



SPECIAL LESSON: Oct. 8, 2023
The Current Attack on Israel
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SOLID
BREAD

Background:

- A. Current conflict in Israel began in the early dawn, yesterday, on Oct. 7, 2023, and on Shabbat, on the last day of the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles.
- B. This was exactly 50 years and one day after the start of the Yom Kippur War in 1973.
- C. Rapid incursions into the southern communities of Israel occurred by land, sea, and air (powered hang gliders)
- D. This conflict caught Israel unawares, which is the same as what in 1973. Within a very short time, Palestinian terrorists poured through breaches in the border fence and took over 20+ villages and communities in southern Israel. They began slaughtering Israeli citizens in their homes and in the streets.
- E. Terrorists also surrounded a party that was out in the country and attended by hundreds of Israeli young people. They fired on the attendees from all points. Already over 250 bodies have been identified from this one event.
- F. At the same time, hundreds of rockets were being fired from Gaza into multiple places across southern Israel.
- G. Bomb-dropping drones were used to take out tanks and military outposts.
- H. The Palestinian terrorist organization, Hamas, had started this conflict, and they are calling it 'Operation "Al-Aqsa Flood."' This is in reference to the Temple Mount area, and specifically to the Dome of the Rock and the Al-Aqsa Mosques which are located there
- I. Islam claims this Temple Mount area to be the third holiest site in Islam, though ironically, the Quran does not mention Jerusalem at all.
- J. The Temple Mount area is what Israel captured in the 1967 Middle East Six-Day War. Israel annexed this area along with east Jerusalem.
- K. However, in a historical setback, one of those 20/20 hindsight blunders, Israel turned over this Temple Mount area to Jordan for administration by the Jordanian Waqf.
- L. Under the longstanding 'status quo' arrangements since that point, non-Muslims are permitted to visit, however, only Muslims are allowed to worship anywhere on the Mosque compound.
- M. Lately, in defiance of these rules, some Jewish visitors to the site have been praying more or less openly as of late, and this has infuriated the Muslims.
- N. This has become a flashpoint issue for the Palestinians, and this is the reason that they provide for the current conflict.
- O. Of note, Temple Mount issues like these have spawned various violent clashes and short conflicts going all the way back to the mid-1990s.
- P. In any event, the Palestinians are stating that these prayers of the Jewish visitors, and other reasons like these, are 'violations, threats, and attacks' of the Temple Mount area.

- Q. Unbelievably, this has justified, in the minds of the Palestinians (and their terrorist arms, like Hamas), a legitimate cause for war.

II. **Current Status of the present conflict.**

A. At the time of this lesson, the following details are pertinent:

1. Over 650 Israelis have been murdered, and over 2000 are wounded. Already, the death toll of Israelis from this present conflict exceeds the number of casualties Israel had in the 1967 Six-Day War.
2. As hundreds of Israelis are still unaccounted for, it is likely the death toll will rapidly rise from this point.
3. Possibly 100 or more Israelis (including the elderly, women, and children) have been captured and taken into Gaza. Dozens of American citizens are confirmed now to also be captive.
4. Here, these captives are being stripped naked, are being abused in all sorts of ways, and are being paraded around Gaza. Some of this treatment and the scenes are reminiscent of the days of Nazi Germany.
5. The bodies of dead Israeli soldiers are being stomped on and dragged behind cars and motorcycles.
6. Arab social media has many dozens of videos showing this animal-like behavior of the Palestinians and their inhumane treatment of the captives.
7. What we are seeing in real time is the truth about Islam and the evil that saturates it. It never has been, it is not, and it never will be “the religion of peace.” This was, is, and always will be a demonic lie.

B. Israel has now formally declared war.

1. While this was stated by Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday, it has since been authorized by Israel’s Security Cabinet, including voting in favor of invoking Article 40A. This is the first time this has happened since the Yom Kippur War in 1973.
2. The IDF campaign is being called ‘Operation Swords of Iron.’
3. Currently, the IDF is in the process of calling up hundreds of thousands of reservists. There is very little, if any, uncooperative posture here by any branch or member of the military. It is the largest call-up in decades.
4. Politics and disagreements have been laid aside in Israel, and ruling members have come together in support of this War Declaration of the IDF, and of the nation’s leadership.
5. Hundreds of Israelis are lining up to donate blood as hospitals are being overwhelmed with the wounded.
6. The IDF has retaken control of 22 villages that were under terrorist control, and they are now in control of 29 entry points that Hamas used to enter Israel.
7. The IDF has been engaged in non-stop airstrikes (over 500 so far) on Gaza terror command and weapons centers. These attacks started in high volumes midday yesterday.

8. Over 5,000 rockets have been fired into Israel from the Gaza area. Most of the targets have been in southern Israel, however, some of these rockets have landed in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.
 9. Tens of thousands of IDF soldiers are now in the southern region of Israel. Tanks and other equipment are coming into this area as Israel is preparing for a full-scale ground invasion of Gaza.
 10. Right now, global sentiments are on Israel's side as world leaders have expressed clear support for Israel. As usual, I suspect this support will plummet shortly once Palestinian civilian casualties start hitting the press.
 11. In our own country, and for now, most of our leaders on both sides of the aisle are expressing strong support for Israel. The exceptions are some of the far-left folks like "the squad" members, led by "Alexandria Occasio Cortez," which are calling for Israel's restraint.
- C. Notably, there are already hints of other regional forces joining with Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad in this fight against Israel:
1. First off, and perhaps most importantly, the president of Iran has called the Hamas leader to congratulate him for this successful attack. It's significant that Hamas is an Iranian proxy.
 2. A channel associated with Hezbollah in Lebanon (another Iranian proxy – and the largest and most powerful of them) has announced: "Today is the day when all fronts come together."
 3. Mortars have been shot into Israel from Hezbollah as of this morning, and Israel has responded with artillery fire.
 4. The Taliban have asked Iran, Iraq, and Jordan for land access to Israel. The Taliban says they will send all their troops and equipment to 'liberate Jerusalem.' (Note: This is the \$80 Billion + worth of sophisticated American military equipment that Joe Biden abandoned to the Taliban in Afghanistan).
 5. An Egyptian soldier has killed at least four Israeli tourists in Alexandria, Egypt. There are concerns that various coalitions within the Egyptian forces are wanting to join in the fight alongside Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad.
 6. West Bank militants (Biblical Judea and Samaria) are reportedly firing upon the IDF now.
 7. Saudi Arabia, lately in the news for wanting to strike a peace deal with Israel, has issued a formal statement suggesting fault for the current conflict lies on both sides. Qatar has been stronger in its language: it has stated that, "Israel started this."
 8. It already seems that a number of Israel's foes which surround Israel are contemplating jumping into the fray. I believe the next few days will be telling.
 9. According to a former Israeli National Security Advisor, Israel will face an existential threat if Hezbollah, if Iranian militias in Iraq and Syria, and if Palestinian terrorists from the West Bank (Biblical Judea and Samaria), join in the fighting.

10. Putting that more bluntly, that means Israel's very EXISTANCE is at risk if these other parties jump in and join with Hamas.

III. So, here's the 'elephant in the room,' the big looming question: "IS THIS THE START OF THE PROPHETIC PSALMS 83 WAR?"

A. Let's review the high points of that question: I want to begin by commenting on **Ezekiel 37:10**. This is the chapter of the famous "dry bones" prophecy, and this verse reads:

"So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army."

B. I have not studied this portion of Scripture as other scholars have done, but more and more prophecy scholars are interpreting this to mean a physical "army," a military force, rather than a general population of people or citizens.

1. The dry bones prophecy is about God bringing back the Jewish people to their homeland. This process began in May of 1948. The suggestion here in **Ezekiel 37:10** is that a significant military element would emerge as part of this process.
2. As we know, Israel has endured multiple wars and conflicts since 1948. Always, it has been a conflict involving and initiated by her surrounding neighbors. It's always the same players: the Palestinians, the Syrians, the Egyptians, the Jordanians, and so on. In more recent decades, militant proxies like Hezbollah and Hamas in these same regions have taken center stage.
3. This ongoing Arab – Israeli Conflict has essentially forced Israel, as **Ezekiel 37:10** states it, to form a great army. The IDF has rapidly become the superior military in the Middle East simply as an issue of national survival.
4. Turn to **Psalms 83** and let's do a quick review (**vss. 1-8**):
5. **QUESTION:** "Who are these adversaries of Israel in their modern equivalents?"

(Note: Bill Salus has done an extensive study to identify some of these ancient groups based upon their ancient locations and others by where they migrated.

6. **ANSWER:**

- a. **Tents of Edom:** Palestinians, and the area from which they came from Southern Jordan (NOTE: It is very important that this is the first one mentioned on this list. That is Biblically significant. Also note that "tents" suggests a refugee or a non-permanent status, someone not in their real homeland.

- b. **Ishmaelites:** Saudis (Ishmael is the father of the Arabs)
- c. **Moab:** Palestinians and Central Jordanians
- d. **Hagrites:** Egyptians (Hagar is the matriarch of Egypt)
- e. **Gebal (Byblos):** Hezbollah and Northern Lebanese
- f. **Ammon:** Palestinians and Northern Jordanians
- g. Arabs of the Sinai area
- h. **Philistia:** Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad of the Gaza Strip
- i. **Tyre:** Hezbollah and Southern Lebanese
- j. **Assyria:** Syrians and Northern Iraqi's

These groups have all, at one point or more, expressed a desire to see Israel eliminated. Many of these territories include proxy groups of Iran (like Hezbollah in Lebanon, or Hamas in Gaza) which answer to and are funded by Iran.

C. Here are the Biblical conditions for this prophetic *Psalms 83* War:

1. All these foes want Israel eliminated. Their goal, according to **vs. 4** is to *“destroy them as a nation so that the name of Israel is remembered no more.”*
2. Their motive is seen in **vs. 12**. They want to *“take possession (ownership) of the pasturelands of God.”* That means Israel, by this point, must be fertile and productive and green, which it is.
3. All these foes must join forces. A contingency from within each of these territories mentioned must, in some way, be participating.
4. They must all be conspiring together to achieve these objectives. In **vs. 3**, they are planning and plotting for this sort of military campaign.
5. This prophetic war, by virtue of who is listed first on this list, will in some way be started by, or center around, the Palestinians, (AKA “the tents of Edom”).
6. I would insert one more implied condition here: This conflict will require a state of declared war by Israel. This is not another “few-day skirmish” with one or more of these foes such as Israel has had many of to date. This is, instead, a full-on, no-holds-barred war.

D. And here are the outcomes of this war according to *Psalms 83* and other related passages (NOTE: The Bible outlines various individual prophecies which are likely, all tied together as being part of one larger conflict).

1. The foes which come against Israel will be destroyed by Israel to the point they no longer exist as a threat or as a recognized people group or nation (***Cf. vss. 9-11***)
2. These adversaries which come against Israel will be eliminated in a very dramatic fashion (***Cf. vss. 13-15***).
3. The result of this greater conflict will be several things: (We also need to look at some other related passages, but first we'll remain in ***Psalms 83*** a bit more):

- a. “Men will seek God’s name” (**Cf. vss. 16-18**) – in other words, many people will recognize God’s hand in all the developments; they will see God’s prophetic Word being fulfilled; and they will turn to God as a result of the carnage and trauma.
- b. Israel’s adversaries will be utterly ashamed and distraught (**Cf. vss 16-18**). All the pompous and proud words and claims of Israel’s enemies will be exposed as deceptive, shallow, and baseless (NOTE: All the people who openly support the Palestinians, a two-state solution, BDS, and other such errant movements will also be completely disgraced. This includes a lot of churches and church leaders).

NOTE: We need to see what other related passages have to say about this larger conflict. While **Psalms 83** is a hub passage concerning this greater conflict, other passages which address yet unfulfilled prophecies also provide some supplementary information about this same conflict which we need to consider. **For example:**

- 4. **There will be a great disaster in Iran according to *Jeremiah 49:35-37***
 - a. Western Iran (ancient Elam) where much of Iran’s nuclear program is being developed, will be attacked and completely destroyed, likely by the IDF.
 - b. Remember, Iran is the head of the octopus here. All Iran’s proxies surrounding Israel are the tentacles of that octopus. Iran is ultimately responsible for what Israel is dealing with, and when the **Psalms 83** conflict formally commences, Iran will need to be dealt with if that has not already happened before.
- 5. This event that is detailed in ***Jeremiah 49*** will result in several things:
 - a. Iran will experience a great disaster that is the result of a war campaign against them (**vs. 37**).
 - b. The destruction of Elam or western Iran will result in a mass exile of her people to all nations of the world (I think this is because of nuclear or radiation fallout. **Cf. vs. 36**)
 - c. Iran’s mainstay of her military might will be broken (Probably her drone technologies and nuclear ambitions).
 - d. The leadership of Iran will be destroyed (**Cf. vs. 38**)
- 6. **Next, the Palestinians are likely to be eliminated as a people group – almost entirely (*Cf. Obadiah 1:18*)**

“The house of Jacob (this is the IDF) shall be a fire, And the house of Joseph (again, the forces of the IDF) a flame; But the house of Esau (the father of the Edomites and the origin of the Palestinians) shall be stubble; They (again, the IDF) shall kindle them (the

Palestinians) and devour them, And no survivor shall remain of the house of Esau," For the Lord has spoken."

- a. Syria will suffer devastating losses, and her largest cities will exist no more (**Cf. Isaiah 17:1-2, 9, 14**). This could very well be a nuclear strike by Israel on Damascus:

"See, Damascus will no longer be a city but will become a heap of ruins. The cities of Aroer will be deserted..."

"In that day his (speaking of Syria and Damascus and other cities in that nation) strong cities will be as a forsaken bough and an uppermost branch, which they left because of the children of Israel. (Again, this seems to specify the actions of the IDF) And there will be desolation."

- b. (This describes how it all happens): *"In the evening, sudden terror! Before the morning, they (the cities) are gone! This is the portion of those who loot us, the lot of those who plunder us."* (Details here may suggest a nuclear event).

Further, Jordan will lose her main cities the same way as Syria did, and Israel will take possession of large parts of Jordan (Cf. Jeremiah 49:2; Zephaniah 2:8-9)

*"Therefore behold, the days are coming," says the Lord, "That I will cause to be heard an alarm of war in Rabbah (Amman, Jordan) of the Ammonites; It (Amman, Jordan) shall be a desolate mound. And her villages shall be burned with fire. Then, Israel (the IDF) shall take possession of his inheritance." (NOTE: This territory is within the Promised Land described in **Genesis 15:18**) says the Lord."*

"I have heard the reproach of Moab (Central Jordan), and the insults of the people of Ammon with which they have reproached My people, (Israel) and made arrogant threats against their borders. Therefore, as I live," Says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, surely Moab shall be like Sodom, And the people of Ammon like Gomorrah. Overrun with weeds and saltpits, and a perpetual desolation. The residue of My people (again, a reference to the IDF) shall plunder them, and the remnant of My people shall possess them."

IV. Takeaways from today's lesson.

A. Some takeaways here on these Jordan passages:

1. The current treaty Jordan has with Israel is fragile and has been vulnerable several times already. It will not hold up when Jordan decides to jump in and fight against Israel according to **Psalms 83** and these passages.
2. Remember, the Edomites are in Jordan, and they are the origin of today's Palestinians.
3. Jordan will lose her control of the Temple Mount (Implications of that?)

4. Israel will possess the land of Jordan, this includes that area of Bozrah which is where the ancient fortified city of Petra exists. This is most likely where the righteous remnant of Jews will flee to at the midpoint of the Tribulation. See how it all fits together?

Again, Hamas and the Palestinians will exist no more, and Gaza will become part of Israel (Cf. *Isaiah 11:14; Ezekiel 25:15-16*)

5. *“But they (this might specifically reference the Israeli Air Force) shall fly down upon the shoulder of the Philistines (this is Gaza) toward the west (this shows a direction from Israel proper); Together they shall plunder the people of the East; They shall lay their hand on Edom and Moab; (again, this repeats the defeat of Jordan) and the people of Ammon (Jordanians) shall obey them.”* (Whatever the outcome, Israel will end up being superior and in full control).

“Thus says the Lord God: “Because the Philistines dealt vengefully and took vengeance with a spiteful heart, to destroy because of the old hatred,” therefore thus says the Lord God: “I will stretch out My hand against the Philistines (this is a reference to Gaza), and I will cut off the Cherethites and destroy the remnant of the seacoast.” (This is where Gaza lies today, on the shoreline).

B. And finally and generally speaking, all the surrounding Arab nations around Israel will suffer great defeat and devastation (Cf. *Zechariah 12:6*)

“In that day I will make the governors of Judah (the leaders of Israel and the military leadership of the IDF) like a firepan in the woodpile, (the warzone) and like a fiery torch in the sheaves; they shall devour all the surrounding (Arab) peoples on the right hand and on the left, but Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place—Jerusalem.”

1. Takeaways here:
 - a. As noted, some of Israel’s adversaries are making it clear right now that they want to acquire Jerusalem, however the Bible makes it clear this will not happen.
 - b. Multiple times, we see in all these passages that the Israelites (via the IDF) are going to have great victory after great victory.
 - c. In several places (in addition to the ones I have outlined here), we find that Israel will acquire great territory as a result of this larger conflict.
 - d. Besides the territories of Gaza, the West Bank (again, Judea and Samaria), and Jordan, Israel is likely to acquire parts of Syria, southern Lebanon, the Sinai, and northwest Saudi Arabia.

NOTE: But it will all come at a heavy price to Israel (**Cf. *Isaiah 17:4-6***)

- e. *“...the glory of Jacob (Israel) will fade”* (her power, might, resources, etc. will be spent and exhausted)

- f. "...gleanings will remain....leaving two or three olives on topmost branch, etc." (Israel will suffer heavy losses, and areas of Israel once heavily populated will be left with few people)
- g. NOTE: There may be a directional reference here. Several scholars see the northern part of Israel being referenced in these three verses, and if that is the case, it means Hezbollah's missiles and rockets had a devastating effect, and cities like Haifa and Tel Aviv probably got hit pretty hard.
- h. The result of this larger conflict is Israel is victorious, but she is weakened. She is totally spent.
- i. Her historic enemies around her are utterly defeated. Israel is at peace because her foes are eliminated, but she is now fragile and vulnerable.
- j. NOTE: This partially sets up the conditions for the War of Gog and Magog in ***Ezekiel 38 & 39.***