

## CURRENT EVENTS AND THE BIBLE

Greetings precious people, this week we are going to examine another of today's events and how it relates to the Word of God the Bible. Peace is a desired commodity that the world longs for (at least most of the world). Currently there are "peace talks" taking place between Israel and Palestine which the USA has its hand in. Many attempts for peace have been made in the past to no avail. One previous attempt included Israel giving up Gaza to the complete control of the Arab authority with the "promise" of peace from the Arabs. The day after the last Jewish settler was forcibly removed, rockets began to rain down on the southern part of Israel. To date tens of thousands of rockets have been fired from Gaza into southern Israel causing death, injury, and destruction to peoples lives and homes.

So with all of these failed past attempts for peace in the Middle East how does this play into what we have been referring to as "End Times Prophecy"? In a great way! If you have been with us over the past weeks you remember that we have spent a great deal of time looking at how the Middle East, especially Israel and the surrounding nations are the focus of the Last Days.

The Word of God the Bible tells us that there is coming a time when the one who is known as anti-christ will manipulate people and situations and bring about a "peace" in the world. This will be a false peace and will only last a short time until all hell breaks loose here on the earth. The Apostle Paul tells us in 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3, "But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord (the return of Jesus Christ) so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, "***Peace and safety!***" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape."

The word 'anti' has 2 meanings, first, the one we think of most often is: against; contrary to but it also holds the meaning of 'in place of'. The anti-christ is a counterfeit, he comes in place of the real Jesus Christ and masquerades as the promised one. Satan ever since his fall from Heaven has wanted to be "as" the most high in fact this was his sin- PRIDE. Jesus is known as the Prince of Peace; He brings peace between sinful rebellious man and a Holy God by His sacrifice upon the cross; He also gives to all that trust in Him peace that surpasses all understanding to guard our heart and mind.

The anti-christ can do no such thing. He is known as the father of all liars; he only furthers the separation between man and God; the best he can do at giving man peace of mind and heart is through drugs and alcohol. But because man has rejected the true and living God the anti-christ will easily be able to deceive many that he holds the key to peace.

The prophet Daniel also spoke of this person and time. In Daniel 8:23-26, "And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors have reached their fullness, a king shall arise, having fierce features, who understands sinister schemes. His power shall be mighty, but not by his own power; he shall destroy fearfully, and shall prosper and thrive; he shall destroy the mighty, and also the holy people. "Through his cunning He shall cause deceit to prosper under his rule; and he shall exalt himself in his heart. He shall destroy many in their prosperity (peace). He shall even rise against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without human means. "And the vision of the evenings

and mornings which was told is true; therefore seal up the vision, for it refers to many days in the future."

I want to take you back to the first verses we looked at as it referred to "labor pains" as an indicator of the time being near. The thing to keep in mind about labor pains is that they increase in intensity as the time of birth gets closer and the time shortens between each one.

Keep your eyes on the Middle East "peace" process it may get real interesting soon. Most importantly, keep your eyes on Jesus and draw close to Him through the reading of His Word and obeying it.

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