

LIBYA AND THE LATTER DAYS Ezekiel 38:5-6

Intro: The nations of the Middle East are in turmoil; the people of these nations want peace and prosperity and are willing to shed blood in hopes of obtaining a better life for themselves and their families.

In the center of the turmoil is Israel, a nation that came back from the dead: Ezekiel 37 and the valley of dry bones. Whether the Arabs realize it or like it, Israel is the center of God's dealings with mankind. In the future, Jehovah God is going to punish the nations of the world who hate Israel and fight against her: (Jeremiah 30:11 "I am with thee, saith the Lord, to save thee: though I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee, yet will not I make a full end of thee: but I will correct thee in measure, and will not leave thee altogether unpunished.")

Some believe that God is finished with Israel. The Bible asks the question in Romans 11:1-2: "Hath God cast away his people?" And the answer comes back: "God forbid...God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew." Paul reminds us in Romans 11:25: "Blindness in part is come is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in." Romans 11:26 tells us that the blindness will be removed, and Israel will be saved as they believe on the Messiah.

What is happening in the Middle East today is a part of God's Sovereign plan for Israel.

I. LIBYA IN THE BIBLE

A. Libya is mentioned by name in the Bible a number of times and is referred to directly and indirectly many times.

B. What does the Bible say about Libya?

1. In Acts 2:10, we learn that God fearing pilgrims from Libya were in the city Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost when Peter preached and three thousand souls were saved. Note that Egypt is also mentioned in this verse. Christians in Libya and Egypt are being persecuted by the non Christians in these countries in our day.

2. In Acts 2:10, we learned that Cyrene (fountain of Apollo) is part of Libya even today. It was founded in 630 BC as a colony of the Greek island town of Thera by means of a treaty with the native Libyans. In Matthew 27:32, we read that the Romans "found a man of Cyrene [Libyan], Simon by name: him they compelled to bear his [Jesus] cross."

3. According to Acts 11:20-21, we find Libyan (Cyrene) disciples of our Lord Jesus bringing the Gospel, along with others, to

Antioch of Syria.

4. Acts 13:1 lists Lucius of Cyrene as a faithful preacher and teacher in the Church at Antioch. He was a member of that church when Paul and Barnabas were ordained and sent out to preach the Gospel.

II. PEACE SOUGHT IN THE MIDDLE EAST

A. We are all acquainted with head lines saying: Peace sought in the Middle East; Middle East Peace Initiative; Middle East Peace Process; and on and on we could go for pages. Peace is what is wanted and needed in the Middle East.

1. It will be this desire for peace that will push Israel to sign a peace treaty with the One World Government leader, the anti-Christ, after the rapture. Since it became a nation in 1948, Israel has not been at rest.

2. This treaty will be broken in the middle of the week of seven years, the seventieth week of Daniel (Daniel 9:27). The purpose of God in allowing the treaty to be broken is to draw Israel back to Himself with a broken and contrite heart (Zechariah 12:9-11).

B. There will be no peace in the Middle East or the world until the Prince of Peace comes to earth to rule and to reign (Zechariah 9:9-10).

1. Christ was born a King and will one day come to earth to lay hold of His kingdom (Isaiah 9:6-7).

2. Isaiah 2:4 tells us that, "...they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

C. Does the Prince of Peace rule in the kingdom of your heart?

III. A TSUNAMI

A. The enemies of Israel will come upon her as a flood. Isaiah 59:19 plainly speaks of the Armageddon campaign against Israel.

B. Satan's anti-Semitic crusade will include a flood against Israel during the tribulation (Revelation 12:15). Satan, in his hatred for the chosen nation, will unleash a flood, possibly, of diverted rivers against the Jews who will be at Petra (Rev. 12:14). The earth, at the command of Jehovah God, will swallow up the flood and protect Israel.

C. At the end of the Battle of Armageddon, there will be a flood of blood (Rev. 14:20).

IV. NATIONS AGAINST ISRAEL IN THE END TIME

A. Ezekiel 38:5-6 gives a list of Middle Eastern countries that will link up to come against Israel.

1. Persia- Iran.
 2. Ethiopia- Biblical Cush. The descendants of Cush migrated southward into all parts of Africa (Gen. 10).
 3. Egypt- Daniel 11:40 indicates that Egypt will be involved against Israel. Jack Van Impe says: "The King of the South is Egypt."
 4. Togarmah- Turkey and her descendents, the Syrians. Heika Turk left Turkey and settled in Syria.
- B. Gomer- Germany will be against Israel when it is all said and done. Gibbons in *THE RISE AND FALL OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE* identifies Gomer as modern Germany.
- C. Daniel 11:44 says that there will be "Tidings from the east." This means that Oriental countries, China and maybe Japan, will be against Israel.

V. THE ALLIES OF ISRAEL IN THE ARMAGEDDON CAMPAIGN

- A. Ezekiel 38:13 tells us of the few that will stay by Israel's side.
1. Sheba and Dedan- Dr. Henry Morris said that these are "relatively small Arab nations, who will not join in with the Muslim nations in the anti-Israel confederation" who for economic reasons "side with the Merchants of Tarshish." I
- B. Tarshish- Great Britain, the land of tin. These are famous trade merchants.
1. Symbol of Britain is the Lion.
 2. Young lions- Canada and the United States,

Conclusion: It is easy to see that the hand writing is on the wall. Jesus is coming soon: morning or night or noon.

Dr. Cecil A Fayard, Jr.
April 3, 2011