
“ISRAEL IN PROPHECY – Part 1”

LESSON 5 • For week ending November 4, 2023

Israel's prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu made a bold declaration to the United Nations Assembly on September 22, 2023. Netanyahu told them that Israel “at the cusp” of historic peace treaty with Saudi Arabia. As students of Bible prophecy, we are always watching what is happening in Israel. Let's examine what is happening and how it correlates with Last Days' Prophecy.

KEY TEXT: “*For when they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape*” (I Thessalonians 5:3).

1. What did the Israeli Prime Minister say?

- ◆ Netanyahu struck an optimistic tone throughout his roughly 25-minute address — and, once again, used a visual aid. He displayed contrasting maps showing Israel's isolation at the time of its creation in 1948 and the six countries that have normalized relations with it, including four that did so in 2020 in the so-called Abraham Accords under President Donald Trump's administration.
- ◆ “*There's no question the Abraham Accords heralded the dawn of a new age of peace. But I believe that we are at the cusp of an even more dramatic breakthrough, an historic peace between Israel and Saudi Arabia,*” Netanyahu said. “*Peace between Israel and Saudi Arabia will truly create a new Middle East.*”
- ◆ Netanyahu went on to say: “*Such a peace will go a long way to ending the Arab-Israeli conflict. It will encourage other Arab states to normalize their relations with Israel. It will enhance the prospects of peace with the Palestinians. It will encourage a broader reconciliation between Judaism and Islam, between Jerusalem and Mecca, between the descendants of Isaac and the descendants of Ishmael.*”

2. Will there be a peace treaty in Israel?

- ◆ The Church of God recognizes that Daniel 9:27 prophesies of a coming Man of Sin (the Antichrist) who will make a worldwide peace covenant which will signal the beginning of the last 7 years before the return of Jesus Christ at the Last Trump (I Thessalonians 5:3).
- ◆ However, the church also believes that prophecy dictates that a false peace treaty will be signed by an Arab Confederacy prior to the Man of Sin's peace covenant. The failure of this peace treaty will usher in the First Battle of Gog and Magog: An attack on the mountains of Israel by an Arab Confederacy (Ezekiel 38:11,12).

3. A false peace treaty with a trap.

- ◆ In the Old Testament, the Prophecy Obadiah prophesies concerning an Arab confederacy and a false peace treaty with Israel.
- ◆ Obadiah 1:6,7: “*Oh, how Esau shall be searched out! How his hidden treasures shall be sought after! All the men of your confederacy shall force you to the border; the men at peace with you shall deceive you and prevail against you. Those who eat your bread shall lay a trap for you. No one is aware of it.*”
- ◆ What is the purpose of this false peace treaty? When it is violated, the Arab nations surrounding Israel will be forced to attack Israel—because of the treaty—and this will be the catalyst for the Battle of Gog and Magog to take place.

4. This false peace treaty with a trap is confirmed in Psalm 83.

- ◆ It is imperative for us to remember that God WILL PUNISH the Arab nations for their disobedience to Him and their hatred of Israel. Read Psalm 83:1-5.
- ◆ Notice that verse 5 states, “*For they have consulted together with one consent; they form a confederacy against You.*”
- ◆ What was the purpose for the attack in Psalm 83:12? This has been the age-old cry of the Arabs that Israel has stolen their land (Palestine). Their punishment is outlined in Psalm 83:17,18. Notice the use of the phrase, “*Let them be confounded and dismayed forever...*”