

Defeating The New Caliphate

A brief appraisal of the war that will soon defeat the coming attempt to conquer Israel and Jerusalem in the Islamic plan to establish a new world Caliphate with its capital city in Jerusalem.

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Chapter One

What Exactly Is The New Caliphate?

When Muhammed died 14 centuries ago, the Muslim world needed someone to take the prophet's place. "The caliphate was the leadership of Islam after the death of Muhammad the prophet of Islam,"

A Caliph is a religious leader in Islam, believed to be the successor to the Prophet Muhammad. The caliph is the head of the *ummah*, or the community of the faithful. Over time, the caliphate became a religious-political position, in which the caliph ruled over the Muslim empire. The best known was the Ottoman Empire.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CALIPHATE:

The original schism between Sunni and Shi'a Muslims occurred after the Prophet died because of a disagreement over who should be the caliph. Those who became the Sunnis believed that any worthy follower of Muhammad could be caliph, and they backed the candidacies of Muhammad's companion, Abu Bakr, and then of Umar when Abu Bakr died. The early Shi'a, on the other hand, believed that the caliph should be a close relative of Muhammad. They preferred the Prophet's son-in-law and cousin, Ali.

After Ali was assassinated, his rival Mu-waiyah established the Umayyad Caliphate in Damascus, which went on to conquer an empire stretching from Spain and Portugal in the west through North Africa and the Middle East to Central Asia in the east. The Umayyads ruled from 661 to 750 CE, when they were overthrown by the Abbasid Caliphs.

From their capital at Baghdad, the Abbasid caliphs ruled from 750 to 1258, when the Mongol Hulagu Khan ransacked Baghdad and executed the caliph. In 1261, the Abbasids regrouped in Egypt, continuing to exert religious authority until 1519, when the caliphate moved to Constantinople, the capital of the Ottoman Empire.

The caliphs continued as heads of the Muslim world (though not universally recognized as such, of course) until Mustafa Kemal Ataturk abolished the caliphate in 1924. Although this move by the newly secular Republic of Turkey sparked outcry among other Muslims around the world, no new caliphate has ever been recognized.

The last caliphate was located in Istanbul, Turkey. For 400 years, Istanbul and the Topkapi Palace was the political centre of the Muslim world. From there, the Turkish sultans ruled the Ottoman Empire as caliphs from 1517 until the empire fell after World War I. But in 1924, the Turkish leader Attaturk abolished the caliphate. Since then, many Muslims have dreamed of its return.

"The major aim of the caliphate is to rule the world and this can be done under the leadership of one caliph and only he himself can declare a jihad or holy war." Some believe a restored caliphate will precede the Islamic messiah. While they may disagree on tactics, many modern Islamic groups share the goal of restoring the caliphate. These include the Taliban, al Qaeda, Hamas, Hizb ut-Tahrir, and the grandfather of them all, the Muslim Brotherhood.

"The Muslim Brotherhood was set up in 1928, four years after the disbanding of the Muslim caliphate by Ataturk," said Kenneth Timmerman, president of the Foundation for Democracy in Iran. "And their specific mission was to restore the caliphate just four years later. They've been pursuing that mission ever since," he continued. "Their goal remains to set up a one world Islamic government."

The Brotherhood now has a foothold in Egypt where after the fall of the Mubarak government, it became the country's most organized political party. "What the Muslim Brotherhood would like to see is a strong, powerful Islamic government armed with nuclear weapons".

A caliphate is the Islamic form of government representing the political unity and leadership of the Muslim world. The head of state (Caliph) has a position based on the notion of a successor to Muhammad's political authority. It is a dream that has never been realized nor relinquished by Muslims and it will never be. There will always be Muslims who dream about this empire and on the other hand the power-hungry leaders will prevent any movement that could dissolve their nation-state. Therefore, Muslims are stuck in an eternal conflict between Islamists and nationalists.

WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF THIS CALIPHATE?

The first aim in the formation of a new caliphate is to fully unite the Muslims of the world. Besides uniting the Muslims of the world, the goal is to arrange a massive army and call for Jihad against all infidel states for the expansion of the Caliphate. Various caliphates have used this strategy to expand their states. The rapid Islamic expansion during the reign of the Caliphs is nothing but staggering. **However, the new Caliphate that is anticipated would cover the whole world with its head quarters in Jerusalem.** Muslim prophecy indicates

that the first, primary aim of the New Caliphate is to conquer and subjugate Israel and particularly Jerusalem. Until this first aim is achieved no further progress can be made. After this conquest the USA will become the next target, followed by Europe and then the remainder of the world

The reason behind that is millions of eager men willingly joining the fight against the Infidels because they believe that Allah will reward them bountifully if they die. There has never been a shortage of recruits in the army. This is the same reason there is no shortage of suicide bombers today.

The ultimate goal of the Caliphate would be to bring every square inch of this planet under Islam and convert or subdue all remaining Infidels.

WHO ARE BEHIND THIS MOVEMENT?

At this present time, Iran and Egypt are obviously the main powers that threaten Israel. Under the leadership of these two nations comes all the Muslim nations that occupy the borders of Israel. These nations are the ones nominated in Psalms 83:2-8

2 Don't you hear the tumult of your enemies? Don't you see what your arrogant enemies are doing?

3 They devise crafty schemes against your people, laying plans against your precious ones.

4 "Come," they say, "let us wipe out Israel as a nation. We will destroy the very memory of its existence."

5 This was their unanimous decision. They signed a treaty as allies against you.

6 these Edomites (Jordan) and Ishmaelites, Moabites (East of the Dead Sea) and Hagrites, (Descendants of Hagar the Egyptian)

7 Gebalites, (North of Beirut) Ammonites, (Sons of Lot) and Amalekites, (Esau, Southern Jordan) and people from Philistia (Gaza) and Tyre. (Southern Lebanon)

8 Assyria (Including Iran) has joined them, too, and is allied with the descendants of Lot. (Jordan) NLT

Various other groups around the world are actively advocating the creation of the Caliphate. Surprisingly, the most vocal of these groups, Hizb ut-Tahrir, is based in the UK and other countries in Western Europe and Australia. E.g.

Hizb ut-Tahrir - Home www.hizb-australia.org/

(Hizb ut-Tahrir is a political party whose ideology is Islam, its politics is its work and Islam is its ideology. It works within the Ummah and together with her).

THE GROWING SUPPORT FOR THIS EMPIRE IS VERY EVIDENT

So what does the future hold? A massive Islamic empire where unbelievers in Islam, would be executed on a regular basis? It would be a fascist empire expanding itself bit-by-bit through demographic conquest and Jihad warfare, like we're seeing in modern day Europe. The West is presently having to constantly defend itself from forms of Islamic active aggression?

IF WE DON'T WAKE UP TO THIS THREAT, THE FUTURE LOOKS GLOOMY

Over the past months, uprisings and riots have been breaking out in Muslim countries in the Middle East and North Africa, The so called "Arab Spring" is breaking out in every country where Islam is being even mildly suppressed. Because of the threat of war and the rise of Islam, many feel the so-called "Arab spring" is a misnomer. "I wouldn't call it an Arab Spring," Moshe Sharon said. "It's far from being an Arab Spring. It's the same kind of winter."

A CRY FROM EGYPT FOR A NEW ISLAMIC CALIPHATE

The Muslim Brotherhood has a new leader in the Egyptian President Muhammad Moursi. He is boldly calling for a revived Islamic Caliphate with Jerusalem as its capital. This recent call coincides with a hopeful cry from Muslims throughout the world. **The attack on Israel predicted in Psalm 83, will constitute the first essential stage of establishing the new Caliphate, but this Psalm also describes what God's astounding response will be.** The Islamic forces will suffer a shock defeat on a magnitude that will demoralize millions of Muslims and cause them to fully realize that Yahweh is the one true God and that Islam is motivated by the Ant Christ, whom Yahweh will ultimately destroy. This attack is intended to be the first phase of establishing the New Islamic Caliphate. Its defeat is absolutely essential.

Sadly, the Church at large is ignorant and silent about this serious threat that fully intends to annihilate every Jew and Christian, together with all adherents to every other religion on earth. Although we can know from Bible prophecy that God will eliminate this threat, we still need to be aware of it to pray and take our stand against it. Every Christian must be fully informed and actively make a stand as a true soldier of the Kingdom of God. An essential part of this stand is to stand with Israel as she bears the initial brunt of this very real war that threatens her destruction. Please bear in mind that this predicted attack is a vitally important step towards the founding of the New Caliphate. When it fails it will be a giant set back for Islamic plans and hopes.

THE SEVEN STAGES OF INTENDED ISLAMIC CONQUEST

Although the phrase “New Caliphate” is new to the ears of many people in the Western world, including most Christians, it is not new to the ears of Muslims. From the very beginning of Islam, when Mohammed was still alive, the ultimate conquest of the world was part of the Islamic agenda. In our generation the idea of conquest and subjugation of the world has returned to the Islamic agenda. This seven part plan towards an ultimate world caliphate was formulated some years ago with remarkable accuracy.

Islam is the anti-Christ system. Islam means submission (surrender, capitulation, compliance, obedience) It is not merely personal submission to Allah, the Koran, or Islam, but the submission of all the world to Islam. In the Bible Anti Christ is often called “the Assyrian.” (Isa 10:24, 14:25, 19:23, Micah 5:6)

BIN LADEN’S STRATEGY:

1. To force US and all Westerners from every Muslim nation.
2. To destroy Israel militarily and through Terrorist tactics
3. To destroy every moderate Islamic leader or government.
4. To unite all Muslims throughout the world and to set up, by force a global Islamic Caliphate adhering to extreme fundamentalist Islamic law.

THE SEVEN PHASES OF ESTABLISHING THE CALIPHATE

With the fourth anniversary of the hot war between al Qaeda and the West approaching, it is interesting to see how al Qaeda's strategy and objectives have evolved since the United States committed to engaging in open warfare.

The Word Unheard points us to an article in *Spiegel Online* by a Jordanian journalist Fouad Hussein, who is believed to be a reliable source of information on al Qaeda. His main source for this article on al Qaeda strategy is none other than Saif al-Adel, al Qaeda's military commander who is currently operating from Iran.

Al Qaeda's purported strategy can be broken down into seven "phases" which span from 2000 until 2020, at which time they believe the global Islamist Caliphate will be established and they will achieve "definitive victory." Here are the phases, which are followed by commentary when appropriate.

SEVEN PHASES TOWARDS NEW CALIPHATE

The goal of Al-Qaeda through its strategy is very clear that is to return to true Islam by the creation of Daulah Islammiyah and Khilafah Islamiyah

through Jihad. Due to this the senior think-tanks in Al-Qaeda studied the various movements that were existence in the last two centuries. Strategists in Al-Qaeda have conceived a seven phase plan to establish the new Islamic Caliphate.

SEVEN STAGES TOWARDS THE KHILAFAH IN THE YEAR 2020

www.intelcenter.org

1. THE PHASE OF AWARENESS :

This phase began in the early 2000 and ended in 2003. The purpose is to force America and its allies la'natullah 'alaihim to come out from its cage so that they are within reach of the Mujahideen or in other words, easier to strike.

(My comment: The 9/11 2001 attack on New York and Washington was obviously a major part of this strategy conceived many years earlier).

2. THE PHASE OF EYE-OPENING : This phase was planned to be executed in 2003 until 2006. Its purpose was to make the Ummah realize about its sad condition and to uncover and expose the evil committed by the kafirs run by America and its allies.

(This refers to all the Arab states that were subjected to the "Arab Spring" during which all leaders not fully committed to Shariah law etc, would be ousted).

3. THE PHASE OF AWAKENING AND RISING : This phase was planned for the year 2007-2010. Its objective is to increase the number of personnel who are ready to take the plunge into the different jihadic arenas around the world.

4. THE PHASE OF RESTORING THE CONDITION : This phase aims to overthrow the rulers of all the corrupt regimes who are clutching on to the Islamic nations with an iron fist. This phase is planned for execution around the year 2010-2013.

5. THE PHASE OF PROCLAIMING THE NATION : This phase focused on the establishment of the Daulah Islammiyah through unifying the various jihad organizations around the globe with Al-Qaeda which are planned for the year 2013-2016.

6. THE PHASE OF TOTAL CONFRONTATION : The all out battle between two camps. The camp of the Believers (Mukminin) and the camp of the disbelievers and falsehood (Kafirin wa Bathilin). Battle between Haq (Truth) and Bathil (falsehood). War from all angles and will spread to all corners. Expected to take place in the year 2016.

7. THE PHASE OF COMPLETE VICTORY [insya Allah] :

This will commence at The Phase of Total Confrontation which the think tanks of Al-Qaeda aim to take place for as brief as 3 years or 9 years i.e. from 2016 to 2019 or 2025.

May Allah protect and bless the Mujahideen and the muwahiddeen ullaama who never stop to declare jihad and attempt to establish the Islamic khilafah, to expose all the bogus and evil system from communism to democracy.

MY COMMENT: (GR)

- 1.This attack on the USA, was intended to draw the US and its allies into unwinnable wars in the Middle East.
- 2.To diminish the US and Western Forces and deplete their finances.
- 3.To demoralize the Western world and strengthen Islam's morale.

It should be noted that Syria is playing a dangerous game by allowing al Qaeda to use its soil to conduct operations in Iraq. The jihadists are developing contacts, networks and obtaining recruits, which can eventually be turned against the Assad regime.

The West would basically have two options: (1) blitzkrieg 21st Century style - the full mobilization of its military and an accompanying sweep of the Islamic crescent, without regards for Politically Correct warfare; (2) nuclear war. Both campaigns would be designed to fully eliminate the Islamist threat, and the Muslim infrastructure, which allowed for the rise of al Qaeda's ideology.

http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2005/08/the_seven_phase.php#ixzz25ef2HANR

We need to prayerfully remind ourselves that though the Islamic plan appears to be on target, God's solution to defeat the Islamic scheme and to bring to light His own amazing victory, will definitely be "on target."

Chapter Two

The New Caliphate Boldly Announced

In 2012, thousands of Muslim Brotherhood supporters in Egypt recently declared, “We can see how the dream of the Islamic caliphate is now being realized, God willing, by Dr. Mohamed Mursi.”

Safwat Higazi (a leader of the Muslim Brotherhood) recently (7-5-2012) told thousands of Brotherhood supporters at a Cairo soccer stadium, as President Mursi – the movement’s presidential candidate looked on – and other Brotherhood officials nodded in agreement. **“The capital of the caliphate – the capital of the United States of the Arabs – will be Jerusalem, God willing,” Higazi said. “Our capital shall not be in Cairo, Mecca or Medina,” he said, before leading the crowd in chants of “Millions of martyrs will march toward Jerusalem.”**

A DEFINITION

A caliphate is the traditional Islamic form of government, presided over by a caliph, either appointed or elected person, who is considered the political leader of all Muslims. It also incorporates a *shura*, a body similar to a parliament, that represents the will of the people and may elect and/or advise the caliph. Though originally and ideally according to some, a caliphate — or *the* caliphate — is a unique entity that unites all Muslims under its rule.

Abdullah Azzam a leading Islamic terrorist, declares that his life "revolved around a single goal, namely the establishment of Allah's Rule on earth" and restoring the caliphate.

THE NEW CALIPHATE NECESSITATES COMPLETE CONQUEST OF ISRAEL

Israel and Jerusalem are the primary targets for several reasons.

Israel is in the centre of the Middle East, closely surrounded by all the adjacent Muslim enemies.

Palestine, as the Muslims love to call it, having once been ruled by Islam, remains a Muslim territory to the Islamic mind.

Temple Mount is sacred to Muslims because Mohammed is supposed to have ascended to heaven from there.

The Dome of the rock and Al Aksa mosque were built by Islam.

These are holy sites according to Islamic tradition.

According to Islamic tradition the Mahdi cannot return until Jerusalem is under Islamic control.

Following are excerpts from an interview with Hamas MP and cleric Yunis Al-Astal, which aired on Al-Aqsa TV on May 11, 2011:

Yunis Al-Astal: The [Jews] are brought in droves to Palestine so that the Palestinians – and the Islamic nation behind them – will have the honor of annihilating the evil of this gang.

...All the predators, all the birds of prey, all the dangerous reptiles and insects, and all the lethal bacteria are far less dangerous than the Jews.

...In just a few years, all the Zionists and the settlers will realize that their arrival in Palestine was for the purpose of the great massacre, by means of which Allah wants to relieve humanity of their evil.

...When Palestine is liberated and its people return to it, and the entire region, with the grace of Allah, will have turned into the United States of Islam, the land of Palestine will become the capital of the Islamic Caliphate, and all these countries will turn into states within the Caliphate.

ISRAEL'S DILEMMA: A dilemma is a situation in which an extremely difficult choice has to be made between two or more extremely difficult alternatives, especially equally undesirable ones. Israel's present dilemma in the face of ferocious threats of annihilation is whether to wait for the attack or to strike first. The haunting memories of the gas chambers, and what happened when Jews "waited" in the 1930's, are still vivid and raw in the Jewish minds. **The awful dilemma that currently faces Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is whether to wait for an attack to be launched on Israel, or to launch a pre-emptive strike.**

In the 1930's European Jews waited anxiously, hopeful that Germany would ultimately relent from its threats, the result was a massive annihilation of innocent Jews. They were believing for deliverance until the last moment but six million perished. Their belief was partly in man's ultimate civilized humanity. **Sadly, not even the Church showed it. The Church worldwide stood in idle silence. What about today's Church?**

The scene today is reminiscent of Masadah when 980 Jews committed suicide rather than fall into the hands of the Romans in AD 73. Masada today is one of the Jewish people's greatest symbols. Many Israeli soldiers take an oath there: **"Masada shall not fall again."** This same Masada spirit is still in the hearts of Israelis, but now it is "Israel will never fall!"

The battle today is between western civilized secular culture, and traditional Islamic belief in world domination. The growth of Islamic Fundamentalism is an attempt to restore Islam to the glories of Islamic history. **Many**

Fundamentalist Muslims ask themselves the question, “If Islam is the religion of Allah, why are we being defeated by the West (United States) and Israel”. The Islamic fundamentalist sees the problem with the failure of Islamic nations to live as the Quran commands. This is the thrust of international Islam today, to return to the days of absolute obedience to rigid Shariah Law.

The often stated purpose of International Islam is ultimately total world conquest. This program began in the Middle Ages, being eventually defeated at Poitiers (Tours) in France by Charles Martel in 732. He is remembered for winning the Battle of Tours, in which he defeated an invading Moorish army. This victory is traditionally credited with halting the northward Islamic expansion in western Europe. The Battle of Tours earned Charles the name "Martel" ('Hammer') for the merciless way he hammered his enemies. Many historians, including Sir Edward Creasy, believe that had he failed at Tours, Islam would probably have overrun Gaul, and perhaps the remainder of Western Europe including Britain. Gibbon made clear his belief that the Umayyad armies would have conquered from Japan to the Rhine, and even England, having the English Channel for protection, with ease, had Martel not prevailed. Creasy said "the great victory won by Charles Martel gave a decisive check to the career of Arab conquest in Western Europe, rescued Christendom from Islam, and preserved the relics of ancient and the germs of modern civilization." Gibbon's belief that the fate of Christianity hinged on this battle is echoed by other historians including John B. Bury, and was very popular for most of modern historiography.

PSALM 83 IS PART OF THE CURRENT ISLAMIC PROGRAM

The first stage of the intended conquest is the absolute destruction of Israel, transforming it into the capital city of the new world Islamic caliphate. Throughout Islamic history, the Jews have always been seen as the number one enemy of Islam. The present possession of what Muslims call Palestine, is an abomination to the Islamic mind who firmly believe that the territory belongs to Islam and that Jerusalem in particular and the Temple mount are sacred to Islam.

Secondly, the conquest of USA, then, the remainder of the world. The USA is known to Muslims as “The great satan.” Israel is called the small satan.

Through an Islamic triumph over Iraq, Afghanistan, Egypt, Libya and all nations of the Arabic alliance. The new Egyptian President Mursi announcing the birth of a New World Caliphate, with Jerusalem as its capital city, recently declared **“our capital will not be Cairo, Medina or Mecca but Al Qods”.** (Jerusalem)

A third phase of Islamic strategy is through planned immigrant invasion. USA, Canada, UK, France, Belgium etc are currently being invaded. Millions of Muslims are successfully entering non Islamic nations. Whilst many of these may be genuinely seeking a better life for themselves and their children, many are also settling in their new nations secretly waiting for a day when Islam will plan to conquer that nation.

A fourth strategy is through mass natural population increase. It is well known that Muslim families are the most prolific growth nations on earth.

ISLAMIC AL QOD'S DAY

The present level of fanatical militancy towards Israel and Jerusalem was launched in 1979, when the founder of Iran's Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Khomeini, declared that the last Friday of Ramadan would henceforth be Qods Day (this year it fell on August 17, 2012), and that this holiday would express the Iranian aspiration for the liberation of the lands of Palestine from Israel. Committee for Supporting the Intifada in Palestine Director-General Hossein explained: "Qods Day is the day when millions of sons of the Muslim peoples, in Iran and in the Islamic countries, are in the arena of confrontation with the arrogance [i.e. the West, headed by the U.S.] and the Zionist regime, and call unanimously, with "divine" inspiration and while fasting [during Ramadan], for the destruction of the regime occupying Jerusalem and for the victory of the Intifada of the Palestinian people." IRNA (Iran), July 29, 2012.

In August of 2012, some 5 million pilgrims at Mecca celebrated this intention. This happens every year during the Muslim celebration of Ramadan.

WHAT IS AT STAKE IN THIS WAR?

- 1 The ultimate triumph or failure of Islam. An extremely decisive war!
- 2 The ultimate truth or lies of the Koran, and Hadith prophecies.
- 3 The proposed conquest of Israel and capture of Temple Mount.
- 4 The establishment of the ultimate world caliphate, with its capital in Jerusalem. In its infancy, Muslims bowed towards Jerusalem. The present plan is to revive the glory of ancient Islam which essentially includes Islamic rule over Palestine. (Israel)

WHAT IS IN ISLAM'S ARSENAL?

Militant Islam has been resurrected, aided by huge Islamic nations' oil reserves.

Islam has immense wealth for building mosques, buying universities and various favors internationally. Etc

A deliberate migration policy into many non Islamic nations.
A vast variety of ultra offensive weapons of mass destruction.
Cleverly designed plans and strategies for every eventuality. (Islam is “managing” the situations on the world stage much more efficiently than is the West).
Fanatical belief in Allah and fulfillment of his prophetic plans.
Islam’s intense fanatical intention.

THE MUSLIM ATTACK ON ISRAEL AND JERUSALEM (Psalm 83, Zech 12)

1. The attack on Israel will soon be launched. (Psalm 83 and Zechariah 12)
2. God will grant Israel an astounding victory. (Zechariah 12:8-9) The ensuing war will be between Allah and Yahweh
3. The Holy Spirit will be poured out upon Israel (Zechariah 12:10)
4. The nation will repent and be transformed. (Zechariah 12:11)
5. Traditional Bible prophecy will be seen in a new light.
6. Messianic Jews and Christians will emerge as ONE NEW MAN.
7. Increasing anti-Semitism will be against Israel, Jewish people and Messianic Christians.
8. A world wide battle between believers in Christ, and the Muslim anti Christ will increase.

IF THE ISLAMIC ATTACK ON ISRAEL WAS SUCCESSFUL

1. Iran, Egypt and their Islamic allies on the borders of Israel, are working fervently towards their ultimate plan to subjugate the world.
2. The attack on Israel would be the first essential step. Claiming Eretz Israel and Jerusalem for Islam.
3. Allah would then be regarded as the true God of the universe. If the Islamic forces were able to achieve the victorious result they passionately seek, Allah and Islam would be feared throughout the world.
4. The Koran would also be proven to be true.
5. The Bible would be proved to be false and worthless. More than 25% of the Bible is predictive prophecy, most of it involving the ultimate positive future of Israel
6. Every Jew and Christian would have to embrace Islam or be killed.
7. The Muslim Anti Christ would rule the world. (Revelation 13:8-12).
8. The civilizing influence of Judeo/Christianity would be lost forever.
9. The Western World would be dragged back into the dark ages.
10. The world would never recover from such a calamity.

Many Bible prophecies, which most Christians have always felt referred to the dim and distant future, will soon be fulfilled. Ironically it is the Muslim world that positively anticipates such prophetic fulfillment at this time, rather than the Christians. However the great victory that God achieves for Israel which is described so graphically in Psalm 83 and Zechariah 12, will demoralize many Muslims and greatly minimize the influence of Islam. Many Muslims will convert to faith in the Messiah and the God of Israel. Israel's territory and influence will increase enormously. In the eras that unfold after this, the world will go through many grievous trials as predicted in the book of Revelation, but both Israel and the Church will experience many resounding triumphs and victories in this period.

Chapter Three

A Psalm That Predicts The War

Psalms 83:1 -5 - Asaph

1 O God, don't sit idly by, silent and inactive!

2 Don't you hear the tumult of your enemies? Don't you see what your arrogant enemies are doing?

3 They devise crafty schemes against your people, laying plans against your precious ones.

4 "Come," they say, "let us wipe out Israel as a nation. We will destroy the very memory of its existence."

5 This was their unanimous decision. They signed a treaty as allies against you. NLT

According to the Bible and also to Islamic eschatology, a decisive (i.e. important, crucial, highly significant) war will soon erupt in the Middle East that will drastically transform life on planet earth. It is prophesied in Psalm 83, Zechariah 12 and Joel 3. This major attack is not only meant to destroy the Jewish presence in Israel, it is also meant to be a major, indispensable step towards establishing the new Islamic Caliphate. Israel does not want this war. Millions of Muslims do not want it. A relatively small percentage of fanatical Muslims do. What will Yahweh's response be? Fortunately the Bible provides a graphic picture of how Yahweh will ultimately defeat this attack.

1. Such a specific alliance has never existed previously.
2. They are all dedicated Islamic nations.
3. They are all enemies of Yahweh.
4. Islam's plan today is to establish a new caliphate in the Middle East with HQ in Jerusalem that will ultimately conquer the whole world.
5. The anticipated Caliphate is the anti-Christ kingdom. The war will literally be against the Kingdom of God, heavenly and earthly.

1. WHY THIS WAR IS INEVITABLE

- a. **Modern, fanatical Islamists are absolutely determined to destroy Israel and Jerusalem**, to establish a new caliphate with its capital in Jerusalem. This highly serious and devastating agenda is being taken up by Iran, Egypt and many other Islamic nations. They actually declare it has already begun. Hatred of Israel is deeply buried in the historic

Muslim psyche. It has been powerfully strengthened by the declaration of modern Israel in 1948.

- b. **A massive preparation and build up has taken place** in Iran and elsewhere. Many types of weapons of mass destruction have been acquired at exorbitant cost, ready to launch on Israel. The Iranians have been assisted by Russia, China and North Korea. Many engineers and technicians have gone from these nations to assist Iran. Such an extensive and expensive preparation has never been abandoned.
- c. **Islam vows to take the “pasturelands” of God for themselves.** Psalm 83:12 The Muslims know that Israel really belongs to Yahweh but they are determined to take it for themselves. When the Psalm was written Israel could hardly be called pasturelands. It is only since 1948 when Israel became a nation that it was transformed into a land abounding with pastures.
- d. **Islam’s obsessive fear of humiliation and shame.** Allah breeds gross fear into his followers. It is a powerful fear of offending Allah. “Loss of face” or fear of shame is a common type of humiliation in the East. But none are more obsessed with it than Muslims who often engage in so called “honour” killings when a family member is thought to have brought shame to their family, or their religion.
- e. **Islamic prophecy foretells conquest of Israel and Jews.** (Islamic folk lore predicts that in the Last days the very rocks will cry out to Muslims “there is a Jew behind me, come and kill him”).
- f. **Bible prophecy graphically predicts this war and its repercussions.** Psa 83, Zech 12, Joel 3 etc. The Holy Bible has much to say about the Last Days. Most of these prophecies contradict the beliefs held by Muslims about the prophetic future.

2. IF ISLAM WAS ABLE TO SUCCEED

- a. **Israel, the land and its people would be conquered and subjugated.** Militant Muslims have often uttered what Asaph predicted in Psalms 83:4
4 "Come," they say, "let us wipe out Israel as a nation. We will destroy the very memory of its existence." NLT

Psalms 83:12

12 for they said, "Let us seize for our own use these pasturelands of God!" NLT

- b. **Israel would no longer exist.** Its amazing history and future would be devastatingly terminated. If the predicted attack on Israel were successful, both Israel and its history would be completely destroyed.
- c. **The Bible would be outlawed,** becoming obsolete and completely unreliable. The Bible would become illegal as it did in Communist places like Russia, China, Mozambique etc. The Bible is an anathema to all Muslims. There is no way that an Islamic nation or kingdom would allow it to be kept or used.
- d. **The Church would virtually disappear, defeated and dissolved.** What remained of Church congregations would be forced to go underground to meet in secret in fear of discovery. Everything that would be a reminder of the Christian Church would be completely outlawed on pain of death.
- e. **Every religion on earth would be banned, except Islam.** The only religion that would remain legal would be Islam a religion that will become a religion of the anti Christ. Islam predicts an eventual world society in which no person would ever worship any god but Allah.

3. WHAT WILL REALLY HAPPEN?

a. The Islamic dream will be shattered

Israel's amazing victory and ultimate transformation is vividly described in Psalm 83, Zechariah 12 and elsewhere in the Bible.

Will God or Israel, use an electromagnetic pulse (EMP) which when dropped from high altitude will fry every electrical component over an extremely wide area, even penetrating rocks etc?

Psalm 83:14 As fire burns a forest, as a flame blazes through mountains. (HCSB)

Isaiah 17: 13-14. (This chapter describes a war with Syria).

13 The nations rage like the raging of many waters.

He rebukes them, and they flee far away, driven before the wind like chaff on the hills and like tumbleweeds before a gale.

¹⁴ In the evening—sudden terror! Before morning—it is gone!

The reference to tumbleweed etc, may relate this to Psalm 83:13

Isaiah 10: 17 Israel's Light will become a fire, and its Holy One, a flame. In one day it will burn up Assyria's thorns and thistles.

Yahweh often describes Himself as a light that protects Israel. E.g
Psalms 84:11

11 For the LORD God is our light and protector. NLT

b. **Islam will be severely depleted.** Millions of Muslims will accept the Messiah Yeshua. The followers of Islam will become severely demoralized and depleted, but the religion will continue to exist in a diminished form until the reign of the anti-Christ will finally be extinguished by the true Christ. (Revelation 19:20)

c. **Isaiah 60 will be fulfilled** - Isaiah 60:1-9 NLT

1 "Arise, Jerusalem! Let your light shine for all the nations to see! For the glory of the LORD is shining upon you.

2 Darkness as black as night will cover all the nations of the earth, but the glory of the LORD will shine over you.

3 All nations will come to your light. Mighty kings will come to see your radiance.

4 "Look and see, for everyone is coming home! Your sons are coming from distant lands; your little daughters will be carried home.

5 Your eyes will shine, and your hearts will thrill with joy, for merchants from around the world will come to you. They will bring you the wealth of many lands.

6 Vast caravans of camels will converge on you, the camels of Midian and Ephah. From Sheba they will bring gold and incense for the worship of the LORD.

7 The flocks of Kedar will be given to you, and the rams of Nebaioth will be brought for my altars. In that day I will make my Temple glorious.

8 "And what do I see flying like clouds to Israel, like doves to their nests?

9 They are the ships of Tarshish, reserved to bring the people of Israel home. They will bring their wealth with them, and it will bring great honor to the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he will fill you with splendor.

THE NEW LIVING TRANSLATION IS ONE VERSION RENDERING THAT CAPTURES THE TRUE MEANING OF ISAIAH 60:1 i.e. "*Arise, Jerusalem!* *Let your light shine for all the nations to see! For the glory of the LORD is shining upon you.*

Isaiah confirms the fact that this scripture definitely refers to Israel. See the preceding verses in Isaiah 59:20-21

20 *"The Redeemer will come to Jerusalem," says the LORD, "to buy back those in Israel who have turned from their sins.*

21 *And this is my covenant with them," says the LORD. "My Spirit will not leave them, and neither will these words I have given you. They will be on your lips and on the lips of your children and your children's children forever. I, the LORD, have spoken!" NLT*

d. **Israel will inherit and inhabit much more territory.** Israel will escape the confines of the territory that she presently inhabits. She will break forth on the right hand and on the left into territory presently inhabited by various Arab nations.

e **Israel will inherit much great wealth and power.** Isaiah 60:9 speaks of various new sources of great wealth that will be brought into Israel. For example, the ships of Tarshish are predicted to bring enormous wealth to Israel. Much of this new wealth will be used to build the new temple that will be erected in Jerusalem.

f. **Israel will be greatly exalted in the eyes of all nations. Isaiah 60:15**
"Though you were once despised and hated and rebuffed by all, you will be beautiful forever. You will be a joy to all generations, for I will make you so.

16 Powerful kings and mighty nations will bring the best of their goods to satisfy your every need. You will know at last that I, the LORD, am your Savior and Redeemer, the Mighty One of Israel.

17 I will exchange your bronze for gold, your iron for silver, your wood for bronze, and your stones for iron. Peace and righteousness will be your leaders!" NLT

Isaiah 66:20 *On that day I will gather you together and bring you home again. I will give you a good name, a name of distinction among all the nations of the earth. They will praise you as I restore your fortunes before their very eyes. I, the LORD, have spoken!" NLT*

g. **The Church Will Merge With Redeemed Israel, Into One New Man.**

Ephesians 2:14 -15

¹⁴ *For He is our peace, who made both groups one and tore down the dividing wall of hostility. In His flesh,*

¹⁵ *He made of no effect the law consisting of commands and expressed in regulations, so that He might create in Himself one new man from the two, resulting in peace.*

¹⁶ *He did this so that He might reconcile both to God in one body through the cross and put the hostility to death by it. HCSB*

1. What Will It Mean For The Church?

There will be a restoration of New Testament power and activities. The “Church” will become the ONE NEW MAN, Jew and Gentiles.

It will be an army, awesome with banners. *Psalms 20:5 We will rejoice in your salvation, And in the name of our God we will set up our banners ! May the LORD (Yahweh) fulfill all your petitions.* (See also Song of Solomon, 6;8 and 10 NKJV)

2. What Will We Need To Do?

1. Engage in real earnest prayer and intercession.

2. Exercise Genuine Worship - Psalms 149:6-8

6 Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, And a two-edged sword in their hand,

7 To execute vengeance on the nations, And punishments on the peoples;

8 To bind their kings with chains, And their nobles with fetters of iron;
NKJV

Psalm 149 is a powerful prophetic Psalm expressing how “high praises” will be a force to subdue nations and bind with the powers of darkness behind them with fetters.

3. Receive A Genuine Fresh Anointing: Psalms 92:10-11

10 I have been anointed with fresh oil.

11 My eye also has seen my desire on my enemies; My ears hear my desire on the wicked Who rise up against me.

A new, fresh anointing, similar but much greater than on the Day of Pentecost will come first upon Israel. Secondly upon all flesh (humanity)

Chapter Three

When Is The New Caliphate Meant To Emerge?

Now that Egypt is firmly under Islamic control, the Egyptian leaders are becoming bolder to announce their further intentions. In short the program is not only to conquer and subjugate Israel. It is to see a new Islamic Caliphate established for which Jerusalem will become the capital city. The fanatical elements of modern Islam now believe that a dream that many Muslims have cherished for centuries, can finally be realized. It is a dream in which Islam will dominate the whole world under a new Islamic caliphate, bringing the whole world under total subjection to shariah law. An Islamic caliphate is the equivalent of a kingdom. Many Muslims are now declaring that Jerusalem will be its capital city. **Israel is therefore currently the first line of defense in a war that Islam believes will ultimately bring the whole world under Islamic control.** This dream can only be aborted by a supernatural victory that Yahweh Sabaoth will achieve for Israel.

It is high time that the Western world woke up to this serious threat and began to take appropriate action to stem this tide that would inevitably overtake them if it is not halted. The main thing that the West needs to realize is the spiritual nature of what is transpiring. The current war efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan are obviously failing miserably. The Western alliance, after spending billions of dollars and losing thousands of lives are now busily engaged in making hasty plans to withdraw. As soon as the withdrawals are achieved, conditions will revert to what they were initially only worse. The warfare that must take place is spiritual warfare that will involve the Western nations repenting and seeking God for spiritual renewal.

There has never been a day when modern Israel is at so much risk. The danger they face from every direction is far worse than the six day war in 1967. The threat stems from the current rise of radical Islam and its fresh determination to establish a new caliphate with Jerusalem as its capital city. Although such a caliphate has long been the dream of radical Islamists, it is only in recent times that they have openly declared that the dream can now be realized. Recent drastic changes in Iran and Egypt have given Muslims cause to believe that the dream can finally be realized. We have been focusing recently on the attack that will soon be launched on Israel and Jerusalem, vividly depicted especially in Psalm 83 and Zechariah 12 and mentioned in

numerous other parts of the Bible. We need to ask “What is the ultimate objective of this attack?” I believe that in the Islamic mind it is the all important step towards a world under Muslim rule.

Psalms 83:1-8

1 **O God**, don't sit idly by, silent and inactive!

2 Don't you hear the tumult of **your enemies**? Don't you see what your arrogant enemies are doing?

3 They devise crafty schemes against your people, **laying plans against your precious ones**.

4 "Come," they say, "**let us wipe out Israel as a nation**. We will destroy the very memory of its existence."

5 **This was their unanimous decision. They signed a treaty as allies against you**

6 these Edomites and Ishmaelites, Moabites and Hagrites,

7 Gebalites, Ammonites, and Amalekites, and people from Philistia and Tyre.

8 Assyria has joined them, too, and is allied with the descendants of Lot.

9 Do to them as you did to the Midianites or as you did to Sisera and Jabin at the Kishon River.

10 They were destroyed at Endor, and their decaying corpses fertilized the soil.

11 Let their mighty nobles die as Oreb and Zeeb did. Let all their princes die like Zebah and Zalmunna,

12 for they said, "Let us seize for our own use these pasturelands of God!"

13 O my God, blow them away like whirling dust, like chaff before the wind!

14 As a fire roars through a forest and as a flame sets mountains ablaze,

15 chase them with your fierce storms; terrify them with your tempests.

16 Utterly disgrace them until they submit to your name, O LORD.

17 Let them be ashamed and terrified forever. Make them failures in everything they do,

18 until they learn that you alone are called the LORD, that you alone are the Most High, supreme over all the earth. NLT

Asaph's Psalm is obviously prophetic and vividly describes the days in which we are now living. The enemies nominated are the same ones that currently fir upon Israel's borders. Verse 18 clearly predicts what the outcome of this attack will be. The Islamic nations that attack Israel will

become ashamed and terrified and will learn that Yahweh alone is the supreme God over all the earth.

1. This attack is made primarily against Yahweh and His chosen people.
2. The plans are carefully made in secret.
3. The nations involved have formed an alliance and made a treaty.
4. They plan to totally obliterate Israel and even the memory of its existence. They also plan to seize Israel's "pasturelands."
5. God will devour the enemy as a forest fire devours dry chaff.
6. Becoming utterly disgraced they will submit to Yahweh's name.
7. The enemies will become ashamed and terrified.
8. They will understand that Yahweh alone is the Most High, supreme over all the earth.

THE ARAB SPRING

1. The "Arab Spring" was not a spontaneous, unplanned initiative. It was carefully planned by Al Qaeda more than 30 years ago.
2. It was not a cry for democracy but for stricter Shariah law and more radical Islamic rule.
3. It was planned to eliminate governments and leaders who were not complicit with the radical elements of Islam.
4. It was meant to restore leadership that would adopt historic Muslim principles including Jihad.
5. It was a prelude to establishing a new, worldwide Caliphate with its capital city in Jerusalem.
6. The Western world leaders completely misread the intentions of the riots.
7. The Western alliance unwittingly or otherwise supported the Islamic program.

Chapter Four

A Minor Prophet With A Major Message

I firmly believe that Zechariah 12 is currently one of the most important chapters in the whole Bible. I say this because it contains a vivid detailed description of an amazing event in Bible prophecy that will have its fulfillment in the very near future. This is not to in any way minimize the importance of any other part of the Bible. It is to maximize the imminence of the dramatic fulfillment of Zechariah 12. If the attack described in this chapter was successful, it would mean the complete end of Jerusalem as the city of Yahweh. All the prophetic statements throughout the whole Bible concerning the eternal future of Jerusalem would be made completely null and void. Judaism and Christianity would be outlawed by the new Islamic caliphate that would force the conversion or execution of every Jew and Christian. For this reason it is vitally imperative and urgent that everyone should read, and seriously study its plain implications. My fervent prayer is that every Jew and Christian would immediately recognize how serious is the present situation, of our entire world. The deep slumber that most people are in, needs to be shattered by diligent watchmen who are conscious of how seriously imminent Zechariah's warning is today.

Zechariah 12:1-3 (GNB)

Zechariah 12:1 This is a message about Israel from the LORD, the LORD who spread out the skies, created the earth, and gave life to man. He says,

Zechariah 12:2 "I will make Jerusalem like a cup of wine; the nations around her will drink and stagger like drunks. And when they besiege Jerusalem, the cities of the rest of Judah will also be besieged.

Zechariah 12:3 But when that time comes, I will make Jerusalem like a heavy stone---any nation that tries to lift it will be hurt. All the nations of the world will join forces to attack her.

WHY IS ZECHARIAH 12 CURRENTLY THE MOST IMPORTANT CHAPTER IN THE BIBLE?

Of all the major issues that currently face our world and its future security, the one most likely to happen next is a massive attack on Israel by all Israel's nearby neighbors backed by Iran. The clear indications of such an attack have been proclaimed and demonstrated by feverish activities on the part of Iran together with Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Southern Lebanon. The attack, although initially made directly on Israel, will have devastating worldwide repercussions powerfully affecting every nation on earth. In many ways our world will be changed forever from this point on. If this proposed attack were

to succeed in its evil intention and the State of Israel was annihilated, the whole plan of redemption as revealed in the Bible would be derailed. Jehovah's plan to rule the world from David's throne in Jerusalem would immediately be made defunct. How strange that so few people seem to be vitally aware of this impending drama and the apparent proximity of it. How awesome and fearful is this possibility.

Every intelligent person must surely realize that something sinister and dramatic is happening in the Middle East. A small revolt that began in Tunisia has quickly spread to Egypt, Libya and many nations throughout the Middle East. It is spreading like a prairie fire. The world looks on but does not understand what is really happening or what the ultimate results of these events will be. Many people appear to be crying out for democracy, but the real power behind the movement will be seen to be an intention to establish more radical Islamic rule. The sight on TV of "protestors" in Libya chanting "Allahu Akbar" – "Allah is the greatest" whilst launching rockets against Gaddafi forces is surely a clue about what is actually behind their plans. This re shuffling of power will eventually result in a massive attack against Israel with the intention of totally annihilating the Jewish State. When the inevitable does happen it will not only affect Israel. Every nation on earth will experience the consequence of it. What in particular will happen to Israel and Jerusalem as a result of these changes? These events will also have a startling effect on the Church and we need to be ready for dramatic changes. I would humbly challenge every Bible believer to carefully and prayerfully read the following verses, giving particular attention to the End Times context of the whole chapter. Read and study it with an open mind, free from any pre conceived concepts. Seek to understand what the prophet actually predicts from the very clear description he is given from God. What does Zechariah 12 actually predict and what will be the amazing ultimate result? If you study this chapter prayerfully I feel sure that you will reach the same conclusion that I propose.

Zechariah is a minor prophet with a major prophetic message, part of which is likely to be fulfilled in the very near future. When this happens Israel will emerge as an extremely prominent nation with great respect and will be recognized and honored by all the nations on earth. Zechariah graphically describes this amazing event. In the Message version of the Bible the prophet frequently refers to "On the Big Day" which is usually translated in other versions as "In that day." In fact it will be a bigger day than almost anyone has ever yet imagined. It will be a truly amazing and astounding time when Israel will arise as though from the dead! (Romans 11:15).

It is a massive End Time prophecy whose time for fulfillment will soon arrive. It describes a huge attack upon Israel launched by all her surrounding

neighbours. This would constitute for Israel a war on five fronts, involving rockets and missile carrying weapons of mass destruction. In the natural it may have the potential to completely destroy Israel. When this attack happens, it will change the world scene forever. In what ways?

The stage is already set. The players are in the wings waiting to begin the world shaking scenario which is intended to be the total annihilation of Israel. Islamic history and prophecy tell us that the attack will definitely happen. The historic instances of fulfillment of Bible prophecies assure us that this prediction will be totally fulfilled. No one could be expected to place their trust in a book containing so many unreliable failed promises.

In the event that the major attack would succeed in its ultimate aim, the religious/political power of Islam would take over the whole world. Allah would be worshipped by the peoples of every nation on earth. Shariah law would constitute the law in every nation on earth.

Zechariah 12:1 begins with, The burden of the word of the LORD against Israel. Thus says the LORD, who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him: NKJV

THE BURDEN OF THE LORD: Chapter 12, begins the final oracle of the book of Zechariah. The first burden (*Massa*) covers chapters 9 through 11, dealing mainly with the first coming of Messiah who was rejected, by the nation. The second prophetic *burden* deals with the return and the reign of Messiah as King over Jerusalem. There is a heavy burden today on all the citizens of Israel and indeed the whole world as they await their fate. There is also a heavy burden upon God's own heart concerning His people Israel and the fate of all humanity.

THE LORD IDENTIFIES HIMSELF WITH THREE EVENTS Zechariah 12:1

12:1 The burden of the word of the LORD for Israel, saith the LORD, which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, and formeth the spirit of man within him. KJV

1. He stretches out the heavens (creator and sustainer of the universe). The Hebrew word *natah* (stretches) is in the perfect present tense. God was and still is perfectly in control of the heavens and the earth.

Isaiah 42:5-6

*5 God, the LORD, created the heavens and stretched them out. He created the earth and everything in it. He gives breath and life to everyone in all the world. And it is he who says,
6 "I, the LORD, have called you to demonstrate my righteousness. I will guard and support you, for I have given you to my people as the personal confirmation of my covenant with them. And you will be a light to guide all nations to me. NLT*

Isaiah 44:26-28

*26 But I carry out the predictions of my prophets! When they say Jerusalem will be saved and the towns of Judah will be lived in once again, it will be done!
27 When I speak to the rivers and say, 'Be dry!' they will be dry.
28 When I say of Cyrus, 'He is my shepherd,' he will certainly do as I say. He will command that Jerusalem be rebuilt and that the Temple be restored." NLT*

Jeremiah 51:15

15 He made the earth by his power, and he preserves it by his wisdom. He has stretched out the heavens by his understanding. NLT

Job 26:7

7 God stretches the northern sky over empty space and hangs the earth on nothing. NLT

HE LAID THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE EARTH

Psalms 102:25-26

*25 In ages past you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands.
26 Even they will perish, but you remain forever; they will wear out like old clothing. You will change them like a garment, and they will fade away. NLT*

Hebrews 1:10-12

*10 And, "Lord, in the beginning you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands.
11 Even they will perish, but you remain forever. They will wear out like old clothing.
12 You will roll them up like an old coat. They will fade away like old clothing. But you are always the same; you will never grow old." NLT*

This analogy of discarding an old garment possibly refers to the prophetic news of the new heaven and new earth that will ultimately appear (Revelation 21:1-5).

3. He forms the spirit of man within him (supreme creator of man and his spirit). The point being, He is the one and only God, there is no other beside Him. (Isaiah 44:6-8, 41:4).

Almighty God, Jehovah is the creator and ruler of the universe and the creator of all mankind. This gives us an insight into man's creation. When man was created, the Lord then formed the spirit inside the newly formed human being. Man's human spirit was formed by the breath of God's Spirit. It was the very breath of God that fashioned the spirit of man within the body of clay (Genesis 2:7).

THE WORD OF THE LORD: The word = *Dabar* i.e. - speech or communication from *Yahweh* to Zechariah, regarding Israel. This prophecy comes from the very mouth of God and should be listened to very carefully. The reference here is to the inspired Word of God (the Bible) it is also the title given to Jesus who is the chief focus here as the suffering Messiah, pierced and rejected by the nation. (John 1:1, Revelation 19:13) The Word in Revelation returns to earth with power and great glory.

CONCERNING ISRAEL: This whole prophecy is dedicated to the history and prophetic future of Israel. Israel as a nation ceased to exist in the Assyrian captivity, Judah however remained until the Babylonian captivity (605-586 B.C.). Scripture speaks of an ultimate United kingdom of Judah and Israel prior to the coming of the Messiah (Ezekiel 36-39). The name for the nation in 1948 was prophetic, the name Zechariah referred to was Israel, not Judah.

I WILL MAKE JERUSALEM: Here the Lord God is speaking in the first person. God Himself will make Jerusalem the focus of the nations in the last days. He will establish it as a nation above all other nations. The nation before the eyes of all the world will not be Britain, America, Russia or China. The prophetic role of Jerusalem, as the focal point of the nations is clearly established throughout scripture. The interaction of God with Jerusalem is clearly an eternal issue.

UNIQUENESS OF ISRAEL AND JERUSALEM

Matthew 23:37-39

37 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!

38 See! Your house is left to you desolate;

39 for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!'" NKJV

These verses confirm God's constant unending concern for Jerusalem.

Jerusalem's rejection of Jesus led to their historic desolation.

God will return to Jerusalem when they utter the essential welcome.

The only nation that God personally founded (from a bunch of slaves). God brought them forth through the blood of a lamb. Their deliverance was a type of salvation through the Blood of the Lamb.

THE HISTORY OF ISRAEL FORMS THE HEART OF THE BIBLE

1. A land to which God commanded Abraham to take his only son Isaac and to offer him as a burnt offering on one of the mountains. The mountains of this land were a three-day journey from Beersheba and were visible from a great distance (Genesis 22:2,4).

2. The hill at Jerusalem where Solomon built "the house of the Lord," the Temple. Originally this was the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite (2 Chronicles 3:1), also called Araunah the Jebusite (2 Samuel 24:16-24), where God appeared to David. David purchased the threshing floor from Ornan (1 Chronicles 21:15-22:1), and built an altar on the site. It was left to David's son (Solomon) to build the Temple.

The Jews believe the altar of burnt offering in the Temple at Jerusalem was situated on the exact site of the altar on which Abraham intended to sacrifice Isaac. To them the two Mount Moriahs mentioned in the Bible are identical. The Muslim mosque, the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem, presently is situated on this site.

Jerusalem was the place where the Lamb of God was offered. Crucified, resurrected, from where He rose to heaven. It is the place to which Messiah will return. He will come again in like manner as you have seen Him go.

THE CITY OF JERUSALEM

God says, Let me be speechless and powerless if I ever forget Jerusalem. We are certain that God will never be speechless nor powerless. He will certainly never forget Jerusalem.

Psalms 137:5-6

5 If I forget you, O Jerusalem, Let my right hand forget its skill!

*6 If I do not remember you, Let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth
If I do not exalt Jerusalem Above my chief joy. NKJV*

Psalms 147:2 The LORD builds up Jerusalem; He gathers together the outcasts of Israel.

Jerusalem is not the largest, loveliest, most popular city. God does not necessarily choose the loveliest. He often transforms the most ordinary into loveliest. This is true in all nature too. Jerusalem is always on God's mind. God wants us to know, think, share His deepest thoughts.

AN INTOXICATING CUP OF TREMBLING

Zechariah 12:2

2 I will make Jerusalem and Judah like an intoxicating drink to all the nearby nations that send their armies to besiege Jerusalem. NLT

Psalms 75:8

8 For the LORD holds a cup in his hand; it is full of foaming wine mixed with spices. He pours the wine out in judgment, and all the wicked must drink it, draining it to the dregs. NLT

Isaiah 51:21-23

21 But now listen to this, you afflicted ones, who sit in a drunken stupor, though not from drinking wine.

*22 This is what the Sovereign LORD, your God and Defender, says:
"See, I am taking the terrible cup from your hands. You will drink no more of my fury. It is gone at last!*

23 But I will put that cup into the hands of those who tormented you. I will give it to those who trampled you into the dust and walked on your backs." NLT

Zechariah 9:14-17

14 The LORD will appear above his people; his arrows (Missiles?) will fly like lightning! The Sovereign LORD will sound the trumpet; he will go out against his enemies like a whirlwind from the southern desert.

15 The LORD Almighty will protect his people, and they will subdue

their enemies with sling stones. They will shout in battle as though drunk with wine, shedding the blood of their enemies. They will be filled with blood like a bowl, drenched with blood like the corners of the altar.
16 When that day arrives, the LORD their God will rescue his people, just as a shepherd rescues his sheep. They will sparkle in his land like jewels in a crown.
17 How wonderful and beautiful they will be! The young men and women will thrive on the abundance of grain and new wine. NLT

THE BIBLICAL IMPORTANCE OF JERUSALEM

The following scriptures are all prophetic, speaking of the Last Days. Some of them may not seem to directly refer to the Last Days but all of them refer to God's eternal love and concern for His people Israel and how He will protect them throughout the Last Days.

Psalms 69:35-36

35 For God will save Jerusalem and rebuild the towns of Judah. His people will live there and take possession of the land.

36 The descendants of those who obey him will inherit the land, and those who love him will live there in safety. NLT

Psalms 2:6 For the LORD declares, "I have placed my chosen king on the throne in Jerusalem, my holy city." NLT

Psalms 9:11 Sing praises to the LORD who reigns in Jerusalem. Tell the world about his unforgettable deeds. NLT

Psalms 20:2 May he send you help from his sanctuary and strengthen you from Jerusalem. NLT

Psalms 76:2-3

2 Jerusalem is where he lives; Mount Zion is his home.

3 There he breaks the arrows of the enemy, the shields and swords and weapons of his foes. NLT

Psalms 87:7 At all the festivals, the people will sing, "The source of my life is in Jerusalem!" NLT

Jerusalem according to scripture will be the capital city of the King Messiah, from where He will rule the nations. (Zechariah 9:9-10, 14:16-17) Jerusalem, along with the Jewish people, according to Daniel's 70 Weeks (Daniel 9:24-27) is the focus point of God's prophetic clock.

Jerusalem will be in the media headlines in the End Times as the nations around Israel lay siege to the city. The imagery of a *cup of trembling* (from drunkenness) is translated from the Hebrew (*Ra`al*), meaning to reel or stumble as if drunk. The enemies of Israel will begin to act like an irrational, dysfunctional drunken mob, lacking intelligence and coordination.

THE SIEGE AGAINST JERUSALEM: Very soon the surrounding nations will attack the city of Jerusalem. Today, we see Jerusalem as the center of world attention, because of Islamic and the Western nations focus on the city. Islam with over 20% of the Earth's population, views the city as Islamic, rejecting Jewish claims to the city. The Jews in the land today, look back to their past, claiming a validated historical right to the city.

God says that in a soon coming day Jerusalem will intoxicate and stupefy the surrounding peoples who attack Israel. The Arab peoples surrounding Jerusalem have a passion for possessing the city that is not justified by history.

The West, (Europe and US) have a cultural attachment to the city, because of their Christian heritage, and Israel's western outlook. Islamic populations in Europe and Islamic hatred for the Jewish state, places the capital, Jerusalem in the center of world attention.

In the End Times the nations will again come against the city of Jerusalem and its End Time Jewish inhabitants, possibly laying siege four separate times.

1. Zechariah 12 and Psalm 83.
2. Battle of Gog and Magog (Ezekiel 38-39)
3. Midpoint of the Tribulation period (Zechariah 14:1-2, Matthew 24:15-21)
4. At Armageddon, at the conclusion of the Great Tribulation when the nations attack Jerusalem in their final assault (Revelation 16:16, Revelation 19:18-21, Zechariah 14:12).

A HEAVY STONE: According to Jerome, the reference here is to the contest, in which young men measured their strength by lifting heavy stones. In the same way the world, will try to lift Jerusalem, into its mold. The stone will be too heavy, pitting the armies of God against the armies of men. Jesus uses this same picture of a heavy stone in Matthew 21:44, Isaiah refers to the stone of Messiah in Isaiah 8:14. Isaiah also refers to the cornerstone of Jerusalem, the precious stone of Zion.

Zechariah 12:3 And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it. NKJV

Isaiah 8:14-17

14 He will keep you safe. But to Israel and Judah he will be a stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall. And for the people of Jerusalem he will be a trap that entangles them.

15 Many of them will stumble and fall, never to rise again. Many will be captured."

16 I will write down all these things as a testimony of what the LORD will do. I will entrust it to my disciples, who will pass it down to future generations. NLT

In Isaiah 28:16 the prophet obviously likens the Messiah to a stone. Could this be the same stone mentioned in Isaiah 8:14? I believe so.

Isaiah 28:16 Therefore thus says the Lord God: "Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, A tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; Whoever believes will not act hastily.

THE STONE THAT DESTROYS EARTHLY KINGDOMS

Daniel 2:34-35

34 But as you watched, a rock was cut from a mountain by supernatural means. It struck the feet of iron and clay, smashing them to bits.

35 The whole statue collapsed into a heap of iron, clay, bronze, silver, and gold. The pieces were crushed as small as chaff on a threshing floor, and the wind blew them all away without a trace. But the rock that knocked the statue down became a great mountain that covered the whole earth. NLT

Daniel 2:44-45

44 "During the reigns of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed; no one will ever conquer it. It will shatter all these kingdoms into nothingness, but it will stand forever.

45 That is the meaning of the rock cut from the mountain by supernatural means, crushing to dust the statue of iron, bronze, clay, silver, and gold. NLT

Matthew 21:44

44 Anyone who stumbles over that stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls." NLT

ALL NATIONS: (*Goyim*) In the end, the Muslim nations which come against Jerusalem to destroy the Jewish people and Jerusalem, will be cut to pieces. This refers to all nations other than Israel. Even leading up to the End Times event, Jerusalem has caused problems for the world. In A.D. 638, the Muslims conquered Jerusalem from the Byzantine Romans. This was followed by the Crusades (A.D.1099-1187, 1229-39, 1240-44) when the nations of the West defeated Islamic powers to take back control of Jerusalem.

At a later date the Muslim nations rallied and drove the Crusaders from Jerusalem. In World War I, Islamic powers (The Ottoman Empire), was defeated after they allied themselves with Germany. The West was again in control of Jerusalem, the lands of the Ottoman Turks divided, creating new nations, many given the names of their historical past, including Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Jordan. Jerusalem and Palestine (Judah) were under the control of the British, who because of Arab threats withdrew their promise to establish a Jewish State.

Muslims today claim Jerusalem as their third holiest city. However, Jerusalem is not mentioned once in their holy book the Koran. In addition, throughout the centuries when Jerusalem was under complete Arab control, no Arab ruler or Islamic leader ever made Jerusalem the object of a religious pilgrimage. This fact displays a strange indifference toward a city which is now considered to be the third holiest religious site in Islam after Mecca and Medina.

The current Jewish State only came into existence after World War II, after the nations voted it into existence at the United Nations. In a war immediately following the establishment of a Jewish State, (May 1948), Jerusalem was conquered by the Jewish nation. Jerusalem then became a divided city in the hands of Jews and Muslims. In 1967, following the Six-Day War, Jerusalem was completely in the hands of the Jewish people, for the first time in over 2000-years.

The conflict for Jerusalem continues to this very day, fulfilling the words of Zechariah who wrote in 520 B.C., when Jerusalem's future seemed bleak. History is a living testimony to the words of Zechariah.

THE BATTLE FOR JERUSALEM ZECHARIAH 12:4-9 (AMP)

⁴In that day, says the Lord, I will smite every horse [of the armies that contend against Jerusalem] with terror and panic and his rider with madness; and I will open My eyes and regard with favor the house of Judah and will smite every horse of the opposing nations with blindness.

⁵ *And the chiefs of Judah shall say in their hearts, The inhabitants of Jerusalem are our strength in the Lord of hosts, their God.*

⁶ *In that day will I make the chiefs of Judah like a big, blazing pot among [sticks of] wood and like a flaming torch among sheaves [of grain], and they shall devour all the peoples round about, on the right hand and on the left; and they of Jerusalem shall yet again dwell and sit securely in their own place, in Jerusalem.*

⁷ *And the Lord shall save and give victory to the tents of Judah first, that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem may not be magnified and exalted above Judah.*

⁸ *In that day will the Lord guard and defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and he who is [spiritually] feeble and stumbles among them in that day [of persecution] shall become [strong and noble] like David; and the house of David [shall maintain its supremacy] like God, like the Angel of the Lord Who is before them.*

⁹ *And it shall be in that day that I will make it My aim to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.*

THE ANGEL OF THE LORD WILL BE INVOLVED

Micah 7:10

10 Then my enemies will see that the LORD is on my side. They will be ashamed that they taunted me, saying, "Where is the LORD — that God of yours?" With my own eyes I will see them trampled down like mud in the streets. NLT

Exodus 14:19-20

19 Then the angel of God, who had been leading the people of Israel, moved to a position behind them, and the pillar of cloud also moved around behind them.

20 The cloud settled between the Israelite and Egyptian camps. As night came, the pillar of cloud turned into a pillar of fire, lighting the Israelite camp. But the cloud became darkness to the Egyptians, and they couldn't find the Israelites. NLT

IN THAT DAY: This term refers to the Day of Judgment, at a time when all the nations are gathered against Jerusalem. The term is used throughout scripture. That day, appears twenty times in the book of Zechariah alone, referring to a special period, when God will judge the nations, and establish His kingdom.

Joel 3:1-2

1 "At that time, when I restore the prosperity of Judah and Jerusalem," says the LORD,

2 "I will gather the armies of the world into the valley of Jehoshaphat. There I will judge them for harming my people, for scattering my inheritance among the nations, and for dividing up my land. NLT

This period, also referred to as, the *Day of the Lord* is the transition between the rule of the nations, to the rule of God. Zechariah and Joel both show the before and after events of "That day". After "that day" there will be peace for Israel as the nation comes under the rule of Messiah (Christ).

Joel 3:16-17 (AMP)

¹⁶ The Lord will thunder and roar from Zion and utter His voice from Jerusalem, and the heavens and the earth shall shake; but the Lord will be a refuge for His people and a stronghold to the children of Israel.

¹⁷ So shall you know, understand, and realize that I am the Lord your God, dwelling in Zion, My holy mountain. Then shall Jerusalem be holy, and strangers and foreigners [not born into the family of God] shall no more pass through it.

Zechariah 2:11 *"Many nations shall be joined to the Lord in that day, and they shall become My people. And I will dwell in your midst. Then you will know that the Lord of hosts has sent Me to you.*

THE EYES OF GOD UPON ISRAEL: The Lord's eyes are open in a more focused and intent manner over His people, He becomes directly involved in the conflict between the nations and His people. God declares that His eyes are always on His people Israel. Further He says that Israel is the apple (pupil) of His eye. The eye is the most sensitive part of the body. The eye is instinctively protected.

Zechariah 12:4

I will watch over the people of Judah, but I will blind the horses of her enemies. NLT

Psalms 34:15-16

15 The eyes of the LORD watch over those who do right; his ears are open to their cries for help.

16 But the LORD turns his face against those who do evil; he will erase their memory from the earth. NLT

Zechariah 2:8 For thus says the LORD of hosts: "He sent Me after glory, to the nations which plunder you; for he who touches you touches the apple of His eye. NKJV

God will supernaturally intervene for the nation. He will cause the horse and its rider to go blind, mad and confused. It is important to note, God is doing the talking throughout the chapter. God is supernaturally aiding his people. Though the nations come against Jerusalem with fury, God will protect her.

THE GOVERNORS OF JUDAH: The rulers, (Alluphim are the military leaders) of Israel who will see the supernatural deliverance taking place and be emboldened by the heroics of Messiah as He goes before Israel's army, and achieves the overwhelming defeat of Israel's enemies. They will understand that the strength of the people comes directly from the LORD. In the years since Israel's founding in 1948, the newly formed Israeli Defense Force has gain tremendous respect around the world. Although one of the smallest armies in the world, it has become widely known as a force to be reckoned with. Over some sixty years it has won six major wars and a constant threat of terrorism. In verse six, the heroics of the leaders are described as their enemies who surround Jerusalem are resisted.

ISRAEL LIKE A FIREPAN: At this point Israel fights off their enemies which surround the city. The Israeli defense forces will become like a prairie fire sweeping through the ranks of their enemy. Intense fire is the element that typifies Israel's warriors in their fight against an extremely dangerous adversary.

Zechariah 12:6 "On that day I will make the clans of Judah like a brazier that sets a woodpile ablaze or like a burning torch among sheaves of grain. They will burn up all the neighboring nations right and left, while the people living in Jerusalem remain secure. NLT

Psalms 83:14-15

14 As a fire roars through a forest and as a flame sets mountains ablaze,

15 chase them with your fierce storms; terrify them with your tempests. NLT

Isaiah 10:17-19

17 The LORD, the Light of Israel and the Holy One, will be a flaming fire that will destroy them. In a single night he will burn those thorns and briars, the Assyrians.

18 Assyria's vast army is like a glorious forest, yet it will be destroyed. The LORD will completely destroy Assyria's warriors, and they will

waste away like sick people in a plague.

19 Only a few from all that mighty army will survive — so few that a child could count them! NLT

Isaiah 10:18-19

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Zechariah 11:1-3

1 Open your doors, Lebanon, so that fire may sweep through your cedar forests.

2 Weep, you cypress trees, for all the ruined cedars; the tallest and most beautiful of them are fallen. Weep, you oaks of Bashan, as you watch the thickest forests being felled.

3 Listen to the wailing of the shepherds, for their wealth is gone. Hear the young lions roaring, for their thickets in the Jordan Valley have been destroyed. NLT

BUT JERUSALEM WILL BE SAVED: Here the Lord assures Jerusalem's position, the city will be saved and rescued, regardless of the ruthless plans of the nations. Jerusalem is extremely sacred to the Lord. He has made many sacred promises with regard to its safety and ultimate security. This amazing victory will truly validate all the promises that God has made for the future of Jerusalem.

Zechariah 12:6 while the people living in Jerusalem remain secure. NLT

AGAINST JERUSALEM: The armies of the earth will be gathered against Jerusalem in the end. Jerusalem is the ultimate target of the Islamic armies. They fiercely believe it is their prophetic destiny to rid what they call Palestine, from it Jewish presence. Sadly they presently have the tacit support of almost every nation on earth. This fanatical determination will never be surrendered willingly. It can only be eradicated by the unquestioned absolute defeat of Islamic forces. They will never surrender their ambition. The international media has great sympathy for them. They offer every kind of excuse for their unlawful acts.

THE LORD WILL SAVE ISRAEL This verse looks forward to the future salvation of the people, after their amazing deliverance. So Jerusalem and

the David's descendents do not get greater glory the rest of Judah, the land of Judah, and the inhabitants will be the first to supernaturally throw off their enemies and celebrate the peace that follows.

Zechariah 12:7 *"The LORD will save (yasha: H3467 Strong's) Judah's tents first so that the honor of David's family and the honor of those who live in Jerusalem will not be greater than the honor of Judah.*

God's purpose is not only to save Israel from intended destruction by the surrounding nations, it is also subsequently to save His covenant people with an eternal salvation purchased for them by the Lamb of God whom Israel will recognize and call upon. The Hebrew word translated save is *yasha* from the same root word *yasha* from which comes *yeshua* or Jesus.

THE HOUSE OF DAVID This refers to the Jews, the literal descendents of David, who are in Jerusalem in the end times, this does mean each descendent of David knows they are such. God however, knows who is His in the whole process of redemption. The Hebrew word *bayith* clearly signifies all the descendants of David.

THE INHABITANTS OF JERUSALEM This signifies all who are living in Jerusalem at the time that Israel's enemies launch their devastating attack upon Israel and Jerusalem. This will include some Christians and Muslims but chiefly Jewish descendants of David. These non Jewish inhabitants living in Jerusalem at the time will also enjoy a great sense of relief as the attack that is meant to eliminate everyone in Jerusalem is averted by the direct intervention of the Angel of the Lord.

THE FEEBLE AMONG THEM At this point, the weak, or those who totter (*Kashal*) and stumble, will become empowered to be like David. (The word in Hebrew means, to stumble, stagger, totter through frailty in the lower legs. This description sounds remarkably like peripheral neuropathy that affects the balance). These promises refer to the very young and the aged who are vulnerable through physical limitations. These remarkable events precede the national conversion of Israel. When the attack is first launched Israel is initially caught off balance. Once the battle is enjoined by the Angel of the Lord, Israel will recover her equilibrium.

THE FEEBLE ARE LIKE GOD The descendents of David, will be supernaturally empowered in that day, physically their exploits will be angelic in power, like supernatural beings. The army of Israel will literally be like (similar to) God. They will exercise supernatural power under the leadership of the Angel of the LORD (The Messiah). The Hebrew word for

“feeble” is *kashal* which basically means to stagger through weakness in the lower legs, like a small child or an elderly person. These are predicted to become like the Angel of the Lord who goes before the army of Israel.

GOD WILL SEEK TO DESTROY ALL ISRAEL’S ENEMIES The Lord plans to destroy the armies of all the nations which surround Israel. The nations on every border of Israel today are Islamic nations each of which harbors a determined purpose to rid the area of its Jewish presence. Their cruel aim will rebound upon their own heads. They will be destroyed instead of Israel. Whatever God seeks to do, He will surely accomplish. Nothing is impossible to Him.

THE SALVATION OF JERUSALEM

The salvation of Israel will not only be from their attackers, over whom God will win an amazing victory. It will also be a spiritual salvation, resulting from an outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the entire nations i.e, the descendants of King David.

Zechariah 12:10-12 (AMP)

¹⁰ *And I will pour out upon the house of David and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace or unmerited favor and supplication. And they shall look [earnestly] upon Me Whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for Him as one who is in bitterness for his firstborn.*

¹¹ *In that day shall there be a great mourning in Jerusalem, as the mourning of [the city of] Hadadrimmon in the Valley of Megiddo [over beloved King Josiah].*

¹² *And the land shall mourn, every family apart: the [kingly] family of the house of David apart and their wives apart; the family of the house of Nathan [David’s son] apart and their wives apart;*

I WILL POUR OUT THE HOLY SPIRIT Again, we see the Lord is the source of the Spirit’s outpouring. Jehovah clearly identifies Himself in this verse, as “Me whom they pierced”. There is no doubt about God’s prophetic intention. When God says “I will” it will happen. All the powers of hell cannot defuse the intention of God. Nothing can alter His determined purpose. He will clearly demonstrate His unquestioned ultimate authority and power. All the nations on earth will witness the defeat of every false religion and the absolute supreme authority of Yaweh the God of the universe.

Isaiah 44:2-3

2 The LORD who made you and helps you says: O Jacob, my servant, do not be afraid. O Israel, my chosen one, do not fear.

3 For I will give you abundant water to quench your thirst and to moisten your parched fields. And I will pour out my Spirit and my blessings on your children. NLT

Ezekiel 39:27-29

27 When I bring them home from the lands of their enemies, my holiness will be displayed to the nations.

28 Then my people will know that I am the LORD their God — responsible for sending them away to exile and responsible for bringing them home. I will leave none of my people behind.

29 And I will never again turn my back on them, for I will pour out my Spirit upon them, says the Sovereign LORD." NLT

Joel 2:26-32

27 Then you will know that I am here among my people of Israel and that I alone am the LORD your God. My people will never again be disgraced like this.

28 "Then after I have poured out my rains again, I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your old men will dream dreams. Your young men will see visions.

29 In those days, I will pour out my Spirit even on servants, men and women alike.

30 "I will cause wonders in the heavens and on the earth — blood and fire and pillars of smoke.

31 The sun will be turned into darkness, and the moon will turn blood red before that great and terrible day of the LORD arrives.

32 And anyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved. There will be people on Mount Zion in Jerusalem who escape, just as the LORD has said. These will be among the survivors whom the LORD has called. NLT

THE HOUSE OF DAVID Anybody of genuine Davidic descent would be considered part of the house of David. God knows the family line of every human ever to live. He has a meticulous record of every DNA. Here the descendents of David, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem are referenced. The House of David, in particular, to demonstrate God's faithfulness to David, and the linkage to Messiah, who is a "Son of David".

THE INHABITANTS OF JERUSALEM Although the present population of Jerusalem is mainly Jewish people of other religions are also living in Jerusalem. There are many Muslims and a relatively small number of “Christians” living in Jerusalem all of whom will be vividly conscious of the amazing preservation of Jerusalem and all its inhabitants. They will also be confronted by the dynamic revelation that their deliverer is in fact the long promised Messiah of Israel.

THE SPIRIT OF GRACE AND SUPPLICATIONS As a result of God’s Spirit of grace which is poured out on the nation, the citizens call out and repent over Jesus the Messiah. This whole exercise of deliverance and salvation is a manifestation of the boundless grace of God. The word (*Ruach*) means wind, breath, mind, spirit, the term and also refers to the Holy Spirit. In Hebrews 10:29 the Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of Grace. Only through the Spirit and the grace of God can anybody find Jesus, this is true in both the Old and New Testament period.

PRAYERS AND SUPPLICATIONS (*Tachanuwn*) is another way of saying intense prayer, but particularly the prayer of request. At this point, the nation cries out in repentance, calling on the Lord to intervene with the nations. I personally believe that this prayer will definitely echo the words of Jesus when Israel cries out “Blessed are you who comes in the name of the LORD.” A prophetic picture of this End Times supplication can be seen in the book of Joel.

Following this prayer, like Paul the blinders are removed from the nation’s eyes, and they, as a nation, will see Jesus as their Messiah, the Redeemer of Israel.

Isaiah 59:19-20

19 So shall they fear The name of the Lord from the west, And His glory from the rising of the sun; When the enemy comes in like a flood, The Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him.

20 "The Redeemer will come to Zion, And to those who turn from transgression in Jacob," Says the Lord.

THEN THEY WILL LOOK UPON ME: Following the prayer and supplication, the nation will see their God and Yeshua their Messiah. Christ will appear with the angelic host, and descend upon a nation calling out to their God. He will come and dwell in the midst of them.

Joel 2:27 You shall know that I am in the midst (Hebrew 7130 Qereb) of Israel, and that I am the LORD your God and there is none else. And my people shall never again be put to shame. EV

Zechariah 8:3 "Thus says the LORD: 'I will return to Zion, And dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Jerusalem shall be called the City of Truth, The Mountain of the LORD of hosts, The Holy Mountain.' NKJV

Zechariah 2:10-11

10 "Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion! For behold, I am coming and I will dwell in your midst," says the LORD.

11 "Many nations shall be joined to the LORD in that day, and they shall become My people. And I will dwell in your midst. Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent Me to you. NKJV

Comparing Zechariah 12:10 with Zechariah 12:1 and 12:3 (*Thus says the LORD*) makes it clear that the **Me** they look upon is the LORD God - Yahweh - Himself. This is astounding and wonderful evidence that Jesus the previously pierced One is actually God, the Holy One of Israel.

ON ME...WHOM THEY PIERCED: Here Jesus is clearly identified as Jehovah. If you recognize the person speaking and then telling the reader they shall look on Me, one must come to the conclusion the one pierced is none other than Yahweh in the person of Messiah. The distinguishing features that identify Him are the marks (scars) of His piercing on Calvary. Many Christian commentators have said that this is a reference to John 19:37 and *"They will look on him whom they pierced."* NLT

However, the pertinent context in Zechariah makes it clear that the fatal piercing is referring to the survivors of the Zechariah 12 battle as they recognize the true identify of the Angel of the Lord (Messiah) who has conquered their enemies.

MOURNING FOR HIM...THE ONLY SON: The Jewish nation will mourn their rejection of the *First Born*, who was crucified. In the Hebraic culture the first born son has a special place of honor in the family structure. The time will be a period of national examination, mourning and repentance.

Amos 8:10 I will turn your celebrations into times of mourning, and your songs of joy will be turned to weeping. You will wear funeral clothes and shave your heads as signs of sorrow, as if your only son had died. How very bitter that day will be! NLT

The immediate initial response to the amazing victory will be one of jubilant rejoicing. But the rejoicing will soon turn to mourning when they realize that this was the very person who was crucified at Calvary.

IN THAT DAY: In that day, when Messiah comes in power and authority the whole nation will mourn. Each family will mourn, and men and women apart will mourn. Although the word for day (Yom) is used this phrase obviously alludes to a time period rather than a literal day.

THE LAND SHALL MOURN: The nation will mourn Israel's historic rejection of the Messiah, who died for the sins of the nation. The land of Israel will mourn lost years of the relationship the nation could have had, if they were obedient. The nation will mourn the death and destruction, which came upon the world, by Israel not knowing their Messiah at His coming. According to Paul not only will the land of Israel mourn, all creation will mourn waiting expectantly for the manifestation of the Kingdom and the children of the kingdom.

Romans 8:19-22 (AMP)

¹⁹ *For [even the whole] creation (all nature) waits expectantly and longs earnestly for God's sons to be made known [waits for the revealing, the disclosing of their sonship].*

²⁰ *For the creation (nature) was subjected to frailty (to futility, condemned to frustration), not because of some intentional fault on its part, but by the will of Him Who so subjected it—[yet] with the hope*

²¹ *That nature (creation) itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and corruption [and gain an entrance] into the glorious freedom of God's children.*

²² *We know that the whole creation [of irrational creatures] has been moaning together in the pains of labor until now.*

EVERY FAMILY WILL MOURN: The mourning will be personal as each family will recount their own hardness in rejecting the Messiah. Leading the national mourning will be the leaders of the house of Levi, i.e. the extended priesthood of Israel.

Zechariah 12:13. The [priestly] family of the house of Levi apart and their wives apart; the family of Shimei [grandson of Levi] apart and their wives apart;

¹⁴ *All the families that are left, each by itself, and their wives by themselves [each with an overwhelming individual sorrow over having blindly rejected their unrecognized Messiah].*

WIVES BY THEMSELVES: This will be a time of self-reflection, the women and the men will be separated as the nation mourns in holiness, this is not a time to be distracted with sexual desire, but a time of serious examination. This description of the national mourning clearly displays the Hebraic manner of mourning.

ALL THE FAMILIES THAT REMAIN: Zechariah cites two of them as sacred families (Zechariah 12:13), *the family of the house of Levi*, which was God's tribe, and in it particularly the family of Shimei, which was a branch of the tribe of Levi (1Chronicles 6:17). However, he also indicates that all the families of Israel that remain will engage in the national mourning in respect of the Messiah.

THE COMING TRANSFORMATION: The fulfillment of this amazing prophecy in Zechariah will initiate tremendous changes throughout the whole world. The transformation will initially be a spiritual one but the immediate repercussions will be religious, social and political.

1. The Messianic Transformation Of Israel. Zechariah 12:10, Rev 6, 7, 14, etc. Israel will become a Messianic nation symbolized by the 144,000 in Revelation 7. They will comprise an army of servants of God that together with Messianic Gentile believers will bear faithful witness of the kingdom.
2. There will be a transformed spiritual atmosphere around the world, of awe and wonder. The change in the heavens will transmit to the earth changing the conscious awareness of the nations. Every nation will become conscious of the God of the universe.
3. Transformation of the Church. Joel 2:28 Spirit will be poured out on all flesh, Acts 3:21 God's presence in the midst (centre) of Israel (Joel 2:27) will precede the promised outpouring of the Spirit on all flesh. The proclamation and harvesting of the kingdom of God will increase exponentially.
4. Transition of Church into Kingdom mode. Luke 12:32
32 "Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom NKJV The universal Church will be transformed inwardly and outwardly. It will be unrecognizable to the traditional Church of this present era.
5. A world wide influx of former Muslim, Hindus etc believers into Messiah. Powerful shockwaves will reverberate around the religious world as multitudes of former adherents from all false religions accede to a new revelation of Jehovah God and His Messiah.

6. Kingdom witness around the world. Matt 24:14. The Gospel of the Kingdom (Matthew 24:14) will be proclaimed powerfully around the entire earth with amazing supernatural results.
7. The Messiah will reign over the earth from His throne of David in the city of the New Jerusalem that God will cause to descend to earth from heaven Revelation 21:1-4.

1 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.
2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.
NKJV

Chapter Five

Drastic Changes Are Coming

We are currently living at a time in history when many drastic changes are occurring. This is happening all around the world in a manner never before experienced. Current events in the Middle East are undoubtedly the most serious and threatening of the changes. Perhaps this is related to the scriptures that says

Matthew 24:21-22

21 For that will be a time of greater horror than anything the world has ever seen or will ever see again.

22 In fact, unless that time of calamity is shortened the entire human race would be destroyed. But it will be shortened for the sake of God's chosen ones. NLT

Mark 13:20

20 In fact, unless the Lord shortens that time of calamity, the entire human race would be destroyed. But for the sake of his chosen ones he has shortened those days. NLT

The changes will alter many things, socially, politically, economically and spiritually. However, I personally believe that the greatest changes will occur in the land and nation of Israel. Isaiah gives us a glimpse into some of those changes and their ultimate result.

GREATER THAN THE EXODUS FROM EGYPT

Isaiah 43:15-21

15 I am the LORD, your Holy One, Israel's Creator and King.

16 I am the LORD, who opened a way through the waters, making a dry path through the sea.

17 I called forth the mighty army of Egypt with all its chariots and horses. I drew them beneath the waves, and they drowned, their lives snuffed out like a smouldering candlewick.

18 "But forget all that — it is nothing compared to what I am going to do.

19 For I am about to do a brand-new thing. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness for my people to come home. I will create rivers for them in the desert!

20 The wild animals in the fields will thank me, the jackals and ostriches, too, for giving them water in the wilderness. Yes, I will make springs in the desert, so that my chosen people can be refreshed.

21 I have made Israel for myself, and they will someday honor me before the whole world. NLT

Let's give particular attention to what God is proclaiming in regard to Israel's future of which He is her King.

Zephaniah 3:15-17

15 For the LORD will remove his hand of judgment and will disperse the armies of your enemy. And the LORD himself, the King of Israel, will live among you! At last your troubles will be over, and you will fear disaster no more.

16 On that day the announcement to Jerusalem will be, "Cheer up, Zion! Don't be afraid!"

17 For the LORD your God has arrived to live among you. He is a mighty Savior. He will rejoice over you with great gladness. With his love, he will calm all your fears. He will exult over you by singing a happy song." NLT

YAHWEH'S WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Isaiah 43:18 "Do not remember the former things, Nor consider the things of old.

19 Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. NKJV

Isaiah 43:18-19 NLT

18 "But forget all that — it is nothing compared to what I am going to do.

19 For I am about to do a brand-new thing. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it?

Jeremiah 16:14 "But the time is coming," says the LORD, "when people who are taking an oath will no longer say, 'As surely as the LORD lives, who rescued the people of Israel from the land of Egypt.'

15 Instead, they will say, 'As surely as the LORD lives, who brought the people of Israel back to their own land from the land of the north and from all the countries to which he had exiled them.' For I will bring them back to this land that I gave their ancestors. NLT

ISRAEL'S ENEMIES GATHERING AGAINST HER TODAY

Egypt:

Isaiah 19:2-3

2 "I will make the Egyptians fight against each other — brother against brother, neighbor against neighbor, city against city, province against province.

3 The Egyptians will lose heart, and I will confuse their plans. They will plead with their idols for wisdom. They will call on spirits, mediums, and psychics to show them which way to turn. NLT

Libya: Jeremiah 46:8-10

9 Then come, you horses and chariots and mighty warriors of Egypt! Come, all you allies from Ethiopia, Libya, and Lydia who are skilled with the shield and bow!

10 For this is the day of the Lord, the LORD Almighty, a day of vengeance on his enemies. NLT

Syria: Isaiah 17:1 *The LORD said, "Damascus will not be a city any longer; it will be only a pile of ruins.*

This ancient prophecy has never yet been fulfilled. Although being recognized as the oldest city in the world, Damascus is still intact to this day.

THE NATIONS WHO ARE REVOLTING ARE NOT SEEKING DEMOCRACY BUT SHARIA LAW

World wide dramatic changes are happening and will continue to do so throughout the whole world. These will be political, social and religious. The whole structure of humanity will be transformed. The so-called Arab Spring will degenerate into a very long winter.

THE CHURCH WILL NOT BE EXEMPT FROM IT.

We must get with the It soon becomes evident, upon entering many churches and fellowships that significant and substantial change is urgently required. The evidence of this occurs mainly in four areas,

1. **Spiritual renewal** and a return to the New Testament pattern of church.

Acts 3:19-21

19 Now turn from your sins and turn to God, so you can be cleansed of your sins.

20 Then wonderful times of refreshment will come from the presence of the Lord, and he will send Jesus your Messiah to you again.

21 For he must remain in heaven until the time for the final restoration of all things, as God promised long ago through his prophets. NLT

2. **A Contemporary Church** rather than an outdated and obsolete institution. Huge social changes will occur everywhere. The Church itself will also drastically change, not through the influence of the world, but through the new strategies of the Holy Spirit who is never outmoded.
3. **To deny the need for change** is to claim that nothing can possibly be improved. The Church has always been slow to change but the fresh movements of God will produce dynamic changes as the Church reaches out to new generations and former devotees of many different religions.
4. **Someone has suggested that one form of insanity** is to keep doing the same things and expecting a different result. This will certainly not be the case with the Church in the new era of the Kingdom. The Church needs to awaken to the new plans and purposes of God as indicated in prophetic scriptures particularly those relating to Israel's future.

Paul's Determination - Philippians 3:13-14

13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; (Laid hold of) but one thing I do, **forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,**
14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. NKJV

What Do We Need To Leave Behind? - "First Principles"

Hebrews 5:12

12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. KJV

The first principles refer to the basic, foundational truths of our Christian Faith. Sadly, many Christians have never gone beyond these initial stages and are consequently largely ignorant concerning God's true prophetic plan for the Last Days and beyond.

1. Spiritual Immaturity - 1 Corinthians 13:11-12 Childish Things

11 When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, (mature) I put away childish things.

12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. NKJV

*1 Corinthians 14:20 Brethren, do not be children in understanding; however, in malice be babes, **but in understanding be mature.** NKJV*

2. Leaving behind the past, which is NOT a pattern for the FUTURE

Leaving behind mistakes, arguments, negative mindsets. Repenting, apologizing, making things right particularly with other members of the Body of Christ.

Ezekiel 18:31-32

31 Put all your rebellion (resistance, revolt, mutiny) behind you, and get for yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die O people of Israel?

32 I don't want you to die, says the Sovereign LORD. Turn back (Repent) and live! NLT

REPLACEMENT THEOLOGY

Replacement theology in its simplest form is the belief that God has completely forsaken Israel, and replaced it with the Church. Most people who believe this unscriptural doctrine believe that the Church is the new Israel. In the earliest stages of the Church, through various influences within and outside the Church, it rapidly began to withdraw from its Jewish origins. Many so called Church fathers were largely responsible for this to the detriment of the Church. In the Last Days, this will be reversed when Jews and Gentiles will once again become one body.

Romans 1:16-17

16 For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes — Jews first and also Gentiles.

17 This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, "It is through faith that a righteous person has life." NLT

3. A BLOODLESS THEOLOGY Hebrews 9:22. Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

Much of the so called Church today has adopted a bloodless theology, denying and despising the power of Christ's shed blood as the only agent that can cleanse the human hearts from sin. Many modern

preachers have ridiculed the idea of a blood covenant and adopted a religion of good works and self righteousness. The Church of the Last Days will powerfully preach salvation through faith in Jesus' blood.

Acts 20:28

28 "And now beware! Be sure that you feed and shepherd God's flock — his church, purchased with his blood — over whom the Holy Spirit has appointed you as elders. NLT

Romans 3:25-26

25 For God sent Jesus to take the punishment for our sins and to satisfy God's anger against us. We are made right with God when we believe that Jesus shed his blood, sacrificing his life for us. God was being entirely fair and just when he did not punish those who sinned in former times.

26 And he is entirely fair and just in this present time when he declares sinners to be right in his sight because they believe in Jesus. NLT

Romans 5:9

9 And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's judgment. NLT

Ephesians 1:7-8

7 He is so rich in kindness that he purchased our freedom through the blood of his Son, and our sins are forgiven. 8 He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding. NLT

Colossians 1:13-14

14 God has purchased our freedom with his blood and has forgiven all our sins. NLT

Colossians 1:20

20 and by him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of his blood on the cross. NLT

Hebrews 9:12

12 Once for all time he took blood into that Most Holy Place, but not the blood of goats and calves. He took his own blood, and with it he secured our salvation forever. NLT

Hebrews 9:13-14

14 Just think how much more the blood of Christ will purify our hearts from deeds that lead to death so that we can worship the living God. For by the power of the eternal Spirit, Christ offered himself to God as a perfect sacrifice for our sins. NLT

Revelation 12:11

11 And they overcame him (satan) by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. NKJV

4. PRE-CONCEIVED DOCTRINES OF MEN

e.g Revived Roman Empire. Papal Anti-Christ. Convenient Rapture.

“INTELLECTUAL CHRISTIANITY”

Many professing Christians today are intellectual Christians rather than spiritual. They have often inherited an intellectual perspective of Christian lifestyle achieved by osmosis rather than by a spiritual new birth. This is usually a comfort zone kind of Christianity, that promises many comforting benefits, and a convenient rapture to heaven, leaving all the problems on earth behind. Paul consciously sought to avoid preaching such a theology.

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

2:1 And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency (human brilliance) of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God.

2 For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

3 And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling.

4 And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:

5 That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. KJV

Enticing words of impressive human wisdom appeal to the mind and pride of man. They neither come from nor reach the spirit of man.

Paul speech was accompanied by demonstration and power of the Holy Spirit. Mind communicates with mind. Spirit speaks to spirit.

PAUL'S EXPERIENCE

He was fiercely antagonistic to Jesus and the Gospel, persecuting and imprisoning the saints.

He was coming to Damascus to capture and imprison Christians there.

His theology denied the claims of Jesus. He was antagonistic and angry regarding the Gospel.

He had a powerful encounter with the Lord Jesus that miraculously transformed his whole life.

Acts 9:3-6

3 As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven.

4 Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"

5 And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads."

6 So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" NKJV

His dynamic encounter with Jesus. "Damascus Road experience." Not every ones experience is so dramatic.

It was a personal encounter. It was experiential in nature. Paul's eyes were opened, his life was transformed. He began to exhibit a new nature.

HE RECOGNIZED THAT JESUS WAS "LORD"

Paul "Surrendered" to Christ's Lordship. Romans 10:9

9 For if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. NLT

The Bible does not merely say that we are to accept Christ as our Saviour in order to be saved. It specifically says that we must confess Him as our LORD. Further we are to then live under His Lordship. God's true work of salvation can be worked out over many years as long as we are truly submitted to His Lordship.

Philippians 2:12-13

12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;

13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure. NKJV

WHAT MUST WE PRESS TOWARDS?

A Brand New Day. *Revelation 21:5 Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful." NKJV*

God has prepared a brand new day (eternity) for His beloved, and for all humanity who will truly surrender to His Will.

An Unshakable Kingdom - Hebrews 12:28

28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. NKJV

Recognizing that Jesus is King is the first, indispensable step towards true Kingdom living. A complete surrender of oneself to the King is absolutely necessary. Then beginning to live a Kingdom life is essential.

ONE NEW MAN WHO IS NEITHER JEW NOR GENTILE

Ephesians 2:15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, NKJV

This passage, a letter originally written to Gentiles and former heathens, tells us that all are to worship the Living God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, The King of the Universe, the God Who became flesh and walked among us.

The One New Man will help the Church understand and appreciate its Jewish Roots, and finally recognize that Y'shua (Jesus) was born Jewish, that He grew up Jewish, and that He is the same today as He was then. (Hebrews 13:8) Readers will understand that the Scriptures Y'shua, and every New Testament author, embraced (irreverently called Old Testament by the Church) are alive and relevant for believers today. As a proof of God's perfect plan for His perfect Word, readers will discover that Matthew flows, as if a continuous stream, out of the book of Chronicles. Only God could have done this!

Israel's New Day

Isaiah 42:16 I will lead blind Israel down a new path, guiding them along an unfamiliar way. I will make the darkness bright before them and smooth out the road ahead of them. NLT

This verse dramatically describes the glorious new pathway along which God will guide His ancient people Israel. It will be a transformation beyond what words can portray. Israel and the whole world will rejoice to see what Yahweh will accomplish for Israel.

Israel's Inheritance Isaiah 62:11-12

11 The LORD has sent this message to every land: "Tell the people of Israel, 'Look, your Savior is coming. See, he brings his reward with him as he comes.'

12 They will be called the Holy People and the People Redeemed by the LORD. And Jerusalem will be known as the Desirable Place and the City No Longer Forsaken. NLT

EVERY NATION WILL SOON HEAR THIS MESSAGE

Tell the people of Israel, Look your Savior is coming
He will bring His good reward with Him
Israel will be called the redeemed people
Israel will be call the Holy people. Jerusalem will be called the desirable place the city no longer forsaken.

The true re-birth of Israel will transpire. The nation that came into being in 1948, was not the one that Isaiah predicted. The true re-birth will happen as predicted in Zechariah 12:10 etc. God has made so many wonderful promises concerning Israel in the last days. What a thrill it will be for those who see them come to pass.

Isaiah 66:7 "Before the birth pains even begin, Jerusalem gives birth to a son.

8 Who has ever seen or heard of anything as strange as this? Has a nation ever been born in a single day? Has a country ever come forth in a mere moment? But by the time Jerusalem's birth pains begin, the baby will be born; the nation will come forth.

9 Would I ever bring this nation to the point of birth and then not deliver it?" asks the LORD. "No! I would never keep this nation from being born," says your God.

10 *"Rejoice with Jerusalem! Be glad with her, all you who love her and mourn for her.*

11 *Delight in Jerusalem! Drink deeply of her glory even as an infant drinks at its mother's generous breasts.*

12 *Peace and prosperity will overflow Jerusalem like a river," says the LORD. "The wealth of the nations will flow to her. Her children will be nursed at her breasts, carried in her arms, and treated with love.*

13 ***I will comfort you there as a child is comforted by its mother."***

14 ***When you see these things, your heart will rejoice. Vigorous health will be yours! Everyone will see the good hand of the LORD on his people and his anger against his enemies.***

Isaiah 66:22 "As surely as my new heavens and earth will remain, so will you always be my people, with a name that will never disappear," says the LORD. (This counteracts Psalm 83:4).

23 ***"All humanity will come to worship me from week to week and from month to month. NLT***

Zephaniah 3:14-20

14 *Sing, O daughter of Zion; shout aloud, O Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem!*

15 *For the LORD will remove his hand of judgment and will disperse the armies of your enemy. And the LORD himself, the King of Israel, will live among you! At last your troubles will be over, and you will fear disaster no more.*

16 *On that day the announcement to Jerusalem will be, "Cheer up, Zion! Don't be afraid!*

17 *For the LORD your God has arrived to live among you. He is a mighty savior. He will rejoice over you with great gladness. With his love, he will calm all your fears. He will exult over you by singing a happy song."*

18 *"I will gather you who mourn for the appointed festivals; you will be disgraced no more.*

19 *And I will deal severely with all who have oppressed you. I will save the weak and helpless ones; I will bring together those who were chased away. I will give glory and renown to my former exiles, who have been mocked and shamed.*

20 *On that day I will gather you together and bring you home again. I will give you a good name, a name of distinction among all the nations of the earth. They will praise you as I restore your fortunes before their very eyes. I, the LORD, have spoken!" NLT*

There is a very real and glorious future for Israel. The OT points to a Messianic kingdom (Isaiah 9:6-7, Micah 4:1; Isaiah 2:2-3, 11:6-9) and temple on Mount Zion (Ezekiel 40:48; Isaiah 2:2; Haggai 2:7-9; Zechariah 6:12-13; Joel 3:18).

God made unconditional promises in the Abrahamic covenant (Genesis 13:14-17) that have never been fulfilled at any time in history. Paul makes clear that Israel did not make void the Abrahamic (Galatians 3:17).

Galatians 3:17-18

17 And this I say, that the law, which was four hundred and thirty years later, cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed before by God in Christ, that it should make the promise of no effect.

18 For if the inheritance is of the law, it is no longer of promise; but God gave it to Abraham by promise. NKJV

In a similar fashion, the Davidic covenant (2 Samuel 7:11-16; cf. 1 Chronicles 17) expanded God's blessings to Israel and was irrevocable, stating that "your throne will be established forever." The New Covenant states explicitly that God will make it with "the house of Israel" (Jeremiah. 31:31-33).

In Acts 1:6 just before the ascension the disciples ask Jesus, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" Did Jesus say, "Sorry, Israel has forfeited her role?" No, instead he says "It is not for you to know times or seasons" This infers a future time when God will restore the Kingdom to Israel.

In Luke 22:30, Jesus makes clear that national Israel will not only be present in the future kingdom but that they will still retain tribal identity. Also, the 144,000 are chosen from the 12 tribes (Revelation 7:4). The church does not have tribes. If the church has replaced national Israel as "spiritual Israel" this is incoherent. In Romans 9-11, Paul's purpose was to explain Israel's future. The gentile church is clearly described as "grafted into" not replacing Israel. God could not have been any clearer than their election being "irrevocable" (Romans 11:28-29).

It would seem reasonable in the light of the prophetic Scriptures that we have noted concerning God's revelation of himself to the nations through the judgment and restoration of Israel to believe that he has not completed that revelation through the realities of history and that he yet intends to display his redemptive power overtly in the restoration of his people as a people.

In Isaiah 19:16-24 we read that Egypt will be attacked in the Day of the Lord and the result will be that Egypt will repent and convert to the worship of Yahweh. This is yet to occur. Clearly, Israel has a future in the spiritual leadership of the world (Zechariah 8:23; cf. Zechariah 14).

Israel's literal national restoration is not portrayed any more explicitly than in Amos 9:11-15. Verses 11-12 speak of the political revival under the Davidic Messiah (cf. Ezekiel 34). This is the fulfillment of the Davidic covenant and of the angel Gabriel's promise to Mary that Jesus would sit on David's throne – forever – which did not even exist during the first advent (Luke 1:32-33). Verses 13-15 turn to the restoration of the fertility of the land and the return of the people. While this passage was a message of hope for the exiles, it is necessarily a case of the “already but not yet” paradigm at work in prophecy. God states categorically that they will return to “never again be uprooted” (v.15). While they were uprooted again in A.D. 70 by the Romans, Isaiah foretold:

In that day the Lord will reach out his hand a second time to reclaim the remnant that is left of his people from Assyria, from Lower Egypt, from Upper Egypt, from Cush, from Elam, from Babylonia, from Hamath and from the islands of the sea. (Isaiah 11:11)

We live in a time of active prophetic fulfillment because this began in 1948, when national Israel was reestablished and Jews returned from far and wide to the land. This is ongoing and is reflected in the present day turmoil in the Middle East over Jerusalem (Zechariah 12:2-3).

Israel's glorious future is not captured any more beautifully than in Isaiah. This is revealed in poetry like “Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you” (Isaiah 60:1) and underneath the text within its form. The church is the figurative “already” part of the kingdom, but the messianic age still awaits its literal fulfillment. Although much still anticipates future fulfillment, God's light has reached the world through the gospel and many nations have come to Jerusalem in response. Jesus' message has gone out to all the world as the church evangelizes the nations. Still yet, verses Isaiah 60:19-22 clearly forecast the Eden like New Jerusalem in Revelation 21:23.

“The sun shall be no more your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give you light; but the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory. Your sun shall no more go down, nor your moon withdraw itself; for the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your days of mourning shall be ended. Your people shall all be righteous; they shall possess the land forever, the branch of my planting, the work of my

hands, that I might be glorified. The least one shall become a clan, and the smallest one a mighty nation; I am the Lord; in its time I will hasten it.”

HOW TO PRAY

1. Understand that Israel will become the world’s first line of successful defence against it becoming a Shariah Caliphate.
2. Pray for Benjamin Netanyahu and his cabinet for Divine wisdom.
3. Pray for the whole nation of Israel for deliverance and safety. Pray for all members of the IDF.
4. Pray that the attack will be minimized in regard to loss of lives.
5. Pray for the victory envisaged in Psalm 83 and Zechariah 12.
6. Pray for the ultimate spiritual restoration of Israel. (Zech 12:10 – 13:1)
7. Pray for millions of Muslim conversions to Messiah.

QUESTIONS:

1. How applicable is Psalm 83 and Zechariah 12 to the situation we face at this present time?
2. What are the real powers behind the threatened attack on Israel?
3. Should the Church become involved in this situation? Why? How?
4. How can Christians be part of the situation?
5. How can we be a valid part of Israel’s defense and victory?
6. What can we do in addition to praying for Israel?
7. Can we be assured of Israel’s and Christianity’s triumph?