Is the Bible a Book of Mysteries?
Examining the Prophetic Shtick of Jonathan Cahn

by J. Greg Sheryl

When Messianic Jewish pastor/rabbi Jonathan Cahn’s first book, The Harbinger, was published in 2012, it became a publishing success. Almost two years later, it was reported to have been on the New York Times Best Sellers list for 100 weeks and to have sold more than 1.2 million copies. In that book he used fiction to convey what he believed to be a truth that God had revealed to him: That the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center’s Twin Towers in New York City initiated the replaying of what he called a “biblical template” or “pattern” of God’s judgment spoken of in Isaiah that had originally occurred when the Assyrians attacked the northern kingdom of Israel in 732 B.C. The Scripture passage Cahn cited was Isaiah 9:9-10:

“All the people will know — Ephraim and the inhabitants of Samaria — who say in pride and arrogance of heart: ‘The bricks have fallen down, but we will rebuild with hewn stones; the sycamores are cut down, but we will replace them with cedars’” (emphasis added).

Cahn’s application of this Scripture to 21st-century America was novel and the book was hailed by some Christians and criticized by others. The criticisms came particularly from those Christian discernment ministries such as Personal Freedom Outreach. Because of The Harbinger’s success in the marketplace, Cahn was “asked to write and help put together a companion to the book as well as a study guide.” So Cahn produced The Harbinger Companion and Study Guide in 2013.

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