

Middle East War Appears Imminent

Could It Lead To a Fulfillment of Psalm 83 and Isaiah 17?

By Pastor Kevin Lea
February 5, 2010

Jesus said that in the last days there will be wars and rumors of wars (Matthew 24:6). Some have reported that the total number of active wars around the world currently exceeds 100. Although there are many more rumors of wars, none cause more anxiety than the rumors of conflict currently emanating from the Middle East. In the last month, these rumors have escalated to the point of near daily threats and counter threats from nations that possess various weapons-of-mass-destruction (nuclear, biological, and chemical).

Do these rumors portend actual conflict that will fulfill biblical prophecy? Only time will tell, but one thing is certain – for the first time in history, the nations (and rhetoric) are aligned for a literal fulfillment of biblically predicted wars that have never before been fulfilled.

Specifically, Psalm 83 (written about 2,500 years ago) and Isaiah 17 (written 2,700 years ago) both speak of Israel being a nation under threat from surrounding nations, exactly as Israel finds herself today. Psalm 83 laments the threat from Israel's immediate neighbors who conspire, "Come, and let us cut them [Israel] off from being a nation, that the name of Israel may be remembered no more." For the first time in history since Psalm 83 was written, this threat is a daily news item in every Arab nation listed in Psalm 83.

Isaiah 17 talks about Damascus (capitol of Syria) ceasing to be a city because it is turned into a ruinous heap that animals will enter but people will not. At the same time, the glory of Jacob (Israel) wanes, and her fortresses in Ephraim (northern Israel) are no more. It appears that this prophecy in Isaiah speaks of the total annihilation of Damascus and the severe wounding of Israel. This week, leaders of Israel and Syria were threatening each other with this kind of destruction.

When Isaiah wrote that animals will enter the ruins of Damascus, but people would not, could he have been foretelling the results of the nuclear destruction of Damascus? I believe so, and for the first time in history this detail, which is only found in this one prophecy of the Bible, can literally be fulfilled if Israel were to drop nuclear bombs on Damascus in retaliation for a massive missile (possibly tipped with chemical weapons) attack from Syria.

Today, 24 years after the Chernobyl disaster in Russia, animals freely roam the area around the wrecked nuclear reactors, but the Russians don't need troops to keep people away from radiation areas that everyone knows will sicken or kill them. The same would be true for any city destroyed by a nuclear attack.

I pray that the current threat of hostilities will be soon replaced with sane steps toward peace. But someday these prophetic wars will occur and likely lead (over a few years) to the ultimate war of Armageddon, which will end when Jesus, the Prince of Peace returns to put an end to *all* war.

I have included seven articles from various news sources over the last two weeks that would lead one to believe all-out war between Israel and her neighbors is certain and imminent. If Psalm 83 and Isaiah 17 are soon fulfilled, it will be one more testimony of the Bible's divine origin. Only God can know the future with such exacting detail, and only a God that is all-knowing and loving enough to send Jesus is worthy of our worship. I pray the reader has bowed the knee to Jesus as your Lord and Savior, because He is the only way, truth and life. No one will get to the Father except through Him (John 14:6).

Following these articles I have included my study notes for Psalm 83 and Isaiah 17 (and links to online audio teachings) for those who want more details about these profound prophecies.

Arming Of Hezbollah Could Spark Israel-Syria War: Us Official

<http://www.abna.ir/data.asp?lang=3&id=176244>

Date: 2010/01/18



In an interview with Kuwaiti newspaper Al-Rai published on Sunday, a US official who spoke on condition of anonymity said that “if Syria supplies Hezbollah with surface-to-air missiles (SA-2), war will break out and Tel Aviv will directly strike Damascus.”

In addition, the official said Syria trained Hezbollah members in Damascus on how to use the SA-2 missiles. Israel has previously warned the country not to supply Hezbollah with the missiles, according to the US source.

“Any possible military attack by Hezbollah against Israel will be met by a ‘harmful war’ on Lebanon. Israel made a mistake in 2006 by not striking Syria during the war with Lebanon, and any new attack from Hezbollah against it will not spare Damascus from a strike,” he added.

Israel’s top priority, the official said, is preventing Syria from supplying Hezbollah with the SA-2 missiles.

“During the 2006 war in Lebanon, Damascus told Tel Aviv it wanted peace and was not going to side with Hezbollah,” the official alleged. Following the war, however, the United Nations and international intelligence community have been monitoring attempts to smuggle weapons from Syria to Hezbollah, he added.

The official also compared South Lebanon after the 2006 war to the situation in the Golan Heights in Syria, which he said has enjoyed a calm climate after a cease-fire agreement was signed between Israel and late Syrian President Hafez al-Assad in 1974.

He said Hezbollah’s desire to liberate the Shebaa farms, which is occupied by Israel, does not justify military attacks against the entity. “Launching war with Tel Aviv is not an excuse for Hezbollah.” The official said he does not think a war will break out anytime soon, “unless Syria crosses the line.”

Iran Says May Hit Western Warships If Attacked

<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-3836599,00.html>

Iranian defense minister warns his country could strike back at war vessels deployed in Persian Gulf. ‘The Westerners know well that existence of warships serves as best operational targets for Iran should they undertake military action,’ Ahmad Vahidi says.

Reuters Published: 01.19.10, 13:51 / [Israel News](#)

Iran’s defense minister warned on Tuesday that the Islamic Republic could strike back at Western warships in the Gulf if it were attacked over its nuclear program, the semi-official Fars news agency reported.

Ahmad Vahidi said there were now more than 90 war vessels in the Gulf - a waterway crucial for global oil supplies - and that they had created a “military environment” there.

They included submarines, aircraft carriers and destroyers, he said during a conference in Tehran on the Gulf.

“What is the reason underlying the deployment of this many warships and what aim are they pursuing ... are they arrayed against [Iran](#)?” Fars quoted Vahidi as saying.

“The Westerners know well that the existence of these warships in the Persian Gulf serve as the best operational targets for Iran if they should want to undertake any military action against Iran,” he said.

Iran has often warned it would retaliate for any attack on its nuclear facilities, which the West suspects form part of a drive to develop bombs. Tehran denies the charge.

Neither Israel nor the United States have ruled out military action if diplomacy fails to resolve the long running row over Iran's disputed nuclear ambitions.

"The Americans have made conflicting comments (on the possibility of an attack on Iran)," the official IRNA news agency quoted Vahidi as saying.

Last month, Vahidi said Iran would strike back at Israeli weapons manufacturing sites and nuclear installations if the Jewish state attacked the Islamic Republic's nuclear facilities.

Israel is believed to be the only nuclear-armed Middle East state. Iran has often said it has missiles able to reach the Jewish state.

Iran, the world's fifth largest oil exporter, says its nuclear work is aimed at generating electricity, not making bombs, but its failure to convince world powers about the peaceful nature of its work has led to UN and US sanctions.

Obama aide says Iran may Lash out at Israel

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/01/29/AR2010012903120.html>

The Associated Press

Friday, January 29, 2010; 3:21 PM

WASHINGTON -- President [Barack Obama](#)'s national security adviser is citing a heightened risk that Iran will respond to growing pressure over its nuclear program by stoking violence against Israel.

The adviser, retired Marine [Gen. James Jones](#), said history shows that when regimes are feeling pressure they can lash out through surrogates.

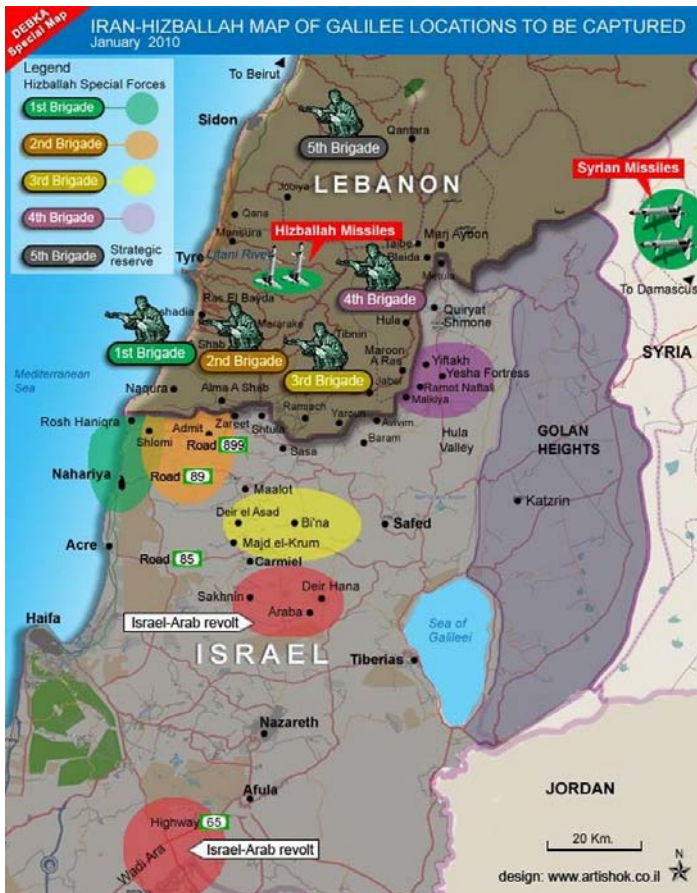
He said that in Iran's case that would mean facilitating attacks on Israel through Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Gaza. Iran helps arm Hezbollah and Hamas.

Jones also alluded to the prospect of additional international sanctions being applied to Iran as one factor in making Iran feel greater pressure. He said another factor is internal pressure - an apparent reference to street protests against the Iranian leadership over the disputed presidential election last summer.

Us Intelligence Finds 5,000 Hizballah Training to Seize Galilee Towns

EXCLUSIVE: DEBKAFfile Special Expose February 1, 2010, 9:19 AM (GMT+02:00)

<http://www.debka.com/article/8575/>



Jones was not talking out of the top of his head, but on the strength of solid US intelligence gathered over months on detailed war plans Iran, Syria, Hizballah and Hamas have drawn up to send five Hizballah brigades sweeping across the border to seize five sectors of Galilee, while also organizing a massive Israeli-Arab uprising against the Jewish state.

Hamas would open a second front in the south and in the east. Syria is expected to step in at some stage.

This plan with attached special map was first published exclusively by DEBKA-Net-Weekly 430 on Jan. 22, 2010. Key excerpts appear here.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards instructors at especially established training facilities near Tehran are already well advanced in training a cadre of 5,000 Hizballah fighters in special operations and urban combat tactics to standards equivalent to those current in similar US and Israeli military forces.

At the outset of the course, the group was split up into five battalions, each given a specific northern Israeli sector for capture with details of its topography and population for close study.

(See attached map).

1st Battalion – This unit will break through the Naqura-Rosh Haniqra border pass and sweep south

along seven kilometers to seize Nahariya, the Israeli Mediterranean city of 55,000 - or parts thereof.

UN peacekeepers have their headquarters at Naqura, the other side of Rosh Haniqra, and Israel defenses there are lax, so no military or geographic obstacles to this Hizballah drive are anticipated. This battalion will capture a large number of Israeli hostages for use as live shields against an Israeli counter-attack

A small group of 150 fighters, trained by Revolutionary Guards marines, will also try and reach the coast by swift boats. They are already standing by in Lebanon.

2nd Battalion – This unit is assigned to capture the northern Israeli town of Shlomi, 300 meters southeast of the Naqura border pass and home to 6,500 inhabitants. Holding this town and its environs will give Hizballah control of a key road hub and stand in the path of Israeli reinforcements heading for Nahariya through routes 89 and 899 from key Israeli bases in the Galilee and Upper Galilee regions to the east. (See map).

3rd Battalion – Driving further south than any other Hizballah unit, this battalion must reach the three Israeli-Arab villages of B'ina, Deir al-Asad and Majd el-Krum, which are located north of the town of Carmiel and alongside Israel's Route 85 which connects Acre on the Mediterranean with Safad in the central Galilee mountains.

Iranian war planners want Hizballah to control the three Israeli-Arab locations for two advantages:

One: As a commanding position for stirring up the disaffected Israeli-Arab villages and towns of Lower Galilee and Wadi Ara to the south into a full-blown uprising. The incoming combat force will be backed up by

clandestine Hizballah cells which for some years have established, armed and funded the underground “Galilee Liberation Battalions” in Sakhnin, Araba and Deir Hana, by means of drug smugglers.

Hizballah’s West Bank cells have been active for some time in the Wadi Ara region, through which National Route 65 connects central Israel to the North.

Two: To gain fire control of Acre-Safed Route 85 from positions in occupied Arab villages and so have a shield ready for the Hizballah units holding Nahariya and Shlomi, and seriously impede the passage of Israeli forces from bases in the center of the country to relieve these northern towns. The Israeli Air Force will be constrained from attacking the areas held by Hizballah by the presence of large civilian populations.

4th Battalion – This battalion will push southeast into the Kadesh Valley, on the rim of which the Makia and Yiftah kibbutzim and Makia moshav are clustered. Capture of these locations would afford Hizballah fire coverage of Israel’s northernmost Galilee Panhandle.

5th Battalion - Hizballah’s Strategic Reserve. Rocket attacks from Lebanon will focus on disabling Israel’s strategic military sites, such as air force bases, missile bases, its nuclear facilities and naval bases. Targeting Israeli population centers is a lower Iranian priority.

Syria’s initial involvement will be limited to cover by artillery or air for Hizballah operations. But if the fighting escalates or drags on, Hizballah will invite Syrian back-up forces to go into Lebanon; Damascus will open Front No. 4 against Israel from the Syrian side of the Golan Heights.

The Tehran-Hizballah war strategy is all but ready for any contingency. The obvious trigger would be an Israeli military operation against Iran’s nuclear facilities, but once all the elements are in place, they could be activated by any other pretext conjured up in Tehran or Damascus.

In recent weeks, both Hizballah and its Syrian allies have mobilized their forces while telling the Arab world that the Jewish state is about to attack Lebanon.

Hizballah leader Hassan Nasrallah is straining at the leash to attack Israel however the crisis over Iran’s nuclear program turns out.

Sunday, January 17, he said: “I promise you, in view of all the threats you hear today... that should a new war with the Zionists erupt, we [the Lebanese resistance movement] will crush the enemy, come out victorious, and change the face of the region.

“God willing, Israel, the occupation, hegemony, and arrogance are in the process of disappearing!”

Nasrallah was not alone in anticipating a troubled year for the Middle East.



US Speeds up its Own and Gulf Allies’ Preparations for Clash with Iran

DEBKAFfile Special Report January 31, 2010, 12:27 AM (GMT+02:00)

<http://www.debka.com/article/8573/>

Aegis, US anti-missile missile

The Obama administration took the unusual step Saturday night, Jan. 30, of leaking word to major US media that the United States, Saudi Arabia and Gulf allies - the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Bahrain - have accelerated the deployment of new defenses against possible Iranian missile attacks. They are preparing for Iran, or its surrogate Hizballah, to hit back for a possible US or strikes on Tehran’s nuclear facilities.

Debkafile’s US military sources confirm that Washington plans to treble the 10,000-strong US troop contingent, already present in Saudi Arabia for guarding its oil fields and port facilities against medium or short-range Iranian missile attack, or sabotage by Hizballah marine units trained for their mission by Iran’s Revolutionary Guards Corps.

Additional US Aegis missile interceptor cruisers with advanced radar and anti-missile systems were also reported to be heading for round-the-clock patrol around Iranian shores, with more Patriot anti-missile missiles to reinforce the eight batteries already deployed in the four emirates.

The Obama administration set these exceptional steps in motion, Debkafile reports, in anticipation of nuclear provocations from Tehran while the regime celebrates the 31st anniversary of the Islamic revolution from Feb. 1-11.

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has promised to announce Iran's attainment of a 20 percent uranium enrichment capability, a short step to weapons grade material.

Some high-ranking Revolutionary Guards officers have also said that Iran will parade a new type of surface missile during the celebrations, without revealing its features, while Iranian space scientists predicted the launch of a new spy satellite of the Toloo series.

All this was taken in Washington as a challenge that could not be left without an appropriate response. Administration officials also feared that Israel might be goaded into going forward with a military operation against Iran's nuclear facilities. The Gulf Arab states were in need of reassurance too.

The White House's decision to deploy additional defenses in the Gulf came only a day after National Security Adviser James Jones warned that Iran was liable to react to pressure by having its proxies Hizballah and Hamas attack Israel. The abruptness of this step pointed to the administration having woken up to the realization that its diplomatic and military position in the region was in grave jeopardy and in dire need of shoring up without delay.

Egyptian Sources: Israel Prepares To Strike Iran from Gulf and N. Iraq

DEBKAFfile Exclusive Report February 3, 2010, 10:12 PM (GMT+02:00)

<http://www.debka.com/article/8580/>

Israel Saar-5 missile boat



Arab voices were fanning Middle East war fever Wednesday night, Feb. 3. debkafile's military sources report that not only are Syrian leaders beating war drums - Syrian foreign minister Walid Muallem said in Damascus: "Israelis, do not test the power of Syria since you know the war will move into your cities" - but Egyptian military sources have put out information purporting to outline Israel's preparations to strike Iran.

They report that the Israeli Navy together with the US Fifth Fleet have for some weeks been charting Persian Gulf waters and Iranian shorelines in preparation for attacks by Israeli naval and special operations forces.

IDF intelligence and Special Forces officers, they also say, have been marking out routes for their air and ground forces to drive into Iran and hit its nuclear installations.

According to these Egyptian sources, Saudi Arabia has demanded clarifications from Washington about reported US-assisted Israeli preparations to strike Iran and asks why they were not brought to the notice of Riyadh and the Gulf Arab governments.

The Saudis added that several Gulf intelligence and naval units had tracked Israeli movements and gathered documentary evidence.

Some of this information was leaked in Cairo Wednesday night to Shorouk, a publication which Egyptian intelligence often uses as an outlet for information held to be credible.

Shorouk was first out with the story of the Israeli Air Force attack on Iranian arms convoys in Sudan in January 2009.

Iranian Missile Airlift Stiffens Syrian War Talk, Tops up Hizballah, Hamas

DEBKAFfile Exclusive Report February 5, 2010, 9:22 AM (GMT+02:00)

<http://www.debka.com/article/8589/>

Syrian missile



Iranian and military sources report the war threats from Damascus this week were backed by massive Iranian airlifts for boosting Syria's missile arsenal. Fresh supplies also reached the Lebanese Hizballah and Hamas in Gaza. Wednesday, Feb. 3, Syrian president Bashar Assad accused Israel of seeking war, while his foreign minister Walid Moallem boasted: "You know that war at this time will come to your cities." They spoke after taking delivery of 100 new medium-range surface-to-surface missiles from Iran in January.

Moallem's threat was comprehensive: "...Syria calls on Israel to halt directing threats once against Gaza, another against South Lebanon, then Iran and now Syria."

His message that all four extremist allies had formed a mutual defense pact against Israel raised temperatures to a dangerous level in the region. Syria will not stand by idly next time round if Israel goes to war against Iran's nuclear program or an aggressive Hizballah or Hamas, but go for Israel's cities.

This was public confirmation for the first time of debkafile's disclosure that on Dec. 17, Iranian defense minister Gen. Ahmad Vahidi signed a secret military pact with his Syrian opposite number Gen. Ali Habib in Damascus, with Hizballah leader Hassan Nasrallah appending his signature later.

Within days, Iran began shipping missile supplies by air to Damascus, Syria stepped up the pace of its smuggled rocket supplies to Hizballah in South Lebanon and both pumped hardware to Hamas by serpentine routes.

Syrian leaders used the visit to Damascus of Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Moratinos as the stage for their heightened stridency. US Middle East envoy George Mitchell heard a similar harsh threatening tone against Israel when he called on Bashar Assad in Damascus on Jan. 20. Neither Washington nor Jerusalem was caught by surprise.

Israel's Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu commented nonchalantly that he does not understand what the Bashar Assad wants, confiding to his aides that his goal is to gain international goodwill before Israel decides to attack Iran. Next day, Feb. 4, hardline foreign minister Avigdor Lieberman was more outspoken: Assad must be told bluntly," he said, "that in the next war, not only will Syria be beaten but he and his family will lose power. You will not remain in power, and neither will your family."

While his words were widely reported, the doves of the Labor party, the opposition Kadima and the left found his tone outrageous and called on the prime minister fire him.

Psalm 83 – A Psalm of Asaph

Pastor Kevin's study notes from July 28, 2002 and January 1, 2006
(Scripture passages are in italics – Pastor Lea commentary is indented, in plain text.)

Do not keep silent, O God! Do not hold Your peace, and do not be still, O God!

For behold, Your enemies make a tumult; and those who hate You have lifted up their head.

They have taken crafty counsel against Your people, and consulted together against Your sheltered ones. (Psalm 83:1-3, NKJV)

- Meaning of the passage – Powerful people who hate God are meeting in a conspiratorial way to destroy Israel.
- This requires Israel to exist as a nation.

They have said, “Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation, that the name of Israel may be remembered no more.” (v.4)

- Ever since Israel's re-formation as a nation in 1948 (but never before then), her enemies have been plotting her destruction.
- These *very words* are being uttered today by Heads of State (e.g. Iran). (According to Victor Mordecai's wife, who monitors Arab radio in Israel, the rest of the Arab world is trying to get Iran to stop making these statements – not because they disagree, but because they think it is a tactical blunder to show their hand now. (December 2005))
- No classroom in the entire Arab shows Israel on any map
- The Arabs refer to the formation of the Jewish state as “The great disaster.” They *are* conspiring to destroy Israel.

For they have consulted together with one consent; they form a confederacy against You:

The tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites; Moab and the Hagrites; Gebal, Ammon, and Amalek; Philistia with the inhabitants of Tyre. (v. 5-7)

- Today, these geographic regions are the countries/regions Jordan, Gaza, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia
- In Saudi Arabia, the Fahd family could be replaced with a radical Islamic government.
 - Secret missile base ready to launch long range missiles at Israel
 - Financial support of Palestinians

Assyria also has joined with them; they have helped the children of Lot. Selah. (v.8)

- Today, the region formerly known as Assyria comprises the countries of Syria, allied with Iran, and Iraq.
- If Iran is attacked, Syria will respond.
- Syria coordinated the missile attack on Israel in the last week of December 2005.
- Syria also tried to blackmail the West to prevent sanctions and a probe of the assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri in February 2005.

[Then the prophet asks God to] *Deal with them as with Midian, as with Sisera, as with Jabin at the Brook Kishon, who perished at En Dor, who became as refuse on the earth [in a former war with Israel, see Judges Chapter 4]. (v. 9, 10)*

Make their nobles like Oreb and like Zeeb, yes, all their princes like Zebah and Zalmunna, [see Judges Chapters 7 and 8], who said, "Let us take for ourselves the pastures of God for a possession." (v. 11 and 12)

Palestinian TV: Expel Israelis from Israel

'Be gone. Die anywhere you like, but don't die here.'

Posted: December 30, 2005

1:00 a.m. Eastern

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Calling it a new level of hatred, an Israeli monitor of Arab media condemned the Palestinian Authority for broadcasting a feature that called for the expulsion of Israelis from the Holy Land.

"It is time for you [Israelis] to be gone," said a voice over images of Tel Aviv and an Israeli flag. "Live wherever you like, but don't live among us. It is time for you to be gone. Die wherever you like, but don't die among us."

Itamar Marcus of Palestinian Media Watch said the feature, broadcast Dec. 20 and on a previous occasion, was "yet another program on Palestinian Authority television calling for the destruction of Israel."

In the feature, all of Israel's coastal cities, Acre, Haifa, Caesarea, Ashdod, Ashkelon and Jaffa, are said to be situated in what is "known today as Palestine," making Israel non-existent. The final words of the program recited Israeli-Arab poet Mahmoud Darwish:

"It is time for you [Israelis] to be gone. Live wherever you like, but don't live among us. It is time for you to be gone. Die wherever you like, but don't die among us. We have the past here. We have the present, the present and the future... So leave our country, our land, our sea, our wheat, our salt, our wounds. Everything. And leave the memories."

Who said, "Let us take for ourselves the pastures of God for a possession." O my God, make them like the whirling dust, like the chaff before the wind! As the fire burns the woods, and as the flame sets the mountains on fire, so pursue them with Your tempest, and frighten them with Your storm. (v. 12-15)

- "Defeat them with a burning fire" – God could literally bring fire on them or use his people, Israel, to do it.

Fill their faces with shame, that they may seek Your name, O LORD. (v.16)

- No Arab Muslim is at present seeking the God of Israel. They are convinced *Allah* is God. But they will be less convinced if Mecca is destroyed (by fire).

Let them be confounded and dismayed forever; yes, let them be put to shame and perish that they may know that You, whose name alone is the LORD [in Hebrew "YHWH"] are the Most High over all the earth. (v. 17, 18)

- Arabs say, "Allah Akbar," which means "Allah is the greatest of the Gods." Therefore the Arab Muslims (one billion strong) must be defeated in a way that they will never be able to say this again, and the world will know that the God of the Jews (only six million in Israel) prevailed against the God of the Muslim.

[listen to a verse-by-verse study of this Chapter of Psalms, given Sunday, July 28, 2002](#) and as [taught to our congregation on January 1, 2006](#).

Isaiah 17

“Damascus will be No More”

Excerpt from Study through the Book of Isaiah, Wednesday, February 11, 2004

The burden against Damascus. “Behold, Damascus will cease from being a city, and it will be a ruinous heap. (Isaiah 17:1, NKJV)

- Never before fulfilled.

The cities of Aroer [literally, “cities of ruin”] are forsaken; they will be for flocks which lie down, and no one will make them afraid. (v.2)

- The cities that will be destroyed along with Damascus will be completely forsaken by people.

The fortress also will cease from Ephraim [Northern Israel], the kingdom from Damascus [Damascus will no longer be a capitol of a country], and the remnant of Syria; they will be as the glory of the children of Israel,” says the LORD of hosts. (v.3)

- Those left in Syria will be the same as those in Israel.

“In that day it shall come to pass that the glory of Jacob will wane, and the fatness of his flesh grow lean.” (v. 4)

- Israel will no longer be as strong as she was.
- “In that day” - must be future.

It shall be as when the harvester gathers the grain, and reaps the heads with his arm; it shall be as he who gathers heads of grain in the Valley of Rephaim. Yet gleaning grapes will be left in it, like the shaking of an olive tree, two or three olives at the top of the uppermost bough, four or five in its most fruitful branches,” says the LORD God of Israel. In that day a man will look to his Maker, and his eyes will have respect for the Holy One of Israel. He will not look to the altars, the work of his hands; he will not respect what his fingers have made, nor the wooden images nor the incense altars. (v. 5 – 8)

- The Jews will be seeking God - and not the things (idols) they have made.

In that day his strong cities will be as a forsaken bough and an uppermost branch, which they left because of the children of Israel; and there will be desolation. (v. 9)

- The major cities will be desolate.

Because you have forgotten the God of your salvation, and have not been mindful of the Rock of your stronghold, therefore you will plant pleasant plants and set out foreign seedlings; (v. 10)

- All because they forgot God.

In the day you will make your plant to grow, and in the morning you will make your seed to flourish; but the harvest will be a heap of ruins in the day of grief and desperate sorrow. (v.11)

- They will be expecting a crop, but this destruction will prevent it.

Woe to the multitude of many people who make a noise like the roar of the seas, and to the rushing of nations that make a rushing like the rushing of mighty waters! The nations will rush like the rushing of many waters; but God will rebuke them and they will flee far away, and be chased like the chaff of the mountains before the wind, like a rolling thing before the whirlwind. (v. 12, 13)

- In the aftermath, many nations come against Israel – could be the war described in Ezekiel Chapters 38 and 39.

Then behold, at eventide, trouble! And before the morning, he is no more. This is the portion of those who plunder us, and the lot of those who rob us. (v. 14)

- But they are destroyed in a night.

[Listen to a verse-by-verse study of this chapter from February 11, 2004](#) (This message starts at Isaiah Chapter 14.) and as [taught to our congregation on January 1, 2006](#).