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JESUS, JERUSALEM, ISRAEL, ISLAM & END TIME PROPHECIES

By Mark A. Fox

Introduction: Will the Middle East conflict erupt into world war III? Why are all eyes on Israel? What is at the core of the constant fighting between the Arabs and the Jews? Now let us explore the explosive truth behind the heart wrenching, bloody turmoil in the Middle East.

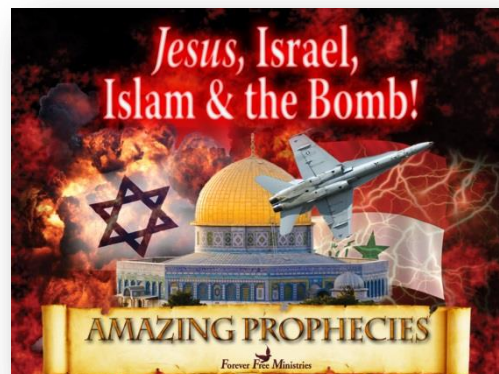
Sudden Changes: There have been many monumental sudden changes that have swept across the Middle East.

- Egyptian revolution of 2011 – Million man march in Tahir Square. Main headquarters of the National Democratic Party was set on fire during Egyptian protests.
- “There are very few moments in our lives where we have the privilege to witness history taking place. This is one of those moments. This is one of those times. The people of Egypt have spoken, their voices have been heard, and Egypt will never be the same.” Barack Obama, in Remarks by the President on Egypt (11 February 2011)
- One word that sums up the current situation in the Middle East: **SUSPENSE!**

America’s Support of Israel: The United States of America is Israel’s strongest support! America loves Israel and prays for her peace!

There is constant WAR in the Middle East!

- There is lots oil (Black Gold) in the Middle East!
- There is lots of political unrest in Israel
- There is political tension among the nations over Israel
- There are strong opposing religious beliefs and practices in the Middle East!
- Israel wants peace and security for all sides. Israel has peace with Egypt and Jordan and longs for peace with all its neighbors.



Iran vs. Israel: What is front and center in the daily news now?

- Tensions are mounting between Iran and Israel.
- There is hatred from Iran.
- Iran’s regime is a growing threat to the world, as it supports terrorism and is trying to develop a nuclear weapon.
- Ahmadinejad said he wanted Israel to be "Wiped off the map" or "Vanish from the pages of time" translation
- Recently former Israeli President Peres Called on U.N. to Peacefully Prevent a Nuclear Iran.
- Iran is developing enriched uranium and long range missiles. "Tehran combines long range missiles and short range minds. It is pregnant with tragedies," Peres said.
- Ahmadinejad said, "If countries in the region continue to [support] Israel they will be burned by the wrath of the nations." AP
- So the former leader of Iran was calling for the absolute Destruction of the State of Israel!
- Recently Peres told world leaders at the U.N. that Iran is “a danger to the entire world”
- But why should we in America care about what happens thousands of miles away in the Middle East? Because what happens over there has a pronounced ripple affect that reaches us.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s address to the United Nations General Assembly on September 27, 2012.

- “This is a bomb; this is a fuse.
- In the case of Iran’s nuclear plans to build a bomb, this bomb has to be filled with enough enriched uranium. And Iran has to go through three stages.

- The first stage: they have to enrich enough of low enriched uranium.
- The second stage: they have to enrich enough medium enriched uranium.
- And the third stage and final stage: they have to enrich enough high enriched uranium for the first bomb.
- Where's Iran? Iran's completed the first stage. It took them many years, but they completed it and they're 70% of the way there.
- Now they are well into the second stage. By next spring, at most by next summer at current enrichment rates, they will have finished the medium enrichment and move on to the final stage.
- From there, it's only a few months, possibly a few weeks before they get enough enriched uranium for the first bomb.
- Ladies and Gentlemen,
- What I told you now is not based on secret information. It's not based on military intelligence. It's based on public reports by the International Atomic Energy Agency. Anybody can read them. They're online.
- So if these are the facts, and they are, where should the red line be drawn?
- The red line should be drawn right here.....
- Before Iran completes the second stage of nuclear enrichment necessary to make a bomb.
- Before Iran gets to a point where it's a few months away or a few weeks away from amassing enough enriched uranium to make a nuclear weapon.
- Ladies and Gentlemen,
- The relevant question is not when Iran will get the bomb. The relevant question is at what stage can we no longer stop Iran from getting the bomb.
- The red line must be drawn on Iran's nuclear enrichment program because these enrichment facilities are the only nuclear installations that we can definitely see and credibly target.
- I believe that faced with a clear red line, Iran will back down."



The big question now is: "Will Israel launch a preemptive strike again Iran?"

- Would the United States back Israel in making that daring move?
- "Israel has no better friend than the United States of America." Prime Minister of Israel March 20, 2013
- "As President I have therefore made it clear America's commitment to the security of the State of Israel as a solemn obligation, and the security of Israel is non-negotiable."
- "We agree that a nuclear armed Iran would be a threat to the region a threat to the world and potentially an existential threat to Israel. We agree on our goal. We do not have a policy of containment when it comes to a nuclear Iran. Our policy is to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon. We prefer to resolve this diplomatically and there is still time to do so." March 20, 2013
- **Jesus predicted: "Wars and rumors of wars." Matthew 24:6-7**
- **The creation and mass proliferation of nuclear weapons changes everything.**
- **Now wars can instantly kill millions of people. The book of Revelation predicted that in the last days the "nations were angry" and mankind would possess the unprecedented lethal power to "destroy the earth" Revelation 11:18.**



"How do fundamentalist Islamic groups justify terrorism against the United States?" There are four popular reasons:

1. The presence of U.S. troops on the 'holy' ground of Saudi Arabia.
2. The U.S. and Israel alliance.
3. Western moral decline.
4. Emergence of the Islamic State." Islam and New Global Realities, S.F. Fleming

"What do Radical Muslims Believe?"

The three main goals of militant Islam is to:

1. Drive all Westerners out of the Middle East.
 2. Exterminate Christians and Jews who refuse to convert to Islam.
 3. Establish a one-world Islamic government and religion."
- Can America Survive? John Hagee,

What is the future of Israel?

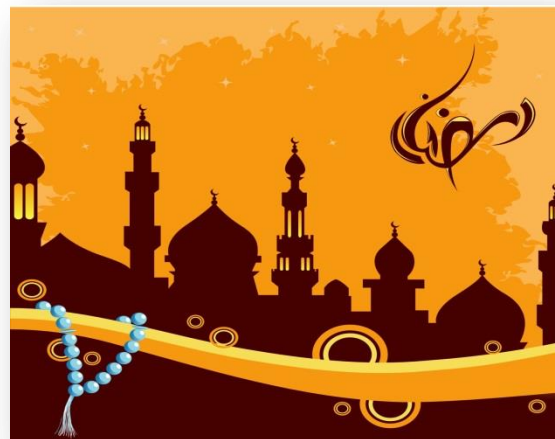
- Will nuclear weapons be used in the near future?
- Will there ever be peace in the Middle East?
- Israel is surrounded by some hostile Islamic nations.



- Will Israel be able to defend itself successfully in the future?
- Oh, how the Christian world is praying for Israel!

What is at the core of the Middle East Conflict?

- Let us investigate the answer to this pivotal question.
- There is hatred and intolerance between the Jews and Moslems!
- **IT IS A CLASH OF RELIGIONS!**
- Islam is one of the largest and fastest growing religions in the world.
- Over one billion Muslims in the world today!
- 60 out of 184 countries in the world are now part of the house of Islam.
- Islam dominates the Middle East.
- Islam is already the fastest-growing religion in Europe.
- It is estimated that 7 Million Americans are Muslim.
- There are over 1000 mosques and Islamic centers in the United States.
- **Former President Bush said, "This nation is at war with radical Islamic fascists." AP**
- We were brutally attacked by radical Islamic terrorists before and many believe it could happen again!



There is a growing threat of Radical Islamic Fundamentalism

- Radical Islam is a belief system of death. Their highest honor is to die for Allah.
- They call Jews & Christians – infidels.
- Muhammad said that Allah demands that “Whoever relinquishes his faith, kill him.”
- The women of radical Islam have virtually no freedom. They Cannot even drive a car. Holding a public job is unacceptable!
- Islam label Jewish people apes and pigs. They believe that Christians bring down Allah’s wrath.
- Islam is the religion that was developed by the teachings of Muhammad who was a citizen of the city of Mecca in Arabia in the 7th century. (Source: John Hagee)
- **Jesus warned that there would be “false prophets” that would deceive many. Matthew 7:15**
- **THE DOME OF THE ROCK: Islam’s second holiest shrine!**

Home of the world’s great religious faiths.

- Judaism. Islam. Christianity

A Biblical Land: Holy Land.

- Canaan’s Land. Promised Land. Land flowing with milk and honey.

Strategic Location: The only intercontinental land bridge between:

- Europe, Asia, and Africa.
- It linked the Indian, Atlantic, Red and Mediterranean Seas.
- Lay between Mesopotamia and Egypt.
- 100-150 miles north to south.
- 35-60 miles east to west.
- Slightly larger than the state of Vermont.

Luke 21:24 “trodden down of the gentiles”

- Romans. Turks. Moslems. Crusaders. British. Jerusalem has been captured 26 times.
- Destroyed at least five times.
- “Pharaoh tried to drown Israel, but they would not drown. Nebuchadnezzar tried to burn them, but they would not burn. Haman tried to hang them, but they would not hang.”



Come with me to Mount Moriah. Inside the present walled city. The old city of Jerusalem. Overshadowed by the Mount of Olives.

- The center of attention for Muslims, Jews and Christians.
- Why is the Temple mount so spiritually significant?
- The Israeli’s consider it supremely sacred because ancestor’s worshipped here in a sanctuary built by King Solomon.
- Made of glimmering white sandstone blocks.
- Years to complete – 7
- Number of workers to cut logs – 30,000
- Number of workers to cut stone – 80,000
- Number of workers to carry stone – 70,000

- Number of supervisors – 3,000 The Amazing Bible Factbook for Kids
- 600 years before Christ the Babylonians destroyed that Temple.

The Second Temple

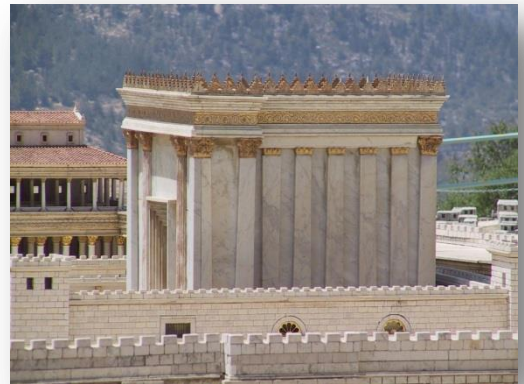
- Persian king Cyrus allowed the Jews to return from Babylon to Jerusalem to rebuild Solomon's temple.
- "When the Persian king Cyrus allowed the Jews to return from Babylon to Jerusalem in 538 BC, he gave them permission to rebuild Solomon's temple." Nelson's Illustrated Encyclopedia of the Bible, 1998.

Herod's Temple

- He built it to win favor with his subjects.
 - To impress the Roman world.
 - Completed until AD 62.
 - The third temple was the grandest!
 - Twice as high as Solomon's temple. (15 stories high)
 - Covered with so much gold that it was a dazzling sight in the bright sun

What shocking prediction did Jesus make regarding the future of the temple in Jerusalem?

- A dire prediction from Jesus: In less than 40 Years the temple would be destroyed! (Matthew 24:1-2)
- Jesus wept over the imminent complete destruction of Jerusalem.
- "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!" Matthew 23:37
- What heart breaking declaration did Jesus make in light of the Jews rejecting Him as their Messiah?
- "See! Your house is left to you desolate" Matthew 23:38
- "Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it." Matthew 21:43
- A star in the shape of a sword appeared in the sky.
- It was visible for one year.
- Read Luke 19:41-44
- The Destruction of Jerusalem - Luke 21:20-21
- How can you leave a city that is under siege?
- Roman Cestius laid siege upon Jerusalem in AD 66.
- Then suddenly he lifted the siege and retreated with his troops.
- A set time of God's favor would pass quickly!
- Jesus warned His followers to flee to the mountains!
- 70,000 Roman Troops surrounded Jerusalem and laid siege to the city. The gruesome siege lasted for months.
- One million Jews perished!
- Arch of Titus in Rome depicts the triumph over Jerusalem in 70 AD
- **Jewish people scattered all over the world.**
- It pays to know Bible prophecy!
- God's favor was upon those who knew when their time was to flee!



Why was He rejected?

1. He was not what they expected.
2. He exposed sin.
3. He spoke uncompromising, unpopular truth.
4. He loved sinners.
5. He did not have the support of the religious leaders.
6. He would not conform to man-made traditions.
7. He would not dazzle the senses, but touched the hearts.

Would you like to know how to reach...

- Jewish people. Unbelievers. Skeptics. Scoffers. Infidels.
- THE GARDEN TOMB – Jesus left behind an empty tomb.
- 500 EYE WITNESSES! That saw Jesus after He was risen.
- JESUS FULFILLED OVER 300 MESSIANIC PROPHECIES!



Then in 1948 the Jewish people returned to Palestine to form their new independent government.

- David Ben Gurion (First Prime Minister of Israel) publicly pronouncing the Declaration of the State of Israel, May 14, 1948

- Chaim Weizmann, President of Israel, presents a Torah, or Holy Scroll, to President Truman during a visit to the White House, 1948

Birth of a Nation – Still Conflict:

- Since the birth of the Modern Nation of Israel in 1948 Israel has fought five wars and there have been numerous conflicts in order to survive.
- The hostile Arab neighbors surrounding her have tried repeatedly and determinedly to EXTERMINATE the small modern state of Israel.
- Then in the six day war of 1967 they recaptured the prized city of Jerusalem.
- In 1973 Israel was attacked by some of the Arab nations.

Rebuilt Temple?

- The Israeli's believe that God gave them back Jerusalem in order to rebuild a temple.
- After temple services resume they believe the Messiah will come and set up His glorious kingdom.
- So a rebuilt temple would fulfill the dreams of Jewish people around the world.
- Why the delay? What is preventing these aspirations from being realized by the Jews?
- MOSLEM OCCUPATION & OPPOSITION!
- The temple Mount is under Muslim control!
- The Dome of the Rock remains one of Islam's holiest shrines in the entire world.
- Muslims believe Mohamed received their ultimate source of authority on Mount Moriah.
- They believe the angel Gabriel appeared to Him and gave Him the words of the Koran.



The Western Wall:

- No wonder this is called: **"THE WAILING WALL"**
- The Wailing Wall – A portion of the western wall of Herod's temple was preserved by the Romans when they destroyed the city in 70 A.D. to show how formidable they were.
- This fragment of wall is revered by the Jews and called the wailing wall.
- It is about 50 yards long and 60 feet high. One stone is 16 ½ feet long and 13 feet wide.
- Here the Jews gather to wail the loss of their temple.

What was God's original plan for Israel?

- Inherit the land of Canaan. Gen.13:14,15
- "blossom and bud, and fill the face of the world with fruit." Isaiah 27:6
- Jerusalem become God's throne and all nations "gathered unto it." Jer. 3:17
- Temple in Jerusalem "called an house of prayer for all people." Isaiah 56:7
- "all the nations of the earth, which shall hear all the good that I do unto them...shall fear and tremble" before them (Jer.33:9) and be afraid of them (Deut.28:10).
- Any nation which refused to serve Israel would be turned into a wasteland (Isaiah 60:12)
- Unparalleled Prosperity (Deut. 4:6-9; 7:12-15; 28:1-4)
- Superior Health. Exodus 15:26; Deut. 7:13,15
- Superior intellect. Deut.4:6
- International fame. Deut. 4:6-8; 7:6,14.
- **CONDITIONS of obedience or disobedience = Blessings or curses -- Deuteronomy 28**

No lasting peace!

- There are only Short lived peace pacts!
- Is this the real deal or just a photo opportunity for the U.S. President?
- There have been some Smiles and handshakes but there is no lasting peace!

ISRAEL IN BIBLE PROPHECY -In God's eyes who are the real Israelites today?

- "For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God. Rom 2:28,29 NKJV
- "And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Gal 3:29
- "Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham." Gal 3:7
- "Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it." Matthew 21:43
- **Who is the "Holy nation" now?**

- “But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; “who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.” 1 Peter 2:9,10

What is the origin of the name Israel? Jacob’s name meant “supplanter” or “deceiver” Read some of this dramatic Bible story in Genesis 28-32.

Genesis 32:22-28

1. Personal crisis. Jacob brought a lot of pain and suffering and trials upon himself because he deceived his father to get the birthright blessing.
2. Prevailing prayer. Jacob did not give up pressing His petition until he received the blessing of God.
3. Heart Change. This was the greatest miracle of all. A changed life!
4. New Name. Jacob received a new name: “ISRAEL”

Overcoming Saints: Revelation 21:3; Revelation 3:21; Revelation 15:3; John 16:33; 1 John 5:4

- To be among the true Israel of God means that you have received a new heart, a new life from God.
- Your character has been changed by the miraculous power of the Risen Savior! You are a real Jew inwardly.
- You have received the circumcision of the heart.
- You are an heir to receive all the promises given to Abraham.
- You are now highly favored because you are a blood bought child of God, a believer in His Son Jesus Christ.

We are now looking for not a rebuilt temple or city but a New Jerusalem in Heaven. See Revelation 21:1-4

Amidst the Storms of Life...

- Jesus is with you.
- Jesus is holding you.
- Jesus says to you **“PEACE BE STILL”**
- If you are giving your heart to Jesus in full surrender moment by moment, then you can sing: “It is well, it is well with my soul.”
- One day soon the storm will be past.

Conclusion:

No peace for those who reject the PRINCE OF PEACE. Accept Jesus as your “Peace Maker.”

John 14:27 “My peace I give to you.”

Have you accepted Jesus the Prince of Peace into your heart?

Every day ask Jesus to abide in you and you in Him. See John 15:1-8

- **Receive Him.**
- **Believe Him.**
- **Live for Him.**
- **Share Him.**
- **Get ready for His soon return.**



READ THE BOOK “STEPS TO CHRIST” By Ellen G. White (On how to become closer to Jesus more everyday.)

READ THE BOOK “THE DESIRE OF AGES” By Ellen G. White (On the life of Christ)

Also receive the Bible Study outline: “THE SINNERS NEED OF CHRIST” by Mark A. Fox

AMAZING PROPHECIES

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