

This week's Headlines and the Bible

Greetings precious people, this week we will begin examining current events and how they relate to the Word of God the Bible. It seems that almost daily, events are taking place around us and the world that the Bible spoke of thousands of years ago. There are too many to cover in a once a week article so I will do my best to address those that seem the most significant at the time.

Just recently Saudi Arabia has granted Israeli fighter jets to use its airspace to fly over in order to attack Iran's nuclear facilities. This is huge for 2 reasons. First, as you know Saudi Arabia is the home of Islam and one of the main supporters of past and current terrorist acts around the world. They are arch enemies of the Israel and hold to the teachings of Islam part of which call for the eradication of the Jews from the face of the earth. Interestingly enough, Iraq which is controlled by the United States and claims to be the strongest allies of Israel has made it clear that any attempt of Israeli jets to fly over Iraq to carry out its mission of destroying Iran's nuclear armament will be shot down.

What makes the Saudi's granting permission to Israel even more interesting is that we are told in the Book of Ezekiel chapters 38 & 39 that when a federation of nations join together to attack Israel, (the nations of Russia, Iran, Turkey, Libya, Ethiopia, and a host of others) Saudi Arabia will not be among them, neither will Iraq. This too is very interesting for ages the leader of Iraq, Saddam Hussein attempted to destroy Israel on a number of occasions. It is also important to note, all the nations mentioned previously are predominately Muslim, including the southern states of Russia.

No where in history do we find the land of Meshech and Tubal (former USSR and now modern day Russia) having anything to do with Persia (modern day Iran), in fact they have wanted nothing to do with each other for centuries. Yet now and for the past ten years they have become friends. Russia is the major supporter of Iran's nuclear program, much of this is because of Russia's need for oil and gas which Iran has an ample supply of.

Also of recent development is Turkey's parting ways with Israel. For many years, Turkey has been one of the few nations in the region that has had decent relations with Israel. Now they are at odds with them. This too is leading to the fulfillment of Ezekiel 38 & 39.

Here we have the stage being set for an all out attack on Israel. Clearly Israel is out numbered nearly 1000 to 1 and overwhelmingly outnumbered militarily: tanks, planes, guns, other weaponry, etc. This is not the first time, Gideon and his army of 300 went up against the armies of the Midianites and Amalekites; David and a handful of men against vast armies; more recent, the 1948; 1967, and 1973 wars where hundreds of thousands of soldiers from neighboring countries attacked Israel attempting to annihilate them.

In all of these attacks, the Israelites should have by all accounts been destroyed. Not only did they survive but were amazingly victorious which can only be attributed to the Divine intervention of God. As we look in Ezekiel 39 we see that He will once again intervene on behalf of the nation of Israel. This is not because the people of Israel are such a wonderful, deserving people, they are not, they are sinners and in rebellion against God like everyone else. It is because God is faithful to His Word, He said that He would do this and so He will.

God's faithfulness to His Word should bring both comfort and fear to my heart. Comfort, in that all that God has promised me to watch out for me, to keep me, and take me to Heaven when I die. Fear, in that He will keep "all" of His Word, when He says, "What so ever a man sows that will he reap" and "Be not deceived, bad company corrupts good morals."

The war spoken of in Ezekiel 38 & 39 by all accounts could happen at any time. It is also a factor in the "End Times", the time prior to the return of Jesus Christ. Are you ready? Are you ready to stand before a Just and Holy God and give an account of all that you have done and failed to do? Be absolutely certain, God will do all that He has said He would do.

Drew Macintyre is associate pastor of Calvary Chapel of Alpine and can be reached at 619-445-2589, or ccalpine@juno.com