

What's happening in Israel

When we talk about the second coming of Jesus, this is usually the first verse to come to mind:

- **Matthew 24:36** “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.

However, there are a few other passages worth noting. For instance, we are told to watch for the signs:

- **Matthew 24:32-33** “Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer *is* near.³³ So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors!
 - Back in Matthew 25 – day and hour mean day and hour. We may not know the exact time, but we can know the season.
- **Matthew 25:13** “Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.

And here is an even more interesting passage from Thessalonians:

- **1 Thessalonians 5:1-6** But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you.² For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.³ 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.⁴ But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.⁵ You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.⁶ Therefore let us not sleep, as others *do*, but let us watch and be sober.
- The first part of this passage is to non-believers.
- The second part is for believers

Let me go ahead and assure you that I am not saying that I know when Jesus is coming back, or even that I am convinced it is imminent.

But I do want to look at what is happening now and try to interpret the season as best I can.

Looking at current events through the Bible

Matthew 24:3-6 Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what *will be* the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" ⁴And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. ⁵For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. ⁶And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all *these things* must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

- You may have noticed that there is a war happening in the Middle-East

Prophesies concerning Israel-Hamas war

Israel scattered and regathered.

- **Jeremiah 31:10** "Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, And declare *it* in the isles afar off, and say, 'He who scattered Israel will gather him, And keep him as a shepherd *does* his flock.'
- **Ezekiel 37:21** "Then say to them, "Thus says the Lord GOD: 'Surely I will take the children of Israel from among the nations, wherever they have gone, and will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land;
- Scattered in 70AD. By 135AD all Jews banned from their land.
- During the Holocaust Hitler killed 6 million Jews. But this led to compassion for Jews which led to them being regathered in their homeland in 1948.

But the Bible also prophesies that after the regathering they will be attacked again.

- **Psalm 83:1-4** Do not keep silent, O God! Do not hold Your peace, And do not be still, O God! ² For behold, Your enemies make a tumult; And those who hate You have lifted up their head. ³ They have taken crafty counsel against Your people, And consulted together against Your sheltered ones. ⁴ They have said, “Come, and let us cut them off from *being* a nation, That the name of Israel may be remembered no more.”
- This was written about 3,000 years ago long before the existence of Hamas who stated in the first sentence of their Charter that their goal is to destroy Israel so that Israel would no longer exist as a nation it reads Israel will exist and will continue to exist until Islam obliterates it.
- Iran has also been recorded saying death to Israel and that they have a nuke that could wipe Israel off the map.

The enemies of Israel

Psalm 83:5-8 For they have consulted together with one consent; They form a confederacy against You: ⁶ The tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites; Moab and the Hagrites; ⁷ Gebal, Ammon, and Amalek; Philistia with the inhabitants of Tyre; ⁸ Assyria also has joined with them; They have helped the children of Lot. Selah

- The ancient names for modern day Jordan, Arabia, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, the Sinai Peninsula, and Phillistia which is the modern day Gaza strip.
- In those verses we learn that not only will people from the Gaza Strip and also other neighbors who live in the places surrounding Israel will be United in eradicating Israel, and they also will conspire against Israel together in order to wipe it off of the face of the map

Ezekiel 37 & 38 talk about how after Israel is regathered a force from the North will attack Israel

- **Ezekiel 38:15-16** Then you will come from your place out of the far north, you and many peoples with you, all of them riding on horses, a great company and a mighty army. ¹⁶ You will come up against My people Israel like a cloud, to cover the land. It will be in the latter days that I will bring

you against My land, so that the nations may know Me, when I am hallowed in you, O Gog, before their eyes.”

- **Magog is most likely Russia**
- **Ezekiel 38:1-6** Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying,² “Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of **Magog**, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him,³ and say, “Thus says the Lord GOD: ‘Behold, I am against you, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal.⁴ **I will turn you around, put hooks into your jaws, and lead you out,** with all your army, horses, and horsemen, all splendidly clothed, a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords.⁵ **Persia** (modern day Iran), Ethiopia, and Libya are with them, all of them with shield and helmet;⁶ Gomer and all its troops; the house of Togarmah from the far north and all its troops—many people *are* with you.
- This prophesy says that Russia will be reluctant to go to war, but Iran will pull them into the conflict.
- Iran and Russia recently entered into a relationship as Iran is helping Russia with the war on Ukraine.

Zechariah 12:2-3 Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem.³ And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it.

- Israel is smaller than New Jersey and has stayed protected though all their neighbors are against it.
- It also prophesies that even the US will eventually turn against Israel (all nations).

Our Attitude towards Israel:

I have heard people, Christians also, who are on different sides of what is happening.

- In fairness, I have not heard any real Christians applauding Hamas for what they have done
- I have heard I stand with Israel
- I have heard those say that Israel brought this on themselves and deserve it.

What should our attitude be as Christians?

This is my opinion:

We should stand and support and pray for Israel for 3 reasons:

1. We are grafted into the Jewish nation.
 - a. **Romans 11:16-18** For if the firstfruit *is* holy, the lump *is* also *holy*; and if the root *is* holy, so *are* the branches.¹⁷ And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree,¹⁸ do not boast against the branches. But if you do boast, *remember that* you do not support the root, but the root supports you.
2. We are told to pray for the peace of Jerusalem
 - a. **Psalms 122:6** Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you.
3. Israel has a special place in God's heart, so it should in mine.
 - a. Abrahamic Covenant given there
 - b. King David reigns there
 - c. Jesus born there
 - d. Jesus died there
 - e. Jesus will return and this is where He is coming first
 - f. The final battle will be based out of Jerusalem

Israel is an important location for end time events:

Most importantly, the temple will be rebuilt

- **2 Thessalonians 2:1-4** Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you,² not to be soon

shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.³ Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,⁴ who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

- **Matthew 24:15** “Therefore when you see the ‘*abomination of desolation*,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand),

There will always be a remnant of Israel

Isaiah 10:20 And it shall come to pass in that day That the remnant of Israel, And such as have escaped of the house of Jacob, Will never again depend on him who defeated them, But will depend on the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, in truth.

Jeremiah 31:7-8 For thus says the LORD: “Sing with gladness for Jacob, And shout among the chief of the nations; Proclaim, give praise, and say, ‘O LORD, save Your people, The remnant of Israel!’⁸ Behold, I will bring them from the north country, And gather them from the ends of the earth, *Among* them the blind and the lame, The woman with child And the one who labors with child, together; A great throng shall return there.

Micah 2:12 “I will surely assemble all of you, O Jacob, I will surely gather the remnant of Israel; I will put them together like sheep of the fold, Like a flock in the midst of their pasture; They shall make a loud noise because of *so many* people.

Zephaniah 3:13 The remnant of Israel shall do no unrighteousness And speak no lies, Nor shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth; For they shall feed *their* flocks and lie down, And no one shall make *them* afraid.”

Romans 11:1-5 I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, *of* the tribe of Benjamin.² God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel, saying,³ “LORD, they have killed Your prophets and torn down Your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life”?⁴ But what does the divine response say to him? “*I have reserved for*

Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal.”⁵ Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace.

Hamas Official Ghazi Hamad: We Will Repeat the October 7 Attack Time and Again Until Israel Is Annihilated; We Are Victims - Everything We Do Is Justified

From this week - Hamas: “we will repeat the October 7 massacre time and again, 1M times if we need to, until we end the occupation.”

Journalist: “occupation of Gaza?”

Hamas: “no, all of Israel.”

Approach end times with humility.

When Jesus came the first time, people missed it because they misinterpreted the Scriptures.

But we are told to watch and pray

- **1 Thessalonians 5:4-6** But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. ⁵You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. ⁶Therefore let us not sleep, as others *do*, but let us watch and be sober.

There are often hundreds of years between prophesy fulfillments. I believe we are in a time of seeing prophesies fulfilled.

This does not mean Jesus is returning tomorrow. But it does mean we are just that much closer, and it is all the more important that we continue to watch and pray.