



A. 'I Do Not Know How to Pray.'

1. **'Truth is the first casualty of war.'** E.g. The alleged hospital bombing in Gaza turned out to be false. The image of the destroyed hospital that is supposed to have killed 500 civilians was taken from a 2022 incident & 400m away from the municipality complex (Reuters). *'Gaza hospital wasn't bombed, 500 people did not die, and the rocket wasn't from Israel.'* Still, a lot of mainstream media such as Al Jazeera are running with it and Hamas leaders are calling for global rage against Israel. Does truth matter anymore? We are facing spiritual forces of wickedness in the world. *We need to be on guard against the 'rise of a global of terrorism.'*
2. **'Tension between justice & mercy.'** Prayer for IDF is for justice. Every government must protect its people. They bear the swords for punishment for such reason. Prayer for the Palestinians in Gaza is for mercy. How about the 'Son of Hamas?' *It is OK to feel this tension. It is OK to pray for Israel's IDF and the Palestinians.* We need not argue about who is worse than who. Israel is not saved yet. Nor are the Palestinians. We need God's prophetic perspective. *'God wants to set free 2.5 billion Arabs from under the oppressive religion of Islam and bring them to salvation in Jesus Christ.'* Against all odds, the wars they collectively declare to wipe Israel off the map in the name of Allah, will end up destroying themselves again and again. Until they scratch their head and say, 'Where is Allah?' God will use *Israel's IDF to eradicate terrorism in the Middle East, not the US military.* It is easy to forget that our God is a God of war – *'the Lord of the host (armies)', 'Lord Almighty' (NIV).*
3. **The US is doing its best to contain this war** within the Gaza border by sending two aircraft carriers. However, it can easily spin out of control and pull Hezbollah and Iran into the conflict, turning it into a Middle East war. It has far-reaching consequences. China/Taiwan is likely next. So far, IDF has been pounding Gaza by airstrikes for 2 weeks to soften them for ground invasion. Now they have the green light for it. Israel's Defence Minister told the soldiers to *'get ready because you will soon see Gaza from the inside.'* Does our Bible have something to say about what lies in the future for Syria and Iran? Yes. And when it begins to happen – it is a matter of time - then we know exactly how to pray, and pray with confidence in the will of God.

B. Snapshot #1: Destruction of Damascus – Isaiah 17:1-14

1. **Destruction of Damascus** – The Syrian issue is a complex one – an age-old religious war between Shiite & Sunni Muslims. Damascus is one of the oldest cities which has been continually inhabited for the past 5000 years. The Straight street is still there! (c.f. Acts 9:11). *'Damascus will be completely destroyed so that it will cease to be a city!', 'a ruinous heap!' (17:1). 'The fortress also will cease from Ephraim (West Bank), the kingdom from Damascus, and the remnant of Syria; They will be as the glory of the children of Israel,' says the LORD of hosts (armies). (17:3)* Israel's victory & destruction of Syria are predicted.
2. **Israel will incur a heavy loss of life** – *'...cities of Aroer are forsaken...' (17:2)* (Today, Israel's nuclear research centre); *'Glory of Jacob will wane, and the fatness of his flesh grow lean...' (17:4-6)*
3. **Two Reasons for Damascus' Devastation**
 - i. Spiritual reason: *'Because you have forgotten the God of your salvation and have not been mindful of the Rock of your stronghold.'* (17:10) Although it was a centre of revival for the early Church, it has forsaken God and embraced idolatry (17:8)
 - ii. Natural (immediate) reason: *because they went to a war with Israel by directly attacking Israel first. 'In that day his strong cities will be as a forsaken bough... because of the children of Israel; and there will be desolation.'* (17:9) *'This is the portion of those who plunder us [Israel], and the lot of those who rob us [Israel].'* (17:14) As the result of warring against Israel their harvest will be a ruined heap. This suggests this war may happen during harvest season (17:11).
4. **Condition prior to the fulfilment:** *'rushing of nations that make a rushing like the rushing of mighty waters!' (Is 17:12-14).* This describes the precondition of Syria and Damascus today.
5. **God's Purpose** - *'In that day a man will look to his Maker, and his eyes will have respect for the Holy One of Israel.'* (17:7) God wants Syria to remember Him once again - the God of her salvation, and abandon her idols! God wants salvation and revival in Syria. Hezbollah has no future.

C. Snapshot #2: 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 days they perfected the *art of archery* of the ancient war (Is 22:6). *Today Elam is a part of IRAN along the Persian Gulf.*
2. **Elam's Bow & Arrow?** *'Behold, I will break the bow of Elam, the foremost of their might.'* (Jer 49:35) Could it refer to Iran's nuclear weapon program (arrow), and ICBM technology (bow)? This regime has been behind Hamas and Hezbollah with a stated intention to *'wipe Israel off the map'*.
3. **Four winds to scatter Elam to all nations** – *'Against Elam, I will bring the four winds from the four quarters of heaven...and scatter them...There shall be no nations where the outcasts of Elam will not go.'* (49:36) Such a scale of scattering has never happened before. It seems *'an epic disaster of nuclear proportion'* will cause Elam to be scattered all over the world. 'Bushehr nuclear reactor' – Iran's first nuclear reactor. A study conducted in 2013 showed that if a nuclear strike occurs in the Bushehr area, within 15 hours radiation will spread through the Gulf Stream, so fast that the whole area will become uninhabitable. Bushehr reactor sits where the three tectonic plates meet!
4. **Who is Elam's enemy here?** Israel must be one of them.
5. **The Lord is very angry against the leadership of Elam** – *'...My fierce anger,' says the LORD; 'I will send the sword after them until I have consumed them...I will destroy from there the king and the princes,' says the LORD.'* (49:38) Why? (1) The pursuit of nuclear program to annihilate Israel; (2) Severe persecution of Christians. Currently, the Iranian Church is experiencing a great revival – 19.6% growth of Christians.
6. **Purpose of regime change** – *'I will set My throne in Elam!'* (49:38) God wants to use Iran in one of the greatest apostolic mission movements on the earth (49:38). There are reports of Iranian believers who are preparing for the great scattering to preach the gospel to the ends of the earth!

D. Snapshot #3: Warning to the Nations (Zech 12:1-9, c.f. Joel 3:1-4)

1. **Monologue of IDF** – *'The inhabitants of Jerusalem (are) my strength in the LORD (YHWH) of hosts...'* (12:5). Pray the IDF to move not by spirit of rage or revenge, but by love for their people and faith in the God of their forefathers. *The greatest spiritual revival in Israel will come after the season of war as their hearts turn to their people in love and to their God in faith.* Then the greatest outpouring of the Spirit on Jerusalem will come after their victory in war and after an intense time of prayer, i.e. the spirit of grace and supplication: *'then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.'* (12:10) This will be the greatest repentance movement in the history of Israel. Is there a hidden name of Christ in this verse? 'תא' - 'aleph & tau' (untranslatable accusative) before 'whom they pierced' - the first and the last letter in Hebrew - 'Alpha and Omega'.
2. **Warning to the nations:** *'Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem. 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.'* (Zech 12:2-3) *'And I will enter into judgment with them there on account of My people, My heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations; They have also divided up My land. They have cast lots for My people.'* (Joel 3:1-4).
3. **The consequence of dividing Jerusalem:** Winston Churchill boasted of dividing the land of Israel: *'I created Transjordan with a stroke of a pen on Sunday afternoon in Cairo.'* (March 1921). After this date, Great Britain was never to be the same again. There will be enormous pressure on the USA and European nations to divide Jerusalem and create a Palestinian state. What will happen to the USA if they divide Jerusalem? God will divide the USA. Where will Australia stand?

E. Israel's Border Re-defined (See the Map)

Israel will possess Philistia (Gaza Strip), Ephraim & Samaria (West Bank); Gilead (Jordan & Golan Heights); South (Negev desert). (Obad 19-21). The world has a plan - a two-state solution, however when the dust settles after everything is done, Israel will gain full access to her land with its biblical boundary. 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)

F. Christians Response

The 'burden of the Lord' is important as 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. Ask the Lord, *'How do You feel about the Jewish people? The 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)



Descendants of Lot

Gebal

Assyria

Tyre

Hagrites

Moab

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

Edom

Ammon

Philistia

Amalek

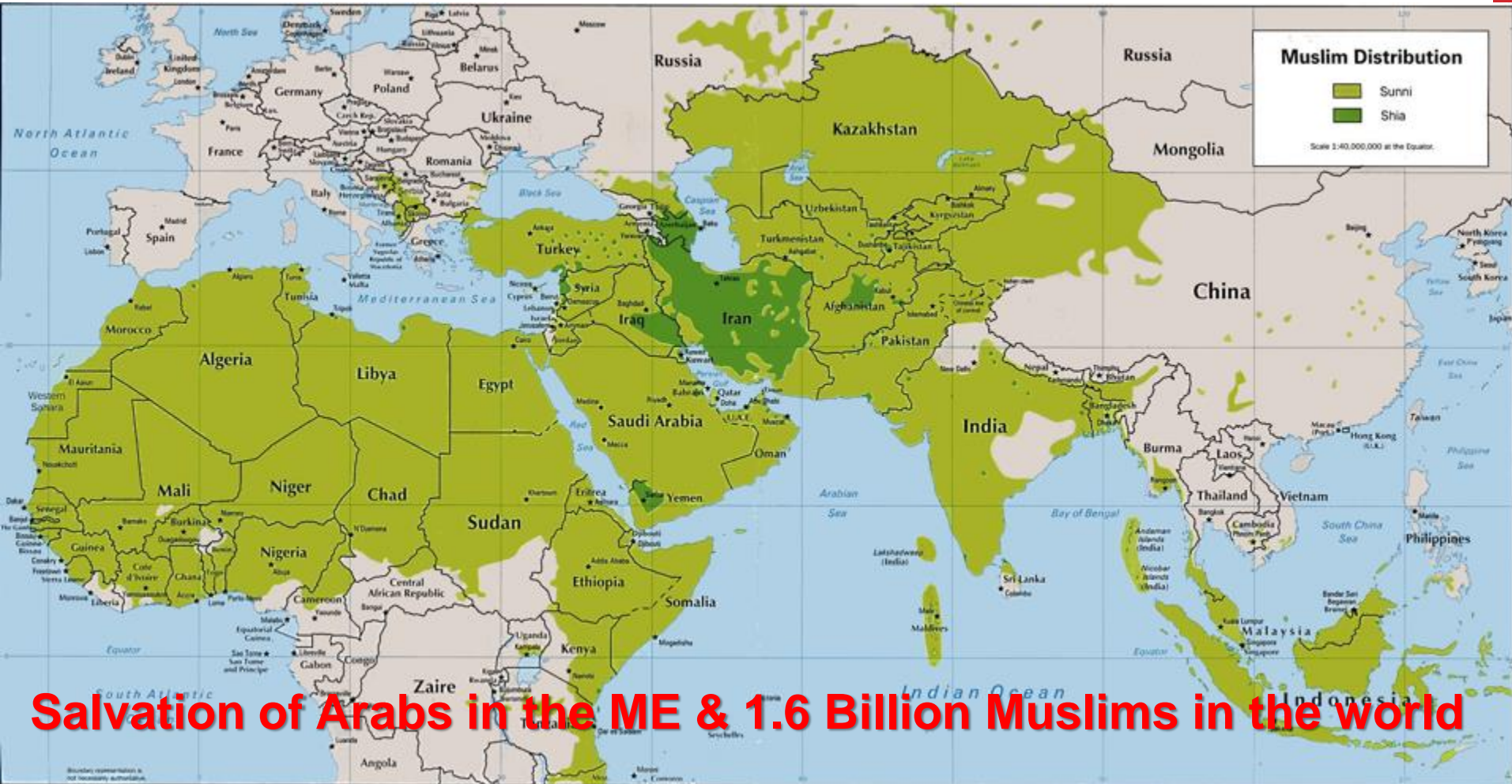
Ishmaelites

The Psalms 83 War

SAUDI ARABIA

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)

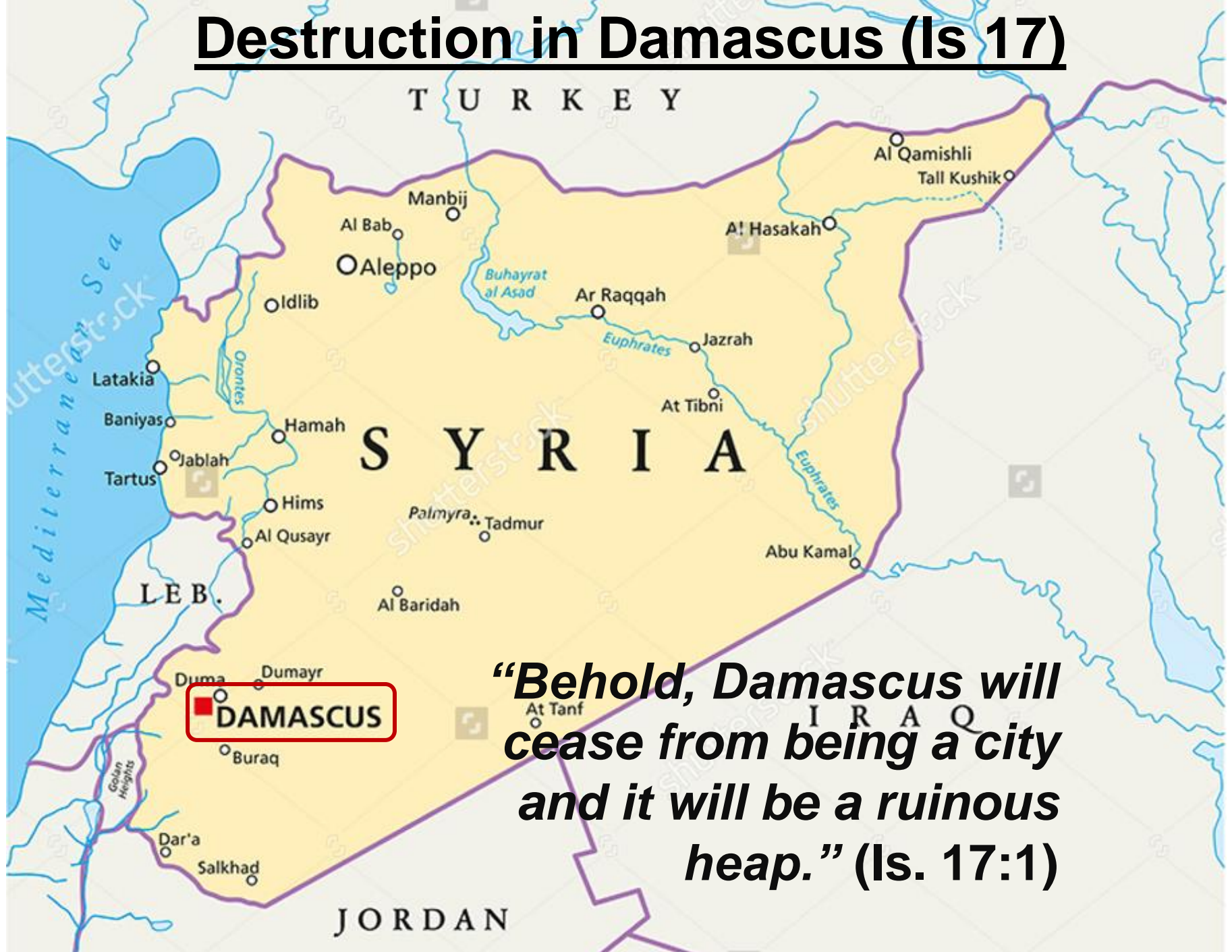


Salvation of Arabs in the ME & 1.6 Billion Muslims in the world

~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

Destruction in Damascus (Is 17)



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

1. Destruction of Damascus:

- ***“Damascus will be completely destroyed so that it will cease to be a city!” – ‘a ruinous heap!’ (Is 17:1)***
- ***“The fortress also will cease from Ephraim, the kingdom from Damascus, and the remnant of Syria; They will be as the glory of the children of Israel,” says the LORD of hosts (armies). (17:3)***

2. Israel will also incur heavy loss of life:

- ***“...cities of Aroer are forsaken...” (17:2);***
- ***“Glory of Jacob will wane, and the fatness of his flesh grow lean...” (17:4-6)***

3. TWO Reasons for the devastation:

Reason 1:

“Because you have forgotten the God of your salvation and have not been mindful of the Rock of your stronghold.”

(Is. 17:10)

3. TWO Reasons for the devastation:

Reason 2:

- ***“In that day his strong cities will be as a forsaken bough... because of the children of Israel; and there will be desolation.” (Is. 17:9)***
- ***“This is the portion of those who plunder us, and the lot of those who rob us.” (Is. 17:14)***

4. Condition prior the fulfilment:

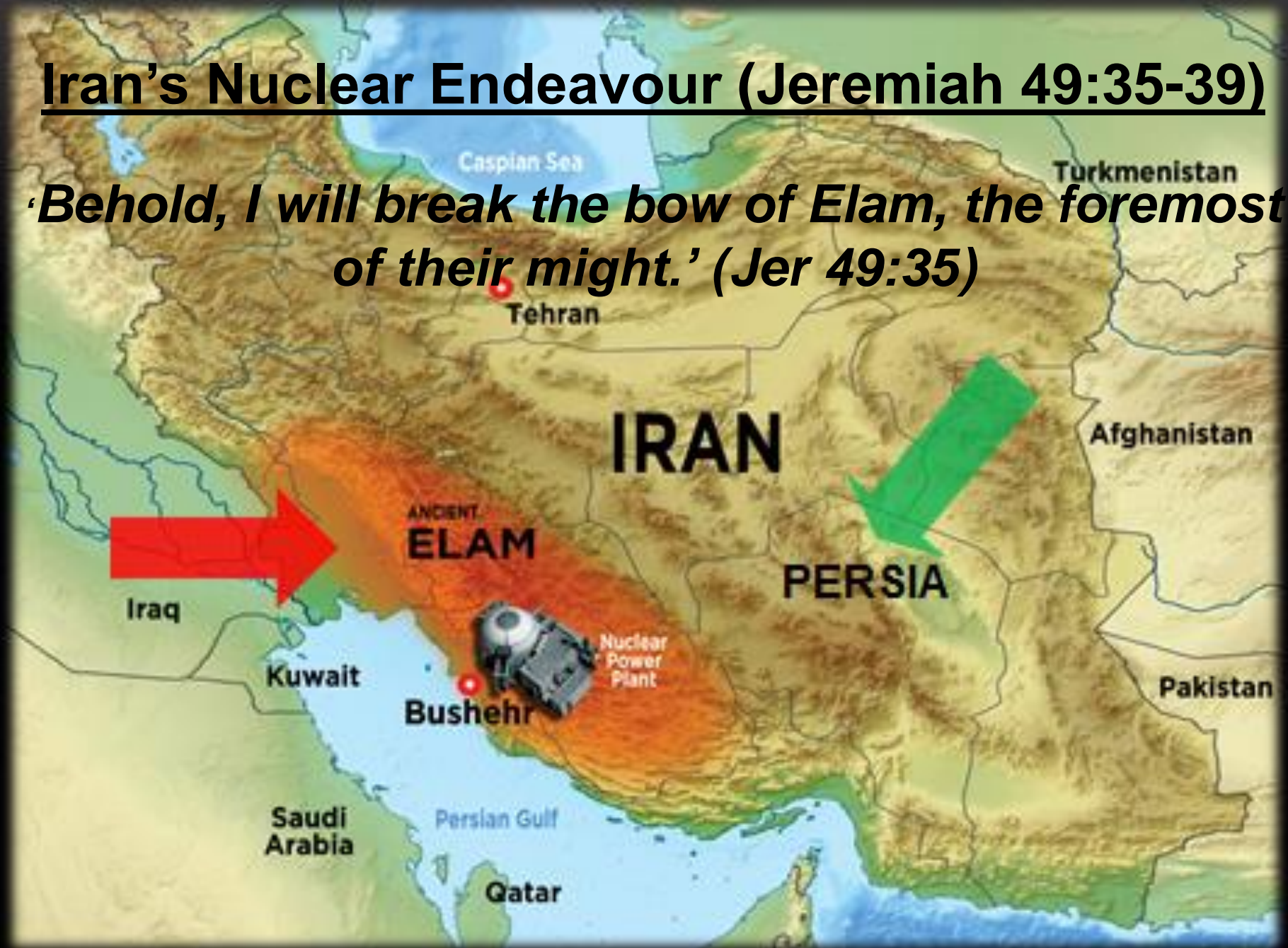
‘rushing of nations that make a rushing like the rushing of mighty waters!’ (Is 17:12-14).

5. God’s Purpose in it:

“In that day a man will look to his Maker, and his eyes will have respect for the Holy One of Israel.” (17:7)

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

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



1. Who is Elam?

A son of Shem (Gen 10:22; Gen 14:1). In Isaiah's day they have perfected the *art of archery* in ancient war (Is. 22:6).

Today Elam is a part of Iran along the Persian Gulf.

2. What is Elam's Bow & Arrow?

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

3. Four winds to scatter Elam to all nations

“Against Elam I will bring the four winds from the four quarters of heaven...and scatter them...There shall be no nations where the outcasts of Elam will not go.” (49:36).

- **‘Bushehr nuclear reactor’ sits on site where 3 tectonic plates meet.**
- **Study conducted in 2013 on attack!**

4. The Lord is very angry against the leadership of Elam

“...My fierce anger,’ says the LORD; “I will send the sword after them until I have consumed them...I will destroy from there the king and the princes,’ says the LORD.” (49:38)

5. Purpose of regime change

“I will set My throne in Elam!” (49:38)



PRAYER FOR ISRAEL

- ***“The inhabitants of Jerusalem (are) my strength in the LORD of hosts...” (Zech 12:5)***
- ***“And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication then they will look on Me (‘אַתַּי’) whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.” (Zech 12:10)***

WARNING TO THE NATIONS

“Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem. 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” (Zech 12:2-3)

“And I will enter into judgment with them there on account of My people, My heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations; They have also divided up My land. They have cast lots for My people.” (Joel 3:1-4).

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)**

