

Ancient Voices...

Studies in Zechariah

Part 1



Israel and Jerusalem In The Last Days

Tim Buck

August 9, 2022

FOCUS
ON THE END TIMES

I. The Magnitude of May 14, 1948

- A. 74 Years Ago, the State of Israel was born
- B. Earth leaped forward into the end-times
- C. The OT prophets were validated as ‘prophets of truth’
- D. God has placed His Reputation on the Preservation of Israel - Ps. 125:1-2



On that day, 100's of prophecies about Israel began to cascade forth:

Prophecies Triggered by Modern Israel

- Regathering the Jewish people - Ezek. 37:21
- Establishment of the Jewish State - Ezek. 37:22
- Reclaiming & restoring the ‘Holy Land’ - Ezek. 36:6-12
- Sabbath Day observance - Mt. 24:20
- Control of Temple Mount to rebuild temple - Rev. 11:1-2
- Powerful Israeli military - Ezek. 37:10; Zech. 12:4-9
- Full control of a unified Jerusalem - Zech. 12:6; 14:2
- Focus of world hatred - Ezek. 36:1-7,15; Zech. 12:2
- Controversy over E. Jerusalem and West Bank - Mt. 24:15-16
- Pressure to divide the land - Joel. 3:2; Ezek. 36:1-7
- Surrounded by enemies - Ezek. 28:24; 36:3-4,6-7; Joel 3:11-12
- Jerusalem under siege - Zech. 12:2-3

II. God's Plans for Israel: Creation and the End Times - Zechariah 12:1-3

A prophecy: The word of the LORD concerning Israel.

Thus says the LORD, who stretches out the heavens, who lays the foundation of the earth, and who forms the human spirit within him. I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that sends all the surrounding peoples reeling. Judah will be besieged as well as Jerusalem. On that day, when all the nations of the earth are gathered against her, I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock for all the nations. All who try to move it will injure themselves.

A. God who performed the work of creation will now bring earth to its final days

- Stretches out the heavens
 - Lays the foundation of the earth
 - Forms the human spirit within him
- } Summation of Creation

B. Earth is the theatre for Israel to bring about God's redemptive plans - Ez. 5:5

This is what the Sovereign LORD says: This is Jerusalem, which I have set in the center of the nations, with countries all around her.

Zechariah 12 & 13 tell the full story of Israel's Salvation - Zech. 13:1

On that day a fountain will be opened to the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and impurity.

C. God entered a blood covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Gen. 13:14-15)

1. He gave them Land, with its borders spelled out!
2. He promised the land to them and their descendants FOREVER
3. 15 Times God describes the borders and boundaries for Israel's land
4. 12 times the land is describes as an "Eternal Possession" to Israel
5. Just because they left the land and came back, they never lost ownership

III. Crucial Events Leading to Israel's Rebirth

A. WWI - Removing the Ottoman Empire's Control of the Promised Land

1. Stood for 500 years in control of the Middle East and the land of Israel
2. The Ottoman Caliphate was Satan's 7th pagan empire in a line of successive empires that he empowered to rule over the promised land
3. A 7-headed dragon is symbolic of Satan's control of Israel with 7 empires

An enormous red dragon appeared with seven heads - Rev. 12:3

Egypt - Assyria - Babylon - Persia - Greece - Rome - Ottoman

4. Prophecy also indicates the 7th head would be healed and return in the last days to become Satan's final empire and be ruled over by Antichrist

B. After WWI, the Allies divided Ottoman lands creating the modern Middle East

C. Palestine fell under the control of Britain

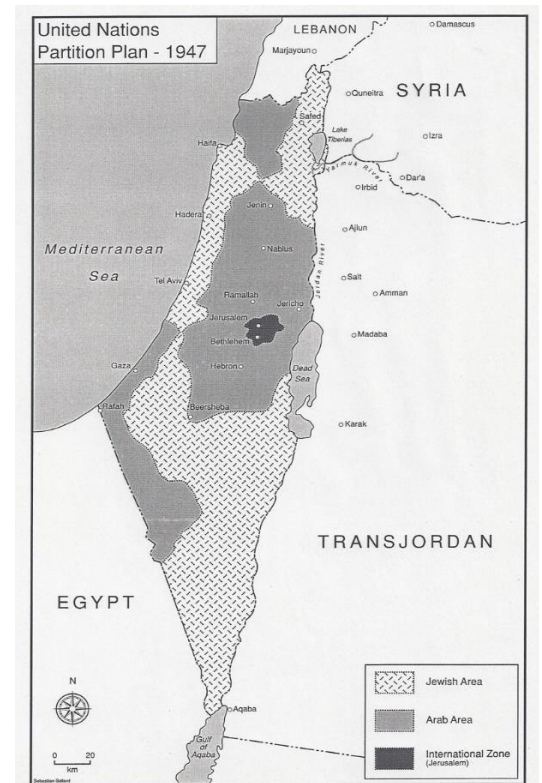
D. Balfour Declaration launched Israel's rebirth

1. 'Time to give the Jews their homeland'
2. In 1917, Hitler began to rise in Germany

E. In 1947, Britain took this plan to the U.N.

1. 2 states: Jews/Grey - Arabs/Check
2. The Arabs rejected the U.N. plan
3. The vote - 33 in favor - 13 opposed

The plan passed into law, Israel accepted!



IV. Can a Nation Be Born in a DAY? Isaiah 66:8

⁸ Who has heard of such a thing? Can a nation be born in a day?

God Sovereignly Brought Everything Together on May 14, 1948

A. The United Nations mandate expired, ending British control of the land

1. This left no one in control of Palestine
2. As they left, the British handed their weaponry over to the Arab nations
3. Dozens of British military personnel joined or aided the Arab forces
4. God took note of Britain's Collusion with Radical Islam - May 1948

Great Britain today, a shadow of its former self - Gen. 12:1-3

Britain: 2022 - 423 New Mosques; 500 Churches closed; London Mayor

B. At 4 PM, Israel announced they would except the U.N. Partition of Palestine and David Ben Gurion declared the new State of Israel

C. Just hours later, U.S. President Harry Truman declared the U.S. would officially recognize Israel's sovereignty and support the new Jewish State

Great Courage...

Truman Overrode Strong State Depart. Opposition Not To Recognize Israel

D. During a 24-hour Span of Time

Foreign control of the land of Israel formally ceased, the British walked away, Israel declared its independence, and its independence was acknowledged by other nations.

Fulfilling Isaiah, Israel was born in a single day!

Muslims: May 15, 'Nakba Day' = "Catastrophe"

Worldwide Muslim Celebration of the 'Catastrophe of Israel'



V. God Will Preserve and Bless the Modern State of Israel - Zechariah 12:6-9

⁶ In that day I will make the governors of Judah like a firepan in the woodpile, and like a fiery torch in the sheaves; they shall devour all the **surrounding peoples on the right hand** and on the left, but Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place—Jerusalem.

The prophet uses 2 similes to describe the operation of God's power on Israel:

1. firepan: used to carry hot coals to start a fire
 2. fiery torch: used to light dry grain
- } Israel's Superiority in War!

⁷ The LORD will save the tents of Judah first ("tents" = outlying villages), so that the glory of the House of David (Government, IDF) and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem shall not become greater than that of Judah.

⁸ In that day the LORD will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; the one who is feeble among them in that day shall be like David, (mighty warriors) and the house of David (Gov't/IDF) shall be like God, like the Angel of the LORD before them. ⁹ It shall be in that day that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

A. This amazing prophecy describes God's hand on Modern Israel in war!

B. God's 3-Fold, War Promise to Preserve Modern Israel - Zechariah 12:8

- **LIKE DAVID**
The feeble like God's greatest soldier
- **LIKE GOD**
Providential protection & blessing
- **LIKE THE ANGEL OF THE LORD**
Unlimited supernatural resources



VI. Israel's War of Independence - May 1948 - March 1949

A. May 15 - Israel Attacked by 5 surrounding Muslim Nations

1. Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon
2. Arab forces: ½ million troops Israeli army: 35,000
3. Modern David vs. Goliath (10/1) Arabs vs. Israel
4. Many of Israel's army had just escaped the Nazi Holocaust 3 years earlier

B. Israel's unconventional weapons

'Davidika' - Mortar Launcher

Seltzer Bottle Bombs



C. By December 1948, Arab forces were defeated, Israel captured 50% of their land

VII. 1967, 6-Day War (Modern Battle of Jericho)

A. June 1967, Israel was attacked by 4 Arab Nations (Egypt, Jordan, Syria, & Iraq)

Their goal was to win back the land they lost in the 1st War

B. Arab forces had twice the # of troops & tanks & 4 times the number of aircraft

C. In a single day, Israel destroyed the entire Egyptian and Syrian Air Forces

D. Israel captured all the remaining Arab land:


- The Sinai Peninsula from Egypt
- The Gaza Strip from Egypt
- The West Bank from Jordan
- Golan Heights from Syria



VIII. The Siege of Judah and Jerusalem (So-called 'West Bank') - Zech. 12:2

I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that sends all the surrounding peoples reeling. Judah will be besieged as well as Jerusalem.

The Ownership Controversy of the 'West Bank' is God's Final Test to Israel & the Nations



Where Are the Patriarchs?

- Joseph's Tomb – Shechem (Nablus)
- Jacob – Wrestled at Bethel (Ramallah)
Jacob's Tomb – Hebron
- Rachel's Tomb
Bethlehem
- Isaac's Tomb - Hebron
- Abraham's Tomb - Hebron
- 12 Spies
Hebron through Shechem
- Caleb
'Give me that Mountain at Hebron'