



Israel Wins Astonishing Victory Through Supernatural Intervention!

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Tomorrow's News Headlines

In the very near future the morning news around the world will open with sensational reports about what is happening in Israel. This will create shock and awe in all nations. The media will report that a war that had been simmering in the Middle East for several years, had finally been ignited. The report would conclude with news of an astounding victory achieved by Israel in the face of apparently overwhelming odds.

Headline news in all forms of international media will soon carry the story - **"Israel Wins Astonishing Victory Through Supernatural Intervention!"** The accompanying articles will retell the amazing prophetic fulfilment of a war originally foretold in Psalm 83 and Zechariah 12.

CHRISTIAN COMMENTATORS

In my research of Zechariah 12, I have read dozens of Christian commentaries. To this moment I am yet to read one that brings out a sensible conclusion. Most of them completely fail to regard the very clear Last Days connection.

Zechariah 12:10 is one of the most remarkable verses in the Bible which is virtually ignored or misinterpreted by most Christian commentators. Obviously it is The LORD (Yahweh) who is speaking and He says, "They shall look on ME whom they have pierced." This clearly suggests that Yeshua, the pierced One, is actually God manifested in the flesh. The amazing truth that God was actually pierced and wounded is supported in the New Testament (John 19:34, 37. Revelation 1:7).

2 Corinthians 5:19

19 For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. This is the wonderful message he has given us to tell others.NLT

John 14:20

20 At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. NKJV

What these scriptures tell us is that since God is in Christ and Christ is in God, it was actually God who was pierced at Calvary.

John 19:37 and "They will look on him whom they pierced." NLT

Most Christian commentators have suggested that this verse in John 19:37 is

the fulfilment of Zechariah 12:10. In suggesting this they wilfully ignore the very plain End Time context of the whole chapter. Another Christian commentator suggests that the Commander in chief of the Israeli army has been fatally pierced in battle, plunging the nation into grief and mourning.

Barry Webb, writing in a commentary on the book of Zechariah published by the reputable Inter Varsity Press, says: “In general the picture that unfolds here is of a victorious army suddenly plunged into grief by the realization that its supreme commander has been slain in the battle and (worst of all) that his own followers have been responsible for his death.” He further comments: “Which brings us to the key issue of this passage, and arguably of the whole book (of Zechariah) Who is the pierced one of verse 10?” The commentary continues;

“The ‘pierced one’ is none other than God himself for it is he who expressly says so: *they will look upon me, the one they have pierced.*”

“It is not a mere wounding, but a death blow; a piercing to the heart. But even that is not the worst of it. The deepest pain is caused by the knowledge of who has done it. It is not the enemy who pierces God in this battle, but His own people, just as the son of (Zechariah 13:3) is stabbed by his own men. This act must surely spell the end of Israel’s covenant relationship with God! What else could possibly follow?” (19 Sep 2003 – Part of a series: (The Bible Speaks Today Old Testament). The Message of **Zechariah**. Your kingdom come. **Barry Webb ...**

Numerous other commentators make similar observations without any apparent reference to the immediate context of Zechariah 12:10, which obviously ascribes the prophecy of Zechariah to the last days and not the first advent of Jesus. These commentators assume that the prophecy was fulfilled at Calvary when those who crucified Jesus “looked on Him whom they had pierced.” However, the reference in Zechariah obviously refers to a future prophetic occasion when after a major attack on Israel and an amazing victorious intervention led by the Messiah, Israel will then gaze on Him who once was crucified as the Lamb of God now returns as the deliverer from Zion.

Many churchmen throughout the centuries, through the introduction of human and often pagan religious traditions, have successfully separated the Church from its original Hebraic roots. However, God has determined to rectify this error by re-grafting Israel’s branches back on to their own tree. (Romans 11:23) Christians should remember that from Israel has come every blessing and privilege that we Christians enjoy (John 4:22).

How blind can such commentators be to completely ignore the clear and copious eschatological context of the verse and deliver a verdict that is plainly at odds with the context. It would seem that any explanation, no matter how feeble, is better than the plainly stated one that the Messiah, who once was pierced, has returned again to Israel as their nation's deliverer to confront them with the undeniable proof that He is their long awaited Jewish Messiah.

The war in Gaza which broke out in December 2008 will explode again until finally it will be launched in such a fashion that with Iranian support it will threaten the total destruction of Israel as a Jewish nation and the annihilation of all Jews and Christians in the land. It will be waged with the threat of various weapons of mass destruction. Although the attack will be launched by "all the **nearby** nations" (Zechariah 12:2) it will be politically, financially and morally supported by many other nations also, who supply weapons and technical intelligence. This war will precede by some years the war of Ezekiel 38 and 39 which will be waged some years after a peace treaty with Israel has given them a period of peace and prosperity.

Some 2,500 years ago the prophet Zechariah predicted that in the Last Days all the nations surrounding Jerusalem would launch a fierce attack upon Israel and Jerusalem. These nations would be complicit in one purpose, - the complete elimination of the State of Israel. However the prophet saw that instead of them eliminating Israel, God the God of Israel would destroy and eliminate them. He would also preserve Israel and the citizens of Jerusalem. The prediction in Zechariah is all the more remarkable when we realize that it was pronounced approximately 2,500 years ago.

The twelfth chapter of Zechariah is amongst the most important chapters in the whole Bible. It is a chapter of prophetic predictions that will usher Israel into the most exciting and fulfilling days of her entire history. It will introduce Israel into the fullest expression of her predicted role as a holy nation and a kingdom of priests. Israel will inherit her predicted function as a Messianic nation that will proclaim The Kingdom reign of God over all nations.

THE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS IN THIS CHAPTER ARE AS FOLLOWS

1. An attack upon Israel by all her surrounding neighbours.
2. The conclusive supernatural defeat inflicted by God upon Israel's anti God enemies. (Vs 2-9)
3. God's miraculous defence of Israel and Jerusalem.
3. The confidence that Israel's leaders will express. *Zechariah 12:5 Then the leaders (Alluphim) of Judah will think to themselves, 'The people who live in Jerusalem are strong because of the LORD of Armies, their God.'*

4. The conclusive victory of God's army over the armies of Islam.
5. The submission of many Muslims to the graphically demonstrated superiority of Jehovah. The massive defeat will rock the foundations of Islam. Millions of Muslims will recognise and receive Yeshua HaMashiach.
6. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon Israel and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. (V 10)
7. The prayers, mourning and repentance of Israel regarding their deliverer the Messiah and their submission to Him.
8. The Messianic transformation of Israel.
9. The manifestation of the One New Man.
10. A tremendous worldwide harvest of souls into the Kingdom (Joel 2:26-28).

Zechariah 12 begins with a reference to the God of creation. This seems very appropriate because it tells the story about transforming Israel into a new creation nation which will be an intrinsic and essential part of God's plan to ultimately bring renewal to the whole earth.

A WORD FROM THE LORD

Zechariah 12:1-2

1. The burden¹ of the word² 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

¹*Burden: H 4853, massa, portorage i.e. to carry a heavy burden. - An utterance or prophecy.*

²*Word: H1697, dabar, a matter spoken of.*

Zechariah emphasizes the fact that God is the unique creator of the heavens, earth and all mankind. He is the one true and living God, creator and ruler of the universe. He is the omnipotent God for whom nothing is impossible and He will come to the aid of Israel when all hope of survival seems to have disappeared. In this capacity He is well able to undertake the tremendous task of defending and transforming Israel. Isaiah also speaks of the creative omnipotence of God, emphasising His ability to accomplish anything and everything.

Isaiah 42:5

5 Thus says God the LORD, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread forth the earth and that which comes from it, Who gives breath to the people on it, and spirit to those who walk on it: NKJV

Although the initiative for this battle appears to come from the attacking armies, it actually comes from God Himself who draws them into a confrontation in order to judge them for their sins against His people Israel.

Joel 3:2

2 I will also gather all nations, And bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; And I will enter into judgment with them there On account of My people, My heritage Israel, Whom they have scattered among the nations; They have also divided up My land. NKJV

The whole scenario which follows reveals the sovereignty of God as He vents His anger and judgment for recurrent historic mistreatment of His people and also for their final attempt to divide the land that He has promised them. All the nations that are part of the plot to divide the Promised Land will suffer some measure of judgment but those that actually launch this attack will suffer the most.

Zechariah 12:2

2 Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling³ unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem. KJV

(³Trembling: H7478 raal, staggering or reeling from intoxication).

God will give the enemies of Israel an intoxicating cup that will cause fearful trembling. The attacking armies will begin to behave irrationally like a drunken mob. Their clarity of purpose and coordination will suffer grievously. God will also sow madness (insanity) and confusion through the ranks of Israel's enemies. In the Bible such a cup in the hands of God usually speaks of a cup of judgment and obviously such is the case in this chapter. God will force the enemies of Israel to drink from His intoxicating cup of judgment.

Zechariah 12:3 On that day I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone, a burden for the world. None of the nations who try to lift it will escape unscathed.

The heavy stone will rupture everyone who tries to move it. The picture is of a human being endeavouring to move a mighty immovable rock or boulder much larger than oneself and succeeding only in rupturing themselves.

The phrase "On that day" which is used consistently in this chapter is often called "The Day of the Lord" and suggests a particular time frame in the last days. E.g. the Day of the Lord is, - "A special day at the end of time when God's will and purpose for mankind and His world will be fulfilled". Many

Bible students believe the Day of the Lord will be a long period of time rather than a single day, a period when Christ will reign throughout the world before He cleanses heaven and earth in preparation for the eternal state of all mankind. But others believe the Day of the Lord will be an instantaneous event when Christ will return to earth to claim His faithful believers while consigning unbelievers to eternal damnation". (from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary, Copyright © 1986, Thomas Nelson Publishers).

ISAIAH HAS MUCH TO SAY ABOUT "THAT DAY"

That Day is a euphemistic term for the period at the close of this age. It is referred to by several different names and is rather loose in its interpretation. It is often called The day of Messiah by Jewish people. It is a special period at the end of time when God's will and purpose for mankind and His world will be fulfilled. The phrase appears 17 times in Zechariah 12-14, giving consistency and connection to all the events therein. The reference connects all the events of these chapters towards the crescendo and finale of the book.

Zechariah 14:20-21 In that day "HOLINESS TO THE LORD" shall be engraved on the bells of the horses. The pots in the LORD's house shall be like the bowls before the altar.

21 Yes, every pot in Jerusalem and Judah shall be holiness to the LORD of hosts. NKJV

Isaiah too makes frequent reference to the phrase "in that day" including a pertinent reference in a Messianic prophecy,

Isaiah 4:2. In that day the Branch of the LORD shall be beautiful and glorious; And the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and appealing For those of Israel who have escaped. NKJV

God will sow fear, panic confusion and blindness into the ranks of Israel's enemies. They will utterly lose their nerve and any confidence they previously had, leaving them completely vulnerable to Israel.

Zechariah 12:4

4 In that day, saith the LORD, I will smite⁵ every horse with astonishment⁶, and his rider with madness⁷: and I will open⁸ mine eyes⁹ upon the house of Judah, and will smite every horse of the people with blindness. KJV

⁵Smite: H5221, nakah, to punish, slaughter or slay.

⁶Astonishment: H8541, extreme consternation and astonishment.

⁷Madness: H7697, shiggaon, craziness.

⁸Open: paqash H6491 to closely observe

⁹Eyes: H5869, ayin, to view with favor.

The curse with which God threatened His people if they disobeyed Him, will rebound upon His enemies.

Joel 3:4-5

4 "What do you have against me, Tyre and Sidon and you cities of Philistia? Are you trying to take revenge on me? If you are, then watch out! I will strike swiftly and pay you back for everything you have done.

The governors and citizens of Israel will confess that Jehovah Sabaoth is their living God and that their true strength is in Him. By the power of God the leaders of Israel in that day will come to trust and rely upon the Lord Almighty. This title is a military name that means the "Lord of Armies". It confirms the fact that God is going to assume a real military role in behalf of Israel at this time.

Zechariah 12:5 And the governors¹⁰ of Judah shall say in their heart, 'The inhabitants of Jerusalem are my strength¹¹ in the LORD of hosts¹², their God.' NKJV

¹⁰Governors: H441, aluphim from H502, Generals or governors.

¹¹Strength: amtsaw H556, from H553, significant force or strength.

¹²Hosts: H6635, sabaath, from H6633, a mass of persons assembled for war at the appointed time.

The clans (Tribes) of Israel will become like a prairie fire in a forest of dry timber or a torch thrown amongst dry sheaves of wheat. Israel's counter attack against their invaders will be like an immense explosion of a fiery tempest destroying all the attacking enemy armies.

Zechariah 12:6

6 In that day will I make the governors of Judah like an hearth¹³ of fire¹⁴ among the wood, and like a torch¹⁵ of fire in a sheaf; and they shall devour¹⁶ all the people round about, on the right hand and on the left: and Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place, even in Jerusalem.KJV

¹³Hearth: H3595, kiyor kiyor, a vessel filled with burning coals.

¹⁴Fire: H784 aysh, burning, fiery, flaming hot

¹⁵Torch: H3940, lappiyd lappid, a fiery, flaming torch.

¹⁶Devour: H398, akal, to burn up and consume.

Zechariah 12:7

7 The LORD also shall save the tents of Judah first, that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem do not magnify themselves against Judah. KJV

¹⁷ *Save: H3467, yasha, same derivation as Yesha and Yeshua.*

¹⁸ *Tents: H168, ohel, dwelling place.*

¹⁹ *Glory: H8597, tiparah tippereh, Beauty, comeliness, bravery, honor, majesty.*

The nation of Israel will receive deliverance first before Jerusalem. The attack will evidently be initiated in the territory outside of Jerusalem.

Zechariah 12:8 On that day the LORD will defend the people of Jerusalem; the weakest among them will be as mighty as King David! And the royal descendants will be like God, like the angel of the LORD who goes before them!

The word translated weakest or feeblest is *kashal* which suggests "one that totters or wavers through inadequate strength particularly in the lower legs". This can refer to tiny infants or elderly persons. He further emphasizes that the "Angel of the Lord" i.e. the Messiah will actually lead them into battle. In typical Israeli Defence Force fashion, He will go before His troops as the supreme commander. He will be wholly responsible for their amazing strategy.

The Angel of the Lord mentioned in verse 8 is none other than the Messiah. This code name "*Angel of the Lord*" is used numerous times in the First Testament for visible appearances and physical manifestations of God.

The Angel Of The Lord is a mysterious messenger of God, sometimes described as the Lord Himself (Genesis 16:10-13; Exodus 3:2-6; 23:20; Judges 6:11-18), but at other times as one sent by God. The Lord used this messenger to appear to human beings who otherwise would not be able to see Him and live (Exodus 33:20).

In Joshua 5:13-14 He is called the "Commander of the Army of Jehovah".

Joshua 5:13 And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, "Are You for us or for our adversaries?"

14 So He said, "No, but as Commander of the army of the LORD I have now come." NKJV

Zechariah 12:8 tells us that Messiah (Angel of the Lord) was the one who went before them into battle and won for them a tremendous, supernatural victory. When that battle is concluded, the people of Israel look around in astonishment to discover how that victory was achieved and by whom.

Zechariah 12:8

8 In that day the LORD will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; the one who is feeble²⁰ among them in that day shall be like David, and the house of David shall be like God, like the Angel²¹ of the LORD before them. NKJV

²⁰ *Feeble: H3782 kashal, to totter, stumble, fall due to weakness in the legs. Typical of tiny tots or senior citizens.*

²¹ *Angel: H4397, malak, messenger of God, ambassador, king.*

In the aftermath of this amazing battle, when the tide is suddenly and supernaturally turned in Israel's favour, a bewildered Israel will look around to see who has achieved this supernatural victory on their behalf. It is then that they will suddenly recognise their deliverer as Yeshua HaMashiach whose hands were pierced through crucifixion and they will mourn over Him in great bitterness of soul.

Zechariah 12:10-11

10 "Then I will pour out a spirit of grace and prayer on the family of David and on all the people of Jerusalem. They will look²⁷ on me whom they have pierced and mourn²⁸ for him as for an only son. They will grieve bitterly²⁹ for him as for a firstborn son³⁰ who has died. NLT

They shall look²⁷ (Hebrew: nabat H5027 to look intently upon, to behold, consider with respect, to regard with pleasure and favor).

²⁸ *Mourning (Hebrew: saphad H5594, to tear out one's hair, to beat the chest, to lament in grief).*

²⁹ *Bitterness (Hebrew: marar H4843, to grieve bitterly).*

³⁰ *Firstborn son (Hebrew: b kor H1060, A firstborn, eldest son).*

This appearance of the Messiah is NOT the Rapture nor the "Second Coming." Rather it is a unique intimate private appearance of the Messiah to Israel at which time their national spiritual blindness will be sovereignly healed. They will finally recognise that Yeshua is their promised Messiah who is actually God who clothed Himself in the likeness of human flesh to redeem mankind. This event will usher in a period of Messianic recognition by Israel that will

accompany the period of peace and expansion which is the result of the victory of Psalm 83:15-17, Zechariah 12:9.

As in the days of Cyrus, when God raised him up for Israel's sake, so God will send a Saviour in the person of the Angel of the Lord who is actually Yeshua HaMaschiach the Messiah of Israel. It is interesting to note that in the Bible God refers to both Messiah and Israel as "His servant." (Isaiah 41:8,9; Isaiah 42:1).

Immediately following this great victory God will pour out His Spirit (the Ruach Ha Kodesh) on Israel and Jerusalem. The grace of God will provoke prayers of repentance that will bring the nation into a new living relationship with God. The living relationship of their forefathers whom God brought forth from Egypt will be resurrected and will explode into a spiritually renewed and completely restored people.

What makes the time element of this scenario so imminently threatening is that Iran, who is presently fighting this war by proxy, will have soon produced enough enriched uranium to manufacture a nuclear arsenal. Of course Iran claims that her nuclear program is only for electrical energy. However, Iran already has the missiles to deliver nuclear warheads. Hundreds of Russian scientists in Iran are helping to develop long range missiles.

Zechariah 12:9 For my plan is to destroy³¹ all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

31 destroy, H 8045, *shamad*, overthrow, bring to nought, pucker down, cause to perish. It does not mean to totally annihilate.

God has determined to destroy all the nations that align themselves against Jerusalem whether in person or by proxy. Initially for the immediately surrounding nations, this will mean resounding defeat but those nations that do not physically enjoin the battle but give political and philosophical support to that strategy will suffer judgment too.

Zechariah 12:10

10 And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.KJV

The Hebrew word for grace is *chen* which signifies kindness, graciousness and goodness. The word for prayer or supplications is *takanun takanunah* (plural) meaning earnest prayers and strong entreaties. It is **the ruach** (Spirit) of grace

and supplication that makes possible Israel's repentance and forgiveness.

To look upon, (H5027 *nabat*) to look intently, to regard with pleasure, favour, care, to highly respect

Zechariah 12:10 is also a remarkable verse in that it says that God's grace will be poured out on the family of David and on all the inhabitants of Jerusalem. The grace of God is a complete contrast to the Law of God. God's ultimate purpose is to have a people who live in a balanced position between Law and Grace. The population of Jerusalem is presently comprised of Jews, Christians and Muslims therefore this indicates that God's grace and supplications will be poured out upon each of these population groups.

All Israel will suddenly recognize their Deliverer as their promised Messiah and grieve bitterly, recognizing Him as the firstborn Son of God. In doing so Israel will recognize and acknowledge His deity, His redeeming death and resurrection. This revelation will transform the nation of Israel into a people from every tribe of Israel who recognize that the Messiah is actually God. This whole experience of amazing miraculous deliverance from their enemies through the intervention of Messiah Yeshua and the subsequent pouring out upon them of God's Spirit in grace and supplications will transform them into a powerful body of Messianic witnesses.

Zechariah 12:8 tells us that the person they look upon was the one who went before them into battle and won for them a tremendous, supernatural victory. When that battle is concluded, the people of Israel look around in astonishment to discover how that victory was achieved and by whom. Their eyes will look on the Messiah who was once pierced and they will recognize Him as the promised Messiah of Israel (Isaiah 53).

I believe that a scene in Genesis was a prophetic picture of this end time event. I am referring to the time when Joseph revealed himself to his brothers. Initially Joseph's brothers did not recognize who he was, but he always knew who they were. So it has been for Israel throughout history. They have not recognized the true identity of Jesus but He has always recognized them as His brethren after the flesh.

Genesis 42:8

8 So Joseph recognized his brothers, but they did not recognize him. NKJV

Genesis 45:1-7

Joseph could stand it no longer. "Out, all of you!" he cried out to his attendants. He wanted to be alone with his brothers when he told them who he was.

2 Then he broke down and wept aloud. His sobs could be heard throughout the palace, and the news was quickly carried to Pharaoh's palace.

3 "I am Joseph!" he said to his brothers. "Is my father still alive?" But his brothers were speechless! They were stunned to realize that Joseph was standing there in front of them.

4 "Come over here," he said. So they came closer. And he said again, "I am Joseph, your brother whom you sold into Egypt.

5 But don't be angry with yourselves that you did this to me, for God did it. He sent me here ahead of you to preserve your lives.

6 These two years of famine will grow to seven, during which there will be neither plowing nor harvest.

7 God has sent me here to keep you and your families alive so that you will become a great nation. NLT

THE MESSIAH UNVEILED

This scene prophetically portrays a closed intimate meeting between Messiah and His immediate family. All Egyptians, (Gentiles) were excluded from the room. The Israelites will immediately recognize exactly who their deliverer is by the scars in His hands, they will recognize Him "whom they pierced."

Notice in verse 2 that the news of Joseph's unveiling before his brethren was "quickly carried to Pharaoh's palace." So also when Messiah reveals His true identity to Israel, the news will quickly go around the world. The whole nation began to grieve and mourn for Him in a typically and traditionally Hebraic manner and they will be transformed by the revelation. I personally believe that this leads on to the formation of the **ONE NEW MAN** of whom Paul spoke (Eph 2:15) as Gentile believers take a positive stand together with their Messianic co-heirs. Their combined witness will be further augmented by a multitude of the former sons of Ishmael and people from every tribe, tongue and nation. (Revelation 7:4 –8, -144,000 Messianic Jews plus an innumerable company Revelation 7:10-12).

THE LAND THAT GOD PROMISED TO ABRAHAM'S DESCENDANTS

Israel's promised boundaries, which include the Golan Heights, Gaza and the West Bank, were anciently foretold in scripture (Gen. 15:18-21; Micah 7:14; Zephaniah. 2:7; Zechariah 10:9-10).

Genesis 15:18 Then and there the LORD made a covenant with Abram. He said, "I promise to give your descendants all this land from the border of Egypt to the Euphrates River,

15:19 including the lands of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites,

15:20 the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim,

15:21 the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites."
(GNB)

The territories that God mentions here include the very areas that are presently occupied by Israel's former and now present enemies as enumerated in Psalm 83. They are territories that God will cause Israel to inherit once again when He acts as a shepherd to His people.

Micah 7:14 Be a shepherd to your people, LORD, the people you have chosen. Although they live apart in the wilderness, there is fertile land around them. Let them go and feed in the rich pastures of Bashan and Gilead, as they did long ago. Isaiah reiterates God's threats against the pagan religions and their devotees,

FALSE GODS DIMINISHED

Isaiah 46:1-4

1 The idols of Babylon, Bel and Nebo, are being hauled away on ox carts. But look! The beasts are staggering under the weight!

2 Both the idols and the ones carrying them are bowed down. The gods cannot protect the people, and the people cannot protect the gods. They go off into captivity together.

3 "Listen to me, all you who are left in Israel. I created you and have cared for you since before you were born.

4 I will be your God throughout your lifetime — until your hair is white with age. I made you, and I will care for you. I will carry you along and save you.
NLT

In the wake of this astonishing victory which God will inflict on the enemies of Israel, the gods of the earth will be shown to be false. Their apparent power will be reduced to nothing, their devotees and followers completely disillusioned. Their influence on millions of devotees will be eliminated and huge numbers of them will acknowledge Jehovah and His Son Yeshua.

The Hebrew prophets Jeremiah and Zephaniah declared approximately 2600 years ago, that their God would someday destroy "all the gods of the earth." Perched atop a lofty god-list inclusive of Satan, Shiva, Vishnu, and hundreds of other imposters sits Allah. In essence we will discover how Allah surrenders his Akbar (i.e.- greatness).

Zephaniah 2:10-11

10 This they shall have for their pride, Because they have reproached and made arrogant threats against the people of the LORD of hosts.

11 The LORD will be awesome to them, For He will reduce to nothing all

the gods of the earth; People shall worship Him, (God) Each one from his place, Indeed all the shores of the nations. NKJV

Jeremiah 10:10-12

10 But the LORD (God) is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King. At His wrath the earth will tremble, and the nations will not be able to endure His indignation.

11 Thus you shall say to them:" The gods that have not made the heavens and the earth shall perish from the earth and from under these heavens."

12 He has made the earth by His power, He has established the world by His wisdom, and has stretched out the heavens at His discretion. NKJV

The point the prophet makes is that his God, is far greater than the Arab god Allah and all other false gods. In ancient times a god was said to bless his worshippers in battle, and (*akbar*) or “greatness” was awarded to the god of the victor. The gods of Zephaniah’s prophecy were Chemosh and Milcom. These gods, along with numerous others, were abandoned prior to, or forfeited later, in favour of Allah. By the time the 7th century AD rolled around, Allah presided as the undisputed god of these Psalm 83 Arab populations. Hence, in accordance with historical Hebrew precedence comes the understanding that in bitter defeat Allah will have failed to deliver his *akbar* to the Arabs.

A TRULY REMARKABLE SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 45:15-19

15 Truly, O God of Israel, our Saviour, you work in strange and mysterious ways.

16 All who make idols will be humiliated and disgraced.

17 But the LORD will save the people of Israel with eternal salvation. They will never again be humiliated and disgraced throughout everlasting ages.

18 For the LORD is God, and he created the heavens and earth and put everything in place. He made the world to be lived in, not to be a place of empty chaos. "I am the LORD," he says, "and there is no other.

19 I publicly proclaim bold promises. I do not whisper obscurities in some dark corner so no one can understand what I mean. And I did not tell the people of Israel to ask me for something I did not plan to give. I, the LORD, speak only what is true and right. NLT

Having dispensed His judgment on Israel’s neighbouring enemies decisively defeating and humiliating them, God now offers amnesty and peace to those same nations. He defeats their leaders and their armies but offers peace to their citizens.

Isaiah 45:20-25

20 "Gather together and come, you fugitives from surrounding nations. What fools they are who carry around their wooden idols and pray to gods that cannot save!

21 Consult together, argue your case, and state your proofs that idol worship pays. Who made these things known long ago? What idol ever told you they would happen? Was it not I, the LORD? For there is no other God but me — a just God and a Savior — no, not one!

22 Let all the world look to me for salvation! For I am God; there is no other.

23 I have sworn by my own name, and I will never go back on my word: Every knee will bow to me, and every tongue will confess allegiance to my name."

24 The people will declare, "The LORD (Jehovah) is the source of all my righteousness and strength." And all who were angry with him will come to him and be ashamed.

25 In the LORD all the generations of Israel will be justified, and in him they will boast. NLT

(The looming war against Israel will publicly demonstrate that Jehovah God is the **ONE true Creator/Ruler of the Universe**).

The Israeli-Arab conflict will ultimately culminate in an amazing victory for Israel. The prayer of Psalm 83 will be answered by the Lord. Israel will take back any land previously surrendered including Gaza. Additionally, she will acquire parts of Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan. Isaiah 11:14; Zephaniah 2:3-10; Zechariah 10:10.

Obadiah 19-20

18 The house of Jacob shall be a fire, and the house of Joseph a flame; But the house of Esau shall be stubble; They shall kindle them and devour them, and no survivor shall remain of the house of Esau," For the LORD has spoken.

19 The South shall possess the mountains of Esau, and the Lowland shall possess Philistia. They shall possess the fields of Ephraim and the fields of Samaria. Benjamin shall possess Gilead.

20 And the captives of this host of the children of Israel Shall possess the land of the Canaanites as far as Zarephath. The captives of Jerusalem who are in Sepharad shall possess the cities of the South.

21 Then saviours shall come to Mount Zion To judge the mountains of Esau, and the kingdom shall be the LORD's. NKJV

This threat has been building up for many years now, in fact ever since the first few days following the official announcement of modern Israel's Statehood in

1948. Actually the roots of it go back many more centuries before that to the days of Isaac and Ishmael. Finally there will be a temporary cessation of war against Israel and a glorious worldwide harvest of souls will occur.

All Israel and the inhabitants of Jerusalem will acknowledge Yeshua's true Jewish identity and mourn over Him in an authentic Hebraic manner. From this national repentance and recognition of the Messiah will come the new Messianic identity of Israel.

THIS WILL BE FOR ISRAEL AS LIFE FROM THE DEAD

Romans 11:15

15 For if their being cast away is the reconciling of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? NKJV

ISRAEL WILL BE SEALED BY GOD

Revelation 7:2-4

2 Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God. And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea,

3 saying, "Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads."

4 And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed: NKJV

The "Israeli" servants of God will be sealed with a special seal in their foreheads. This may or may not be a seal visible to all. It may be a special consciousness of God in their minds. However they will obviously herald the message of the Kingdom and their Messiah King.

144,000 is not a mathematically precise number but rather a symbolic one. It will represent the completeness of Israel as per 12x12 tribes. Twelve is also the number of divine government. These servants of God will be marked or sealed by Him.

I believe they will minister in cooperation with the innumerable company that John evidently saw some relatively small distance from them. This is a vast Gentile (non Jewish) company so large that it cannot be visually estimated. There will be a sublime unity and cohesion between the two groups as they work together in the same glorious cause.

Revelation 7:9-12

9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands,

10 and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" NKJV

THE HARVEST WILL BE COMPRISED OF:

- A great number that no man could visually estimate.
- From all nations, peoples, tribes and tongues.
- From every religion on earth e.g. Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism etc
- Proclaiming in a loud voice the Salvation of Jehovah
- Their robes were washed white in the Blood of the Lamb.
- They were in willing submission to the rule of Jehovah.
- They were protected from hunger, thirst, and sunstroke forever.
- They were led by the Lamb to living fountains of water.
- This will be the greatest spiritual harvest ever.

A SUGGESTED PROPHETIC TIMELINE:

At the end of this age, which is this present time, there will be a fulfilment of Zechariah 12. Israel will be attacked by all her near neighbours but Jehovah and the Angel of the Lord will intervene through a miraculous deliverance. Immediately following this astounding victory, God will pour His Spirit of grace, intercessions and repentance upon the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. In the aftermath of this battle when Israel look around to see where their deliverance came from they will look upon their Messiah who once was pierced. The nation of Israel will be transformed and enter a period of peace and prosperity that will last until the Gog and Magog war. Into the Tribulation period, Messianic Israel, symbolized by the 144,000, together with the innumerable company, will effectively witness to all the nations on earth.

ISRAEL GRAFTED IN AGAIN (Romans 11:24)

As we have seen in Isaiah 66:8, the new Israel will be born in a day. This indicates an instantaneous birth not a gradual transformation. Isaiah further states that once the process begins, God will not delay delivery or shut up the womb causing a still-birth. Many Christians believe that this scripture refers to 1948 when Israel was recognised through the auspice of the UN as a legitimate nation. However, I personally believe that the time when Israel will truly be "born in a day" will be when the prophecy in Zechariah 12:10 is fulfilled. That moment will occur when Israel finally recognises that the One who was pierced was truly the promised Messiah of Israel. At the same time many Christians

will recognise the Jewish identity of Jesus and become on with Messianic Jews to form the One New Man of whom Paul spoke (Ephesians 2:15). This will then be the company who rule and reign with the Messiah in the earthly Kingdom of God. In this new period of prophetic fulfilment Israel will be exalted in the eyes of all nations on earth. In a world that will be filled with spiritual darkness a brilliant light will shine on Israel illuminating her for all the world to see.

Isaiah 60:1-5

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. NLT Observe:

1. Israel will arise. (Be lifted up and exalted above all nations).
2. The glory of the Lord will shine upon Israel.
3. All nations will be aware of Israel and stand in awe.
4. Darkness will cover all other nations, except Israel
5. All nations will come to Israel's light.
6. Mighty kings will come to see the radiance.
7. Israel's sons and daughters will return to Israel.
8. Israel's eyes will shine, their hearts filled with joy.
9. International merchants will come from around the world. They will bring great wealth from many lands.

Camels from Midian and Ephah will bring gold and incense for worship. *Isaiah 60:6-7 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. NLT

10. God's Temple will be glorious.
11. Messiah's Reign will be eternal.

A BRIEF SUGGESTED TIMELINE:

1. This Zechariah attack will soon be launched. All the nations mentioned in the Bible prophecies, are now eager for this war to begin. They are claiming that a new caliphate will soon be established with Jerusalem as its capital city. The fact is that the Bible foretells this attack in considerable detail, and that the enemies mentioned are obviously eager for it to happen soon, surely indicates that it will soon be launched. The fact that their armies have been equipped with more than sufficient hi tech weapons clearly indicates an impending fulfilment of this prophecy.
2. Israel will win a glorious victory led by the Angel of the Lord. Zechariah predicts that the Angel of the Lord, who is actually the Messiah, will lead the armies of heaven to an amazing victory over all the enemy (Zechariah 12:8-9).
3. God will pour out His Holy Spirit with grace and petitions. This visitation will be purely of God's grace, not necessarily because Israel has specifically deserved it (Zechariah 12:10-11).
4. A period of peace and prosperity will follow for unknown period. I believe the beginning of this period is foretold in Isaiah 60. Israel's territory will be considerably extended and Israel will experience a remarkable time of favour and prosperity that will flow in from many nations including many that were formerly Islamic countries. This period will last and until eventually Gog and Magog will attack Israel to take a "spoil".
5. The Ezekiel attack will be powerfully defeated. The armies that join Gog and Magog will be soundly defeated. Ezekiel 38:17-19

17 "This is what the Sovereign LORD says: You are the one I was talking about long ago, when I announced through Israel's prophets that in future days I would bring you against my people.

18 But when Gog invades the land of Israel, says the Sovereign LORD, my fury will rise!

19 For in my jealousy and blazing anger, I promise a mighty shaking in the land of Israel on that day. NLT

Ezekiel 38:23

23 Thus will I show my greatness and holiness, and I will make myself known to all the nations of the world. Then they will know that I am the LORD! NLT

6. The Tribulation will take place. This period will certainly be an horrific time for the nations under the judgments of God. However, it will also be a time of great harvest as a multitude of people so large that it will be impossible to visually count them, are brought into the Kingdom of God (Revelation 7:9-17).
7. The War of Armageddon may be fought at the conclusion of the Great Tribulation. (Revelation 16:16; 20:1-3,7-10)
8. The Millennium will be a period of 1,000 years of peace. After the thousand years, Satan will be released and will resume his work of deceit (Revelation 20:7-8).
9. The eternal kingdom will be established on earth as heaven comes down to earth (Revelation 21:1-4). It was always God's intention that mankind will live on the earth under His benign rule. The earth will be gloriously renewed and become an ideal and idyllic place beyond description. 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.
 4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." NKJV*

10. Messiah will reign forever as King of kings and Lord of lords. The redeemed will reign with Him, as Adam and Eve were intended to do. Revelation 11:15

Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!" NKJV