

John Newlin Ministries, Inc.

- realizing the power of a life in Christ -

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WARS AND RUMORS OF WARS

The events happening in the Middle East cannot be ignored by any sane, conscious person. They portend all sorts of bad things for people living in the area as well as potentially for the rest of the world.

One of the Lord's prophecies about the times just before his return is for wars and rumors of wars (Matthew 24, Mark 13). Well, there are many, many wars on earth right now, together with many rumors of additional wars. You may not be aware of most of them because most of you do not get full blown media coverage on all the wars, just primarily on some of the dramatic events of the Middle East. Even there many of you may not be aware that the dreadful and horrible war in Syria that has claimed about 200,000 lives continues on. Or that there is a continuing war in Libya. Did you even know that? I doubt it. In fact, just recently some military group overran the Tripoli airport in Libya and now I understand 13 commercial airplanes are missing. Not a good sign. We all remember what terrorists did with airplanes on 9/11. The primary attention getter in the Middle East for several weeks has been Israel and its battles against Hamas, which is based in the Gaza strip and attacks Israel from there. That is, until the recent horrible events in Iraq that have awakened all civilized and alert people. It seems the whole region is about to turn to flame.

Now there are many more wars and rumors of wars elsewhere in the world. Remember the terrorist group in Nigeria that kidnapped over 200 girls? They still haven't been freed, you know. Just the news media has decided to stop covering the story. That terrorist group continues steadily in horrible actions in that country. There are so many more.

While the US in a frustratingly slow and somewhat befuddled way considers how to deal with all this, I think it is a good time for us to look at just what the coming wars identified in the Bible are and at how they relate specifically to the end of the age. Some years ago I wrote a *Watchman Warning* on this subject, and we seem to be right on schedule. So here are the coming wars you can expect with other dramatic events thrown in:

PSALM 83

This psalm describes a war that has not yet happened. Numerous nations that today are Muslim nations are identified. Translating from the Biblical names to modern nation names – often a difficult task - leads to these nations/groups as those likely involved in attacking Israel: the Palestinians, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and possibly Iraq. Note that these are nations that currently surround Israel.

It seems to me that we are moving rather rapidly into a situation that could blow up into this war. Now, interestingly, Isaiah 17:1 plus other scriptures (Amos 1:3-5, Jeremiah 49:23-27) make it very clear that at some

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point Damascus in Syria is destroyed. It ceases to be a city. Damascus is considered to be the world's oldest city continuously inhabited, but it is coming to an end. If we look at all the internal anarchy and outrageous acts within Syria today and in nearby Iraq, it is not hard to imagine something happening very soon to bring this about.

By the way, this Psalm 83 war could very well result in Israel recapturing land that God has given it forever. Back when God gave Abraham the land, he said it was from the river of Egypt all the way to the Euphrates River (which is in Iraq), an area much larger than the current Israel. The gifts of God are without repentance. He doesn't take them back. That gift was forever.

EZEKIEL 38-39

These chapters describe a dramatic attack by a coalition of powerful nations against Israel. Again translating the Biblical nation titles to modern words gives the attackers: possibly Russia as leader, Turkey, Iran, Libya, and the Sudan. This is the attack as you may remember that God very obviously stops, destroying the invaders. It takes seven months for the Israelites to bury the dead attackers. Interestingly, Syria is not mentioned. Evidently Syria has been somehow removed from the picture before this war happens. That would mean the destruction of Damascus noted earlier has likely occurred. Also note that none of the nations identified in Psalm 83 are listed as attackers (i.e., none of the nations currently right around Israel). This indicates that they too have been taken out or greatly reduced in power in a previous war, likely the Psalm 83 war.

ARMEGGEDON – Revelation 19 and Zechariah 14

This war occurs at the end of the seven year tribulation period. The nations of the world in opposition to God go to the valley of Jehosophat to fight against Israel and against God. There they are destroyed by Jesus as he leads an army consisting of his called, chosen, and faithful followers. Revelation notes that everyone in the army opposing Jesus is killed. At the end of this we have Jesus establishing his rule from Jerusalem, as described in Zechariah 14 and Revelation 20.

HOW DOES ALL THIS COME ABOUT?

It certainly appears in the Middle East that we are at the beginning of something far bigger than the world's nations had anticipated. The leaders of the West can hardly allow the type of barbaric behavior we have witnessed lately in Iraq to continue, and even from the standpoint of basic human decency they will have to do something. I seriously wonder if these western leaders realize just what they are up against. Brutal extremism in a huge false religion being carried forward by a relatively large number of individuals who will stop at nothing. We may try to understand the endless fighting between Hamas and Israel, but the horrors in Iraq can't be understood other than as the physical outplaying of absolute evil. There really is good and evil. The world is getting a lesson in that. I am not at all sure the leaders of the western countries understand the depths of what is going on spiritually as well as physically. I doubt they understand just who they are fighting. And what they may run into.

It is prudent for all believers to keep alert as Jesus has warned (Luke 21:36 and elsewhere). In several verses in different sections the Bible notes that believers are spared from the wrath that is to come, so I expect Jesus' collecting his believers as described in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 will happen before the seven year tribulation period and Armageddon, and even possibly before the Ezekiel war.

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DECEPTION: **WATCH THAT YOU ARE NOT DECEIVED!**

Jesus' first response to the disciples when they asked about signs of his return was to "watch that you not be deceived." We must be alert not to be deceived. There is great deception in the world today, in leaders in all fields – government, media, business, religion, more - and in everyday people we meet and interact with. It's just a fact. Several of our newsletters have talked about it. As a great illustration of that, look at these recent words from the Pope on his Twitter page. I've added my comments in parenthesis after each:



Pope Francis @Pontifex · Aug 15

My heart bleeds especially when I think of the children in Iraq. May Mary, Our Mother, protect them.

(God the Father, Jesus, or their angels may protect them. But Mary surely is not able to. She is the wonderful young woman chosen by God to be the mother of the physical Jesus. And she raised him and then is cited a few times after that in scripture. But she is not part of the godhead nor does she have any special powers beyond that of any other human being. The real wonder of Mary was just the very fact that she was an ordinary human being!)

Pope Francis @Pontifex · Aug 14

Mary, Queen of Heaven, help us to transform the world according to God's plan.

(Nowhere in scripture is Mary identified as the Queen of Heaven. Nowhere.)

Pope Francis @Pontifex · Sep 2

The Christian who does not feel that the Virgin Mary is his or her mother is an orphan.

(Just not true. No basis in scripture at all.)

Let me repeat Jesus' warning about the end times: **WATCH THAT YOU ARE NOT DECEIVED!!!**

REMEMBER: FOLLOW US ON TWITTER!!! AND OUR WEB SITE AND BLOG. THIS IS NOT A TIME TO MISS ANYTHING!

Stay up to date on all that is happening. Just go to Twitter.com and search for me or this ministry. Or type <https://twitter.com/johnnewlinmin> into your URL address block and click enter. Many new entries each week. Our web address is given below, and you can get to the blog in the menu column there.

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THE FALSE PROPHET (continued from last month's newsletter)

In recent newsletters we have given many scriptures describing the antichrist, the man of lawlessness who is such an active player in the Tribulation. Here below, as promised last month, is scripture that relates directly to the antichrist's assistant, the false prophet:

From Revelation 13:11-17

1. Comes out of the earth as another beast (obviously fits his character and behavior but may not be his physical appearance)
2. Has two horns like a lamb but speaks like a dragon
3. Exercises all the authority of the a/c on his behalf
4. Makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the a/c
5. Performs great and miraculous signs
6. Causes fire to come down from heaven to earth in full view of men
7. Deceives the inhabitants of the earth (non-believers do not have gift of discernment)
8. Orders inhabitants to set up an image in honor of the a/c
9. Is given power to give breath to the image so it can speak
10. Is given power to cause all who refuse to worship the image to be killed
11. Forces everyone to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead (no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark); the mark is the name of the a/c, or the number of his name

From Revelation 19: 20

1. Is captured with the a/c at Armageddon
2. Is thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur together with the a/c

Always remember to stay alert. The Lord really is coming soon. May you live in the blessings of God always.

John

- **Please give us your email if you have not! Things are happening rapidly, and without an email you will not receive our *Signs of the Times* and *Watchman Warnings* sent out by email.**
- **And please consider contributing to the ministry. We can only operate as we have the funds to pay our expenses. Our unending gratitude to those who do contribute!**

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