

Sermon Mar. 29, 2026

What in the World is Going On?!

Welcome

Picture of the Four Horsemen

- Introduction
- My name is David Little. My wife Donna and I are elders in this church
 - about 50 years ago God gave me a dream about end times which sparked a fire within me to study the Bible regarding end times.
 - Some may know me as End Times Tracker through the Church of God website

Picture of End Times Tracker

Some of you may have attended the end times sessions my wife Donna and I have put on over the years.

Some of you may know me because you have attended our bi-monthly care group gatherings called End Times and Current Events.

Prayer

Bible verses Acts 17:10-15 with an applicable picture

In Acts 17:10-15 we find Paul in Berea at a synagogue. He explains that Christ is indeed the Messiah that the Jewish people had been anticipating. They said, "prove it". So, together they had Bible study every day for an extended period of time. They studied the Old Testament or the Scriptures. as the New Testament had not yet been written. They were using the Scriptures to understand what had occurred in the real world. A man who claimed to be God had been crucified, claimed to have risen from the dead and then his disciples claimed he had gone back to the Father. Could he have been their Messiah? So, they dedicated a lot of time to find out. They could have had a philosophical discussion and decided that it did or didn't make sense. But, no, that wasn't good enough.

They searched the Scriptures daily to understand what had just happened and if Paul had come to the correct understanding. And after studying the Scriptures, many believed.

It would be like after Pastor Larry has finished his sermon, dismissed the congregation and many refused to leave until they had arranged for a venue to study the Bible every day until they understood!

Today we are going to use the Scriptures to see if we can make any sense on what is happening in **our** real world, in the Middle East. Perhaps it will help us understand the reason for the war and perhaps even the outcome of the war.

Heading Ez. 38:1-16 (a war picture as the background)

READ Bible reference – Ez. 38:1-16

Do I believe that the current Middle East war is the war of God of Magog? NO, I DON'T.

Do I believe there will be a war of God and Magog? Yes I do! It will happen, but certain events and conditions have to be in place first.

These verses in Ezekiel say that Israel must be living in peace and safety. Has Israel lived in peace and safety since Israel's inception in 1948? I don't think they have. Wars, missiles, suicide bombers, snipers, knifings, car rammings, etc. has been an almost everyday event in the lives of Israelis'. Why are so many countries against Israel? Why are the majority of the resolutions put forth by the UN against Israel? Why has anti-semitism again reared its ugly head worldwide? Why have too many Christian believers turned away from supporting Israel?

The Middle East fight didn't just start in 2026. It didn't start in 2023 when Oct. 7th Hamas massacre occurred. It didn't start in 1948 when Israel established its new country. This fight goes back to Isaac and Ishmael in the book of Genesis chapters 15-18. We will never understand the conflicts between the Muslim world and the Jewish world unless we know how this fight began.

Bible verses Gen.17:19-22 with an applicable picture

READ Gen. 17:19-22

The fight began with Isaac getting the covenantal blessing and not Ishmael. Both Shite and Sunni Muslims believe that the prophet Muhammad was a direct descendent of Ishmael. Both believe that Ishmael was the son that Abraham was going to sacrifice and not Isaac. Most Arabic people follow the Muslim faith. Not all Muslims are Arabic, but most Arabs are Muslim. The terms Muslim and Islam refer to a religion, not a people group.

Picture of lineage

Christ came through Isaac. Muhammed and the 12th Imam or Madhi, whom they believe is their Islamic saviour, and who according to Muslims, is coming again, came through Ishmael.

Why does Iran want the nuclear bomb? Why does Iran arm the proxies Hamas, Houthis, Hezbollah, Islamic Jihad, etc.? Why have all these Islamic groups aimed their weapons at Israel? Israel is not a large piece of property. Israel does not have a lot of natural resources. Israel does not have an abundance oil. There is very little to be gained by Iran and the other Muslim countries by taking over that little piece of real estate.

Picture of David and Goliath

Everyone likes a David and Goliath story. That is still the picture of Israel today.

The population of Iran is around 100 million. The population of Israel is around 10 million!

The land mass of Iran is 1.6 million square km. The land mass of Israel is 22 thousand square km.

This is a lopsided fight. Not only is Iran larger and more populous, but it also has many other Muslim countries joining them in the fight against Israel. Israel is surrounded by enemies!

Map showing the middle east with arrows pointing towards Israel.

And yet Israel has been a blessing to the entire world. Many advances in medicine, science, computer technology, physics, drinking water from salt water, etc. are the result of Jewish

scientists. Israel has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize more than any other ethnic group. Over 20% of all the Nobel Peace Prize winners have been Jewish even though they only comprise 0.2% of the world's population.

The world should be rejoicing over Israel! And yet antisemitism has always been a universal thorn in its side. And it is on the rise worldwide as we speak.

Over the past couple of weeks, we have watched our media portraying the war that is currently being waged in the Middle East between Iran and its proxies against Israel and the USA. Many of us do not know which side we should align ourselves with.

The Iranian leaders, not the everyday Iranian people, have stated plainly, often and loudly they want to kill all the Jews. When they shout "From the river to the sea" that is the meaning of that phrase. When they say "Death to big Satan and death to little Satan" they are chanting "Death to America and death to Israel". And they mean that. This statement is used on Al Quds day marches worldwide, like the ones we had in Canada on March 14th.

Personally, I have read the Quran, the Muslim bible, from cover to cover. I have read some of the Hadiths, which are other holy books of the Muslims. Their God Allah is **NOT** the same God we worship. Their god Allah wants all Jews and Christians dead or converted to Islam. And if you convert to Islam and become a Muslim you are spiritually dead and will end up in the Lake of Fire.

Picture of Canaan before it became Israel.

God took Abram from the Ur of the Chaldeans, He said "go to the land that I will show you". God guided him to the land of present-day Israel. It was known as Canaan back then. On the map you can see that the land of Canaan, which is the light brown area, that God gave to Israel is much larger than Israel today. **This is the land God gave them.**

Bible verses Gen. 17:7-8

READ Gen. 17:7-8

Notice everlasting is mentioned twice. When God says everlasting, he means **EVERLASTING**.

What are the boundaries of this land of Canaan that God promised to Abraham's descendants?

The borders are written down in Num. 34:3-12. Again, the area God gave to the Jewish people is far more extensive than the area they now occupy. Besides the area known as Israel today, it included some of present day Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan. The area mentioned in the Bible as Judea and Samaria where much of biblical history took place is currently called the West Bank by much of the world. It is even considered Palestinian territory. I do not refer to it as the West Bank. It was always a part of Israel. The cities of Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Jericho, and Bethany are some of the cities that most of us recognize because of the Bible. It is where Jesus did a lot of his miracles.

We hear a lot in the news today about the Palestinian population. There is no such thing as a Palestinian. Rome changed the name of the country of Israel to Palestine in 132 AD. This new name was applied to anyone who lived there. This name was applied to Jew and Arab alike and to anyone else who lived in the country. There has always been a Jewish presence in this area. The land has never been without Jews. Most of the Palestinians today are Arabs who came from surrounding

Arab countries. When Israel became a country in 1948 they extended an invitation for the Arabs to join with them to make this country a great place for all of them to live together. Most of the Arabs refused.

Amos 9:14-15

READ Amos 9:14-15

God says. **GOD SAYS!** I. I will bring you back.

Where? **To your own land.**

For how long? **Never again to be uprooted!** God brought Israel back in 1948. To their land! Never again to be uprooted from the land that I gave them.

What land did God give them? The land of Canaan. The present land of Israel. And more land than they now control. **God** gave them this land! Dare I argue against God? Dare I question him?

Bible verses Ez. 38:8,11 and 14 with applicable background

Now, back to Ez. 38:8,11 and 14.

You notice all these scriptures say, “a land that has recovered from war and are living in safety”. Has Israel been living in safety for the last 78 years? I don’t think so.

Map showing countries surrounding Israel

Here is a current map of the Middle East. All the countries listed are Muslim countries. All these countries have either fought against Israel or supported those who did since 1948. The blue lines indicate those who are currently fighting against Israel.

They have to be living in safety **BEFORE** the Gog, Magog war takes place. Perhaps the war that is currently taking place is the war that will allow Israel to live in peace and safely. IF all the countries that are currently targeting Israel are defeated, they could live in peace and safety. At least for a while. I don’t believe the peace and safety would last long as the Muslim countries would not allow this. Their theology couldn’t allow this.

Some would say that Israel is not following God or following Christ. They ask “Doesn’t that negate God’s promises?” In Amos 9:15, God still calls them **his people**. Amos wrote that about 750 years before Christ. Joel wrote the same thing about 450 years AD.

Jer. 31:36-37

READ Jer. 31:36-37

Israel seldom initiates attacks on other countries. They do attack certain entities that are planning attacks on them. They hit military targets and try as much as possible to NOT hit civilians. The Israeli military usually warns civilians before a strike and then allow time for them to leave.

Israel is not genocidal. If they were genocidal, they certainly would not warn civilians to leave before they strike. For example, with the military might they have, they could have easily wiped the Gazan population off the map in short order.

Why did the USA step into help Israel? If we look at Jewish history, do we find instances where God used a foreign power to help Israel? Remember the king by the name of Nebuchadnezzar? God called him his servant in Jer. 25:9 and 27:6. He called King Darius his shepherd in Is. 44:28. God uses unbelieving leasers to sometimes help or punish Israel. I personally believe Donald Trump is being used by God to allow Israel to defeat the surrounding enemies so that they can live in peace and safety.

Jer. 31:31

READ Jer. 31:31

The Lord said he will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel and Judah. Several times Christ himself said he was sent to the Jewish people and not to the Gentiles or Samaritans. Thankfully, we can accept him, the Jewish Messiah, and be grafted into Israel.

The wars in the Middle East are spiritual battles more than anything else. They are battles of Satan trying to thwart God's covenant with His people. Satan believes if he can eliminate the Jewish people, then God's everlasting covenant is broken, God then is not able to keep His word.

Our salvation, which is based on God's Word, is in doubt if God's Word is not the Truth. Then He is not all powerful.

Bible verses 1 Cor. 15:19

READ 1 Cor. 15:19

There are many things in the Bible that I do not fully understand. But this I know. If God says something it is true. If he promises something it will happen.

And if you look carefully, way out on the horizon you just may see the armies of Magog, Persia (Iran), Meshech, Tubal, Cush, Put, and Gomer preparing for battle. And God will fight.