

## THE HISTORY AND PROPHECY OF ISRAEL CONT.

4/5/20

First of all, I'd like to apologize for all the typos! I guess I get in such a hurry that I read right over them and spell check is useless! Our lesson back tracks a bit here with some fill-in information. This will prove useful to newcomers and as a review to us old folks who can't remember what we just had for breakfast!

### THE WEST RETREATS

- The year 1920 marked the height of western influence in the region of the Middle East. Nine countries were directly under British rule including Egypt, Iraq, Palestine, Cypress and five others. One was under indirect rule; while Turkey, Persia and most of Saudi Arabia were allied to the British Crown.
- The years between 1921-1939 saw a period of monetary cut-backs set in. As a result, Egypt became an independent Kingdom with certain "reserved points" still under British control. Transjordan became an emirate under British mandate. An emirate is a chief or ruler of an Islamic country. So, although it had its own ruler it was still also under British control.
- Turkey, Persia and Saudi Arabia all gained independence.
- The years between 1940-1971 saw the cut-backs turn into full scale retreat. Most especially Great Britain but certainly all the western countries lost predominance and western influence all but disappeared.
- Nine countries, Syria, Lebanon, The Sudan, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Aden, and Libya all became independent nations. In addition, Rhodes was ceded to Greece, the Canal Zone agreement was nullified, and the British mandate over Palestine was abandoned.
- By 1971 United States and Britain military bases were gone. Seven of the nine countries I just listed, issued eviction notices to the west. In other words: Get out!
- Military forces were however allowed to stay in Malta and Cypress.
- And while the newly independent nations were patting themselves on the back, boasting of their victory and victories to come, the Soviet Union was well into its next campaign.
- To shackle the Arabs and the Israelis alike.

### • RUSSIA MOVES IN

- In 1940, Nazi Germany proposed that Russia should join the pact of Germany, Italy and Japan. The idea was that these three powers would agree in advance to certain territorial ambitions of the Soviets. Their ambitions were to get their hands on warmer sea ports, greater access in and out of the Med Sea and greater naval potential over the region.
- So important was this to the Soviets that they made four attempts to get it.
- 1. The Soviets felt that Turkey was too weak to defend its borders. Therefore, the Soviets wanted to put a military base on the South Eastern tip of the Black Sea. The offer was refused.

- 2. During WWII British and Russian troops had been stationed, by agreement, on Iranian soil. After the war, Russia refused to leave. The Iranians tried to make them leave but were unable to. By the end of 1945 all key government positions in the province of Azerbaijan were held by communists, who declared the province to be independent of Iran. By making this declaration, the Russians were not obligated to obey any rules set in place before the declaration.
- 3. When the United Nations got involved the Russians finally agreed to leave if they were given controlling interest in a Russian/Persian Oil Company that covered all of Iran. They refused of course and the Russians dropped the case.
- 4. And lastly, in Sept. 1945, Russia approached the U.S., Britain, France and China with the great idea that Russia be given trusteeship over a sizable portion of northern Libya adjacent to Tunisia. Their justification was that the Soviet Union needed Mediterranean ports for its fleet. Russia was turned aside on all these notions. Imagine that!
- It was the west, especially a determined United States that refused to let the Bolsheviks obtain their objectives.
- But tyrants don't go away easily. They often become more determined and more ruthless with each defeat.
- The fledgling independent nations in the Middle East would be Russia's next offensive. Our book says they leap-frogged over the western powers landing in the midst of the Arab Sheiks bearing gifts fit to please even the worst of histories war-mongers. Now the tiny nations would be able to replace all that was lost when the western military forces pulled out taking their war machines with them.
- The Soviets wormed their way in with the old Cliché, *the enemy of my enemy is my friend*.
- The Soviets of course planned to make the Arabs dependent upon them, establishing dominance and eventually moving to annexation. They planned to create this dependence in three distinct ways: Military, Economic, and Political.
- **Military Dependence** - By offering to supply arms to the independent nations the Russians are able to very subtly reach their goals. They supply the equipment-now they need to provide constructors, instructors, operators, mechanics and a ton of other personnel to support all their "support!" If the independent nation seeking aid from Russia didn't watch carefully, Russia would be running the whole show and remember, there were nine of those independent nations.
- **Economic Dependence** - The Soviets were all too willing to help these nations but they chose projects that tended to be very long term. A Dam in Egypt took 10 years; hydroelectric projects took 8-10 years etc. The Soviets offered help in such areas as heavy and light industry, ports, roads and railways, irrigation, agriculture, fisheries, oil, natural gas, to name just some of them. The nations soon became heavily indebted to the Soviets. Syria and Egypt the worst.
- A little note of interest here is that the two nations that Russia invested the most in were the nations directly to the north and south of Israel – like a vice!
- **Political Dependence** -There were no communist parties in these newly developed nations. Most, if not all, were Muslim. However, communists with Russian orientation

were active illegally in nearly all of the nations. Legitimate political organizations had contact with the Soviet Communist Party. Russians used Arabs to inject communist ideas without running the risk of getting involved. The Russians sought to impress the Arabs with their own model of communism at its best, hoping to produce eventual union.

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- TIPPING THE BALANCE

- The presence of America's Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean was getting irritatingly in the way of the Russian's continued expansion. Their first priority was to create an imbalance in military forces.
- The Soviets desire to create a superior Navy was well known by all. Their drive to achieve that would tip the scales in their favor.
- Starting in 1965, Russian Naval presence in the Mediterranean became a constant occurrence. Once the west vacated, the Russians quickly settled right into the empty slots left by the western military forces. As they established bases, they duly impressed the locals with their Soviet Naval power and strength.
- Spain and Syria welcomed ships bearing the hammer and sickle. To the south, on the Indian ocean seafaring soviets from the north were welcomed.
- Many argued that the need for all this was a waste. The super powers now all had nuclear capabilities. Surely no government in its right mind would start a war that would end in nuclear holocaust. However, three observations might differ with that reasoning.
- 1. Russian had shown in the Yom Kippur War, that they were not above rattling their nuclear capabilities like a sword as a threat.
- 2. The whole point of nuclear equality among the super powers is to act as a deterrent to nuclear war. The Soviets thought for sure the Middle East as well as the rest of the world would raise their hands and say, "Better Red than Dead"
- 3. According to the scriptures, initiating a huge firestorm is exactly what the Russians will do when they finally decide to launch a full-scale assault on the Middle East. All of the historical background we have examined supports what God told us thousands of years ago *would* happen.

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- A SHAKING IN THE LAND

- One just needs to read Ezekiel's account of the eventual Middle East invasion from the north. It reads like a review of the historical events we have looked at briefly. We are missing only the proper timing. when will it happen? We can't say of course but history is moving in that direction and picking up speed.

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- A CLASH OF THE GODS

- Some of the nations listed are familiar to Bible readers. Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya. Bible prophecy expert Dr. Mark Hitchcock described in accurate detail the size of the coalition assembled to move against Israel" (Quote) *Based on these identifications, Ezek. 38-39 predicts an invasion of the land of Israel in the last days by a vast confederation of nations from north of the Black and Caspian Seas. Extending down to modern Iran in the east, as far as modern Libya to the west, and down to Sudan in the south. Therefore,*

*Russia will have at least five key allies: Turkey, Iran, Libya, Sudan, and the nations of Central Asia. Amazingly, all of these nations are Muslim nations and Iran, Libya, and Sudan are three of Israel's most ardent opponents. Iran is one of the "axis of evil" nations that is trying desperately to attain nuclear weapons. Many of these nations are hotbeds of militant Islam and are either forming or strengthening their ties as these words are being written. This list of nations reads like the who's who of this week's newspaper. It does not require a very active imagination to envision these nations conspiring together to invade Israel in the near future. (unquote)*

- Two objectives will motivate the invaders:
- 1. **Greed** – *I will go to a peaceful people, who dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls. And having neither bars or 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. (Ezek. 38:11-12)*
- Sacking a country like Israel who has grown from the ground up in a miraculously short period of time, whose resources and wealth are abundant, is quite the conquest but it was only the secondary motivation. The number one motivation was:
- 2. **Hatred** – The driving force behind the deep-seated desire to annihilate Israel is to finish what others could not do. God tells us what will happen: *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. You will come up against My people Israel like a cloud, to cover the land. (Ezek. 38:15-16)*

#### WHEN TO STRIKE

- Just as in the Yom Kippur War of 1973, while the Israeli military and the nation were in a worshipful and restful state, the enemy attacked- so will Gog descend on a totally distracted people. Thus says the Lord God: *On that day it shall come to pass that thoughts will arise in your mind, and you will make an evil plan: 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. Ezek. 38:10-11*
- One might ask: Why will Israel be under the illusion that it is at peace and secure when it is surrounded by massive forces plotting its destruction?
- Prophetic scholars place this event, this moment of peace and security, during the time spoken of in Daniel. A time when a covenant exists between Israel and the Antichrist.
- *Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week (seven years); but in the middle of the week 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. (Dan 9:27)*
- The "he" spoken of is the Antichrist. The scenario implies that the invasion from the north will occur during the first three years of the Tribulation foretold in scripture.
- During times of fear and anxiety, such as we are experiencing today, we want to ask, "where is God and why isn't He doing something?"

- The answer is that He is doing something. And He has given us insight, a picture of the future, of promises made and an escape from the horrors to come. We are privileged to see both human intentions and God's purpose.

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- MY GOD YOUR GOD

- Wars involve more than soldiers shooting at each other. Nations take their gods to war with them; thus, god is pitted against god.
- Clans, tribes, nations and empires seek their gods at times of war. They pray for victory so that they may honor their gods with gifts to lay at their feet. They will parade their victory before the people honoring their gods who have led them to victory. Even a successful peace treaty was occasion to honor their gods. Peace after all is a victory.
- Aggressors do not seek peace; they hope to vanquish with three inescapable ends in view:
  1. **Subjugation** – Phase 1- The goal is to force the enemy into submission. Peacefully if at all possible but militarily if needed.
  2. **Humiliation** – Phase 2 – Deflate their ego. Make them feel utterly useless, wretched and defeated. The invaders removed and destroyed the gods of the people they vanquished showing superiority of their own deities. Babylon, Syria and even Rome destroyed deities and temples of their enemies. The victor is saying "*My god has defeated yours!*"
  3. **Assimilation** – Final phase – Once the victor disposes of the enemies gods, indoctrinates him in the victors ideologies, political and religious, the goal is to create a like minded person who will embrace the ways of the new society-If this is successful, they can stand hand in hand and worship together and the garrison can go home; both the war and the victory have been won.
- But that was not the case with Russian communism. Atheism became the official dogma. The state became the god. Rather than assimilate the people they conquered, they subjugated them. Ruled by fear, the people were treated like pawns of the system.
- Like Nazi Germany, communism became a satanic device. It declared war on almighty God. We need to grasp the enormity of all this implies.
- Communism set itself apart as the uncompromising foe of every nation whose people owed its allegiance to any god, false or true.
- Russia did not want to hold hands around the world and worship together. They want the world to hold *them* (the Russians) up as a shining example of the realization of the Marxist dream. A state supreme – a triumphant system. The author says, *it stands as a crowning manifestation of the evolution of satanically dominated political systems. To ideologies like this one, deposing Jehovah is the final atheistic stroke on the way to a new, humanistic earth.*
- It is natural, therefore, for the satanically inspired imperialists to spill the most noxious venom on the descendants of Jacob. The three greatest religions on Earth, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam all sprang from Abraham's seed. Mastery over the Jewish people and their beloved land would complete their victory. It is their greatest desire.

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- THE FIRST ACT IN THE GRAND FINALE

- This great plan of the enemies from the north sounds like the end of Israel but the truth is it is Jehovah not the Russians or the Muslims who will initiate the move against Israel.
- *Thus, says the Lord God "Behold, I am against you, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal. I will turn you around, put hooks into your jaws, and lead you out, with all your army, horses, and horsemen, all splendidly clothed, a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords. After many days you will be visited. 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. You will ascend, coming like a storm, covering the land like a cloud, you and all your troops and many peoples with you. (Ezek. 38:3-4, 8-9)*
- *Thus, says the Lord God: On that day it shall come to pass that thoughts will arise in your mind, and you will make an evil plan: 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. (Ezek. 38: 10-11)*
- The massive forces moving against Israel will turn into an awesome display of God's pent-up wrath of judgement against His enemies and Israel's tormentors. Thus, the world will witness the beginning of the Lord's steps to settle the score against His enemies.
- Next comes the judgement for the man of sin, the Antichrist and his legions.
- The Antichrist will break his covenant with Israel and proclaim himself God: *He will exalt himself above all that is called God, or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. (2 Thes. 2:4)*
- The Antichrist has no power of his own; his power comes from Satan. The very one who started this mess in the Garden of Eden so very long ago.
- Fury rises in the face of God; a great earthquake, hailstones, fire & brimstone, devastate the invading forces and by the end of the seven years of tribulation, after the clean-up, the burying of the dead, and the burning of the weapons, when all is finished, God's enemies will have gone down in defeat. God will say, *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. (Ezek. 38:23)*

That's it for this week. Next week we will begin the final section titled *Your King Is coming*. We are down to possibly two more lessons, three at the most to finish this awesome study. Stay with me 😊