



September 2008

In the News

New Wave of Violence against Christians in Orissa State

Assist News Service, Michael Ireland - More than 600 churches have been demolished, 4,000 Christians forced to flee from their villages, and at least 25 killed as a result of violent persecution in the state of Orissa in eastern India.

Diplomat: Russia to up Naval Presence in Syrian Ports

Damascus (Reuters 28-Aug-08) The Russian navy will make more use of Syrian ports as part of increased military presence in the Mediterranean, a Russian diplomat said on Wednesday.

Ahmadinejad says Israel will be Removed Soon

Tehran (AP 20Aug08) Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is calling Israel a "germ of corruption" that will be "removed soon".

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"DAILY NEWS" SECTION
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Sound the Trumpet!

Joel 2:1

The Coming Invasion of Israel

Art Sadlier

Satan now has a kingdom in this world as we see in 2 Corinthians 4:4 and John 14:30. This kingdom of Satan is limited, in that it is subject to the permissive will of God. According to Isaiah 14:13-14 Satan desires to throw off these restraints and rule in place of God. Satan knows that Christ has promised to take the kingdom from him and rule this world in righteousness and peace. (Luke 1:32-33; Rev. 11:15). Satan knows three things that will be involved in God's plan:

1. A redeemed Israel dwelling in the promised land.
2. Christ coming to rule over Israel and the world from David's throne in Jerusalem.
3. A resulting termination of the prospect of Satan's Kingdom.

Satan's goal therefore is:

- ▶ To drive Israel off the promised land
- ▶ To annihilate Israel.

Satan rationalizes that if he can do that, Christ cannot come and establish His kingdom and he will have defeated God. All down through history Satan has sought to annihilate Israel. Today that effort is what dominates the current world scene. Satan will make one final great attempt to destroy Israel, that attempt is recorded in Ezekiel 38-39. This attempt comes through an **ALLIANCE of NATIONS** and a **GREAT ATTACK**.

Who launches this attack?

Russia is the one who launches and leads this attack, Ezekiel 38:2-3, without entering into a study, these verses refer to Russia. Russia will be the leader of a large alliance of mid-east nations. We learn the identity of those nations in verse 5-6.

This alliance is made up of Persia (Iran), and a group of Arab nations that surround Israel.

Today Russia is working to form this very alliance with Iran, Syria, Turkey, Libya, Sudan and other Muslim nations in the vicinity of Israel. Since the invasion of Georgia, the mid-east nations that oppose Israel have come alive with new enthusiasm to destroy Israel. These nations now have a new champion against the West and Israel as the rift between Russia and the West grows.

It is possible that Psalm 83 refers to the present attacks on Israel. But Ezekiel 38-39 tells us about a massive all out attempt to utterly destroy Israel.

When will this attack take place?

In Ezekiel 38:8 we have the first clue, "in the latter years", that is the present time. "The land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people", this is the present time. "And is brought forth out of the nations," this is Israel today. For 2,000 years Israel has been scattered among the nations, Israel has been a wasteland; the land has been under the sword of many conquerors. But now they have been regathered, that is true of no other time in history.

Further Evidence of the timing, "and they shall dwell safely all of them".

1. This is not the present time, it's not today. Today missiles are flying, terror attacks are rampant and war is constantly on the horizon.

2. This is not the second half of the tribulation period. The tribulation period will be a time of unprecedented war, terror and destruction, there will be no peace in those days.

3. The only time Israel will experience peace is a brief period, very early tribulation period. Verse 11, describes this time of peace. This is the time immediately following the peace treaty of antichrist. Paul tells us that this peace will be for but a short period of time (1 Thessalonians 5:2-3). Therefore this attack on Israel will be very early in the tribulation period. (See also Ezekiel 39:9 **N.B.**- Remember that in the chronology of the kings of Israel any portion of a year that a king reigned was reckoned to be a year.)

The burning of the weapons will take 7 years and that will not overlap the Millennial kingdom, therefore this war must take place early in the tribulation.

The world is clamoring today for Israel to tear down the wall of protection they have built, (verse 11). No doubt after the peace treaty is signed they will take it down. The world has been seeking a peace treaty for 25 years, they haven't found it, they won't, and they can't. The peace treaty will not be confirmed until antichrist comes on the scene to sign it. We conclude that the war of Ezekiel 38-39 will not take place until the church is raptured and the peace treaty is signed, but it will be very early in the tribulation. If this alliance is rapidly forming and the preparations for this war are well underway, then the trumpet is soon to sound!

☑ **The Invasion** in Ezekiel 38:9, the peace treaty has been signed; Israel and the nations have disarmed; antichrist has pledged Israel's security. The attack is massive and it is a surprise attack. Russia, with her former republic states, along with an unbelievable number of people from Muslim nations, descending on Israel to destroy Her. Iran has a million man army and a ten million man militia. Multiplied millions will come, verse 15. The west will be somehow neutralized, America will be out of the equation, perhaps the judgment of God will have fallen on America, in whatever form He chooses. Notice the response of the West in

Ezekiel 38:13, their passive response is not unlike the response to the recent invasion of Georgia.

☑ **The Weapons** described in Ezekiel 38:4 don't sound like modern weapons, what is this all about? Remember, world-wide disarmament has taken place and this attack is dependant on massive numbers of men with makeshift weapons.

☑ **The Final Outcome** today the stage is being set for that battle, described in verses 18 & 22. The Muslim world is preparing for a war of annihilation against Israel. Ahmahdinejad is calling for an alliance of Muslim nations to wage a war of annihilation against Israel. Listen to the words of the President of Iran: "The skirmishes in the occupied land are a part of a war of destiny. The outcome of hundreds of years of war will be defined on Palestinian land. As the Imam said, Israel must be wiped off the map", and they are preparing to do it! He also said, "Israel is a tyrannical regime that will one day be destroyed". He further stated, "Israel is a rotten, dried tree that will one day be annihilated in one storm." Amazing that after 2,600 years Ezekiel's very words are echoed by the President of Iran. Listen to Ezekiel 38:9, "Thou shalt ascend and come like a storm", do you think the Spirit of God is trying to get our attention? Do you understand what is happening in our world? Let the words of Ahmadinejad explain it for you. "Anybody who recognizes Israel will burn in the fire of the Islamic nation's fury." That is an explanation of the terror the world is now facing. The Lord will intervene and destroy these nations, verses 18-22. Ezekiel 39:2 tells that 5 out of every 6 men in this army will die. As the battle ends, Russia is totally neutralized and Islam is eliminated as force in world affairs; apparently America has already been eliminated. At that point antichrist will be the only one left standing and the oil of the mid-east will be his. He can then proceed to expand his kingdom.

On November 29, 2007, Hamas stated in a letter to the UN, "Palestine is Arab Islamic land, from the river to the sea, including Jerusalem; there is no room for the Jews". As we see the frantic preparations being made to obliterate Israel and the coming together of this alliance, we know that the Trumpet is soon to sound! Are you ready?

"And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." Luke 21:28

The shadows of these events are being cast on the walls of our news media, the day is far spent, and the time is at hand.



The War of Ezekiel 38-39 is not Armageddon

There are at least four reasons why the war of Ezekiel is not the battle of Armageddon.

- 1 Ezekiel names specific allies, Armageddon involves all the nations of the world.
- 2 In Ezekiel 39, destruction is on the mountains of Israel, Armageddon take place in the valley of Megiddo.
- 3 In Ezekiel the armies are destroyed by convulsions of nature, the destruction at Armageddon is by Christ Himself, by the Word of His mouth.
- 4 As the end of the tribulation draws near Israel will not be at rest and living securely.



A WAR PRIOR TO THE PEACE TREATY?

We understand that the war of Ezekiel 38 will be after the peace treaty is signed. Do Psalm 83 and Ezekiel 36 speak of a war that will take place prior to the peace treaty?

Since 1948, when Israel became a nation again, she has known nothing but wars and rumors of wars, in three major wars the prophecy of Zechariah 12:6 has been fulfilled. Today an alliance has formed against Israel, an alliance that is distinct from the alliance of Ezekiel 38. This group is made up of Syria, Hezbollah, Hamas, Lebanon and the Palestinian Authority. They have claimed the Temple Mount, the city of Jerusalem and have stated that there is no place for Jews in Palestine. Their avowed intention is to destroy Israel.

This group is now armed to the teeth with rockets and missiles and an array of military hardware that can destroy Israel. Syria is said to have 1,000 long range missiles that can reach anywhere in Israel as well as shorter range rockets. Syria's arsenal is also believed to include chemical and biological warheads. Hezbollah is believed to have 40,000 missiles and rockets.

Isaiah prophesied the destruction of Damascus in the last days, is this event about to happen?

This last year it was discovered that Syria had an accident while loading nerve gas into a missile warhead, some 28 people died in that accident. A few months ago the story broke that Israel had attacked and destroyed, in Syria, a nuclear bomb or materials for a nuclear bomb that Syria had obtained from North Korea.

Today there is a momentum building in this group to attack Israel with an onslaught of missiles that have the potential to totally devastate Israel. Israel has a policy called the "Samson Option". It is named after Samson who sacrificed himself to destroy his enemies. In the event of Israel's imminent destruction, it would launch its nuclear weapons to destroy its enemies.

It is now obvious that Syria is totally committed to destroying Israel. The capital of Syria is Damascus; the bible has some ominous words for Damascus. Isaiah says, "The burden of Damascus. Behold, Damascus is taken away from being a city, and it shall be a ruinous heap" Isaiah 17:1. Damascus is the oldest city on earth, though it has been conquered many times, it has never been destroyed, but has remained in tact until this day. The timing of the destruction of Damascus is revealed in verse 4, at a time when Israel is greatly threatened and is reduced to a state of peril and fear.

Another indication of the timing of this attack is implied in Ezekiel 38&39. The fact is that although Syria is now closely allied with Russia

and Iran, yet she is not mentioned as being a part of that war, implying that the destruction of Damascus may be imminent.

It is obvious that Syria with the help of Iran, Russia and North Korea, is preparing an arsenal of biological and possibly nuclear weapons to destroy Israel. I believe that the moment that Israeli Intelligence is alerted to such an imminent attack they will exercise the "Samson Option". The following news item appeared some weeks ago, "Israel to Syria: Use chemical weapons & we will wipe you off the map" (WND). Israel has low yield nuclear weapons that give a minimum of radio active fallout. These weapons could be used with pinpoint accuracy. To me, it seems the whole scenario is falling into place. It is amazing how after 2,800 years Isaiah's prophecy seems about to be fulfilled.

A full scale nuclear war by Iran does not fit into the end time Biblical scenario; nevertheless the whole Mid-east crisis is rushing toward some kind of cataclysmic event which would finally set up the world for a peace treaty, even though it will be a false peace, by a false Messiah.

Isaiah 17:14 may well be a description of Damascus' fate. "And behold at eventide trouble, and before the morning, he is not. This is the portion of them that spoil us and the lot of them that rob us" (seek to take the Golan Heights).

I would tend to think that this event could happen prior to the rapture or at the time of the rapture. We are living in awesome days! The signs are multiplying, the Trumpet is Soon to Sound, are you ready or will you be ashamed at His coming?

WAVES OF CHANGE

Since New Evangelicalism was born in 1948 we have witnessed a transition from the church of Philadelphia (fundamentalism) to Laodicea (compromising evangelicalism).

From that time on we have seen waves of change sweep over the Evangelical Church.

FIRST we were introduced to ecumenical evangelism by Billy Graham. The watch word became "infiltration" rather than "separation" from apostasy, however infiltration is a two way street.

SECOND we were introduced to social action, an attempt to change society from without rather than from within, by the power of the gospel to transform lives. All of the social evils were attacked with gusto; the church lost every single battle. The moral majority was the climax of this failure.

THIRD we were introduced to a new way to fill our churches, the church growth movement which evolved into the User Friendly Movement. Change every thing about the church that makes the Church look like the Church. Bring the world's music and the world's methods into the church, instead of the church winning over the world the world won over the church. Instead of lives being transformed, the church was corrupted with the world.

FOURTH we were introduced to the Purpose Driven Movement, this was a logical progression. Now the church enters into union with the world to change the world by social action. Rick Warren has moved to enlist one billion religious people to make a utopia out of the kingdoms of this world. John said, "If any man love the world the love of the Father is not in him".

At this moment we are seeing, what I believe is the *FINAL* wave, the Emergent Church. This is a bold move to transform the church into the Apostate Church, the Harlot Church of Revelation 17. To finally remove any semblance of what the church is to believe and what is to be and do.

Paul foretold these things, "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;" 2 Tim. 4:3. "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith," 1 Timothy 4:1.

This whole process has been immersed in deception from the start, as Jesus said it would be in Matthew 24; 4, 5, 11, 24, 25.

We live in days comparable to the days of Jeremiah, when Israel was being deceived and facing the Day of the Lord judgment. Jeremiah said, "A wonderful and horrible thing is

committed in the land; the prophets prophecy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means (own ideas); and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?" Jeremiah 5:30-31. The words of Jesus should be ringing in our ears, "Come out from among them".

EMERGENT CHURCH PROMOTES LIFESTYLE RATHER THAN FAITH

A Christian broadcaster claims that Emerging church leader Brian McLaren is fulfilling the biblical prophecy that in the latter days men will not put up with sound doctrine, according to 2 Tim. 4:3. Brian McLaren recently addressed 650 Anglican bishops attending the Lambeth Conference, a meeting he says was characterized by "a loving atmosphere" and "a deep spirituality centred in bible study, worship, and prayer." McLaren tells ChristianToday.com that he envisions a new era for Christianity, which "is more about the Christian way of life than it is about a rigid and polemicized systems of belief." Tom Mahon, president of The Berean Call ministry, says McLaren is obviously ashamed of the biblical gospel and is bent upon making it accommodate his own ideas about Christianity and "the Christian way of life". "Once you throw off biblical doctrine, what do you have to guide you? This is to me a reflection of what Satan did to Eve in the Garden, this is Gen. 3:1, "Yea hath God said?" In other words, if you undermine what God had said, then what have got?" he questions. : Well, you've got Proverbs 14:12, "There is a way that seems right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death, or destruction".

BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING!

With every telephone call, swipe of a card and click of a mouse, information is being recorded, compiled and stored about Britain's citizens.

An investigation by The Sunday Telegraph has now uncovered just how much personal data is being collected about individuals by the government, law enforcement agencies and private companies each day.

In one week, the average person living in Britain has 3,254 pieces of personal information stored about him or her, most of which is kept in databases for years and in some cases indefinitely.

In the News (continued...)

Turkey-Iran Hope to Sign Energy Deal Within a Month
Kuna (18Aug08) - Energy Minister Hilmi Guler said here Monday that his country is hoping to sign an energy deal with Iran within a month period, revealing that both nations were working on finalizing the technical aspects of the deal. Guler told the press that Turkey was working tirelessly to formulate the deal, revealing that he would visit Tehran soon accompanying Foreign Minister Ali Babacan.

Turkey, African countries Begin Cooperation Summit

USA Today (18Aug08) Heads of state and other dignitaries from African countries and Turkey started an economic cooperation summit in Istanbul on Monday. The three day summit in Turkey's cultural and financial centre is part of the country's intensifying efforts to expand ties and increase trade volume with the African continent.

Sudan's Beshir Heads to Meeting in Turkey

AFPV (18Aug08) Sudanese President Omar al-Beshir headed to Istanbul on Monday for an Africa-Turkey summit, his first trip abroad since the International Criminal Court prosecutor called for his arrest over war crimes in Darfur.

Editors Note: In the previous three articles, do we see the alliance of Ezekiel 38-39 forming?

Israel Prepares for Possible Syrian-Lebanese Missile Strike with Extended Missile Range

ProphecyNewwatch (21Aug08) - The military released classified information confirming that Israel has been monitoring recent Syrian missile tests. Included in the arsenal the Syrians are said to be testing are long-range missiles based on the Scud missile, of which Damascus has approximately 1,000 as well as

shorter-range rockets. The Syrian arsenal is also believed to include chemical and biological warheads of Syria's own manufacture. Last month Defense Minister Ehud Barak told US Vice President Dick Cheney that "the number of missiles in the hands of Hezbollah has doubled, if not tripled, and that the range of the missiles has extended. And this has been accomplished with the close assistance of the Syrians." In March, an anonymous source told the Associated Press that Hezbollah held new Iranian rockets capable of striking as far south as Dimona, Israel's nuclear facility in the Negev. In response to the Syrian missile threat, the IDF has conducted exercises simulating a combined, multi-level Syrian-Lebanese-Iranian strike on the Israeli home-front.

Ascription of Glory

Yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory. - 1 Peter 1:18

I am discovering that many Christians are not really comfortable with the holy attributes of God. In such cases, I am forced to wonder about the quality of their worship.

The word "holy" is much more than an adjective saying that God is a holy God. It is an ecstatic ascription of glory to the triune God. Everything that appears to be good about men and women must be discounted, for we are humans. Abraham, David and Elijah, Moses, Peter and Paul—all were good men, but each had his human flaws and weaknesses as members of Adam's race. Each had to find his own place of humble repentance. Because God knows our hearts and our intentions, He is able to restore His believing children in the faith!

So, we should be honest and confess that much of our problem in continuing fellowship with a holy God is that many Christians only repent for what they do, rather than for what they are!

A.W. Tozer