

WEEK 5

III. THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS

- The theme of the Bible
 - A common misunderstanding

We, as born-again Christians, have such an appreciation for our salvation that we often **CONFUSE** the theme of the Bible with what took place in our lives the DAY we were saved. Although the scripture declares our salvation throughout, although God desires all men to be saved and rejoices at our salvation, and although this is the greatest day in our lives... it is NOT the greatest day on God's calendar.

The greatest day on God's calendar is the day His Son returns to this earth for the second time and establishes, in true righteousness, the KINGDOM.

- The theme of the Bible is:

"*The **KINGDOM***" ... sometimes referred to as "*The Battle Over the THRONE*" also known as "*The Second Coming of Christ*".

The Bible is the story of a CONFLICT over the Kingdom, not just a book about the salvation of mankind. The Bible is not just a book about Jesus Christ our Savior, although He is the central character, and is on every page and in every story.

The Bible records for us the battle over the throne, and who will sit on that throne to rule and reign.

REMEMBER: God is still God and in complete control!

- The Bible is the revelation of God's plan, its temporary interruption because of sin, and the final and complete fulfillment of God's plan as He intended from the very BEGINNING.
- The relating word or words found in the Bible:
 - King(s) or Kingdom(s) – 3,273 times in Bible

It is the Kingdom referred to by the apostles in **Act 1:6** – the Kingdom that they as Jews were expecting from the Old Testament prophecies. Their question to Jesus is completely and totally reasonable.

It is a **LITERAL**, physical Kingdom to be established by their Messiah.

- Throne(s) - 185 times in Bible (130 times in O.T.; 55 Times in N.T.)
- This day is referred to in the Bible 253 times as "*The day of the Lord*," or "*The day of the LORD*," and "*That day*," among others. (*every time either directly or indirectly*)

- It is the theme of the entire Bible, from Genesis to Revelation and everywhere in between.

Genesis

- **Gen. 1:28** - Adam
- **Gen. 9:2** - Noah
- **Gen. 12:2** - Abraham
- **Gen. 49:10** - Judah...

Revelation

- **Rev. 4:2** - The first thing you and I will see...
- **Rev. 4:6-8** -The first words we will hear...
- **Rev. 4:10** - The first thing we will do...
- **Rev. 4:11** - The first words we will say...

NOTE: The Bible concludes in Revelation 22 with Jesus Christ seated on the throne ruling for all eternity.

- The book of Matthew...the bridge to the New Testament:
 - A Jewish gospel that presents Christ as "KING."
 - Commonly referred to as the "Gospel of the KINGDOM."
 - The term "**Kingdom of Heaven**" is found ONLY in Matthew (33x).
 - Every chapter details some aspect of the KING (JESUS) and His literal, physical KINGDOM.
 - Doctrinally, Matthew details how the plan and offer of the KING and KINGDOM are rejected by Israel. How the Jewish Messiah then pays the price for all humanity by dying on the cross, being buried, and raising from the dead three days later. This spiritual "gospel of Grace" now goes forth to all nations. Matthew details how the original plan and offer of the PHYSICAL KINGDOM will, one day, be reinstated by Jesus Christ at His second coming - **Mt 24:14**.
- It is the theme of PRAYER
 - **Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:1-4**
- It is the theme of Bible PREACHING
 - **Acts 3:19-21**
- It is the theme of Bible PROPHECY
 - Enoch... **Jude 14-15; Genesis 5**
 - **All OT Prophets: It is theme of EVERY prophetic book in the Bible!**
 - Major Prophets (named such as they are longer books)
 - **Isaiah** – 100 specific references (16:5, 11:10-11, 2:1-5)
 - **Jeremiah** -
 - **Lamentations** -
 - **Ezekiel** – 12 chapters specifically about this kingdom (43:2,7 – 38:35)
 - **Daniel** – Chapters 2, 7, 9, 12
 - Minor Prophets (shorter books)
 - **Hosea, Joel** – 2:1, 3:21, **Amos** – 9:1, 14-15, **Obadiah** – 15, 17, 21, **Jonah, Micah** – 4:11-13, **Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah** – 1:2,7, 11-14; 3:19-20, **Haggai** – 2:21-23, **Zechariah** – 12:3-10, 14:1, **Malachi** – 4:1-2

- It is the “*spiritual*” theme of Salvation
 - Upon Salvation ALL believers receive “*The Kingdom of God*”

Rom 14:17; 1 Cor 4:20; 15:50; Luke 17:20-21

NOTE: This is NOT the Kingdom of Heaven. The Kingdom of Heaven is a physical, literal Kingdom with a throne as we just saw.

- This (Kingdom of God) is the **SPIRITUAL** aspect of “The Kingdom.” It is available to all men now, at this time in history, but only “spiritually.” It is a spiritual result of Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection.

It is an invisible, moral, righteous, holy, “Spiritual Kingdom,” where Christ RULES and reigns from WITHIN each individual believer.

Jo 14:17-23; Ro 8:10; 2 Co 6:16; Gal 2:20; Col 1:26-27; Eph 2:22; 3:17

Although 1 is physical and 1 is spiritual, the common issue is rulership!

Think about it:

Who will *sit* on the throne? **KING JESUS!**

NOTE: There is nothing anyone or anything can do to either usher in this Kingdom or prevent it.

Who will *worship* at the throne? **All believers!**

NOTE: There IS something we can do to affect this, God’s plan!

- The theme of life

Key Point:

We have clearly seen “*The Kingdom*” is the theme of the Bible. As Bible believers we realize the book we hold in our hands has no errors, the term is “INERRANT.” But understand that inerrancy is not limited to such things as “Faith and Practice,” “Revelation,” or “Theology and Doctrine,” but is rather “TOTAL Inerrancy!”

Therefore, this will also include: Archeology, Chronology, Creation, Geography, History, Sociology, and ALL matters of which the Bible speaks.

Now watch how the theme of the Bible applies to these areas of life:

- The theme of **EVERY** dimension of our existence
 - **Archeology** – The study of past peoples and their civilizations, Dig up old things and put them in a museum so we can look at them. Often a study of the past in order to learn how to make things better. Archeology also speaks perfectly about these issues as recorded in scripture!

- **Chronology** – “Time”. It is always time for something – Ecc 3. We must not waste it! – Eph 5:16
- **Creation & Science** – They are linked together!
Science SUPPORTS creation!
 - **Sun & Moon** – The center and source of life for our universe...the only sun. Every day we have the theme of the Bible shine right in our faces as it reminds us of God’s only Son...the center and source of eternal life! The moon reflects the light of the only sun.
 - **Natural Cycles** -
- **Geography** – Property is always changing hands. Some nations lose and some gain. Maps seem to be outdated as soon as printed.
- **Sociology** -
 - The drive and goal of most all human beings –
 1. They want to be a “god”
 2. They want to be rich...not wanting
 3. Power, control, and influence
 4. Live forever
 - Books, Novels, Stories, Movies, Hollywood & Entertainment
 1. Good guy vs bad guy...now the bad guy is popular
- **World History** – scarred by war and conflict
 - **Ancient Times**
 1. CAIN and ABEL... (wars and conflict started here)
 2. Peloponnesian War (Greek)
 3. Persian Wars
 4. Punic Wars (Carthage)
 5. Trojan War
 6. The conquests of Alexander the Great
 7. The conquests of Julius Caesar
 8. The conquests of Scipio Africanus
 9. The time of Sun Tzu

NOTE: EVERYONE wants a kingdom!
 - Middle Ages (Dark Ages)
 1. The Crusades
 2. The Hundred Years War
 3. Norman Conquests
 4. Religious Military Orders
 5. Scottish Wars of Independence
 6. The Wars of the Roses

NOTE: Europe...where the apostles took the Scriptures... where the Word of God was being prepared to go out into the entire world!
 - **17th Century**
 1. Time of English conquest
 2. English Civil War
 3. Thirty Years War (millions of believers killed) 1618-1648

NOTE: English would become the universal language as the world is about to receive the greatest Book ever known to mankind...a Book that would be carried and taught around the world. This is start of the PHILADELPHIAN church age!

➤ **18th Century**

1. American Revolution – Separatists 1st seeking freedom to worship God and print Bibles outside the hand of the Church of England.
2. French and Indian War
3. French Revolution
4. Seven Years War

➤ **19th Century**

1. Anglo-Afghan Wars
2. Boer Wars
3. Crimean War
4. Franco Prussian War
5. Indian Wars
6. Mexican American War
7. Napoleonic Wars
8. Opium Wars
9. Philippine-American War
10. Spanish-American War
11. U.S. Civil war
12. U.S. Indian Wars
13. War of 1812
14. Zulu war

➤ **20th Century**

1. Boxer Rebellion
2. World War I
3. World War II
4. Anglo-Boer War
5. Russo-Japanese War
6. Italo-Ethiopian War
7. Korean War
8. Arab-Israeli Wars
9. Vietnam War
10. Falklands War
11. India-Pakistan War
12. Persian Gulf War
13. Croatian War
14. Somalian Civil War

➤ **21st Century**

1. International War against Terrorism (begins in Israel; phrase coined by George Bush)
2. Operation Iraqi Freedom
3. **Re-infused Israeli-Palestinian Arab War**
4. World War III (???) - Rev. 16:16
5. World War IV (???) - Rev. 20:8-9

NOTE: All wars and conflicts, at their root core, no matter what the superficial or underlying explanation are traced back to man's unwillingness to submit to the plans and purposes of God. Think about it...it's satanic!

- **History of Israel** – (notice how every nation that persecuted the Jews meets with **DISASTER**)
 - **Pharaoh** – World power ended; Pharaoh + army drowned in Red Sea.
 - **Haman** – He was hung on gallows he prepared for Jews (Esth 7:7-10)
 - **Sennacherib** – Carried 10 tribes into Assyria and was murdered by his own children (2 Kings 19:37)
 - **Nebuchadnezzar** – After taking the Jews captive his once mighty kingdom ended up fit for nothing but wild beasts (Is 13:19-22)
 - **Antiochus Epiphanes** -
 - **Caesar** -
 - **Titus** -
 - **Saladin** – Islam was almost completely wiped out. They were nothing but poor nomads until recently with the discovery and use of oil.
 - **Islamic conquests** -
 - **Rome** – A world empire ultimately sacked by the Goths, Huns, Visigoths, and Ostrogoths
 - **England** – Edward I confiscated their property and exiled them.
 - **France** – Stripped them of property and banished them. (1306-1560)
 - **Austria & Turkey** - Stripped them of property and banished them. (1306-1560)
 - **Adolph Hitler (Germany)** -
 - **Palestinian Arabs & other Modern Arab Nations** – They **HATE** the Jews and have sworn never to rest until the Jew is completely destroyed. Every time they try to destroy Israel the Jew prevails!

NOTE:

Why so much HATRED against the Jew? Are they that evil of a race?

While there are those that believe this to be true, most do NOT hold this view. The small number of Jews worldwide is but a speck compared to the multitudes of other nationalities (*13.5 million Jews vs. Over 1 billion Muslims*).

While Israel desires to live in peace, neighbors openly seek her destruction and conquest. No other people group in the history of mankind has received so much persecution and hatred as the Jews...not one.

Now we will also see how ultimately it is the theme of someone else...

- The theme of Satan's purpose
 - ***Isaiah 14:12-15; Matthew 4:8-9; Luke. 4:6; 2 Co. 4:4***

NOTE: Satan's desire, from eternity past, is to be **LIKE** the most High God (***Is. 14:14***).

He will ultimately set himself up to be God come in the flesh (the **ANTICHRIST**). He will do this by establishing his throne in the newly reconstructed temple in Jerusalem on Mount Zion. He will be appointed the leader of the world after working many

incredible lying signs and wonders (**2 Thess. 2:2-10; Mt. 24:15; Dan. 9:27; 11:31; 12:11**). He has been at work all through human HISTORY persecuting the Jews and attempting to possess the land of PALESTINE. All along the way he has been countering, counterfeiting, and confounding the Words and promises of God. Although he has temporarily interrupted God's Kingdom, since the fall of man in the garden until present day, his plans and purposes for an enduring throne will fail...

- The promise of God from the very beginning
 - **Genesis 3:14-15**
 - There are 2 victories that come from that promise:
 - The SPIRITUAL fulfillment - **Col. 2:13-15**
 - The PHYSICAL fulfillment - **2 Thess. 1:6-10; Revelation 11:15; 19:11-21; 20:10** -

KEY POINT: The conflicts throughout history past leading up to the current Middle East Crisis are a manifestation of the Battle for the throne and the establishment of God's righteous Kingdom. The Middle East conflict between the Nation of Islam and the Nation of Israel is actually the revealing of the forces of SATAN against the plans and purposes of the one true God.

The root core of the Middle East Crisis is **SPIRITUAL**, yet the end result will be physically seen.

From a very practical standpoint, EVERY Bible believer that is confronted with the current Middle East conflict, whether it be in the form of a political or economic issue, can rest assured that any activity that seeks to return ALL of the land of Palestine to the Jew, is an action that is perfectly lined up with the Word of God - Is. 49:12-23; 60:1-22; Ezk. 36:24-28; 37:1-3, 11; Zech. 12:9-11; Ro. 11:25-33; Heb. 8:9-13; Rev. 1:7

- **A WARNING RE: "REPLACEMENT THEOLOGY"**
 - False teachers and religions say, "*The church has replaced Israel.*"
 - **Romans 9-11**
 - Israel's restoration is 1 of the 7 NT MYSTERIES!
 - Israel's current rejection of Christ is the NATURAL olive tree branches "*broken off*".
 - The Church is "WILD" olive tree branches "*grafted in.*"
 - These false teachers and religions are rebuked in **Rev 2 & 3** – church history!
 - **Revelation 2:9** "*...say they are Jews, and are not*"
 - It is called, "BLASPHEMY" by God!
 - They are really the "**synagogue of SATAN.**"
 - **Revelation 3:9** "*...say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie...*"
 - They are really the "**synagogue of SATAN.**"

CONCLUSION

PRAY for our leaders that they will make the right decisions regarding Israel (**Gen. 12:3**).

Be sober about this, READ your Bible daily, pay close attention to what is going on around you and in the world today, remain scripturally focused.

History is going to end up exactly where it started... in the "*Fertile Crescent*" (from the river of Egypt to the great river Euphrates; **Gen 15:18-21**).

Every day we get closer and closer to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

Keep your eye on the **JEW**. Keep your eye on Israel...

If you do, the theme of the Bible concerning the plans and purposes of God will become the theme of your LIFE.

When this happens...it answers ALL the issues of life itself.

YOUR:

- ✓ Attitude
- ✓ Demeanor
- ✓ Personal relationships
- ✓ Marriage
- ✓ Family
- ✓ Job
- ✓ Church
- ✓ Giving
- ✓ Material purchases and financial decisions
- ✓ Purpose in life
- ✓ How you view the Government
- ✓ How you see all world problems
- ✓ Your understanding of "*The Middle East Crisis*"