is one thing but that is not sufficient for salvation. We also believe that after someone is being warned to fear God, they are also required to give Him glory. We could express that in the following fashion. Whoever you are, whatever your belief system is, we say that God has to give a warning message that is tailored to your needs. Certainly not that is targeted to Bible believers. Once He has your attention and you begin to desire a change, you see this warning is applicable to you, the second step as the first Angel's identifies is to give Him Glory. That means a person is required to enter into the kingdom of heaven which means they need to come out of whatever darkness they are in. That darkness can be many things. It can be a false Christian understanding of who God is, it can be a false religion, no religion. But after accepting the warning, step 2 is that everyone is required to enter into the kingdom of heaven. There are two ditches. One ditch is where FFA are. They have developed a warning that is only applicable to Bible believers which shuts off a message to large swathes of humanity. Lest you think that this is something new it's not. This is just a development of a philosophy that they have had from the very beginning of their existence. But there is also another ditch. A ditch that some of us in



this movement are in. We think that because someone is in the world, that they are not required to follow the same rules and regulations that we are required to follow. They think it's unfair that God would require of these people in the world to go through the same exercises, make the same commitments, make the same sacrifices that we have made. That the requirements, the tests are too difficult. So God would be willing to lower the standard. In fact their may not be any standard. So there are two ditches on the path to heaven. One is that this message is available to all humanity. And once a person receives a warning they can just enter into the kingdom of heaven just by passing that test. That is ditch one. The other ditch is where FFA are because they are developing warning messages that tailored only to certain cliques or slithers of Christianity. That warning message is shut off to all other groups. It identifies how racist and sexist that ministry is. Even though they don't even realize that that is their mindset or their world view.

So as we go into our studies. The studies that I will be doing this week I want to look at some of these aspects of how FFA have developed this model as they said when they compare 9/11 or September 11, 2001, when they compare that to July 18, 2020. They claim to have proven the first which they are now using as evidence the veracity of the second.

Let's pray...