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 • All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • Pastor Joe's email is Joe@southreno.com.

A. What Happened?

1. Early on Saturday morning, October 7, 2023, Israel time (approx. 6:30am/8:30pm PST, Friday), the Palestinian terrorist group, Hamas launched "Operation Al-Aqsa Flood" against Israel.
2. It happened a day after the 50th anniversary of the 1973 Yom Kippur War and in the middle of Israel's sabbath.
3. Hamas launched a multi-level, well-planned, comprehensive attack using capabilities that had never been employed against Israel by Hamas that included remote-controlled drones, paragliders, radar-jamming equipment, modern missiles capable of maneuvering, sophisticated communication equipment, high-tech radar, modern firearms and munitions, and rubber boats carrying armed terrorists in from the Mediterranean Sea.
4. This attack was not detected by either the MASSAD (Israel's Intelligence Agency) or US intelligence agencies. Also, the IDF (Israeli Defense Force) was caught completely off guard.
5. The attack began when drones were launched that dropped bombs on the Israeli military outposts along the border fence, immediately neutralizing the ground level chain of command along Gaza.
6. In southern Israel, just three miles from the border with Gaza, an all-night *rave* with more than 1,000 young people attending was just starting to wind down. Hamas paragliders dropped into the venue and slaughtered over 250 young people and taking many captive.

7. Hamas terrorists then proceed to enter three cities in this area—all of them basically unaware of what was happening until it was too late.
8. IDF have discovered ISIS-like terror tactics and atrocities too horrible to print in this document. "Babies, women, the elderly were dragged outside of their homes and were taken hostage. Civilians were shot and most were massacred in cold blood walking on the streets...rapes, beheadings, burns, amputations, executions... This is something that, I mean, is truly unprecedented...this is our 9/11!" - Israeli Ambassador to the UN, Mr. Gilad Erdan
9. About 20 minutes after the attack started, missiles were launched from Gaza and Syria. In all, about 3,500 launches would take place over the next 5 hours. *It was unprecedented in its scope.*
10. Unfortunately, it took IDF over four hours to mount a response to the initial phase of the terrorists' attack in Israel in what would eventually be called "Operation Iron Sword."
11. Israel invoked its "Article 40" (basically a 'declaration of war').



B. What Do We Know?

1. Hamas is neither equipped nor sophisticated enough to have pulled this off alone. Most experts believe Iran was very much involved—in some supportive way (i.e., \$, weapons, expertise)—in this attack.
2. Most experts also believe that Russia would be the only likely ones able to provide the radar-jamming equipment used in the attack. (Iran does not have that capability.)

C. Why Did This Happen?

1. The excuse given for this attack was the record number of Jews who visited the al-Aqsa Mosque compound, otherwise known as the Temple Mount, in Jerusalem over the holy days surrounding Yom Kippur and Sukkot, even though there was no provocation by Israel.
2. "Hamas" is an Arabic acronym for "Islamic Resistance Movement." ["Hamas" sounds like the Heb. word for "violence." They seek to "resist" Israel. They have controlled the Gaza Strip since 2007.
3. Hamas published its official charter in 1988, calling for the "destruction of Israel" and raising "the banner of Allah over every inch of Palestine." Its founder, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, stated that

“reconciliation with the Jews is a crime” and claimed that Israel “must disappear from the map.” He also said many times that they must “finish what Hitler started.”

4. Hamas has three goals: (a) prevent Muslim nations from supporting Israel; (b) provoke a response that draws other Muslims into the conflict. (c) engage other nations in the widening conflict seeking the total annihilation of Israel.
5. US Intelligence, according to the WALL STREET JOURNAL, believes senior Hamas and Hezbollah members said Iranian security officials helped plan the attack on Israel and gave it the green light last Monday (October 9, 2023).
6. “Hamas” refers to Israel as “the Little Satan” and to the United States as “the Big Satan.”
7. The Koran teaches that the “Mahdi” (the Twelfth Imam, their version of a Messiah) will appear to govern the world for Islam after the Muslim world destroys the Jewish state (cf. Koran 2:190; 9:5, 5:60; also see 2:65; 7:166).

“You can’t fix a religious problem with a political solution.” – Dr. Gary Frazier

D. Is this War a Fulfillment of Ez. 38?

No, not by itself—but it may be the beginning of Ezekiel 38 becoming a reality. Why is it not a fulfillment of Ezekiel 38? Three reasons: [a] The scale is much too small (See map ↘).

Remember, there will be many nations that will come against Israel in the last days (ie., Gog and Magog, Rev. 20:7-8, Dan. 11:44-45; and Ez. 38:2-3; 39:1-2). [b] Ez. 38-39 happens at the end of the 7-year tribulation. [c] Ezekiel states that in the final war, no one will be standing with Israel—not even the US.



E. Where is the US in End Time Prophecy?

The United States is not included in end-time prophecy. Why? Hard to say, but here are some thoughts: [a] The US, as we know it, is dying. (We are no longer a Christian nation.) [b] The “nothings” (no spiritual preference) are growing. [c] Church attendance—nationwide—is dropping. [d] We are being invaded ourselves on our southern border. [e] Spiritually and morally, we are in a catastrophic nosedive. *We may become politically impotent soon.*

F. What Should We Do Now?

1. Pray for Israel.

Psalm 122:6, NASB95 - *6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem....*

2. Stand by Israel.

Genesis 12:3, NASB95 - *3 And I will bless those who bless you [oh Israel], And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”*

3. Have a broken heart over the events in the Middle East.

Lamentations 3:46–48, NASB95 - *46 All our enemies have opened their mouths against us. 47 Panic and pitfall have befallen us, Devastation and destruction; 48 My eyes run down with streams of water Because of the destruction of the daughter of my people.*

4. Israel (and the world) cannot give Muslims more “Land for Peace.”

5. Don’t get overwhelmed by the media, editorials and social media.

6. Don’t be scared but be theologically prepared.

7. If the return of Jesus Christ is indeed imminent (and it is), the sharing of the Gospel of Jesus Christ has never been more imperative.

“Maybe today!” – Two words in the front of Dr. Gary Frazier’s Bible

Since everything around us is going to be destroyed like this, what holy and godly lives you should live, 12 looking forward to the day of God and hurrying it along. On that day, He will set the heavens on fire, and the elements will melt away in the flames. - 2 Peter 3:11-12, NLT

I will lift up my eyes to the mountains; From where shall my help come? ² My help comes from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth. ³ He will not allow your foot to slip; He who keeps you will not slumber. ⁴ Behold, He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. - Psalm 121:1-4, NASB95

He who testifies to these things says, **“Yes, I am coming quickly.”** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. - Revelation 22:20, NASB95

GENERAL LIST OF SOURCES USED FOR THIS BRIEF OVERVIEW AND THE PRESENTATION BY PASTOR JOE:
 THE DENSON FORUM (BLOG) with Dr. James Denison • BEHOLD ISRAEL (BLOG) with Dr. Amir Tsarfati
 DISCOVERY MISSIONS (BLOG) with Dr. Gary Frazier • THE WRIGHT REPORT (BLOG) with Pastor Bryan Dean Wright.
 TRUTH FOR TODAY (AMERICAN FAMILY RADIO) with Pastor Jeff Schreve • THE END TIMES IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER (BOOK) by Dr. Ron Rhodes
 THE BOOK OF SIGNS (BOOK) by Dr. David Jeremiah • MISSILEMAN (BOOK) by John Clauson.
 THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, THE JERUSALEM POST, ISRAEL TODAY, AND FOX, CNN, AND CBS, etc. (i.e., Many news sources.)