

Look Up!
Your Redemption Draws Near

By David Henke

“And when these things begin to come to pass then look up, and lift up your heads for your redemption draweth nigh.” Luke 21:28

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Preface

Many wars have been fought between Israel and its neighbors over the last seven decades. They are all part of what the Bible predicted;

- 1) that Israel would be re-born as a nation (Ezekiel 36),
- 2) that it would have to fight for its survival (Ezekiel 38),
- 3) that the ultimate purpose of all their wars would be the eradication of their nation, including the final war of Armageddon (Zechariah 1:18-21 and Joel 3:2).

They say history is prologue and in the case of the Bible and Israel that is very true. God has worked with His people according to a pattern of blessing and punishment. But all the events of Israel's past are part of her path toward eternal blessing.

There were three major wars in Israel's modern existence, 1948, 1967, and 1973. There are at least two more major wars before the ultimate battle of Armageddon. This booklet will describe two wars to eliminate Israel that are still future in Bible prophecy. The Psalm 83 Confederacy will attack Israel and be decisively defeated. Then the War of Gog and Magog will follow sometime after that when Israel is living peacefully. Middle East experts are increasingly expecting such conflicts. What is "normal" in the Middle East is either war, or the rumor of war.

The Church may still be here to witness one or both of these wars before God takes us out of the way of His wrath in the rapture of the Church. What follows the rapture will be the Tribulation, also known as the Seventieth Week of Daniel, and the time of Jacob's trouble. At the end of the Tribulation Christ will return to earth with His saints, destroy His enemies, and establish His Millennial Kingdom.

"War is on its way in the Middle East as Muslim countries are determined to force a showdown over the future of Israel, Ronald Reagan's assistant defense secretary Frank Gaffney warned in an exclusive Newsmax.TV interview. 'I'm afraid there's a war coming, a very serious, perhaps cataclysmic regional war,' he said. 'It will be presumably over, at least in part, the future existence of the state of Israel. It may involve all of its neighbors, as they have in the past, attacking Israel to try, as they say, to drive the Jews into the sea. It may involve the use of nuclear weapons,' Gaffney predicted. 'But whatever form it takes and whenever it occurs, it is unlikely to be contained to that region, and we must do everything we can to prevent freedom's enemies from thinking they have an opportunity to engage in that kind of warfare.'"

Newsmax.com: Gaffney: Rise of Sharia Rule Will Bring War to the Middle East.

<http://www.newsmax.com/Headline/gaffney-islamist-war-israel/2011/10/24/id/415578>

Introduction

Watchman Fellowship derives its name from Ezekiel 33 where God tells Ezekiel that he is to be a watchman to the house of Israel and to warn of dangers that approach. For over three decades the mission of Watchman Fellowship, warning of religious deceptions, has been an application of God's commission to Ezekiel to be a watchman for God's people. Ezekiel is a book of prophecy. Does Watchman's mission have any prophetic significance? It does. Religious deception will be one of the signs of the "last days."

Watchman's mission field is part of prophetic fulfillment, the rise of false Christs (Matthew 24 and Luke 21) and apostasy and heresy in the Church are a significant element of end time evidences. It wasn't until the 1950's that the Church began taking the gospel affirmatively to the cults. Previous to that the Church would expel and denounce the heretics and it ended there. Mission work with the cults, however, began with Walter Martin and a very few others. Most modern counter-cult ministries today had their beginning in the 1970's as a sort of spiritual children of Dr. Martin. Isaiah 59:19 says, "When the enemy of the LORD comes in like a flood the Spirit of the LORD will raise up a standard against him." The various ministries to cults and new religious movements are that "standard" that God has raised up.

Jesus said repeatedly in His Olivet Discourse "Let no man deceive you." He also said one of the ways false teachers would deceive is to say that "I am Christ" and "the time is at hand" (Luke 21:8) as a way to entice people away from the true gospel. Perhaps the most dramatic example of this warning is fulfilled in Jehovah's Witnesses. Their founder, Charles Taze Russell, claimed in Volume 2 of his *Studies in the Scriptures*, that they collectively are "the Christ class" (page 252), and that Armageddon will take place in 1914 (page 99), and the book is titled "The Time is At Hand." It is as if Jesus had them specifically in mind when He gave his warning.

Jesus said "No man knows the day or the hour," and that is always true. But He also chided the Pharisees for knowing the signs concerning the weather but not discerning the times they lived in. As the title of this booklet indicates, Jesus said, "*When you see these things begin to happen look up for your redemption draws near.*" We must pay attention to what Bible prophecy says and compare it with the news. However, we are not to venture predictions that will lead to misplaced hopes.

Perhaps because of the date-setting excesses of the following "teachers" Christian pulpits have gone silent on Bible prophecy. The desire to avoid divisive issues is understandable. However, pastors are called to teach and preach "the whole counsel of God" and not pick and choose what they like. Choosing to avoid an issue because one does not understand it should be met with the challenge to take up God's Word, ask Him in prayer for understanding, and preach or teach what you DO know. We are all at different stages of understanding. We don't mind pastors who confess they don't understand something.

The Second Advent Movement of the 1800's gave rise to many false prophets. William Miller set the date for Christ's return as 1844. When it failed He renounced date setting. However, out of that movement there arose many who held on to the date but revised the nature of Christ's "coming."

They said it was invisible, secret, and to His throne in heaven, not to the earth. Among those groups holding to this view are the Seventh-day Adventists and the Jehovah's Witnesses.

False Christs abound today more so than at any time in the past two millennia. Mormonism has had its false prophets and false prophecies as well. But we even see false prophets in the Church. Harold Camping pointed to May 21st 2011 as the date when the rapture will take the Church out of the world. When that failed he moved the "end" up to October 21, 2011. He had already failed in a similar prediction in 1994. We have a *Profile* on Camping that you can read on our Watchman.org website.

Among the cultic false prophets there is a "dodge" they will use to avoid the false prophet label, or to give them more time. That dodge is that their failed prophecy was fulfilled but invisibly. Just a couple days after Harold Camping's Rapture date of May 21, 2011 he was contemplating the failure of his prediction. In 1843/44, the followers of William Miller did the same thing, as they wondered why they were not caught up to heaven. In 1915, the Watchtower Society contemplated the failure of their Armageddon prophecy of 1914. The interesting thing about each of these failed prophecies is that the Millerites, out of whom arose the Seventh-day Adventists, and the Watchtower Society, also known as Jehovah's Witnesses, came up with an interpretation that allowed them to keep the date but to reinterpret and spiritualize what happened.

For the Seventh-day Adventists the 1844 date became known as The Great Disappointment. However, they reinterpreted what was supposed to happen on that date by saying that Christ entered the Most Holy Place in heaven and began His "investigative judgment" unseen by human eyes of course. In effect this was an invisible form of "coming." This idea holds the dubious advantage of not being provable or disprovable.

For the Jehovah's Witnesses, always an apocalyptic cult, the year 1914 was to be the year in which Armageddon would take place. Instead they got World War 1. When 1915 rolled around and WW1 was still brewing the Watchtower had to come up with an explanation. So, they reached into their bag of chronologies and took what they had taught about the year 1874 and moved it forward 40 years. 1874 was the year Jesus was to "come" invisibly (based upon a misunderstanding of the Greek word *parousia*) to His throne in heaven and begin to judge the world. Jehovah's Witnesses today will give you a blank look when you ask them about the 1874 date. They know only the 1914 date as the invisible second coming of Christ to His throne in heaven. My www.watchman-ga.org website provides much information on the Jehovah's Witnesses.

So too Harold Camping began his spiritualization of the May 21 date. He said, "On May 21, this last weekend, this is where the spiritual aspect of it really comes through," said Camping. "God again brought judgment on the world. We didn't see any difference but God brought Judgment Day to bear upon the whole world. The entire world is under Judgment Day and it will continue right up until Oct. 21, 2011 and by that time the whole world will be destroyed."

Refuting an event that didn't take place in the spiritual realm is much more difficult than if it didn't happen in the physical realm. Convenient, don't you think? Maybe that is why God-inspired prophecy is fulfilled in the real world where we all live. Shortly after his failed prophecy Harold Camping had a stroke and was placed in a nursing home. He died on December 15, 2013.

As you read the scriptures on your own, or that are quoted in this booklet, pay attention to certain phrases that will give you clues to the time of its fulfillment. Old Testament prophecies that have their fulfillment in the end times will usually have these words in the text of the prophecy, “the last days,” “in that day” or “in the latter days” or “the day of the Lord.” These phrases always apply to the days just before the second coming of Jesus.

In **Chapter One** we will look at the importance of understanding Biblical prophecy and the way it is interpreted. In **Chapter Two** we will look at two primary examples of fulfilled prophecy, the 70 weeks of Daniel 9:24-27, and the rebirth of Israel as a nation “right on schedule”. In **Chapter Three** we will look at prophesy from Ezekiel 36-39 and the war it describes for the Middle East. **Chapter Four** will address a war foretold in Psalm 83 that may break out at any moment, and will precede the Ezekiel 36-39 Gog and Magog War. **Chapter Five** addresses perhaps the next Middle East war described in Psalm 83. The Psalm 83 war will change the shape of the Middle East forever. In **Chapter Six** I pose the question of whether America is in the position of ancient Nineveh, threatened with destruction unless we repent.

Chapter One: What Has God Said?

In Daniel 12:4 the prophet said, “*But you, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.*”

Hal Lindsey comments on this verse and shows how it is being unsealed in our day.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V8WMg1ARwzQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r25eBmPsM3o>

Is this the time in history when God’s people will begin to discern the times because God is now unsealing the book? I believe so.

One hundred years ago before Israel was reborn, before the age of commercial flight, and before the era of mass communications Dr. Harry Ironside commented on the increase in travel and the printed media.

“Could anything more aptly set forth the chief characteristics of these last days? Men seem to have a perfect mania for traveling from place to place; and human inventions of all kinds are pressed into service to accelerate and make comfortable those who run to and fro. Coupled with this we have the ever-widening diffusion of the productions of the press, so that knowledge of all kinds is indeed increased. May we not see in these things one evidence that we have almost reached the special prophetic period denominated as the ‘Time of the End’?” *Lectures On Daniel the Prophet* (Neptune, N.J.: Loizeaux Brothers, 1911), 233-34.

Dr. Ironside came of age when modern communication and travel were beginning to accelerate. He died in 1951 but he would have been astounded if he could have seen how we communicate today. In Dr. Ironside’s day two people had to be in the same place to talk. Then with the increased use of the telephone two people could talk but were tied down to a fixed location by a landline. Today business and family meetings can take place on opposite sides of the world via Skype and other Internet based media. And it can take place while moving rapidly. Even surgical procedures can be directed from a video link. Anything you want to learn about is just a few clicks away on the Internet. It reminds me of a line from Arlo Guthrie’s song/monologue Alice’s Restaurant where he says, “You can get anything you want at Alice’s Restaurant.” At some point in the near future that link can be imbedded within our bodies. That is when our world will become very scary.

An ominous element of this increase in knowledge is the merging of human and machine. Among a group of innovative technologists known as *transhumanists* there is a movement to implant within the human body the technology to be able to download information, diagnose and treat illness, enhance human capabilities, conduct all financial transactions through an imbedded chip, and even monitor our movement and activity. This integration of human and technology is called the “singularity.” This would make Orwell’s Big Brother seem like a distant cousin in its power to control. Pay attention to this movement as it is becoming a reality. Elon Musk discussed some of the ramifications and possibilities of this human/machine merger.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y6rqNLDnO94>

The “Signs” of the Times

The signs of the last days that Jesus spoke of in Matthew 24 and Luke 21, and that were revealed to John in Revelation, fall into five areas. They are moral, economic, political, religious, and natural. As you consider them ask yourself how relevant they are to our modern world and whether God is about to judge our nation and world.

From Matthew 24 to Revelation we can think of phrases that associate with each of these five areas of human activity.

Moral - *“men shall be lovers of their own selves...”* 2 Timothy 3:2
- *“you shall be hated of all men for my name’s sake.”* Mark 13:13

Economic - the *“mark of the beast”* is necessary in order to buy or sell. Rev. 13:16,17.
- *“a measure of wheat for a penny, ...”* (a days wage). Revelation 6:6

Political - *Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?* Revelation 13:4.

Religious – - *“...and many false prophets shall arise...”* Matthew 24:11.

Natural – - *“there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes...”* Luke 21:7.

Among the above signs some must have some years of preparation before they are in full blossom.

Dr. David Reagan, Director of Lamb and Lion Ministries, discusses these major trends on his TV show Christ in Prophecy. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tRL83VxZTSI>

Morality will take time to decline. Between the philosophies of moral relativism and modern communications that make immoral entertainment easily accessible the downward slide of our culture is very predictable.

The move toward a World government can be seen on the horizon in the form of the UN and the European Union. Such multi-nation unions start out as trade agreements. More such unifying can be expected.

A one-world economic system will take decades of planning and stage setting among governments and corporations but it can already be seen in our global economy. The movement away from cash to digital money increases the power of governments to control its people.

Religious deception must begin with the loss of faith in the Bible and the God of the Bible creating a spiritual vacuum into which the many facets of deception moves. Ecumenism and cooperative

relations among very different religious groups is increasing because doctrine and truth mean little anymore. Those who hold to absolute truth and the fundamental doctrines of Christianity are labeled as close minded, ignorant, and bigots.

The last sign, natural disasters, are what insurance companies call “acts of God.” In the case of end time events they will definitely be acts of God’s judgment. Jesus said that the end time signs would be like birth pangs which mean they will increase in frequency and intensity until the end comes (Matthew 24). When those birth pangs are sufficiently intense there will be no question that the natural rhythm of nature has been interrupted. For the Global Warming believers, you have Revelation 16:8 on your side. *“And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire.”* That “climate change” is attributable to man is certain. Man’s sin and rejection of God will bring that climate change.

The certain coming of the Lord in His second advent is part of our Watchman Fellowship doctrinal statement as it is in every orthodox statement of faith. However, such statements are very general affirming the visible and bodily return of Jesus but with no further detail. Are we at the point in God’s time clock that we can, or should, see the details of ancient prophecies that match up with today’s news? I think we are. We are told to look for the signs of His coming, but failure to do so guarantees we will be asleep.

The Prophetic Panorama

In the grand sweep of prophecy some of the things we know are that after the Tower of Babel God chose Abraham to father a nation that would represent Him in the world. When the Israelites left Egypt God led them to the land He promised them. God would be Israel’s protector. If they are obedient to Him blessings will flow. But if they are disobedient then punishments will come till repentance and obedience result.

When I was in Jerusalem in 2015 our tour guide was standing in front of a general map of the Middle East. I pointed out to some of our group that God had placed His people in the world’s “round a bout.” Israel occupies the small strip of land that connects three continents, Asia, Europe and Africa. For an invader to go from Asia to Africa or Europe they will have to go through Israel. Armies in the ancient Near East had to follow the rivers when they moved. For instance, when Nebuchadnezzar led his army against Egypt he had to go northwest from Babylon to stay near the Tigris and Euphrates rivers and then turn south toward modern day Lebanon, Israel and then Egypt. A direct route across modern Iraq would be impossible for an ancient army.

Israel’s central geography is illustrated in this animation of ancient empires growth and decline.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v9AGRw1IQOY>

Therefore, for Israel to survive in this exposed location her protector must be God. Deuteronomy 28 says, *“And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth.”* Failure to be faithful to God has resulted in their being invaded and displaced repeatedly. This has been the fate of Israel from their

beginning to the present.

Israel failed to fulfill God's commands. Because of their many disobediences and unbelief God scattered them (Deuteronomy 28:64-67, Luke 21:24) and "judicially" blinded them to the message of the gospel (Romans 11:25). He warned them in advance of the very punishments He would inflict on them if they were disobedient (Leviticus 26). The Jewish Diaspora is proof that God has kept His Word.

But God is not finished with the Jews. He also promised to re-gather them "a second time" and bring them through Great Tribulation to the point of repentance. In their repentance, God will hear their prayer for Jesus, Whom they crucified (Zechariah 12-14), to deliver them.

In between Israel's scattering and the Tribulation there would be what we call the Church Age where God gives His witness to the world through the Church. Then before God deals with Israel He will take His Church out of the world, which we call the Rapture (1 Thessalonians 4:16). Since the Rapture has not yet happened but we have seen the re-establishment of Israel we know that we are in the "time of the end." The "fig tree," a symbol of Israel in scripture, has blossomed (re-established as a nation) as Jesus said in Luke 21:29.

During the Tribulation of seven years the one world government will hold power under the Antichrist. At the beginning of the seven years prophesied by Daniel 9:24-27, the Antichrist will "confirm a covenant with the many" (Israel) but in the middle of it he will desecrate the holy of holies in the temple by presenting himself as God. This is called the Abomination of Desolation and it will usher in the final 3 ½ years of the Tribulation that is called The Great Tribulation and the "time of Jacob's trouble." It will be the worst period of human history in which most of the human population is killed.

At the end of the Tribulation, and when Israel calls for their Messiah, Christ will return and defeat Satan (Psalm 118:26), the Antichrist, and all those allied with him. Then Jesus will inaugurate a kingdom that will last one thousand years (Daniel 2:44), the Millennium. At the end of the Millennium Satan will be loosed for a time (Revelation 20:7) during which he will again lead the world in rebellion against God. This time his defeat will be final. After this will be the Great White Throne judgment (Revelation 20:11-15) in which sinners will be judged and sent to their eternal judgment.

That is the grand sweep of Bible prophecy.

Jesus is on Every Page of the Bible!

In the Bible Jesus is the center of virtually everything. In Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning God (i.e., Jesus) created the heavens and the earth." At the end of Revelation, it is Jesus' return that sets things right in the world. False religions routinely claiming to follow the Bible will get Jesus' identity wrong. That is why Jesus said in John 5:39, "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me."

But Jesus' presence in scripture is much deeper than the surface text. This can be shown in prophetic types and figures. Most of us think of prophecy as beginning with "Thus saith the Lord...." Many prophecies do begin that way. However, prophecy also takes the form of types, symbols, events and acts.

Joseph, a Type of Jesus

In Genesis God gives us a prophecy of His Son that is acted out in the life of Joseph, one of the twelve sons of Jacob. In Genesis 37 Joseph has a dream of twelve sheaves and eleven bow down to one, meaning to Joseph. In another dream the Sun, Moon, and eleven stars bow down to Joseph. The Sun represents Jacob and the Moon represents his mother Rachel. The eleven stars represent Joseph's brothers. The sheaves, Sun, Moon, and stars bowing down to Joseph represent Israel in the Last Days bowing down to their Messiah. Joseph's brothers in their resentment of Joseph magnifying himself over his brothers sell him into slavery in Egypt which is a figure of Christ being sold for 30 pieces of silver. Joseph is separated from his brethren just as Jesus was separated from His brethren, the Jews. Then when Jacob and his family are in dire straits because of the famine, as Israel will be in the Last Days, Jacob sends them to Egypt to buy grain. There they meet their brother again who becomes a savior figure to them which pictures the saving role of Jesus two thousand years later.

The Cross in the Wilderness Camp

Another figure that is prophetic is the camp of Israel as they wandered in the wilderness. In Numbers 2 God instructs Moses to set up the camp of Israel around the Tabernacle. The Levites are to arrange their camp in the four cardinal directions, North, East, West, and South. No camp is to be in a northeastern direction for instance.

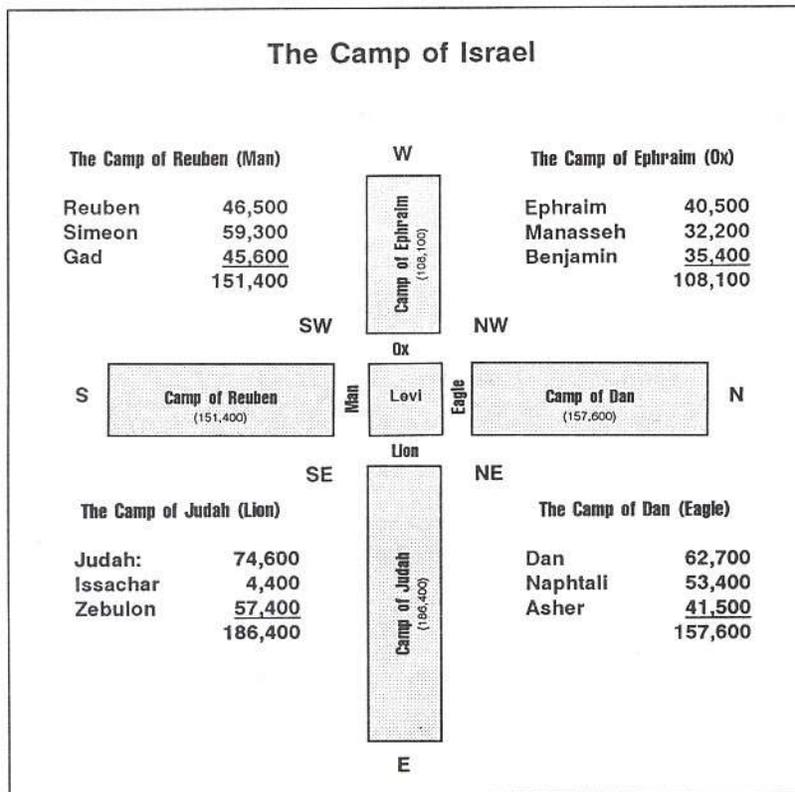
Then the Twelve tribes were to align themselves again in the cardinal directions with Judah, Issachar and Zebulon on the East side of the Tabernacle facing the rising Sun. The number of their fighting men was 186,400.

On the North side of the Tabernacle the Tribes of Reuben, Simeon and Gad were to camp. The number of their fighting men was 151,450.

On the South side of the Tabernacle the Tribes of Naphtali, Asher and Dan were to camp. The number of their fighting men was 157,600.

On the West side of the Tabernacle the Tribes of Ephraim, Manasseh and Benjamin were to camp. The number of their fighting men was 108,100.

When this camp is seen from the air it forms a cross.



The Serpent on a Pole

Another “act” of prophecy happens when Moses was commanded to put a serpent on a pole and be lifted up and when those who were bitten by a serpent looked at the image they would be healed (Numbers 21:8). This is a picture of Christ on the cross.

The Gospel from Adam to Noah

Yet another prophecy is found in Genesis 5. The ten Patriarchs from Adam to Noah tell the story of the Gospel in the root meanings of their names.

Adam means **Man**

Seth means **Appointed**

Enosh means **Mortal**, frail, or miserable

Kenan means **Sorrow**, dirge, or elegy

Mahaleleel means **Blessed God**

Jared means **Shall come down**

Enoch means **Teaching**

Methuselah means **His death shall bring**

Lamech means **Despairing**

Noah means **Comfort**, relief or hope

When the meanings of these names are strung together they say, "Man is appointed mortal sorrow, the blessed God shall come down teaching that His death shall bring the despairing comfort."

Abraham, Isaac, Eliezer and Rebekah

Another scene acted out two thousand years before Jesus' day is found in Genesis. The familiar story of Abraham offering Isaac is commonly understood to typify God the Father offering His only Son, Jesus, as a sacrifice for our sin. But, there is far more to this story than that. This type/prophecy is central to the fundamental message of the Bible. Follow the story as it develops.

Genesis 15:2 - And Abram said, "*My Lord, What can you give me seeing that I go childless, and the steward of my house is the Damascene Eliezer?*"

Eliezer was more like a business partner who would inherit Abraham's estate if Abraham did not have his own offspring.

Genesis 22:1-19

God's eternal plan of salvation is unknowingly being acted out by Abraham at the very beginning of Israel as God's Chosen People. Consider how could such a plan be told in such detail 2000 years before the time of Christ? And those who acted it out did not know there was a message in their actions. And Moses, who wrote it down, could not have known that it pictured God's salvation plan.

That plan of salvation, acted out by Abraham, was fulfilled in the death and resurrection of Jesus. After His death Jesus appeared to many of His disciples and then ascended to heaven (Acts 2). Since His death the Church has been established by God the Holy Spirit calling out those in the world, both Jew and Gentile, to be the Bride of Christ (2 Corinthians 11 and John 14:16,17)

*"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter (Greek *paraclete* = helper, comforter, advocate), that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you."*

With that in mind let's read Genesis 22 (italics and underlining mine)

"And it came to pass after these things that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am.

² And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of. (This mountain [ridgeline] has three peaks, Mt. Zion on the south, the Temple Mount, aka Mount Moriah, and Golgotha to the north of the Temple Mount).

³ And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him.

⁴ Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off.

⁵ And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you.

⁶ And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; **(this typifies Jesus carrying His cross to Calvary)** and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together.

⁷ And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?

⁸ And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself **(provide FOR Himself, or provide HIMSELF as the lamb?)** a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.

⁹ And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood. **(Abraham KNEW God had to resolve this command by either resurrecting Isaac, or providing an alternative, because God had promised descendants through Isaac.)**

¹⁰ And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son.

¹¹ And the angel of the LORD **(probably Jesus Himself because the phrase “angel of the Lord” frequently causes worship to be given by those who see Him and this worship is not refused – see Exodus 3.)** called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I.

¹² And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.

¹³ And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns **(not by his wool for that would have made the ram unclean for sacrifice):** and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son.

¹⁴ And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovahjireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen **(2000 years later).**

¹⁵ And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time,

¹⁶ And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son:

¹⁷ That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;

¹⁸ And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

¹⁹ So Abraham returned unto his young men **(notice Isaac is not mentioned as coming down with Abraham. Because Christ ascended to heaven after His resurrection),** and they rose up and went together to Beersheba; and Abraham dwelt at Beersheba.

Continuing the “type/story” in Genesis 24 Abraham calls Eliezer and makes him promise to go to Haran to find a bride for Isaac. Eliezer returns later with Rebekah. The name Eliezer means “helper.” So Eliezer is a type of the Holy Spirit calling out a bride, i.e., the Church (*Rebekah*), for Christ.

In these events in the life of Abraham we see the Trinity (Abraham = Father; Isaac = Jesus; Eliezer = the Holy Spirit), the Church (i.e., Rebekah = the Bride of Christ), the death, burial, resurrection and ascension of Jesus, and on the very ground God set aside for it long before.

YAHWEH

In Exodus 3 the “Angel of the LORD” (pre-incarnate Jesus) appeared to Moses in a bush that burned but was not consumed. Some interesting theology happens after this. The “Angel” tells Moses to take off his shoes for the ground is holy. It is holy because this “angel” is God Himself, the Second Person of the Trinity. There are many occurrences in the Old Testament of this “angel” appearing and receiving worship. No created angel would accept worship but this One does. Then this angel says His name is “I Am that I Am.” In Hebrew it is “ehyeh asher ehyeh.” This angel, or messenger, then tells Moses “this is my name forever.” From this name we derive the divine name, Yahweh. The four letters of this name are called the Tetragrammaton. In Hebrew these four letters are Yod Hay Vav Hay.

In Hebrew the letters of the alphabet also serve as numbers. But they have a wider use as well. They can be used as pictograms. A pictogram is a symbol denoting something that is easily recognized and understood. A male silhouette on a door means it is a men’s restroom. The letter ‘Hay’ which is used twice is used pictographically as meaning window, eye, look, see, and behold. The ‘Yod’ is used to denote the hand. The ‘Vav’ is used to denote the nail or spike. So the name by which God is known forever carries the message of “Behold the hand, Behold the nail.”

These “types” are prophecy in story, in history, and even in people’s names. This is the kind of internal unity that convinces me the Bible is from a divine author. The Jews, who killed the prophets and Jesus, would not even know they were writing God’s plan of salvation when they lived out and wrote of these events.

But the above are just tiny samples of many such “hidden below the surface” types.

The Gospel is the Whole Point

In each of the prophetic types above the common denominator is that God provides Himself as the solution to man’s spiritual need. When the Church is growing in the First Century the Apostle Paul presents the gospel to the Corinthians in chapter 15. He says,

“Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; ... For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.”

These are the facts of history upon which our Christian faith is based. It is good news because Christ dying for us pays our sin debt to God which we could never pay. Our sin was against the infinitely holy God; therefore the offense was by nature infinite. And logically speaking only an Infinite Being could pay the debt. That debt was owed to God, the One and the same as He who said His Name was forever to be Yahweh, the One Whose Name means “behold the hand, behold

the nail.”

When Paul and Silas are released from their chains in the jail in Philippi the jailer thinks they have escaped. When he discovers that their God released them he asks the question every human wants an answer to, “What must I do to be saved?” Peter said, *Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house*” (Acts 16:31).

Salvation is simple for the sake of the simplest person. But it is also a deep well of wisdom and teaching that the greatest minds are unable to fathom. The bottom line for us is that we must put our trust in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of our sins. If you have not done this then do it now. As you read the prophecies of scripture in this booklet and see how they were, and are, fulfilled it should impress on you the need to settle the question of your eternal destiny.

Israel Regathered and Reborn

Prophecy scholars will tell us that the focus of Bible prophecy is Israel. It is center stage of God’s activity. It is the clock that marks the passage of prophetic events. When Israel was reborn the signs Jesus spoke of in Matthew 24 about wars, famines, etc. came into play. There have always been such terrible events in history but with the rebirth of Israel we can expect to see an increase in both frequency and severity, as in the birth pangs before delivery. Jesus said in Matthew 24 “when you see these things begin to happen, look up for your redemption draws near.”

You can view some of these prophecies depicted here;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CXDt9ToNPuA&t=55s>

The rebirth of Israel also set in motion many other prophesied events. The prophet Ezekiel spoke of events that have been fulfilled in our lifetime and others that seem to be on the near horizon. Ezekiel 36 speaks of the re-gathering of the Jews from around the world into the Promised Land. This began a little over a century ago and is still in process. When a Jew immigrates to Israel it is called “making Aliyah.” Every Jew in the World has automatic citizenship in Israel. Some people groups around the world are demonstrating their Jewish lineage by having their DNA tested. This is being done with the Lemba tribe in Africa, and the Bnei Menash (sons of Menasseh) in India and many others around the globe.

As a side note, the ability of DNA to demonstrate Jewish ancestry has also disproven the Book of Mormon story of Hebrews who immigrated to the Americas and whom we know today as the Native Americans. DNA shows the Native Americans to be from Northeast Asia, not the Middle East.

In Ezekiel 37:21, 22 God says, “*And the sticks whereon thou writest shall be in thine hand before their eyes. And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land:”*

Also in Isaiah 11:11, 12 God says,

“And it shall come to pass in that day (a phrase always referring to the last days), that the Lord shall set his hand against the second time (the first time was from Babylon) to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.”

This prophecy was fulfilled, and is being fulfilled, since 1948. Some might try to assign these prophecies to the return of Israel from either their sojourn in Egypt or their exile in Babylon. That interpretation is not possible because the text says Israel’s return is from many countries, not just Babylon or Egypt, and the entire world. Therefore, it is the return our current living generations have seen.

Again, in Isaiah 66:7, 8, God said,

“Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child. Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.”

The moment Israel was reborn the neighboring Arab nations attacked just as Isaiah said above. Most, if not all nations, are born after a struggle. With Israel it was the opposite.

Near Future Prophecies

The city of Jerusalem was captured in 1967 in fulfillment of prophecy. But there are significant prophecies in Psalm 83, Isaiah 17, Jeremiah 49:23-27 and Ezekiel 29:9-13 that look as if current events could lead to their being fulfilled in the very near future. It is these near future potential fulfillments that will be the focus of this study.

To bring our focus down to our immediate moment we are seeing developments in the Middle East, and around the world that could be directly related to prophecies given in the chapters listed above. To illustrate that point this headline and article appeared on September 5, 2011 in the Ynet News. **“IDF general: Likelihood of regional war growing.** Senior IDF officer warns of 'radical Islamic winter' that may lead to regional war, could prompt use of WMDs; new, more lethal weapons discovered in hands of terrorists during latest round of fighting in Gaza, Major General Eisenberg says.” This is the time to “Look up” because the ancient prophecies are on the horizon.

Knowing Prophecy Matters

Knowing, or not knowing prophecy, has consequences. This is best illustrated when Jesus approached Jerusalem for what became known as His “triumphal entry” Luke said,

“And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it, Saying, ‘If thou hadst

known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! But now they are hid from thine eyes. For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, and they shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation” (Luke 19:41-44).

Something usually overlooked in this text is that Jesus held the Jews responsible for knowing the “time of thy visitation” the date of the Messiah’s coming. If they had studied Daniels prophecy (9:24-27) and kept count of the days and years from the known starting point they would have known the very day of their Messiah’s coming.

Today Christians also have a responsibility to know about prophecy. To not understand the times we live in is to walk blindly. **Sadly, the vast majority of churches avoid the topic altogether. That demonstrates a willful ignorance of more than one-fourth of the Bible.** Our ignorance of the times can rob us of the sense of urgency about evangelism, missions, and our own walk with God. The turmoil in the world can lead Christians to fear and despair whereas the opposite response is likely for the informed Christian. Jesus said, “When you see these things begin to happen look up for your redemption draws near.” Christ’s appearing is the Blessed Hope (Titus 2:13) of every Christian. **It is gross negligence to withhold this information from the Church.**

One of the prophesied developments that Jesus listed in Matthew 24 was that the gospel would be proclaimed to the whole world “and then shall the end come” (vs. 14). A proper interpretation of verse 14 has its fulfillment in the Tribulation which is still future, and not related to the Church era. Nevertheless many Christians saw in this prophecy a motivation for missions. By linking the proclamation of the gospel to the whole world with Jesus’ second coming, missionary work exploded around the world as a way to hasten the Lord’s return. That work has been going on now for almost two centuries.

When Daniel understood from his reading of Jeremiah (25:11 and 29:1, 10) that the Babylonian captivity was about to end he began to pray in earnest that he and his people would be spiritually ready. This should be our response today. It is analogous to the doctor telling us we have a fixed amount of time to live. What would we do with that time before we die? Wouldn’t we want to put our life in order? Similarly, knowing that Christ will soon take His Church out of the world and then begin His judgment on the earth should lead Christians to a deeper relationship with Christ. It should also lead to a greater feeling of responsibility toward the lost and their need of the gospel.

Prophetic Viewpoints

Eschatology is the theological word for “last things.” This includes prophecy but also death and the afterlife, heaven and hell. There are other technical terms that are part of the discussion of eschatology. Words such as Futurism, Idealism, and Historicism.

Futurism is the view that the tribulation and millennium are still future to the Church and Israel. This view includes Premillennialism.

Idealism is the result of an allegorical interpretation of prophetic scripture. This interpretive hermeneutic includes Amillennialism and Postmillennialism.

Historicism is the view that Revelation is being fulfilled throughout Church history and will culminate in the Second Coming. This view was popular following the Protestant Reformation.

Pre-millennialism – The Futurist view that Christ will return bodily, defeat His enemies, and establish a kingdom on the earth that will last a thousand years.

Before the literal one-thousand-year millennium begins a series of prophecies will be fulfilled. They include the return of the Jews to their ancient land, the re-establishment of Israel as a nation, a series of wars described in Psalm 83 and Ezekiel 38, and a period of tribulation that will take place before Christ returns to fight the battle of Armageddon and establish His Kingdom.

In this tribulation period, you will find Pre-Tribulationism, Mid-Tribulationism, Pre-Wrath, and Post-Tribulationism (aka historic premillennialism). These views hold that Christ will return to receive His Church, before, in the middle of, before God's wrath, or after a seven-year tribulation that will precede the Millennium and fulfill all things before His kingdom reign.

Ken Johnson explains the Church Fathers view in this video;
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b25M-Xz74Dw>

Post-millennialism – is the view that Christ will return after an indeterminate amount of time to receive the kingdom brought about by the Church. This interpretation leads to the view that the Church will gain such strong influence over the world that a “millennial” condition will prevail. Some Postmillennialists hold that the millennium will be one-thousand years. Postmillennialism was popular in the modern church until the Twentieth Century. However, the World wars of that century ended the idea that the Church would improve the World to the point that Christ could come to receive His kingdom. Some aberrant theologies are derived from this view. They include Dominionism, Latter-rain, Christian Reconstruction and Theonomy. These errors teach that the Church will grow stronger in the world to the point that one day it will govern the world in righteousness.

This short video will explain the concept;
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KOwdXJiVhxs>

Amillennialism – is the view that the “millennium” is a spiritual condition, not a literal number of years, and that this spiritual condition of the world will culminate in the return of Christ. Amillennialists hold that we have been in the millennium since the time of Christ. Both Post and Amillennial views rely to a greater or lesser degree on an allegorical method of interpretation to arrive at their positions. One of the chief problems with this view is that during the millennium Satan will be bound in the bottomless pit and not able to deceive the nations. It is certain that Satan is not bound today because the evidence of his work is abundant. As one person said, “If we are in the Millennium then Satan's chain is too long.”

Some of the offshoots of Postmillennialism and Amillennialism include replacement theology

(aka Supersessionism) and Preterism.

Replacement theology – this teaching holds that Israel has been forever cast off because of its rejection of Christ and is replaced by the Church in God’s eternal purpose. This view usually accompanies the Amillennial and Postmillennial views. In their view the modern State of Israel is not a fulfillment of prophecy but an accident of history. This view has the effect of calling God a liar since He said the sun, moon and stars would depart from their courses before He would reject Israel (Jeremiah 31:36).

“If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the LORD, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever.”

Hal Lindsey discusses the error of replacement theology in this video;
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VZgN3BzOD1g>

Preterism – this is taught in two forms. Full preterism holds that the prophecies of Revelation were all fulfilled in 70 AD. Partial preterism holds that most prophecies in Revelation were fulfilled in 70 AD with the visible and bodily return of Christ still unfulfilled. Some who subscribe to Postmillennial or Amillennial views hold one of these positions. The origin of Preterism is rooted in the accusation by Reformation Protestants that the Pope was the Antichrist and the rebuttal by the Spanish Jesuit **Luis De Alcazar** (1554-1613) was that the prophecies of Revelation were fulfilled in 70 AD hence the Pope could not be the Antichrist. Full preterism is generally regarded as heresy because it denies the visible and bodily return of Christ.

Historicism – this is the view that prophesied events, particularly in Revelation, are being fulfilled throughout history by people, movements, and events. This was the common Protestant view from the Reformation until the Nineteenth Century when premillennialism returned to prominence. This view is still held by the Seventh-day Adventists.

The Hermeneutic of Eschatology

Is prophecy to be understood literally or allegorically? This question is of profound importance. It has been a source of significant disagreements in the Church in the last two centuries and had its beginning around the fourth century.

Hermeneutics is the science, or method, by which scripture is interpreted. In layman’s terms conservatives will interpret scripture in the same way we all interpret the newspaper. Unless there is language that is allegorical, or symbolic, in nature then the text is interpreted in a literal way. A well-known saying is that “if the plain text makes sense, then seek no other sense.”

The two camps of interpretation divide along these lines. In the literal camp are the Pre-millennialists (aka futurists) including the pre, mid, and post tribulationists, and the dispensationalists. In the allegorical camp are the Post Millennialists, Amillennialists, Replacement theology (aka Supersessionism), Preterism and frequently, Covenantalism.

These two interpretive camps arose during the first four centuries of the Church over how to interpret Bible prophecy. Many questions centered on God's relationship to the Jews and the Church. The Jews had put the Romans up to crucifying Jesus and four decades later Jerusalem was destroyed as Jesus prophesied in Luke 19:41-44. Then the Bar Kochba revolt in 133 – 135 AD resulted in the removal of Jews from the land. The Church wrestled with the question of whether God had rejected the Jews as His chosen people in favor of the Church. Christian leaders who tried to understand these events came up with a new interpretive method involving allegory.

Because of this interpretive change the promise God gave to Abraham becomes a spiritual blessing and does not include a nation or geography. Israel as heir of the Abrahamic covenant becomes the spiritual seed of Abraham. There is an element of truth to this. Paul said, "*And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*" Galatians 3:29. However, the land and nation promises in God's covenant with Abraham are not negated. Jesus will sit on David's throne in Jerusalem and Israel will be the world's lone hyper-power and all nations will submit to Christ's rule for a millennium.

The essence of the allegorical method is that prophetic scriptures are interpreted for their moral lessons rather than a literal fulfillment. On the other hand, passages relating to Christian doctrine continued to be interpreted literally. An example of allegory is the belief that the "millennial reign of Christ" is not to be a literal one thousand years but rather the world will improve under the influence of the Church until a "millennial" condition arises and then Christ will return and receive His kingdom. This view is called Postmillennialism. The two World wars in the twentieth century pushed this view into obscurity leaving Amillennialism and Premillennialism as the two dominant views in its place.

Amillennialism also uses allegory in its interpretive method. This view holds that the figures used in Revelation are not to be understood literally.

Origen, and later Augustine, promoted this allegorical eschatology that resulted in the Church inheriting the promises of the Abrahamic Covenant. The "Promised Land" became a spiritual state rather than geographical territory. The "Seed" of Abraham to whom God made His promises are understood to be only those faithful believers and no longer includes the ethnic descendants of Abraham. This view became widely accepted in the Church and went unchallenged for more than a thousand years. During the centuries of the Roman Empire and followed by the Holy Roman Empire it was a safer eschatology for Christians. If the prophecies about the antichrist were figurative then the civil rulers would not have reason to be suspicious of Christians. Interestingly the promises of God to Israel also included promises of judgment if they disobeyed. Moses said in Leviticus 26, *And I myself will devastate the land, so that your enemies who settle in it shall be appalled at it.* ³³ *And I will scatter you among the nations, and I will unsheathe the sword after you, and your land shall be a desolation, and your cities shall be a waste.*" The Amillennialists never gives much thought to that aspect of the Abrahamic Covenant.

On the other hand, the literal interpretive method caused those who held to it to expect a literal return of the Jews to the Promised Land, the rebirth of a Jewish nation, and the whole world would become agitated over this reborn nation and its capital, Jerusalem (Zechariah 12:3). The literal interpretation of prophecy is also known as futurist, which is that unfulfilled prophecy will be

fulfilled literally in the future.

Reformed and Postmillennialist theologian Lorraine Boettner confirmed this result of a literal interpretation of prophetic scripture when he said,

“The general principle of rigid literal interpretation leads to the conclusion that when Christ comes again He will re-establish the throne of David in the city of Jerusalem, and that He will reign in an earthly political kingdom of Jewish supremacy for one thousand years. According to that view the Jews are again to possess all of Palestine and the surrounding areas and are to live there, the temple is to be rebuilt, and the priesthood, temple ritual, animal sacrifices, feasts and fasts are to be reinstated” *Postmillennialism: Principles of Interpretation*.

Recent history shows that prophecy literally interpreted is on course to fulfill exactly what Boettner said. The Jews are returning to the Promised Land, the nation of Israel exists again, the furnishings and implements of the Third Temple have been, or are, being fashioned, the Sanhedrin has been re-established, a Levitical priesthood, the kohanim, is being formed, and each time Israel is attacked the result is more land is controlled by Israel. As we look further into the prophecies potentially on the near horizon we may see a much larger expansion of Israel’s geography.

Rabbi Chaim Richman tells about the ongoing preparations for building the third temple. In Jerusalem today the Temple Institute is replicating all the furnishings, priests clothing, instruments and even the golden Menorah. Rabbi Chaim Richman tells about the ongoing preparations for building the third temple in this video;
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F6prYdPPPaQ>

The modern rebirth of Israel has pulled the rug out from under the allegorical interpretations of prophecy. It is the “elephant in the room” validating the literal interpretation of prophecy. What Lorraine Boettner said would happen if the literal interpretation is followed has been largely fulfilled to date. Yet most continue to disbelieve. Some have said that modern Israel is an “accident of history.” That claim denies the sovereignty of God over the nations. Daniel said, “*And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:*” Daniel 2:21.

The Scottish Presbyterian preacher and hymn writer, Horatius Bonar (1808 – 1889) said that if the prophesied dispersion of Israel (Luke 21:24) is interpreted literally then the prophesied re-gathering (Ezekiel 34:13) must also be interpreted literally. In his work *Prophetic Landmarks* (page 113), Bonar said,

“We remark that, in so far as prophecy has been already fulfilled, that fulfillment has been a literal one. Take the predictions regarding the Messiah. And are not these fulfillments strong arguments in favor of the literality of all that yet remain behind? Nay, do they not furnish us with a distinct, unambiguous, and inspired canon of interpretation?”

The prophet Joel said Israel and especially Jerusalem will be at the center of the battle of Armageddon. “*I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they*

have scattered among the nations, and parted my land” (Joel 3:2).

In modern Protestantism, the futurists are found in the evangelical denominations such as Baptist, Assembly of God, Bible churches, Calvary Chapels, Nazarene, and many non-denominational churches. The denominations that hold to an allegorical eschatology include those denominations whose roots are in Europe and the Reformation, the Methodists, Lutherans, Presbyterians, and the Anglican and Episcopal churches, as well as the Catholic and Orthodox.

This writer holds to a literal and futurist view of prophecy also known as Premillennial and pre-tribulational. However, those Christians who hold to differing views are my Christian brothers and sisters. This is an area of doctrine where we can agree to disagree and still have fellowship. But, given the times in which we live, it is important for every Christian to do their own study and come to their own view of eschatology. We cannot afford to be complacent about it. *“Those who have this hope (of Jesus’ return) purify themselves.” (1 John 3:3)*

In my literal and futurist view I see God’s covenant promise to Abraham (Genesis 15:18-21) as unconditional. In the establishment of His covenant with Abraham God put Abraham, one of the partners in the covenant, in a deep sleep. Then He performed the covenant ritual by Himself. That is one reason this covenant is viewed as unconditional. He would give to Abraham and to his descendants the land “from the river of Egypt to the Euphrates” and that Abraham’s descendants would have the promise of that land as long as the Sun, Moon, and stars gave their light (Jeremiah 31:35-37).

“Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar, The LORD of hosts is his name: If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the LORD, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever. Thus saith the LORD; If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, saith the LORD.”

God has never rescinded His promise to Abraham. Since that promise was unconditional then obedience or disobedience would not affect their ultimate promise of the land. However, disobedience would affect whether they could enjoy the land in peace and prosperity, or even be exiled from it for a time.

God gave a “contract” to Israel in Leviticus 26 whereby He promised to bless them when they were obedient. But He also promised to punish them when they were disobedient. Among the punishments were disease (verse 16), enemy attacks (verse 17), destruction of the land and cities (verses 30-32), and finally captivity in hostile nations (verses 33-39). God also said four times in Leviticus 26 that if Israel failed to learn the lesson of obedience God would multiply His punishment of them seven times (vss. 18, 21, 24 and 28). Finally, when Israel learns its lesson God will hear their prayers and bring them back in His favor (verses 40-46). This chapter contains God’s warning about expulsion from the land for disobedience which we have seen for the last two millennia. And the promise of returning them to their land we have also seen. Thus God was literal in His warnings and promises.

The Apostle Paul affirmed God's unconditional promise to Israel in Romans 11. Paul said that "*the gifts and calling of God are without repentance*" (verse 29).

Horatius Bonar quoted above gave us the simple solution to the question of how to interpret prophecy. The way fulfilled prophecy was fulfilled is the way we should interpret unfulfilled prophecy. That leads to the literal method.

Chapter Two: Real Prophecies Really Fulfilled

There are several foundational prophetic texts that need to be understood before going on to any other prophecy. Some are found in Daniel, some in Ezekiel and Hosea. Daniel chapter 2 describes the image Nebuchadnezzar saw in his dream that Daniel interpreted. This image depicted the history of empires from the time of Nebuchadnezzar to the time of the end with a revived form of the Roman Empire.

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream and Gentile World History

The story of Nebuchadnezzar's dream is a very familiar story that is taught to children in Sunday school because it portrays faithfulness to God. That is a good application of the passage. However, the interpretation of the passage is a case of world history told before the fact.

God told Daniel both what the dream was and the interpretation. Nebuchadnezzar's dream is of an image with the head of gold, the breast and arms are of silver, the stomach and thighs of brass, and the legs of iron. Then the feet are a combination of iron and clay, which don't mix. Then Daniel says a stone cut out of a mountain without hands would smash the feet and grow into a mountain and fill the whole earth.

The head of gold was Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonian empire (Daniel 2:38).

Babylon falls to the Medo-Persian empire which is the breast and two arms representing the Medes and Persians (verses 32 and 39).

The third kingdom is Greece represented by the brass belly and thighs (verses 32 and 39).

The fourth kingdom is Rome represented by the iron legs. The two legs represent the two parts of the Roman Empire. One is in Rome and the other is Constantinople. This empire was the strongest and lasted the longest. Constantinople, later called Byzantium, did not fall until the 16th century AD

The final part of the image is of the feet and toes. Most scholars interpret this to mean a revival of the Roman Empire that is mixed and weaker in some sense.

The four empires depicted in this Daniel 2 prophecy are also depicted in Daniel 7. In the vision in chapter 7 the empires are presented as beasts. It is important to understand how symbols are interpreted in prophecy. In order to interpret a symbol it must have a uniform meaning throughout

the Bible. For instance, a “horn” is a center or focus of power as in a king or ruler. The term “sea” typically means the mass of humanity. A “beast” is a powerful empire or kingdom. Once these terms are understood the prophecy takes on meaning for its time and place in history. Understanding these terms is why we can equate Daniel 2 with Daniel 7. These terms come into play again in Revelation which is heavily dependent on an understanding of the Old Testament to properly interpret its imagery.

**Israel Should Have Known
They would be dispersed among the nations.**

Throughout Leviticus 26 God tells Israel that His displeasure with Israel will show itself in a graduated severity. First there will be famine and disease. Then enemies will attack giving Israel no peace. Finally, if they are still disobedient He will exile them from the land He gave them. This final punishment is stated in verse 33.

“And I will scatter you among the heathen, and will draw out a sword after you: and your land shall be desolate, and your cities waste.”

So, if God made an unconditional covenant with Abraham in Genesis 15 then the disobedience of Abraham’s descendants cannot nullify that covenant. It is based entirely on God’s promise. But God also told Israel in Leviticus 26 how He would deal with them when they were disobedient. In this same chapter in a further severe step of judgment God tells His people that when He punishes them if they fail to learn obedience then He will multiply His judgment on them sevenfold. He says this in verses 18, 21, 24 and 28. What we know today as the Diaspora, the dispersion of the Jews around the world, is that sevenfold judgment. You will see that later. What we have seen in living memory is His promise being fulfilled. (See **Israel Restored on Schedule** below).

**Israel Should Have Known
They would be preserved as a people of God**

In many ways and in many Old Testament passages God told Israel how He would deal with them and what His ultimate plan for them would be. They should have known but they still stumbled repeatedly as a blind man would.

For God to fulfill His promises to Israel He must preserve Israel throughout their dispersion, and through two millennia. As ethnic populations go in today’s world the Jews are a small number. Their number is just about equal to the margin of error in the estimated population of China, about 14 million people.

One of the things that cannot be explained in normal historical terms is the survival of the Jewish people for two millennia. They have kept their identity, their culture, their religion, and their hope to return to the land promised to them. Every other people group that has been dispersed by invaders has been absorbed in two centuries or less to the point that they are no longer a discernible group. But God promised in Jeremiah 31:31-37 that He would preserve His people and without contradiction He has done that. The existence of Israel is the one clear proof of the literal

interpretive method. Read the scripture at this link;
(<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jeremiah+31>)

Their preservation has been widely noticed even before the Jews returned to their land. Mark Twain observed in an essay in *Harpers Magazine* in 1899 entitled *Concerning the Jews*;

“The Egyptian, the Babylonian, and the Persian rose, filled the planet with sound and splendor, then faded to dream-stuff and passed away. The Greek and Roman followed, made a vast noise and they are gone. Other peoples have sprung up, and held their torch high for a time, but it burned out and they sit in twilight now or have vanished. The Jew saw them all, beat them all, and is now what he always was, exhibiting no decadence, no infirmities of age, no weakening of his parts, no slowing of his energies, no dulling of his alert and aggressive mind. All things are mortal but the Jew. All other forces pass, but he remains. What is the secret of his immortality?”

Jonathan Edwards said, “The Jews may be considered as a remarkable evidence of the truth of revealed religion, in that they were preserved so long a time a distinct nation from all others, even since their father Jacob's time, till this day; being neither destroyed, nor abolished, nor lost by mixing with other nations” (*The Works of Jonathan Edwards*, Vol. 2, p. 494).

Leo Tolstoy echoed this as well in an article in 1908 entitled “*What is a Jew*”;

“The Jew is the emblem of eternity. He who neither slaughter nor torture of thousands of years could destroy, he who neither fire, nor sword, nor Inquisition was able to wipe off the face of the earth. He who was the first to produce the Oracles of God. He who has been for so long the Guardian of Prophecy and has transmitted it to the rest of the world. Such a nation cannot be destroyed. The Jew is as everlasting as Eternity itself.”

In his book *Pensees*, the great French philosopher Blaise Pascal said the preservation of the Jews as a distinct people is nothing short of a supernatural phenomenon.

“When Arnold Toynbee completed his classic ten-volume analysis of the rise and fall of human civilization, *A Study of History*, he was troubled by only one seeming refutation of his universal rules governing the inexorable decline of every people on earth. Only the Jews had survived, in defiance of Toynbee’s carefully reasoned analysis. So Toynbee proclaimed the Jews nothing more than “a vestigial remnant,” a people destined soon to perish.” History News Network, 8/4/07, *The Miracle of Jewish History*, by Benjamin Blech.

David Ben Gurion, first President of modern Israel said, “A Jew who does not believe in miracles is not a realist.”

Israel Should Have Known They Would be Re-gathered to Their Land

This preservation and restoration as a nation was prophesied by Ezekiel in chapter 37:21-22, “... Behold, I will take the children of Israel from the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land.”

Dr. David Reagan discusses the preservation of the Jews and return to their land in this video; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xeE2WjBgCXc>

Another key prophecy, especially for our day, is Ezekiel 36-39. Through these four chapters Ezekiel sees the return of the Jews to Israel but still in unbelief, and their standing up as a nation. Then Ezekiel sees the invasion of Israel by Gog and Magog and the nations allied with them and God's miraculous deliverance. Many early Bible prophecy students saw in these chapters the return of the Jews to their land and the restoration of Israel as a nation.

That the Bible predicts the return of the Jews to their ancient homeland, and the rebirth of their nation was plainly seen by those scholars who read the Biblical text for its plain meaning. One such man was J.C. Ryle, the Anglican bishop of Liverpool from 1880 to 1900. Ryle said, "...however great the difficulties surrounding many parts of unfulfilled prophecy, two points appear to my own mind to stand out as plainly as if written by a sunbeam. One of these points is the second personal advent of our Lord Jesus Christ *before* the Millennium. The other of these points is the future literal gathering of the Jewish nation and their restoration to their own land" (*Scattered Israel to Be Gathered*, J.C. Ryle, 1879).

In the 1890's the Christian evangelist, William Blackstone, advocated strongly among Christian leaders, businessmen, and government officials for the establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine. He saw prophesied in the Old Testament that the Jews would return to their homeland. He also saw from the persecution of the Jews in Russia by the Tsar that a nation of their own was a necessity for their own safety in the world. Through his efforts, a resolution was adopted that was signed by a cross section of American leaders that became known as The Blackstone Memorial. It reads, in part:

"Why shall not the powers which under the treaty of Berlin, in 1878, gave Bulgaria to the Bulgarians and Servia to the Servians now give Palestine back to the Jews...? These provinces, as well as Romania, Montenegro, and Greece, were wrested from the Turks and given to their natural owners. Does not Palestine as rightfully belong to the Jews?"

William Blackstone became very influential among Jewish leaders and contributed a great deal to their own movement toward a homeland. Some of the prophecies Blackstone studied that led to his conviction about a nation for the Jews were these four chapters in Ezekiel.

In Ezekiel 36:6-12 God tells Ezekiel to prophesy that the land will become fertile again and God's people will again inhabit it. In verses 9 and 10 God says,

"For, behold, I am for you, and I will turn unto you, and ye shall be tilled and sown. And I will multiply men upon you, all the house of Israel, even all of it: and the cities shall be inhabited, and the wastes shall be builded."

The Prophet Hosea said the same thing in Hosea 3:4-5 NASB.

"For the sons of Israel will remain for many days without king or prince (no State of their own), without sacrifice or sacred pillar and without ephod or household idols (separated from

their sacred sites). *Afterward the sons of Israel will return and seek the LORD their God (religious restoration) and David their king (political restoration); and they will come trembling to the LORD and to His goodness in the last days.*”

And again, Ezekiel, a captive in Babylon said,

Ezekiel 11:16, 17 *“Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Although I have cast them far off among the heathen, and although I have scattered them among the countries (plural, not just Babylon), yet will I be to them as a little sanctuary in the countries where they shall come (God’s preserving Hand). Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will even gather you from the people, and assemble you out of the countries where ye have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel.”*

Zechariah picks up this prophetic theme AFTER the return of the Jews from Babylon. There are only two returns from exile so this is the return that we have seen in our time. The return of the Jews from Egypt under Moses was not an exile. It is called a sojourn. They voluntarily went to Egypt as a family and left as a nation.

Zech. 10:8-10 NASB *“I will whistle for them to gather them together, For I have redeemed them; And they will be as numerous as they were before. When I scatter them among the peoples they will remember Me in far countries, and they with their children will live and come back. I will bring them back from the land of Egypt, and gather them from Assyria; and I will bring them into the land of Gilead and Lebanon until no room can be found for them”.*

Isaiah also repeated the promise of God to restore His people from around the world, from the North, East, West and South.

Isaiah 11:11,12, *“And it shall come to pass in that day (the day of the Lord’s wrath), that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time (the first return was from Babylon) to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.”*

Is. 43:5-7 NASB *“Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and gather you from the west. “I will say to the north, ‘Give them up!’ And to the south, do not hold them back, bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth. Everyone who is called by My name, And whom I have created for My glory, whom I have formed, even whom I have made”.*

Israel Should Have Known Precisely when their Messiah would arrive.

The next essential prophecy is found in Daniel 9:24-27. It is known as Daniel’s “Seventy Weeks” and is another sweeping view of history before it happens. Let’s take a close look.

Though this prophecy is focused on Israel it is foundational to our understanding of where we, the

Church, are in the prophetic timeline. It begins with a prophecy about 70 “weeks” being determined upon Israel to bring Israel to repentance and the fulfillment of God’s desire upon His people and to “bring in everlasting righteousness.” The word “week” in Hebrew literally means seven but in the way the Jews used the term it meant seven years. The Jewish calendar had a sabbatical year every seven years when the land was to lie fallow. It was because Israel did not observe this for 490 years that God sent them into exile in Babylon for seventy years. God was collecting on the debt He was owed by His disobedient people.

Verse 24 says, *“Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.”*

This verse is a sweeping statement of all that God will reveal to Daniel. It includes elements already fulfilled (*“make reconciliation for sins”*) and elements that are still future (*“bring in everlasting righteousness”*). In the verses following more details are spelled out, including the starting point, specific events along the way, and the final conclusion of God’s purposes toward Israel.

Dr. Chuck Missler presents the seventy weeks in clear terms;
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iRFIJDIG_w0

Verse 25 says, *“Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem (the city, not the Temple) unto Messiah the Prince (Jesus’ first coming) shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again and the wall, even in troublous times.”*

The “seven weeks” (49 years) and the “threescore and two weeks” (434 years) equal 483 years. The final seventieth week is still future. It is called the Tribulation and the “time of Jacob’s trouble.”

The prophecy says that from the commandment to restore and build the city unto Messiah shall be sixty-nine “weeks” of years. To confirm this prophecy as fulfilled by Jesus we must have two things, a firm starting date, and an understanding of our modern calendar in relation to the Jewish lunar calendar. In the Jewish lunar calendar a month is 30 days and a year is 360 days. This is the calendar that the Jews have followed from time immemorial. So the 69 “weeks” will equal 173,880 days.

The first significant study of the timing of this prophecy was done by Sir Robert Anderson, former head of Scotland Yard in the 19th century. He dated the beginning at 445 BC. However, more recently Dr. Harold Hoehner of Dallas Theological Seminary says the start is 444 BC. (See Dr. Tommy Ice’ article on this at <http://www.pre-trib.org/articles/view/seventy-weeks-of-daniel>). It seems clear from the evidence presented by Dr. Ice in his article that 444 BC is the correct starting point. However, for the sake of consideration of whether this is a fulfilled prophecy it should be noted that no other messiah figure competed with Jesus in the years 30-35 AD. There was only one candidate during the possible time frame of Daniel’s prophecy.

The count begins when Artaxerxes Longimanus issued his decree for the Jews to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the city and its walls (Nehemiah 2:1-8). There were two other decrees about Jerusalem but only this one by Artaxerxes Longimanus, his second, relates to Jerusalem's walls and city. That decree was issued on March 6, 444 BC. The two other decrees related to the Temple.

Under our solar calendar a year is 365.2422 days. To convert the Jewish lunar calendar to our solar calendar you divide the 483 years Daniel prophesied, or 173,880 days, by our modern calendar year of 365.2422 and it gives 476.06766 years. In more understandable terms that is 476 years and 24 days.

When we calculate from the 444 BC starting point we arrive at 33 AD. There is no zero year between 1 BC and 1 AD so adding one year to the 476 years gives us a correct finish date.

Decree of Artaxerxes Longimanus	-444 BC	(March 6)
69 "Weeks" = 483 lunar years =	+476 solar years	
Add one year for 1 BC to 1 AD	+ 1	
Christ enters Jerusalem =	33 AD	(March 30)
Jesus crucified four days later		(April 3, 33 AD)

Verse 26 says, "*And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.*"

Did you notice the verse says, "*And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off...?*" The sixty nine "weeks" ends on March 30, 33 AD and "after" that Jesus is crucified. This is the nature of Biblical precision. It also demonstrates to us that prophecy is meant to be interpreted literally.

This event of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and His crucifixion clinches Jesus as "Messiah the prince" who would come. No one else showed up to fulfill Daniel's prophecy. Jesus was their only candidate. The Messiah was "cut off, but not for Himself." He died for the sins of man. No other messiah claimant came to Jerusalem and died that week.

Daniel also tells us that the city and the sanctuary shall be destroyed by the "prince" that shall come. 38 years after Jesus death Titus destroyed the city and the temple. Titus was a "prince" because his father Vespasian, who had led the invasion of Israel at the beginning, returned to Rome when the emperor Nero died. Vespasian then became the emperor therefore his son, who finished the war in Israel, became a "prince."

About this destruction of Jerusalem Jesus tells us in Matthew 24 that "*not one stone shall be left upon another that shall not be thrown down.*" When the temple was being ransacked for the gold

and silver it caught fire causing the precious metals to melt. To recover the gold the Romans had to take down every stone of the temple to recover it. Many of those stones still lie where they fell two millennia ago.

Jesus prophesied about Jerusalem and the Jews in Luke 21:24 that *“They will fall by the sword and will be taken as prisoners to all the nations. Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.”*

The historian Josephus tells us that the Romans killed 1.1 million Jews when they captured Jerusalem in 70 AD. Later in 133-135 AD the Bar Kochba revolt led to another Roman rampage that killed half a million Jews. The Romans then deported the remaining population to prevent any further rebellion. The “wandering Jew” has been in their “Diaspora” ever since just as Moses prophesied in Leviticus 26.

Daniel 9:27 jumps forward to events yet future that take place in the seventieth week of Daniel’s prophesy.

Verse 27 says, *“And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.”*⁸⁸

During this last seven year “week” the Antichrist makes his appearance. He will confirm a seven-year “covenant” with Israel but will break that covenant in the middle of the “week” of seven years. The issue surrounding this covenant is the “dividing of the land and Jerusalem” To make such a covenant requires that Israel be in the land as a nation. This occurred in 1948. It also requires that Israel control Jerusalem which was captured in 1967.

**Israel Should Have Known, and they do!
They have been re-gathered by God.**

Joel 3:1-2, *“For, behold, in those days, and in that time, when I shall bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem, I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land.”*

Hosea 3:4 *“For the Israelites will live many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred stones, without ephod or idol. Afterward the Israelites will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king. They will come trembling to the LORD and to his blessings in the last days.”*

Hosea 6:1 *“Come, let us return to the LORD. He has torn us to pieces but he will heal us; he has injured us but he will bind up our wounds.”*

Ezekiel 20:34 *“I will bring you from the nations and gather you from the countries where you have been scattered – with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm and with outpoured*

wrath.”

Since the Jews began returning to the Promised Land Jerusalem has become an ever more tense focus of conflict. This city is not of strategic importance. It is not an economic center, or of military value. It is as a religious center that its value is found. There is a scene in the Ridley Scott movie *The Kingdom of Heaven*, where Balian asks the great Saracen leader Saladin what value Jerusalem has to him. Saladin first answers, “Nothing” then as he is walking away he turns and says, “Everything.” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XPhIW3EF8iU> That illustrates the hold this city has on the entire world. Its real value is in the hearts of men. And that is also where man’s most basic problem lies.

Zechariah 12:2-3 gives us clear insight into the hold Jerusalem has on us in our present day.

Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem. And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it.

“In that day” is an oft-repeated phrase in prophecy for God’s judgment of the world in what the prophetic scripture also calls “the last days,” or Tribulation, before Christ’s return.

Jerusalem is the only city on earth that has held the attention of the world for such a long time. There is an assumption that the strife in the Middle East is between Western Civilization, which is founded on a biblical faith, and Islam. This is incorrect. The strife between Israel and the whole world is spiritual first of all. Satan is at war with God and God’s plan for Israel is in Satan’s crosshairs. The Middle Eastern nations are pawns in Satan’s hand just as the United States will be one day, maybe soon. The Jews are caught in the middle.

Many assume that peace in the Middle East cannot be achieved when the goals of Islam include the eradication of Israel and driving the Jews into the sea. However, consider the words of Sheikh Ahmad Adwan, a Muslim scholar living in Jordan, “‘There is no ‘Palestine’ in the Koran. Allah gave Israel to the Jews.’ He also quoted the Koran as saying, “‘Oh People (i.e the Children of Israel), enter the Holy Land which Allah has assigned unto you” (Sura 5) This was reported in the *JewsNews*, on 8/15/14. He went on to say that Allah has assigned the Holy Land to the Children of Israel until the Day of Judgment (Koran, Sura 5, verse 21 and Sura 26, verse 59.) The history of animosity against the Jews cannot be laid at the feet of any one group, religion or nation. It comes from a much deeper source, a spiritual one, but quite separate from any particular religion.

The West thinks that dividing the “land for peace” will solve the conflict. It will not. Israel will never agree to divide the land while their enemy’s goal is to destroy Israel. Israel proved that policy to be a fallacy when they evacuated the Gaza Strip and received rocket fire from Hamas for their efforts. There is a smart phone app that lets you know in real time when rockets are fired against Israel. It is called Red Alert: Israel. Here is a link describing it - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yvk3nlz3t60>

Through all the skirmishes and unrest around and within Israel there is one abiding focus,

Jerusalem, that “burdensome stone.” We should take note of the warning that “*those who burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces.*” (See Chapter 5, **America’s Nineveh Moment**).

Was Israel’s Rebirth Scheduled?

Israel had been in continuous disobedience to God when Ezekiel was told to carry out an odd way of displaying God’s displeasure and judgment. God told him,

“Now lie on your left side and place the sins of Israel on yourself. You are to bear their sins for the number of days you lie there on your side. You will bear Israel’s sins for 390 days – one day for each year of their sin. After that, turn over and lie on your right side for 40 days – one day for each year of Judah’s sin.” Ezekiel 4:4-6 (NLT)

This prophecy is one of those that are acted out by the prophet for the sake of those who watch Ezekiel but is explained to us who read the text.

Israel’s punishment of seventy years captivity began with Nebuchadnezzar’s invasion of Israel. There were two phases of this captivity. The first was the captivity of the nation, or “servitude of the nation,” when they came under the rule of Nebuchadnezzar in 607-606 BC. As a nation they lost their national sovereignty.

The second phase was when Jerusalem was destroyed in 587-586 BC. This was almost twenty years after the first phase, loss of national sovereignty.

God’s judgment on them was to serve seventy years of captivity in Babylon but Ezekiel’s prophecy of 430 years of punishment left 360 years yet to be fulfilled. Scholars had not been able to discern when, or how, this period ended. When you read the commentaries you find there is no consistent interpretation. Then prophecy teacher Grant Jeffrey pointed out that God told Moses four times in Leviticus 26 (verses 18, 21, 23-24, and 27,28) “*And if ye will not yet for all this hearken unto me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins.*”

If this interpretation is correct it is amazing. If not, then it is also quite amazing as coincidences go. But then to the Orthodox Jew coincidence is not a kosher word.

The math for this is like that for Christ’s Triumphant Entry. There are 360 years of God’s punishment remaining that are multiplied by seven bringing a result of 2520 years. Then you again get into the calendar conversion to the Jewish lunar calendar. 2520 years in the lunar calendar would be 907,200 days. That would convert to 2,483.8462 years on our calendar. We don’t have an exact starting date for this but we do know that Cyrus issued his decree in 537 BC to return to Israel thus ending the 70 years in Babylon. Adding the 2,483.8462 years would bring us to 1948. If you are doing the math on a calculator you will notice you get 1947. But there is no 0 year so 1 BC to 1 AD is one year which is added on your calculator to get 1948. This would end the first phase of Israel’s captivity, its loss of sovereignty.

The second phase of Israel’s captivity, called the “desolations of Jerusalem,” began in 587 BC with the destruction of the Temple and city. This was nineteen years after the captivity of the nation.

Adding that nineteen years to 1948 brings us to 1967, the year Israel recaptured Jerusalem. The judgment of God ran on two tracks, the nation and the city.

For further information on this unique prophecy see Dr. Chuck Missler's article Ezekiel's 430 Days at <http://www.khouse.org/articles/2000/276/print/> or, watch Dr. Missler teach this at this link - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IoWKNH-KfM4>

God said through the prophet Isaiah, "...*there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure*" (Isaiah 46:9,10).

Chapter 3 – From Dry Bones to the IDF

From the time of Jacob there has existed an unnatural and perpetual hatred for the Jews. The whole world has persecuted this race at some time in history. Why? Among ethnic groups the Jews have blessed mankind more than any other. God told Abraham, "*And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice*" Genesis 22:18. Jews have won more Nobel prizes than any other ethnic group. Their contributions are numerous. But yet they are hated beyond reason.

Current Israeli contributions to the world include the following in this video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W-C3UYq-UxA> And these contributions don't include those made by Jews living outside Israel.

The Romans killed more than a million and a half between 70 AD and 135 AD. They destroyed their land and expelled them from it. The Jews have been expelled from numerous nations and cities. They have been massacred by the thousands in numerous places. We all know about the Holocaust where the Nazis killed them by the millions. The Russian Tsars persecuted them and killed many. The Koran encourages killing Jews and today the Muslims want them dead and Israel destroyed. More Resolutions have been passed by the UN regarding Israel (226) than on any other issue. It seems the whole world is against the Jews and doesn't even realize that such an attitude is irrational. For a list of the history of persecutions see...

<http://www.simpletoremember.com/articles/a/HistoryJewishPersecution/>.

The answer to this hatred is spiritual and only spiritual. It is irrational to understand it in any other way. It has to do with God's purpose in and through the nation of Israel that Satan has tried for several millennia to thwart. After Adam's fall Satan began trying to thwart God's plan and purpose for mankind. His efforts to thwart God began in the Garden of Eden with the Fall of

Adam. Each effort was countered by God to preserve His plan. He preserved that plan with the Flood, then to the confusion of languages at the Tower of Babel. When the Egyptian Pharaoh ordered the death of every Hebrew boy God protected Moses because of His plan for Israel. Then Satan so corrupted the people inhabiting Canaan that God ordered the extinction of five tribes, the Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites rather than have the tribes corrupt His people, Israel. Again, when Jesus was born Herod had every child less than two years old killed in order to eliminate the future King of Israel. The ultimate effort to thwart God's plan was the crucifixion of Jesus. However, in the Crucifixion God defeated Satan by using Satan's attack against him like a Judo fighter uses the movements of an opponent to defeat him. A battle of cosmic proportions has gone on for millennia and earth is the battlefield and mankind is both pawn and prize.

(Note: there many outside the Church who criticize the Bible and God for the "genocide" of the Canaanite tribes. What is not recognized in this debate is the origin of these tribes. Secular scholars of the ancient semitic world know more about this than does the Church. One Christian scholar, Dr. Michael Heiser, is sharing with the Church what the secular scholars know. These tribes were descended from what was known before the Flood and afterward as the Apkallu. These were the "sons" of Enki, their creator. We know them today from Greek mythology as the Titans such as Hercules. They were hybrid creatures, the offspring of fallen angels and human women. From the Bible we can read about them in Genesis 6, the reason for the Flood. Goliath and his four brothers were Nephilim, or hybrids. Also, Og King of Bashan was a giant whose bed was 15 feet long and made of iron. I highly recommend Dr. Heiser to you. He will give you the worldview that the writers of the Old Testament and the New Testament had in their mind while writing. Here is a link to his website - <http://drmsb.com/the-giant-clans-and-the-conquest/> and a YouTube link of him being interviewed on the subject - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1YmGU9OG-h0>)

In all of these efforts Satan has seen the destruction of the Jewish people as a means to thwart God's plan. If Satan can thwart anything in God's plan then he will have won. I believe this is the motive behind the hatred of the Jews. Satan's focus in the end times is also on Israel. If Israel is destroyed then God's plan is destroyed and Satan will have won.

From the time of Isaac and Jacob the descendants of Ishmael and Esau have antagonized the descendants of Jacob. But with the advent of Mohammed and Islam, this hatred for the Jews was spread to all who follow the Koran. When the Jews began to return to Canaan from Egypt they were returning to the geographic center of that ancient hatred.

As a geographic point of history Israel occupies the crossroads of the ancient world. Three continents, Africa, Asia, and Europe meet in Israel. Armies moving from one continent to another will pass through Israel. So God placed Israel on the center stage of history. In that position Israel was a front row observer of all the ancient empires as they rose and fell. God used those empires as His instruments to correct His people when necessary. His final corrective use of Israel's enemies is on the horizon even now as His people are back in their land after almost two millennia.

The prophecies of the return of the Jews to Palestine are numerous. It is worth going through them again to drive home the promise of God to His people and evidence to us of the truth of His Word.

“And it shall come to pass in that day, that the LORD shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. And he shall set up the ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.” Isaiah 11:11-12

God gathers His people “the second time.” The first time God gathered His people He brought them back from Babylon. Calling His people out of Egypt was not an exile. God sent them there for their survival and growth. This “second” re-gathering requires a second exile which began in 135 AD when the Romans removed the Jews from their land and scattered them among many nations.

“Fear not: for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west; I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth.” Isaiah 43:5-6

The prophet Isaiah speaks of the rebirth of modern Israel.

*“Before she travailed, she brought forth; **before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child**. Who hath heard such a thing? Who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? Or shall a nation be born at once? For as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.”* Isaiah 66:7, 8

This prophecy describes the events of May 14, 1948 and following. Israel is born as a nation “in one day” (vs. 8), May 14, 1948, and then the “birth pains” follow with attacks from six of its Muslim neighbors including Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.

“...O Lord, save thy people, the remnant of Israel. Behold I will bring from the north country, and gather them from the coasts of the earth, and with them the blind and the lame, the woman with child and her that travaileth with child together: a great company shall return thither.” Jeremiah 31:7-10

“From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia my suppliants, even the daughter of my dispersed, shall bring mine offering.” Zephaniah 3:10

This modern Zionist movement had its beginning in the late 19th century. Theodore Herzl planted the thought in the mind of Jews worldwide of a return to the Jewish homeland. His book *Der Judenstaat*, or *The Jewish State*, caught the Jewish imagination and immigrants began slowly at first to trickle into Palestine.

Since the 1870’s Jews had begun to return to the Promised Land. This “return” is called Aliyah and there have been a number of waves of immigration since then. In 1905 Russian Jews fled the pogroms of the Czar. In the years following the First World War Jews returned because of the Balfour Declaration calling for a Jewish homeland.

Then again after the Second World War Jews fled Europe because of the holocaust. In the post nationhood era there was a mass exodus of Ethiopian Jews, then Russian Jews when the Soviet Union collapsed. Now people are turning up as being Jewish in some very unexpected places.

The so-called “Lost Tribes” of Israel were never really lost. When the nation of Israel was divided between the ten idolatrous northern tribes and the faithful two southern tribes those faithful Jews in the northern tribes migrated south so they could practice their faith (2 Chronicles 19, 30, 34 and 35). It was the apostate members of the northern tribes that were carried away by the Assyrians. All the tribes of Israel are mentioned again in scripture after the Assyrian deportation. It is now possible to use DNA to test for Jewish ancestry and the so-called “lost tribes” of Israel are reporting in.

In his book Herzl said, “The Jewish question persists wherever Jews live in appreciable numbers. Wherever it does not exist, it is brought in together with Jewish immigrants. We are naturally drawn into those places where we are not persecuted, and our appearance there gives rise to persecution. This is the case, and will inevitably be so, everywhere, even in highly civilised countries—see, for instance, France—so long as the Jewish question is not solved on the political level. The unfortunate Jews are now carrying the seeds of anti-Semitism into England; they have already introduced it into America.”

Herzl’s point about the rise of a Jewish population in a country also giving rise to persecution was brought home in the Holocaust. That trauma demonstrated to the whole world the need for a Jewish homeland. If Satan is the god of this world then God’s people, the Jews, will be an irritant wherever they go. But, like the grain of sand in an oyster God will perfect His pearl through irritation.

One of the prophesied events related to Israel’s return in the last days is the resurrection of the Hebrew language. Zephaniah 3:9 says, “*For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to serve him with one consent.*” Hebrew was only used by Jews in sacred observances much like the Catholics use Latin. Beginning in the late 19th century Eliezer Ben-Yehuda began the task of bringing Hebrew into the modern age and normal usage. Today there are three spoken languages in Israel, Hebrew, Arabic and English.

Another “resurrection” from ancient times is the shekel. Today the shekel is the currency of Israel.

I remember as a child seeing the slides from Israel that Dr. Paul Bauman, a professor at LeTourneau College, would show after returning from visits to Israel. He would show an old black and white photo of land in Israel that was completely desert. Then he would show the same land since statehood. This was in the early 60’s and the land was already responding to efforts to make it productive. Today Israel is a major supplier of citrus and flowers to Europe and elsewhere. The nation is able to supply all of its food needs with just a small percent of imports. This modern status of Israel was prophesied in Isaiah 27, 35, and 51.

He shall cause them that come of Jacob to take root: Israel shall blossom and bud, and fill the face of the world with fruit” Isaiah 27:6.

“The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the LORD, and the excellency of our God” Isaiah 35:1-2.

“For the LORD shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody” Isaiah 51:3.

Gordon Robertson describes the miracle of agriculture in the desert wastes of Israel.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oxxYmn3HpDU>

That Israel would become a military power in the region is also foretold.

“In that day will I make the governors (the field grade officers?) of Judah like an hearth of fire among the wood, and like a torch of fire in a sheaf; and they shall devour all the people round about, on the right hand and on the left: and Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place, even in Jerusalem” Zechariah 12:6

They say necessity is the mother of invention and that has proven itself in Israel. As this video says the threat of extinction wonderfully focuses the mind. This video provides a survey of Israeli military sophistication.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OaP3o8uxB5k>

The United States has made effective use of Israeli skill in the development of weapon technology. Because Israel must fight to exist they devote much of their wealth to military technology. Israel led the way in the development of anti-missile defenses. The Arrow is Israel's defense against long range ballistic missiles. It is their counterpart to the US Patriot missile. The Iron Dome is its defense against battlefield rockets. The effectiveness of this system was seen in the 2014 Gaza fighting. Then there is the Windbreaker (aka Trophy) point defense system. This system is effective at defeating incoming anti-tank rockets, etc. The Windbreaker was introduced to the Gaza conflict in the summer of 2014. The tank brigade that employed the Windbreaker suffered no losses to Hamas anti-tank fire. Israel is also developing a laser system for defense against incoming rockets, shells, and even mortars. It is called the MTHEL, the Mobile Tactical High Energy Laser.

The main pillars of Israel's military capability are its air force and its tank corp. For these Israel has purchased its aircraft on the world market but mainly from France and the USA. In the past Israel relied on American and British tanks. But in the 1980's Israel began to design and manufacture its own tanks. The Merkava (Hebrew for chariot) is unique in the world of tank design. The engine is in the front which adds more protection to the crew. Placing the engine in the front also made room in the back to carry a few infantrymen. The Merkava IV is rated among the top ten tanks in the world.

Israel's air force is one of the best in the world. It must be. Israel cannot afford to lose any war. “Pilot to pilot, airframe to airframe, the Israeli air force is the best in the world,” Chris Harmer, a

senior naval analyst at the Institute for the Study of War, told Business Insider as reported in the online Jerusalem Post of 12/30/2014.

Israel's current military superiority was far from the case in the War of Independence. It faced the giant problem of launching a government, establishing a military with practically nothing, and all that against extremely hostile neighbors.

When Israel was back in their land and the time was right to declare their nation reborn the world was sympathetic to their cause. The genocide against them by Hitler caused many nations to favor a homeland for the Jews. However, recognizing the State of Israel was politically sensitive for many nations including the USA. The need for Arab oil would trump many considerations regarding the Jewish state. But the rulers of nations are in God's Hand. He raises them up and puts them down (Daniel 2:21). On November 29, 1947, the United Nations voted in favor of the establishment of a national homeland for the Jews in Palestine. Harry Truman was to be God's instrument to place the endorsement of the United States, the most powerful nation on earth, on the nascent Jewish state. Interestingly, the Soviet Union also recognized Israel.

Long before Truman became the President God was shaping him for His purposes. Harry Truman was a Christian and a member of the Baptist denomination. He was not interested in any theological systems such as pre-millennialism. What influenced him most from the Bible were the moral and ethical standards. He was very familiar with the Old Testament characters and their struggles so when the Jews desired Palestine as their homeland Truman saw it as a just resolution of their long struggle.

“Presidential Counsel Clark Clifford described Truman's own reading of ancient history and the Bible made him a supporter of the idea of a Jewish homeland in Palestine, even when others who were sympathetic to the plight of the Jews were talking of sending them to places like Brazil. He did not need to be convinced by Zionists. . . . All in all, he believed that the surviving Jews deserved some place that was historically their own. I remember him talking once about the problem of repatriating displaced persons. “Every one else who's been dragged away from his country has someplace to get back to,” he said. “But the Jews have no place to go.”” (Dr. Tommy Ice, <http://www.pre-trib.org/data/pdf/Ice-HappyBirthdayIsrael.pdf> quoting Saddington, “Prophecy and Politics,” pp. 372–73.)

Before President Truman moved to Washington he ran a men's clothing store in Independence, Missouri. His business partner was a Jew named Eddie Jacobsen. The two men were best friends. The following statements can be found on the Truman Library website for the dates April 11, 1948 and May 12, 1948.

“**April 11, 1948:** President Truman's friend Eddie Jacobson enters the White House unnoticed by the East Gate and meets with Truman. Jacobson recorded of this meeting: “He reaffirmed, very strongly, the promises he had made to Dr. Weizmann and to me; and he gave me permission to tell Dr. Weizmann, which I did. It was at this meeting that I also discussed with the President the vital matter of recognizing the new state, and to this he agreed with a whole heart.”

”**May 12, 1948:** President Truman meets in the Oval Office with Secretary of State George

Marshall, Under Secretary of State Robert Lovett, Counsel to the President Clark Clifford and several others to discuss the Palestine situation. Clifford argues in favor of recognizing the new Jewish state in accordance with the United Nations resolution of November 29, 1947. Marshall opposes Clifford's arguments, and contends they are based on domestic political considerations. He says that if Truman follows Clifford's advice and recognizes the Jewish state, then he (Marshall) would vote against Truman in the election. Truman does not clearly state his views in the meeting."

In Truman's campaign for reelection in 1948 he was trailing in third place behind the Republican, Thomas Dewey, and Dixiecrat, Strom Thurmond. The Truman Library website has this to say about the race.

"The 1948 presidential campaign of Harry Truman has been dubbed one of the greatest political campaigns of the modern era. No one, Republican or Democrat gave incumbent President Truman any hope of defeating a Republican nominee....especially Thomas E. Dewey, governor of New York. Southern Democrats (Dixiecrats), led by Senator Strom Thurmond, and Progressives, led by Henry Wallace, had splintered from the Democratic Party leaving a fractured and hopeless group searching for a saving grace in the '48 election."

This "saving grace" was found in Genesis 12:3. God said,

"And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed."

God kept His promise. The election results seemed a foregone conclusion so the Chicago Tribune printed its "**Dewey Defeats Truman**" headline on the night of November 2. The next morning the nation was shocked to learn that Truman had won and by a significant margin. It pays to bless Israel.

The modern founding of Israel is linked in the Bible with the Exodus from Egypt 3,500 years before. But the latter return is described as the much greater work of God on behalf of His people.

"Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that they shall no more say, The Lord liveth, which brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; But, The Lord liveth, which brought up and which led the seed of the house of Israel out of the north country, and from all countries whither I had driven them; and they shall dwell in their own land." Jeremiah 23:7 and 8.

Just as God performed dramatic miracles to bring His people out of Egypt so too He wrought miracles to bring about the restoration and preservation of modern Israel in their land. The successful 1948 War of Independence was such a miracle by itself.

US Secretary of State George C. Marshall was Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during the Second World War. He was a man very experienced with the calculus of war. He said this to an Israeli representative in Washington, "Believe me, I am talking about things about which I know. You are sitting there in the coastal plains of Palestine, while the Arabs hold the mountain ridges. I know you have some arms and your Haganah, but the Arabs have regular armies. They are well

trained and they have heavy arms. How can you hope to hold out?" (Larry Collins and Dominique Lapierre, *O Jerusalem!*, Pan books 1973, page 315).

As a military calculation Israel truly did face difficult odds. The Arab nations had little problem equipping their military. They could buy arms on the world market. Israel, however, faced arms embargoes that had to be bypassed. Even the USA embargoed the sale of arms to Israel. Before the war began Israel had just two artillery pieces and one tank and many of their soldiers did not even have guns.

During the fighting Israel procured weapons, aircraft and munitions on the black market and in Czechoslovakia. At the beginning of the war Israel had approximately 20,000 men and women under arms. At the height of the war Israel had a force of 100,000. The biggest advantage Israel had was a unified command structure. The Arab armies did not coordinate their forces. Israel did, however, have one "super weapon" which, like the victory of Gideon over the Amalekites and Midianites (Judges 6-8), could guarantee victory, i.e., God. (See online the JewishVirtualLibrary).

Prior to 1948 the Jewish people were not known as fighters. They were tiny minorities in the nations that hosted them. Frequently they suffered at the hands of whoever was their host country. But when they sought to establish their own land they became very resourceful fighters. The above book, **O Jerusalem**, gives many examples of what the Jews call "chutzpah." One story is of a Constellation airliner that was converted to be a bomber. When it was converted and armed it was flown out over the Mediterranean and then turned southeast on the approach path of Air France to Cairo airport. When they approached they radioed Cairo tower for permission for the scheduled Air France flight to land. Cairo tower responded with permission and the runway number. The nascent IAF (Israeli Air Force) proceeded to line up with the runway and bombed it. They then banked out toward the Mediterranean and got on the radio to thank Cairo tower for permission to "land."

Another story is of future Prime Minister Golda Meir. She raised funds in America for the war effort but our government forbade her buying arms in America for Israel. So Golda found an arms factory that Israel needed and bought it. She then had all the machine parts torn down, labeled and crated for shipment to Israel. The boxes were designated as scrap metal.

The "Ayalon Institute" was an underground arms factory and a typical example of "necessity being the mother of invention." The Kibbutz of Ayalon, west of Jerusalem, provided most of the 9mm ammunition for Israel. The Kibbutz had a laundromat underneath which was the factory. The factory made a lot of noise so to hide the sound from the British troops patrolling the kibbutz they ran the noisy dryer in the laundromat to cover the noise.

Because Israel could not buy tanks they put steel plating armor on trucks and armed them with machine guns. These "trucks" then carried or escorted cargo to the besieged Israeli troops in Jerusalem. Many were knocked out by Arab gunners. Today you can see the preserved hulks of these vehicles which were left as memorials where they were destroyed along Highway 1 from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

But chutzpah was not the only element in Israeli victories since 1948. The spiritual side of reality

also came into play. Some of these events are depicted in the documentary **Against All Odds Israel Survives**. You can watch much of this film on YouTube at this link - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SsN5bqVzX34>

One particular intervention by God is depicted in the opening scene of the above link. It takes place in the 1973 Yom Kippur War on the Golan Heights. A small group of Israeli soldiers led by David Yaniv are trapped behind Syrian lines at night. They must sneak across a wide field to reach friendly lines before daybreak. They start to cross the field but far into the field they discover they are in a minefield. They know that to follow training to cross a minefield will take far more time than they have but they begin. They take out their bayonets to probe the ground in front of them for mines. When they find one it is disarmed and they continue moving. Then in the words of David Yaniv “a very, very strong gust of wind came” up. It is so strong the men are almost toppled over. When the wind stops they can plainly see every single mine in the field. This event is told to journalist Michael Greenspan by David Yaniv for the documentary **Against All Odds Israel Survives**.

In the summer of 2014 Israel’s Iron Dome missile defense system was routinely knocking Hamas rockets out of the sky. However, one Hamas rocket aimed at Tel Aviv was calculated by Israeli radar to hit one of several targets that contained hundreds of people. The Iron Dome battery fired one missile which missed. Immediately another interceptor was fired but it too missed. Just seconds before impact the battery commander notified civil defense in Tel Aviv to be ready for mass casualties. The Iron Dome battery commander said, “Suddenly, Iron Dome (which calculates wind speeds, among other things) shows a major wind coming from the east, a strong wind that ... sends the missile into the sea. We were all stunned. I stood up and shouted, 'There is a God!,' he said.” This news item was widely reported in the media. Even Hamas reported that “Our rockets are good. Obviously their god loves them.”

Hal Lindsey describes this incident on his TV show - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E3Ht1pH3t4c>

Aish.com, a Jewish heritage website in Israel, discussed the content of many conversations going on among religious Jews in Israel. They are asking themselves why God intervenes to deflect missiles but does not bring peace to Israel. “The Talmud says (I am paraphrasing), “The threat of annihilation is a greater motivator than the writings, warnings, and admonishments of the prophets.” That’s true. It is easy to ignore old books and theory. It isn’t easy to ignore a rocket. Or a bloodthirsty anti-Semite. Or both. Or worse.” Aish.com August 2, 2014

In Israel’s Six Day War of 1967 the world watched in amazement as Israel systematically dismantled the Arab military forces. Was it because Israel was just that good? Or, was something else going on? Sarah Rigler, a Jewish author, said in a CBN interview, “Wow, what a lucky coincidence. You can see the divine hand... because God wanted us to win. He wanted us to regain our holy places.” In that same CBN report Joel Rosenberg, an evangelical author and prophecy teacher, said, “In six days the Jewish people defended themselves, destroyed their enemies, tripled their land, recaptured control of Jerusalem for the first time in two thousand years, and on the seventh day they rested. That just sounded way too biblical for evangelicals all over the planet.” Sarah Rigler added that “In the aftermath of the war Israelis, religious and secular, recognized that

this was from God because it was just too implausible.” The CBN report can be viewed at this link - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7wMIq6X4zi4>

Stepping back from our current observation point we must look at the long history of God’s activity on behalf of Israel. The two greatest miracles in the establishment of Israel as a nation are first the preservation of the Jewish people for two millennia. When an ethnic group is displaced from its homeland it will lose its identity within two centuries. The second is their re-gathering to their ancient land. God said He would call His people out of all the nations to which they were scattered. In the following video Chief Sephardic Rabbi Joseph Zweck describes passionately this survival of his people. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7kSVjXB1wuo>

And this brings us to Ezekiel chapter 37 and the vision of the valley of dry bones.

God showed Ezekiel a valley filled with dry bones. These bones signify the Jews scattered among the nations and absent from their own land. As Ezekiel watches he sees the bones coming together, sinews and flesh coming upon them. Then they stand up but they still lack what in Hebrew is called ruah, meaning breath or spirit. In verse nine they are given this breath and they stand as an exceeding great army, or IDF, the Israeli Defense Force.

Though religious Jews in Israel understand Ezekiel’s vision of dry bones as a prophecy of their rebirth as a nation we as Christians also see that it is not yet complete. Israel would be brought back to their land in unbelief. That unbelief will be the last obstacle to their reconciliation with God. The nation will be sorely tried in the future which will lead them to call for their Messiah to save them. At that time God will answer and save a remnant, one-third, who will survive this Tribulation, or “time of Jacob’s trouble.” He will then give them “a heart of flesh” that believes and submits. They will no longer be stiff necked and rebellious. This is prophesied in Zechariah,

“It will come about in all the land,’ Declares the LORD,’ That two parts in it will be cut off and perish; But the third will be left in it. And I will bring the third part through the fire, Refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them; I will say, ‘They are My people,’ and they will say, ‘The LORD is my God.’”
Zechariah 13:8, 9.

“And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, (תא) the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.” Zechariah 12:10

In the Hebrew text of Zechariah 12:10 you find the un-translated letters Aleph and Tav (תא) between “They will look on me,” and “the one they have pierced”.

The Aleph and Tav in Hebrew are equivalent to Alpha and Omega in Greek, the beginning and the end, the First and the Last. It is Jesus, the Son of God, and the Creator of everything whom they crucified. This is why all Israel will mourn as for an only child, the Only Begotten Son of God, the Creator and Savior of all.

“For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.” Matthew 23:39

These verses are related to the final battle, Armageddon. But before Israel puts its faith in Messiah there are at least two other wars to be fought. The last war, or battle, is Armageddon. The next to last is Gog and Magog. The third to last is Psalm 83. Let’s look at the next two in reverse order.

The Gog and Magog Coalition

In Chapter 38 Ezekiel tells us some of the details that will be true before the war of Gog and Magog. In verse 8 Ezekiel prophecies...

“After many days thou shalt be visited: in the latter years thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people, against the mountains of Israel, which have been always waste: but it is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely all of them.”

Israel’s wars since 1947 include the War of Independence (1948), the Suez Crisis (1956), the Six Day War (1967), the Yom Kippur War (1973), various Palestinian uprisings called Intifadas, the Lebanon invasion of 1982, a couple of incursions into Gaza and the most recent dustup with Hezbollah in 2006. Israel does not “dwell safely.”

In verses 11 and 12 Ezekiel quotes Gog, ruler of the land to “the uttermost north” as saying,

“...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 upon the desolate places that are now inhabited, and upon the people that are gathered out of the nations, which have gotten cattle and good, that dwell in the midst of the land.”

The phrase “without walls” does not currently describe Israel. Israel has constructed a 400-mile long wall to separate the West Bank Palestinians from the Israelis. And now a new wall is going up between Israel and Gaza. Something must happen to allow Israel to remove these walls. Also, in between the current war tension in the Middle East and this future time when Israel is at peace and secure from attack by its enemies something must change to bring about that peaceful condition. Many prophecy scholars have concluded that there will be a war between Israel and the enemies that border Israel for Israel to dwell safely and in peace. We will look at that war later.

In chapter 38 God tells Ezekiel to prophesy against Gog and Magog. He says He will draw a coalition of nations down upon the “mountains of Israel” to do battle. In verses 5 and 6 Ezekiel says these nations are,

“Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya with them: all of them with shield and helmet: Gomer, and all his bands; the house of Togarmah of the north quarters, and all his bands: and many people with thee.”

Verse 3 also mentions Meshech and Tubal in connection with its “chief prince” Gog. Many prophecy teachers connect these names with Russia and could be the ancient derivative of Moscow and Tobolsk. The question is still unsettled.

Some of the names of these nations are strange to the modern ear but they were well known in Ezekiel’s day. The Jewish historian Josephus (Antiquities I, vi. 1) said, "Magog founded those that from him were named Magogites, but who are by the Greeks called Scythians," who lived north of the Black Sea. Gog is the name or title of the ruler of Magog. Today they would be the Russians and perhaps including Kazakhstan.

Below are the names in the coalition of nations that come with Russia. They are called by names of ancient peoples who lived in specific regions 2,500 years ago. Names of nations change over time but the names of ancient peoples and the regions they inhabited in the past do not change so those names are used to denote the geography of the future nations that will include those regions.

Persia was known by that name until 1935 when they changed their name to Iran.

Ethiopia is not the modern nation by that name. In ancient times Ethiopia denoted the people south of Egypt, which is the way the Greek historian Herodotus, used it. Today that region south of Egypt is Sudan. Modern Ethiopia is predominantly Christian with a very strong friendship with Israel.

Libya in ancient usage of the term would be North Africa west of Egypt, possibly including Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia. Some translations will use the name Phut instead of Libya. Phut was a grandson of Noah who settled in this northwestern part of Africa.

Gomer is probably derived from the ancient name Gimarai which was in the north central part of Asia Minor, or modern Turkey. They were also known as the Cimmerians.

Togarmah, a descendent of Noah through Japheth and Gomer, was known in the ancient Assyrian records as Tilgarammu. These people lived in the eastern part of modern Turkey near the Syrian border.

Sheba and Dedan are listed in two genealogies in Genesis. In chapter 10 they are descended from Cush. In chapter 25 they are descendents of Abraham by Keturah, a concubine. In either case they were geographically located on the Arabian Peninsula. Today these nations are Saudi Arabia, Yemen, and perhaps other oil rich Arabian Peninsula nations.

Merchants of Tarshish and the **young lions** are not as easily identified. Many think Tarshish is in the western Mediterranean. Jonah fled west by ship to Tarshish when God told him to go east to Nineveh. Some say Tarshish is the modern city of Tortosa on the Mediterranean coast of Spain. Some also say that Tarshish represents the western destinations of the Phoenicians including outside the Mediterranean. The “young lions” are somehow connected to the merchants of Tarshish. This grouping of voices asks Gog “art thou coming to take a spoil” (38:13). This spoil must be something all of them consider very important. Perhaps oil and gas is Gog’s target? Oil is

the dominant economic resource in the region.

In verse 4 God says He will “*put hooks into thy jaws and I will bring thee forth.*” This sounds like Magog is being forced into something they would not otherwise choose. Perhaps this is because of a treaty obligation or some economic or geopolitical necessity. Russia has established economic, military, and political agreements with all the nations listed above.

Another motivation for Russia to take control of the Middle East is that its economy is based on the export of oil and gas. With the price of oil dropping because of the new fracking technology Russia’s economic foundations are threatened. This is even now (Fall 2014) a major news item. With so much new oil coming online there does not seem to be much reason for oil prices to rise significantly again. More on this below.

The Order of Battle

So, the nations aligned against Israel include Russia, leading the pack, Iran, a close second, Turkey and then lesser nations to the south and southwest of Israel including Sudan and Libya. Militarily speaking today, the real strength would be found in Russia, Turkey, and Iran. When you compare the map with these nations the direction of their advance will be from the north and attacking south to the mountains of northern Israel. They will have to pass through Turkey, Syria and Lebanon to get to Israel.

In 2008 Russia invaded the Georgian Republic to “protect” the ethnic Russian population. Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan are countries Russia would have to pass through on the way south to Israel.

Russia is now invading eastern Ukraine and the Crimea. There have been discussions in recent years of Ukraine becoming part of NATO. If that happened then a major power would be positioned on the western flank of any Russian push to the south. Taking the Crimean Peninsula secures the naval bases in the Black Sea that would be essential to protecting that western flank.

When the Magog invasion gets to the mountains of Israel God intervenes and destroys the attacking force (38:18-23). The destruction of the Magog invasion force is described as natural disaster type events including a great earthquake, fire and brimstone, hail and rain (38:22). For some reason, the coalition forces begin fighting one another (38:21). The possible reasons for that are currently not known.

An interesting analogy from Esther is that what Haman attempted to do to Mordechai and all Jews in Persia backfired on him. He was hanged instead of Mordechai. As Obadiah 15 says, “*For the day of the LORD is near on all the heathen: as you have done, it shall be done to you: your reward shall return on your own head.*” Could Iran’s intention to destroy Israel backfire on them again and that is why all the invading armies are fighting one another?

The nations attacking Israel are made up of the two major sects of Islam, Sunni and Shiite. The Sunni are in Turkey, Libya, Sudan, Syria and the former southern republics of the old Soviet

Union. The Shiites are the majority in Iran, and the Hezbollah, who control southern Lebanon. The government of Syria however, is dominated by the Alawite sect of Islam which is closer to the Shiites. The doctrine of both of these sects holds that only one of the sects will be able to enter Paradise. The other sect will be killed off. This could be an element in their infighting. Only 1 in 6 of the invading combatants survives (39:2).

When you examine the language used to describe the weapons employed they do not match up with any modern equivalent. We must keep in mind that these weapons will be fuel for seven years. Ancient weapons were made of wood, iron and bronze. Today we make them out of steel, aluminum, and exotic composites. That raises the question, how would an ancient describe modern weapons?

In chapter 39 the language changes when the cleanup begins. In 39:9 Ezekiel prophesies that the enemy's weapons will be used as fuel for seven years. If the coalition uses metal weapons and vehicles then what is being burned? The only "fuel" such an army would possess would include gasoline and diesel. However, there is another potential fuel. During the Cold War it was always Soviet military doctrine that tactical nukes would be used like conventional weapons. If this is the case in the Gog and Magog war then the fuel seems likely to be the fissionable warheads that could be used to fuel Israel's Dimona nuclear plant in the Negev.

There is an element of the post war cleanup that has a modern ring to it and may be related to the weapons "fuel." In Chapter 39:11-16 Ezekiel describes the cleanup in the aftermath of war. They will be seven months burying the dead (vs. 12). They will be buried east of the Dead Sea, or downwind from populated areas (vs. 11). But here is the interesting item. There will be people hired to collect and bury the dead. When a traveler sees a dead body he is not to touch it. He is supposed to mark the spot so the hired professionals can deal with it (vs. 15). This sounds like a Hazmat (hazardous materials) cleanup team. Could their contamination be radioactive, supporting the above speculation? It is a curious description.

Spoil and Oil?

The question asked in chapter 38:13 has Sheba and Dedan, oil rich Arabian countries, asking if the Magog coalition is coming to take a spoil. Could the spoil be Middle East oil? Could it be Israeli oil and gas?

The joke is told by Jewish people that when Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt he should have turned right instead of left to Canaan. If they had turned right they would possess the oil fields of the Arabian Peninsula. It was always thought that Israel had no oil deposits. However, in recent years, even as recently as 2011, reports are that Israel has potentially as much oil as all the known reserves in Saudi Arabia. The Wall Street Journal reported on April 5, 2011 that shale deposits southwest of Jerusalem could contain 250 billion barrels of oil, just slightly less than the proven reserves in Saudi Arabia.

Then there are gas finds off the coast of Israel. Lebanon is contesting the ownership of two of these fields that may lead to serious problems. The smaller field, named Tamar, will be used to supply

Israel while the largest, Leviathan, will be used for export. Concerning the size of these gas fields the Wall Street Journal said this on December 30, 2010, “In March, the U.S. Geological Survey released its first assessment of the zone, estimating it contained 1.7 billion barrels of oil and 122 trillion cubic feet of gas. That's equal to half the proven gas reserves of the U.S.”

Wilfred Hahn, a board member and a speaker on economics in prophecy with Midnight Call ministry is described as “a global economist/strategist. Formerly a top-ranked global analyst and one-time head of a large global investment company....” In 2011 Mr. Hahn learned of the significant oil and gas discoveries in Israel and said, “This changes everything.”

FoxNews.com reported on January 31, 2013, “Right now production is still tiny, but as fracking technology continues to advance Israel could soon move beyond its declared goal of energy independence, and become a major oil exporting country—including to oil-poor neighbors like Egypt and Syria and Lebanon. The implications are nothing less than staggering. Instead of an embattled and isolated outpost of Western democracy, Israel would look like the Middle East’s new economic colossus. Instead of shunning Israel for fear of offending oil-rich Arab states, Western Europeans could find themselves beating a path to Israel’s oil shale fields—and rethinking who they want as their ally in the region, and who they don’t.”

Western Europe gets much of its natural gas from Russia. This has been a problematic source for Europe because of Russia’s threat to shut down the pipeline when the Ukraine became delinquent in its payments for gas. This was reported in The Sunday Times on December 31, 2008.

If Western Europe should switch to the Israelis as a more reliable source of gas Russia would be hurt badly by the loss of its biggest customer. This could motivate them to “take a spoil.” The economic survival of a nation has often led to war as a solution. Russia could be similarly squeezed and that might set the “hook in the jaw.”

Again, this is a speculation based upon comparison of Ezekiel’s prophecy with current developments in the news. But this can be said, there is no conflict between Ezekiel’s prophecy and current economic and political conditions.

A Further Question

Israel has fought four wars with its neighbors, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and Egypt. But in the war which Ezekiel describes none of these nations are involved. **Why?** Even today with the current fighting going on in Syria and Iraq Israel is very concerned about the direction this turmoil will take the region. All the nations bordering Israel have been hostile but if those nations were in the control of religious radicals it would create a climate far worse than anything in the past. It seems that the direction of leadership in many Middle Eastern countries is headed toward a more radical agenda. Perhaps scripture gives us a clue to the absence of these nations.

Chapter 4 – The Psalm 83 War

There is a curious element missing in the alignment of nations listed in Ezekiel's Magog war against Israel. The nations that have fought Israel three times since 1948 are missing. With major nations like Russia and Turkey leading the attack against Israel why are Israel's immediate neighbors absent? Where are Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Egypt? A prayer in Psalm 83 provides an answer.

You don't have to look far to know that the conditions for war are ripe today, and far more serious, than at any time in Israel's modern history. A glance at today's headlines will show that the whole region is moving toward a collision. Iran is on the verge of having nuclear weapons which Israel has said it will not allow; they are establishing a naval base at Latakia, Syria. Hamas continues to fire rockets into southern Israel. Egypt elected a Muslim Brotherhood government until a military coup removed them. The Palestinian Authority has had plans to declare a Palestinian State for years but has delayed due to inopportune timing and foreign pressure. That may change soon. Turkey is moving away from a secular government and gradually is becoming an Islamic state, and may not remain a member of NATO. Jordan's King Abdullah is pushing for a UN recognized Palestinian state on the West Bank. Currently 135 nations out of the UN membership of 193 recognized a Palestinian state even though it does not yet exist. Any one of a thousand sparks could ignite a war.

News reports from many sources report that WMD (weapons of mass destruction) are already in the hands of Hezbollah and may soon be in the hands of Hamas. According to *DEBKAFfile*, March 31, 2011, "Senior Libyan rebel 'officers' sold Hizballah and Hamas thousands of chemical shells from the stocks of mustard and nerve gas that fell into rebel hands when they overran Muammar Qaddafi's military facilities in and around Benghazi." Israel has said that it will not be the first to introduce WMD in the Middle East. They have also sternly warned Syria that if they permit Hezbollah to use Scud ballistic missiles Israel will send Syria back to the Stone Age.

The use of chemical or biological weapons could make a region uninhabitable for a time. There is a prophecy that may bear on this in Zephaniah. If Hamas has acquired chemical weapons from Qaddafi's stockpiles, and uses them, this could lead to targeted Israeli towns near Gaza being evacuated.

"For Gaza shall be forsaken, and Ashkelon a desolation: they shall drive out Ashdod at the noon day, and Ekron shall be rooted up. Woe to the inhabitants of the sea coast, the nation of the Cherethites! The word of the Lord is against you; O Canaan, the land of the Philistines, I will even destroy thee, that there shall be no inhabitants." Zephaniah 2:4, 5.

Biblical scholars are not positive about the identity of the Cherethites but most think it is another name for the Philistines. The primary region of the Philistines was what are today the southern coast of Israel and the Gaza Strip. This passage refers to the Cherethites as a nation. Perhaps the fulfillment of this prophecy will come after the declaration of a Palestinian State.

Ashkelon is less than ten miles north of the Gaza border and well within Hamas missile range. Ashdod is another ten miles further north and also within missile range. Ekron is about 10 miles

further northeast of Gaza but the prophecy says it too will be “rooted up.”

If Hamas uses chemical weapons then “woe to the inhabitants of the sea coast, the nation of the Cherethites.” “Gaza shall be forsaken” the prophecy says.

The *Jerusalem Post* September 8, 2011 reported that, “Noting an increase in the chance of a multi-front war, OC Home Front Command Maj.-Gen. Eyal Eisenberg revealed on Monday that Palestinian terror groups used a new and advanced rocket in their attacks against Israel during the recent round of fighting in the Gaza Strip.

“After the Arab Spring, we predict that a winter of radical Islam will arrive and as a result the possibility for a multi-front war has increased, including the potential use of weapons of mass destruction,” Eisenberg said during a conference on the home front at the Institute for National Security Studies in Tel Aviv.”

In the Gaza fighting in the summer of 2014 Israel was protected by its Iron Dome missile defense system from the missiles fired by Hamas. Iron Dome intercepted almost all incoming missiles that would have hit populated areas. Whenever a new weapon or tactic appears on any battlefield the opposition will seek ways to defeat it. This is what Israel did with the deployment of their missile defense systems to defeat Hamas and Hezbollah’s ability to threaten Israel. Now the search will be on by Hamas, Hezbollah and probably Iran to find a way to defeat Iron Dome.

One possible and ominous scenario could be that Hamas and Hezbollah will place chemical, biological or radioactive materials (a dirty bomb) in the warheads of their missiles. When these are launched against Israel the Iron Dome missiles will intercept them, blowing up the “warhead” of dangerous materials which will then drift downward toward the cities mentioned by Zephaniah. Israel’s enemies will use Israel’s defense against them. That will lead Israel to take very drastic measures to end the threat forever. “*Woe to the inhabitants of the sea coast, the nation of the Cherithites.*”

The element that is absent from the mindset of Israel’s radical enemies is self preservation. Dictators like Bashar Assad and past leaders like Muammar Qaddafi, Gamal Abdul Nasser and Hosni Mubarak, had the good sense to not commit suicide, either personally or nationally. This is not the case with the radicals in Iran, ISIS, Hamas, or Hezbollah.

You don’t need Bible prophecy or a crystal ball to see such a conflict erupting in the near future. The Muslim/Arab hatred for Israel is such that they believe they are on a mission from Allah to kill the Jews and destroy the “Zionist entity.” If they believe Allah is on their side they will be more likely to ignore Israel’s vast military superiority. They also embrace death as part of a holy war which they think will guarantee them entry to Paradise.

In The Bible Millennia Ago

Some prophecies in the Bible predict a one-time incident such as the place of Jesus birth, or death. Other prophecies are not limited to one incident. Psalm 83, for instance, describes something that

has gone on for millennia. Dating back to the time of Isaac and Ishmael, Jacob and Esau, there has been an animosity between the descendents of these sons of Abraham. In the Bible this hatred is called *Olam Ebah*, the ancient hatred (Ezekiel 25:15 and 35:5). With the coming of Islam the bad blood felt by Ishmael and Esau was spread to all Muslims. With the return of the Jews to their ancestral land the hornets nest has been stirred and it won't be quiet again until Messiah, the Prince of Peace, returns.

The 83rd Psalm is a prayer by Asaph, a seer and worship leader in the Tabernacle, about those nations that border Israel and are implacable foes of God. The psalm is a prayer which some point out as a way to deny that it is a prophecy. However, when Jesus said on the cross, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do" we can safely assume that God will forgive them. Psalm 83 is a prayer inspired by God therefore God will answer it in the affirmative. God has not yet answered Asaph's prayer. Therefore its fulfillment is still future.

The warfare between Israel, both ancient and modern, against its neighbors, is also well documented. Some of the nations listed below went to war with Israel during the time of Jehoshaphat and three times since the modern nation was reborn.

The 1948 War of Independence

The Six Day War in 1967

The Yom Kippur War in 1973

Each of these wars was an attempt to wipe out the nation of Israel just as the Psalm 83 war will be. Ultimately even Armageddon will have that goal.

Asaph in Psalm 83 asks God to protect and avenge His people, Israel, against her enemies.

"Keep not thou silent, O God: hold not thy peace, and be not still, O God. For, lo, thine enemies make a tumult: and they that hate thee have lifted up the head. They have taken crafty counsel against thy people, and consulted against thy hidden ones. They have said, Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance. For they have consulted together with one consent: they are confederate against thee" Psalm 83:1-5.

"The tabernacles of Edom, and the Ishmaelites; of Moab, and the Hagarenes; Geba, and Ammon, and Amalek; the Philistines with the inhabitants of Tyre; Assur also is joined with them: they have helped the children of Lot" Psalm 83:6-8.

These ancient peoples occupied the territories that are today known as Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, part of Saudi Arabia, and the Gaza Strip. This is how we can identify the modern enemies in this future war. We can tell by looking at a modern map compared to the ancient territories occupied by the people named in the Psalm. Below are the modern nations that occupy the ancient geography.

Edom (aka Idumea) – southern Jordan

Ishmaelites – Saudi Arabia

Moab – central Jordan

Hagarenes – Egyptians

Gebal – an ancient city in northern Lebanon

Ammon – northern Jordan (Amman is the capital of Jordan)

Amalek – Arabs of the Sinai

Philistines – Gaza Strip

Tyre – Southern Lebanon * see note below

Assur – Syria and northern Iraq

* Ezekiel prophesied against Tyre in Ezekiel 26. He said...

“Therefore thus says the Lord God: “Behold, I am against you, O Tyre, and will cause many nations to come up against you, as the sea causes its waves to come up. And they shall destroy the walls of Tyre and break down her towers; I will also scrape her dust from her, and make her like the top of a rock. It shall be a place for spreading nets in the midst of the sea, for I have spoken,” says the Lord God; ...and you shall never be rebuilt.”

Many parts of this prophecy have been fulfilled to the letter. In the sixth century BC Nebuchadnezzar destroyed the mainland city of Tyre but could not destroy the island city. In the fourth century BC Alexander the Great took the mainland city and used its rubble to create a causeway out to the island city. He then took the island city and destroyed every building down to the rocks. It was after Alexander that the island city of Tyre was used to spread fishing nets. Over the centuries Tyre has been taken “by many nations” like “waves of the sea.” After Alexander it was taken by Rome, by Muslim armies, by Crusaders, by the Ottoman Empire and by the British. Today Google Earth shows a modern city occupying the same place on the map. The mainland and island have been joined because the causeway has filled in. The city has been rebuilt. However, because it is named in the Psalm 83 prayer I believe the prophecy of its total and final destruction is still future. Another “wave” is coming as Ezekiel prophesied.

Psalm 83 is not the only prophecy relating to this future conflict. We find another reference to it in **Joel 3:1-2;**

“For, behold in those days, and that time, when I shall bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem, I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land.”

The time frame for this is after the re-gathering of the Jews and the rebirth of Israel (see underlining above). Since that time God has given Israel miraculous victories over every enemy.

This prophecy too is a pattern and process that will have its ultimate fulfillment in Armageddon. The so-called “Road Map” to peace first proposed by George HW Bush at the Madrid Peace Conference calls for “parting my land” between Israel and the Palestinians. God will punish nations that try to do this.

Zechariah 12 also addresses these latter-day efforts against Israel. God says in verses two, three and six;

“Behold I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem. And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it... In that day will I make the governors of Judah (IDF field commanders?) like an hearth of fire among the wood and like a torch of fire in a sheaf; and they shall devour all the people round about, on the right hand and on the left.”

In verse 6 the term “in that day” has reference to a last days time frame and a specific fulfillment rather than part of the pattern and process toward fulfillment. Israel has been like “a torch of fire” in their previous wars but apparently will be far more so in the Psalm 83 war.

Asaph asks God to so decisively defeat Israel’s enemies that they can never rise up again against His people. To inflict such a defeat it will require that Israel’s enemies never again be able to raise an army to threaten Israel. What kind of defeat would that be? Let’s look at a couple other passages that seem to fit this future war.

Isaiah 17 - The Burden of Damascus

Syria is one of the Psalm 83 nations that Asaph asks God to decisively defeat. Isaiah 17 seems like a prophecy that fulfills such a prayer. The prophet Isaiah said,

“The burden of Damascus. Behold, Damascus is taken away from being a city, and it shall be a ruinous heap.”

Damascus is the oldest continuously inhabited city in the world. It has never been permanently destroyed in the past. Since the prophecy in verse one has never been fulfilled then it is still future. Isaiah concludes chapter 17 with these words that sound to the modern mind like **a nuclear blast**.

“And behold at eveningtide trouble; and before the morning he is not. This is the portion of them that spoil us, and the lot of them that rob us.”

Destruction overnight? This has never been possible until the modern age.

But Israel does not escape damage in this prophecy. Isaiah says in verses three and four,

“The fortress also shall cease from Ephraim (in the West Bank), and the kingdom from

Damascus... And in that day it shall come to pass, that the glory of Jacob shall be made thin, and the fatness of his flesh shall wax lean.”

These verses had a partial fulfillment in 732-722 BC when Damascus and the Northern Kingdom of Israel were conquered by the Assyrians. But the destruction described above has never visited Damascus. If modern Syria uses chemical or biological weapons against Israel these verses could reflect Israel's counterstrike.

In verse 2 Isaiah also says the “cities of Aroer are forsaken.” This area is in Jordan, east of the Dead Sea on the north side of the Arnon river, called today the Wadi Mujib. These cities will be deserted but the reason is not given in the prophecy. Only untended flocks will graze there.

Ezekiel 29 - The Nile Goes Radioactive?

In the 1960's Egypt under President Gamal Abdul Nasser contracted with the Soviet Union to build the Aswan High Dam in southern Egypt. Today the Nile does not flood annually as it did for millennia. Those annual flood waters are now backed up behind the dam in Lake Nasser, a 330 mile long reservoir. The Aswan High Dam is so massive that it is immune to any conventional explosive. If it were to collapse 90% of populated Egypt would be flooded.

Ezekiel 29 describes more than just a flood. It describes a dead Nile river and a displaced population.

Ezekiel 29 says, *“In the tenth year, in the tenth month, in the twelfth day of the month, the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,*

² Son of man, set thy face against Pharaoh king of Egypt, and prophesy against him, and against all Egypt:

³ Speak, and say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, Pharaoh king of Egypt, the great dragon that lieth in the midst of his rivers, which hath said, My river is mine own, and I have made it for myself.

⁴ But I will put hooks in thy jaws, and I will cause the fish of thy rivers to stick unto thy scales, and I will bring thee up out of the midst of thy rivers, and all the fish of thy rivers shall stick unto thy scales.

⁵ And I will leave thee thrown into the wilderness, thee and all the fish of thy rivers: thou shalt fall upon the open fields; thou shalt not be brought together, nor gathered: I have given thee for meat to the beasts of the field and to the fowls of the heaven.

⁶ And all the inhabitants of Egypt shall know that I am the LORD, because they have been a staff of reed to the house of Israel.

⁷ When they took hold of thee by thy hand, thou didst break, and rend all their shoulder: and when they leaned upon thee, thou brakest, and madest all their loins to be at a stand.

⁸ Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will bring a sword upon thee, and cut off man and beast out of thee.

⁹ And the land of Egypt shall be desolate and waste; and they shall know that I am the LORD: because he hath said, The river is mine, and I have made it.

¹⁰ Behold, therefore I am against thee, and against thy rivers, and I will make the land of Egypt

utterly waste and desolate, from the tower of Syene (or “from migdol [fort] to Aswan”) even unto the border of Ethiopia.

¹¹ No foot of man shall pass through it, nor foot of beast shall pass through it, neither shall it be inhabited forty years.

¹² And I will make the land of Egypt desolate in the midst of the countries that are desolate, and her cities among the cities that are laid waste shall be desolate forty years: and I will scatter the Egyptians among the nations, and will disperse them through the countries.

¹³ Yet thus saith the Lord GOD; At the end of forty years will I gather the Egyptians from the people whither they were scattered:

¹⁴ And I will bring again the captivity of Egypt, and will cause them to return into the land of Pathros, into the land of their habitation; and they shall be there a base kingdom.”

Some of this prophecy was fulfilled during the time of Nebuchadnezzar. But not all was fulfilled. There remains yet the full extent of the prophecy, the utter desolation of the Nile River and the dispersal of the population for 40 years. This has yet to be fulfilled therefore we can look for it in the time of the end.

What would cause the Nile to die? Diverting its flow south of Egypt? That is not likely given the relative military strengths of Egypt versus any nation to its south. The destruction of the Aswan High Dam? That would be a very serious blow to the nation but would not “kill” the river in the terms used in this prophecy. I see one possible way the river dies and causes Egypt to “disperse.”

Israel has had a mutually beneficial treaty with Egypt since the time of the Presidency of Anwar Sadat. Though the treaty is primarily military peace it has also opened the doors to economic cooperation. Egypt supplied natural gas to Israel but during the brief period of the Muslim Brotherhoods control of Egypt that supply was cut off. Now Israel has its own supply and is not dependent on Egypt. But if religious radicals again gain control of Egypt then Israel will have a serious military threat from the south.

In a real sense Israel has “leaned on” Egypt as a stabilizing force in the region. It is said by Middle East analysts that no Arab country can expect military success against Israel without Egypt as an ally. With a peace treaty between Israel and Egypt for the last 40 years Egypt has been “leaned upon” by Israel. If that peace treaty should be abrogated in the future then Egypt will prove to be the “flimsy reed,” which is an unreliable support, which Ezekiel spoke of in verses six and seven. For that Egypt would pay a stiff price. In verse nine God says that “*Egypt shall be desolate and a waste.*”

If the radicals of the Muslim Brotherhood again take power in Egypt that 40 year peace treaty will become worthless. The prophetic question then becomes one of whether Egypt will go to side of the radical opposition to Israel, or not. If they do participate in the Psalm 83 confederacy against Israel then God’s answer to Asaph’s prayer is the complete defeat of Egypt.

If a nuclear device destroyed the Aswan dam the result would be a massive flood washing north from Lake Nasser all the way to the Mediterranean. The floodwaters would destroy all the cities along the Nile including Cairo and perhaps Alexandria. All those cities, and all living things in and alongside the Nile would be killed initially by the flood waters and then by radiation. The land

would be uninhabitable for decades. Egypt is the Nile and the Nile is Egypt. If you look at Egypt on Google Earth during the night time hours the lights follow the river from south to north. Without that river the rest of the land is just desert.

“Because you said, ‘The Nile is mine, and I have made it,’ therefore, behold, I am against you and against your rivers, and I will make the land of Egypt an utter waste and desolation, from Migdol (in northern Egypt) to Syene (Aswan in the south) and even to the border of Ethiopia. A man’s foot will not pass through it, and the foot of a beast will not pass through it, and it will not be inhabited for forty years. So I will make the land of Egypt a desolation in the midst of desolated lands. And her cities, in the midst of cities that are laid waste, will be desolate forty years; and I will scatter the Egyptians among the nations and disperse them among the lands” (NASB).

Gary Stearman expounds on this prophecy on his Prophecy Watchers TV show - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VGfc8wj0oVo>

Looking Forward

With the turmoil created by the so-called “Arab Spring” we should watch who will hold power in Egypt, Libya, Syria, Iraq and other Arab nations. If the Muslim Brotherhood, Al Qaeda, ISIS, or any radical Islamic group takes power they will pursue their hate driven agenda against Israel.

As you hear news coming out of the above nations pay attention to how the stage is being set up for Psalm 83 and the war that will follow that, the Magog war.

Also, Ezekiel describes Israel as living securely in “unwalled villages,” meaning their enemies are no longer a threat to them (**Ezekiel 38:10-12**). That condition has not existed since Israel’s rebirth. Something must happen to bring about what Ezekiel describes. Why would not the nations that have warred against Israel since 1948 not be participating in the Magog war? The answer to the prayer of Asaph in Psalm 83 is sent from God before Ezekiel 38 comes about.

In July of 2006 a worker operating a backhoe in Ireland was digging for potting soil when he spotted what looked like a leather bound book in the soil. It turned out to be a Christian Psalter dating back almost 1000 years. How it had survived in the moist soil was a mystery. Of interest to everyone was that it was open to **Psalm 83**.

At the same time in northern Israel and southern Lebanon the IDF (Israel Defense Force) was at war with Hezbollah, a militia controlled by Iran and Syria. As the National Geographic News said on July 26, 2006, “The book was found open, perhaps rather portentously, to Psalm 83, in which God hears of nations' attempts to wipe out the name of Israel.”

Chapter 5: America's Nineveh Moment

There is one final prophecy relating to these times and events. It is in **Obadiah verse 15**. This prophecy will hold true to all nations that try to divide the land of Israel or destroy the Jews. **America, wake up and pay attention.**

For the day of the LORD draws near on all the nations. As you have done, it will be done to you. Your dealings will return on your own head" (NASB).

"Can the liberties of a Nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are the gift of God? Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just and that his justice cannot sleep forever" Thomas Jefferson

In Evangelical Christian circles there is an assumption, a given, that God must judge America for her sin, and soon. mmBilly Graham expressed this best when he said, "If God does not judge America He will have to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah." Our sins have piled up to the point that we ask ourselves why God is holding back His judgment. Or, is He?

Since the Supreme Court decision in Roe vs. Wade we have seen the aborting of 55 million unborn children. That same court earlier ruled that prayer was unconstitutional in the public schools and since then we have seen the moral decline of our youth and the inroads of moral relativism. As a nation we have "officially" removed God from our public consciousness. Nature abhors a vacuum and into that absence of Biblical faith we have seen the rise of innumerable "alternative religions" and "alternative lifestyles" that defy God's truth and holiness.

The so-called alternative lifestyle of homosexuality was the reason God judged Sodom and Gomorrah, not because there were homosexuals in those cities, but because the culture and people sanctioned it. Now our own schools are teaching tolerance of this perversion giving it an official sanction. From the 60's till now – sexual promiscuity, drugs, abortion, legalized gambling, blasphemy, pornography, hedonism, calling good evil and evil good, have been commonplace in our culture.

This is exactly the state that Paul addressed in Romans 1:19-32 when he said that when people refuse to allow God to inform their understanding of His world the result would be that they would reap the natural results of their sinful condition. The moral corruption of our country is the direct consequence of refusing, as a nation, to acknowledge God. The steps Paul outlined in Romans 1 were first people would reject God by "suppressing the truth in unrighteousness." What can be known of God is clear in His creation. But when man suppresses that (hint, they know it was God Who created everything but they refuse to acknowledge Him and make up their own explanation for the origin of everything, i.e., evolution) then the consequence is that God allows them to debauch themselves and reap the consequences of their sin. Paul specifically states that one of the evidences would be sexual hedonism, and specifically homosexuality. What used to be "common sense" is now uncommon. We are ripe for judgment.

This failure to acknowledge God also affects the decisions of government. America has stood by Israel from the time of its rebirth in 1948. Under the Obama administration our support for Israel

lagged at the same time Iran, and Ezekiel 38 nation, was developing their atomic and missile technologies. America let them do it.

In God's way of judging a nation He gives ample warning first with the promise of judgment if repentance is not forthcoming. We saw this with the prophet Jonah who reluctantly took the warning of God's impending judgment to Nineveh, a gentile city. The entire city heeded the warning, repented, and was spared God's judgment. A few generations later however, Nineveh was destroyed because their earlier repentance did not last. Built on top of Nineveh today is the modern city of Mosul, Iraq. God gradually moves toward judgment. First He warns. Then He sends remedial judgments (Deut. 28), and if those are not heeded then he sends destruction (Deut. 29:16-21).

Our country is like ancient Nineveh. America has been squandering the accumulated capital of God's blessings on this nation. The current debt crisis is simply an analogy of our moral bankruptcy. Has America been warned? Do we, as a nation, not just we Christians, know that God is angry with America? We are at a crossroads where we could repent like Nineveh and be spared, or fail to repent and be destroyed. An unheeding American populace seems to have placed their bet on their God-dishonoring lifestyle and believe they will win that bet against God. Our government has done the same.

America and Israel

Perhaps the reason God has withheld judgment is that America has protected Israel. If we withdraw that protection then as the saying goes, "Katie bar the door!"

Many Old Testament prophets foretold that in the "day of the Lord," when He brings judgment on the World that Israel, and specifically Jerusalem, would be a "burdensome stone" and all who "concern themselves with it" (i.e., attempt to divide it) would be destroyed (Zechariah 12:9). Since 1991 America has been attempting to "divide the land."

We find reference to it in Joel 3:1-2;

"For, behold those days, and that time, when I shall bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem. I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land."

Part of God's "pleading" is in the form of warning judgments against those who would "part" or divide the land God gave Israel. From its re-birth in 1948 America supported the integrity of Israel's borders but that changed in 1991. George H.W. Bush announced a change in US policy regarding peace in the Middle East. It became known as "land for peace." Bush made that announcement in Madrid, Spain on October 30, 1991. On that very day, while he was speaking, the so-called "Perfect Storm" swamped his home in Kennebunkport, ME. That storm defied meteorological patterns by going west instead of the normal eastward direction of storms.

That event could be called a coincidence. However, a Jewish saying is that coincidence is not a kosher word. God is sovereign over the weather. If such “coincidences” are regularly coinciding with our attempts to divide the land then it is not a coincidence.

Several students of prophecy noticed a pattern of events where US policy went counter to God’s promise to Israel. For those who want to read their books I will list them here;

Eye to Eye by William (Bill) Koenig. Bill is a Whitehouse reporter. You can read his reporting at www.watch.org where you can also order his book.

As America Has Done To Israel by John McTernan. John is a former investigator with the Federal government. His book can be found on Amazon and his website is found at this link - <http://www.defendproclaimthefaith.org/as-america-has-done-to-israel-book-offer.html>

The Israel Omen by David Brennan. You can find his book on Amazon. He is interviewed on Prophecy in the News at this link - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xTxeN1LUL40>

Each of these men have pointed out that within 24 to 48 hours of our government “making progress,” that is moving forward in the land for peace process, some catastrophe has hit our country. Nine of the ten biggest disasters listed on FEMA’s website occurred within 24 hours of our efforts to “divide the land” of Israel. Here is a list drawn from their books. Exercise your own discernment in these “coincidences”.

#1 - **On Oct. 30, 1991** George H.W. Bush announced, at the Madrid Peace Conference, a change in US policy toward peace in the Middle East. The change was called “land for peace.” The US government was now advocating the division of the land Israel “occupied” between Israel and a future Palestinian State. At the very time Bush was delivering his speech the “Perfect Storm” flooded the Bush home in Maine with 30 foot waves.

#2 - **On Aug 24, 1992** round six of the Madrid Peace effort began in DC. The Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin agreed to the policy of land for peace. On that same day Hurricane Andrew struck south Florida causing \$1.8 billion in damage.

#3 – **From April 1993 through August 1993** a peace agreement was being negotiated that would cede part of the Promised Land to the Palestinians. During this same period flood levels were occurring in the Midwest that had not been seen in 500 years.

#4 – **On January 17, 1994** President Clinton met with Syrian President Assad to discuss the return of the Golan Heights. On that same day an earthquake registering 6.7 hit Northridge, CA causing almost \$7 billion damage. Why Northridge? Also scheduled that day, and in that area, was a gay pride parade that had to be cancelled.

#5 - **On January 21, 1998** Prime Minister Netanyahu is rudely treated at the White House. Both President Clinton and Secretary of State Albright refuse to have lunch with him. A few hours later the Lewinsky scandal broke in the media, which crippled the Clinton Presidency for the rest of his tenure.

#6 - **On September 28, 1998** Secretary of State Albright finishes the details of an agreement for Israel's cession of 13% of Judea and Samaria. On that same day Hurricane George hits the US Gulf Coast and stalls. On that same day Clinton met with Yasser Arafat and Netanyahu to finalize the deal. After the meeting Arafat addressed the UN on the subject of declaring a Palestinian State by May 1999. As soon as Arafat left the country Hurricane George subsided. FEMA reported the total cost of damages at \$2.25 billion.

#7 - **From October 15-22, 1998.** On October 15 Arafat meets with Clinton and Netanyahu at the Wye River Plantation in Maryland again to talk about the cession of 13% of Judea and Samaria. The talks were supposed to last for five days. On October 17 torrential rains and tornadoes hit southern Texas. The storms subside on October 22. Clinton declared that area of Texas a major disaster area. Damage was estimated to be over \$1 billion.

#8 - **On December 12, 1998** Clinton landed in a Palestinian controlled section of Israel to discuss the "land for peace" policy. On that same day Congress voted four articles of impeachment against him.

#9 - **On May 3, 1999** Yasser Arafat was scheduled to declare a Palestinian State with Jerusalem as its capital. On that same day the most powerful tornado ever to hit the US swept across Oklahoma and Kansas. Winds were clocked at 316 miles per hour. Clinton urged Arafat to delay his announcement until December.

#10 - **During the week of October 11, 1999** Jewish settlers were evicted from the West Bank at the urging of the US in its land for peace policy. During the same week the Dow Jones lost 5.7% of its value in the worst week since 1989. On October 15 the Dow lost 266 points and a hurricane slammed into North Carolina. On October 16, a magnitude 7.1 earthquake rocked the California desert but did little damage.

#11 - **On June 5, 2001** George W. Bush sent George Tenet to Israel to implement limits on the use of Israeli land. On the afternoon of that same day Tropical Storm Allison formed off the coast of Texas and moved ashore at Galveston and Houston. So much rain fell that it became known as the "Great Flood of 2001." FEMA said the costs of the storm came to almost \$1.4 billion.

#12 - **On September 10, 2001** George W. Bush prepared to announce his plans for a Palestinian State. On September 11, well, you know the rest.

#13 - **On April 30, 2003** the "Quartet" (USA, Russia, the E.U., and the U.N.) kicked off plans for dividing off a large section of the Promised Land to make room for a Palestinian State. According to the Wikipedia entry for the first week of May, 2003, "There were 401 tornado reports in 19 states and 1 Canadian province. More severe weather broke out this week alone than any other week in U.S. history. The old record for most tornado reports in one week was 171 during the week of the May 1995 Tornado Outbreak Sequence."

#14 - **On August 23, 2005** the Israeli government completed the removal of Israeli settlers from Gaza. This was done under pressure from the Bush administration. On that same day Hurricane

Katrina formed in the Atlantic and before the hurricane subsided it had resulted in the removal of a percentage of the American population from our Gulf coast equal to the percentage of the Israeli population that were removed from Gaza. The Bush presidency was never the same after Katrina and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, his partner in the deal, suffered a stroke from which he never recovered.

#15 - **During the week of July 23, 2007** Quartet envoy Tony Blair traveled to the Middle East to continue the peace process begun at the Annapolis Conference to trade land for peace. During that week the world financial system begins its meltdown from which it has still not recovered.

#16 - **On April 19, 2010** Israel celebrated its independence. The Jewish lunar calendar does not coincide with our calendar so the observance of their independence day, Passover, or any other Jewish holiday falls on a different day in our calendar. On the same day Israel was celebrating its independence President Obama announced that the US would not “automatically” support Israel in the UN. This was a fundamental departure from past American policy. On the next day the Deep Water Horizon oil well exploded in the Gulf of Mexico creating the worst oil spill in US history.

#17 - <http://watch.org/node/32292>

These “coincidences” go on and on. The three authors named above have counted 90 such “coincidences.” At some point, one must ask the question, “Is God telling us something?” It is true that on any given day a weather, earthquake, financial downturn, or other disastrous event will occur somewhere in the world. However, the common points in these coincidences are that it happens within 24 hours, it happens to the party “cursing” Israel, and it is a VERY serious event.

Israel now views the support of the United States as unreliable (see Israel Today, December 8, 2014). Some possible actions that the Obama administration might take against Israel include;

- 1) Support for, or neutrality, in a UN Security Council vote on a Palestinian State.
- 2) Economic sanctions against Israel for building on “Palestinian land.”
- 3) Appeasement in the face of Iranian nuclear ambitions.

If Obama were to instruct our UN ambassador to vote for a Palestinian State, i.e., what the Bible calls “dividing my land,” it would be on a far higher scale of severity in comparison with any efforts taken in the past. When I add to that the combined sins of our nation described above being held at bay because we have supported Israel, then I think the severity of God’s judgment will be off the scale compared to any listed above.

Hal Lindsey said in his Late Great Planet Earth book in 1969 that before Antichrist can come on the scene America will have to decline as a world power. We are beginning to see that with our economy now the second largest in the world, our military being reduced in size, our debt mounting, and the world thumbing their noses at US initiatives.

But what more could happen to us? Things that come to mind include;

- 1) The New Madrid fault slipping which could literally divide our land.
- 2) The Yellowstone super volcano erupting.
- 3) The US economy collapses and the dollar ceases to be the dominant currency in the world.
- 4) The northwest slope of the Isla de Palma in the Canary Islands slipping into the sea creating a tsunami that wipes out our entire east coast..
- 5) An EMP attack or Coronal Mass Ejection from the Sun hitting North America.
- 6) Civil unrest, political instability, and natural or economic disasters leading to a collapse of the Federal government.

Any of the above could take the US out of the international picture permanently.

Review

If we take a literal and futurist view of the prophetic passages in the Bible we will come to understand that God fulfills His prophetic Word exactly as written.

For instance He foretold when Jesus would enter Jerusalem exactly as prophesied in Daniel 9.

He preserved the Jews as a people for two thousand years even though they were scattered through every nation of the world as Jesus said in Luke 21.

He brought the Jews back to their land during the 20th century and re-established their nation as He said in Ezekiel 36 and 37; Isaiah 11, 43, 66; Jeremiah 31; and Zephaniah 3.

And God birthed Israel right on schedule as He said based on Ezekiel 4 and Leviticus 26. See the detailed explanation in Chapter Two.

As soon as Israel “stood up” (Ezekiel 37) as a nation they were attacked from every side by vastly superior armies but won that war and every war since. God promised in Amos 9:15 that they would never be uprooted again.

God told Asaph (Psalm 83), Isaiah (17), and Ezekiel (29), that certain calamitous events would befall Damascus, Syria, and Egypt so that they would never be an enemy of Israel again. The calamities described in these chapters would make any modern mind think of a nuclear war. The events on the ground today in the Middle East have a very strong potential for fulfilling those prophecies.

God told Ezekiel that a group of nations, none of which border Israel, would attack Israel at a time when Israel is at peace and prosperous. Those nations include Russia, Turkey, Iran, Sudan and Libya. Events in the last few years are throwing the nations together in a hostile relationship toward Israel. Their end will be by a divine intervention.

God promised in Genesis 12:3 to bless those who bless Israel and curse those who curse Israel. He also said in Joel 3:1-2 that He would “trouble” any nation that troubled itself with trying to “divide the land.” Since 1991 every time the US policy of “land for peace” has made progress toward “dividing the land” we have been hit within 24 hours by some large magnitude disaster.

Can we dare conclude that God doesn’t mean what He says?

Conclusion

Since the time of Adam’s sin the physical world has been cursed. The Bible tells of God’s judgment in the form of natural disasters happening to a sinful people. Whether a particular calamity is a particular judgment requires discernment and awareness of the timing, magnitude, and witness of God’s Spirit. If we fail to be discerning then we will necessarily miss God’s warnings and the consequences we will then face are our own fault.

After the Katrina disaster most Americans denounced those who said the disaster was God’s judgment. How would they know that? Were they privy to God’s decisions? Or, do they just reject before the fact that God would use nature to impose His judgments? I believe the latter to be the case. The reason America has fallen so far from her Christian heritage is that we have forgotten our heritage and the God Who blessed us. We have instead embraced the vain philosophies of naturalism and moral relativism that make man his own god. Even some Christians have lost sight of the fact that God is unchanging, and holy. A kind and grandfatherly sort of God has replaced the true character of God that we see in the Bible. This is probably the reason America is still unaware that God is trying to get her attention.

We say, “May God bless America” and we mean it. But we may have seen all of His blessings in our past. We may be living on the accumulated capital of the past generations faith in God. Or, we may not have encountered God’s full judgment yet because we have, until the last few years, been Israel’s greatest friend and God did promise to bless those who bless Israel.

In the near future the Palestinians are expected to declare a Palestinian State. It will come before the UN for debate and voting. The General Assembly will certainly be in favor of it. However, the legal decision will have to come from the Security Council where the US has a veto. Will the US veto it, abstain, or support it? That is unknown.

In the latter years of the 19th century England was a bastion of evangelical Christian devotion. Queen Victoria presided over the largest empire in world history. It was said that the Sun never set on the British Empire. That empire began to fall apart within a few decades. A result of the First World War was that the British were given the League of Nations mandate to administer Palestine. They carved out a Jewish homeland that included not only the West Bank of the Jordan River but also the East Bank up to and including all of what is today Jordan. Then in the San Remo Conference in 1922 they re-drew those lines to exclude what is today the nation of Jordan leaving a future Israel only on the west side of the Jordan. The land they took away from Israel was land God gave them through the Abrahamic Covenant. From that point on the British Empire was in retreat just as the Spanish empire began its decline after Ferdinand and Isabella deported all the Jews.

During the reign of Queen Victoria Rudyard Kipling wrote a poem about the folly of the British Empire trusting or boasting in anything but God.

Recessional
By Rudyard Kipling
June 22, 1897

God of our fathers, known of old—
Lord of our far-flung battle-line—
Beneath whose awful Hand we hold
Dominion over palm and pine—
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,
Lest we forget, lest we forget!

The tumult and the shouting dies—
The captains and the kings depart—
Still stands Thine ancient sacrifice,
An humble and a contrite heart.
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,
Lest we forget, lest we forget!

Far-call'd our navies melt away—
On dune and headland sinks the fire—
Lo, all our pomp of yesterday
Is one with Nineveh and Tyre!
Judge of the Nations, spare us yet,
Lest we forget, lest we forget!

If, drunk with sight of power, we loose
Wild tongues that have not Thee in awe—
Such boasting as the Gentiles use
Or lesser breeds without the Law—
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,
Lest we forget, lest we forget!

For heathen heart that puts her trust
In reeking tube and iron shard—
All valiant dust that builds on dust,
And guarding calls not Thee to guard—
For frantic boast and foolish word,
Thy Mercy on Thy People, Lord!

I think the final thought here is best expressed by George Mason, the Father of our Constitution's Bill of Rights. He said,

“As nations cannot be rewarded or punished in the next world, they must be in this. By an inevitable chain of causes and effects, Providence punishes national sins, by national calamities.”

The Gentiles in Prophecy



**Nebuchadnezzar's
Dream (Daniel 2)**

**Daniel's Dream
(Daniel 7)**

**The Kingdoms
Prophesied**

Gold
(Head)

Lion

Babylonian

Silver
(Breast & Arms)

Bear

Medo-Persian

Brass
(Belly & Thighs)

Leopard

Greek

Iron
(Legs)

**Beast with
Iron Teeth**

Roman

P R O P H E T I C G A P

Iron & Clay
(Feet)

Ten Horns

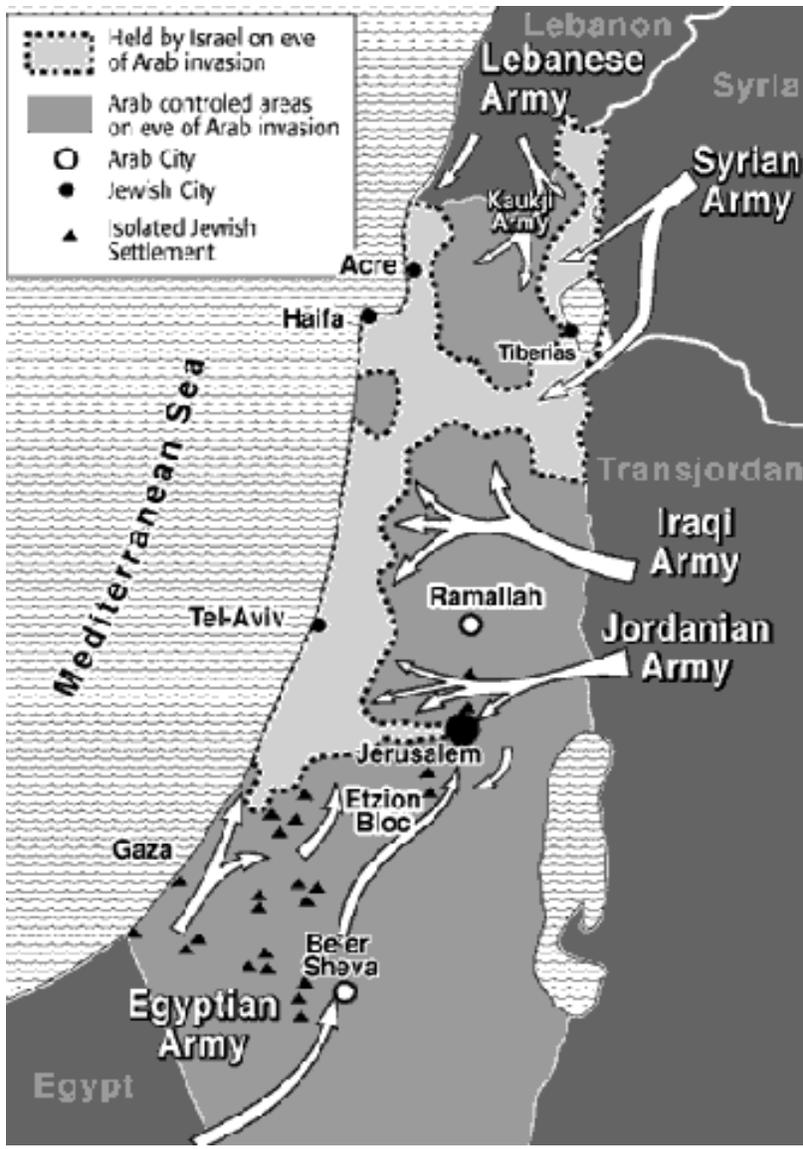
Antichrist

Stone

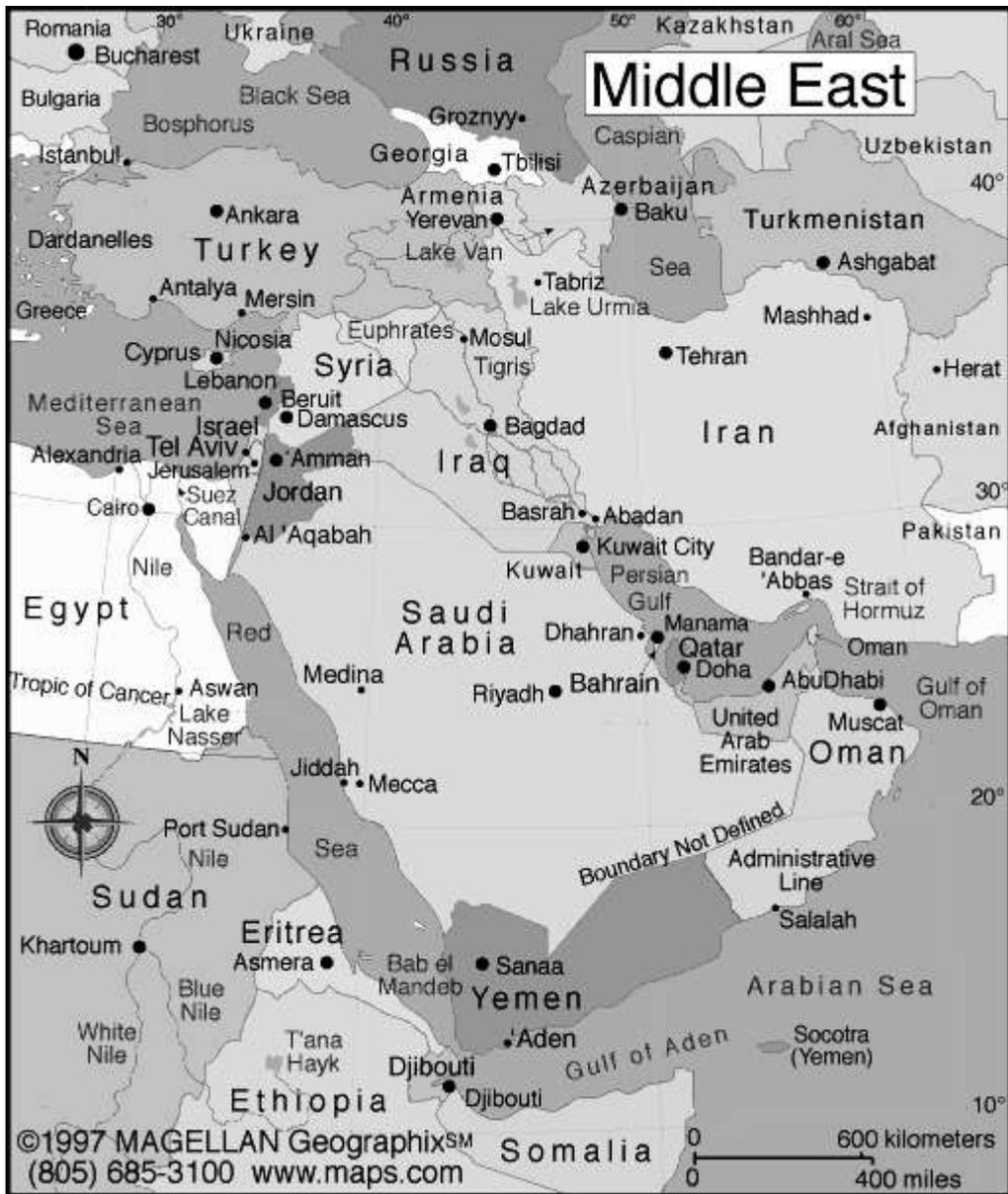
Son of Man

Jesus Christ

The 1948 War of Independence



The Middle As It Is Today



1967 LINES EXPLAINED



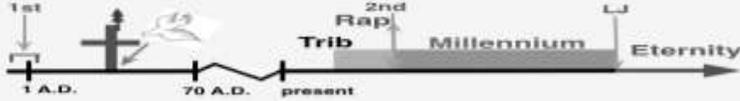
Christian Eschatologies

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Key

1st = 1st coming of Jesus	70 A.D. = Romans destroy temple
2nd = 2nd coming of Jesus	☩ = Holy Spirit descends at Pentacost
LJ = Last Judgement	✝ = Jesus' Death
Rap = The Rapture	↑ = Jesus' Physical Resurrection
Trib = the Tribulation	

Pre-millennialism (POST-trib), "Historical"



Pre-millennialism (PRE-trib), Dispensational



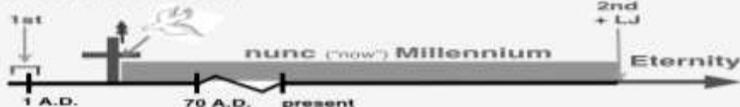
Pre-millennialism (MID-trib), Dispensational



Post-millennialism



A-millennialism



Full Preterism



Partial Preterism



Accreditation for this chart is

the "Triangulations" blog of "Sabio Lantz," (pen name) a former evangelical turned atheist. The chart gives a good depiction in one graph of the different schools of interpretation.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Order	Sign	Name	Literal Meaning	Ancient Script	Latin	Pronunciation
1	א	Aleph	Ox	𐤀	A	Silent glottal stop, like the "-" in "a-ha"
2	ב	Bet	House	𐤁	B	ב (with a dot): B as in Bet ב (without a dot): V as in Vet
3	ג	Gimel	Camel	𐤂	C	G as in Gift
4	ד	Dalet	Door	𐤃	D	D as in Door
5	ה	Hey	Behold	𐤄	E	H as in Hey
6	ו	Vav	Nail	𐤅	F	V as in Vine. It also represents the vowels "u" as in "flute" (ו) and "o" as in "hole" (ו).
7	ז	Zayin	Weapon	𐤆	Z	Z as in Zechariah
8	ח	Chet	Fence	𐤇	H	Ch as in Bach
9	ט	Tet	Twist, Serpent	𐤈		T as in Turn
10	י	Yod	Hand	𐤉	I,J	Y as in Yes. It also represents the vowels "i" as in machine and "ey" as in "they."
11	כ	Kaph	Palm of Hand	𐤊	K	כ (with a dot): K as in King כ (without a dot): Ch as in Bach
12	ל	Lamed	Staff, Ox Goad	𐤋	L	L as in Learn
13	מ	Mem	Water	𐤌	M	M as in Memory
14	נ	Nun	Fish	𐤍	N	N as in Now
15	ס	Samek	Support	𐤎		S as in Support
16	ע	Ayin	Eye	𐤏	O	It is supposed to be formed in the back of the throat like a gulp, but is usually silent.
17	פ	Pey	Mouth	𐤐	P	פ (with a dot): P as in Power פ (without a dot): Ph as in Phone
18	צ	Tzaddi	Fish Hook	𐤑		Ts as in Sits
19	ק	Quph	Eye of Needle	𐤒	Q	C as in Cry (more guttural than Kaph)
20	ר	Resh	Head	𐤓	R	R as in Rush
21	ש	Shin	Tooth	𐤔	S	ש (with a dot above right): Sh as in Shine ש (with a dot above left): S as in Sun
22	ת	Tav	Mark, Sign Cross	𐤕	T	ת (with a dot): T as in Time ת (without a dot): Th as in Theme

Recommended Resources and Ministries

The Hal Lindsey Report

Founder – Hal Lindsey

Website - <http://www.hallindsey.com/>

Koinonia House

Founder - Chuck Missler

Website - <http://www.khouse.org/>

Lamb and Lion Ministries

Founder - Dr. David Reagan

Website - <http://www.lamblion.com/>

Pre-Trib Research Center

Founder - Dr. Tim Lahaye

Director - Dr. Thomas Ice

Website - <http://www.pre-trib.org/>

Prophecy Depot Ministries

Founder – Bill Salus

Website - <http://www.prophecydepotministries.net/>

Zola Levitt Ministries

Founder – Zola Levitt (deceased)

Director – Jeffrey Seif

Website - <http://www.levitt.com/>

Sound Christian

This is a very helpful listing and brief critique of many prophecy teachers. They are rated according to their fidelity to the Premillennial, and pre-tribulational view.

Website - <http://www.soundchristian.com/prophecy/who/>