

Chapter Fifteen

Latter Day Middle East Scenarios

The Prophetic War of Psalm 83; Egypt, Israel and Assyria together as one; Damascus no longer a city; Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness. A brief discussion on these and some other very interesting prophetic scenarios that have not yet been fulfilled and which will surely come to pass in the latter days.

The Prophetic War of Psalm 83

Psalm 83:1-18

Keep not thou silence, O God: hold not thy peace, and be not still, O God. 2 For, lo, thine enemies make a tumult: and they that hate thee have lifted up the head. 3 They have taken crafty counsel against thy people, and consulted against thy hidden ones. 4 They have said, Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance.

5 For they have consulted together with one consent: they are confederate against thee: 6 The tabernacles of Edom, and the Ishmaelites; of Moab, and the Hagarenes; 7 Gebal, and Ammon, and Amalek; the Philistines with the inhabitants of Tyre; 8 Assur also is joined with them: they have holpen the children of Lot. Selah.

9 Do unto them as unto the Midianites; as to Sisera, as to Jabin, at the brook of Kison: 10 Which perished at Endor: they became as dung for the earth. 11 Make their nobles like Oreb, and like Zeeb: yea, all their princes as Zebah, and as Zalmunna: 12 Who said, Let us take to ourselves the houses of God in possession. 13 O my God, make them like a wheel; as the stubble before the wind. 14 As the fire burneth a wood, and as the flame setteth the mountains on fire; 15 So persecute them with thy tempest, and make them afraid with thy storm. 16 Fill their faces with shame; that they may seek thy name, O Lord.

17 Let them be confounded and troubled for ever; yea, let them be put to shame, and perish: 18 That men may know that thou, whose name alone is Jehovah, art the most high over all the earth.

This Psalm employs a unusual literary format, rarely found in all of Scripture, in that it is a prophecy in the form of a prayer (also employed in Psalm 22). It speaks of a time when all the surrounding nations that have been enemies of Israel in ages past form a confederacy with the intent to destroy Israel forever.

4 They have said, Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance. 5 For they have consulted together with one consent: they are confederate against thee: 6 The tabernacles of Edom, and the Ishmaelites; of Moab, and the Hagarenes; 7 Gebal, and Ammon, and Amalek; the Philistines with the inhabitants of Tyre; 8 Assur also is joined with them: they have holpen the children of Lot. Selah.

Here are the modern day equivalents of the nations mentioned:

The Tents of Edom	Southern Jordan
The Ishmaelites	Saudi Arabia and parts of Jordan
Moab	Central Jordan
The Hagarenes	Egypt (or NW Jordan?)
Gebal	Lebanon
Ammon	Jordan
Amalek	Sinai
Philistines	Gaza
The Inhabitants of Tyre	Lebanon
Assur	Syria, NW Iraq, SW Turkey
The Children of Lot	Jordan

Whilst being antagonistic towards Israel and Judah in days gone by, these nations have never historically been a unified force against Israel. The confederacy that has formed between these nations has come about in recent times through the common ideology they now share in the religion of Islam. Now they all chant, “**Death to Israel**” in their streets.

As the Psalmist continues, we find there is a call for God to deal with those enemies in a particular way. The examples cited in verses 9 and 10 are significantly similar and give us a clear picture of the sort of deliverance Israel should expect. In every case, the Lord gives their foes into their hand. From this it is plain to see that this prophetic prayer is **foretelling God’s hand delivering their present day enemies** into the hands of the Israeli Defence Force. A perusal of the documentation of the Six Day War reveals a foretaste of the kind of victory we should expect against this confederacy.

A Rebuilt Temple

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

Prevailing Jewish theology does not allow them to rebuild their temple until Messiah comes as **Zechariah 6:12** says, “**He shall build the temple of the Lord.**” One day the Jews will realise that the temple Messiah came to build is made of living stones (1 Peter 2:5). In the meantime the Jews are waiting for their own version of Messiah. A major victory led by a charismatic Torah keeping military leader could result in the Orthodox Sanhedrin recognising such a man as their Messiah. The Psalm 83 war could provide just such a geopolitical scenario. They may then have the necessary political and demographic authority to clear the temple mount of its present structures and proceed with their dreams.

Some protest saying, “How is it then the ‘**Temple of God**’ when in fact the one calling himself God and sitting in it is in fact The Antichrist?” Even though the Jews intend to build this future temple in their unbelief, because it will be dedicated to God and presented to God by the to-be-formed priesthood, God will still accept it and call it His. We have an example of God doing just such a thing in Numbers Chapter 16. Read the whole chapter in your own Bible if you like as **I won’t quote the whole passage here, just the relevant verse:**

Numbers 16:37-38 NKJV

“Tell Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, to pick up the censers out of the blaze, for they are holy, and scatter the fire some distance away. 38 The censers of these men who sinned against their own souls, let them be made into hammered plates as a covering for the altar. **Because they presented them before the LORD, therefore they are holy;** and they shall be a sign to the children of Israel.” (Emphasis mine)

Yes, there will be a Temple of God, even though the Lord does not live in temples made by the hands of man (Acts 7:48; 17:24).

Egypt, Israel and Assyria Together as One

Isaiah 19:18-25

In that day shall five cities in the land of Egypt speak the language of Canaan, and swear to the Lord of hosts; one shall be called, The city of destruction. (some manuscripts have *city of Righteousness*)

19 In that day shall there be an altar to the Lord in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar at the border thereof to the Lord. 20 And it shall be for a sign and for a witness unto the Lord of hosts in the land of Egypt: for they shall cry unto the Lord because of the oppressors, and he shall send them a saviour, and a great one, and he shall deliver them. 21 And the Lord shall be known to Egypt, and the Egyptians shall know the Lord in that day, and shall do sacrifice and oblation; yea, they shall vow a vow unto the Lord, and perform it. 22 And the Lord shall smite Egypt: he shall smite and heal it: and they shall return even to the Lord, and he shall be entreated of them, and shall heal them. 23 In that day shall there be a highway out of Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrian shall come into Egypt, and the Egyptian into Assyria, and the Egyptians shall serve with the Assyrians. 24 In that day shall Israel be the third (one of three) with Egypt and with Assyria, even a blessing in the midst of the land: 25 Whom the Lord of hosts shall bless, saying, Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel mine inheritance.

How this is going to come about is anyone's guess. This passage is another one of those Scriptures that should perhaps not be mentioned to the United Nations Security Council. On the other hand, maybe we should advise them not to worry about it as God has got it all under control. That aside, Scriptures like these are off the radar for most Christians.

Damascus No Longer A City

Look at this verse from Isaiah concerning Damascus, a city which is reported to be the longest continuously inhabited city of all time with some dating its origins back to around 4000BC, possibly contemporary or shortly after the tower of Babel incident recorded in Genesis 11:1-9.

Isaiah 17:1

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

For Damascus to come to an end was and is unheard of and how it will come about is again **anyone's guess**. But with the civil war in Syria showing us what has happened in Aleppo, another large city of that nation, the possibility of it becoming a heap of ruins is not such a far out expectation. Maybe it gets nuked . . . or otherwise totally bombed to

smithereens. Not wishing anything upon them, but anyone with knowledge of this Scripture should absent themselves from the city and sell their real estate now.

Jerusalem A Cup of Drunkeness

Zechariah 12:1-9

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: 2 “Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem. 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. 4 In that day,” says the Lord, “I will strike every horse with confusion, and its rider with madness; I will open My eye on the house of Judah, and will strike every horse of the peoples with blindness. 5 And the governors of Judah shall say in their heart, ‘The inhabitants of Jerusalem *are* my strength in the Lord of hosts, their God.’ 6 In that day I will make the governors of Judah like a firepan in the woodpile, and like a fiery torch in the sheaves; they shall devour all the surrounding peoples on the right hand and on the left, but Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place— Jerusalem.

7 “The Lord will save the tents of Judah first, so that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem shall not become greater than that of Judah. 8 In that day the Lord will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; the one who is feeble among them in that day shall be like David, and the house of David *shall be* like God, like the Angel of the Lord before them. 9 It shall be in that day *that* I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

The above may be a parallel of Psalm 83, though the prophecy seems to focus on Judah, so it could be before the Ten Tribes return. The following verses could be describing the event that prepares the hearts of the people of Judah to enter into the Kingdom of God as the latter part of the passage seems to indicate.

Zechariah 12:10-14

“And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for *his* only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn. 11 In that day there shall be a

great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning at Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo. 12 And the land shall mourn, every family by itself: the family of the house of David by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of the house of Nathan by itself, and their wives by themselves; 13 the family of the house of Levi by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of Shimei by itself, and their wives by themselves; 14 all the families that remain, every family by itself, and their wives by themselves.

With the passing of time and the other prophetic wars already mentioned in this book, Judah will open their hearts to the real Messiah who bore their sins and rose from the dead for their justification. It is likely that as a result of their victories, their present borders will be enlarged and the Ten Tribes of Israel would then find sufficient space to settle in when God gathers them back from the nations where they had been scattered.

Remember this passage from a previous chapter:

Isaiah 11:11-14

It shall come to pass in that day *that* the Lord shall set His hand again the second time to recover the remnant of His people who are left, from Assyria and Egypt, from Pathros and Cush, from Elam and Shinar, from Hamath and the islands of the sea. 12 He will set up a banner for the nations, and will assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.

13 Also the envy of Ephraim shall depart, and the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off; Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not harass Ephraim. 14 But they shall fly down upon the shoulder of the Philistines toward the west; together they shall plunder the people of the East; they shall lay their hand on Edom and Moab; and the people of Ammon shall obey them.

I guess that will finally solve the Palestinian Peace Problem.

The End of the World is Near?

As you can see, there are a lot of prophecies that are yet to be fulfilled, so many that this author does not believe that the end of the age is imminent. Whilst many say that things can happen quickly, it is also true that some things simply grind along slowly and inexorably. In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus warned that many people would come saying that the “time is near” or as some translations say, “the time is at hand” and He called them deceivers, so I am not inclined to be persuaded by contemporary prophecy pundits proclaiming that the end of the age is just around the corner.

Luke 21:8 NKJV

And He said: "Take heed that you not be deceived. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am *He*,' and, 'The time has drawn near.' Therefore do not go after them.

Those who proclaim that Jesus could return at any moment are certainly included in that category. Although we will not know the hour or the day, Jesus said that we are to look up and know when the time is near by the signs He gave us. (Matthew 24:33). And Paul writes that this Day will not overtake us like a thief in the night. He asserts that only those walking in darkness will be taken unawares (1 Thessalonians 5:4). Nevertheless, each one of us should always be prepared at any time for we do not know the number of our days. **It's worth repeating: although we may become aware that the time is nigh, no one will know the hour or the day.**

One might ask, "Where are we (2017AD) in Bible prophecy?" My answer is simple: some time before the great regathering of Israel and a long way from when the sun, moon and stars start losing their light. And because there are untold people who have not yet heard the Gospel we are still some distance from fulfilling the great commission. So whilst we can be filled with the knowledge of His will for the nations and in particular Judah and Israel, let us not forget His will for us individually. Let us aspire to always and without partiality speak the **truth in love. Let us be busy with our Father's business so that we may be able to hear those words, "Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of the Lord."**

THE TIME OF THE GENTILES and THE LATTER DAYS

Most likely progression of events from 1900 to the End of the Age.
Some of the following could overlap or be a slightly different order.

JUDAH SCATTERED-----ISLAM IN THE MIDDLE EAST-----ISRAEL SCATTERED

JUDAH CREATES-----ISLAM GROWS-----TEN TRIBES ISRAEL
JEWISH STATE 1948 DOMINATES WORLD

JUDAH SURVIVES ATTACKS-----ISLAM INFILTRATES THE NATIONS-----ISRAEL IN APOSTASY

JERUSALEM A CUP OF DRUNKENNESS TO ALL SURROUNDING NATIONS

JUDAH IN DIRE STRAITS RECEIVES MESSIAH-----JACOBS TROUBLE OVERTAKES ISRAEL

THIS COULD RESULT IN A WORLD WAR WITH MAJOR GEOPOLITICAL UPHEAVAL

JUDAH AND ISRAEL HAVE A GREAT AWAKENING TO THEIR JOINT IDENTITY

REMNANT OF JUDAH AND ISRAEL RECONCILED TO EACH OTHER AND TO GOD

JUDAH AND ISRAEL IN EXILE GATHERED BY GOD TO PROMISED LAND IN GREAT EXODUS

JUDAH AND ISRAEL RESTORED TO EXPERIENCE PEACE AND PROSPERITY

GOG AND MAGOG DESTROYED

THE GOSPEL CONTINUES TO BE PREACHED IN ALL THE WORLD

NATIONS SEND DELEGATES TO FEAST OF TABERNACLES

ISLAMIC EMPIRE PRODUCES TEN KINGS

ANTICHRIST KINGDOM ARISES

FINAL TRIAL AND TRIBULATION OF THE SAINTS BOTH IN ISRAEL AND THE WORLD

JESUS RETURNS FOR HIS SAINTS AND DESTROYS HIS ENEMIES

THE RESURRECTION

JUDGMENT DAY

NEW HEAVENS AND A NEW EARTH