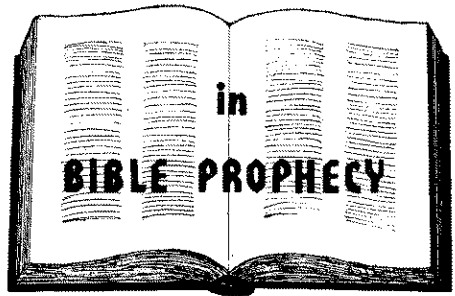


**The
Middle East**



**in
BIBLE PROPHECY**

The Middle East is in the news daily. The conflict between Israel and the Arabs seems endless. Since Israel became an independent state in 1948 she has been engaged in war four times. In each case Israel was victorious and became more securely established in her old homeland.

Today, the Middle East is the concern of the world. All world leaders openly admit that the unrest between the countries of the Middle East could plunge the whole world into another war.

What does the unrest and threat of the Middle East mean? Does the Bible say anything about it? Why is it important to us?

Until recently, nearly all Jews were dispersed among many nations of the world. This has been referred to as the "diaspora." Now Israel has become the home for many of those Jews who were once scattered among the nations. Their return to Israel from the "diaspora" is the fulfillment of Bible prophecy.

During His ministry, Jesus foretold of the complete dispersion of the Jews: *"And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations; and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled"* (Luke 21:24).

The fulfillment of this prophecy came soon after it was made. The temple and much of Jerusalem were destroyed in 70 A. D. Jerusalem was completely destroyed and the Jews were

driven from their homeland under the Roman emperor Hadrian in 135 A.D.

The prophecy of Jesus also foretold an end to the dispersion. He implied that Jerusalem would be occupied by the Jews once again. This began to be fulfilled when Israel became an independent state in 1948. Its fulfillment came in June, 1967, when Israel took possession of the old city of Jerusalem in the famous six-day war. Now the Israelites say they will never give Jerusalem back to the Arabs!

The prophet Amos wrote, *"And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them. And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the Lord thy God"* (Amos 9:14, 15). The state of Israel was established according to this prophecy. It is there to stay!

The Arabs have a "perpetual hatred" for Israel. They desire to drive her into the sea. They especially emphasize their demand that all land taken by Israel in 1967 be given back. Israel refuses. This situation offers the constant threat of another war.

Bible prophecy reveals what the future holds for Israel. In Ezekiel 38, the prophet describes

how the Jews would return to Israel. They are to prosper there as they have done since 1948. Verses 11-23 of this chapter describe how an alliance of northern nations attacks Israel. Another group of nations is described as rushing to her defense, but God Himself will intervene to bring judgment upon the nations which have come against the Israelis.

Zechariah 14:2-4 picks up this prophecy to describe the literal return of Jesus Christ in the midst of the war that is raging between the nations gathered at Jerusalem. God will use this war to judge these nations and send Jesus Christ to earth again.

Israel's role in Bible prophecies is significant because of the accurate fulfillment of those prophecies. Prophetic announcements of events to take place in the near future will be fulfilled as precisely as those which have already happened. These projected happenings in the Middle East will affect everyone who reads this! They indicate that Jesus Christ is returning soon!

A more complete study of this subject may be obtained by writing for the booklet "Israel in Bible Prophecy." Write to the publisher for a free copy.

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