Ezekiel 36–39

The Middle East Meltdown 2022



Dr. Andy Woods

Senior Pastor – Sugar Land Bible Church

President – Chafer Theological Seminary

Ezekiel 33–48

I. Ezekiel recommissioned (33)

II. False shepherds removed (34)

III. Edom destroyed (35)

IV. Israel's restoration: physical & spiritual (36)

V. Israel's restoration illustrated (37)

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VII. Results of the Northern invasion: conversion (39)

VIII. Millennial Temple (40–46)

IX. Tribal land allotment (47–48)

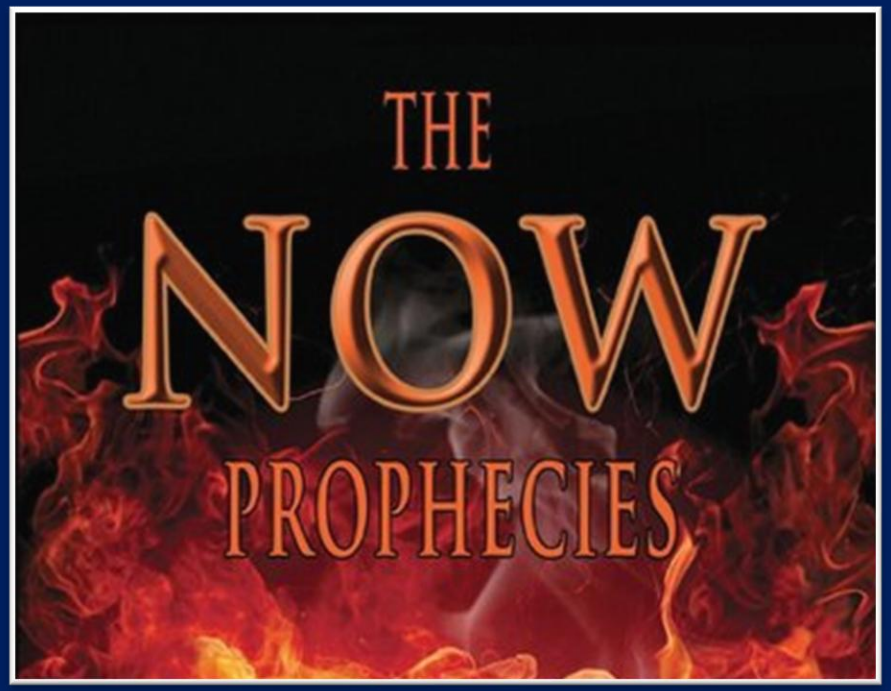


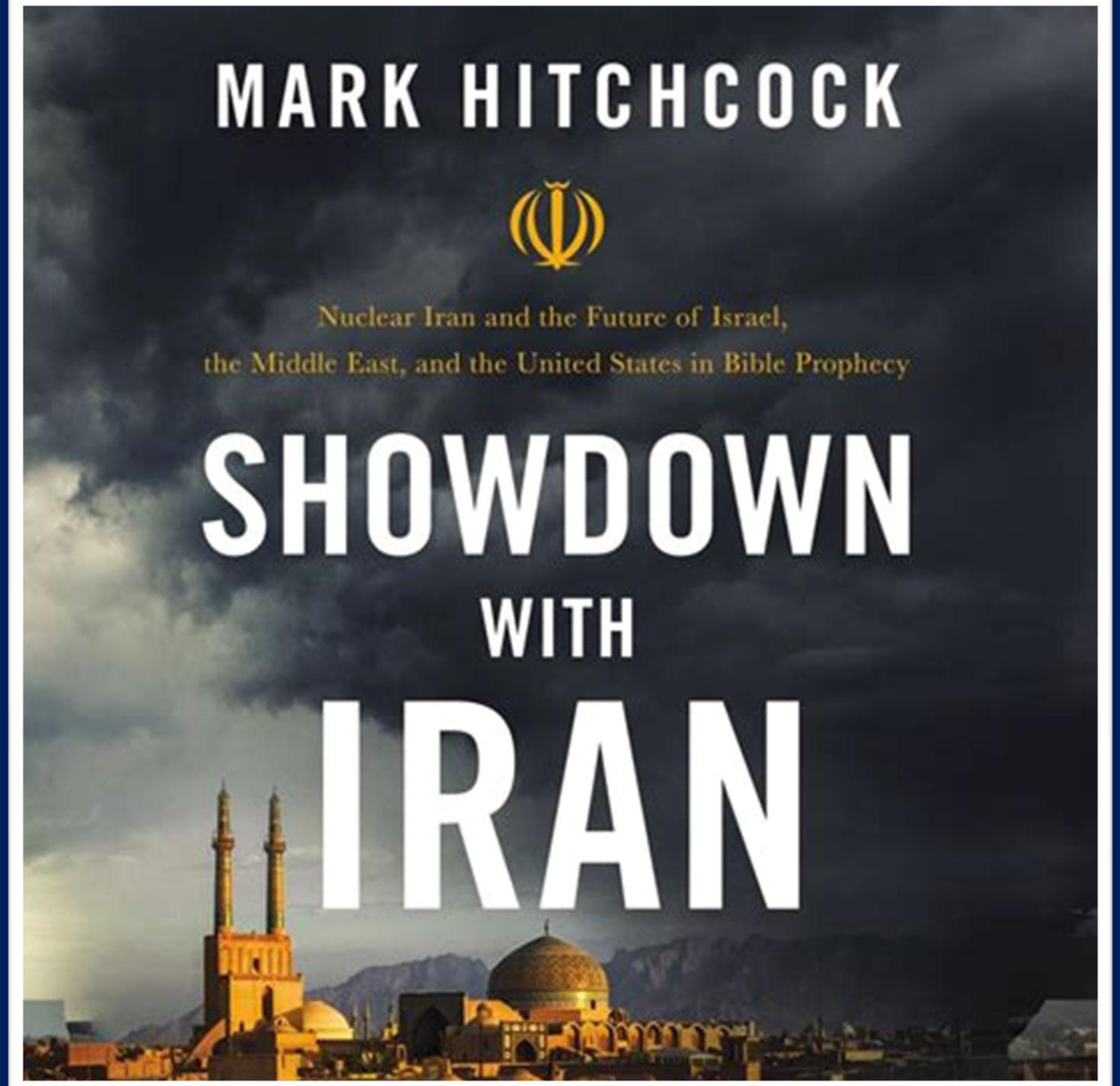


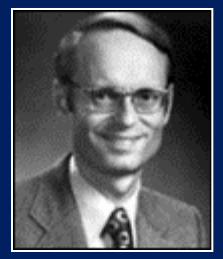


MAIL BAG

1. The Now Prophecies (Elam, Damascus, Ps. 83)?




MARK HITCHCOCK
Nuclear Iran and the Future of Israel,
the Middle East, and the United States in Bible Prophecy
SHOWDOWN
WITH
IRAN



Charles Ryrie

Footsteps of the Messiah, Foreword, page XXV

"Eschatology seems to suffer at the hands both of its **friends and foes**. Those who play it down usually avoid assigning specific meaning to prophetic texts. Those who play it up often assign too much."

The Now Prophecies?

Elam, Damascus, Ps. 83

I. Elam

   A. Jer. 49:34-39

   B. Ezek. 32:24-25

II. Damascus

   A. Isa. 17:1-2

   B. Jer. 49:23-27

III. Psalm 83



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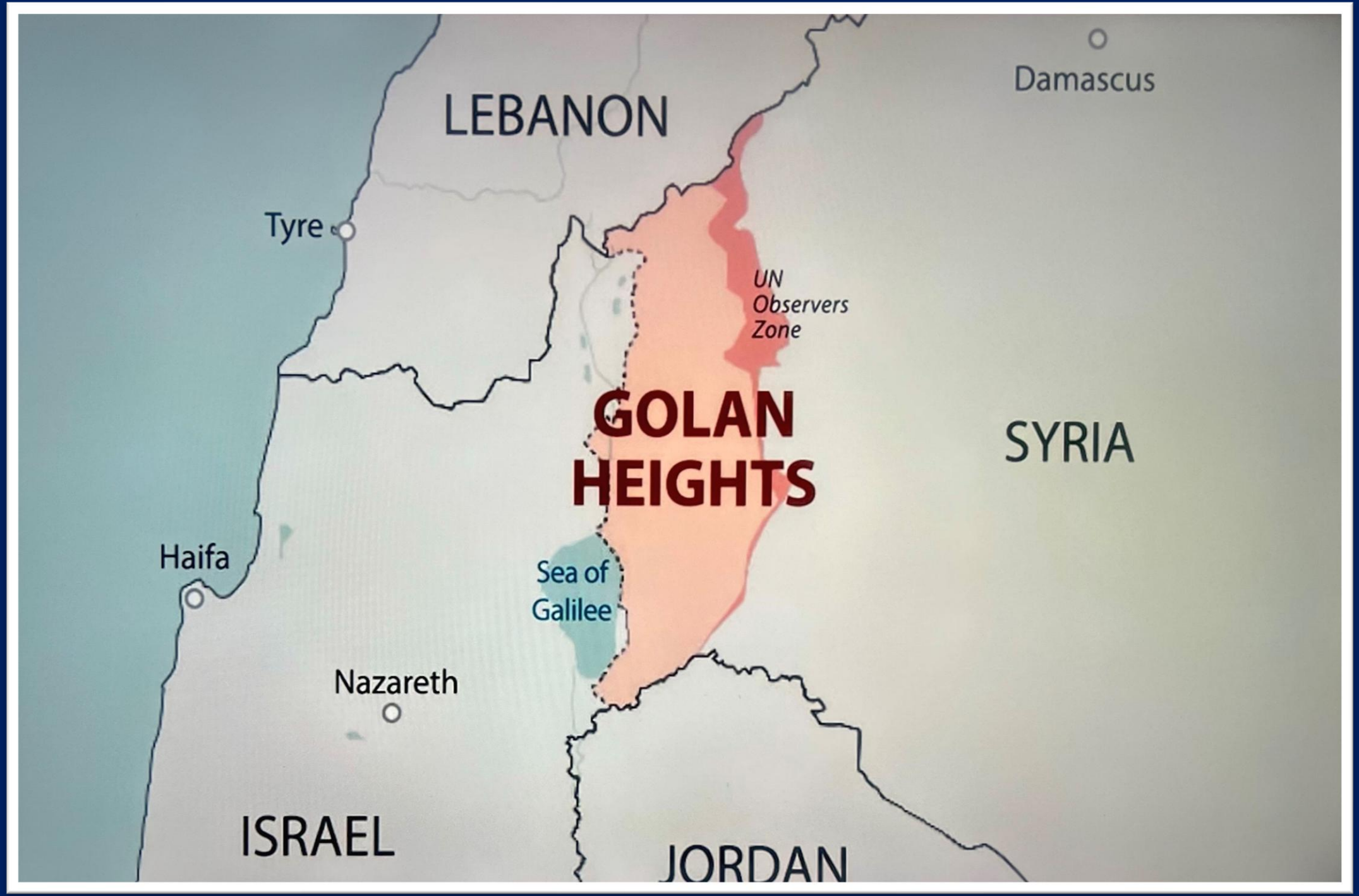
   A. Isa. 17:1-2

   B. Jer. 49:23-27

III. Psalm 83




20 miles
LEBANON
SYRIA
GOLAN HEIGHTS
Damascus
Buffer zone
ISRAEL
Suweida
Deraa
JORDAN
Amman
Jerusalem


LEBANON
Damascus
Tyre
UN
Observers
Zone
GOLAN
HEIGHTS
SYRIA
Haifa
Sea of
Galilee
Nazareth
ISRAEL
JORDAN



Putin to meet Erdogan, Raisi in Iran to discuss Syria

AFP



RECEP Tayyip Erdogan

The Now Prophecies?

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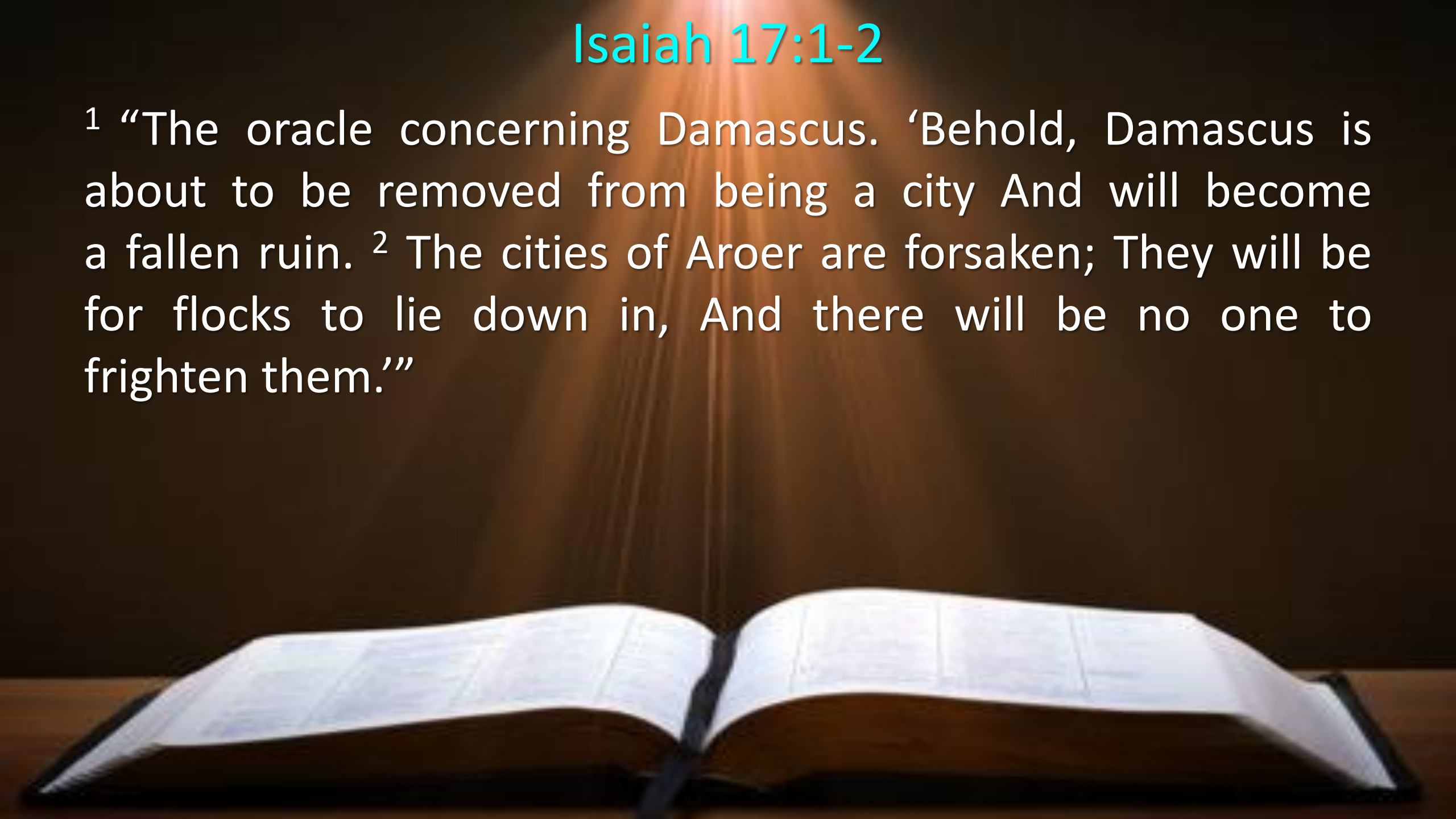
   B. Jer. 49:23-27

III. Psalm 83



Isaiah 17:1-2

1 “The oracle concerning Damascus. ‘Behold, Damascus is
about to be removed from being a city And will become
a fallen ruin. 2 The cities of Aroer are forsaken; They will be
for flocks to lie down in, And there will be no one to
frighten them.’”



Joel C. Rosenberg

Joel C. Rosenberg, "Notes on the Future of Damascus According to Bible Prophecy," updated: September 9, 2013, http://www.joelrosenberg.com/files/2013/09/STUDY-Damascus-prophecies-R.pdf

When viewed together, we can say the following about **the prophecies concerning Damascus found in Isaiah 17 and Jeremiah 49**:

a. The prophecies refer to a divine judgment by God against the city of Damascus. . . .

b. The prophecies refer to the utter, catastrophic destruction of Damascus.

c. **Both are eschatological passages, referring to End Times events that have yet to occur**.

   i. Isaiah's prophecy was given to him in 715 BC, well after the conquering of Damascus in 732 by Tiglath-pileser.

   ii. Likewise, Jeremiah's ministry occurred between 626 BC and 586 BC, long after Tiglath-pileser conquered Damascus in 732 BC.

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d. Damascus has certainly been attacked, conquered, and burned at various points in history, including Biblical history—but **it is clear that the prophecies of Isaiah 17 and Jeremiah 49 have not yet been fulfilled**. Damascus is, after all, one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities on the planet.

e. We cannot be certain when these judgments will happen, and the prophecies will be fulfilled.

f. They could come to pass before, during or after the War of Gog & Magog (Ezekiel 38–39); before, during, or after the Rapture; or before or during the Tribulation. The texts simply do not say, so we cannot be definitive.

g. It is possibly that the prophecies could come to pass in the not-too-distant future. But they certainly will come to pass at some point before the Second Coming of Christ (the 'Day of the Lord.').

Britt Gillette

Britt Gillette, "Isaiah 17: Destruction of Damascus," Rapture Ready, November 15, 2011, https://www.raptureready.com/2011/11/15/isaiah-17-destruction-of-damascus-by-britt-gillette/

"In the last days, the Bible tells us of a horrible series of events that will take place in the lands of Israel and Syria. One of these events is the disappearance of Damascus as one of the premiere cities in the world. . . .In the very near future, Damascus will once again play a major role in human events. The prophet Isaiah provides us with God's commentary on a future conflict between Damascus and Israel, and in so doing, he reveals certain prophecies which have been partially fulfilled in the past. However, **the ultimate fulfillment of Isaiah 17 remains in the future**. The current existence of Damascus, which will one day cease to be a city, as well as the historical absence of the coalition of nations prophesied to attack Israel and be destroyed by God, is proof that Isaiah 17 prophesies events yet future."

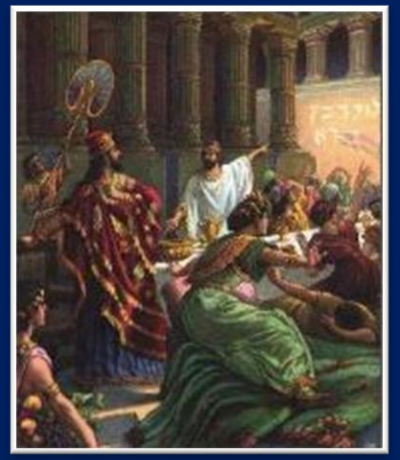
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"**In Isaiah 13 to Isaiah 24**, the Lord speaks directly to the future of Gentile nations near or surrounding Israel. **These prophecies are also End Times matters**—that is, they are events that will take place just **before the Tribulation**, or during the Tribulation, and come to complete fulfillment on or about the Day of the Lord (the literal, physical Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ). **We know these are End Times prophecies—and not near-term prophecies** that would take place during Isaiah's lifetime or even in the generations that would immediately follow—because of the numerous eschatological references that Isaiah makes."

Isaiah's Oracles Against the Nations (Isa 13–23)

1. Babylon (13:1-14:23)
2. Assyria (14:24-27)
3. Philistia (14:28-32)
4. Moab (15-16)
5. **Damascus and Samaria (17)**
6. Ethiopia (18)
7. Egypt (19-20)
8. Babylon (21:1-10)
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Isaiah 17:1-2?

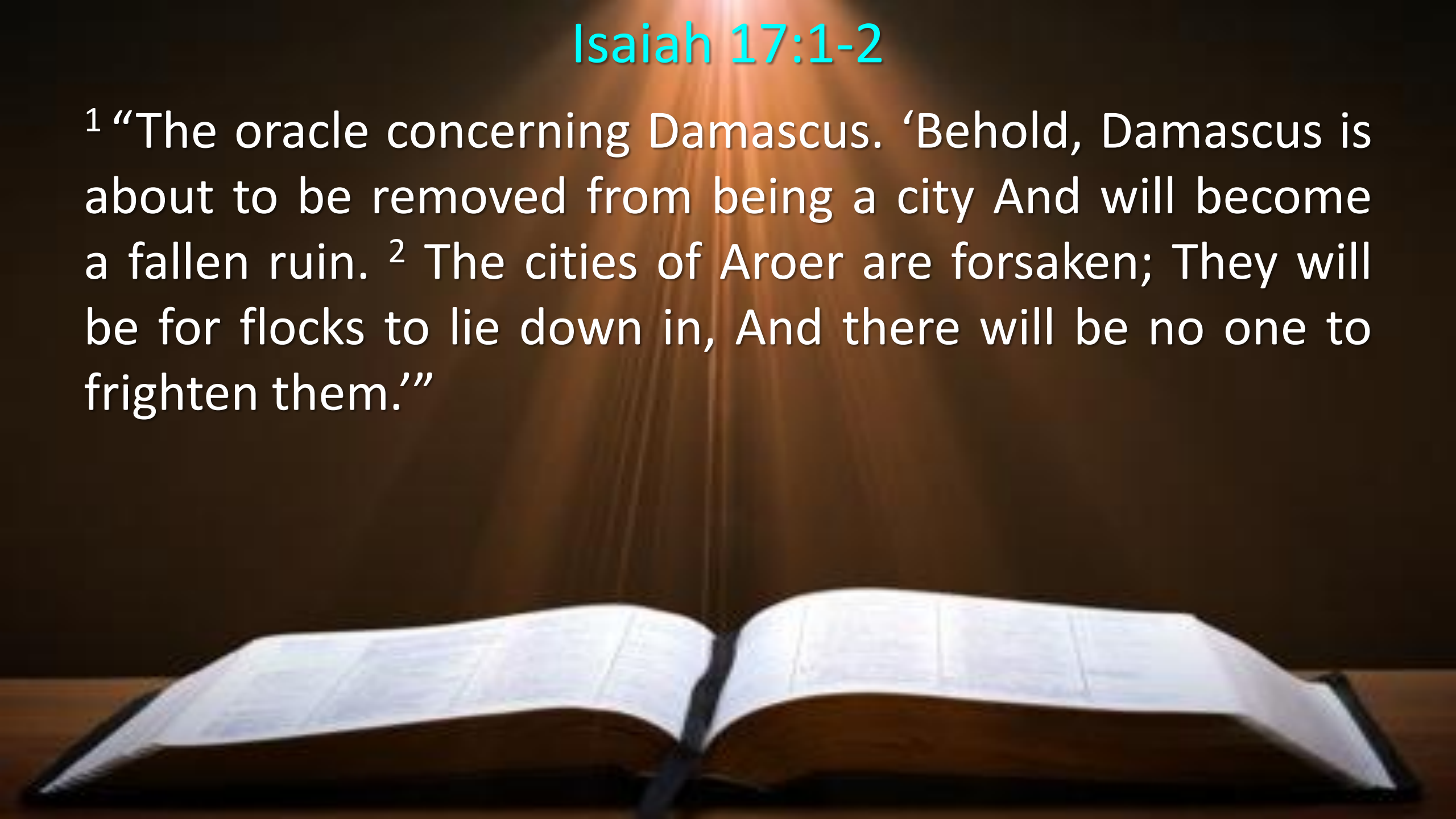
Mark Hitchcock, *Showdown with Iran* (Nashville, TN, 2020), Appendix 2.

"Since the context before Isaiah 17:1–2 is a near future fulfillment and the context after it is also a near fulfillment, it would be strange for Isaiah 17:1–2 to have a distant fulfillment in the end times.

- Isaiah 16:14 Prophecy of Moab's Destruction (fulfilled within three years)
- Isaiah 17:1–11 Prophecy of the Destruction of Damascus
- Isaiah 17:12–14 Prophecy of the Destruction of the Assyrian army in one night (fulfilled within about thirty years in 701 BC)."

Isaiah 17:1-2

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about to be removed from being a city And will become
a fallen ruin. 2 The cities of Aroer are forsaken; They will
be for flocks to lie down in, And there will be no one to
frighten them.’”



Warren Wiersbe

Wiersbe, *The Wiersbe Bible Commentary: Old Testament*, 1166.

"In 17:1–2, he warned Damascus, the capital city of Aram (Syria), that the city would be taken by the enemy. **This occurred when the Assyrians conquered Aram in 732 BC.** Following their usual custom, the Assyrians deported many of the citizens, which left the land and cities deserted."



Joel C. Rosenberg

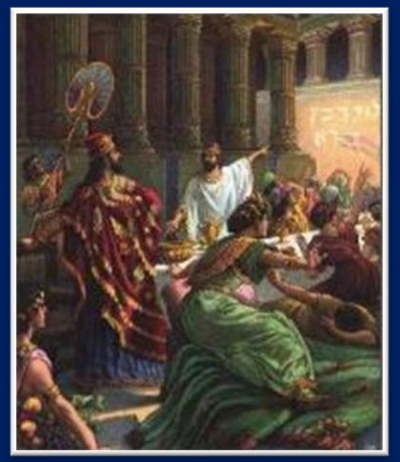
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Isaiah 13–14

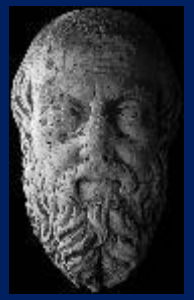
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- Israel's regeneration (14:1-4)

Henry Morris, *Revelation Record*, 348.

Jeremiah 50–51

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- Complete destruction (50:3, 13, 26, 39-40; 51:29, 43, 62)
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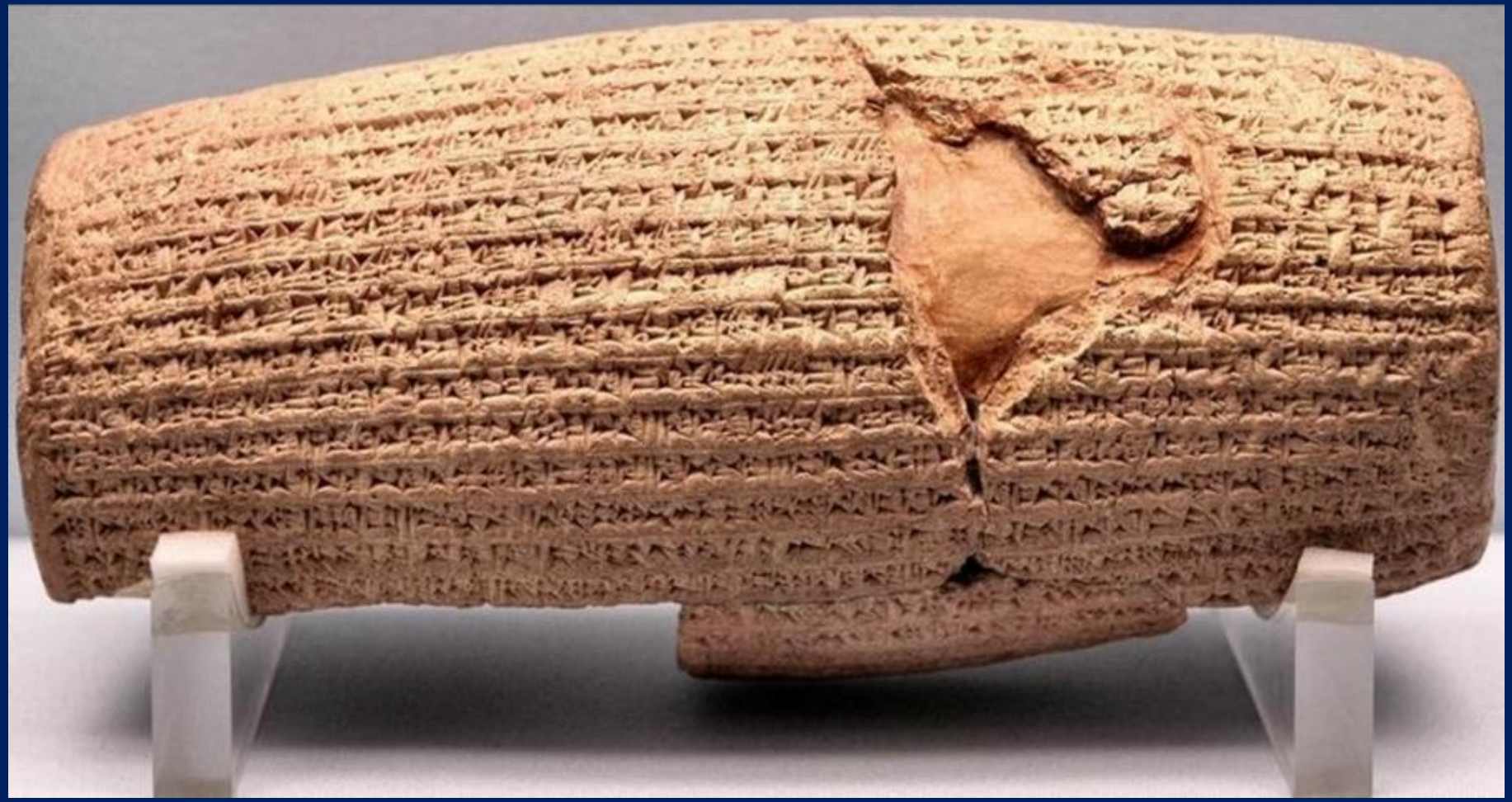
Dyer, "The Identity of Babylon in Revelation 17–18 (Part 2)," 443-49.

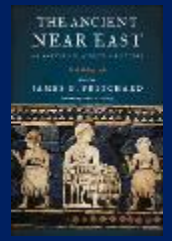


Herodotus, *Histories*, 1:191 (450 B.C.)

"…he (Cyrus) conducted the river by a channel into the lake…and so **he made the former course of the river passable by the sinking of the stream**. When this had been done, the Persians who had been posted for this very purpose entered by the bed of the river Euphrates into Babylon, **the stream having sunk so far that it reached about to the middle of a man's thigh…those Babylonians who dwelt in the middle did not know that they had been captured**…"

Cyrus Cylinder

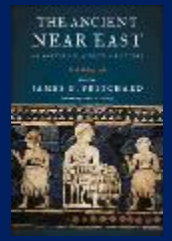




James Pritchard

The Ancient Near East Texts Relating to the Old Testament, 315-16.

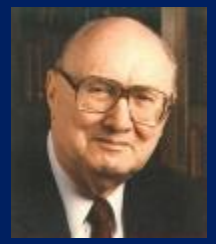
Without any battle... sparing Babylon... any calamity....I am Cyrus...king of Babylon....When I entered Babylon...under jubilation and **rejoicing...troops** walked around Babylon...**in peace**, I **did not allow** anybody to **terrorize** (any place) of the [country of Sumer] and Akkad. I strove for peace in Babylon...and in all his (other) sacred cities....I returned to (these) sacred cities on the other side of the Tigris, the sanctuaries of which have been in ruins for a long time, the images which (used) to live therein and established for them **permanent sanctuaries**.



James Pritchard

The Ancient Near East Texts Relating to the Old Testament, 315-16.

I (also) gathered all their (former) inhabitants and returned (to them) their habitations. Furthermore, I resettled... **unharmed**, in their (former) chapels, the places which make them happy. May all the gods whom I have resettled in their sacred cities ask daily Bel and Nebo for a long life for me...all of them I **resettled in a peaceful place**... ducks and doves,...I endeavoured to fortify/repair their dwelling places . . .



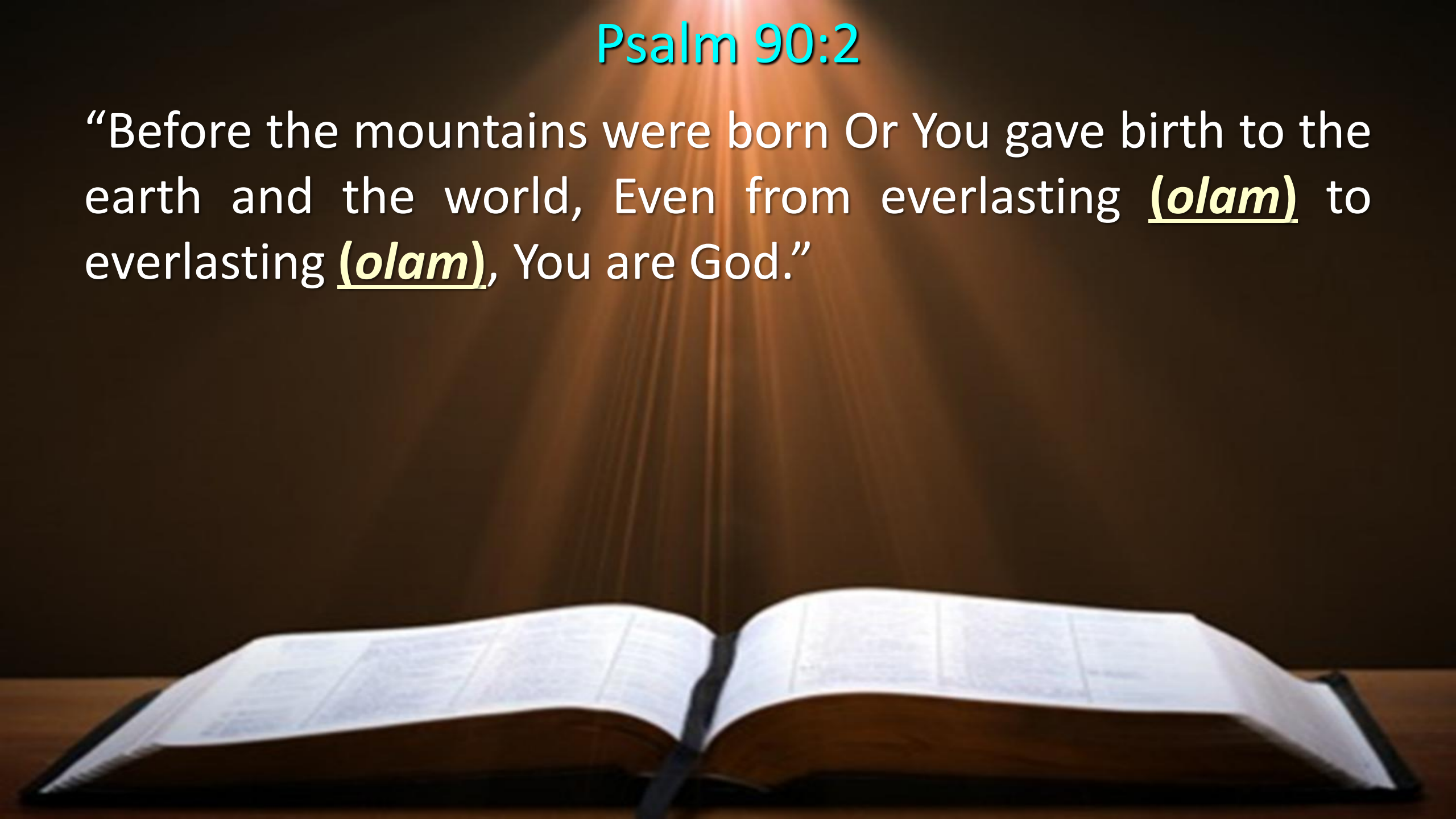
Dr. John Walvoord

The Nations in Prophecy, 63-64

"**As far as the historic fulfillment is concerned, it is obvious from both Scripture and history that these verses have not been literally fulfilled**. The city of **Babylon** continued to flourish after the Medes conquered it, and though its glory dwindled, especially after the control of the Medes and the Persians ended in 323 B.C., the city continued in some form or substance until A.D. 1000 and **did not experience a sudden termination such as anticipated in this prophecy**."

Psalm 90:2

“Before the mountains were born Or You gave birth to the earth and the world, Even from everlasting (***olam***) to everlasting (***olam***), You are God.”



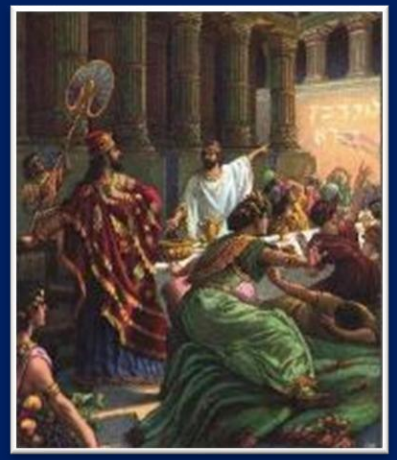
Parallels Between Jeremiah 50-51 & Revelation 17-18

	Jeremiah	Revelation
Associated with a Golden cup	51:7a	17:3-4; 18:6
Dwelling on many waters	51:13	17:1
Intoxicating the nations	51:7b	17:2
Same name	50:1	17:5
Persecuting the saints	51:48	17:6; 18:24
Stone sinking into Euphrates	51:63-64	18:21
Sudden destruction	51:8	18:8
Destroyed by fire	51:30	17:16
Final, uninhabitable	50:39	18:21
Deserved	50:29	18:6
God's people flee	51:6, 45	18:4
Heaven rejoices	51:48	18:20

Dyer, "The Identity of Babylon in Revelation 17–18 (Part 2)," 441-43.

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Isaiah 17:3-4

3 “**The fortified city will disappear from Ephraim**, And sovereignty from Damascus And the remnant of Aram; They will be like the glory of the sons of Israel,” Declares the Lord of hosts. 4 Now in that day **the glory of Jacob will fade**, And the fatness of his flesh will become lean.



Ezekiel 37

I. Vision: Valley of the Dry Bones (1-14)

   A. Vision (1-10)

   B. Interpretation (11-14)



II. <u>Sign: Two Sticks (15-28)</u>

   A. Sign (15-17)

   B. Interpretation (18-28)

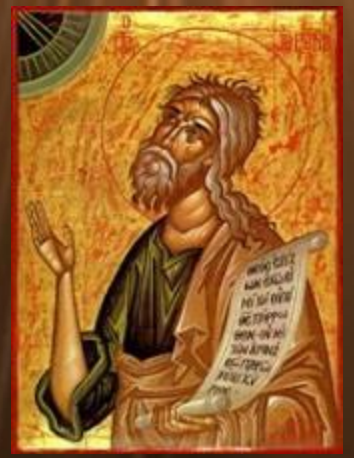
Israel's Judgments

- Division of the kingdom in 931 B.C. (1 Kgs. 12)
- Assyrian judgment in 722 B.C. (2 Kgs. 17)
- Babylonian captivity in 586 B.C. (2 Kgs. 25)
- Rome *Diaspora* in A.D. 70 (Luke 19:41-44)

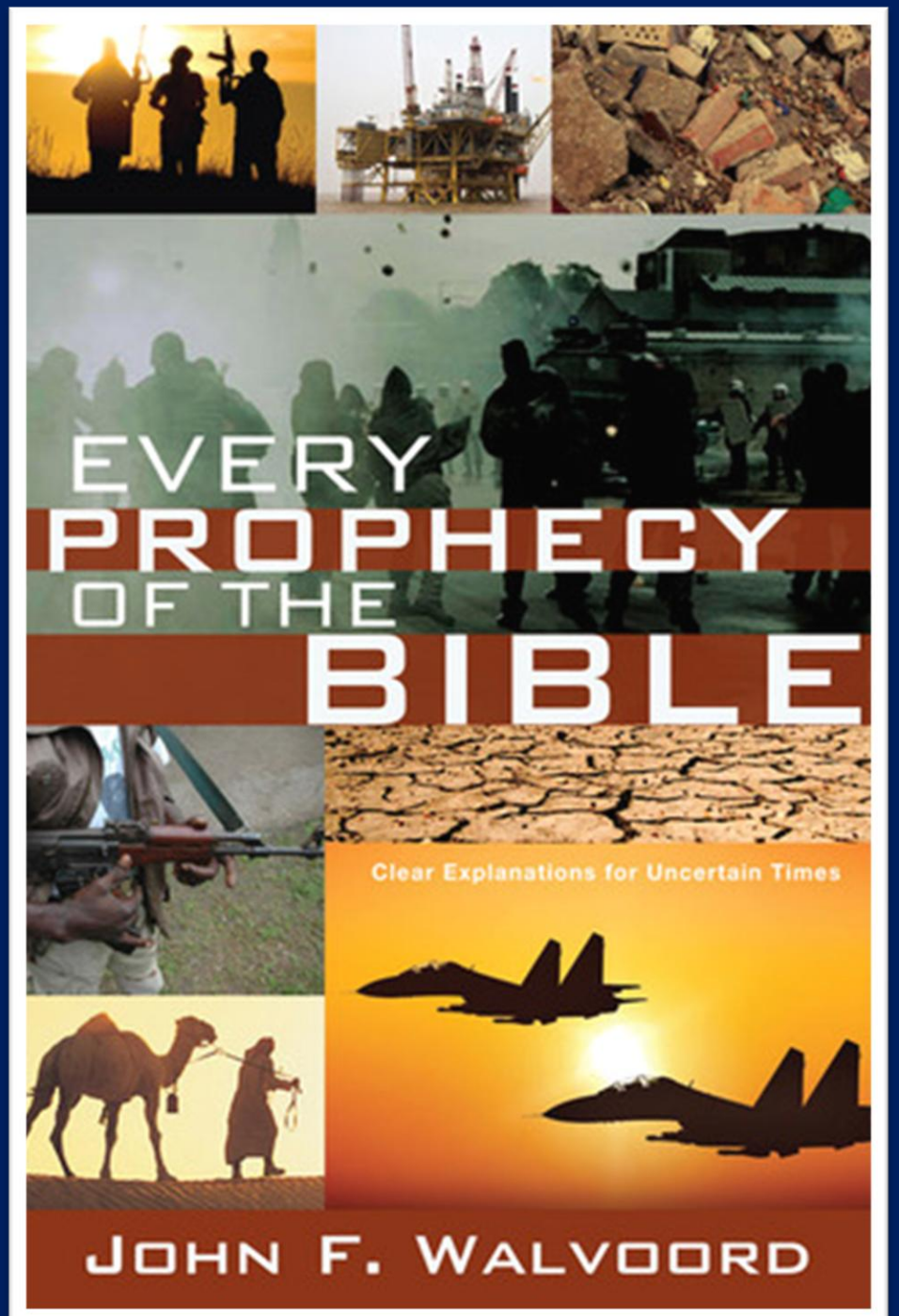


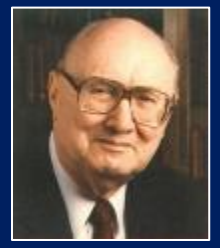
Jeremiah 30:7

“Alas! for that day is great, There is **none like it**; And it is the time of **Jacob’s distress** (Gen. 32:8; 35:10), But he will be **saved** from it.”



Topic	Damascus	Babylon
Subject:	**Damascus**	**Babylon**
Scripture:	**Isaiah 17**	**Isaiah 13–14**
Destroyed forever:	**No**	**Yes**
Revelation:	**No**	**Yes**
Number of oracles:	**One**	**Two**
Israel's restoration:	**No**	**Yes**
Time frame:	**Past**	**Future**


EVERY
PROPHECY
OF THE
BIBLE
Clear Explanations for Uncertain Times
JOHN F. WALVOORD



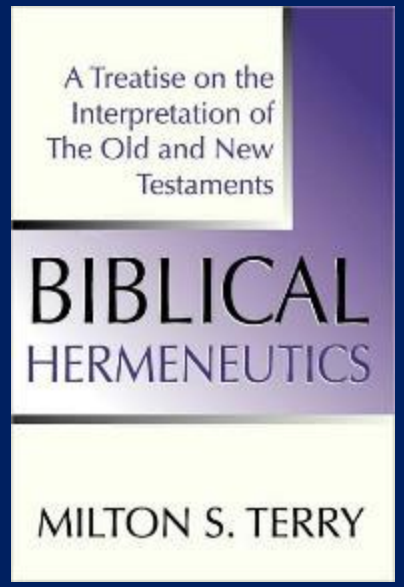
Dr. John F. Walvoord

*Every Prophecy of the Bible, 9*1

"Isaiah 17:1–8. The coming destruction of Damascus, one of the ancient cities of the Middle East, the capital city of Aram, is predicted (vv. 1–2). Damascus was allied with Israel in fighting the Assyrians, but it was to no avail because the Assyrians would triumph. Jacob would be like a person with a fat body that wasted away (v. 4). **The destruction of Damascus was fulfilled in history and prophecy**. As a result of their discipline by the conquering Assyrians, Israel would turn from their false gods and Asherah poles to the true God (vv. 7–8)."

Milton Terry

Biblical Hermeneutics: A Treatise on the Interpretation of the Old and New Testaments (1885; reprint, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1947), 205.



Milton Terry explains: “A fundamental principle in grammatico-historical exposition is that the words and sentences can have but one significance in one and the same connection. The moment we neglect this principle we drift upon a sea of uncertainty and conjecture.”

Dr. Bernard Ramm

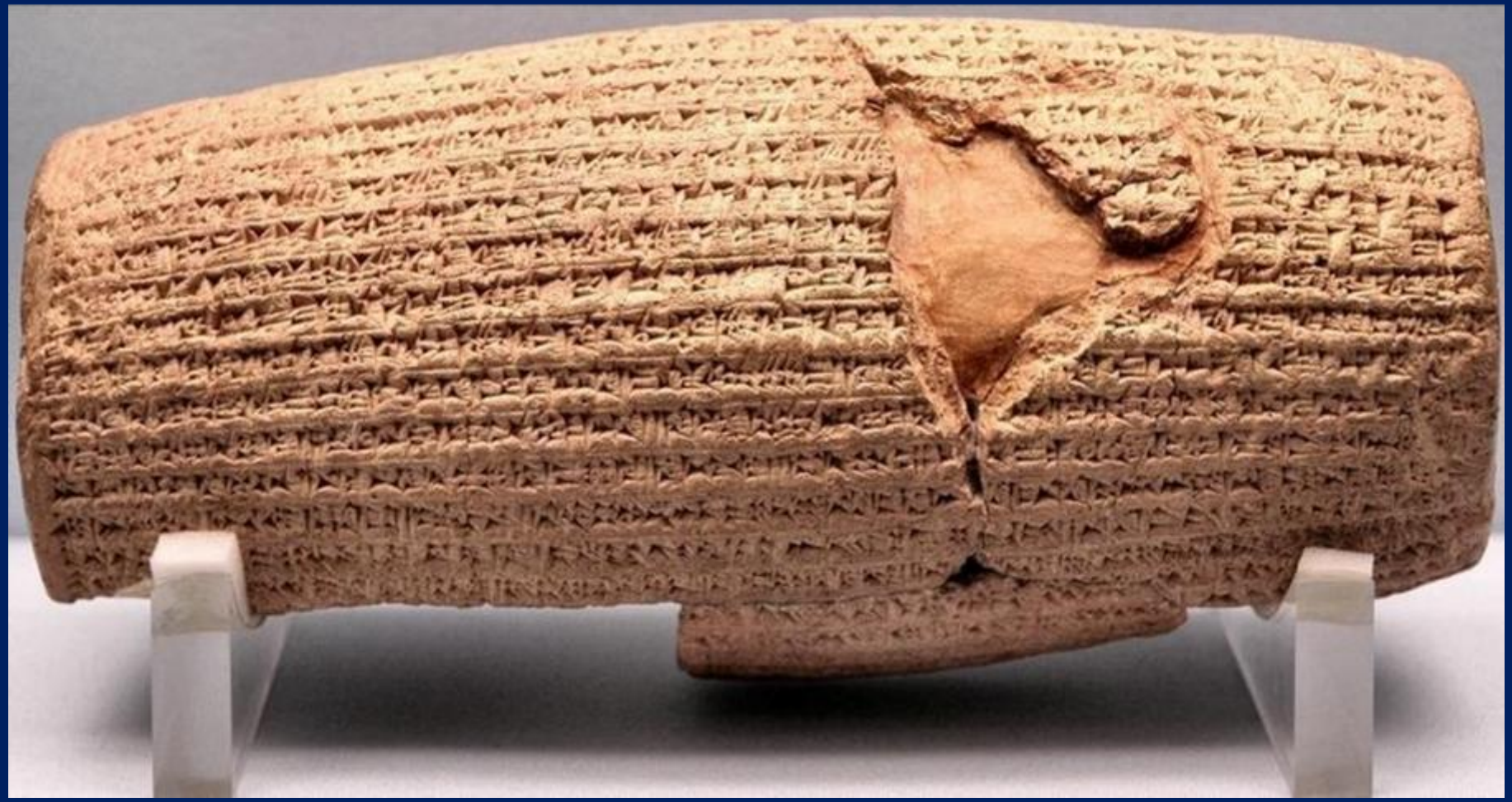
Bernard Ramm, *Protestant Biblical Interpretation*, 3rd rev. ed.
(Grand Rapids: Baker, 1970), 113.

"But here we must remember the old adage: 'Interpretation is one, application is many.' This means that there is only one meaning to a passage of Scripture which is determined by careful study. But a given text or a given passage may speak to a number of problems or issues. Five or six different kinds of sermons could be preached from the text, 'You must be born again' (John 3:7). What application the preacher makes of the text is determined by the purposes of the sermon. But the preacher must always distinguish the initial primary meaning of the text from the particular application he makes with it."

Isaiah 53:3–6

3 He was despised and forsaken of men, A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; And like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. 4 Surely **our** griefs He Himself bore, And **our** sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted. 5 But He was pierced through for **our** transgressions, He was crushed for **our** iniquities; The chastening for **our** well-being *fell* upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed. 6 All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused **the iniquity of us all** To fall on Him.

Cyrus Cylinder



The Now Prophecies?

Elam, Damascus, Ps. 83

I. Elam

   A. Jer. 49:34-39

   B. Ezek. 32:24-25

II. Damascus

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b. The prophecies refer to the utter, catastrophic destruction of Damascus.
c. Both are eschatological passages, referring to End Times events that have yet to occur.
    i. Isaiah's prophecy was given to him in 715 BC, well after the conquering of Damascus in 732 by Tiglath-pileser.
    ii. Likewise, Jeremiah's ministry occurred between 626 BC and 586 BC, long after Tiglath-pileser conquered Damascus in 732 BC."

Joel C. Rosenberg

Joel C. Rosenberg, "Notes on the Future of Damascus According to Bible Prophecy," updated: September 9, 2013, http://www.joelrosenberg.com/files/2013/09/STUDY-Damascus-prophecies-R.pdf

d. "Damascus has certainly been attacked, conquered, and burned at various points in history, including Biblical history—but it is clear that the prophecies of Isaiah 17 and **Jeremiah 49** have not yet been fulfilled. Damascus is, after all, one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities on the planet.

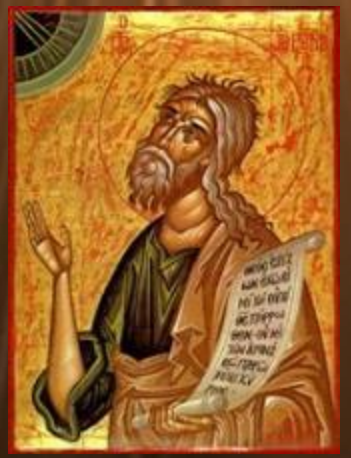
e. We cannot be certain when these judgments will happen, and the prophecies will be fulfilled.

f. They could come to pass before, during or after the War of Gog & Magog (Ezekiel 38–39); before, during, or after the Rapture; or before or during the Tribulation. The texts simply do not say, so we cannot be definitive.

g. It is possibly that the prophecies could come to pass in the not-too-distant future. But they certainly will come to pass at some point before the Second Coming of Christ (the 'Day of the Lord.')."

Jeremiah 49:27

“I will set fire to the wall of Damascus, And it will devour the fortified towers of **Ben-hadad**.”

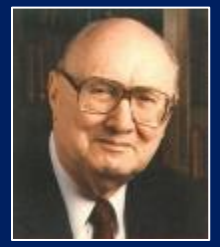




Jeremiah 49:23-27?

Mark Hitchcock, *Showdown with Iran* (Nashville, TN, 2020), Appendix 2, n. 8.

"Jeremiah 49:23–27 (BKC): God vowed to consume the fortresses of Ben-Hadad. 'Ben-Hadad' (lit., 'son of [the god] Hadad') was the name of the dynasty that ruled in Damascus in the ninth and eighth centuries b.c." "Dyer notes the mention of 'Benhadad,' which 'was the name of the dynasty that ruled in Damascus in the ninth and eighth centuries BC.' The use of that name would be strange if this refers to an end-time event. The towers of Ben-hadad are long gone today."



Dr. John F. Walvoord

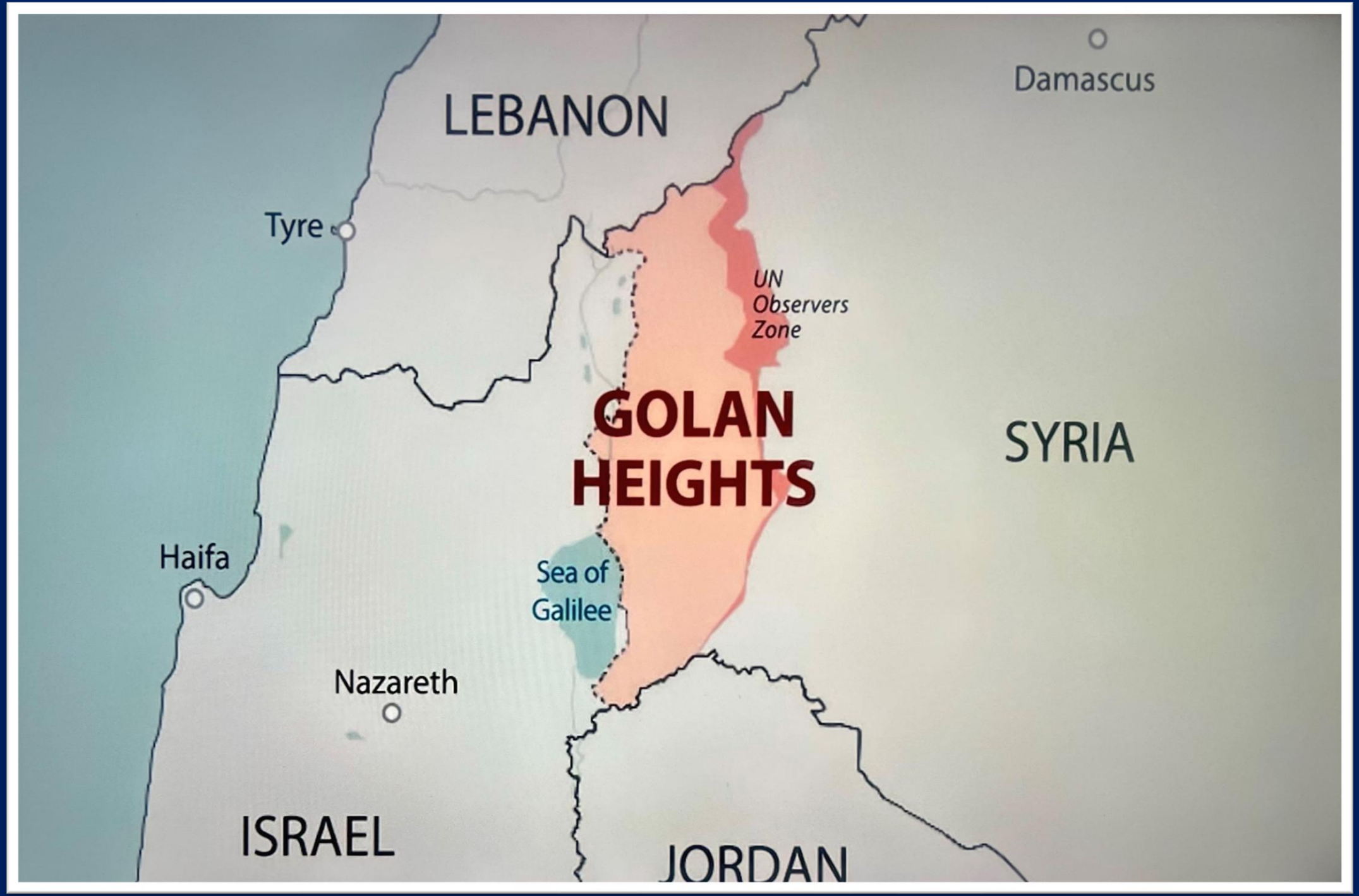
The Nations in Prophecy, 164

"Damascus was one of the most ancient cities of the Middle East and one of the few to have a continuous history down to modern times. First mentioned in Genesis 14:15, it continued to have a relationship to Israel throughout the Old Testament period where there are more than forty references and in the New Testament where it is mentioned fifteen times. **The more extended prophecies as found in Isaiah 17:1–14 and Jeremiah 49:23–27 have all been fulfilled** as well as the occasional references found in Isaiah 7:8; 8:4; Amos 1:3–5; 3:12; 5:27."

https://walvoord.com/article/306




20 miles
LEBANON
SYRIA
GOLAN HEIGHTS
Damascus
Buffer zone
ISRAEL
Suweida
Deraa
JORDAN
Amman
Jerusalem


LEBANON
Damascus
Tyre
UN
Observers
Zone
GOLAN
HEIGHTS
SYRIA
Haifa
Sea of
Galilee
Nazareth
ISRAEL
JORDAN



Putin to meet Erdogan, Raisi in Iran to discuss Syria

AFP



RECEP Tayyip Erdogan


THE BATTLE OF
GOG & MAGOG
Ezekiel 38:1-17
ROSH
Russia
MAGOG
Central Asia:
Kazakhstan
Uzbekistan
Tajikistan
Kyrgyzstan
Turkmenistan
MESHECH, TUBAL,
GOMER, TOGARMAH
Turkey
Black Sea
Caspian Sea
Greece
Mediterranean Sea
Syria
Iraq
PERSIA
Iran
ISRAEL
PUT
Libya
Egypt
Persian Gulf
Saudi Arabia
Red Sea
CUSH
Sudan
Niger
Chad
Map Design by: Makana Designs

The Now Prophecies?

Elam, Damascus, Ps. 83

I. Elam

   A. Jer. 49:34-39

   B. Ezek. 32:24-25

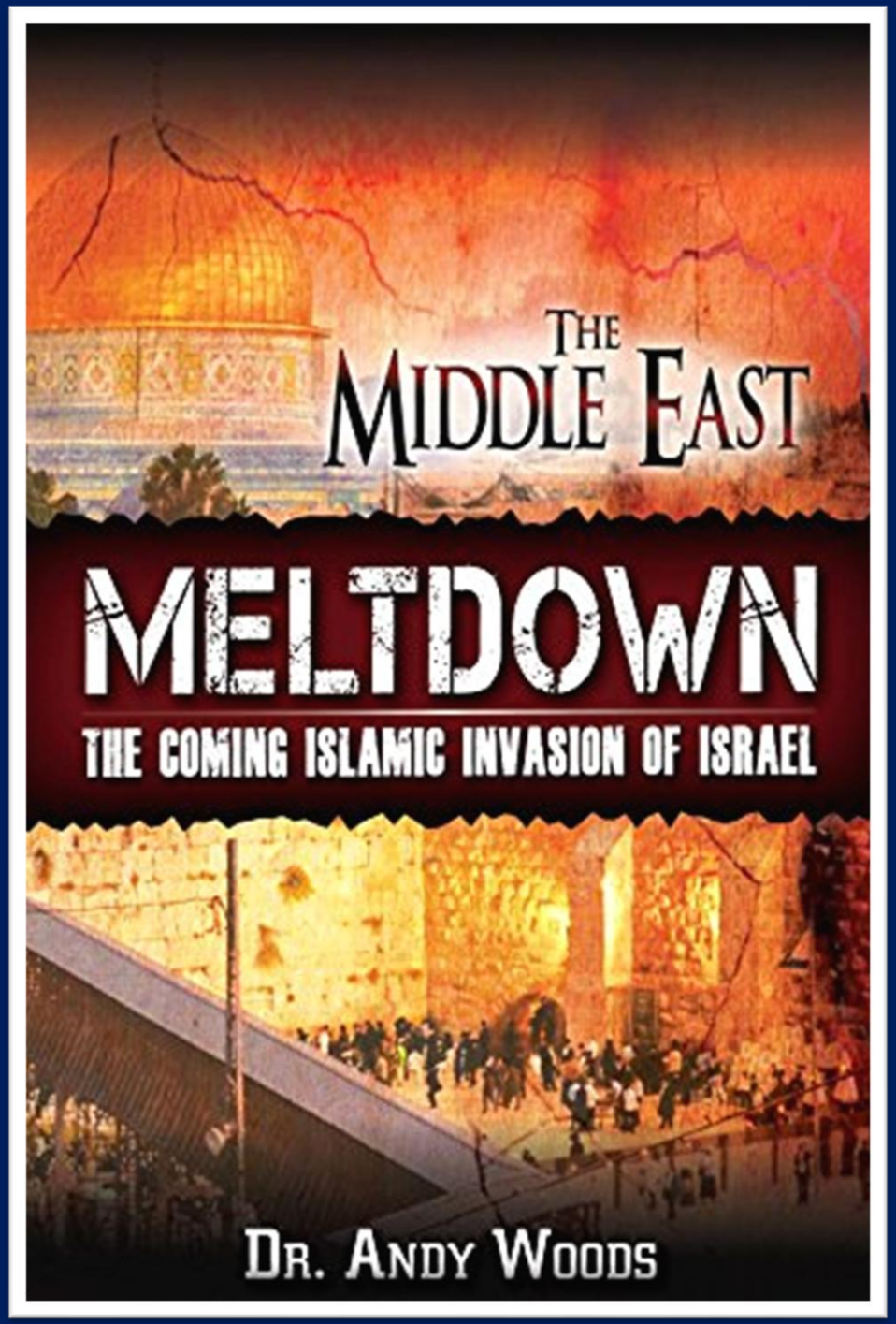
II. Damascus

   A. Isa. 17:1-2

   B. Jer. 49:23-27

III. <u>Psalm 83</u>




THE MIDDLE EAST
MELTDOWN
THE COMING ISLAMIC INVASION OF ISRAEL
DR. ANDY WOODS


THE ARAB CONFEDERACY
Psalm 83
• ANCIENT NATIONS
• Modern Nations
Syria
GEBAL
TYRE
Lebanon
ASSYRIA
AMMON
• Israel
PHILISTIA
MOAB
AMALEK
EDOM
Jordan
HAGARENES
ISHMAELITES
Egypt
Saudi Arabia
Map Design by: Gabriel Morris 2014

Psalm 83 War?

Five Problems

1. Nations listed in Ezek. 38–39 are not exhaustive
2. Psalm 83 is an imprecatory prayer & not prophecy
3. No war or battle is found in Psalm 83
4. Psalm 83 nations existed in Asaph's day (950 B.C.)
5. Other imprecatory prayers are not prophecies

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Ezekiel 38:8

"After many days you will be summoned; in **the latter years** you will come into the land that is restored from the sword, whose inhabitants have been gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel which had been a continual waste; but its people were brought out from the nations, and they are living securely, all of them."



Ezekiel 38:16

“and you will come up against My people Israel like a cloud to cover the land. It shall come about in **the last days** that I will bring you against My land, so that the nations may know Me when I am sanctified through you before their eyes, O Gog.”



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THE BATTLE OF
GOG & MAGOG
Ezekiel 38:1-17
ROSH
Russia
MAGOG
Central Asia:
Kazakhstan
Uzbekistan
Tajikistan
Kyrgyzstan
Turkmenistan
Black Sea
Caspian Sea
MESHECH, TUBAL,
GOMER, TOGARMAH
Turkey
Greece
Mediterranean Sea
Syria
Iraq
PERSIA
Iran
ISRAEL
PUT
Libya
Egypt
Persian Gulf
Saudi Arabia
Red Sea
CUSH
Sudan
Niger
Chad
Map Design by: Makana Designs

Ezekiel 38–39

I. Invasion planned (38:1-13)

II. Invasion executed (38:14-16)

III. Invasion defeated (38:17–39:20)

IV. Invasion's results (39:21-29)



What?

- Divine annihilation of the coalition (38:19-22)
- Birds and beasts feast on the carnage (39:4-5, 17-20)
- **Seven-month burying of the dead (39:11-12, 14-16)**
- **Seven-year burning of weapons (39:9-10)**
- Israel's salvation and restoration (39:22, 29)

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Stanley A. Maughan Quoting Mark Hitchcock

"Selected Expert Perspectives on Ezekiel 38–39 Related to Current World Events with Resulting Influence on Ministry Practices" (D. Min. diss., Dallas Theological Seminary, 2012), 257.

"**Psalm 83 is kind of like Psalm 2**, it is just saying that (there is similar language — why did the nations rage against Israel in Psalm 83) look there are people who are always against Israel. Israel is always going to have these enemies, they are always going to be against them and God is going to deal with them someday. **We don't see a separate Psalm 2 war**."

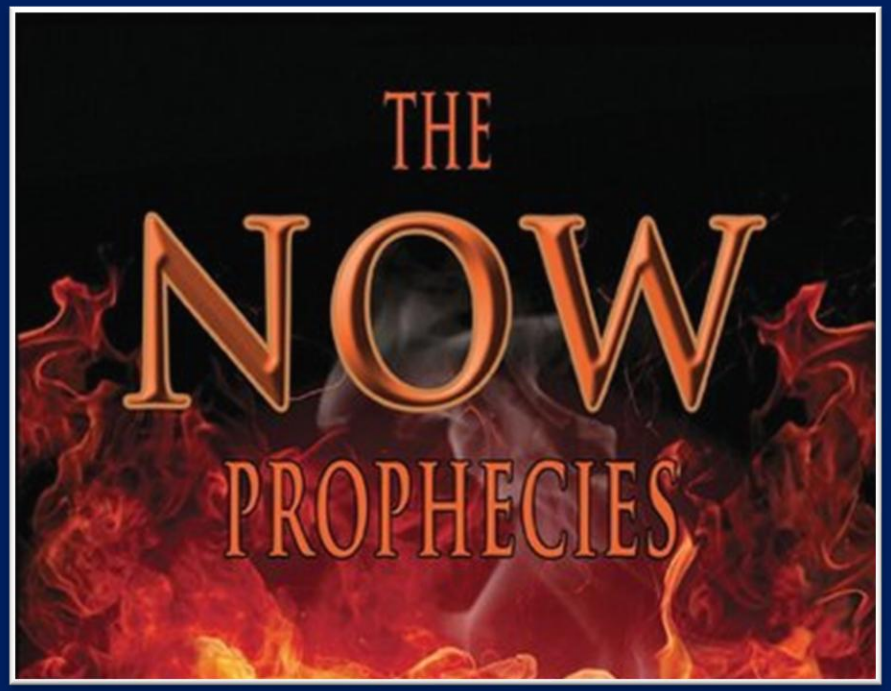
CONCLUSION





MAIL BAG

1. The Now Prophecies (Elam, Damascus, Ps. 83)?



The Now Prophecies?

Elam, Damascus, Ps. 83

I. Elam

   A. Jer. 49:34-39

   B. Ezek. 32:24-25

II. Damascus

   A. Isa. 17:1-2

   B. Jer. 49:23-27

III. Psalm 83

