

Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter
Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

October 19, 2023

Israel ...War ...and Prophecy

The following article by Leroy Surface is scheduled to be published in the December issue of Newsmax Magazine.

In the book of Zechariah, God identifies himself as the one who, *“stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, and formeth the spirit of man.”* Zechariah 12:2. In others words, God did not “create,” then “forsake” His creation. His language is present and ongoing. God is very active in the present affairs of man. Having established His place in the current affairs of men, God said ***“I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem.”*** Zechariah 12:2

Jerusalem is called *“The Holy City,”* but more blood has been shed for control of Jerusalem than any city in the history of the world. For most of the last 1953 years, beginning with the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D., Jerusalem was under the control of Gentile (non-Jewish) nations and governments. Jesus foretold this when telling of the coming destruction of Jerusalem which came in the year 70 A.D., saying, *“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.

When Jerusalem returned to Jewish control in June, 1967, it was because the prophetic “*times of the Gentiles*” to occupy and control Jerusalem had come to an end. This event also marked the beginning of the last generation before the return of Jesus Christ to earth. Jesus confirmed this, saying, “*This generation...*”, which began in June, 1967, “*...shall not pass away until all things be fulfilled*” Luke 21:32.

The Prophet Zechariah gave a “blow by blow” account of this last generation in Israel in the 12th and 13th chapters of Zechariah. Ten times in two chapters he said “*in that day*.” In every case, the words “*in that day*” indicate another last generation circumstance in Israel. For example, “***In that day*** will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, ***though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it***” Zechariah 12:3. The “*day*” in this verse speaks of the entire generation beginning in June, 1967. The next verse, “***In that day***, saith the LORD, I will smite every horse with astonishment, and his rider with madness: and I will open mine eyes upon the house of Judah, and will smite every horse of the people with blindness” Zechariah 12:4, seems to speak of the six-day war in which Israel preemptively attacked Syria on their north, Jordan on their east, and Egypt on their south. The enemy was astonished as Israel destroyed

most of the Egyptian and half the Syrian air forces on the ground in the first day.

“In that day will I make the governors of Judah like an hearth of fire among the wood, and like a torch of fire in a sheaf; and they shall devour all the people round about, on the right hand and on the left: and Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place, even in Jerusalem.” Zechariah 12:6

The verse above clearly foretells the end of the six day war, with Jerusalem returning to Jewish control for the first time in 1897 years.

“In that day shall the LORD defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and he that is feeble among them at that day shall be as David; and the house of David shall be as God, as the angel of the LORD before them. And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.” Zechariah 12:8-9

Those nations which God seeks to destroy, He brings against Israel. Each ensuing war will involve more nations until the time God says, *“I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle...”* Zechariah 14:2. It will seem certain annihilation is at hand, when God intervenes;

“And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon (toward) me whom they have pierced (crucified), and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in

bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.” Zechariah 12:10

In that day, there will be a great “turning” to Jesus Christ in Israel. They have prayed daily at the Wailing Wall for their Messiah to come, but just when their genocide seems certain, they will realize their Messiah did come, and they rejected Him to be crucified. *Mourning for the one they pierced (crucified) will fill the land.* “Mourning in Zion” Isaiah 61:3 always brings revival. The greatest revival in history will come to Israel as the inhabitants turn to Jesus, but sadly, only after two-thirds have perished in war. Zechariah 13:8. The scripture says...

“And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God.” Zechariah 13:9