

"Will Israel Survive?"

All of us have been shocked and saddened by what is transpiring in Israel. I am writing this on October 11 and at this time the number of Israeli dead stands at around 1200. This number includes many women, children, and babies. Linda and I have been in almost constant intercession and have sent financial assistance to those in Israel who are supplying humanitarian aid. We encourage you to do the same.

Those who are in a position to know are telling us that this could escalate into the most deadly prolonged war Israel has ever fought. Hamas fired over 2000 rockets into Israel, but on Israel's Northern border, it is estimated that Hezbollah has over 100,000 rockets ready to launch and already has been firing on Israeli military positions.

This brings us to a very important question: **Does Israel possess the military might necessary to defeat its enemies?** This is a very complicated issue and world opinion is sure to factor in. History has shown that ultimately Israel will be condemned for defending herself and neutralizing the threat against her. Already the Hamas propaganda machine has sprung into action, trying to place the blame on Israel.

So, we need to go to the Bible to find an answer to the question. There is a terrible portion of scripture in Zechariah that leads me to believe that Israel will survive this crisis.

Zechariah 14:2 COMPLETE JEWISH BIBLE

2 "For I will gather all the nations against Yerushalayim for war. The city will be taken, the houses will be rifled, the women will be raped, and half the city will go into exile...."

I hesitate to use this portion of scripture because I don't want to be accused of anti-Semitism. God knows I love Israel and the Jewish people. However, I decided against my caution

because I assure you, that even though this verse sounds terrible, it contains some very good news for Israel, both now and in the future. First of all, it means that when this comes to pass, Israel will still exist. **She will not have been destroyed by Hamas, Hezbollah, Iran, Syria, or anyone else.** So, you should keep praying, but you need not be anxious. Second, verse three reveals that on that day God will say, "That's enough."

Zechariah 14:3 COMPLETE JEWISH BIBLE

3 Then Adonai will go out and fight against those nations, fighting as on a day of battle.

So, is the war we are witnessing now the start of Zechariah 14? It could be, but I highly doubt it. As horrible as it is, this is not Zechariah 14, and verses four and five are the main reason why I believe this.

Zechariah 14:4-5 COMPLETE JEWISH BIBLE

4 On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives....

5... Then Adonai my God will come to you **with all the holy ones....**

So, why does this make me believe that what we are seeing today is not the fulfillment of Zechariah 14? It's very simple.

We can't come with Him if we're not with Him!

(I know that's deep, but try to wrap your head around it.)

2 Thessalonians 4:17-18 KJV

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: **and so shall we ever be with the Lord.**

WE ARE IN THE SEASON OF THE RAPTURE!