

"What's Next?"

We have always tried to keep our newsletter current and relevant, and right now nothing fits this criteria better than what is happening in Israel. Many people are very concerned that this conflict could escalate and plunge the world into World War III. Is this a possibility? I will answer that question in this article, so continue reading.

The traditional way teachers have presented end-time events has been to list them in the chronological order they think they will occur. There is nothing wrong with this, but is there another way to look at it? I think there is. Could it be that there are several different prophecies God gave to several different prophets that all talk about the same prophetic event, but give us a different perspective and greater detail about it? A good example of this would be the four gospels, where each talks about the life of Jesus, yet each includes some unique things the others don't.

With this in mind, I want to look at three prophecies given to three different prophets; Isaiah, Ezekiel, and Jeremiah. Usually, these have been presented as three completely different events that are not connected in any way. But, a closer study reveals they are actually talking about the same event with each giving us more detail about it. I am not giving these in the order in which I think they will occur, because I think there is a possibility they could all happen simultaneously. The first name I will draw out of the hat is Isaiah.

Isaiah 17:1;14 ICB

1 This is the message for Damascus:

"The city of Damascus will be destroyed.

Only ruins will be left there."

14 At night the people will be very frightened.

Before morning, no one will be left....

Many Bible scholars have suggested that the only way this could happen would be if Damascus

was the target of a nuclear bomb. This seems impossible, but could it happen? I want to point out that for many years Syria has been producing poison gas and has even used it against their own people. Poison gas is considered a weapon of mass destruction, (WMD) and if she should be foolish enough to use it against Israel, I can easily see Israel responding by destroying Damascus with a nuclear bomb and thus fulfilling Isaiah 17.

If this happens, I can only imagine the outcry of protest that will erupt worldwide. Believe it or not, Isaiah talks about this later in this same chapter.

Isaiah 17:12 KJV

12 Woe to the multitude of many people, **which make a noise like the noise of the seas**; and to the rushing of nations, that make a rushing **like the rushing of mighty waters!**

To understand what this is referring to we must do a word study of the word, "**noise**". The Hebrew word used here means: "To be in great commotion or tumult, to rage, clamor, cry aloud, be disquieted, mourn, be moved, make a noise, roar, be troubled, to be in an uproar."

Undoubtedly, this verse is talking about huge protests that would be triggered if Israel chooses to defend herself in this way. If Isaiah 17:1 is fulfilled, millions of people will take to the streets demanding Israel's complete destruction. It should also be noted Isaiah tells us that the nations will rush, "**like the rushing of mighty waters**" to accommodate their demands. It will be like a flash flood!

Now let's look at Ezekiel 38.

I am sure the discovery of huge oil and gas deposits just off the coast of Israel has not gone unnoticed by her enemies. Ezekiel tells us that at some point in the future, a multi-nation confederacy will attempt to take a great spoil from what they believe is an easy target.

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Ezekiel 38:13 KJV

13... Art thou come to take a spoil? hast thou gathered thy company to take a prey? To carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil?

The third prophecy I want us to consider is from Zechariah 14.

Zechariah 14:2 KJV

2 For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

This takes us back to the question I raised at the beginning of this article. Are these three prophecies talking about three separate unconnected events, or could each be giving more detail about one great event? If so, what is that great event? The answers are not hard to find, nor is it hard to uncover what that one great event is. All we need to do is fast forward to the end of each prophecy. **If each prophecy has the same ending, then in all likelihood each prophet is talking about the same major event.** So, do these prophecies share any similarities? Let's take a look. Again I will start with Isaiah.

Isaiah 17:13 KJV

13 The nations shall rush like the rushing of many waters: **but God shall rebuke them, and they shall flee far off,** and shall be chased as the chaff of the mountains before the wind, and like a rolling thing before the whirlwind.

Ezekiel 38:18;20;23 KJV

18 And it shall come to pass at the same time when Gog shall come against the land of Israel, saith the Lord GOD, that **my fury shall come up in my face.**

20...and all the men that are upon the face of the earth, shall shake at my presence....

23 Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the LORD.

Zechariah 14:3 KJV

3 Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle.

Obviously, all three prophecies have very similar endings, so it would appear all three are talking about the same event. **In the next verse, Zechariah goes one step further and tells us what that end-time event is.**

Zechariah 14:4 LEB

4 On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east....

These three prophecies will not be fulfilled until the days just before Jesus returns, and that is not going to happen now. I say this because Jesus' feet will not stand on the Mount of Olives until the end of the great tribulation, and therefore, the fulfillment of these three prophecies is a minimum of 7 years away. First, the antichrist must rise to power and make a 7-year treaty with Israel that finally brings her the peace and safety Ezekiel 38 says she will have at the time of the invasion. (Ezekiel 38:8) Then after 3 1/2 years he will break that treaty, and only then will you see these three prophecies fulfilled.

The rapture of the church is a different story. I do not know of any prophecy that must be fulfilled before the rapture can take place. So I must ask you, are you ready? Jesus said, "There will be weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth." Don't let that happen to you. There is still time. God's mercies are new every morning and He will welcome you with open arms. Today is the day of salvation, seek the Lord while He may be found!

I beg you, repent and return to your first love!