



ISRAEL'S HOPE

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HOW CLOSE ARE WE?



IRANIAN MISSILE
ATTACK ON ISRAEL

Dear Friends,

The events in the Middle East have captivated the attention of the entire world. Will the conflict Israel is in with HAMAS, Hezbollah, and Iran lead to World War III?

Many believe this could happen.

For Bible believing Christians it is imperative that we look at what is happening through the lens of the Bible, specifically Bible prophecy.

This newsletter attempts to do that.

One's framework of future events will impact the view of today's events.

Towards a biblical view, we believe in a premillennial, pre-tribulation rapture, with the Ezekiel 38-39 invasion of Israel happening prior to the middle of the seven-year Tribulation period.

May the thoughts be edifying and challenging.

Shalom aleichem,
Mark and Cheryl

Israel is now doing what many have said they should have been doing months, if not years, ago. The Netanyahu administration has unleashed the power of the Israel Defense Forces in the north against Hezbollah.

The constraint of the U.S. on Israel against HAMAS has prolonged the battle in Gaza, causing unnecessary Israeli lives (and Gazan civilians as well). The Biden administration speaks out of both sides of their mouth in regard to the Israel - Hamas conflict. The inevitable, though, has happened. Israel has decimated HAMAS and their leadership. Although the fighting is not over, HAMAS is finished. In the coming months there will be no HAMAS left in Gaza to attack Israel.

The world, Hezbollah, and Iran have been surprised by Israel's military might and ingenuity. The implementation of explosives in the pagers and other Hezbollah communication devices was a stunning accomplishment. Dozens of Hezbollah terrorists were killed and thousands gravely injured when the devices were detonated.

Israel has been systematically "neutralizing" the leadership of Hezbollah. Even their leader, Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, was not immune to the reaches of the IDF. In a supposedly secure fortress in

The Palestinian Covenant was established between God and Israel. God, and God alone, has the right to determine the level of blessing or cursing to be meted out to his people. But the Abrahamic covenant does have a component that applies to all the nations. God said, "I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse" (Genesis 12:3). Even when Israel was under God's judgment, God still held nations accountable for their treatment of the Jewish people. God judged the Assyrians and the Babylonians for mistreating his people (Jeremiah 50:17-19). God also announced he would judge nations based on their treatment of his chosen people (Jeremiah 30:16; Obadiah 15-17). The Abrahamic Covenant is still operative, and God still holds nations accountable to seek ways to bless the Jewish people. And one way to do that today is to support Israel's right to their God-given land.

Dr. Charles Dyer, [Who Owns the Land?](#)



the center of Beirut, in a below ground bunker in an apartment building, Israel used bunker buster bombs to get to where Nasrallah was located with many of his leaders. He was not killed by the blast, as his body was intact, but believed by either the shock waves of the bombs or suffocation by lack of air or gases. Israel has now begun a ground offensive to rid Israel of the Hezbollah threat

In response to the killing of their proxy leader, Iran sent over 180 ballistic missiles into Israel. Except for the life of one Palestinian Arab in the area of Jericho, there were no deaths. Israel has promised a major response to Iran's attack. As one article headline stated: "Hand of God Protects Israel from Massive Iranian Ballistic Missile Attack."

So, as the title of this article asks, "How Close Are We?" Close to the start of the seven year Tribulation period. Closer to the rapture of the church, which precedes the seven year Tribulation period ([Is the Rapture Pre-Trib?](#)). I believe we are very close, Here are some things to consider.¹

1. The rebirth of Israel in 1948 is the KEY to end time prophecy. It started the end time prophetic clock and is the most important prophecy to understand the days we live ([Israel: The Sign of the Times](#)).
2. The Ezekiel 38-39 invasion of Israel, led by Russia, occurs prior to the middle of the Tribulation period. Ezekiel 38:11 says: "And thou shalt say, I will go up to the land of unwalled villages; I will go to them that are at rest, that dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates." Prior to this invasion of the Gog/Magog forces, Israel will be secure and at peace. Part of this is because of the peace treaty the anti-Christ has orchestrated that starts the seven year Tribulation period. Is another reason because the threat of HAMAS in the south and Hezbollah in the north has been eliminated? The very process happening now?
3. Iran may be negatively impacted by Israel's response to their missile attack, but they won't be destroyed as they are part of the Gog/Magog (Russia) invasion of Israel prior to the middle of the Tribulation period. "Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya with them; all of them with shield and helmet," Ezekiel 38:5. Persia is the present day nation of Iran and is identified as one of the nations in the Gog/Magog invasion.
4. According to Scripture, a rebuilt Temple will be standing by the middle of the Tribulation period, Daniel 9:27, Matthew 24:15, 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4. The question is often asked, "how will the Dome of the Rock be removed in order to allow the rebuilding of the Temple?" One possibility is an errant missile from either Iran or Hezbollah falls on the Dome of the Rock, destroying it. On October 1, Israel National News reported "Iranian Missiles Over the Western Wall." An errant missile or perhaps a "nudge" by God is one way the Dome of the Rock could be removed. It would certainly be ironic if a Muslim missile destroyed the Dome of the Rock.
5. There is a continual and exacerbated division between the secular and the religious in Israel. The present wars have contributed to this division. The religious have exemptions and, by and large, do not serve in the IDF and defend the nation against the existential threats of HAMAS, Hezbollah, and Iran. The non-religious (meaning those who are not ultra-orthodox) have given their lives and livelihoods for the defense of the country. In an October 2, 2024 article in the Jerusalem Post, *October 7 Trauma's Political Aftermath will be like Yom Kippur War's aftermath - analysis*, the author comments on this divide:

"THE TITANIC effort this war has demanded from the Israelis who fight has made it impossible to ignore those who do not fight.

For nearly half a century, as ultra-Orthodoxy became a pillar of the Likud's political hegemony, its package of draft exemptions and special budgeting generated much revulsion but little public action. Now this revulsion is stoking widespread wrath, which in due course will become political energy.

Tragically, there is no sign that ultra-Orthodox leaders appreciate this sentiment's intensity and explosiveness, much less that they are prepared to reconsider their historic deal. As they remain determined to legislate their flock's draft dodging, they will lead mainstream Israel to revolt."

Ezekiel 37:21-23 states:

And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land: And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all:

The context of this section is clearly the second coming. There will no longer be "two nations" in the land of Israel. They shall be "one nation in the land" with "one king."

For years there has been an interest among the religious in Israel to have a separate state in the area of Judea-Samaria. I have a number of articles written through the years about this. Will this secular / religious division lead to the establishment of a second state in the land of Israel? Not a Palestinian state but a religious Jewish state? This would not only fit the details of this Ezekiel 37:15-28 but further provide the "peace and safety" Ezekiel 38 speaks of.

6. The United States will continue to be less and less of a factor in world (prophetic) events, There is no way to know for sure how the U.S. will be taken off the world stage but it is certain as the U.S. is not mentioned in Bible prophecy ([The Late, Great United States of America](#)).

Towards this end the recent Helene storm wrecked havoc on the southeast portion of our country. North Carolina was especially hard hit. An October 1 article titled: "The 'Modern Economy Rests on Single Road' in North Carolina Where Hurricane Helene Collapsed Bridges." The article states "The modern economy rests on a single road in Spruce Pine, North Carolina. The road runs to the two mines that is the sole supplier of the quartz required to make the crucibles needed to refine silicon wafers." This road and the area was wiped out by Hurricane Helene. One comment was: "How do I express that I'm concerned about the people of western NC and I'm also concerned about the potential future global economic disaster because Spruce Pine is the sole producer of ultra pure Quartz for crucibles that all global semiconductor production relies on?"

<https://thelibertydaily.com/modern-economy-rests-single-road-north-carolina-where/>

Will this problem lead to a global economic depression? The further demise of the U.S. on the world stage?

The events happening in the world, especially in Israel, are preparing the world's inhabitants for the coming horrific Tribulation period. Things are in disarray around the globe. The need for a political figure who can bring peace to our world is desperately needed ([The Four Power Bases of Anti-Christ's Rule](#)). But, he will not be from God, but from Satan. And the peace will be fleeting.

END NOTES:

1. Israel's Hope website, www.IsraelsHope.org, has many articles that develop these points in greater detail. I will reference each article [in red](#) for your further study.

Life & Outreach in Ocala, FL

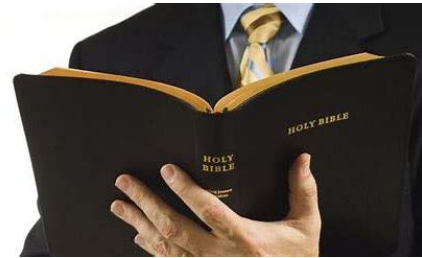
Jake, Deborah, Rhett and Maisie



In late September Jake and Deborah moved into their new home.



The inside of the Sweeney home. On October 5, Maisie will be celebrating her 2nd birthday in the new home.



Preaching

Mark is still desiring to preach in churches and conferences. Lord willing additional preaching opportunities will come.



Master the Possibilities

Mark just finished his course *on Israel in the Plan of God*. 27 people were registered. He has a 4 week class in October and a one week class scheduled for April 2025 on different subjects.

Health

In August Mark had a heart stress test. As a result there were some issues the cardiologist wanted to explore.

On September 16 he had a heart catheterization procedure. In his subsequent visit with his cardiologist he learned there was minimal blockage in two of the arteries and no blockage in his carotid arteries.

We are thankful for the report.

PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Outreach in OTOW.
2. Good health.
3. Pastor for home church.
4. Dan and Suzie salvation

