



*"Blow ye the trumpet in Zion,
and sound an alarm in my holy
mountain: let all the inhabitants
of the land tremble: for the day of
the LORD cometh, for it is nigh*

August 2014

Knowing Our Weakness and God's Power

Moses was not a fluent man. His words spoken to God must be accepted as being a sincere and fair appraisal of the facts: "O Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue" (Exodus 4:10). The Lord did not try to cheer up His doubting servant by telling him that he had misjudged his ability. He allowed Moses' statement to stand unchallenged. But He said to Moses, "What about your brother Aaron the Levite? I know he can speak well." God gave Aaron an "A" in speech. He was undoubtedly an eloquent man. Yet it was the halting Moses, not the fluent Aaron, who faced Pharaoh time after time in defense of Israel; it was Moses, not the eloquent Aaron, who wrote the brilliant and beautiful story of the creation; it was Moses who penned the Book of Deuteronomy, one of the most poetical and moving books ever written. Was Aaron too fluent for God to use after all? I do not claim to know why, but whatever the reason, we have but few samples of Aaron's words in the Bible and countless pages of Moses'.

The reason back of all this is that great emotions rarely produce fluency of speech, whereas shallow feelings are sure to express themselves in many words. We tend to use words in inverse proportion to the depth of our feelings. Some of the profoundest emotions of the heart utter themselves in a chaste brevity of words, as when John tells us of Christ's sharp grief at the grave of Lazarus. He says simply, "Jesus wept." With exquisite good taste, the scholars who divided the Bible into verses allowed those two words to stand alone. Nothing more is needed to reveal the mighty depth of Christ's love for His friend.

A. W. Tozer

Sound the Trumpet

- Section 1 -

Israel's Troubles

As the war between Israel and Hamas continues to rise in intensity the politicians, leaders and journalists and Israel's antagonists vie in their columns and pronouncements with strongly held opinions of what Israel ought to do and what Israel ought not to do.

Solutions are being sought; ceasefires are being called for; tired old lines being reshaped. US Secretary of State John Kerry's assertion earlier this week that the current hostilities only prove how essential it is to resurrect the peace process that was so recently declared dead in the water. Foolishness abounds, if Israel's neighbors are bound and determined to destroy her, peace talks for a thousand years would yield no results.

What will Israel do? Some suggest there are four choices facing Israel.

1 - Continuing its hi-tech, pinpointed pounding from the air of the terrorists' infrastructure in Gaza until Hamas is ready to accept a ceasefire. This will not solve the problem but only defer it once again.

2 - Send troops in now in an effort to deal a more effective and long lasting blow to the enemy's capabilities, knowing that soldiers will be killed and wounded, and that the IDF will eventually have to withdraw under pressure, ceding the ground once again to Hamas.

3 - Invade to retake the entire Gaza Strip, an operation that IDF planners hold will take 'just weeks'. This would involve losing soldiers. It would involve months rooting out the Hamas and its sister terrorists, but then what?

4 - Pulverize Gaza from the air with carpet bombing. Send an

uncompromising message to the 'Palestinians' and to the Arab world in general that the Jewish state will no longer play the nice guy with its enemies. This will lead to massive global condemnations of Israel and trigger anti-Semitic outbreaks around the world.

Whatever action Israel takes it will bring the world's condemnation down upon her. The last two options would bring UN action and probably the intrusion of The Hague against Israel.

Israel is very unlikely to take more action than necessary to give short term relief. Slowly but surely Israel is being delegitimized; its operations in Gaza have brought it nearer to being turned into a pariah state similar to the way apartheid South Africa was.

With one or two exceptions Israel no longer has any friends left in the world; even Israel's evangelical friends are fast turning away from her.

We know that God will preserve Israel and ultimately bless her. But we need to understand that Israel today is still suffering under the chastening hand of God. Israel's enemies are not her real problem; her alienation from God is her real problem. Israel today is alienated from her God because of her rebellion against God. We read about that chastening hand in Deuteronomy 28:63-64, "And it shall come to pass, that as the LORD rejoiced over you to do you good, and to multiply you; so the LORD will rejoice over you to destroy you, and to bring you to nought; and ye shall be plucked from off the land whither thou goest to possess it.

And the LORD shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and there thou

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shalt serve other gods, which neither thou nor thy fathers have known, even wood and stone."

For nearly 2000 years Israel has suffered under the chastening hand of God. In our lifetime we have seen the God of Israel begin the process of Israel's restoration. The dry bones which have been scattered throughout the world have been coming together and are returning to the Promised Land. God has worked upon His people in many ways to bring their hearts back to Him.

The promises given through Ezekiel 2600 years ago are now in the process of being fulfilled. Ezekiel 36:6-8, 24, "*Prophesy therefore concerning the land of Israel, and say unto the mountains, and to the hills, to the rivers, and to the valleys, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I have spoken in my jealousy and in my fury, because ye have borne the shame of the heathen: Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; I have lifted up mine hand, Surely the heathen that are about you, they shall bear their shame. But ye, O mountains of Israel, ye shall shoot forth your branches, and yield your fruit to my people of Israel; for they are at hand to come.....For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land."*

But Israel has not yet turned back to God and in recent times He has allowed three major wars and terrorism as an instrument in His hand to bring Israel to the end of themselves, that they might look up to Him. He has caused them to prosper in a thousand ways to show His love for them. Yet His people have not returned to Him to this point. They are still rejecting their Messiah, until they recognize Him and repent and return to Him they will remain under the chastening hand of God. No Israeli can or ever will have a relationship with God apart from a relationship with their Messiah, Jesus Christ.

We see that future day in Zachariah

12:9-10 when at the end of the "Time of Jacob's Trouble," Israeli's, as individuals and as a nation will experience salvation in an encounter with Christ. "*And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn."*

Unfortunately, Israel has not yet come to that place and there awaits three more great wars to further chasten Israel and bring them to repentance. Sadly, in the last 3 ½ years of the tribulation period, 2/3 of all living Israelis will die in judgment at the hand of God because of unbelief. We read about the terrible time in Zechariah 13:7-9, "*Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man that is my fellow, saith the LORD of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered: and I will turn mine hand upon the little ones. And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein. And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God."*

Notice the climax of God's working with His people since the call of Abraham, "*I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God."* Linger over that statement and recall all the way God has worked with His chosen people over the millennia. Think of the love of God for His people down over the years. Realize that God will never let sin go unpunished and that repentance and faith is the only way to God.

In the New Testament this truth is emphasised in John 3:36, "*He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."*

Israel will know no peace until the Prince of Peace returns to reign on the throne of David. When we pray for the peace of Jerusalem we are praying for the glorious return of Christ to Jerusalem to bring peace to Israel and war torn, sin sick world. That peace will not come until sin is judged and the world is purged.

Romans 11:25-26, "*For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob."*

Notice, "The Times of the Gentiles" and the "Fullness of the Gentiles" are two separate terms. The "Times of the Gentiles" refers to the time when the gentile nations have supremacy over Israel. The "Fullness of the Gentiles" refers to the completion of the Church.

When the church is complete and the last individual is saved and placed into the body of Christ, the church will be raptured and taken out of the earth. Then at that time God will begin to finalize His dealing with the nation of Israel.

As we see the hand of God today setting the scene for the tribulation period to begin we know that the rapture is near at hand.

The Lord is at hand! Are you ready? Are you saved?

Remember heaven is forever and hell is also forever. **Now** is the only time you can be sure of being saved!

"...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved...." Acts 16:31

The Setting for the War of Psalm 83

We have recently watched the explosive growth of a terrorist group called "ISIS" which stands for, Islamic State of Iraq and Syria. The name has now been changed to "IS" which stands for Islamic State and implies a much larger Islamic Caliphate or Kingdom. "IS" is seeking to erase the borders of all Muslim States and to remove their leaders to create a Muslim Caliphate or kingdom.

This new group is headed by Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. He has transformed a few small terror cells into the most brutal and lethal terror group on earth. He is striving to unite all of the many Islamic terror groups by the use of the ultimate brutality which seems to fascinate and motivate Islamic extremists. His goal is also to bring down the more moderate Arab leaders in the process of expanding his Islamic Empire. He considers even Hamas to be moderate.

Fighters from the self-declared jihadist group have seized a gas field in the desert region of Palmyra in the Syrian central province of Homs.

This new group is gathering momentum and is making sweeping gains in Iraq and Syria. They are attracting terrorists from other organizations; they are growing in wealth and power and are gaining grass roots support among Muslims. This group has the potential to form a Caliphate of Muslims in the countries immediately around Israel. Late reports reveal that US-trained-and-funded Iraqi forces have retreated from ISIS-held Tikrit.

Senator Lindsey Graham warned that "IS" "will eventually march on Jordan and Lebanon. They're going to take the King of Jordan down." The unspoken implication is that Israel will be next. "IS" is now pumping Iraqi oil. It grabbed half a trillion dollars when it seized Iraq's central bank in Mosul making it the richest terrorist organization in the

world. "IS" has been called too extreme for Al-Qaida with justification. Al-Baghdadi is being crowned "the next and more radical Bin Laden."

"IS" grand project is to destroy borders between Arab states and rule them all under one Islamic entity. His first goal is to drive America out of Iraq and to use Iraq as a base to launch attacks on surrounding countries such as Jordan. Then he desires a ring of radicalized Muslim countries surrounding Israel which will seek to bring about the destruction of Israel, this will be the war of Psalm 83. In a widely shared video, an "IS" fighter is seen walking across what used to be the border between Iraq and Syria and vowing to "break all borders in Jordan, Lebanon, and all the borders, inshallah [God willing]." The video is called "The End of Sykes-Picot" a reference to the 1916 secret agreement between the British and the French which shaped the modern Middle Eastern.

There are some indications that Iran will support "IS" even to the extent of allowing Syria and Hezbollah to fall to them. If such were to happen it would unify those countries and people that are named in scripture as coming against Israel in the war of Psalm 83.

"ISIS" is guilty of wholesale massacres in Syria, leaving the bodies to rot for all to see. It beheaded a top rival rebel commander, leaving his head in the middle of the market. Amnesty International listed a few of their atrocities in their 18-page report "Rule of fear; ISIS abuses in detention in northern Syria."

"They have conducted hundreds of executions, beheadings, even crucifixions in Mosul, Iraq. They destroy anything that is not Islamic, such as the Assyrian Church in Mosul. Hundreds have been slain for being "infidels."

Once "IS" establishes its permanent presence in Iraq, as Hezbollah has done in Lebanon and Hamas in Gaza, it will strengthen its grip on Syria. While looking down on Israel from the Golan Heights, it is likely to turn its attention to a militarily weak Lebanon, seeking to remove the Shiite Hezbollah from power, taking over its armory of a hundred thousand rockets, and taking control of that country. A general belief is starting to grow in Lebanon that the "IS", the precursor to the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS), stands behind the renewed instability in the country.

From its northern stronghold in Iraq, Lebanon, and Syria it will target Jordan with the intention of deposing, or killing, the Hashemite king, as a preliminary step to taking over his country. If America, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia do not immediately move to strengthen the kingdom, King Abdullah will be exposed to mortal danger, granting "ISIS" control over Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan in their march to a global Caliphate. Who is to say that radical Palestinians and Islamists in Jordan will not open the gates of that country to "ISIS" just as Syrians reached out to them?

When that scenario is achieved, Israel will be exposed to a threatening and powerful mortal enemy stretching from Rosh HaNikra on the northern Mediterranean to Mount Hermon in the northeast of Israel, sweeping through the Golan Heights and down the Jordan Valley to the Dead Sea and the Red Sea in the south. In the turmoil that is the Middle East, where regimes are falling and nations are toppling, who is to say that such a nightmare scenario is not imminent?

I believe that this is one of the most significant developments in Mideast scenario in recent times.

We see just such a scenario outlined in Psalm 83:3-8, "*They have taken crafty counsel against thy people,*

and consulted against thy hidden ones. They have said, Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance. For they have consulted together with one consent: they are confederate against thee: The tabernacles of Edom, and the Ishmaelites; of Moab, and the Hagarenes; Gebal, and Ammon, and Amalek; the Philistines with the inhabitants of Tyre; Assur also is joined with them: they have holpen the children of Lot. Selah.”

As we have indicated, the significance of “IS” seems to be its relationship to the coming war of Psalm 83. Notice, the alliance “IS” is forming is the same alliance Psalm 83 describes.

Edom = the Palestinians
Ishmaelites = the Arabs Ammon = Jordan Philistines = Hamas Tyre = the present day Hezbollah Assur = Syria.

The war of Ezekiel 38-39 has an entirely different set of enemies that will face Israel in a war that will follow shortly after the war of Psalm 83. Those nations which Russia will lead are also named in scripture, we see the list in Ezekiel 38:5-6, “*Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya with them; all of them with shield and helmet: Gomer, and all his bands; the house of Togarmah of the north quarters, and all his bands: and many people with thee.*”

Russia as the leader, with Persia = Iran; Ethiopia; Libya; Gomer and Togarmah = Turkey

The scripture foretells three future wars for Israel. There is the war (battle) of Armageddon at the close

of the tribulation period. There is the war of Ezekiel 38-39 which takes place very early in the tribulation period. But first, there is the war described in Psalm 83, Ezekiel 35-36 and Isaiah 17, we will refer to it as the war of Psalm 83.

The war of Psalm 83 takes place prior to the tribulation period. It is described in scripture as taking place at a time when Israel is under assault by her close neighbours and those within her borders. The events of the present hour fit that scenario as no other time in history.

It is possible that the church saints will be present to witness this war. The only thing we know about the timing of the rapture is that it will take place prior to the beginning of the tribulation period, though it could precede that event.

I believe we are standing on the threshold of the war of Psalm 83. The present scenario in the Mideast is the situation we find described in scripture just prior to the war of Psalm 83.

“*Because thou hast said, these two nations and these two countries shall be mine, and we will possess it; whereas the LORD was there*” (Ezekiel 35:10). We have here described the exact scenario in Israel today. The Palestinians are claiming the Land of Israel as their own. This is the first time in history this has happened. The stage is now being set for the war of Psalm 83 to take place.

We have previously dealt with the coming war of Psalm 83 but this is the first time we have seen how these nations and groups will be

brought together by a group such as ISIS. If we see dimly the outline in scripture of end time events unfolding, just wait and in God’s time it will become clear.

We remind you that the movement of prophetic events seem to rise and fall like the incoming tide. Recent events have highlighted this fact and we are conscious that the scenario of the war of Psalm 83 could very quickly come about. We have watched many end time scenarios slowly unfold, I believe that the hour will come when the dam will break and the church will be caught up and awful Day of the Lord will suddenly break upon a blind and unsuspecting world.

“*But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.*

For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thessalonians 5:1-9).

LAODICEA and the HARLOT

Today many who call themselves evangelicals are changing their stand on gay marriage. When one who claims to be a follower of Christ rejects His Word and His teaching you can only conclude that they are not genuine followers of Christ. Could it be that today, many who call

themselves evangelicals have never truly been regenerated?

Could it also be because so few churches teach Biblical doctrine or are involved in Biblical exposition in a verse by verse manner that aides in revealing the consistency, inerrancy, authority, and supremacy of God’s

Word? Today, God’s Word is not the final source of authority for what so-called evangelicals believe but instead for most the standard has become the culture.

In my lifetime the Church of Jesus Christ has gone through a transition, a transition from the Philadelphian

era to the present Laodicean era.

The letters to the seven churches of Asia Minor are a record of the progression of apostasy in the church. It began with Ephesus; and the loss of its first love, it culminates with the Lord spewing out the lukewarm church of Laodicea and it concludes in the harlot church of the tribulation period.

Laodicea is the last of the seven churches to receive a letter from the Lord, and it is the shortest of them all. It is to this church; and this church alone, that Christ finds nothing good to say. The Lord completes His work in cycles of seven. These seven churches combined, present seven stages of the life of the church on earth, beginning at Pentecost and concluding at the rapture. The harlot church is a counterfeit, and does not in any way relate to the bride of Christ, it is a harlot wife for Satan. We have thus in these letters a prophetic fore view of the entire church dispensation.

As we view Laodicea, we see the tares continue to increase among the wheat. The buzzards continue to gather in the trees that are Christendom, and the leaven of evil gains momentum in the church as it comes to the end of the age.

Laodicea is the church of the end times and it depicts the conditions of the church when the rapture takes place. Laodicea literally means "*the rights of the people*," a definition that perfectly describes the evangelical church of this present day. This is the era of human rights and it is also the characteristic of Laodicea.

The Word of God no longer stands as a lamp for the feet of this church, nor is it used as a light for her path; instead she is governed by "*the will of the people*." The present Laodicean church is no longer a theocracy but is now a democracy.

It must be understood that Laodicea is not Thyatira. Thyatira represents the represents the Catholic Church

that is still present in this world. It is the church which from 600 A.D. to 1517 dominated the world scene but does no longer. However it will continue to the end of the church age and go into the Tribulation Period as a part of the harlot church.

Laodicea is not Sardis, which is the mainline protestant church. This church had its day of prominence from about A.D. 1517 – 1750. Though its day of prominence is over, it also continues in the world in apostasy and will go into the tribulation period as part of the harlot church.

Laodicea is not Philadelphia (Fundamentalism) which was dominant from 1750 – 1950. Philadelphia still exists today, but only as a remnant. It will continue as a remnant until the day it is caught up in the rapture. The Lord said to Philadelphia, "*Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth*" (Revelation 3:10). This unmistakably refers to the rapture.

Laodicea is the Evangelical church which came out of Fundamentalism, somewhere around 1950. As we examine Laodicea, I suggest that you can see for yourself as to whether or not the description of Laodicea adequately depicts evangelicalism of the present hour. I along with many others, think the parallel is unmistakable.

I believe that the church of Laodicea and the remnant of Philadelphia are seen side by side in the world today, and I believe it is possible to stand firmly Philadelphian in character, in this present Laodicean age. The question is, are you Laodicean or Philadelphian? Are you a part of the Laodicean church, or are you found among the remnant of Philadelphia?

We see our Lord's evaluation of Laodicea in Revelation 3:15-17, "*I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold*

or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked."

This Laodicean church of the present hour has been infected with a nauseating quality that will make Christ ultimately vomit it out of His mouth. They are, neither hot to the point of boiling, nor could they be described as cold to the point of freezing. What a description of today's evangelicalism, half hearted, neutral, lukewarm in the faith, with one foot in the world. One service a week and make it entertaining. Such a condition is totally repugnant to the Lord, literally, "*You make me sick to my stomach.*"

Then the Lord rebukes this church for its emphasis and focus on material things. They said, "*I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing.*" Jesus said, "*Thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.*"

What a contrast in evaluation. The Lord's evaluation is not very flattering. What self-deception. They were boasting of their material prosperity and were quite happy with themselves. How like evangelicals today. And yet they were, in reality, beggarly poor, poverty stricken, and blind to the truth. They couldn't see their spiritual condition. How evident that is in the evangelical church of this very hour.

The Lord further describes the church as "*poor*". They were proud of their wealth, but blind to their spiritual poverty. How true of evangelicals today. In Luke 16:15 our Lord said to the Pharisees, "*That which is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God.*"

Never before has the church owned so much property. Never before has the church had such large membership. Never before has the

church had such a large pay role. And yet, despite this, evangelicalism is spiritually poor. It is often seen that material wealth and spiritual poverty accompany each other.

The Lord said the Laodiceans were spiritually blind, they could not recognize their own spiritual poverty, or their desperate plight. They lacked spiritual discernment, a characteristic of those who have never been born

again. *“But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned”* (1 Corinthians 2:14).

Summary of the News

From Israel

The following news item highlights a serious problem in Israel. Hanin Zoabi is a member of the Israeli Knesset and she is bitter opponent of the Jewish State.

MK Hanin Zoabi took her campaign against Israel to a whole new level this week, *Israel Hayom* reports Friday - after she published an article on Hamas's official website encouraging an Islamist uprising against the Jewish state.

Zoabi encouraged all Arab countries to help stoke a "popular uprising" against Israel, halt security coordination with the Palestinian Authority (PA) police in Judea and Samaria, and lay siege to the region.

The inflammatory piece also attacks Operation Protective Edge against Hamas, which seeks to protect her home country against the thousands of rockets already fired by the terror group on Israeli citizens.

The question arises as to why Israel tolerates Arab members of the Knesset who are open enemies of the Jewish State.

The answer is found in the fact that the leaders of Israel do not desire a Jewish Theocratic State. They rather desire a Democratic / Socialist State after the European model. Israel and its leaders have not yet recognized and received their Messiah, God's Christ. They still do not want this man to reign over them. That is also why they do not defend the Temple Mount or the right of Jewish people to pray on the Temple Mount. They are still

in unbelief and alienated from God.

That is why there will be no peace for Israel until their eyes are opened and they recognize their Messiah and return to Him in repentance. There will be no peace for Israel until the Prince of peace returns to the throne of David. When we pray for the peace of Jerusalem we are praying for the return Christ to reign over Israel.

The Present War

Israel air power has failed to reach Hamas' underground war rooms

- Although the Israeli Air Force hit and destroyed more than 1,500 Hamas military targets in Gaza, the groups' underground military command center remains intact.
- They wiped out 3,000 rockets, but the terrorist group that rules Gaza still has 6,000 more at its disposal and its arsenal is topped up daily by local production and smuggled supplies through the Sinai Peninsula.
- In the 10 days of the ongoing conflict, Hamas has launched nearly 2,000 rockets at the Israeli civilian population. The vast majority landed in open areas, except for the 200 or so which exploded near their targets, and at least 150 that were intercepted by the Iron Dome missile defense system.
- These rocket salvos are directed from a command and control center buried deep inside Hamas' underground bunker war room, which is segmented into three compartments: terrorist operations; a command center; and

logistics, including the storage of ammunition and other military gear. None of these compartments were damaged by Israel's air strikes and they continue to function at capacity.

The IDF has so far mobilized 50,000 reservists to fight Hamas in Gaza. Another 20-25,000 soldiers are likely to be called up as the fighting continues – rising to a potential maximum of 100,000 troops if the clashes spread to new fronts on Israel's northern borders with Syria and Lebanon.

The scattered rocket fire into Israel's north in the past week suggests that Iranian and Syrian-dominated Palestinian organizations may be poised to pounce on Israel from their host-countries of Syria or Lebanon.

From United States

The United States is becoming a place where "anything goes," and most Americans are okay with that. No matter which side of the "culture war" that you are on; our culture is being fundamentally transformed.

In fact, new numbers from Gallup confirm that there has been a colossal shift in America's moral values just since 2001. Over the past 13 years, we have become a dramatically different country. Many of the things that used to be considered "evil" are now considered to be "good", and many of the things that used to be considered "good" are now considered to be "evil".

In other words, our culture is literally being turned upside down, and the "values" that our national

leaders speak of today are far different from the “values” that our grandparents grew up with.

This shift of values is highlighted in following news item.

Less than 3 per cent of the US population identify themselves as gay, lesbian or bi-sexual, the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention reported in the first large-scale government survey measuring Americans’ sexual orientation.

The National Health Interview Survey, which is the government’s premier tool for annually assessing Americans’ health and behaviours, found that 1.6 per cent of adults self-identify as gay or lesbian, and 0.7 per cent consider themselves bisexual.

The overwhelming majority of adults, 96.6 per cent, labelled themselves as straight in the 2013 survey. An additional 1.1 per cent declined to answer, responded “I don’t know the answer” or said they were “something else”.

How and why can less than 3% of Americans turn the moral compass of the nation upside down? How can so few resoundingly reverse the generally accepted moral values that have ruled societies for thousands of years? Today our society has totally espoused the homosexual agenda; those that refuse to get on board are ridiculed and persecuted. Not all the people are involved in this aberration but the majority have joined in the rebellion.

The Word of God has foretold of this situation, “*This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.*” (2 Timothy 3:1). Paul here is speaking of the last days of the Church, immediately prior to the rapture, the day in which we are now living. After the rapture the age long rebellion of man against God will come to climax. It will be a day when men reject God and His

Word and everything He has commanded and instructed. The stage is now set for that rebellion to climax.

That rebellion will be fueled by deception, the greatest time of deception the world has ever known.

his deception will come from God, from the Antichrist and from Satan. 2 Thessalonians 2:9-11; “*Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie.*”

We are now seeing this rebellion like a snowball rolling over the entire world. If God commands it, the world is against it, if God forbids it, the world is for it.

his evil world has been at war against God since Adam first rebelled, but now the climax of that rebellion has begun.

During the tribulation period men will climax their rebellion by blaspheming the very name of God. “*And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory. And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain, And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds*” (Revelation 16:9-11).

This is the climax of the rebellion of man against God, a rebellion that is even now gaining great momentum all around us.

All Roads Lead to Rome

The ecumenical movement towards

a one–world religion seems to gaining traction fast, with the meeting of mainstream protestant church leaders warming up to the Vatican in an effort that purports to work toward tearing down the ‘walls of division’ between Catholics and Protestants.

ChristianNews.net reported that two controversial TV preachers, Kenneth Copeland and James Robison recently met Pope Francis with the aim of working together towards this goal.

Copeland and Robison led a delegation of Evangelical Christian leaders in a meeting with the Roman Catholic pontiff late last month.

Robison’s wrote, “We continued in such glorious fellowship that words could never begin to describe it,” he wrote. “I am fighting back tears even as I write, so glorious was the manifest presence of Jesus.”

Not only has the move to Rome accelerated but it is now motivated by a great passion on the part of evangelicals. In evangelical churches all across the land the walls of resistance to Rome are being broken down.

It is noteworthy that certain other Christian leaders have also been making similar moves towards inclusivity of Islam, in what is now being commonly described as the creation of “Chrislam”, a merger of Christianity and Islam. This movement has been initiated or embraced by other leaders representing Christendom as well.

Big Brother in the Home

Our world is rapidly descending into a situation in which government totally controls every aspect of our lives.

A Christian organization in the United Kingdom on Wednesday launched its legal challenge to the ultimate “Big Brother” law – a Scottish plan that appoints a

government official to oversee the life of each newborn.

"We are making a stand for all mums and dads who are doing their best for the children they love," said Colin Hart, director of the Christian Institute.

He confirmed that papers were lodged at Edinburgh's Court of Sessions by the Institute, several other organizations and parents who would be subjected to the law's requirements.

The "Named Person" initiative, the Institute has explained, would "see a state guardian assigned to every child between birth and 18-years-old."

Those government officials would have access to all information about the child, whether the parents allow it or not, and could make recommendations and suggestions about the upbringing of the child.

Parents would be allowed to decline their advice, but then those government officials would "be able to share information with a wide range of public authorities and may intervene without parental consent."

While the law is set to be imposed nationwide by 2016, it already is being implemented in some areas. This is one more step toward the day when all liberties are gone and government totally controls every aspect of our lives. Government will be mother and father to our children. Satan desires to gain total control of both God's creation and God's people. The worship of Satan is the ultimate goal.

We see this accomplished in Revelation 13:15-17, "*And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. And he causeth*

all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name."

The only way to avoid this dark, tragic hour is to come to Christ for salvation. "*Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth*" (Revelation 3:10).

The way is given to us in John 14:6, "*Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*" And in Ephesians 2:8-9, "*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast*" (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Tribulation Scenarios

For some time now unusual circumstances have been popping up all around the world. These are frightening new situations that are apocalyptic in nature. They are precursors of the coming tribulation period.

California is experiencing its worst drought for more than a century. The California governor, called for a state-wide 20% reduction in water use amid the worst drought we have ever seen, which has already lasted three years. California is turning increasingly brown. Nearly 80% of it is now classified as under extreme or exceptional drought conditions. Farmers in California are allowing nearly half a million acres to lie fallow this year due to the extreme lack of water.

The lack of produce coming from the state of California will ultimately affect food prices in the entire nation. Just consider the following

statistics from a recent Business Insider article...

California is one of the U.S.'s biggest food producers — responsible for almost half the country's produce and nuts and 25% of our milk and cream. Eighty percent of the world's almonds come from the state, and they take an extraordinary amount of water to produce — 1.1 gallons per almond.

Most people just assume that this drought will be temporary, but experts tell us that there have been "mega-droughts" throughout history in the western half of the United States that have lasted for more than 100 years.

If we have entered one of those eras, it is going to fundamentally change life in America.

And the frightening thing is that much of the rest of the world is dealing with water scarcity issues right now as well. In fact, North America is actually in better shape than much of Africa and Asia.

Without plenty of fresh water, modern civilization is not possible.

In the meantime forest fires are raging from California to Alaska. Storms and floods are ravaging other parts of the continent.

In another tribulation scenario the threat of major earthquakes is causing concern in the west coast area.

In yet another troubling situation Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) are challenging the IMF and the US dollar as the world reserve currency. This move has the potential to bring the whole monetary system crashing down. It is generally recognized that the key element in establishing a New World order is the tearing down of the present monetary system and introducing a new system.