

“BIBLICAL PROPHECY AND THE CRISIS IN THE MIDDLE EAST”

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Many people eagerly anticipate what they believe is the end-time war. The idea is that this war will herald the coming of Christ. The war with Iran, often seen as the arrival of Gog from the land of Magog, is a clear sign that the end of time is near. The desire for war is not just about saving the Jews but about the imminent arrival of Christ. Therefore, the far right and Christian nationalists believe the war with Iran is not just a conflict but a sign that victory is near and salvation is on the horizon. But what if our modern interpretation of Ezekiel’s prophecy is incorrect? What if our understanding of the identity of biblical Israel is also wrong?

What is often overlooked when considering the crisis in the Middle East is the biblical role of Iran in biblical prophecy. So, who is Iran historically? Iranians are the descendants of the Medes and Persians. The Medes were known for the use of the bow and arrow. In biblical prophecy, God would use the Medes in the defeat of Edom, the descendants of Esau, and the sworn enemies of God's people. In **135 BC, John Hyrcanus forced the conversion of the Edomites or Idumeans to Judaism, and eventually, they dominated the Jewish people and Israel.** Herod, the Edomite king of Judea, plotted to kill the infant Savior Yahusha by ordering the killing of infant male Israelites 2 years and under (**Matt. 2:16-18**). The murderous plot shows how deep the Edomites' hatred of God's people.

When Israel was under attack by Babylon (**586 BC**), the Edomites cheered the destruction of Israel and the Temple. **Isam 137:5, 7-8** says, Remember, O Lord, against the sons of Edom the day of Jerusalem, who said, “Raze *it*, raze *it*, to its very foundation!” **8** O daughter of Babylon, who are to be destroyed, happy the one who repays you as you have served us! **9** Happy the one who takes and dashes your little ones against the rock! **Edom is the daughter of Babylon. Jeremiah 51:11** says, “Make the arrows bright (modern-day missiles)! Gather the shields! The Lord has raised up the spirit of the kings of the Medes. For His plan *is* against Babylon to destroy it, because it *is* the vengeance of the Lord, the vengeance for His Temple” (**see Obadiah 1:11-14; Ezekiel 25:12-14; 35:1-15**).

The need for accurate biblical interpretation is not only critical but also urgent. It shapes our understanding of God's chosen people and the end-time events, making it a topic of utmost importance and relevance.

In the Bible, the nation of Israel is primarily described as God's chosen people, a covenant community established through Abraham and his descendants. Israel is depicted as a nation called to be a blessing to all other nations and a reflection of God's character. The Bible also describes Israel as a theocracy, meaning a nation governed by God, a land of unwalled villages and people gathered from the nations. Israel's purpose extended beyond their own borders. They were called to be a light to the nations, demonstrating God's love and justice to the world. However, the Israelites' failure and disobedience historically resulted in their being scattered globally. The significant scattering of Israelites occurred in **8th century BC** (Assyrians invasion and exile of the northern kingdom), **6th century BC** (Babylon's invasion of Jerusalem, destruction of the **1st Temple**, and the captivity of Judah), **AD 70** (Rome's invasion of Jerusalem and destruction of the **2nd Temple**), and **1526 to 1867**, the Atlantic Slave Trade. However, there were **later voyages until 1873**. These events are significant in understanding the historical and biblical context of biblical Israel, as they mark periods of great suffering, and dispersion for the Israelites, shaping their identity and relationship with God. However, we are the only people fitting God's promised curses in **Deuteronomy 28** for disobedience.

In Matthew 24:4-14, Yahusha answered and said to them (the disciples): "Take heed that no one deceives you. ⁵ For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. ⁶ And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all *these things* must come to pass, but the end is not yet. ⁷ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. ⁸ All these *are* the beginning of sorrows. ⁹ "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. ¹⁰ And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. ¹¹ Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. ¹² And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. ¹³ But he who endures to the end shall be saved. ¹⁴ And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the

nations, and then the end will come.” **Judgment and restoration are coming to Israel.** Not only Israel, all people and nation will face God YAHUAH’s judgment. As to when the end comes, no one, not even the Savior, nor angels in heaven know, the end is only known by God (**Matthew 24:36**).

God YAHUAH said to Moses, speaking about biblical Israel in **Exodus 19:6**, said, **"And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."** As a priestly nation, biblically, Israel was to serve as a mediator between God and the nations, offering sacrifices to God, YAHUAH. Through the way they lived, keeping the laws, Sabbath, and feasts of God, they were to be a light and blessing to the world, to draw people into God's Kingdom from the nations of the world.

Biblical Israel is called to a life of evangelism, spreading God's Word to the nations, not the spreading of war and genocide. This mission of biblical Israel as evangelists is not just a key aspect of Israel's purpose; it is the key aspect, as described in the Bible. **The question then arises, who is biblical Israel? Could the popular interpretation be incorrect? Could the popular interpretation of Ezekiel 38 prophecy be incorrect likewise?** These are crucial questions to consider in our examination of biblical prophecy and its implications for contemporary believers. If you want to know who the people and nations mentioned in Ezekiel’s 38 prophecy, look no further than **Genesis 10:1-5**, they are the descendants of Japheth, the father of the European people. However, the coalition is much larger.

Father YAH is lifting the veil from our eyes and awakening His people to the divine truth of their biblical heritage in His Holy Word (**see Daniel 12:4-6; Joel 2:28**). There has been a conspiracy against God's people to hide and distort our true identity and biblical heritage. **Joel 3:1-3 and Psalm 83:2-8** reveals the conspirators. The nations and people involved represent the same people who played a role in the Atlantic Slave Trade, further scattering God's people (**Europeans and Arabs head the list and African chiefs betrayed and sold us**). Biblical Israel is still scattered (**see Isaiah 11:10-16; Joel 3:1-3; Deut. 30:1-10**). **Now listen to the Savior Yahusha in Matt 24:29-31**, “Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers

of the heavens will be shaken. ³⁰Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. ³¹And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.”

When God’s judgment comes, no civil rights march or violent revolution will save us. Only God YAHUAH will save us when judgment comes. We must repent and turn to God, obey His divine instructions and commandments, and accept His provision of redemptive grace made possible in the Savior Yahusha the Christ. He is the living Law--the Word of God. He is '**the way, the truth, and the life**' (John 14:6).

The Savior Yahusha said in **Luke 21:28**, "Now when these things (**Jerusalem surrounded by armies and the signs in the cosmos**) begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads because your redemption draws near."

Therefore, turn from sin and turn to God YAHUAH, and follow the Savior Yahusha, and you will live. We are God's chosen people. He has not forsaken us. Family, our redemption draws near.