

## THE PROPHECY AND HISTORY OF ISRAEL CONT.

3/29/20

Before we get into our lesson lets just review a couple of things for those who may have just joined us. Our class has been studying, as the title indicates, The Prophecy and History of Israel. My reference material is primarily a book titled *It Is No Dream* by Elwood McQuaid. He is with The Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry and is a well know author. Much of what I have shared has come directly from his book. We have covered Israel's history from the call of Abraham through the patriarchs, through the exodus, through the wilderness wandering, the conquest of the Promised Land, through the time of the judges and into the times of the kings. We have been through the kingdom split and both kingdoms into captivity. Through years of homeless wanderings, expulsions and torment.

For those still living, in what was once their beloved Israel, but by then was called Palestine, became unwilling subjects to Rome.

Eventually Britain became its leader. The crusaders followed and completely destroyed the country. Finally, someone spoke up for the Jews and a campaign was started to help get Jews back into their homeland.

All this led to the Six Day War in 1967 that won Israel's independence as a State. From that day to this they have fought to keep their land while developing their country into one of the most productive in the world. Their science, medical and technological advances are world renowned.

Last week we looked at the Yom Kippur War of 1973, the war that Egypt and Syria started on the Holy Feast Day of Atonement. Caught completely off guard the Israelis took quite a licking before they were able to get things organized. In spite of winning that war they did not feel like proud victors but like people caught off guard in their arrogance.

Since outright attack did not seem to work for the enemies of Israel, a new tactic was put into play. And so, we pick up where we left off last week.

### INVENTING HISTORY

- Around 1990, attacks on Israel changed from focusing exclusively on military campaigns to focusing on propaganda.
- Sensing they may not win on the battle field, Israel's enemies launched a different type of war-a war of lies.
- They started to make preposterous statements, such as claiming the Jewish people have no history in Palestine or that the Holocaust never happened.
- If they couldn't defeat the Jews with weapons, they would beat them with words by inventing a new "History" and changing world opinion. It's working too!
- Revisionists claim no credible evidence exists that Jewish temples ever stood on Mt. Moriah in Jerusalem.
- Never mind that archeology, scripture, and world history completely contradict these lies.
- But truth never matters when it comes to propaganda.
- People believe the lies because they aren't being told the truth.
- These lies and many others are being accepted by people all over the world.
- But here's this: In addition to all of the confirming archaeological evidence on the Jewishness of Jerusalem, there is also a set-in-stone witness in faraway Rome.
- It is displayed on the Triumphal Arch of Titus celebrating the Emperor's conquest of Judea in the Jewish wars in AD 66-70. Remember Titus the Roman destroyed the Temple in AD 70.
- The monument depicts legionaries carrying booty from the Temple in Jerusalem.
- The Table of Shewbread, silver trumpets, and the golden Menorah – all very Jewish.

### WHEN TRUTH BECOMES A TRAGEDY

- The well-remembered Nazi propagandist, Joseph Goebbels once said, “*A lie told once remains a lie. But a lie told 1,000 times becomes the truth.*”
- When the mass cannot tell the difference between lies and truth, everyone suffers the consequences.
- Not much has changed since the Yom Kippur war and into the 21<sup>st</sup> century when it comes to world opinion of Israel and the Jewish people.
- The United Nations continues to flaunt international law by casting Israel, a legal, democratic state and member of the UN, as an inhumane occupier of Palestinian lands and the worlds chief enemy of peace.
- And though the issue of dependence on Arab has has changed in recent years, Europe has not altered its consistent pro-Arab, anti-Israel bias.
- Never recognizing Israel as a Jewish state is the constant mantra of Palestinian hardliners. Their goal is no peace with Israel, no recognition of Israel, and no negotiations with Israel.
- To date, Palestinian children are being indoctrinated in anti-Jewish hatred.
- More than 2600 rockets were shot into Israel by 2018.
- Home invasions, suicide bombings, threats of nuclear annihilation, stabbings, bus bombings, demonstrations, and instilling fear to disrupt the lives of citizens has all be a part of the Palestinian parade.
- It is bent on destroying Israel and driving the people into the sea.
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### A MAN MUST COME

- A Jewish historian once wrote that when Jews pass through times of trouble, two themes historically manifest themselves.
- The first is a longing to return to the ancient homeland.
- The second is a corresponding revival of Messianic expectation.
- The historian was in precise agreement with the prophets of the Bible.
- They prophesied of a time when Israel will find itself isolated-all alone, with no human hand to help.
- No political system, military force, or resolution of self-determination will be able to stay its blood thirsty enemies.
- Almighty God referred to this period when He said through the prophet. *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. Zec 12:3*
- This developing isolation will culminate in a unified national outcry for the Messiah.
- Following the Yom Kippur War (1973) signs of Messianic expectation began to materialize.
- They appeared in both religious and secular sources.
- Orthodox groups tend to gather in small communities. These zealous Jews were actively preparing for the day when their Messiah would appear.
- Their basic belief is expressed by one of their group: *When we saw how bad things became during the Yom Kippur War, we were convinced that the coming of the Messiah must be very near. So, while other Jews were depressed over the outcome of the war, we were encouraged. We believe that this was the beginning of the redemption of Israel. Our belief is quite simple, really. We believe when we possess all of the land historically held by the Jewish people, the Messiah will come. How ill He come? Hasidic Jews expect Him to come suddenly, miraculously,*

*seated on a cloud. We do not believe this. Our belief is He will come to Jerusalem in a lowly manner, riding on a colt of an ass. (How sad for them! One need only pick up the New Testament to see that He already did that 2,000 years ago.)*

- When speaking privately with Jewish people from Various walks of life, its easy to discern a tone that seems to indicate a realignment of thinking-a conclusion that the hope for the future is not to be found in another system. Rather it is to be found in the appearance of a man who can provide leadership that no one so far has adequately delivered.
- The church today is saying the same thing. We can't fix what is wrong in the world-our politics, laws, or religions cannot fix our problems-we need Christ. A man must come.
- There will be two climatic intrusions into the Middle East.
- One great power in the end-times will unsuccessfully try to invade Israel from the north, the region currently identified as Russia.
- Then a belligerent confederation of nations will follow shortly thereafter and run headlong into the Messiah!
- Just as the Lord gave Joshua triumph over Jericho-Israel's last great confrontation will once again see the day when the LORD will fight for His chosen people.
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#### **THE STALKING BEAR**

- A Fascinating look into the climatic battles of the end-times is conserved for us in writings of the prophet Ezekiel.
- They mark what might be called the beginning-of the-end preparations for the Messiah's return to establish the Millennial, or Messianic Kingdom.
- Here prophecy and history converge, and the preview seems so contemporary that we cannot fail to take notice.
- In a precise chronology, Ezekiel identified the time, location, and motivation of the battles. The annihilation of the military juggernaut moving against a re-gathered Israel; and the divine consummation of events.
- **TIME: In the latter years** *In the latter years you will come into the land of those brought back from the sword and gathered from many people on the mountains of Israel, which had long been desolate; they were brought out of the nations, and now all of them dwell safely (Ez 38:8)*
- **LOCATION: From the far north** *Then you will come from your place out of the far north, you and many peoples with you, all of them riding on horses, a great company and a mighty army (Ez 38:15)*
- **MOTIVATION: To take spoil** *you will say, I will go up against a land of unwalled villages; I will go to a peaceful people, who dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates-to take plunder and to take booty, to stretch out your hand against the waste places that are again inhabited, and against a people gathered from the nations, who have acquired livestock and goods, who dwell in the midst of the land (Ez 38:11-12)*
- **ANNIHILATION: Destroyed on Israel's mountains** *You shall fall upon the mountains of Israel, you and all your troops and the peoples who are with you; I will give you to birds of prey of every sort and to the beasts of the field to be devoured (Ez 39:4)*
- **CONSUMMATION: God to be glorified** *Thus I will magnify Myself and sanctify Myself, and I will be known in the eyes of many nations. Then they shall know that I am the LORD (Ez 38:23)*
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#### **• THE PERPETUAL ANTAGONIST**

- Although we are not privy to the precise identity of the future political power fitting Ezekiel's description, we do see striking similarities to the region's occupants throughout history.

- Whether they be Czarists, communists, or post-Soviet Russian, the characteristics remain constant.
- Expansionism, anti-Semitism, and aggression have all typified the great power from the north.
- These characteristics were clearly displayed during the 1973 war.
- The Yom Kippur War would not have occurred had Russian not cooperated in the venture.
- Following the Arab's catastrophic losses in the Six-Day War (1967), the President of Egypt, at the time, was Anwar Sadat. He hesitated to begin a new escapade against Israel until he knew he could deter the threat of deep penetration bombing.
- The Soviets provided this assurance. They supplied Egypt with surface-to-air missiles in March of 1973.
- These scud missiles could deliver high explosive or nuclear warheads at a range of 180 miles. They confirmed Egypt's ability to reach Jewish population centers in the heart of Israel.
- Bolstered by this capacity for devastation, Sadat decided to launch the war.
- So, in reality, the determination to attack Israel actually belonged to the Soviets, who placed the scuds in Sadat's capable hands.
- An unconfirmed report even suggested it was the Kremlin that chose the very day hostilities should begin. A Russian General read that the radio is silent in Israel on the Day of Atonement and that gave him the idea.
- Dramatic United Nations sessions that followed the Six-Day War uncovered the fact that the Soviets had supplied much of the weapons of that war-it was evident by the number of war machines captured by the Israelis. The Soviets had not forgotten the humiliation of that business and had long sought to correct it.
- As soon as the Six-Day War was over the Soviets immediately began to rebuilding the Arab war machine. The Kremlin urged the Egyptian president not to quit. They assured them of their help to recoup Egypt's losses.
- A three-part program was implemented to assure this:
- **Reequipping-**The Soviet goal was 800,000 troops. Russia would supply equipment that would deal with Israel's two main strengths. The plane and the tank.
- **Training-** Russian would train the Egyptian Army and eventually, after much back and forth between them, Russian pledged aid to Egypt for the next 15 years. The one thing they were unable to do was to teach the Israelis how to lose :-)
- **Manning the Hardware-**Russia decided to provide better equipment than they had supplied for the 1967 war. Its possible they even manned the equipment themselves. In 1967, Egypt hit the Israelis with massive artillery bombardments along the Suez. Israel responded by sending its air force on deep penetration bombing sorties against Egyptian targets. They managed to destroy the network of Sam 2 missiles that had been carefully erected to avoid the very thing the Israelis were accomplishing. A hurried SOS to the Kremlin from Egypt brought 1,500 Soviet troops to accompany the new Sam 3 missiles sent to replace the old system. These missiles were supplemented by massive amounts of additional air defense units to protect Egypt from Israeli penetration. At times Israel fought not only their Arab neighbors but even Russian forces. In the 1967 Six-Day War, the 1969-70 War of Attrition, and again in the 1973 Yom Kippur War, in all of these battles the Russians were behind the scenes supplying equipment, armor and training to the enemies of Israel.
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- **A GROWL FROM THE NORTH**

- The Russians were not at all happy to see the Arab forces collapse. The Israelis assembled 13 nuclear devices during the early stages of the 1973 war. They were referred to as Doomsday Weapons.
- Russia tried to send nuclear warheads to Egypt to be installed on the scud missiles. The Americans detected the war heads and issued a military alert which told the Russians their warheads had been detected.
- As the Israelis began to emerge from Egyptian/Syrian surprise attacks the Soviet Union was prepared to jump in and help. They stated plainly that If the United States would not join in to help, they would take steps to “Stop the Israeli aggression.” In other words, if America wouldn’t do something the Russians would.
- Egypt had started the war but as soon as Israel began winning, it became “Israeli aggression.”
- The Soviets continued to build up their forces; East Germany and Poland were put on alert.
- Other Soviet units, aircraft and even a large Naval build up was taking place. U.S. reconnaissance planes over Egypt discovered the deployment of scud missiles. The U.S. responded with a combat alert placing all United States troops on standby and all leaves were cancelled.
- The alert was world wide involving some two million American military personnel. A communique to the Kremlin stated that the United States would not abide any intervention by the Soviet Union in the Middle East. World peace was at stake here and the Russians backed away. We will probably never know just how close we came to Israel. Egypt or the Soviet Union pressing a nuclear button! Russia however, continued its obsession with expansionism.

- **WITH EYES TO THE SOUTH**

- Quoting from the book and keeping Ezekiel’s prophecy in mind, we can learn much by tracing the development of Russia’s southerly thrust, which will eventually spend itself on the mountains of Israel.
- A quick historical survey illustrates how far we’ve come, where we stand and what lies ahead.
- If you will compare a map of Russia in the late 1500’s to a map of the territory Russian controlled until the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1971, you will see that Russia expanded its territory 16 times during 400 years.
- After WWI Russia forcibly annexed six independent Eastern European States having non-Russian populations and 105 million people. Before the Soviet Union’s dissolution 112 million of its 240 million people were not Russian.
- One of Russia’s greatest desires is to become a world-class Naval power. So, they first moved north to the Arctic, because it offered the least resistance.
- Then to the Baltic, which offered the nearest shore. Peter the Great began building the first Russian Navy there.
- They held the Black Sea from the 15<sup>th</sup> Century. It offered ice-free ports.
- But in and out of the Mediterranean Sea was always a problem. They were controlled by other nations.
- Over the centuries Russia continued to expand securing additional territories in all directions. From the 16<sup>th</sup> century until it was defeated by Japan in 1905, Russia continued to expand into Asia.
- Even after the set back from Japan, Russia continued to scoop up portions of land in those regions until 1914.
- In 1917 The Bolshevik Revolution brought a transition that offered Russia’s neighbors brief relief. But Communist Imperialism was not a liberation movement.
- Finally, the Soviets determined to move towards the south, focusing squarely on the Middle East! A secret agreement between Russia and its WWI allies granted Russia control over a

significant portion of land held today by Iran. They had also been granted a considerable slice of Eastern Turkey. The Russian Revolution negated implementing the agreement but the Russians had their eyes towards the south and they were beginning to move in that direction.

- By the 1930's, the Communists were clearly exploiting their power. They would soon take up where the Czarists left off.
- They would, however, need to change their strategy because after WWI the western powers were firmly entrenched in the Middle East.

Ok I think that is plenty for this week. I hope you are all still as interested in this as we approach the end as we all were at the beginning.

Thank you for taking the time to read this lesson. I love you all!