

Israel at War 2023 - Prophetic Perspective



A. Hamas Terrorist Shock Attack

1. **7th October 2023 on Saturday morning @6:30am** - on the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles, suddenly Hamas fired 2,500~5,000 rockets towards Southern Israel - Beersheva, Arad, Ashkelon & Ashdod. It was 50 years + 1 day since the Yom Kippur War – 6th Oct 1973. Israel's famed Iron Dome intercepted many of the rockets. But the Iron Dome was soon overwhelmed, and some rockets got through resulting in tragic deaths of Jewish civilians. At the same time, squads of Hamas terrorists crossed the Gazan border and attacked 21 different sites. As they roamed the streets, they shot, killed and raped civilian men, women, elderly, and even children. They also took 130-150 hostages into the underground tunnels of the Gaza Strip to be used as negotiating chips with Israel.
2. **Rave Party Massacre** – ~4000-5000 young people were gathered in a wild party in front of a gigantic statue of Buddha. They were completely unaware of what would transpire in just a few minutes as hundreds of jihadists descended on them from the sky on paragliders. They hunted the youths down like animals. A short time after the rampage, the authorities found 260 dead bodies, mostly women, raped, mutilated, and some shot point-blank. It is reported later that these Israeli women were raped next to the dead bodies of their friends. Hamas also beheaded young IDF soldiers they have captured. ~40 massacred babies were found in Kfar Aza Kibbutz. Some babies were decapitated, and some were badly burnt. The terrorists screamed 'Allahu akbar' – 'Allah is great' as they killed and pillaged, and later released the horrific video footage. Hamas came through the land, sea, and sky. It was a well-organised attack.
3. **The Israeli government responded immediately** with a ferocious force of an unprecedented scale, flattening any assets associated with Hamas activities by aerial bombing. There were as many as 250 airstrikes in a single hour, hitting 2,687 targets in the Gaza Strip! Israel gathered over 300,000+ reserve troops within 48 hours, a feat not repeated since the Yom Kippur War in 1973. (400,000 reserves gathered then). Israel has imposed a complete siege on the Gaza Strip with a sweeping ban on food, fuel, electricity and water. This would starve the population inside. This is a preparation for the coming ground invasion. This time IDF's goal is not to deter Hamas from future invasions but to utterly eradicate them from the Gaza Strip once and for all. Benjamin Netanyahu likened Hamas to barbaric ISIS, *'What we will do to our enemy over the next few days will echo for generations. Any place from which Hamas operates will turn into rubble... Every member of Hamas is a dead man.'*

Israel warned the Palestinians to evacuate from northern Gaza. It will be razed to the ground. This will be catastrophic. 1M Palestinians in Southern Gaza must receive 1M Palestinians from Northern Gaza overnight!
4. **Once Israeli troops enter Gaza, a chain of events will begin that nobody is going to be able to control.** Why? Hezbollah would not just sit on the sideline and watch Hamas getting destroyed. Hezbollah is a much stronger force than Hamas, armed with 130,000 missiles ready to be fired at northern Israel. A senior Hamas official warned, 'Iran and Hezbollah will join the battle if Gaza is invaded.'
5. **Israel's response to Hezbollah:** *'If confrontation erupts there, we will return Lebanon to the Stone Age...If Hezbollah joins the war, IDF will completely destroy Damascus and will directly target the Iran-backed Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad. Moreover, US warships will support Israel in this war.'* This message was delivered by Israel via France. Israel is not bluffing. Israel has already bombed the Damascus airport and Aleppo airport on Thursday, damaging their runways and decommissioning the airports.
6. **Khamenei from Iran:** *'The rulers and decision-makers of the Zionist regime and their supporters [USA] should know that these actions will bring a greater disaster upon them, and the Palestinian people, with a firmer determination, will slap their hideous faces harder in response to these crimes.'*
7. **Joe Biden from the USA:** *'At this moment, we must be crystal clear: We stand with Israel... We will make sure Israel has what it needs to take care of its citizens, defend itself and respond to this attack. There is no justification for terrorism. There is no excuse.'* Right now, the USA is sending two heavy aircraft carrier warships to the Mediterranean Sea to show their support, *USS Dwight D. Eisenhower & USS Gerald R. Ford.*

8. **Ahmad al-Hamidawi, head of the Kataib Hezbollah militia:** *'Our missiles, drones, and special forces are ready to direct qualitative strikes at the American enemy in its bases and disrupt its interests if it intervenes in this battle...'* Israel will be fighting at least two-pronged wars - Hamas in the South and Hezbollah in the North. That means Syria will get involved. Iran will be pulled in as well. What about Egypt & Jordan & Saudi Arabia? Where will they stand if a war breaks out with Israel? Jewish communities in the West Bank (Samaria & Judea) are terrified of attack from the neighbouring Arab communities, now that most men are fighting in the IDF. It is ~2 million Arabs vs 500,000 Jews. Is this a potential for WW3?
9. **A member of Knesset Revital Gotliv called for the use of nuclear weapons: 'Jericho missile'**: *'I urge you to do everything and use Doomsday weapons fearlessly against our enemies,' ... [Israel] must use everything in its arsenal.'* *'Only an explosion that shakes the Middle East will restore this country's dignity, strength and security!'* *'It's time to kiss doomsday. Shooting powerful missiles without limit. Not flattening a neighbourhood. Crushing and flattening Gaza. ... without mercy! without mercy!'*
10. **Global Day of Rage on Friday: 'This is time for Jihad'** – Calling for a global show of anger they call it 'Operation Al-Aqsa Flood.' But Christians gather to pray for the gospel to advance and baptism of love.

B. Psalm 83 War & Israel's new boundary (Obadiah v19-21)

1. Is it a merely imprecatory psalm or a prophetic psalm by **Asaph, the seer** (2 Chr 29:30)? Some see this psalm fulfilled in 1948. Others see it as describing general conflicts of Israel [1948, 1967, 2023?]
2. **Motive of this war:** Genocide of Jewish people and the state of Israel. *'Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation, that the name of Israel may be remembered no more.'* (Ps. 83:4). – i.e. 'To wipe Israel off the map of the earth'. This is tantamount to forming a confederacy against the Almighty God! (Ps. 83:5).
3. **League (Confederacy) of 10 Nations: (See the map)**

Tents of Edom	Southern Jordanians & Palestinian Refugees
Ishmaelites	Saudi Arabia (Ezk 25:13)
Moab	Jordanians & Palestinians
Hagrites	Egyptians
Gebal	Northern Lebanese & Hezbollah
Ammon	Northern Jordanians & Palestinians
Amalek	Arabs in the Sinai Area
Philistia	Gaza Strip & Hamas (Zeph 2:1-7)
Tyre	Southern Lebanon & Hezbollah
Assyria	Syrians & Northern Iraqis

Tents of Edom: Palestinian refugee(?) crisis to be the galvanizing issue for Ps 83 war? This crisis was created by the miscalculation of the Arab nations in the 1948 war.

4. **Outcome:** The total defeat of Israel's enemies is certain the same way Barak's war with Canaanites and Gideon's war with Midianites in Judges 4-5; 5-6 (Ps. 83:10-11). Oreb and Zeeb are the Midianite princes who were killed by Gideon's army. Zebah and Zalmunna are the Midianite kings who were killed by Gideon's sword. The point is: after this war, Midianites NEVER oppressed Israel ever again!
5. **Purpose:** 'That they may know that You, whose name alone is the LORD (YHWH) are the Most High over all the earth' (Ps 83:18). God does not delight in the death of the wicked. All bloodshed grieves God. But He has given a 'clear notice' to the surrounding nations since 1948, 1967, 1973, and 2023 (50 years later) to

think again from history, and acknowledge that there is only one true God over the earth. He is the God of the Bible; the God of Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob. These repeated wars and the most unlikely outcome were the objective history lessons concerning the existence of Almighty God who is faithful to His word and His people Israel. Hamas terrorists were shrieking 'Allahu Akbar' as they decapitated Jewish civilians. But they cannot succeed in wiping out the Jewish people. Unless they change course, they are on a collision course with the Almighty God to their utter destruction! God has set in His Word the 'principle of blessing and curse' on Israel. Jesus will judge the nations!

6. **Israel's border re-defined (See the Map):** Israel will possess Philistia (Gaza Strip), Ephraim & Samaria (West Bank); Gilead (Jordan & Golan Heights); and South (Negev desert). (Obad 19-21). The world has a plan - Two-State Solution. But when the dust settles after everything is done, Israel will ultimately gain full access to her land with its biblical boundary, because God gave this land to them. Until then, each nation's policy on this issue is very important! (Zech 12:2-3; Joel 3:3). '[Judah] shall devour all the surrounding peoples on the right hand on the left, but Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place – Jerusalem.' (Zech 12:5-6)

C. Disaster in Elam – Jeremiah 49:35-39

1. **Who is Elam?** A son of Shem (Gen 10:22). Chedorlaomer king of Elam (Gen 14:1). In Isaiah's day they had perfected the art of archery in ancient war (Is 22:6). Today Elam is a part of Iran along the Persian Gulf (see map).
2. **'Behold, I will break the bow of Elam, the foremost of their might.'** (Jer 49:35). Could it be referring to Iran's nuclear weapon program and IBMC technology? 'The Bushehr nuclear reactor' which is Iran's first nuclear reactor. Iran's regime is behind Hamas and Hezbollah. Their boldly stated intention is to wipe Israel off the map. However, an 'epic disaster of nuclear proportion' (Jer 49:36) will cause the outcast of Elam to scatter all over the world! A study conducted in 2013 reveals that if a nuclear disaster occurs in the Bushehr area, within 15 hours the radiation will spread through the Gulf Stream - so fast that the whole area will become uninhabitable. Bushehr reactor is built where the three tectonic plates meet.
3. **Who are Elam's enemies?** Israel is one. The Lord's anger is against the leadership of Elam (Jer 49:38). Why? (i) Pursuit of a nuclear program to annihilate Israel. (ii) Severe persecution of Christians. Currently, Iran experiencing a great underground Christian revival!
4. **God will establish His throne in Elam!** – an apostolic centre and house of prayer (Jer 49:38).

D. Destruction in Damascus – Isaiah 17:1

1. **The Syrian issue is a complex one** – age-old religious war between Shiite and Sunni Muslims. Damascus is a 5000-year-old city that has been continually inhabited. It has never been destroyed. 'The Straight' Street is still there! (Acts 9:11). *But one day Damascus will be completely destroyed so that it will cease to be a city! 'A ruinous heap!'* (Is 17:1). It will happen during a harvest season! (17:11) May/June?
2. **Condition before the fulfilment:** 'rushing of nations that make a rushing like the rushing of mighty waters!' (Is 17:12). This has never happened in the past. It will not be the result of Shiite/Sunni war, but of their direct attack on the children of Israel! (Is 17:9, 14). 'This is the portion of those who plunder us [Israel].' 'Glory of Jacob will wane' – heavy loss incurred on Israel also. (Is 17:4)

E. Paul's Dream - Sunday 10th Aug 2014

...Suddenly a prophet of the Lord walked toward me and said in a serious tone, '*There will come a day when Jews abandon synagogues all over the land of Israel, and they meet in small groups at home (& in bushes).*' I was very alarmed at this statement, because this would mean that open public meetings would not be considered safe. I was very startled by this thought so I pressed him and asked him how much time we had. He hesitated to give me a definite answer. Then I pressed him, 'Do we have 9 years?' He thought for a moment and answered, 'Yes.' Then I asked him again, 'Do we have 10 years?' He hesitated again and didn't say anything for what seemed to be a long while. I asked again, 'Do we have 10 years?' He thought for a moment and said, 'No.' He said, by the end of 2021/2022 something will happen in the world to bring this to

pass.

'I believe that the Jewish young man (in my dream) represents Israel. Israel is in education now and is about to graduate to the real world where this young man needs to know that his existence as a nation doesn't depend on the USA or any other allies, but on YHWH's covenant faithfulness & His sovereign plan.'

F. Christians Response

'The burden of the Lord' was the cry of the prophets.

1. Intercession for 'mercy' - we lean toward mercy, revival, salvation, peace, reprieve, etc (Hab 3:2).
2. Intimacy and trust in God – 'Were you angry with the rivers?' (Hab 3:8). Do not get caught up in the political spirit. Rather ask the Lord, '*How do You feel about the Jewish people? Palestinian people?*' '*Though the fig tree may not blossom...I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.*' (Hab 3:18-19).

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Descendants of Lot

Assyria

Tyre

Hagrites

Moab

Philistia

Edom

Ammon

Amalek

Ishmaelites

“That they may know that You, whose name alone is the LORD (YHWH) are the Most High over all the earth” (Ps. 83:18).

The Psalms 83 War

SAUDI ARABIA

NEW MAP OF ISRAEL

17 But upon mount Zion shall be **deliverance**, and there shall be **holiness**; and the house of Jacob shall possess their possessions.

18 And the house of Jacob shall be a fire, and the house of Joseph a flame, and the **house of Esau** for stubble, and they shall kindle in them, and devour them; and there shall not be any remaining of the house of Esau; for the Lord hath spoken it.

19 And they of the south shall possess the **mount of Esau**; and they of **the plain the Philistines**: and they shall possess **the fields of Ephraim**, and **the fields of Samaria**: and Benjamin shall possess **Gilead**.

20 And the captivity of this host of the children of Israel shall possess that of the **Canaanites**, even unto **Zarephath**; and the captivity of Jerusalem, which is in Sepharad, shall possess the cities of the **south**. (**Zeph 17-20**)



Significance of Ps. 83 War (Inner-ring Nations)

'For He will reduce to nothing all the gods of the earth. People will worship Him each one from his place, indeed all the shores of the nations.' (Zeph 2:11)



Salvation of Arabs in the ME & 1.6 Billion Muslims in the world

~1 billion Muslims in Asia Pacific;
~320 million in ME;
~250 million in Africa.

UN General Assembly (UN resolution 181) passed on 29th Nov 1947 to create independent state of Israel in Palestine

Fate of the nations decided on their stand toward Israel



Iran's Nuclear Endeavour (Jeremiah 49:35-39)

'Behold, I will break the bow of Elam, the foremost of their might.' (Jer 49:35)



Destruction in Damascus (Is 17)



“Behold, Damascus will cease from being a city and it will be a ruinous heap.” (Is. 17:1)