

ISRAEL'S  **MESSENGER**
from **JEWISH AWARENESS**
ministries
SUMMER 2023

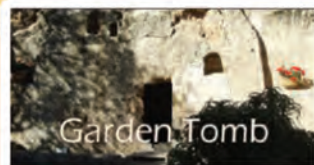
JERUSALEM
SOLUTION

JEWISH AWARENESS ministries

JOURNEY *to* JERUSALEM

ISRAEL TOUR

11 Days: April 30 - May 10, 2024



AND MUCH MORE! *TOUR TESTIMONIES*

For more info or to register
call 919-275-4477, or visit JewishAwareness.org

EXCELLENT PRICING!!
CALL FOR PRICE FROM YOUR CITY



Rev. Ken Overby
TOUR HOST

CONTENTS

ISRAEL'S MESSSENGER

from
JEWISH AWARENESS
ministries

ISRAEL'S MESSSENGER | SUMMER 2023

MISSION STATEMENT

Israel's Messenger is a quarterly publication of Jewish Awareness Ministries, a Christian ministry proclaiming the Messiah to Jew and Gentile, preaching the Word of God, and praying for Israel.

SUBSCRIBE

To subscribe to Israel's Messenger, please write to

Jewish Awareness Ministries

P.O. Box 1808,

Angier, NC 27501

Call 919-275-4477

Online at www.jewishawareness.org

Subscription: \$11.95/1 year

MINISTRY PERSONNEL

Rusty and Ronda Guin, Martinsburg, WV

Shaul and P'Nina Hadar, Israel

Ken and Layne Overby, Raleigh, NC

Ken and Joyce Symes, Zephyrhills, FL

POSTAL INFORMATION:

Please send address changes to

P.O. Box 1808, Angier, NC 27501

BOARD MEMBERS

Rick Fox, Pastor

Matt Morrison, Pastor

Brian Norman, Chairman, Pastor

Ken Overby, J.A.M. Executive Director

Tim Rabon, Pastor

Jeff Vaughan, Businessman

EDITOR

Ken Overby

DESIGN

Michelle Jensen



7 A PROBLEM OF DIVINE SIGNIFICANCE

Rev. Rick Fox

10 A PROBLEM WITH GLOBAL RAMIFICATIONS

Rev. Ken Overby

13 A ROYAL MESSIANIC SOLUTION

Dr. Brian Norman

REGULAR FEATURES

4 FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Rev. Ken Overby

16 MESSIANIC WITNESS

Rev. Rusty Guin

18 SHADOWS OF THE TRIBULATION

Rev. George Quick



Follow us @JAwarenessM

Jerusalem and Zion are mentioned in scripture 967 times. David's love for Jerusalem is expressed in Psalm 137:5,6 *"If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning. If I do not remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth; if I prefer not Jerusalem above my chief joy."*

Copyright © 2023 by Jewish Awareness Ministries

No materials contained in this magazine may be reproduced without the permission of Jewish Awareness Ministries, Inc. For all permissions write Jewish Awareness Ministries, P.O. Box 1808, Angier, NC 27501. All Scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version.

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

REV. KEN OVERBY

Shalom in Messiah:

World consensus for a peaceful Jerusalem solution is a piecemeal proposition ignoring the root problem. When Benjamin Netanyahu says that the Palestinian leadership does not want a state beside of Israel, they want a state instead of Israel, he's not making it up. The Arabs have refused five official offers for a Palestinian state beside of Israel. They never miss an opportunity to miss an opportunity. When Jordan, which has a 25% Palestinian population, equating to over two million people, controlled Biblical Judea and Samaria from 1948 until 1967, no Arab country asked Jordan to establish a Palestinian State because Jordan already was the Palestinian state. Yet blame is heaped upon Israel as the obstacle to the State of Palestine. The most popular chant and poster seen in Palestinian street marches is "From the river



to the sea, Palestine will be free." They unashamedly declare that when Palestine is a state there will be no Jews and no Israel from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea. Their most recent symbol is a skeleton key implying that the Jews have stolen their Jerusalem home. King David received the key to Jerusalem both by God's promise and by his personal purchase of the future Temple site.

In 1969, two years after Israel defeated all her Arab neighbors in just 6 days, Yasser Arafat the infamous terrorist leader of the Palestinian cause, whose hands were red with the blood of many Israelis, started the "Palestinian Liberation Organization" (PLO). That title was soon erased from the media and was replaced with "Palestine Liberation

Organization." The terminology was flipped, to make Israel out to be the evil occupier of Palestinian land. The father of lies not only questions "His-Story" by asking "hath God said?" but he is the chief revisionist of human history who falsely



Mural in Bethlehem



accuses God's people and condones the theft of their God-given property. Lying, stealing and killing display the spiritual DNA of Satan. Biblically, the debate should be about who has the legitimate biblical and historic claim for all of the real estate of Jerusalem and Israel. As long as Jerusalem is trodden under the foot of the gentile superpowers, Israel will be pressured politically to give up even more of their tiny Jewish state. The Gaza debacle is proof positive of that insane ideology. God hates the division of his

land for gain (Daniel 11:39). Woe to any country or group that divides Israel's inheritance. *"Thus saith the LORD against all mine evil neighbours, that touch the inheritance which I have caused my people Israel to inherit; Behold, I will pluck them out of their land"* (Jeremiah 12:14).

In the latest conflict, Israel's "Operation Shield and Arrow," the IDF defended her southern border communities from a barrage of over 1400 rockets. Yet the world news amplified the rare civilian casualties from Israeli missiles when it was the fault of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad who launched missiles from behind Palestinian elementary schools as shields. Golda Meir, Israel's Prime Minister from 1969-1974, aptly said, "We will only have peace with [the Arabs] when they love their children more than they hate us..."

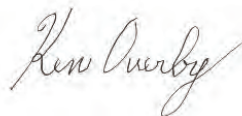
Jerusalem is the seamline of the ancient conflict between Arab Muslims and Israeli Jews. The Palestinians have declared the annual day that celebrates Israel winning back the old city of Jerusalem in 1967 as Nakba Day - Catastrophe Day. This year the United Nations sided with the Palestinians against Israel's reunification of Jerusalem and gave official recognition of "Nakba Day" declaring Israel's control of Jerusalem as an international day of catastrophe. In other words, they regret allowing Israel modern statehood. Although the U.S. was among 30 nations boycotting the UN observance, a half dozen high-profile members of the US Congress observed this day condemning Israel for controlling their own ancient capital Jerusalem. The real catastrophe was in 1948 when 126 residents of the Jewish Quarter in Jerusalem were slaughtered by Palestinian Arabs. In addition, there were ten more massacres by Arabs, each with no less than fifty Jewish murders throughout Israel. The catastrophe was that multiple massacres of Jews went unreported in the media. Ironic, how it is only since Israeli control of Jerusalem that Muslims, Jews and Christians can now freely walk the same streets.

In this issue, Pastor Rick Fox defines the nature of the problem as a spiritual battle of divine significance. My article exposes the prophetic outcome of the city's current divisive factions. Pastor Brian Norman expounds on the royal Messianic solution that only

Jesus can bring. Rusty Guin who has ministered in Israel and filled pulpits in Jerusalem, shares the key to the solution in the column, Messianic Witness. Rev. George Quick puts a prophetic microscope on the rise of Turkey to prominence in Jerusalem and in the coming Russia's invasion of Israel.

With two successful tours this year already in the record books, JAM's next annual **Journey to Jerusalem is scheduled for April 30 - May 10, 2024**. We hope that you will make plans to join us. You can call or register online. We just concluded our second summer internship training program. Eleven students total have now completed over 60 hours of classroom training and two weeks in Israel serving and touring. We are already recruiting Junior and Senior Bible College students with a Pastoral, Missions or Evangelism Major and a desire to reach Jewish people. Our next internship will be the last two weeks of May and the first two weeks of June in 2024. Offerings have already been sent in for the next internship to help us provide this essential training for the next generation of Jewish evangelists. See the back cover or our online brochure and refer them to us. When we pray for laborers from the Lord of the harvest, the next step is that we pay for their training. Please pray whether the Lord would lead you to help sponsor an intern for JAMit'23.

In the service of Jesus our Lord and Messiah,



Rev. Ken Overby

ENDNOTES

1. *35 Motivational Golda Meir Quotes For Success In Life* (overallmotivation.com)
2. [Wikipedia.org/wiki/Killings_and_massacres_during_the_1948_war](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Killings_and_massacres_during_the_1948_war)

View of Old City of Jerusalem, Israel



A PROBLEM OF DIVINE SIGNIFICANCE

REV. RICK FOX

The very mention of this most remarkable city Jerusalem conveys awe and inspiration. Jerusalem is mentioned over 800 times in the Bible, more than any other city, from Genesis 14:18 to Revelation 21:10. Its history is filled with drama, mystery and glory. It is ironic that *“the city of peace,”* has experienced more hostility than any other city in the history of mankind.

Its geographic location provides a natural fortification situated upon the ridges of Mount Moriah and Mount Zion and on the biblical *Derech Ha’Avot*, Hebrew for Path of the Patriarchs or Patriarch’s Way.¹ Jerusalem has been the crossroads of caravan trade routes linking the various civilizations in the ancient world. This made Jerusalem a strategic prize, although the primary reason for the conflict surrounding the city is spiritual in nature.

In Genesis chapters 14-22 we discover the initial cause of the conflict surrounding Jerusalem. After rescuing his nephew Lot and defeating the marauding armies of King Chedorlaomer and his allies, Abram was greeted and blessed by Melchizedek, King of Salem and priest of God Most High, to whom Abram gave a tithe. Melchizedek became a type of the Lord Jesus Christ (Psalms 110:4; Hebrews 7:11-28). Mount Moriah in the vicinity of Salem is the location where God chose to test Abraham’s faith by the command to offer his son Isaac. Abraham passed the test by trusting God. God kept His covenant by providing a substitute ram for the sacrifice. This place of sacrifice is significant. *“And Abraham called the name of that place, Jehovah-Jireh: as it is said to this day, In the Mount of the Lord it shall be seen,”* i.e.: the Lord who will provide *“Himself a lamb.”* (Genesis 22:4,9,14). The prophecy of a substitutionary atonement lamb was later amplified by Isaiah, *“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter”*

(Isaiah 53:6,7). There on Mt. Moriah the Lord gave a formal reaffirmation of his covenant with Abraham (Genesis 15:4-6; 22:15-18). God is trustworthy and always true to His promises!

Jerusalem was later captured from the Jebusites by David making it the secular and spiritual capital of the people of Israel (2 Samuel 5:5-9). Later David set about bringing the ark of God, which represents the presence of God, to Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 15:25-29). David purchased that very location where his son Solomon would construct the first Temple (1 Chronicles 21:22-25). Then David built an altar on Mount Moriah and made burnt offerings and peace offerings to the Lord to stop the plague.

God was graciously at work, providing a prescribed place of worship. He chose that place for His name and as the place to establish David as king over all his people Israel (Isaiah 9:6; Zechariah 14:9,11; 2 Samuel 7:12,13,16; 2 Chronicles 6:6). Psalms 2 and 122 foretold the fulfillment of his promised heir coming to permanently rule. God’s promise of David’s son ruling the world in peace infuriates Satan who hates and desires to destroy all that is God’s, especially Jerusalem the city of God’s choosing.

The historic conflict over the holy city of Jerusalem is primarily a spiritual one.

Because of the sinfulness of King Solomon and the people, God allowed Satan to stir up strife once again in Israel. The ten tribes of Israel in the north were divided from Judah in the south with Jerusalem as its capital. This was by satanic design to destroy the peace of Jerusalem and of the nation of Israel. Wicked kings promoted idolatry which resulted in tragedy and judgment upon Israel and later on Judah. The capital city, Jerusalem, became the epicenter of suffering (2 Kings 18; 24). God offered a ray of hope in the darkness of despair when godly king Hezekiah influenced the people of Judah to humbly return to

the Lord. Then God miraculously intervened to deliver Jerusalem from an inevitable Assyrian conquest (2 Kings 18-19).

However, Manasseh plunged Jerusalem back into the depths of the abominable idolatrous practices of the Canaanites and God determined to severely judge Jerusalem (2 Kings 21-23). There was a brief but gracious reprieve when King Josiah, discovered the Word of God, and revived true worship in Jerusalem. After more rebellion, God's prophetic word was fulfilled when the armies of the Babylonian monarch Nebuchadnezzar systematically dismantled and destroyed the city of Jerusalem from 586-605 BC (Jeremiah 39). The most important buildings in the city were burned. The outer walls were torn down. The treasures of the temple were stolen. Many of the leaders were executed and most of the people were led away in exile (2 Kings 25). No doubt Satan was rejoicing. The people of Israel suffered until God graciously allowed a remnant to return to the city of Jerusalem, led by Ezra and Nehemiah, to rebuild and restore the city (Nehemiah 6:15). Though a mere shadow of its former glory, the Temple was also rebuilt, and the worship of God was renewed in Jerusalem (Ezra 6:15).

Once again Satan's hatred for Jerusalem was displayed by his deception of the leaders of Israel and their decision to reject David's son, their Messiah. On

the Sunday before Passover, the common people of Jerusalem were ecstatic when Jesus rode in on a donkey's colt, fulfilling prophecy (Zechariah 9:9). They recognized Him as the son of David, but the leaders told Jesus to silence their hosannas. Listen carefully to the broken heart of the Lord Jesus as He gave the grievous prophecy concerning the consequences of the rejection by Jerusalem's leadership,

"And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! But now they are hid from thine eyes. For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side and shall lay thee even with the ground, and they children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation" (Luke 19:41-44).

In 70 AD these exact methods of destruction were used by the Roman General Titus when he laid siege to Jerusalem. The people's refusal to recognize and accept the Lord Jesus as their Messiah brought divine judgment upon the city in their lifetime, just as Jesus had foretold.

Satan especially hates Jerusalem because it is the place where God chose to display His love for



Arch of Titus relief reveals Roman soldiers carrying spoils from the destruction of the Temple.




Illustration depicting the return of Christ to Jerusalem.

mankind, by sending His Son to die a sacrificial death on the cross to redeem Israel and all mankind from the curse of sin (Romans 3:21-26; Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:13-14).

The cross is a constant reminder to Satan of his coming defeat and destruction (Genesis 3:15; 1 John 3:8). Jesus' victory over death, Hell and the grave all took place in Jerusalem. Jesus suffered the Serpent's bite to His heel on Jerusalem's Golgotha, but will give a crushing blow to Satan's head in Jerusalem when He returns to rule the world in righteousness. By conquering death, He removed Satan's power against those who believe (Hebrews 2:14-15). Only Jesus can set captive sinners free from Satan's death grip. The epic spiritual battle over the salvation of Israel and of all mankind, is the only explanation for the perpetual battle for Jerusalem over the past 2000 years. The city has passed through the hands of numerous ungodly conquerors. A panoramic view of the city's history reveals the spiritual conflict that remains within the city walls. A Muslim shrine, the Dome of the Rock, now occupies a prominent position on the very location of Solomon's Temple where Abraham presented Isaac for sacrifice.

Several years ago, when my wife and I entered the doors of that shrine we experienced satanic oppression, but our spirits were lifted upon remembering that one of these days it will be removed. The battle against peace will continue as the Anti-Christ desecrates the third Temple and declares himself God shortly before the Prince of Peace returns (Isaiah 9:6). Until then, more hostility awaits this beloved city. The coming of the Anti-Christ is on the horizon. Satan will again exert his power to control the city and attempt to destroy God's chosen people. Revelation chapter 11 reveals

the future oppressive persecution and devastating destruction of Jewish believers living in Jerusalem by the forces of the Anti-Christ.

Rest assured, the centuries of rebellion and conflict over Jerusalem will come to a definite and dramatic conclusion. Charles Gulston correctly states, "Glory will return to Jerusalem. For this she was destined. For this she has survived the humiliation of the Great Shepherd of the Sheep. She must reflect the glory of the Redeemer who has come to Zion, for where He was mocked, He must be exalted so that every vestige of shame is expunged. Where there was once a cross there must be a throne. Before Him who was reviled and betrayed every knee will bow. No triumph will compare with this. Until that glorious day, let's faithfully pray for *"the peace of Jerusalem"* (Psalm 122).² 

ENDNOTES

1. [https://en.m.wikipedia.org/article: The Way of the Patriarchs](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/article:The_Way_of_the_Patriarchs)
2. *Jerusalem: The Tragedy and the Triumph*, Charles Gulston, Zondervan, 1978, p.274

BY REV. RICK FOX

JAM Board Member





A PROBLEM WITH GLOBAL RAMIFICATIONS

REV. KEN OVERBY

David exclaimed, *“Jerusalem is builded as a city that is compact together”* (Psalm 122:3). What would he say if he saw her now? As of 2023 Jerusalem had 22,000 people per square mile with nearly one million residents. Jerusalem’s demographic makeup has two diametrically opposed ethnic and religious populations compacted in a pressure cooker of 49 square miles. Is Jerusalem approaching the tipping point that Jesus warned of, when *“every city ... divided against itself shall not stand”* (Matthew 12:25)? The more one studies this city’s biblical and post-biblical history, the more it is evident how easily its seam-line can rip apart. Internationally, Jerusalem is prophetically destined to become the geopolitical “Axis of Anger.”

What are the key factors of this divisive equation? Historically Jerusalem is ground zero of turmoil containing the most contested 38 acres on the globe claimed by both Arab Muslims and Israeli Jews. Jerusalem has been captured 44 times in 3500 years as evidenced by the division of the old city’s four quarters, Jewish, Christian, Armenian and Muslim.

This mount has been reverently referred to by Jews as *Har HaBayit* - Mount of the House, since the Temple’s construction in 957 BC. It is commonly referred to in English as the Temple Mount but in its place, there is a golden-domed Muslim shrine, which is referred to as the Dome of the Rock, al-Haram al-Sharif in Arabic. It was built in 692 AD by *Abd al-Malik*, the fifth ruler under the Umayyad Caliphate. By 900 AD the Muslims dubbed it Al Quds - Arabic for “The Holy.” Israel’s recent battle in the spring of 2023 was

an attack by the Palestinian Islamic Jihad i.e.: holy warriors for Al Quds. It has become an unholy ground zero of spiritual and political strife. It will become the epicenter of warfare as Jesus foretold (Matthew 24:7;15-20).

The Muslims recaptured the Temple Mount from the Crusaders in 1187 AD and controlled it through the Ottoman Turk Empire in various degrees through the early 1900s. However, the adage, “possession is 9/10ths of the law” doesn’t settle the matter of divine ownership. But let’s be unequivocally clear, the first to attach His name to this mount before there even was a Temple and swore it in an unconditional covenant with David which he reaffirmed to King Solomon, was the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Genesis 15,22; I Kings 8,9). God declared it *“my holy mountain”* ten times (Nehemiah 11:1,18; Revelation 22:19).

Conflict is also baked into the city by its modern-day demographics. Palestinian neighborhoods exceeding 353,000 people comprise about 37% of Jerusalem residents in 2023,¹ while Jews make up about 60% of the population exceeding 570,000 people. For the first time in 75 years the Arab population explosion in Jerusalem has slowed to a comparable rate to Jewish birth rates. In 2020 for the first time since Israel became a state, the Jewish fertility rate slightly surpassed the Arab fertility rate which has steadily fallen from 9 children per Arab woman in 1948.² Although Jews outnumber Muslims by 2-1 in Jerusalem and by 3-1 in Israel, it’s a completely different story outside the borders of the tiny Jewish state. Just seven million Israeli Jews are surrounded

by one hundred million Arab Muslims. Two million Arabs are citizens of Israel. Israel is a convenient scapegoat for the Arab-Muslim socio-economic failures, their lust for domination of God's land, and the expulsion of God's people. Jerusalem will not only become more intense regionally, but will also become a burden for all the people of the earth. The United Nations Declaration 181 in 1947 stated that "the city of Jerusalem as a corpus separatum (Latin: "separate entity") is to be governed by a special international regime."³ The spirit of Anti-Christ now holds sway in this international anti-Zionist regime called the UN. Will there be a Jerusalem conflagration that will turn into a regional and international conflict? Yes. It's coming. The question is; what will ignite it? The young Arab street zealots have switched allegiances from the impotent Palestinian Authority of yesteryear to openly supporting not only Hezbollah and Hamas but are regularly attempting to fly ISIS and Palestinian Islamic Jihad flags within the Temple Mount compound. Israel is bracing for a violent power struggle between these new factions once the toothless Palestinian Authority leader Mahmoud Abbas passes.

On the other hand, the swelling young ultra-Orthodox population of rabbinic Yeshiva students in West Jerusalem is increasingly becoming intolerant of Muslims. I have been at the Jaffe Gate when large Jewish youth rallies chant that all of Jerusalem is their own. Biblically they are speaking the truth but obviously with no love for Muslims. The political left and Muslims decry this as provocative while ignoring their own zealotry.

Zechariah the prophet focuses on the coming conflagration with the phrase, "people round about" describing adjoining neighborhoods and suburbs. The phrase "siege both against Judah and against

Jerusalem" indicates a seizure of surrounding territory. Judea touted as the "West Bank," surrounds Jerusalem. Zechariah also indicates that the people who are under siege are Judeans in the vicinity of Jerusalem (Zechariah 12:2). When Israel finds itself in the next multi-front war with Iran and its proxies, the great fear is that many of the 2.1 million Arab neighbors who are citizens will become the fifth column within the gates and ally with the 353,800 Jerusalem Palestinians against Israel. Although tens of thousands of Jews and Arabs live, work, shop beside each other peaceably, Jews avoid driving through Palestinian neighborhoods. We do that here in America. I remember during the rioting in America in 2016 where cities were burning, I was in Jerusalem when Jews were experiencing knife attacks. I got a call asking if we were ok. Our group had just spent the evening walking from Western Jerusalem into the Old City and back. The sidewalks and cafes were full. I asked the caller, are you OK? The downtown area of our home city was a war zone. I have never felt unsafe in Jerusalem the many times I have visited. But Jews of the Diaspora - outside of Israel, have a saying, "Persecution always begins with the Jews, but it never ends with the Jews." I might add, "Trouble that begins in Jerusalem never ends in Jerusalem."

Future International Prophetic Ramifications

*"And in that day will I make Jerusalem **a burdensome stone for all people**: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though **all the people of the earth be gathered together against it.**" (Zechariah 12:3) (added emphasis mine)*


Israel is seeing a buildup of Iranian terrorist proxies: Hezbollah on its northern border, the PIJ on its southern border and Hamas together have been



West bank security wall in Jerusalem.

referred to as an Iranian “ring of fire.” Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is constantly affirming that Israel is prepared at a moment’s notice to face and win a war, on all its borders. Meanwhile, the Western democratic nations who have spanked Iran’s hand for uranium enrichment are again discussing a new agreement that promises even less sanctions for less accountability. This, as Iran is nearing a nuclear weapons break-out point. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) which monitors nuclear activity and its weaponized potential, recently said that their monitors have only been permitted access to a fraction of Iran’s facilities. They acknowledge that Iran only needs a relatively short time for their centrifuges to increase enrichment levels from 83% to weapons-grade uranium at 90%. Israel’s back is almost to the wall and a preemptive strike to take out Iran’s nuclear sites is now openly discussed. In response to this the U.S. and Israel have just simulated the largest scale naval and air maneuvers ever. The U.S. has just committed “bunker buster” bombs for Israel’s use for such an attack. But when saber-rattling turns into air sorties and missile salvos, will the United States keep its word to back Israel all the way? Would it surprise anyone if the current U.S. administration were to make military support for such a strike contingent on Israel giving up part of the West Bank, for a “Two State Solution?” Israel’s hopes for enticing Saudi Arabia into the Abraham Accords were recently iced when the Saudis said that their involvement in such an “Accord” is only possible if it includes a Palestinian state in the disputed West Bank territory. With the weakening of American influence among Arab nations, the probability of a nuclear-armed Iran is causing major Arab states to look to China.

Zechariah specifically names Jewish control of Jerusalem as a time marker. “Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place, even in Jerusalem.” The Hebrew personifies Jerusalem, “will again settle in its place in Jerusalem,”⁴ indicating that the Jewish people will once again inhabit their historic capital city. Israel just celebrated 56 years since the 1967 “Six Day War” in which Jerusalem was freed from Jordan and reunified under Jewish control for the first time since 70 AD. Was that the time marker for Jerusalem by the prophet Zechariah? Are we approaching “that Day?” Will an Israeli strike on Iranian nuclear facilities be the trigger of global condemnation? “In that day will I make the governors of Judah like a hearth of fire among the wood, and like a torch of fire in a sheaf; and they shall devour all the people round about” (Zechariah 12:6). It seems that Israel

may be nearing such a flashpoint. What will it take to turn the whole world against Israel? If Israel were to airmail a nuclear bomb to Iran the entire world would handcuff her with crippling sanctions. One does not have to be a prophet to see that the prophets’ handwriting on the wall is beginning to be reflected in the news more clearly than ever before. All nations will come against Israel and doubtless blame them. Jerusalem will become a burdensome millstone around the geopolitical neck of the world powers. All that try to remove the burdensome stone will be cut to pieces. In the dream of Nebuchadnezzar’s golden image “a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces” (Daniel 2:34). The kingdom established by the heavenly smashing stone will grow into a mountainous kingdom that will fill the earth. Jesus is that stone whom the builders rejected. He is the chief cornerstone of Israel’s kingdom and the foundation stone of the Church. The Rock that followed Israel in the wilderness is getting ready to rock the soon coming one world kingdom for their wickedness against Abraham’s seed, and their attempts to dominate the sacrificial stone in the center of Jerusalem which Jehovah God himself chose as “my Holy Mount.” 

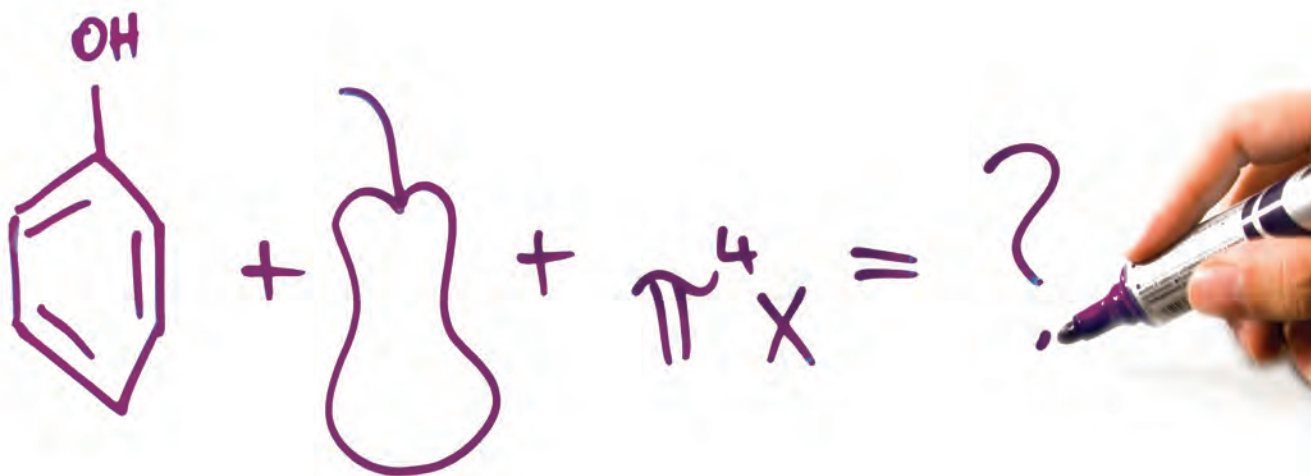
ENDNOTES

1. Demographic history of Jerusalem - Wikipedia
2. The Tide Turns: More Jewish than Arab Births in Israel | The Jewish Press - JewishPress.com | David Israel | 21 Adar I 5782 - February 22, 2022 | JewishPress.com
3. un decision that jerusalem would remain under international control - Search (bing.com)
4. The Artscroll Tanach Series, The Twelve Prophets, Vol. 2 Measorah Publications, Ltd., Brooklyn, NY, 2009, P287



BY REV. KEN OVERBY

Executive Director
Jewish Awareness Ministries



JERUSALEM'S MESSIANIC SOLUTION

DR. BRIAN NORMAN

Have you ever had a problem that you just could not solve? Jerusalem has a problem that just will not go away. Jerusalem is not just a city situated in Israel. God has chosen this city for Himself, as the center of His universe, the “*apple of His eye*” (Zechariah 2:7,8). Since Jerusalem is God’s city, the evil one and all his emissaries hate her simply because she is God’s (Isaiah 14:12-15). God has great concern for Jerusalem and is very jealous of her and will protect her “*as one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you; and ye shall be comforted in Jerusalem*” (Isaiah 66:13); “*Thus saith the LORD of hosts; My cities through prosperity shall yet be spread abroad; and the LORD shall yet comfort Zion, and shall yet choose Jerusalem*” (Zechariah 1:17). Thus, the attacks and opposition upon her are particularly provocative to God. The prayer by the Jewish people, as well as Christian believers, is therefore necessary - “*Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee*” (Psalm 122:6). Charles Spurgeon wrote in his devotional, “*pray for the peace of Jerusalem, and*



thine own soul shall be refreshed.” The importance of praying for Jerusalem’s peace is obvious, but what exactly does that mean?

Since Jerusalem is the center of horrific spiritual opposition, prayer is our initial part of the solution to this dilemma. The only One who can bring permanent peace is the “*God of Peace*” (Romans 15:33; 16:20). Thus, the solution to Jerusalem is prayer, not for a good program or a better plan, but for a person, referred to as the “*Prince of Peace*” (Isaiah 9:6). In the book of Revelation, John describes the Dragon that tries to devour Israel the “*woman*” that gave birth to the Son of God (Revelation 12:1-4). This has been the plan of the devil all along, for if the Messiah has been devoured, then how can any peace be available? The crucifixion reveals that the devil will do anything and everything he can to get rid of Jesus, thus eliminating any possibility for the answer to this long-awaited prayer. The prayer will be answered in a two-fold fashion: the restoration of Jerusalem as the city of peace being governed by the “*Prince of Peace*” for one thousand years on this earth and secondly, the establishment of New Jerusalem on the new earth for all eternity.

The initial phase of the solution is Jesus and His Millennial kingdom! Jesus commanded us to pray, “*Thy Kingdom come.*” This kingdom of Jesus will be

a literal kingdom, for one thousand glorious years, centered in Jerusalem. The topography of the earth will be changed by the time the kingdom begins to function, and the city of Jerusalem will be the center of government (Isaiah 2:3). Jerusalem will not only be restored to all its splendor and glory (Isaiah 60:1, 5), Jerusalem will be a place of even greater glory (Isaiah 24:23). It will be the site of the Temple (Isaiah 33:20, Ezekiel 40-48) and the joy of the whole earth. *"Rejoice ye with Jerusalem, and be glad with her, all ye that love her: rejoice for joy with her, all ye that mourn for her also"* (Isaiah 66:10).

There are three characteristics of this kingdom. First, it will manifest itself in the righteousness of Jesus the Messiah King who reigns in righteousness (Isaiah 32:1). Righteousness will be the belt of His loins (Isaiah 11:5). Albert Barnes comments that *"a part of their dress consisted of an outward, loose, flowing robe."*² It was necessary to gird up this robe, to confine it closely to the body in active labor, or in running. The figure used here is that the virtues of righteousness

and justice would adhere to him as closely and inseparably as the garment does to the body to which it was bound. Jerusalem will finally be called the city of righteousness (Isaiah 1:26). The second characteristic is peacefulness. Jerusalem itself, a site of many conflicts throughout the centuries, will finally be at peace (Zechariah 8:4-5). Jerusalem, the scene of so much war and turmoil both in the past and present and victim of future judgments during the Tribulation, will never again need to fear for her safety (Isaiah 26:1-4). Indeed, the whole earth will be at peace - no more war (Isaiah 2:4). The animosity between animals will be gone as they live in peace one with another (Isaiah 11:6-7). A third characteristic of this city that will spread throughout the kingdom will be true religiousness. At the forefront of this will be a renewal of the sacrificial system at the fully operational Temple in Jerusalem (Ezekiel 40-48). Premillennialists understand that the main purpose of these sacrifices is to memorialize the sacrifice of Jesus the Lamb of God. Full knowledge of the Lord




will cover the earth during the Millennium (Isaiah 2:2-3), sounding out from Jerusalem. At least one Jewish Levitical holiday, namely the Feast of Tabernacles will be observed globally during the Millennium (Ezekiel 46:1-15; Zechariah 14:16). However, the greatest thing about this city is the very presence of God (Psalm 125:2), because He has chosen her as the place of His habitation (Psalm 132:13-14; Micah 4:7-8).

The first phase of the solution to the absence of peace in Jerusalem will be the millennial reign of the Prince of Peace. The second phase of the solution is the eternal bliss of New Jerusalem in the new earth. Although the peace of Millennial Jerusalem is amazing, it does not compare with the eternal bliss of the "holy city" referred to as the "New Jerusalem" which descends from the new heaven to the new earth (Revelation 21:1,2). This description is often misinterpreted as describing the Millennial Jerusalem. Our imaginations are overwhelmed with walls of jasper as clear as crystal and a street of translucent gold and foundations of twelve precious stones. It is beyond comprehension how its twelve gates are made of twelve individual pearls (Revelation 21:1-23). The "new" Jerusalem will be exceptionally large (Revelation 21:16), measuring in an equal distance of length, breadth, and height of twelve thousand furlongs. If a furlong equals five hundred and eighty-two feet, then that would total one thousand three hundred twenty-two miles. The measurement of this city would span half of the United States. The city will have a large, beautiful wall surrounding it (Revelation 21:12,14,17). This wall is not to keep people out but to mark the boundary (Revelation 21:10-12). The height of its wall is one hundred and forty-four cubits, which would equal two hundred and sixteen feet (Revelation 21:21).

Again, this is not describing Millennial Jerusalem, but rather the New Jerusalem on the new earth after the current earth has been dissolved by "fervent heat" (2 Peter 3:10,12). Although the descriptions in Revelation 21 are not found in the prophecies of Ezekiel 40-48 that describe millennial Jerusalem, certainly, the glory of Jerusalem, when Jesus reigns as the King of Kings in Jerusalem, will exceed the embellishment of King Solomon's Jerusalem. The Queen of Sheba was so overwhelmed with that opulence she said, "Howbeit I believed not their words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen it: and, behold, the one half of the greatness of thy wisdom was not told me: for thou exceedest the fame that I heard" (2 Chronicles 9:6). The New Testament verse describing our wonder is

a quote from the Old Testament about the millennial reign of Messiah "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him" (Isaiah 64:1,4; 1 Corinthians 2:9).

The difficulty with the current state of Jerusalem pales in comparison to the problems that she will face in the Great Tribulation, yet there is a great cause to rejoice with her and for her. "Rejoice ye with Jerusalem, and be glad with her, all ye that love her: rejoice for joy with her, all ye that mourn for her" (Isaiah 66:10). Why can she rejoice? Because God has answered the prayer that His people have been praying throughout the centuries and He answers it in perfect fashion - salvation. His peace comes through His righteousness which produces true religiousness. "Behold I will extend peace to her like a river" (Isaiah 64:12). Again, we are reminded to "pray for the peace of Jerusalem," knowing that the "peace" is not a program or plan, but a person - Jesus Christ - who is coming to rule and reign from Jerusalem forever and ever. Our Lord left us with the Great Commission to go with the power of the Gospel of peace from Jerusalem "to the Jew first" throughout the world until He returns to rule from Jerusalem in peace and righteousness. We must first of all reach those whose favorite greeting is Peace - "Shalom," those who often pray toward the city of Shalom, with the news of Jesus the "Czar Shalom" - the Prince of Peace. So, what does praying for the peace of Jerusalem mean for us? It means praying for peace in the hearts of Jewish people and putting feet to our prayers, proclaiming that the Prince of Peace who will soon return is the one that already came to die in Jerusalem to provide eternal peace with God. 

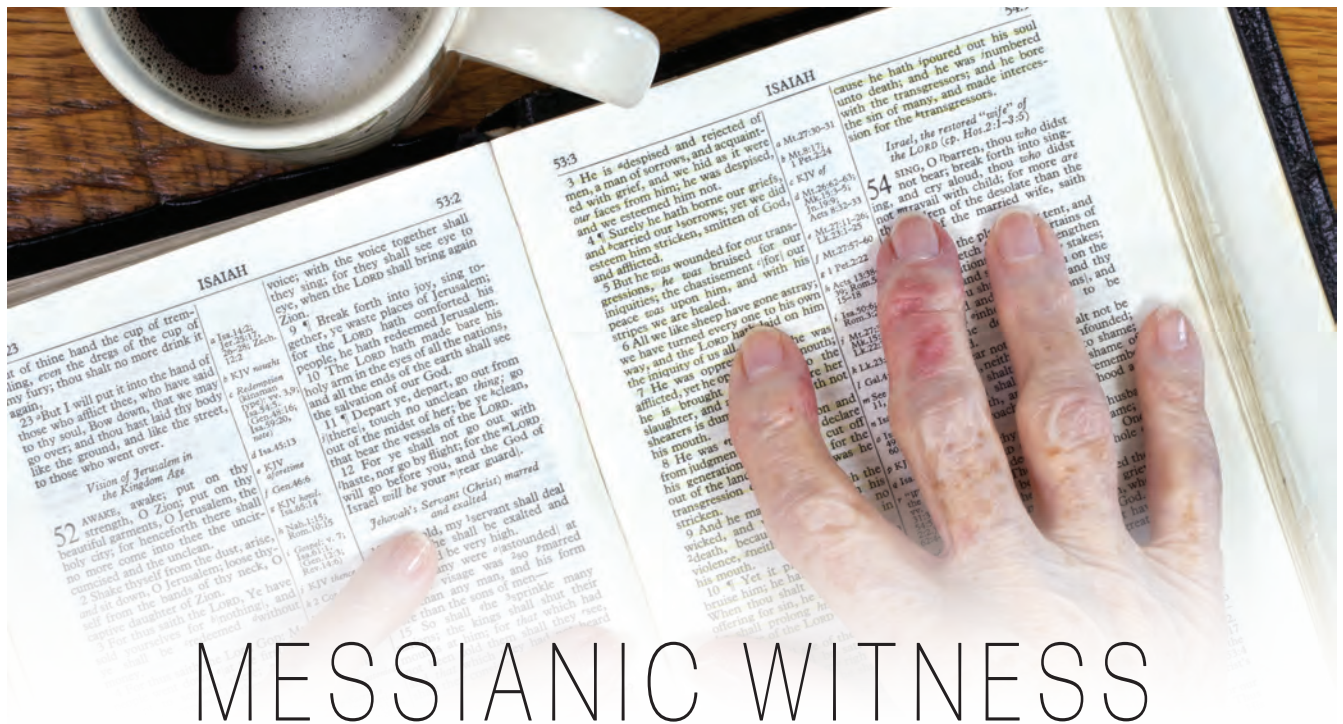
ENDNOTES

1. *Evening by Evening*, July 16 Devotional, New York: Sheldon, 1869.
2. <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/barnes/isaiah/11.htm>

BY DR. BRIAN NORMAN

Pastor
Bethel Baptist Church





MESSIANIC WITNESS

REV. RUSTY GUIN

Jerusalem holds immense spiritual significance as seen in her historical conflicts. Yet amidst these challenges, we can share the messianic hope of peace. As believers, we can learn how to be a better witness to Jewish people, through divine appointments, with an organic approach. It is precisely within this context of spiritual struggle that the gospel can bring redemption's peace. Jerusalem serves as the epitome of this struggle, making it a crucial arena for witnessing. We spent several years in Jerusalem doing just that and have found that it still is the power of God unto salvation to the Jew first.

As believers, we must first recognize the hand of God orchestrating divine appointments. These encounters are not mere coincidences but opportunities. With compassion we can literally help pull them out of the fire (Jude 1:22). For example, I had the opportunity to speak to a Rabbi who was touring with a large group. I introduced myself and befriended him by sharing my love for Israel and the Jewish people. I then proceeded to ask (1) if he believed that the book of Isaiah was God's Word. He replied, "Yes." (2) I then asked him if he could look up Isaiah 53. The Rabbi looked it up on his I-pad and got a puzzled look on his face. He said, "It is blotted out and says it is forbidden for me to read." I was able to be a witness and share what Isaiah 53 was talking about and to whom it was referring. He said that he would look the chapter up and read it before


he went to bed that night. It was a divine appointment. Relax and express your love and appreciation for them, then simply ask them those two questions. JAM has printed Isaiah 53 on a pocket-sized card as well as other tracts written for Jewish people which you can order through office@jewishawareness.org. Ask them to read the front side of the card before you tell them it is from Isaiah. Ask what it describes. They will often say it describes the crucifixion. They'll assume that it must be a New Testament scripture since they received it from a Christian. Ask them to read the back of the card which reveals that this was written by Isaiah 700 years before Jesus. It will astound them that their Jewish prophet predicted the crucifixion of the Messiah for their sins.

To be an effective witness, requires obedience to the second greatest commandment "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself" (Matthew 22:38,39). The Lord used my involvement in sports while I was coaching a football team for several seasons in Jerusalem. I was able to show compassion to the players regardless of what they believed and share the love of the Messiah and the truth of the Gospel. About a year ago while in Jerusalem, I ran into one of these young men that I had coached and with whom I had shared the good news of Yeshua Ha Moshiach, Jesus the Messiah. He is now a believer. What a joy to learn that he had gone on to live for the Lord!

When engaging with Jewish people, we must be aware of their religious, cultural sensitivities. We can reduce initial obstacles by using terms like “Messiah” for “Christ” because the Christ of Catholicism historically was associated with the persecution of Jews. Use “Scriptures” or simply, “the Bible,” because using “Old Testament” insinuates that we view their Bible as out of date, and not relevant. By emphasizing the continuity between their Bible and the New Covenant which Jeremiah foretold, we can reveal a holistic understanding of God’s redemptive plan. Provoke their curiosity by expressing your thankfulness for the Jewish people writing and preserving the Bible which told how you could receive peace through the Messiah. When they see that you found the key to peace, joy and hope that they haven’t even read in their own Bible, it makes them jealous for God to give them what you have. *“I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy”* (Romans 11:11).

Organic witnessing means allowing the Holy Spirit to guide our interactions. It is important to have a prepared testimony, but our approach should allow for authentic conversations that address real concerns, which builds bridges to the gospel. After starting a conversation, I like to ask about their work and how life is treating them. Often, I ask about their

family and how they are doing. You can help them praise God for the good things that He has done for them. I started a conversation like this with a guy just the other day and with the Holy Spirit’s leading was able to share the Gospel. Someone has said, “First ask about their story, and then tell them your story, then tell them about His story.”

Jerusalem holds a unique prophetic significance. As believers, we have an opportunity to bear witness to the gospel using prophecy and the current news about Israel. Ask them what they think about the great battle of Gog and Magog against Israel just before the Messiah comes. (They may not be familiar with the N.T. term “Armageddon.”) By recognizing divine appointments, loving them, and approaching them with authenticity and sensitivity, we can be more effective gospel witnesses to the Jewish people. May we embrace this responsibility with hope, demonstrating the transformative power of the Gospel to Jewish people in Jerusalem and beyond. 




BY REV. RUSTY GUIN

National Field Representative
Jewish Awareness Ministries



JAM's Isaiah 53 Tract.



Knesset
Kafernaum, Israel

Who has believed our report?
to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?
He is despised and rejected by men,
A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.
And we hid, as it were, *our* faces from Him;
He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.
Surely He hath borne our griefs
And carried our sorrows;
Yet we did esteem Him stricken,
Smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was wounded
for our transgressions,
He was bruised for our iniquities;
The chastisement for our peace was upon Him

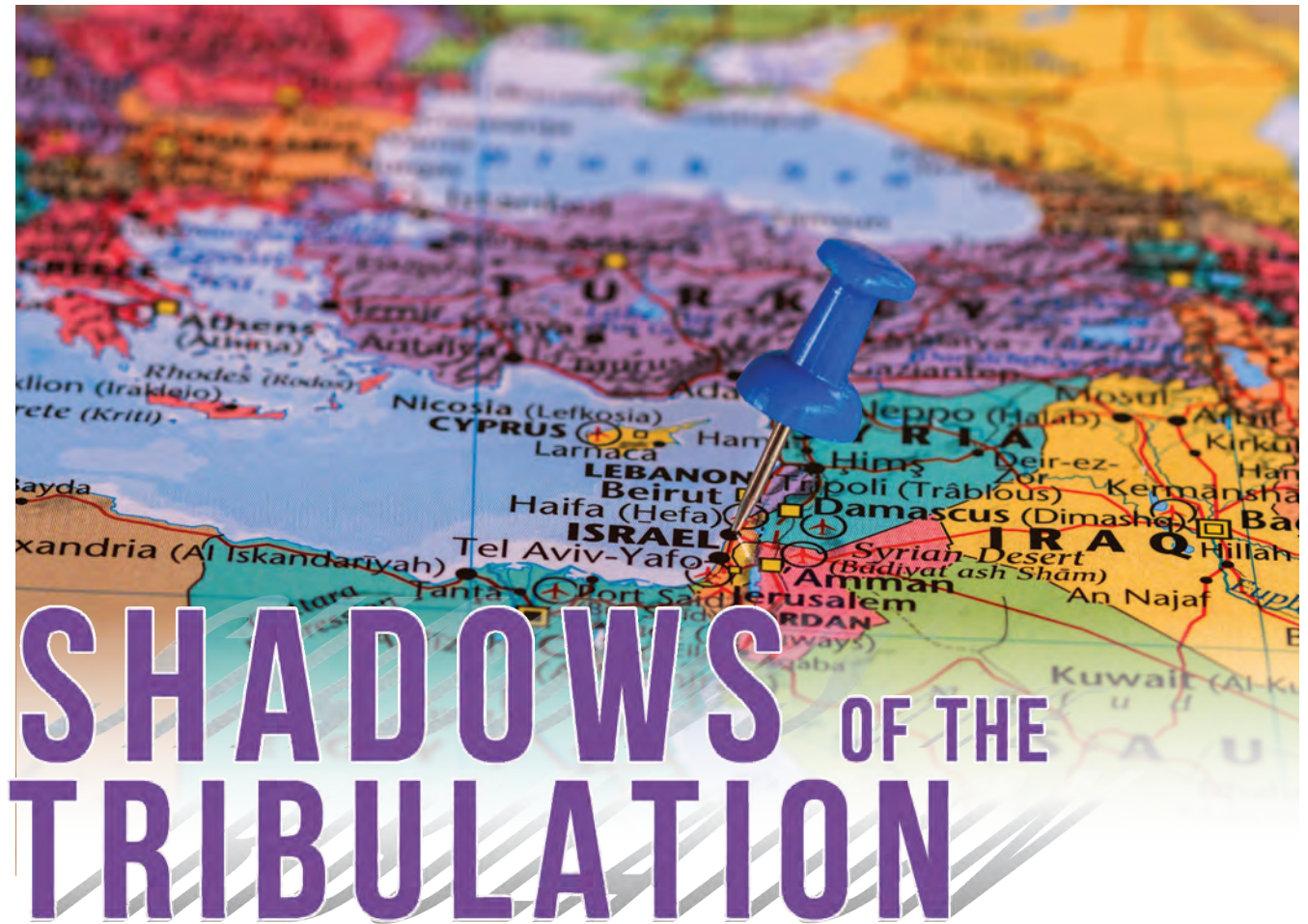
All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all. “He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, For He was cut off out of the land of the living; For the transgression of My people He was stricken. “He made His grave with the wicked and with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence, Neither was *any* deceit in His mouth. Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He hath put *Him* to grief. When thou shalt make His soul an offering for sin... He shall prolong *His* days, The pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand. He shall see the travail of His soul, *and* shall be satisfied. By His knowledge shall My righteous Servant justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities.



**Who is G-d’s righteous servant who bore Israel’s iniquities?
Why was it predicted that Israel would despise & reject him?**

Isaiah 53 written 739 - 681 BCE
Chief Rabbi of Safed - 16th century Mosheh el Sheikh, (*Alshech*), says "Our Rabbis with one voice accept and affirm the opinion that the prophet is speaking of the King Messiah, and we shall ourselves also adhere to the same view." - Commentaries on the Earlier Prophets

shalomshalom.radio shalomshalom.info
www.jewishawareness.org oneforisrael.org



The prophecy of Ezekiel 38 & 39 is the subject of much discussion. When will this invasion of Israel happen? Who will participate in the invasion? What about Turkey's part in this great invasion. Ezekiel's invasion list of countries includes Meshek, Tubal, and Togarmah. Dwight J. Pentecost in his classic book *Things to Come*, quotes Louis Bauman's work *Russian Events In Light of Bible Prophecy*, in which he identifies "Togarmah, probably the Turkoman tribes."¹ Dr. Thomas Ice, in his 2009 Scholar's Crossing paper, identifies Meshek and Tubal as people groups who've settled in Turkey.² These three in Ezekiel's list, are commonly identified as the historic people groups that represent modern Turkey. Her geographical location certainly positions her in the path of this northern invasion of Israel.

After the disintegration of the 600-year-old Muslim Ottoman Empire following World War I, Turkey set about to become a secular nation, aligned with Western powers. For evidence, we need to look no further than Turkey's 1951 membership in NATO.³ Turkey took extreme measures to reduce the influence of Islam in the Turkish government to

create a decidedly secular state.⁴ But all of that has changed as Turkey has clearly begun their return to Islamic rule. When a radical Muslim party in Turkey first won the election to govern the capital city of Ankara, they publicly stated, "Our next goal is to gain control of the national government of Turkey." One of the spokesmen for that radical Muslim party said, "When we do that, we're going to change our relationship with NATO. We're going to establish an Islamic NATO and an Islamic common market." And it looks very much as if Turkey, in the not-too-distant future, is going to come under complete domination by radical Islam and then it, too, will turn against the nation of Israel and will want to see it annihilated from the face of the earth."⁵


Furthermore, "President Erdogan has "refused to implement Western sanctions against Russia, and trade between the two countries has soared since the Ukraine invasion."⁶ Robert Ellis, writing for the *Jerusalem Post* stated, "It's clear that Turkey has imposed Islamic rule on both its domestic and foreign policies."⁷ Turkey's recent national election was won in a run-off on May 28th by the current president, Recep

Tayyip Erdogan. His re-election could be clearing the way for the Magog Invasion of Israel. Ellis went on to say, “By now it must be apparent that Turkey has joined forces with Russia’s Vladimir Putin, Iran’s Ebrahim Raisi, China’s Xi Jinping and Saudi Arabia’s Mohammed bin Salman.”⁸

The British magazine, *The Economist*, documents that under the two-decade rule of President Erdogan, Turkey has systematically returned to Islamic law and a political alliance with Russian President Vladimir Putin. In early May of this year, the foreign ministers of Russia, Syria, Turkey, and Iran met in Moscow for “high-level talks on rebuilding ties between Ankara and Damascus after years of animosity during Syria’s war. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov expressed hope that the meeting would pave the way to drafting a road map for normalizing Turkey-Syria relations.”⁹ One reason this is so important is that Syria is the geographic threshold neighbor sharing a border with Israel across which the invasion of Israel must cross.

The military strength and strategic location of Turkey is significant. Turkey has the second largest army of NATO countries, second only to the United States. When the composite army of Ezekiel 38 comes against Israel, it will not be a partial army. Eight times in verses 4 - 9 the word “all” is used. This invading army will be the largest army ever amassed.¹⁰ It will “be like a cloud to cover the land.” (Ezekiel 38:9) Turkey’s 296,185 square miles between the Aegean, Black, and Mediterranean Seas has the largest land mass in Europe except for Russia.

And how is Jerusalem specifically the target of Turkish aspirations? Herb Kenion writing for the Jerusalem post documents that; “Turkey is the most active and important foreign country operating in eastern Jerusalem,” he wrote, saying that Ankara “regards influence in eastern Jerusalem, particularly the Temple Mount, as a major strategic goal.” As a result, Turkey has funneled tens of millions of dollars into projects in the city. “The admiration for Turkey among residents of east Jerusalem is unprecedented,” Kenion wrote. “Turkish flags are often flown on roofs of buildings in eastern Jerusalem and even on the Temple Mount.”¹¹ Jerusalem is becoming the focus of Russia, through Turkey as Ezekiel prophesied. To even the most casual Bible student, it is beyond debate

that the Shadows of the Tribulation on Jerusalem are fast approaching. Let us do all we can to reach Jewish souls and Gentiles with the Gospel of Jesus the Messiah! 

ENDNOTES

1. Ibid p. 330
2. Liberty University, *Scholars Crossing*, Pre-Trib Research Center, May 2009, Ezekiel 38 & 39, Dr. Thomas Ice, Part V
3. NATO Review - The historic document confirming Greece and Turkey joining NATO
4. Macalester International, *Secularism and Islam: The Building of Modern Turkey*, Binnaz Toprak, Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey
5. The John Ankerberg Show, *What Nations Will Be Involved In The Military Attack Against Israel Predicted in Ezekiel 38?* Dr. Renald Showers, 1996
6. *Jerusalem Post*, Robert Ellis, December 11, 2022
7. Ibid
8. Forbes, *Russia, Turkey, Iran and Syria Meet in Moscow: What’s Afoot?*, Malik Kaylan, April 30, 2023
9. Forbes, *Russia, Turkey, Iran and Syria Meet in Moscow: What’s Afoot?*, Malik Kaylan, April 30, 2023
10. Liberty University, *Scholars Crossing*, Pre-Trib Research Center, May 2009, Ezekiel 38 & 39, Dr. Thomas Ice, Part X
11. By Herb Keinon, *The Jerusalem Post* (jpost.com), Published: August 27, 2019 03:42, *Katz demands Foreign Ministry stop Turkish subversion in east Jerusalem*



BY REV. GEORGE QUICK

JAM Board Member

P.O. Box 1808
Angier, NC 27501
919-275-4477
JewishAwareness.org

JAMIT '24



For more info, visit JewishAwareness.org/internship

*"The Lord has used
this internship to grow
me and open my eyes
to so much.*

*I've been moved,
convicted and
overwhelmed by all
that God has
taught me since being
on this internship."*

- JAM Intern

• **ONLINE** •
• **IN PERSON** •
• **ON SITE** •
IN ISRAEL