



# ISRAEL

Amid faltering peace talks, the Middle East continues to escalate toward war. A recent glut of Soviet and American weapons is adding firepower to the hatred. Repeated terrorism is fueling the cold rage that erupts in vengeance and war. Though a formal peace remains, this "peace time" carnage underscores the talk of war from Palestinian, Arab and Jewish leaders alike.

If a new episode in the Middle East wars breaks out in 1975, it most likely will be quite different from the four previous conflicts. Massive infusion of Soviet weaponry and military technology into the Arab states, particularly Syria, has drastically cut away at Israel's once clear military supremacy. In addition, Arab bloc-action, such as combined oil embargoes, has caused Israel's allies and military suppliers to rethink Middle East policies. As Israel finds itself increasingly alone, lopsided dependence on the U.S. grows. With the superpowers becoming more vitally enmeshed, the possibility of global warfare is more likely than ever. World leaders scarcely dare to make any predictions for 1975. Beyond that the future remains shrouded in uncertainty.

But with penetrating accuracy far beyond man's capacity to predict, the Biblical prophets have unveiled the coming events in the Middle East. The prophets' preciseness demands a comparison with current newspaper articles and news broadcasts. As their prophecies come to pass, the Bible will further be confirmed as God's Word.

At the dawn of Western Civilization, these prophets unfolded the climax of history. This seven year segment of time is called the "seventieth week," in the book of Daniel. Once this period begins, the world will move toward final judgement on an irreversible, predetermined path of war, violence, and disasters. The prophets did not declare the exact year that this "week" would begin. However, the regathering of Jews from all over the world to Palestine was their

April 30, 1975

consistent harbinger to these horrors.<sup>2</sup> Against all odds, the long-persecuted Jews are once again back in their homeland. Can the rest of the fulfillments be far behind?

### THE GUARANTEE

While warfare will characterize this "tribulation," it will begin with peace. The prophet Daniel notes the beginning of this seven year period span: a world leader representing a powerful ten nation confederacy will sign a covenant with Israel. The ten parties of this alliance will be nations whose lands once comprised part of the ancient Roman Empire.<sup>3</sup> Modern European alliances demonstrate clearly the feasibility of such a confederacy. Because this treaty guarantees the sovereignty of Israel, it will be the foundation for a Middle East settlement. As a result, Israel will be "at rest" and "living securely." But the peace will only be temporary.

### THE RUSSIAN INVASION

Within 3 1/2 years of the treaty, while Israel continues to dwell in safety, the peace will be shattered by a massive invasion from the north. Both lexical and geographical evidence from Ezekiel 38-39, clearly identify the chief aggressor as Russia. It will be allied with Iran and certain other Arab countries.<sup>4</sup>

When Israeli destruction seems certain, God will intervene with unprecedented natural disasters, pestilence, and supernatural hail and fire. The entire invasion force will be annihilated by such an unmistakable act of the Almighty, that the nation of Israel will turn from its apostasy to worship God. This conflict is the precursor to the final world war.

### ARMAGEDDON

At the 3 1/2 year mark, the middle of the "70th week," the powerful world leader will break his treaty with Israel. He will profane the new Jewish temple demanding to be worshipped as God.



Clearly identified as the Antichrist spoken of in the book of Revelation, he will persecute those who refuse to worship him.<sup>5</sup> The Jews will once again face genocide in the last 3 1/2 years of the "week" called the "Great Tribulation."

As famine, pestilence, and natural disasters ravage the earth, the God of Israel will begin His judgements on the nations. Raging against the Jews and their God, the nations of the earth will unite together to destroy Israel. Zechariah the prophet, vividly records the details:

Behold, I (the Lord) am going to make Jerusalem a cup that causes reeling to all the peoples around; . . . and it will come about in that day that I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples; all who lift it will be severely injured. And all the nations of the earth will be gathered against it.

At the brink of Jewish annihilation, God in the person of Jesus the Messiah, will physically return to earth to execute a final judgement. "AND IT WILL COME ABOUT IN THAT DAY THAT I (the Lord) WILL SET ABOUT TO DESTROY ALL THE NATIONS THAT COME AGAINST JERUSALEM. AND I WILL POUR OUT ON THE HOUSE OF DAVID AND THE INHABITANTS OF JERUSALEM THE SPIRIT OF GRACE AND OF SUPPLICATION SO THAT THEY WILL LOOK ON ME WHOM THEY HAVE PIERCED." "THEN THE LORD WILL GO FORTH AND FIGHT AGAINST THOSE NATIONS AS WHEN HE FIGHTS ON A DAY OF BATTLE. AND

IN THAT DAY HIS FEET WILL STAND ON THE MOUNT OF OLIVES, WHICH IS IN FRONT OF JERUSALEM ON THE EAST." 6



Incredible as these events may seem, they must take place. Already, talk of a treaty to guarantee Israel's sovereignty is on the lips of world leaders. Superpower intervention in the Middle East and global warfare are now being seriously discussed. But no amount of cooperation or diplomacy can prevent the world from facing its "70th week." God is righteous

and He must judge the wickedness and rebellion that increasingly characterizes our world. Jesus Christ the Righteous will return in judgement.

Yet today, on the personal level, Jesus the Pierced One has given us the responsibility to make a choice. We must either accept His forgiveness, or face the personal and just judgement for our sins. He can offer this choice because He Himself has made provision for our forgiveness. Coming to earth as a helpless baby, Jesus Christ lived the only perfect life. Though He faced similar temptations, He never committed the sins which enslave each of us. Willfully choosing to be our substitute, He endured the very death and separation from God which was justly ours. "HE WAS PIERCED THROUGH FOR OUR TRANSGRESSIONS, HE WAS CRUSHED FOR OUR INIQUITIES; THE CHASTENING FOR OUR WELL-BEING FELL UPON HIM... BY HIS WOUNDS WE ARE HEALED."7 With our debt fully paid, Jesus Christ rose physically from the dead.

By the power of an indestructible life, Jesus the Risen One freely gives life to anyone who will renounce their sinful way of life and accept His forgiveness. He said:

I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE  
LIFE; HE WHO BELIEVES IN ME  
SHALL LIVE EVEN IF HE DIES, AND  
EVERYONE WHO LIVES AND BE-  
LIEVES IN ME SHALL NEVER DIE."8

\* \* \* \*

- 1) Daniel 9:24-27
- 2) Jeremiah 30:3-9, Joel 3:1, 2, and others
- 3) See The Late Great Planet Earth, pp 63-69
- 4) Ezekiel 38-39
- 5) II Thess. 2:3, 4; Dan. 9:27; Rev. 13:1-8
- 6) Zechariah 12:2-3, 9, 10; 14:3, 4
- 7) Isaiah 53:5
- 8) John 11:25, 26

\* \* \* \*

### **BIBLE STUDY, DISCUSSION, PRAYER:**

**Time:** Noon  
**When:** Monday thru Friday  
**Where:** Ford Hall 60, U of M Campus

**FOR MORE INFORMATION WRITE:**

**CHRISTIANS**  
**Box 14326**  
**Mpls., Mn. 55414**