

# Absolute Truth & Prophecy

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NEWSLETTER

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## ZEW'S NEWS REVIEW

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### **Toward The Brink!!**

*Developments in the Middle East have the war drums beating.*

This all began to come to light on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January when DEBKA reported that Syria had “ordered a Level 4 mobilization of Syria’s army reserves for deployment to the Golan Heights on the Israeli border.” They used the excuse of “IDF plans of attack” to justify placing armored and commando forces in place to contest the Golan, which overlooks Israel. In the days before the ’67 War, the Syrians were able to place artillery on these heights and rain down fire on the Israelis. This is strategically essential territory, necessary for the survival of the Jewish state. At the same time, Hezbollah was ratcheting up the readiness of its forces in Lebanon, just across Israel’s northern border.<sup>1</sup> So what was going on? It seems that this was all coming at a time when the US was pressuring the Israelis to accept the status quo with regard to the Iranian nuclear weapons program.

Now there have been many predictions that a war between Israel and Hezbollah was coming – and probably later this year. And it was becoming increasingly clear that any conflict with Lebanon would necessarily bring in the Syrians. After all, Damascus has been a primary funnel of military supplies to the Lebanese based terror group. Many of those originate with Iran, - but eventually made their way across the Syrian-Lebanese border. Taking note of this, Israeli officials have begun to warn Syria of the impending danger. Defense Minister Barak just recently alluded to a coming forced conflict with the Syrians. Hezbollah is a much more formidable foe than even during the last war. Their missiles have been replenished, - and what’s more, - they are significantly more sophisticated. The Syrian-produced M-600’s – a surface-to-surface offensive missile system – has been deployed in just recent weeks. They are a big improvement over the point and shoot rockets Hezbollah has used in the past in that they are precision guided. That means they will be capable of targeting military facilities and even populated areas. Israel cannot be expected to allow the Syrians to continue to supply those weapons during the course of a conflict. One Israeli minister let it be known that Jerusalem would hold both Syria and Lebanon responsible.<sup>2</sup> And now, according to DEBKA, there is something to all of these preparations. American intelligence has uncovered what was described as a “detailed war plan” involving Hezbollah, Syria and Hamas, to launch operations against Israel. Specifically, it would begin with a 5,000 man strong, five pronged commando attack against Galilee. The DEBKA story gives specific targets assigned the various forces. Hezbollah would initiate the action from Lebanon, which could come as a response to Israeli Air Force strikes against the Iranian nuclear facilities. Hezbollah’s advanced rocket technology would enable them to concentrate on air and missile bases, and nuclear and naval facilities. Hamas would be the next ones in, “organizing a massive Israeli-Arab uprising against the Jewish state.” With the IDF so occupied, the Syrians would come in, launching their attack from across the Golan Heights.<sup>3</sup>

What is really interesting is that this war plan closely parallels one that was developed in the 90’s. First news of it came out in a House of Representatives report in December of 1996, with details carried in The Jewish Press in early ’97. When studying the details, as outlined by David Bay of Cutting Edge Ministries, the details coincide remarkably. It

is even suggested that it would take the killing of some Syrian soldier's to officially bring in their armed forces, something that would likely occur today as Syrian troops are involved in operations on Lebanese soil.<sup>4 5 6</sup>

Now all of this is being orchestrated by and for the benefit of the Iranians, the big player in the region. Tehran is being abetted in their quest for regional hegemony by the likes of some bad actors on the world stage. Last month, Thai authorities seized a shipment of 35 tons of rockets and other weaponry making its way from North Korea to Iran.<sup>7</sup> The Chinese are dragging their feet on any further sanctions and the Russians have indicated that they see no international impediments to sell weapons to Tehran.<sup>8</sup> Armed with friends in high places and a commitment to enable the Mahdi the Islamic messiah, to arrive and take his rightful place, President Ahmadinejad is promising a major blow to "global arrogance" on February 11<sup>th</sup>, the anniversary of Iran's Islamic Revolution.<sup>9</sup> He's expected to announce that Iran can refine uranium to 20%, crossing another critical threshold in their quest to produce their own nuclear weapons.

This is very serious stuff indeed, and the US is treating it so. Washington has let it be known that it is significantly beefing up both its offensive and especially defensive presence in the Middle East in recent weeks. And there is likely more to come. Patriot anti-missile batteries are on their way to the UAE, Qatar, Bahrain and Kuwait. As allies of the West, these countries are likely targets of any Iranian missile offensive. The Saudis are getting a major infusion of American troops and "round the clock" patrols against Iranian incursions. Naval forces are also headed to the region. And with US help, the Saudis will "create a 30, 000 strong force to protect oil installations. On its own the UAE is buying scores of modern fighter aircraft from the US and France. The new missile and naval shield that America is providing has at least a two-fold purpose; To calm the fears of the Saudi's and the Gulf states – keeping the oil flowing, and to deter any Iranian strikes against essential American interests.<sup>10 11 12</sup>

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The war that is being planned is one that the Illuminati have long talked and written about. Writing in the Armageddon Script back in 1981, Peter Lemesurier revealed the New World Order plan, with a massive Arab / Israeli conflict as the touch stone event. *[Interestingly the blueprint in the New York Times best selling book had this the war their spreading into a world wide conflagration with a nuclear crisis in Korea and a Chinese attack on Taiwan. It also included a stock market crash, terror against the West using WMDs , massive earthquakes and an alien presence – (real or – in the words of Henry Kissinger), "promulgated". The object of all of this chaos was to bring the globe to the point where it would accept One World Government. To this end, they intend to produce a messiah figure, a New Age Christ.]* According to the New World Order types, Israeli is *NOT* supposed to lose this conflict!

The potential for true prophetic significance is ample should war break out. The lines are being formed for the Psalms 83 War which I believe that Scripture indicates will be the next major prophetic conflict on the horizon. This is the war in which Israel will take on and defeat its inner ring of Arab neighbors. Syria and Lebanon and Jordan will be vanquished during this conflict. Isaiah 17 tells us that Damascus will be destroyed. The prophet Obadiah indicates that the Palestinians will be annihilated during that conflict. Obadiah 1:18 tells us that **"no survivor shall remain of the house of Esau."** It is then that Israel will take possession of the full extent of the Land God promised her. Verses 19 & 20 detail the Israeli occupation of the Land now illicitly held by the Palestinian entity. **"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. 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."** (KJV)

That is but the set up for the next, - and more famous conflict; the Gog / Magog invasion. In that round of the battle, a coalition of Turkey, Libya and Iran (Persia) will be joined by the former Islamic Soviet Republics and, (depending on your interpretation), possibly Russia in a Last Days invasion of Israel. They will be angered at the establishment of

Greater Israel and the vanquishing of their Islamic co-religionists. Here's how Ezekiel 38:10-11 describes their motivation and their action. **“On that day it shall come to pass that thoughts will arise in your mind, and you will make an evil plan: You will say, ‘I will go up against a land of unwalled villages; I will go to a peaceful people, who dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates.’”** Scripture tells us that there will be no human aid forthcoming. But God Himself will rise up and champion Israel that day. Speaking of Gog, He says: **“And I will bring him to judgment with pestilence and bloodshed; I will rain down on him, on his troops, and on the many peoples who are with him, flooding rain, great hailstones, fire, and brimstone. Thus I will magnify Myself and sanctify Myself, and I will be known in the eyes of many nations. Then they shall know that I am the LORD.”** (Ezekiel 38:22-23)

## **The Identity Of Jesus – Part II**

*Headlines suggest that a “Messianic Revival” may be in the making – in Israel! Congregations of Christian-Jews are growing and thriving in the Land of David. One leader of the movement talks of a new openness in Israeli society to consider the claims of Yeshua. There exist probably about 120 congregations with perhaps about 15,000 members; - a yet small number, but gathering in strength and influence.<sup>13</sup> Still the majority of Jews dismiss the claims of what they see as a Gentile god. It was not always so. Remember, the Church began in Jerusalem, and was originally composed of almost exclusively Jewish believers. So what happened?*

### **PROPHETIC CLAIMS**

Prophecy pointed to him, this coming Messiah. The hope of Israel! The light to the nations! By the first century the anticipation among some segments of the population was palpable. The Jews were an unusually religious people. So much of their national life was centered around their sacred writings and customs. Yet despite the fact that the scriptures were so much a part of daily life, the expectation of just who the Messiah would be, and what he would bring, varied among the groups that made up the Jewish nation. Often this was just the natural response of people reacting to their own wishes and desires. To a large degree the role that the Messiah would play had become politicized in the popular mind. The yoke of Roman rule laid heavy on the populace. The hopeful eyes of an oppressed nation were focused on the prophecies regarding the ultimate victorious nature of the messianic office, rather than the predicted sufferings found in the same Scriptures. If their hope was misplaced it is understandable to a degree how this could be so.

The prerogatives of the Jewish leadership had been progressively usurped, culminating in the removal of the power over life-and-death from the Jewish authorities in AD 14. To the minds of many, a Messiah who did not confront and ultimately vanquish the Romans was no Messiah at all. This feeling would have been more pronounced in the circles of power, which no doubt, felt the sting of that loss even more acutely. The politicizing of messianic expectations undoubtedly contributed to the ultimate rejection of Jesus' ministry. An example of a contrasting result can be seen just a hundred years later, when the Jewish authorities put their stamp of approval on the 'Messiahship' of Bar Kochba. Rabi Akiva signaled that approval by declaring Kochba, 'Messiah King', to tragic results. Thousands of Jews were killed when the Romans took the stronghold of Betar. The political nature of what was expected from the 'Promised One', certainly was a major factor in the reaction to Christ by the Jewish nation.<sup>14</sup>

But it is not like the prophetic input was not clear. The claims of Daniel 9 were very specific. Micah told of his birth in Bethlehem. His miracles and ministry were written of in detail. Zechariah talked of his entry into Jerusalem on a colt. And once he had been crucified, it could have been confirmed that the circumstances of his suffering, death and burial were accurately predicted in Isaiah 52 & 53 and Psalm 22. To the many who would see, this was the expected Messiah. There are hundreds of prophecies in the Old Testament concerning the coming and the identity of the

Anointed One. Jesus did clearly match the identity of the Promised One in every detail. Christ was the unique fulfillment of those prophecies. What is possibly most amazing to realize is that so many of those Old Testament prophets probably did not even realize themselves the full significance of those prophecies. 1 Peter 1:10-12 speaks to their searching for the **“time and circumstances”** to which their revelations had led them. So let’s look at some of these prophecies.

We’ll be looking of course at just those concerning the coming of the Messiah. These were all written hundreds of years before the birth of Jesus, yet in their precision and detail they can unmistakably refer only to the life of Christ. Some have suggested that Jesus, being a man with a ‘messiah complex’, arranged his life to have fulfilled these prophecies in order to prove he was the promised Savior. While it is true that he may have been able to have arranged some of his actions to conform to the predictions of scripture, so many more were entirely out of his control. Grant Jeffrey, writing in *Jesus, The Great Debate* conservatively figured the probability of anyone fulfilling just seventeen of the prophecies at one chance in 480 billion x 1 billion x 1 trillion. This was not some easily arranged feat. The specificity of the predictions makes that impossible.<sup>15</sup>

Let’s look at some examples of what was written hundreds of years before Christ, found in the books of the prophets as well as the psalms. These are no general pronouncements, but can be applied only very specifically. They describe in detail the birth, life and manner of death of the predicted Messiah. The Bible does set quite the high standard for itself. Micah 5:2 says, **“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”** Written approximately 700 BC this passage points not only to Jesus’ physical birth in Bethlehem, but also his descent from the line of David, also born in that village. But look at just the circumstances that were necessary to make Jesus’ birth in that location possible. In the second chapter of Luke we have the story of the Jesus’ birth. In it we have the description of the specific census that made necessary the return of his parents to that location. We now have historical confirmation that return to an ancestral home was indeed required in census taking of that time. Without it Jesus would have failed the very first requirement of the ancient prophecies.

In Isaiah 40:3 we have the prediction of a **“...voice crying in the wilderness, prepare the way for the Lord, make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God.”** Matthew chapter 3, points to the ministry of John the Baptist as the fulfillment of this passage. John specifically talked about **“...one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.”** (Mat. 3:11) Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem riding on a colt was predicted centuries prior to the event. Zechariah describes the Messiah’s entry into the Holy City. **“Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout Daughter of Jerusalem! See your King comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”** (Zech. 9:9) Fulfillment of this prophecy is found in Luke 19:28-40.

There are more. Psalm 41:9 speaks of the betrayal of **“...my close friend, whom I trusted, he who shared my bread”**, referring of course to the actions of Judas. Zechariah 11:12-13 has more to say on the subject of Judas. **“I told them, ‘If you think it best, give me my pay; but if not keep it.’ So they paid me thirty pieces of silver. And the Lord said to me, ‘Throw it to the potter’- the handsome price at which they priced me! So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the Lord to the potter.”** To any who are familiar with the story of Christ’s death, this is a chilling fulfillment of the account found in the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> chapters of Matthew. Thirty pieces of silver was the very price given to Judas by the chief priests. Matthew 27:5-6 describes how after he had handed Jesus over, Judas threw the money into the temple. The priests used that money **“...to buy the potters field”**, in which to bury foreigners.

Probably the most important prophetic passage of the entire Old Testament is found in the 53<sup>rd</sup> chapter of Isaiah. So many of the details of Christ’s trial, suffering and execution are found in that one chapter. Verse 7 talks about his silence before his accusers, and in verse 12 we see how he was condemned with criminals. **“He was pierced for our**

**transgressions”**. (v5) And in 53: 9, Isaiah tells us how he would be buried with the rich. In fact his body was taken by Joseph of Arimathea, a well to do member of the Council who buried him in his own tomb. Psalm 22 is another source of fulfilled prophecy. In it the psalmist foretells remarkable details of the crucifixion, confirmed in John 19. Starting in verse 15 and running through verse 18, it reads, “ **...my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death. Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me, they have pierced my hands and my feet. I can count all my bones; people stare and gloat over me. They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.**” The story of the crucifixion is well known, and it was predicted hundreds of years before that grisly mode of death had even been invented.<sup>16 17</sup>

The messianic prophecies I have cited are by no means exhaustive. Various lists can be found which mention many more. My point here was to show that details of the life and death of Jesus were predicted hundreds of years before his birth. The existence and importance of the Messianic Prophecies was known and appreciated by the Jewish scholars of Christ’s day. In fact certain writings in the Book of Daniel point to a very specific time for the coming of the Savior. In order to understand the profound significance of the prophetic writings it is important to appreciate the expectations of the Jewish teachers living at that time. Those expectations pointed, among other things, to his appearance during the first few decades of the 1<sup>st</sup> century, the very time of Jesus ministry on earth. Jesus was expected, not least of which for the reason of the signal prophecy found in Daniel 9, which we will see, prophesied the coming of the “Anointed One” down to the exact day!

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### **WANT TO KNOW MORE?**

**Want to get a deeper understanding of what you’re reading? If you have any issues or questions you’d like us to address – or if you’d like this Newsletter’s author, Rob Palaszewski, to come and speak to your church or organization please contact us at [rob@atpministry.com](mailto:rob@atpministry.com)**

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<sup>1</sup> DEBKAFfile, January 22, 2010

<sup>2</sup> Jonathan Spyer, Analysis: Lebanon, Jerusalem Post, January 28, 2010

<sup>3</sup> US intelligence..., DEBKAFfile, February 1, 2010

<sup>4</sup> David Bay, Cutting Edge News #1057

<sup>5</sup> Emanuel A Winston, The Next Arab-Israeli War , The Jewish Press, January 31, 1997, as quoted by David BAY

<sup>6</sup> Approaching the New Cycle of Arab-Israeli Fighting, The US House of Representatives Task Force On Terrorism And Unconventional Warfare, December 10, 1996, - as quoted by David Bay

<sup>7</sup> Seized North Korean arms were bound for Iran – Thailand, Reuters, January 31, 2010

<sup>8</sup> Head of Russian state arms trader..., Canadian Press, January 28, 2010

<sup>9</sup> Iran will deliver telling blow to global powers..., Press TV (Iran), February 1, 2010

<sup>10</sup> US raises stakes on Iran, UK Guardian, January 31, 2010

<sup>11</sup> US speeds up its own and Gulf allies’ preparations, DEBKAFfile, January 31, 2010

<sup>12</sup> US expediting Persian Gulf anti-missile systems, Jerusalem Post, January 31, 2010

<sup>13</sup> Wendy Griffin, Messianic Revival In Israel?, CBN, July 13, 2008

<sup>14</sup> Paul E Little, Know Why You Believe, Chariot Victor, 1999, pg 53-59

<sup>15</sup> Grant Jeffrey, The Great Debate, Frontier Research, 1999, pg 229-239

<sup>16</sup> Paul E Little, Know Why You Believe, Chariot Victor, 1999, pg 55

<sup>17</sup> Grant Jeffrey, The Great Debate, Frontier Research, 1999, pg 229-239