

2025 – Prospects for War and Peace. Which one will it be?



'World War 3 Fears explode as Putin says Nukes can be used if Ukraine fires US Missiles.' Headlines like this appeared in newspapers in November 2024 after the Americans and the British gave Ukraine permission to fire their long range cruise missiles into Russia. Ukraine did fire such missiles hitting Russian ammunition dumps and command centres. Russia responded with its newly developed Oreshnik hypersonic ballistic missile hitting the Ukrainian city of Dnipro. Putin went on Russian TV to send a warning to the west that this missile is unstoppable and can be nuclear armed. He said Russia would be entitled to use such weapons against NATO countries that allow their weapons to be used by Ukraine against targets inside Russia.

Donald Trump said in a November interview with US chat show host Joe Rogan, 'You know there are prophets who say the world will come to an end in the Middle East.' What does all this mean for the future

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of humanity? Will the human race commit the final act of madness and destroy the world? Or will the threat of mass destruction push the world towards making peace? Is Trump right that the prophets of the Bible say the world will come to an end with a war in the Middle East?

The Bible has a lot to say about wars and the last days' scenario. When asked by His disciples about the signs of His return, Jesus replied, '[And you will hear of wars and rumours of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.](#)' Matthew 24.6-8.

Jesus speaks of 'nation against nation' and 'kingdom against kingdom'. The word for nation in Greek is 'ethnos' from which we have the word ethnic. This means conflicts within nations, or civil wars over race, nationality or religion. Kingdom against kingdom implies conflicts between blocks of nations or world wars. He also says when you see these things begin to happen it is not yet the end, but 'the beginning of sorrows.' This will set off a period of time which will precede the final time of 'great tribulation' before the return of the Lord.

The expression 'beginning of sorrows' relates to the pains of a woman in labour, a phrase frequently used in biblical

prophecy for the events of the last days. The birth pains (contractions) of the woman become more intense the nearer she gets to giving birth. So the pains of the last days will become more intense as the coming of the Lord draws near. Once the process has begun it cannot be reversed until the birth of the child. So once the 'beginning of sorrows' period has begun it will set in motion a series of events which will bring on the final event, the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. Then just as the woman may forget her labour pains for joy of bringing a child into the world, so those looking for the Lord's return will forget the pain of the last days scenario for joy at seeing the Lord Jesus return, bringing an end to the wars and troubles of humanity.

When did the 'sorrows' begin? Have they just begun? If so the end may be some way away. Or did they begin some time ago? If so the end of this period may be near. One view on this is that the time of sorrows began with the First World War (1914-18), the first global conflict, bringing in countries across Europe, the Middle East, North America and the British Empire. It caused the death of around 20 million people. Out of this war came events that would shape the conflicts that would follow: The Russian (Communist) Revolution in 1917, the Balfour Declaration in 1917 and the Treaty of Versailles in 1919.

The Russian Revolution brought the Soviet Union into being, setting the stage for the Cold War conflict between the USSR and allies and NATO and allies

that would dominate the second half of the 20th century.

The Balfour Declaration was the result of the British taking control of Palestine and Jerusalem from the Turkish Ottoman Empire and making this statement in favour of the restoration of a Jewish state in Palestine. This was a major step along the way to the restoration of the Jewish state of Israel, and the conflicts that would follow as a result of the surrounding nations seeking to destroy Israel.

The Treaty of Versailles, the post war agreement signed between Germany and the Allied Powers, imposed severe conditions on a defeated Germany. This sense of humiliation created the conditions for Hitler to come to power and set in motion the Second World War (1939-45), causing around 60 million casualties and the Holocaust murder of 6 million Jews.

Out of the Second World War came the Cold War and the East - West division of Europe and pitted NATO and its allies against the Communist world led by the Soviet Union and China. During this time weapons of mass destruction were developed by both sides, with the world nearly being dragged into a nuclear war in the Cuban missile crisis of 1962. There were also wars and revolutions around the world, with mass movements of refugees as a result. It is estimated that around 200 million people died in wars in the 20th century.

What's happening now?

The process that began in the 20th century continues into our time. The Ukraine War is the continuation of the East West division as NATO and the western powers confront Russia backed by China, Iran and North Korea. There is a possibility that a Chinese invasion of Taiwan could set off a war with US forces and allies in the region. We also see Islamic revolutionary forces bringing conflict and terrorism to many lands around the world, particularly in the Middle East and Africa. Civil wars have created horrible conditions for millions of people, especially in parts of Africa like Sudan and the Congo. The conflict over Israel has reached a new level with the wars in Gaza and Lebanon and the attempt of Iran and its proxies to destroy Israel. The fall of the Assad regime has brought welcome relief from tyranny to the Syrian people, but also dangers as radical Islamists take over.

The Great Tribulation

In Jesus' prophecy about the signs of His coming the 'sorrows' of Matthew 24.6-8 will intensify with the final 'Great Tribulation' period, which will trigger the last seven years of trouble on earth: '[There will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.](#)' Matthew 24.21-22. In other words there will be such a unique time of trouble that if God did not bring it to

an end it would result in the end of life on earth. This time of trouble will come to an end with the second coming of Jesus Christ. He will come this time with all the power of God to bring an end to the present world system and bring real peace to the earth.

Chapters 6 to 19 in the Book of Revelation fill in details of what will happen in this period. This section of Revelation begins with the famous 'four horsemen of the Apocalypse'. The first apocalyptic rider comes on the white horse. He is the Antichrist who takes power over the nations, offering a false peace to the world. Then the second rider comes on a red horse: 'Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword.' Following this the third rider on the black horse brings famine and the fourth rider brings mass death: 'And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.' Revelation 6.8. A quarter of the earth's population (currently around 8 billion people) will be killed in these disasters. That means about 2 billion will die at this time.

The apocalyptic scenario is also found in various passages in the Hebrew prophets, including Ezekiel 38-39, the War of Gog and Magog, Joel 2-3 ('Multitudes in the valley of decision') and Zechariah 12-14, the last battle for Jerusalem. Armageddon, the final conflict prophesied in Revelation 16

and 19 will bring back the Messiah to put an end to war and bring in the Millennial kingdom, when He will reign on earth for 1000 years bringing peace and justice to the world. See Isaiah 2.1-4, Revelation 19-20.



What about Israel?

The State of Israel was founded in 1948 fulfilling the Zionist hope of a Jewish return to the land of Israel and providing a place of refuge for Jewish people from persecution. This fulfils biblical prophecies about the return of the Jews to Israel after being scattered into the nations. Trump is right that Bible prophets do say this is a key sign of the end of the age, though not the end of the world. The Bible shows that the Messiah will return to save Israel and the world from destruction and set up His reign on earth following the last battle over Jerusalem. These are just a few of many prophecies indicating a restoration of Israel and return of the Jewish people to Jerusalem in the last days of this age:

Jeremiah 30.10: "Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, 'He who scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him as a shepherd does his flock.'

Ezekiel 36.24: 'For I will take you (the house of Israel) from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land.'

Luke 21.24 Jesus speaking: 'And they (the Jewish people) will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.'

Repeated attempts by the surrounding nations to destroy Israel caused wars to be fought over this land in 1948-9, 1967 and 1973, fulfilling the words of Psalm 83.4: 'They (the enemies of Israel) have said, "Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation, that the name of Israel may be remembered no more." In each of these wars Israel emerged intact and victorious.

Will there be a time of peace before the end comes?

While we do see the increase in wars and troubles happening, the Bible also indicates that there will be a short lived time of 'peace and safety' before the return of the Messiah. 'For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labour pains upon a pregnant woman.' 1 Thessalonians 5.3.

There are possibilities of nations moving towards this in the current world situation. Donald Trump says he has a plan to bring an end to the Russia – Ukraine war and the Middle East conflict. Ukrainian President Zelensky says he is willing to give up

some territories in Ukraine to Russia in return for peace, if NATO will agree to defend Ukraine from further Russian aggression. Russia has lost an estimated 800,000 people dead or injured, as well as a massive amount of equipment. Its economy is in dire straits with the rouble losing value and inflation causing a big rise in the cost of living. So Putin may want to sue for peace, especially if he is able to hold on to the areas of Ukraine now held by Russia.

Since Hamas attacked Israel on October 7th 2023 Israel has made significant progress at neutralising the capability of its enemies. Hamas' power in Gaza is broken, Hezbollah's power in Lebanon diminished and the malign influence of Iran's Islamic Revolution weakened. A ceasefire in Lebanon has been put in place pushing Hezbollah back beyond the Litani river in Lebanon, thus limiting its ability to attack Israel again.

At the same time Israel has lost a great deal of support in the world, because of the bombing of Gaza and Lebanon and the intense suffering of the Palestinian people. Many in Israel are weary with war and longing for a peace settlement. Many on the Arab side are also weary with war and terrorism and looking for a better life, without the endless conflict with Israel and different Muslim factions fighting each other. Iran is severely weakened by recent events, with the Islamic regime becoming more and more unpopular at home. Now Syria has suddenly imploded with a revolution that lined up with the prophecy in Jeremiah 49.23-26.

In the Book of Daniel we read of a covenant (some kind of peace agreement) being made for one week (means seven years) involving Israel and its neighbours. In Daniel 9.27 we read: *'Then he shall confirm a covenant (or treaty) with many for one week (this means seven years); But in the middle of the week (after three and a half years) he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate (or desolator).'*

President Trump has talked about reviving his 2020 peace initiative between Israel and the Arab nations, through the Abrahamic Accords. The big hope is to bring in Saudi Arabia into some kind of peace with Israel in an overall settlement of the whole Middle East issue. Days before the U.S. election, ninety-four nations met in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, with the purpose of reaching a seven-to-ten-year peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians. Both Israel and America sent representatives to this gathering, which calls itself the Global Alliance.

The Saudis require Israel to accept the two state solution, setting up some kind of Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza, with security arrangements in place for Israel. At the same time the Saudis have indicated that as long as some mechanism is in place to work towards this aim, they will consider moving towards such an agreement.

Israel fears that an independent Palestinian State would become a springboard for attacks on Israel with the aim of destroying the Jewish state. There is also the question of who rules Jerusalem. The Israelis say Jerusalem must remain the undivided capital of Israel. The Palestinians want the eastern part of Jerusalem, including the Old City, site of the holy places, as their capital. The Mount of Olives, the site of Jesus' return, would also come under their rule.

According to the Bible there will be an issue over the status of Jerusalem which will engage the whole world in the last days. *'Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem. 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.'* Zechariah 12.2-3. This means that an issue concerning the status of Jerusalem will affect the surrounding peoples (Jews and Arabs) and the UN and major world powers (in other words all nations of the earth).

If a peace settlement along the lines of Daniel 9.27 quoted above does arise, it will not last. The one making this covenant is referred to in the previous verse (9.26) as 'the prince to come' a reference to the sinister figure of the Antichrist who will come in with a great deception at the end of days. See Daniel 7.19-28, 8.23-26, 11.36-45. At the midpoint of this period (after three and a

half years) this anti-Messiah will break this covenant and bring in the 'abomination of desolation standing in the Holy Place' which will set off the final period of the Great Tribulation, prophesied by Jesus in Matthew 24.15-22.

This will lead to the final war of Armageddon, which will bring about the return of Messiah to Jerusalem, the Mount of Olives, from where He will proclaim peace to the world. Isaiah 2.1-4, Zechariah 14.

Jesus will return, not in the form of humility in which He came the first time, with His identity veiled or hidden. Then He fulfilled the prophecies of the Suffering Servant Messiah bearing the sin of the world (Isaiah 53). When He comes the second time, He will appear as Almighty God, with all the power of heaven at His disposal. He will bring an end to the satanic forces responsible for plunging the world into war and tribulation (Revelation 19.19-20.3). This will be a truly cosmic event affecting the heavens and the earth:

'Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.' Matthew 24.29-30.

He will then gather all nations before

Him (Matthew 25.31-46, the judgement of the sheep and the goats). The sheep (saved people) will go into the Messianic kingdom and reign with Jesus on earth for 1000 years of peace and justice. The goats (unsaved people) will be cast off the earth and await the final judgement at the Great White Throne (Revelation 20). Following the 1000 years of Messiah's reign on earth, there will be one final act of rebellion from Satan, which will bring about the end of the world, when God will dissolve the present earth and universe and create a new one. Those who are redeemed will go to heaven for eternity, those who are lost will go to hell. (2 Peter 3, Revelation 20-21).

So what can you do about it?

Make sure of having a guaranteed place in the new world that is coming by repenting of sin and asking God to save you and give you eternal life faith in Yeshua / Jesus the Messiah of Israel and Saviour of the world.

In Luke 21.25-28 Jesus said that in the days before His return there would be a situation of great distress on the earth: *'On earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.'* The original Greek for distress of nations with perplexity uses the word 'aporia' meaning 'with no way out.' In other words there will be a world wide crisis with no solution causing people to be afraid of what is coming on the earth. When you see this begin to happen,

Trump Triumphant What next?



Jesus told those who believe in Him to 'look up and lift up your heads, for your redemption draws near.' In other words these things happening are a sign that we are living in the last days before the return of Jesus Christ. These days will be days of great tribulation on earth, but those who believe the Gospel have the great hope of Jesus returning. He will save all those who believe in Him and take them to a place of safety in the event known as the 'rapture of the church.' This event is described in several passages in the Bible, including Matthew 24, where Jesus speaks of 'one being taken and one being left' and in 1 Thessalonians 4.15-18 where we read:

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words. 1 Thessalonians 4.15-18.

This will be a totally supernatural event in which all saved believers in Jesus Christ will be taken out of the world into a realm where we will be with the Lord in new resurrection bodies which will never get sick or old or die (1 Corinthians 15). We will always be with the Lord. Then we will come back to earth with Him when He returns to take control of this planet. God will then have the last word in the affairs of this planet, as the Lord Jesus the Messiah rules on earth for 1000 years and brings in God's good

New World Order. People will live long lives with plenty of food and no more war and evil tyrannical rulers (Isaiah 2, Isaiah 11, Psalm 72, Revelation 20). This will be followed by all redeemed people from past ages to the present being taken to the new heavens and new earth, where we will live forever with God in glory. (2 Peter 3, Revelation 21-2). That is something to look forward to as we see the gathering darkness engulfing the earth. It is the blessed hope of the true believer in Jesus:

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works. Titus 2.11-14.

Make sure you guarantee your place for this incredible experience now by repenting of your sins and believing the Gospel: Christ / Messiah died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and He was buried, and He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures. 1 Corinthians 15.3-4.

For details on this send for our booklet '[10 Signs of the Return of the Messiah.](#)'



Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò (a conservative Catholic and leading opponent of Pope Francis) congratulated Donald Trump's victory in the U.S. elections, deeming it 'a divine intervention against the criminal New World Order' and calling on Christians to pray for Trump's success in dismantling 'deep state' influence. Yuval Harari, a key leader in the World Economic Forum (WEF), stated that a Trump win would deal a "death blow" to their Great Reset programme. There is no doubt that Trump will face great opposition to any measures he tries to take opposing these programmes both inside the USA and globally.

Vigano's 'New World Order' relates to such initiatives as the World Economic Forum's 'Great Reset' programme and the UN's Agenda 30. These involve using various international agreements, like the Climate Change agreement, the UN Migration Pact, the WHO's Pandemic

Treaty. They are also working on the development of Central Bank Digital Currencies to bring the economic and social policies of nations into line with a central global authority.

A vital part of the agenda is 'digital connectivity' and the establishment of a Global Digital Compact, which will create a digitally connected network of people, entities, devices, and things, directed by those who run the system. This is what the World Economic Forum prescribed in their report 'Unlocking Technologies for the Global Goals in 2020.' A Digital ID is a cornerstone in this work and is seen among other things as a way to reduce poverty. The digital ID system is already in place in the two most populous nations on earth, China, with its Credit Score system, and in India with its Aadhaar card.

Donald Trump's MAGA (Make America Great Again) programme puts 'America First', and wants to prevent this from happening. He is a sceptic on the Climate Change agenda and is likely to pay little attention to international agreements on this and other issues, asserting American sovereignty and national interest. He is opposed to the idea of Central Bank Digital Currencies and the efforts of Russia and China and their BRICS alliance to remove the dominance of the US dollar in world trade. For those working on this programme, Trump's

rise to power is seen as a disaster which they are going to oppose at every level.

At the same time Trump faces an uphill task trying to fix the US economy, with its massive debt of \$36 trillion and rising cost of living affecting the whole society. Some have predicted that Trump's plan to raise tariffs in an attempt to stimulate US industry will fail and harm the US economy further. Actually the whole developed world is in trouble economically, the EU, UK, China, Russia and Japan included. So we could be looking at a wholesale failure of the world economy. If this happens the UN Pact for the Future, launched in September 2024, could come into play. This aims at the creation of a new "apex body" in charge of the entire financial system, run through the G20, the UN Economic and Social Council, and heads of international financial institutions. This would bring us back to the globalist programme for world government and represent the failure of MAGA to deliver.

In the short term however, Trump has won a stunning victory. Tim Stanley wrote in the Daily Telegraph: 'America is now Trump country, at war with progressivism, open borders, international bureaucracies, net zero, Jihadism, military adventurism and the Left-wing media. The old order is dead, never to be resuscitated. Voters are crying out for a crackdown on crime. They don't want mass illegal immigration, even if they are immigrants themselves. They hate inflation. They want higher wages. They believe in the American

dream, and are sick of the Democratic party's anti-Western self-loathing, its unwillingness to properly fight Islamism and absurd campus extremism, its hateful normalisation of anti-Semitism, its anti-meritocratic wokery, its rejection of biological reality when it comes to sex (i.e. the imposition of homosexuality and transsexuality on society).'

In his book 'That Hideous Strength – how the West was Lost', Melvyn Tinker analyses how political correctness, cultural Marxism and the woke agenda have infiltrated the institutions of western society. They have enforced ideas and life styles which are contrary to biblical teaching, and often make it difficult or dangerous for Christians to speak out against them. They have used the 'Gramsci strategy' to take power in our institutions. Gramsci was an Italian Marxist who realised that Marx's concept of the communist revolution overthrowing capitalism was not going to happen in western societies. Therefore he proposed that 'progressives' must take control of the institutions of society, the education system, the media, the civil service, law and legal profession, the government, the judiciary and even the police.

Once in control they then exercise 'zero tolerance' of contrary ideas, which are generally labelled 'far right' or fascist. As a result people are cowed into submission and become afraid to speak out when homosexual propaganda is imposed on children, biological men who claim to have had a sex change are allowed

to play in women's sports and white people are made to feel guilty for their history and culture which is assigned to the rubbish bin of 'institutional racism.'

President Trump has no time for all this nonsense and wants to root it out of the universities and education system, and to remove what is called the 'deep state' influences on society. He is in favour of traditional Christian family values, opposing abortion on demand and the LGBT agenda. He is also against the assault on Israel that is now manifest in western society. During his time as President he moved the US embassy to Jerusalem, in support of Israel's view that Jerusalem is the undivided capital of Israel. He also encouraged the Abraham Accords which brought Arab countries into agreements with Israel. He has stated his intention to be supportive of Israel in his second presidency and work on a peace agenda that will guarantee Israel's security.

As a result some enthusiastic Christians are claiming that Trump's victory is a triumph for fundamentalist Christianity, especially the pro Israel Christian movement in the USA. Messianic Rabbi Jonathan Cahn gave a prophecy at a gathering of faith leaders in Atlanta saying: 'President Trump you were born into the world to be a trumpet of God a vessel of the Lord in the hands of God ... God chose you to overturn America's cult of Baal. Roe versus Wade by which millions of babies were sacrificed ... America can only be great again if America turns back to God ...

You will be the vessel God used to bring America back to touch history and to change the world.'

An article in NBC News quoted leading figures in the movement to remake America as an explicitly Christian nation. They celebrated Trump's victory as a fulfilment of prophecy and a key step in God's plan to usher in a new era of 'Christian dominion around the world.' Dutch Sheets, a self-described apostle, said Trump's victory called a "Third Great Awakening" — what he and other believers say will be a global revival of fervent Christian faith around the world.

Commenting on this Matthew Taylor said: "Trump has the capacity now to claim not only a democratic mandate, but a divine mandate. And there are legions of American Christians who are primed to embrace that narrative and to provide theological, moral and spiritual cover to whatever Trump decides to do." This is a dangerous position because Donald Trump is a politician whose past dealings have shown a flawed character, as is the case with many politicians. He does not identify as a Christian although he has sympathy for conservative Christian values which is to his credit.

Some of Trump's backers are supporters of the teaching of the 'New Apostolic Reformation'. This teaches that there must be the great end time revival bringing Christianity to dominance, including political power, in the last days before Jesus can return. The Bible by contrast teaches that in the last days

of this age antichrist forces will come to power and suppress people of faith as we see in Revelation 13.

From a biblical point of view we can say for sure that his victory will not bring a global triumph of Christianity this side of Jesus' return. We see multiple crises coming on our world, especially in the economic area, which neither left wing nor right wing governments will be able to solve. Prophecy shows us that the Antichrist will appear before the return of Jesus bringing a promise of peace (see previous article) and a change in the economic system of the world that will result in a new dictatorial control system (Revelation 13.16-18). The peace will not last and the world will plunge into its final time of war, dictatorship and Great Tribulation (Matthew 24.21-22, Revelation 6-19).

At some point in this process the real Saviour, Jesus Christ, will come to take His people to Himself in the rapture of the church (1 Thessalonians 4-5), before coming again to the earth with all power and glory (Matthew 24.30). Then 'the kingdoms of this world become the kingdom of our God and of His Messiah / Christ and He shall reign forever and ever' (Revelation 11.15). Meantime we have to stand up for truth and righteousness and make know the glorious Gospel message of our only Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

I gave a talk giving more details on this subject at The Bridge Christian Fellowship in London NW11 0EH available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M6NDmd9HQf8&t=291s>



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Greece, Persia and Israel

The astonishing relevance of the Bible to current events



The Bible is a unique book containing prophecies which have either been fulfilled or are being fulfilled or are about to be fulfilled. There is no other book containing such information. Only God, who knows the end from the beginning, could give such knowledge of coming events to His servants the prophets. These are recorded in the word of God and are a testimony to the truth of God's word.

The Book of Daniel contains some of the most remarkable prophecies in the Bible giving details of the rise and fall of empires following the captivity of the people of Israel in Babylon from 598 – 538 BC. So detailed and specific are Daniel's prophecies that sceptics have claimed that they must have been written by a later author around 165 BC. However the text itself records that these prophecies were given to the prophet Daniel following the time when he was taken from Jerusalem to Babylon as a captive in around 605 BC through to the time of the fall of Babylon to the Medo-Persian invaders in 540 BC.

The prophecy in Daniel 8 was given 'in the third year of King Belshazzar', in other words in the closing years of the Babylonian Empire, just before it was overthrown by the Medes and the Persians (as recorded in Daniel 5). Chapter 8 introduces the theme of the wars of the Greeks and the Persians and the coming Antichrist (Daniel 8.23-26) which we will look at later in this article.

Chapter 9 contains one of the most remarkable prophecies of the coming of the true Messiah Yeshua / Jesus Christ. Following the fall of Babylon, the prophet understood from reading the words of the former prophet Jeremiah that the 70 years of Jewish captivity in Babylon were coming to a close (Jeremiah 25.1-12, 29.10-14). So he prayed to God to have mercy on His people, forgive their sin and be given permission to return from Babylon to Jerusalem (Daniel 9.1-19). The angel Gabriel then came from God to give him the famous 'seventy weeks prophecy' (Daniel 9.20-27).

This gives details of events to come following the return of the Jews to Jerusalem, including the restoration of Jerusalem and the 'sanctuary' (the second Temple) 'in troublesome times' (9.25). This was fulfilled in the events described in the books of Ezra and Nehemiah. During the days of the Second Temple the 'anointed one' or Messiah would come, and be '**cut off but not for himself**'. Daniel 9.26 implies that this one would suffer some kind of death which would benefit others, corresponding to Isaiah's prophecy of the suffering servant Messiah in Isaiah 53.8: '**He was cut off from the land of the living; For the transgressions of My people He was stricken.**'

Daniel 9 then says that following this event: '**The people of the prince to come**

shall destroy the city (Jerusalem) and the sanctuary (the Temple in Jerusalem).’ So the order of events is: 1. The Messiah comes and suffers for the sake of others. 2. Jerusalem and the Temple would suffer a calamitous destruction. Jesus came and fulfilled the first part of this verse by dying on the cross as a sacrifice for the sin of the world and rising again from the dead on the third day, as described in the Gospels in the New Testament. Then forty years later the Romans destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple in the year 70 after the failed Jewish rebellion against Rome. Verse 27 goes on to describe an event which would take place a long time later when the ‘prince to come’, the one revealed in the New Testament as the anti-Messiah who will sign a false peace covenant in the last days of this age. We have a more detailed article on Daniel 9 available on request.

Cyrus Prophecy

In Daniel 10.1 we read, ‘In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a message was revealed to Daniel’. The reference to Cyrus is interesting. The earlier prophet Isaiah, who lived long before the captivity of the Jews in Babylon, prophesied that not only would the Jews be taken into captivity but they would also return to the land of Israel and rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem (Isaiah 44.24-45.13). The one who would bring this to pass is named as Cyrus: ‘(The Lord) says of Cyrus, he is My shepherd, and he shall perform all My pleasure, saying to Jerusalem, “You shall be built,” and to the temple, “Your foundation shall be laid.” (44.28). Chapter 45 goes on to describe Cyrus as God’s anointed, prophesying the way he would capture Babylon and make

way for the Jewish people as God’s elect (chosen) people to return to Jerusalem.

According to the Jewish historian Josephus, Daniel took the Isaiah scroll and presented it to Cyrus who was so impressed with seeing his name written in a prophecy that was given some 150 years previously that he went ahead and gave the proclamation for the Jews to return:

Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the Lord God of heaven has given me. And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem which is in Judah. Who is among you of all His people? May his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem which is in Judah, and build the house of the Lord God of Israel (He is God), which is in Jerusalem. Ezra 1.2-4.

Apart from this benevolent act towards the Jewish people, Cyrus the Great is known for his human rights decrees, inscribed on the Cyrus Cylinder, which is currently in the British Museum. This is considered by many to be the world’s first charter of human rights. He freed slaves, declared all people had the right to choose their own religion and established principles of racial equality.

The wars of the Persians and the Greeks

In Daniel 8, the prophet has revelation of things that would happen later in the Persian empire. He saw in a vision ‘a ram which had two horns, and the two horns were high; but one was higher than the other, and the higher one came up

last. I saw the ram pushing westward, northward, and southward, so that no



animal could withstand him; nor was there any that could deliver from his hand, but he did according to his will and became great’. (8.3-4). He is given the interpretation of this vision. The ram represents the kings of the Medes and Persians and the goat is the kingdom of Greece. The goat has a large horn (symbol of power) which will be then be broken and ‘four kingdoms shall arise out of that nation, but not with its power.’ (8.19-22).

Ancient history reveals that all this happened. The Persian empire spread to the north, south and west, becoming the greatest empire the world had seen to that time. It conquered Greece in 480 BC, but was then pushed back when the Greeks counter attacked. A hundred years later Alexander the Great began his campaigns, conquering the whole region from Macedonia to Egypt then through Damascus to Judea on his way to Persia.

According to Josephus, when Alexander came to Jerusalem the High Priest showed him a copy of this prophecy of Daniel which encouraged him to

believe that he would achieve his goal of defeating the Persians. This he did, taking possession of the Persian empire in one of the most remarkable military campaigns in history. As well as being assigned the symbol of the goat in chapter 8, the Greeks are connected with the leopard in Daniel chapter 7. The leopard is the fastest animal on earth, reflecting the incredible speed of Alexander’s conquest.

Daniel 8.8 prophesies that the goat’s power would be broken and his kingdom would be divided into four centres of power (see also Daniel 11.3-4). Having conquered this vast area, Alexander died aged 33 in Babylon. His empire was then divided between four of his generals. This resulted in the Seleucid dynasty gaining control of the area around Syria and Ptolemy and his descendants taking Egypt. In between Syria and Egypt is the land of Israel, which became a scene of conflict as these two rival kings confronted each other. Daniel 11 describes the wars of the kings of the north (Syria) and the kings of the south (Egypt) in some detail.

From 175-164 BC the Seleucid king Antiochus IV came from Syria to take control of Judea and Jerusalem. He became the great oppressor of the Jews, and in biblical terms a type of the king with fierce features of Daniel 8.23 (the Antichrist). He lifted himself up above God ascribing to himself divine powers, calling himself Epiphanes (illustrious one). The Jews called him ‘Epimanes’ meaning the madman. He demanded to be worshipped as a god, brought an

end to the worship of the God of Israel in the Temple. He erected a statue and an altar to Zeus, sacrificed a pig on the Temple altar and defiled and destroyed Torah scrolls, fulfilling Daniel's prophecy of the 'abomination of desolation'. He persecuted and killed those who remained faithful to the Lord.

He prospered for a while before being cut down by God and his power destroyed by the Jewish revolt led by the Maccabees. They cleansed and rededicated the Temple to the Lord, the event recorded in the books of Maccabees and celebrated by Jewish people to this day at Chanukah. These events are described in such accurate detail by Daniel's prophecy that sceptics say Daniel must have been written after the event, not 350 years before it. But God knows the end from beginning and was able to reveal these things to Daniel long before they happened. In the same way He has revealed things happening now in prophecies of the last days written 2000 years ago and earlier.

The influence of Alexander and the Greeks

Alexander was not only interested in military conquest but also wanted to spread Greek ideas, philosophy, science and language, which at that time was the most advanced in the world. He set up cities like Alexandria in Egypt which became a major centre of culture and learning for the ancient world, having its great library containing priceless documents. The library was later burned down, an incalculable loss to

our knowledge of the ancient world. Greek became the common language (lingua franca) of the ancient world (as English is today). The Hebrew Bible was translated into Greek in the Septuagint in Alexandria from the third to the first centuries BC, preparing the way for the Gospels and the New Testament describing the ministry of Jesus Christ to be written in Greek. As a result the message of the Messiah recorded in the Gospel spread throughout the area of the Roman Empire.

Greek thinking and ideas had a huge effect on the Roman Empire, so in many ways the Romans continued the Greek influence on the ancient world and beyond. The concept of democracy also came out of Athens, giving rise to the idea of some kind of representative government elected by the people to look after their interests. The Greeks also advanced humanist philosophy as represented by the saying of the philosopher Heraclitus, 'Man is the measure of all things.' Aristotle taught that being moral was inherent in human beings in contrast to the biblical view of original sin. Heraclitus also said 'Everything flows' and 'You can never step twice in the same stream'. This adds up to a humanist philosophy. There are no absolutes. Everything is relative. The water in the stream is constantly changing so values and ideas need to adapt to a changing world, subjected to the idea that 'man to be the measure of all things'. Therefore man becomes his own god no longer in need of direction or submission to a higher power.

The Bible by contrast says '[I the Lord change not therefore you sons of Jacob are not consumed](#)' (Malachi 3.6). The Bible's image of God is the rock whose work is perfect and is the one source of truth and justice (Deuteronomy 32.4). Jesus told us to build our lives on the unchanging rock of faith in God and obedience to His word (Matthew 7.24-25), not the changing philosophies of man.

Today we see the dominance of humanism and the Greek world view in the western world with a man centred philosophy conflicting with God's revelation contained in the Bible. Humanism, with relative moral values, denying God's commandments has become the dominant spirit in the west, even influencing the professing church. In Zechariah 9.13 we have a verse where the Lord says, '[I have raised up your sons, O Zion, against your sons, O Greece.](#)' We can see this as a way to understand the conflict between Greek influenced humanism and biblically based Judeo-Christian values in western society today.

Current events in Israel in relation to the Greeks and the Persians

In the book of Daniel we see that these prophecies concerning the Greeks and the Persians and their influence on the Jewish people merge into future prophecies concerning the last days conflict surrounding Israel. Into this mix comes a sinister figure, described as the 'little horn' (Daniel 7.8), the king with 'fierce features' (Daniel 8.23), the 'prince to come' (Daniel 9.26), and the king who

'does according to his own will' (Daniel 11.36-37). All these titles refer to the coming evil world ruler known as the Beast, the Man of Sin or the Antichrist in New Testament prophecies. There is a connection between this one and the evil ruler in Daniel 8. 9-12, who we have already identified in this article with Antiochus Epiphanes, the Greek / Syrian ruler who oppressed Israel in the days of the Maccabees.

Today we see the Jewish people restored a second time to the land of Israel, following the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948. In 1967 as a result of the Six Day War they expanded their rule into Judea and Samaria (the West Bank) centring on Israel's ancient and present capital city Jerusalem. In doing this they were fulfilling ancient prophecies of a world wide dispersion of the Jewish people to be followed by a restoration of Israel, firstly physically as a Jewish state, and secondly spiritually as prophesied in Ezekiel 36.24-28

['For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land. Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them. Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God.'](#)

This event is connected to the return of the Messiah who prophesied the fall of Jerusalem in AD 70, and the dispersion of the Jewish people into the nations, but then said: [Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.](#) Luke 21.24.

The return of the Jewish people to the land and to Jerusalem is connected with the events of the last days and the return of the Messiah to save His people and bring in the Messianic kingdom, ruling from Jerusalem and bringing peace to the world.

Persians and Greeks today

Before this happens however the Bible prophesies a time of great trouble coming to the whole region, with war between Israel and its neighbours. The cause will be the question of who owns the land, with Jerusalem at the centre of a conflict which will affect the whole world. However today we see Israel in the midst of such a conflict which touches on the Persians (modern Iran plus the Muslim world) and the Greeks (the western alliance / Europe plus America).

In the Bible story Persia had its good people, Cyrus in particular, and its bad ones. The book of Esther tells of the wicked Haman who sought to bring about the world's first genocide and wipe out the Jews in the Persian Empire. In modern terms the Shah of Iran was sympathetic to Israel and pro western. However he became very unpopular due to his lavish life style and his use of a police crackdown on his enemies.

This caused the revolution in 1979 led by Ayatollah Khomeini and Islamic Revolution which remains in power today. This imposed a repressive form of fundamentalist Islam on the population, and declared war on what they called the Great Satan (the USA) and the little Satan (Israel).

Following the example of Haman, not Cyrus, the Islamic regime has poured billions of dollars into anti Zionist proxy groups in Arab lands surrounding Israel, supplying them with vast amounts of missiles and arms, aiming at its goal which is the destruction of Israel. Iran is also working on a nuclear programme which it hopes will produce a nuclear bomb. Israel sees this as a threat to its existence.

Iran's actions have stoked up conflicts between rival Arab groups in the region as well as with Israel. Opposing Iran, moderate Sunni Muslim powers, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Jordan do not welcome Iran's meddling in their region. Many Iranians question why their government is wasting so much money and effort in conflicts inside these countries which have nothing to do with the interests of the Iranian people. Now even Iran's allies are beginning to question the value of being allied to Islamic regime.

Sadly for the people of Iran, most of whom despise the Islamic regime, their country has now fallen under a demonic principality which is at war with the true God and is leading the country to disaster. Interestingly in Daniel 10 the prophet has an encounter with a powerful angel who tells him: ["Do you know why I have](#)

[come to you? And now I must return to fight with the prince of Persia; and when I have gone forth, indeed the prince of Greece will come. But I will tell you what is noted in the Scripture of Truth."](#) The 'princes' referred to here are demonic principalities which were over Persia and Greece in the time of Daniel. It appears that they will arise again in the last days to trouble the world.

Iran (Persia) is mentioned as one of the countries coming against Israel in the end time War of Gog and Magog (Ezekiel 38.5). It is linked to a power to the north of Israel (Russia or Turkey). Iran has been allied with other powers operating in Syria, Russia and Turkey. The recent uprising against Assad's forces in Syria is a bitter blow to the Ayatollah's effort to project Iranian power into the Arab countries. Nevertheless, Turkey's President Erdogan recently called for an alliance of Russia, Turkey and Iran to come against Israel. Students of prophecy recognise that this lines up with the alliance of Ezekiel 38-39, the war of Gog and Magog, an invasion from the north, which will come against Israel after the Jewish people have been regathered to the land in the latter days of this age. When this army attacks Israel, it will be destroyed supernaturally by God (38.18-23).

One of the puzzling things about Ezekiel's prophecy is that it implies that at the time when this invasion takes place Israel will be dwelling 'safely' (38.8). The Hebrew is *l'betach* which means 'with security'. Israel today is living in conditions of great insecurity, threatened with terrorism

and war on many fronts against enemies equipped with missiles and drones. So does something have to happen first? Does this have something to do with the other group of people we have looked at in this article, the Greeks?

Modern Greece is a member of the European Union, which is currently relatively friendly to Israel, and has an agreement with Israel relating to oil and gas fields in the Mediterranean which extend from the coast of Israel to Cyprus and beyond. As we have already said in this article ancient Greece was incredibly influential in spreading its ideas, through the area of the Greek empire, then to Rome and then to the European countries. So as far as end time prophecy is concerned we could identify Greece with Europe and America, the democratic nations which make up the western alliance.

Today we see the efforts of western powers, particularly the USA, trying to mediate a peace treaty for the Middle East, as we have described in the article on War and Peace in this magazine.

The proposed peace settlement involves Israel and the Palestinian Authority agreeing to a two state solution, as described in our previous article. One of the sticking points in this is the question of who rules Jerusalem. Israel has also refused to contemplate any division of Jerusalem, claiming the city as its eternal indivisible capital. Students of prophecy recognise that this situation lines up with the prophecy of Zechariah 12-14 which sees Jerusalem as the focal point

of world conflict in the last days leading to the final war over its status and the return of the Messiah. Joel 3.2 'They have divided up My land' speaks of a time when the nations will try to divide the land of Israel against the will of God.

Both Iran and Russia are currently in a weakened state, due to the war in Ukraine and Iran's virtual defeat in the current war with Israel. Because of this Israel may feel more confident to go forward into a peace agreement with the Palestinians and the Arab countries around them. It appears that the one who will bring this peace agreement to pass is the coming Antichrist who is also described in Daniel 8.23-26:

"And in the latter time of their kingdom (note the previous verses 21-22 are about the 'kingdom of Greece'), when the transgressors have reached their fullness, a king shall arise, having fierce features, who understands sinister schemes. His power shall be mighty, but not by his own power; He shall destroy fearfully, and shall prosper and thrive; He shall destroy the mighty, and also the holy people. "Through his cunning he shall cause deceit to prosper under his rule; and he shall exalt himself in his heart. He shall destroy many in their prosperity. He shall even rise against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without human means. "And the vision of the evenings and mornings which was told is true; therefore seal up the vision, for it refers to many days in the future."

The king who has fierce features and understands sinister schemes is the same

figure as Paul describes in 2 Thessalonians 2 and John describes in the New Testament book of Revelation chapter 13, the beast or Antichrist, who will take world power in the final seven year period known as the Great Tribulation before the return of the Messiah Jesus. He is connected to the figure of Antiochus Epiphanes, the Greek ruler who oppressed the Jews in the time of the Maccabees and who is specifically prophesied in Daniel 8.11-14 and 11.21-36.

This will happen in the 'latter time of their (Gentile powers) kingdom'. A time when 'transgressors have reached their fullness'. Jesus told us that in the last days before His return 'lawlessness (or wickedness) will abound, the love of many will grow cold.' Matthew 24.12. He said it would be as in the days of Noah (Matthew 24.37) when Genesis tells us: 'The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. ... The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.' Genesis 6.5 and 11

Daniel 8 also tells us that this King shall arise understanding sinister schemes. Will he have secret knowledge through occult power? Or will he use the huge power of modern technology to bring in new ways to control the human race and force his rule upon people?

He will also be 'mighty but not by his own power.' Revelation 13.2-4 tells us that the beast or Antichrist will be given power and authority by the dragon (the devil). See also 2 Thessalonians 2.9-10.

He will also use cunning and deceit. This could refer to controlling the means of mass communication, which today are becoming more and more deceitful propaganda.

'He will be against the holy people', in other words believing Christians and Jews who will face growing persecution in the last days. We note that throughout the world, including the nominally Christian countries of the western world there is a growing anti-Jewish and anti-Christian spirit taking control. According to Daniel 7, out of this spirit will arise the 'little horn' who will be given power by 'ten kings' and then: 'He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time.' Daniel 7.25. This corresponds to the Beast or Antichrist who is also given power by ten kings (Revelation 17.10) and who speaks against God and the Messiah and persecutes the saints. Revelation 13.8-10.

All these things are coming together in the world today and pointing us towards the end of days scenario prophesied in the Bible. At the end of the seven year period of the Antichrist rule, the Messiah will return with all power and glory to bring an end to his misrule on earth and transfer power to the Messiah Yeshua.

There remain many imponderables on this issue, including the timing of the rapture of the church, the question of the rebuilt Temple in Jerusalem, but for the sake of space we will leave those issues for

the moment. What we can say from the Daniel passage is that there will be some kind of agreement or peace covenant for a period of seven years which will break down after three and a half years. This will result from the desolating sacrilege / abomination being set up (note the connection to Antiochus Epiphanes). In Matthew 24.15-21 Jesus said this abomination of desolation (which he connected to the book of Daniel) will lead to a Jewish flight from Jerusalem and Judea and the final period of great tribulation before His return.

Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. ... For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened. (Matthew 24-22-31).

While we can only speculate about the nature of the 'abomination of desolation', it is clear that it has a connection to the 'holy place' – the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. This time of trouble will precede the 'consummation', the end time events as a result of which judgement will be poured out on the 'desolate', or the 'one who makes desolate.' The one who makes desolate, who is responsible for this situation is the Antichrist who has caused this situation to arise by making the false

peace covenant of Daniel 9.27 and Isaiah 28 and then putting in place 'the abomination of desolation.'

So who is he? According to Daniel 9.26-7, the one who makes this covenant is the last person mentioned in verse 26, who is called 'the prince to come'. In the context he comes out of the people responsible for the destruction of Jerusalem and the Second Temple in AD 70 (the Romans). He also has a connection to Greece as we read in Daniel 8.22-26. In these closing verses of Daniel 8 the prophet brings Antiochus and the coming Antichrist together revealing that the same spiritual power is being channelled through both of them.

All these things coming together in the world today are pointing us towards the end of days scenario prophesied in the Bible. At the end of the seven year period of the Antichrist rule, the Messiah will return with all power and glory to bring an end to his misrule on earth and transfer power to the Messiah Yeshua.

We need to be ready for His return now by repenting of our sins, believing in Jesus the Messiah who has come once to suffer and die and rise from the dead as a sacrifice for our sins and who is coming again to judge the world in righteousness and set up His messianic kingdom.

'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!" Revelation 11.15.

Jews, Greeks and Persians and everyone else are all invited to come into this kingdom before it is too late.

It will be worth being there because then we will see the earth being run properly by the Messiah Himself with peace and justice available for all. As we read in Isaiah 2.1-4

Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people; They shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

Syria and the end times

The revolution by Islamic militants of Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HST) overthrew the 54 year long rule of the Assad family with lightning speed in early December 2023. This action bore remarkable resemblance to the 2500+ year old prophecy, an oracle 'against Damascus.'

'Hamath and Arpad are shamed, for they have heard bad news. They are fainthearted; There is trouble on the sea; It cannot be quiet.' Jeremiah 49.23-27.

A surprise attack of rebels coming out of Idlib (the northern area of Syria by Turkish border) took control of Aleppo Syria's second city and then Hama on the road to Damascus. Jeremiah mentions two Syrian cities. They are Hamath and Arpad (or modern day Tell Rifaat). Arpad is just to the north of Aleppo, Hamath is the Syrian city of Hama.

Jeremiah tells us that as a result of this attack there will be trouble on the sea. The sea coast of Syria is not far away to the west of Hama, where the ports of Tartus and Latakia are situated. Russia has a naval base at Tartus, a very important facility for the Russian navy in the Mediterranean. Latakia is the base for the Syrian navy. This navy along with nearly all weapons storages of the former regime were destroyed by Israeli air strikes the week after the rebels took Damascus.

The Russian navy withdrew from Tartus, and Russian and Iranian forces began to leave Syria. These forces, along with Hezbollah from Lebanon, had been vital in securing Assad in power during the years of the Syrian civil war. In return for this support Assad gave Russia and Iran important bases from which to project their power into the Middle East. The rebel forces now want to remove the power of Iran and Hezbollah from Syria. At the time of writing they are still negotiating the future of Russia's naval

and air bases in Syria. Both Russia and Iran have sunk billions of dollars into Syria, most of which is now lost.

'Damascus has grown feeble; she turns to flee, and fear has seized her. Anguish and sorrows have taken her like a woman in labour. Why is the city of praise not deserted, the city of My joy? Therefore her young men shall fall in her streets, and all the men of war shall be cut off in that day," says the Lord of hosts. "I will kindle a fire in the wall of Damascus, and it shall consume the palaces of Ben-Hadad."

Damascus has grown feeble

The main reason for the success of the rebel advance is that Damascus (the Assad regime) lost support of the forces that were holding it up, its own army, Hezbollah, the Iranians and the Russians. His army abandoned its positions and fled before the rebels in a matter of days. Jeremiah tells of the men of war being cut off in that day. Hezbollah, the Lebanese Shiite militia which came over to support Assad against the predominantly Sunni Muslim opposition forces, has been degraded and neutralised as a fighting force by Israel in the previous months.

Iran has been seriously weakened by the conflict with Israel with its bases already under attack from Israeli air strikes. Russia is pre-occupied with the Ukraine war and has no forces to send to Syria to defend Assad. So Assad's regime has grown feeble and he and his family have fled to Russia. The rebels stormed into Damascus with hardly any resistance and the people looted the palaces of 'Ben-

Hadad' (a generic name for the rulers of Syria = the palaces of Assad).

Anguish and sorrow have taken her like a woman in labour

What happened in Syria is another sign of the last days 'birth pangs' leading to the final time of tribulation and the coming of the Lord. This is a major blow to Iran and its axis of evil confronting Israel, also to Russia. Turkey which has backed the rebels is emerging as a winner in the situation, having its own agenda to extend its influence. Turkish President Erdogan has dreams of reviving the Ottoman Empire which once ruled in Syria and Israel / Palestine. He has previously called for an Islamic army to come against Israel, also for Russia, Iran and Turkey to come together against Israel. This would tie up with the line up of forces coming against Israel from the north in the War of Gog and Magog (Ezekiel 38-39). Coming from the north these forces would have to assemble in Syria before being destroyed by God on the 'mountains of Israel', the Golan Heights.

HTS is led by Abu Mohammed al Jolani, a former Islamist leader with links to al Qaeda who is now in the process of re-inventing himself as an inclusive statesman who does not want to go against Israel and wants an inclusive state with a place for Christian and Alawite minorities. Whether this will really happen remains to be seen. There are already reports of attacks on Christian minorities in Aleppo and a report from the Gatestone Foundation

says roughly half a million Christians and 2.5 million Kurds in Syria face danger at the hands of jihadist terrorists.

On one level Israel sees events in Syria as a positive development, further weakening Iran and its proxies who threaten Israel. On the other hand a video has emerged of armed fighters pledging to 'free Palestine' and march on the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. They said, 'Here is the land of Islam, from here we are coming O Jerusalem.' In response Israel has been bombarding Syrian military sites to prevent rebel takeover of deadly weapons. Israel has also occupied the Syrian side of Mount Hermon in a bid to neutralise a potential threat. Netanyahu has warned of military action if rebels threaten Israel from Syria. Israel has also knocked out Syrian air defence systems, making way for a possible Israeli air strike on nuclear sites in Iran.

We can only speculate on where this is leading, but the Bible does predict two events that have not yet happened in relation to Syria.

1. The War of Gog and Magog

Ezekiel 38-39 This is an invasion of Israel from the north that will come through the country to the north of Israel = Syria. This will be led by a power to the far north of Israel from 'Gog of the land of Magog'. Generally this is held to be Russia, but Russia has been severely weakened by the Ukraine war and its army is now in a poor state and not in a position to move against Israel. An

alternative possibility is that it is Turkey which is also to the north of Israel and has just become much more involved in the Syrian situation and has stated a purpose to come against Israel.

2. The destruction of Damascus

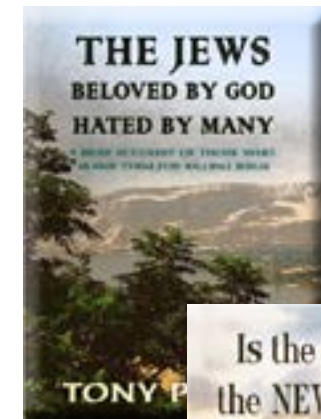
Isaiah 17: **Behold Damascus will cease from being a city and it will become a ruinous heap.** Some interpreters see this as an event which happened back in Bible times when the Assyrians sacked Damascus in 733BC. However it was not left uninhabited at that time. In the context this passage appears to describe a situation of general desolation connected to God's end time prophecies and Israel.

It is interesting that Islamic sources also point to end time events happening in Syria and Damascus: 'Allah will send the Messiah, son of Mary, and he will descend near the white minaret of Damascus, wearing two saffron-coloured garments, his hands resting on the wings of two Angels.' (Sahih Muslim Book 41, Hadith 7015). The Hadith are a collection of traditions containing sayings attributed to Muhammad which constitute the major source of guidance for Muslims. This is interpreted to mean that at a time of great need Isa (Islamic Jesus) will return to earth from heaven in order to lead the final battle against the Dajjal (Islamic Antichrist figure). Muslims believe he will descend on the Eastern Minaret in Damascus, and the (remaining) believers will gather around him. Islamic State (ISIS) also placed great significance on a small village in the north of Syria called Dabiq, which is mentioned in Islamic

prophecies as the apocalyptic battlefield for the "end-of-times battle" between the Muslims and the infidels.

So watch events in Syria for signs of the return of the Messiah Jesus (to the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem by the way, not Damascus!).

God will then bring an end to the war. There will be a highway of peace from Egypt to Assyria through Israel. God will bless those lands (including Syria) with peace and prosperity when Messiah reigns from Jerusalem: 'The Lord of hosts shall bless, saying, "Blessed is Egypt My people, and Assyria the work of My hands, and Israel My inheritance.'" Isaiah 19.23-25.



Signs of the Times



Time to stand against Antisemitism

Antisemitic leaflets bearing the threat “Zionists leave Britain or be slaughtered” have been found in Hendon, a predominantly Jewish neighbourhood in London. The flyers, written in Hebrew, also declared the area a “Zionist free zone” in English.

“This is not just another wave that will pass if we remain passive,” warned Isaac Zarfati, executive director of Stand With Us UK. “We must take those threats and statements seriously because one day they will turn into actions. Decisive steps are needed to combat this alarming phenomenon.”

This is just one of a number of antisemitic incidents taking place in Britain and across the western world. Since the Gaza war started there have been weekly demonstrations against Israel that have turned into hate fests against Jews and Israelis and those who stand with them as anti-Zionists gather to chant

‘Free Palestine’ and ‘From the River to the Sea Palestine shall be free,’ in other words the elimination of the State of Israel. They support the cause of Hamas, responsible for the worst antisemitic act since the Holocaust on October 7th 2023. We recognise the terrible suffering of the people of Gaza in the war which followed. However the root cause of this war and all the conflicts in the Middle East is the obsessive desire to destroy Israel which motivates its enemies in the region and in Europe and America.

The mainstream Christian church is largely silent on this. The now departing Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, issued many months of inflammatory statements regarding the Jewish state as the Hamas-Israel war has continued. He condemned Israel’s continued presence in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, accusing Israel of “denying the Palestinian people dignity, freedom and hope”. He had nothing to say about their wish to destroy the state of Israel. Rabbi Goldstein said ‘By publicly denouncing Israel in the middle of its war against Iranian-backed, radical Islamist terrorist organizations, Welby and other leaders have only encouraged the enemies of the Jewish state and Western democracies.’

A religious text book used in Saudi Arabia has a section ‘The victory of the Muslims over the Jews’ and quotes the Hadith: “The last hour won’t come

before the Muslims would fight the Jews and the Muslims will kill them so Jews would hide behind rocks and trees. Then the rocks and tree would call: oh Muslim, oh servant of God! There is a Jew behind me, come and kill him.” This text is widely known and propagated by Muslim fundamentalists. The Hamas charter says ‘Israel will exist and will continue to exist until Islam will obliterate it’. The liberal left alliance that chants ‘from the River to the Sea Palestine will be free’ presumably agrees with this.

We see a rise in what has been called the red-green anti-Zionist alliance of leftists and Islamists in Europe and America. They want the destruction of Israel, but not just the end of Israel. The main assault on biblical Christianity comes from the far left and the Islamists. It is time for Christians who love the Lord and His word to stand with Israel and the Jewish people against this onslaught.

Antisemitism is contrary to the teaching of the Bible which teaches God’s love for the people of Israel, the Jewishness of Jesus as the Messiah and Saviour. The covenants God made with Abraham and Moses assure the continued existence of the Jewish people and the hope of the coming Messianic kingdom when Jesus will return and rule the world from restored Israel and Jerusalem. False Christian teaching blaming the Jews for the crucifixion of Jesus is denied by the actual teaching of the New Testament, which teaches the He voluntarily laid down His life as a sacrifice for the sins of the world. His death was in the Lord’s

will in order to redeem lost humanity so that we might know God’s love and mercy and forgiveness. For more on this send for our booklet ‘Jews hated by many, loved by God’ and ‘Has the Church replaced Israel?’

Climate change questions

During the COVID-19 pandemic, sweeping lockdowns and mandates brought much of the global economy to a grinding halt, creating ripple effects that are still felt today. Supply chains faltered, millions faced job losses, and the world teetered on the edge of an economic crisis. Yet, some climate change advocates viewed this global disruption through a different lens, celebrating a reported 5.4% drop in emissions as evidence that drastic actions could benefit the planet.

These voices championed the pandemic lockdowns as a potential blueprint for future “climate lockdowns”—periodic, government-enforced shutdowns designed to reduce carbon emissions and combat global warming. The idea, promoted by figures like Mariana Mazzucato, a contributor to the World Economic Forum (WEF), proposed stringent measures such as banning private vehicle use, limiting meat consumption, and halting fossil fuel extraction. The narrative aligns with broader agendas promoted by powerful globalist organizations like the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the United Nations, which have called for sweeping measures to achieve “net-zero”

carbon emissions by 2030. They want to bring in travel bans, digital passports and the mechanisms of control developed during the pandemic, repurposed for climate-related enforcement.

A new study by Dr Michael Simpson of Sheffield University (PhD in Physical / Analytical Chemistry) challenges the Global Warming premise at its core, arguing that CO2's impact on global temperatures is far less significant than claimed and that Net Zero policies are both scientifically unfounded and economically devastating.

The greenhouse gas theory suggests that CO2 traps heat in the Earth's atmosphere, causing temperatures to rise. Simpson's study shows that more CO2 will result in minuscule temperature changes, far below the alarming projections often publicised. The study also underscores the stability of Earth's climate system, which is driven more by natural factors like solar radiation, ocean currents, and atmospheric pressure rather than gases like CO2. Simpson's findings align with empirical studies showing minor temperature impacts from increased CO2 levels. Moreover, CO2 comprises only 0.04% of the atmosphere, and human activities contribute a mere fraction of this. These proportions are too small to drive significant climatic change.

Despite these realities, governments are committing trillions of dollars to Net Zero policies. In the UK alone, the cost of decarbonization is estimated at over £1.4 trillion, with zero benefits. The

calculations show that even if global CO2 emissions were eliminated entirely, the temperature reduction is estimated to be a mere 0.28C by 2100.

Simpson's critique extends to the reliance on climate models, which he argues are flawed and unscientific. These models often build the greenhouse gas effect into their assumptions, creating a circular logic where increased CO2 automatically predicts higher temperatures. Such models ALWAYS run hot compared to actual observations, exaggerating warming trends and fuelling unwarranted alarm.

<https://ccsenet.org/journal/index.php/jsd/article/view/0/50940>

Meanwhile the winter is bringing extreme cold weather to many parts of the world (as it did last year). Electroverse website monitors weather conditions around the world and challenges the assumptions of the AGW lobby that world temperatures are continually rising. It reports extreme cold weather already in parts of the northern hemisphere, Russia, North America, China and parts of Asia, high snowfall on mountain ranges like the Alps and increasing ice cover in the Arctic and Antarctic regions and on the Greenland ice sheet. For information go to <https://electroverse.info>

At its core, the climate agenda appears to be a mechanism for wealth redistribution under the guise of environmental stewardship. Developed nations are expected to bear the financial burden of achieving net-zero goals, funnelling

resources and technology to developing nations. Meanwhile, globalist institutions like the IMF stand poised to oversee and profit from this massive transfer of wealth.

These policies also pave the way for tighter controls over individual freedoms. The push for climate lockdowns, carbon taxes, and net-zero policies is not merely about addressing environmental concerns; it is about reshaping the global economic and political landscape. By using the spectre of climate catastrophe, global elites seek to justify measures that would centralise power, curtail freedoms, and impose economic hardship on millions.

Know the truth

One of our readers, David Jones, has put together an excellent new book 'Know the truth and the truth shall set you free' which brings together defence of the Christian faith and the Gospel Message with analysis of contemporary issues in the light of Bible prophecies of the end times. The book contains information on Israel and the Middle East, Secular humanism and 'woke' ideas, Islam, Antisemitism and replacement theology and globalism and plans for control via currency measures along the lines of Revelation 13 and the 666 prophecy. A good read available from us for £7 plus postage.

We are cooperating with friends in USA at Lighthouse Trails Publications <https://www.lighthouse Trails Publications.com> producing booklets on additional material. The following are available from us at £1.50

each plus postage and on our website:

[World Government on the Horizon?](#)

Analysis of forces working to bring the world together (as it falls apart).

[The Quran and the Bible](#)

Compares the sources of Islam and Christianity, with questions about the origins of the Quran and the authenticity of Muslim claims.

[Is the Church the New Israel?](#)

Replacement Theology. Questions about Old Testament prophecy and Israel's restoration – is it about the church or modern Israel? How New Testament texts about Israel relate to literal Israel.

[The Jews beloved by God and hated by many](#)

'Who killed Jesus?' – a refutation of antisemitic teaching in the church which places responsibility on the Jewish people. Persecution of the Jews by the professing church is a betrayal of the real Messiah Jesus and the teaching of the New Testament.



Last Word



'Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him.'

2 Thessalonians 2.1.

At some point in the distant future to the Apostle Paul, when he wrote these words in

around 51-2 AD, but in the not so distant future to people living now in 2025, an event so huge is going to take place that we can hardly begin to take it in. Jesus is going to return, not this time in the form He came first time, in humility, with His identity veiled or hidden. At His first coming He fulfilled the prophecies of the Suffering Servant Messiah, dying as a sacrifice for the sin of the world and rising from the dead to give forgiveness with God and eternal life to all who turn to God in repentance and faith in Jesus (Isaiah 53). At His Second Coming He will come in a totally different form with His glory unveiled, and His divine identity made known to all with all the power of God revealed. His appearance on earth will follow a time of great tribulation on earth which concludes with the sun, moon and stars going dark, and the sign of the Son of Man appearing in the heavens (a brilliant piercing light) and the Lord appearing in power and glory.

Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. Matthew 24.29-30.

As a result, The kingdom of this world will become the kingdom of our God and of His Messiah and He shall reign for ever and ever. Revelation 11.15. See also Daniel 2.44.

This will be a totally cosmic event. Even those of us who have studied this subject for years can barely get our heads round how awesome and earth shattering this will be. The Messiah will then bring an end to the present corrupt world order and set up the kingdom of God. Then 'The government will be upon His shoulder and of His kingdom there will be no end. Isaiah 9.6. No more democracy or dictatorships, no more corrupt human governments. No more wars, famines, disasters, pollution of the environment caused by human mismanagement of the earth. No more influence of the 'god of this world' (Satan) on the affairs of this planet. Only God's influence, mediated through Jesus Christ and Holy Spirit indwelling true believers. Everything

else will be cast out. The Babylon world system under the influence of Satan and demons. Evil people and Governments and false religions of this world. Over. Finito. Kaput. End.

'Our gathering together to meet Him.' At some point in the coming days another huge event will take place. Paul wrote about it in the first letter he sent to the Thessalonians:

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words. 1 Thessalonians 4.16-18

Those who have died before this event happens will be resurrected and those who are still alive when it happens will be supernaturally taken out of this realm 'to meet the Lord in the air.' They will receive new bodies which will never get old or sick or die (1 Corinthians 15.35-58). No matter where they are on earth, inside or outside, asleep or awake, the ones who are believers in Jesus will be taken supernaturally by the Lord into His presence. The ones who are not believers will be left behind to face the time of God's judgement on earth.

I tell you, in that night there will be two men in one bed: the one will be taken and the other will be left. Two women will be

grinding together: the one will be taken and the other left. Two men will be in the field: the one will be taken and the other left." Luke 21.34-36.

There is discussion about whether this event, known as the rapture, comes before, in the middle or at the end of the seven year tribulation period which will precede the Second Coming. My studies have led me to the conclusion that the most likely time for the rapture to happen is before the tribulation. However whatever conclusion we come to on this subject, it will happen and the most important thing we can do now is to be ready to meet the Lord, either at the moment of our death or the rapture of the church. The way to do this is to repent of our sin and unbelief and put our trust in Jesus as Saviour and Lord. We ask God to come into our lives by sending us His Holy Spirit who will reveal the truth about the Lord Jesus, about salvation and eternal life. He will come and live within us as long as we live on this earth. John 14-16.

Jesus said, So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. Luke 11.9-10

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. Revelation 3.20.

Do it now.

Conclusion



All the things that we write of in this magazine are pointers to the fulfilment of Bible prophecies of the last days in our day and the soon coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The most important thing we can do, in the light of this, is to call on the name of the Lord for salvation, so we are ready to meet Him at His coming.

Dear Heavenly Father, I admit that I am a sinner and need your forgiveness. I believe that Jesus the Messiah died in my place, shedding His blood to pay for my sins, and that He rose again from the dead to give me eternal life. I am willing right now to turn from my sin and accept Jesus the Messiah as my personal Saviour and Lord. I commit my life to you and ask you to send the Holy Spirit into my life, to fill me and to take control and to help me become the kind of person you want me to be.

Thank you Father for loving me.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

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