



A BIBLICAL VIEW OF THE END TIMES
Week 32: Understanding the Rise of the Antichrist, Part 14
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Instructor: Steve Schmutzer

Review:

- We've been chasing an important rabbit trail over the past couple of lessons.
- It all started as we began studying the rise of the antichrist, and we were reviewing his highly successful military campaigns
- We saw that he was so successful that the unsaved masses in The Tribulation ask in **Revelation 13:4**, "Who is like the beast? Who can make war with him?" The antichrist will be universally seen as an unstoppable military genius.
- The words of **Daniel 11:41** stood out in sharp contrast to the rest of the facts. **Daniel 11:41** states that a little area of modern-day Jordan, not a municipal stronghold or a military enclave, but a little region of desert wilderness would be able to resist the antichrist.
- We needed to know why. We learned the following:
 - Israel is prophesied to have a major war with all her foes that immediately surround her. This is detailed in **Psalms 83**, and it is a conflict that historically has not been fulfilled.
 - **Psalms 83** makes it clear Israel will be attacked by her ancient foes, all of whom want to utterly destroy her. Ten different people groups of enemies are identified, and we learned they are those who surround Israel and threaten her today.
 - We learned Israel will have a convincing win in this conflict, and she will annex a great deal of territory as a result. This will include a good part of Jordan.
 - The part of Jordan that Israel will acquire includes the very region the antichrist will not be able to defeat.
- So, the puzzle pieces started to fit together nicely. We saw how Jesus in **Matthew 24:15-16** referred to the book of **Daniel** and he urged future readers during the Tribulation to understand what was being stated there.
 - He urged faithful Jewish people of that future time to recognize the event and ramifications of the 'abomination of desolation,' and...
 - He instructed the faithful Jewish people of that future time to flee to the wilderness where they will be safe.
- In connecting the dots, the faithful Jewish remnant, during The Tribulation will demonstrate their belief in Jesus Christ by heeding His instruction.
- They will flee to the same area the antichrist is prophesied to not conquer. It is the same area Israel will acquire in the **Psalms 83** war. It is in this same wilderness area that God will 'nourish and take care of Israel for 1,260 days,' or the second half of The Tribulation according to **Revelation 12:6**.
- This led to an interesting lesson last week where we saw the Bible's position concerning Jesus' Second Coming. I know, for many of you, it was a series of facts and events you had not been aware of before:

- The Bible makes the case that Jesus physically returns FIRST to Bozrah, to this little wilderness area in Jordan (probably Petra) to free the faithful Jewish remnant that is there, and that listened to His instructions.
 - There, Jesus will personally engage in combat with the antichrist's forces, and He will defeat them in a bloody victory. He will get spattered with blood in the process.
 - Jesus will then lead the faithful Jewish remnant out of that area. He will head north to Jerusalem which is on the verge of being crushed by the antichrist's forces.
 - He will fight the antichrist's forces in Jerusalem much the same way he fought in Petra. Again, it will be bloody beyond comprehension. And once again, Jesus will physically fight as a warrior king.
 - Following the Jerusalem conflict, Jesus will go up to the top of the Mount of Olives. This fulfills prophecy which causes the Mount of Olives to split in a huge earthquake. This creates a large valley and it permits the Jewish captives in Jerusalem to escape.
- It is only AFTER this, according to ***Zechariah 14:5***, that Jesus appears in the heavens, riding a white horse, wearing the bloody robe from His prior conflicts. He will be leading the armies of heaven. Somehow, there is a supernatural transition from His earthly battles to this "airborne assault." We are not given those details.
 - It is the last part of this broader military campaign that is focused on the antichrist, the false prophet, and on their large armies amassed in the Valley of Megiddo (AKA Armageddon). Here, Jesus defeats all these foes with a spoken word.
 - The distance from Armageddon to the region of Bozrah is approximately 180 miles, and the immense collection of blood from all the battles along this course will fulfill the dramatic parameters of ***Revelation 14:20***.
 - All said, Jesus' physical Second Coming is greatly misunderstood by the church today. The Bible makes it clear His Second Advent is marked by a series of bloody wars which Jesus Christ will personally fight, and in which He will get soaked in the blood of His enemies.
 - His Second Coming is precipitated by a conditional fact: that the faithful remnant of Jewish believers will cry out for the return of their Messiah. They will finally recognize Jesus Christ for who He is, and they will appeal for Him to save them. The Bible makes this clear.
 - **That is why Satan has tried so hard to exterminate the Jewish people.** If he can obliterate them, then they cannot be present to cry out for their Messiah this way at the very end.

NOTE: That is a quick review of what we've learned over the last three lessons or so. Now, I said last week that we need to go back in the timeline a bit to deal with a couple more issues that concern events which lie between this present point and the start of The Tribulation.

NOTE: We've studied the prophetic ***Psalms 83*** war in solid fashion.

- We know from current news, that the Israeli Defense Force is planning for exactly this kind of conflict, and from exactly these adversaries.

- We also know from current news, that a consensus is gathering among Israel's enemies that surround her, exactly the ones mentioned in ***Psalms 83***. They state they will attack Israel exactly as the Bible says, from ALL sides in the next conflict.
- As I've said before, these are current events lining up with the prophetic details of Scripture.

Today, I want to go a bit deeper into events in the Middle East. I want to unpack a few more prophetic truths that - I believe - concern this ***Psalms 83*** conflict, and therefore, which also have ramifications for times and events beyond that.

I. **PROPHETIC TRUTHS REGARDING THE PSALM 83 WAR**

A. Let's start with what we know is happening in the Middle East today. Iran is a security threat to the entire Middle East region, and honestly, beyond that.

1. The ill-advised Nuclear Accord which was struck under the previous Obama-Biden administration was a poorly-conceived and deceptive arrangement.
 - a. It never permitted the inspectors to inspect the details of Iran's nuclear program which were of the utmost importance.
 - b. It required shipping pallet-loads of hard cold cash to Iran in the middle of the night under secretive terms.
 - c. It ignored the obvious facts that Iran's nuclear program was never about providing energy for Iran; it was always about acquiring nuclear weapons.
 - d. Even when Israel's Mossad managed to gain thousands of documents and records PROVING that Iran was deceiving the world, PROVING that Iran was fast-tracking the nuclear bomb, and PROVING that Iran's goal was to attack Israel with nuclear weapons, the world's leaders ignored the plain facts of the situation.
2. When President Trump discontinued the terms of the Nuclear Accord, the world howled at him. The truth was, he was acting on the facts of the matter.
 - a. President Trump called a spade a spade, and Iran's intentions to acquire a nuclear weapon were made much more difficult.
 - b. Today, the Biden administration is, once more, trying hard to revive the Nuclear Accord.
 - c. It is a flagrant display of foolishness, especially as the whole world now knows Iran IS pursuing the nuclear bomb. Iran is very close to having it.

B. Nobody is more concerned about these dangerous developments with Iran than Israel.

- a. The Jewish state knows that once Iran has the nuclear bomb, they will use it. Israel will be the target. Iran has already pledged that.
- b. The world's leaders do not seem to care much about this dire situation. I think chances are strong that Israel will need to take matters into her own hands.

- c. A key fact that we cannot overlook in (a.) our own times, and (b.) from a Bible prophecy perspective, is: IRAN IS A MAJOR PROBLEM THAT MUST BE DEALT WITH.
- C. Iran's future is the subject of two war prophecies in the end times.
1. This radical Islamic nation is identified as Elam in **Jeremiah 49:34-39** and as Persia in **Ezekiel 38:5**. Today, I want to focus on the first war, in that part of Iran known as ancient Elam.
 2. Elam is PART OF Iran...or...PART OF ancient Persia. It is that part of Iran which is the western portion, which lies along the Persian Gulf. From a Biblical perspective, it is called out as a different territory than Persia (Iran).
 3. Today, the area of ancient Elam is where the Bushehr nuclear reactor is located, as well as several key sites that are part of Iran's nuclear ambitions.
- D. In **Jeremiah 49:34-39**, there is spelled out a prophecy concerning Elam, and it is quite easy to understand with a casual read.
1. The prophecy appears to be predicting a forthcoming disaster, perhaps a nuclear catastrophe, in the western region of Iran by the Persian Gulf. This portion is known as Biblical Elam.
 2. Here is the plain breakdown of what these few verses are saying:
 - a. According to this passage, a war is coming that is appointed by the Lord. This war is carried out by armies rather than supernaturally by God as is the case in **Ezekiel Chapters 38 and 39** (the War of Gog and Magog)
 - b. This passage shows Elam will experience a disaster as a result of the Lord's fierce anger.
 - c. It states that Iran is led by bad rulers who want to launch something lethal somewhere. This passage states that God will prevent this attack from happening.
 - d. We can responsibly conclude that the sinister and corrupt intentions of bad rulers are the reason for the Lord's fierce anger. They plan on unleashing the foremost of their military might upon some enemy.
 - e. Although we're not specifically told the target, it's not hard to see in these times that it is the nation of Israel. As a result, Jeremiah foretells that these evil leaders of Elam will be eliminated.
 - f. This passage in **Jeremiah** states God is going to "*break the bow of Elam.*" The broken bow likely alludes to the pending destruction of Iran's missile launching capabilities.
- E. Intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) equipped with nuclear warheads could wipe Israel off of the map, which, is the clearly-stated intentions of Iran's radical Islamic leaders. Consider these headlines as JUST SOME of that evidence:

1. ***“Iran general says Tehran aims to wipe Israel off the ‘global political map.’”*** (Times of Israel 1/28/19)
 2. ***“...Khamenei defines Iran’s goal of ‘wiping out Israel’”*** (Times of Israel – 11/15/19)
 3. ***“Iranian commander: We can destroy Israel ‘in under 8 minutes’”***
 4. (More recently) Iran is boasting it has hypersonic missile technology now which both China and Russia have also claimed to have.
 5. This is why this text in ***Jeremiah*** outlines how the Lord will ***“...send the sword after them until I have made an end of them.”*** (This is military language in Biblical terms.)
 6. It is not difficult to see in this passage the results of this prophetic conflict:
 - a. ***“I will scatter them to the four winds, and there will not be a nation where Elam’s exiles do not go” (Cf. vs. 36)***
 - b. The results of this conflict will result in a worldwide dispersion of the Iranian people. This seems to suggest a mass exodus, and in light of the specific issues at stake, it is not unlikely due to nuclear fallout.
 - c. Once again it is important to note that the region of Elam, being the closest part of Iran to Israel, is now a primary location of Iran’s underground missile silos and rocket launchers. These resources are capable of hurling numerous missiles at Israel in a moment’s notice.
 - d. Among the other ramifications of this conflict are the following:
 - The leaders of Iran will be dismayed / ‘shattered’ before their foes.
 - The foremost of Iran’s military might will be broken.
- F. So, let’s fly a bit higher and take in the bigger picture as we see events taking shape in the world right now:
1. At any point now Israel is likely to deal with the threat of Iran’s nuclear program. (Iran knows this, the world knows this, the Israeli Defense Force is planning for this, and Iran knows Israel is preparing for this. The recent re-election of Benjamin Netanyahu only bolsters this scenario.
 2. Perhaps the US and other countries will be involved in some way. Though I feel that assistance, if it is there at all, will be very little. Israel is most likely to deal with this dilemma on her own.
 3. According to the Bible, this military campaign will be very successful. Iran’s nuclear program, the ***“foremost of her might,”*** in Biblical language, will be destroyed or ***“broken.”***
 4. Back to what we learned in ***Psalms 83:*** Nearly all, if not all, of the foes and people groups which immediately surround Israel, and which are committed to destroying Israel, are proxies of Iran!
 5. They take their orders from Iran, they receive military supplies and weaponry from Iran, and they are led and advised by Iranian military leaders.

6. This is why we see so many strikes by Israel against weapons depots and other military targets in Syria, Gaza, Lebanon, and against the Houthis from the south. All of these locations are serviced by Iran.
7. I believe these Iranian proxies will follow orders to attack Israel once Iran is attacked. This will likely set up the details of the prophetic ***Psalms 83*** war.
8. And, of course, we learned how THAT will turn out. Israel will have a resounding victory, and she will acquire much more territory as a result.

G. The Bible clarifies a few more details that are most likely related to all of this:

1. First, there is the destruction of Damascus (***Cf. Isaiah 17:1***)
 - a. Damascus, in Syria – though the longest inhabited city in the world, will be completely flattened and destroyed.
 - b. Surrounding cities and communities will be destroyed the same way (***Cf vs. 2a***)
 - c. It will all happen in one day (***Cf. Isaiah 17:14***)
2. This will all take place at a heavy price to Israel (***vss. 4-6***)
 - a. This passage describes the northern parts of Israel which will suffer devastating setbacks and losses (“...leaving two or three olives on the topmost branches” or “...a few gleanings which remain”)
 - b. This is perhaps due to the 150,000+ rockets which are pointed at Israel from Hezbollah, in Lebanon, to the north. The barrage against Israel from all sides will be overwhelming, but it will be especially bad in the north.
3. Other cities around Israel will be destroyed much the same way as Damascus is destroyed (***Cf. Jeremiah 49:2***)
 - a. This verse describes modern-day Amman, the capital of Jordan and its largest city.
 - b. It too will become a mound of ruins, and it too will be the direct result of the Israeli Defense Force as this verse clarifies.
 - c. Remember, regions of Jordan are listed as some of the foes which will attack Israel in ***Psalms 83***.
 - d. This is another perspective on Israel’s victory over Jordan, and another commentary on how she gains rights to annex large parts of Jordan.
 - c. Various other passages in the Old Testament shed light on these same conflicts, all of which are probably related and are probably facets of one larger war.
4. I’ll review a couple of these in rapid order:
 - a. ***Cf. Zephaniah 2:8-9*** (additional commentary on the destruction of Jordan and on Israel’s acquisition of this region)
“I have heard the insults of Moab and the taunts of the Ammonites, who insulted my people and made threats against their land. Therefore, as surely as I live,” declares the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, “surely Moab will become like Sodom, the Ammonites like Gomorrah—a place of weeds and salt pits, a wasteland forever. The remnant of my

people will plunder them; the survivors of my nation will inherit their land.”

- b. **Cf. Obadiah 1:19-20** (this takes place when “the day of the Lord” [AKA The Tribulation] is near” **(Cf. vs. 15)** and it describes a conquest of the regions of Jordan, Gaza, and the West Bank [Biblical Judea and Samaria])

“Then the house of Jacob will be a blazing fire, and the house of Joseph a burning flame; but the house of Esau will be stubble—Jacob will set it ablaze and consume it. Therefore no survivor will remain from the house of Esau.” For the LORD has spoken. Those from the Negev will possess the mountains of Esau; those from the foothills will possess the land of the Philistines. They will occupy the fields of Ephraim and Samaria, and Benjamin will possess Gilead. And the exiles of this host of the Israelites will possess the land of the Canaanites as far as Zarephath; and the exiles from Jerusalem who are in Sepharad will possess the cities of the Negev....”

We stand on the brink of series of prophetic conflicts in the Middle East which will redefine and expand the territory of Israel as we know it. This will set up Israeli ownership of that part of Jordan which Jesus Christ instructs a faithful remnant to flee to in the second half of the Tribulation, and which destroys Iran’s nuclear program.