



The Final Arab/Israel War:

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God's Judgment/God's Promise

As the Middle East heats up, the number of Arab and Jewish casualties and fatalities increase; the struggle appears to be politically irresolvable. Pundits within every political and religious group are just as heated with differing opinions.

Will we see a new Arab/Israeli war in the near future?

Military leaders in Israel have openly expressed their concern that if the violence continues between the Palestinian people and Israel, the Middle East will likely be drawn into another regional war.

The world is increasingly becoming aware that the Middle East conflict cannot—and will not—be resolved politically. Unfortunately, few examine the facts at its most critical level. At its core, the conflict is spiritual—not political. There is a conflict on the

horizon, but the confrontation is between the God of Israel and the god of Islam.

So what does God say about this confrontation? We know that more war with the Arab nations is possible but is there such a thing as a final Arab/Israeli war? Do the prophets speak of such a confrontation? And, are we looking at the buildup to such a war now?

The prophet Isaiah does indeed prophesy a final Arab/Israeli war. Although it is not clear whether we are seeing the buildup to this conflict, this booklet will briefly review the final conflict as envisioned in Isaiah 11. As with all prophecy, only time will tell if the events unfold in our generation or a future generation. Our obligation as believers in the Messiah Yeshua/Jesus is to watch and pray.

Isaiah 11

The chapter breaks down into two themes:

1) Peaceful Reign of Messiah: Verses 1-11 describe what many other prophetic passages present as the return of the Messiah and the setting up of His reign of peace for a thousand years. Isaiah 11:6 pictures the peaceful and even supernatural scenario by stating, “The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them.” In other words, there is no danger of predator-initiated death when Messiah returns. The Messiah—Root of Jesse in verse 10—rules from Jerusalem and brings peace to the earth.

2) The Conflict: Verses 12-16, however, describe a conflict that has not happened historically to date, and cannot happen during the Messiah’s 1,000-year reign because the Messiah’s reign is characterized

by worldwide peace. Consequently, in my view, it must describe a war that will happen prior to the Messiah’s Second Coming and the setting up of His kingdom of peace.



The Final Arab/Israeli War

Let's focus on the war itself as described in Isaiah 11. How do we know that the war is the "last" war? The answer is in the text of this chapter:

- 1) This war involves Israel's active conquest not just of Egypt, Syria and Lebanon, but also "the people to the east" (verse 14), known in Scripture as the nomads of the desert, these are the Arab nations of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Bahrain and others.
- 2) By mentioning Assyria in this passage, not only is Syria included but also modern-day Iraq. So, we are dealing with a war in which Israel actively engages all of the Middle Eastern Arab states. This, however, does not reveal its "final" status but the following observation in the text does . . .
- 3) Not only does Israel seem to proactively or preemptively attack their enemies—verse 14 implies this when it described Israel as "swooping down on the slopes of Philistia (the Palestinians)"—but the text also describes Israel as "plundering the people of the east" or Arab desert nations.

Did you catch that? Israel will not only defeat the desert nations but also plunder and take spoils from them. Since these nations have become rich from their trade in oil, we can conclude that Israel will control the Middle East oil and wealth of these nations after the war. This has never before happened so we know this is an event of the future.

The verse goes on to state that Israel also will "lay hands on Edom and Moab and the Ammonites will be subject to them." This Hebrew text asserts that Israel will possess and annex the east bank of the

Jordan River, which previously happened in the days of Joshua, but today is largely the territory held by the modern-day nation of Jordan. In other words, this event has not happened anytime since the days of the prophet Isaiah.

How is This Possible?

Modern Israel was not able to control even a small patch of Lebanon, for any length of time, and finally left because the price of holding this territory in the midst of a hostile population was too high. We've seen that political solutions such as surrendering the Gaza strip to the Palestinians and talk of giving away more land hasn't ceased the attacks, so how can Israel with only 5.3 million people subjugate and/or have any kind of headship over several Arab/Moslem nations with as many as 250 million potentially hostile Arabs? There is no way in the natural for this to happen.

The Answer is God's "Supernatural" Power

The text in verses 15 and 16 reveal that this war will not be an ordinary military confrontation. In fact, the text indicates the war will have a strong supernatural component which is only partly revealed in these verses.

Verse 15 states, "The Lord will dry up the gulf of the Egyptian Sea; with a scorching wind, he will sweep His hand over the Euphrates River. He will break it up into seven streams so that men can cross over in sandals."

This is clearly a description of a supernatural intervention in this war. God will cause natural catastrophes in both Egypt and Assyria (Syria and Iraq) that will likely reveal to the Arab people that this confrontation with Israel is not just a military struggle with an earthly enemy but a spiritual struggle. He will reveal that the God of Israel is God and not Allah.

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The supernatural element is also indicated in verse 16 when the prophet states, “There will be a highway for the remnant of His people that is left from Assyria; as it was for Israel when they came up from Egypt.” How beautiful that the same exodus the Jewish people made—as described in Exodus 12, and celebrated in the Passover—is also made by the Arab people.

It is because of this supernatural element that I believe the Arab nations will accept the militia defeat of their forces as from God, and will in all probability become followers of the God of Israel (and His Messiah, Yeshua/Jesus) as described in Isaiah 19:23-25: “In that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria. The Assyrians will go to Egypt and the Egyptians to Assyria. The Egyptians and Assyrians will worship together. In that day Israel will be the third, along with Egypt and Assyria, a blessing on the earth. The Lord Almighty will bless them, saying, ‘Blessed be Egypt My people, Assyria My handiwork, and Israel My inheritance.’”

Even today, we see that our Arab cousins view the current confrontation in Israel as a religious issue—the god of Islam versus the God of Israel. God’s supernatural intervention in the midst of the final Arab/Israeli conflict will speak truth in a direct and personal way to the soul of the Arab people that the God of Israel is the one true God. Since the Moslem faith was created by the Arab peoples, their conversion to following the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob will make the peace and prosperity in the Middle East possible, as seen in the Isaiah passage. Even now there are Arabs and former Moslems coming to faith in the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and His Messiah Yeshua/Jesus.

The final Arab/Israeli conflict will speak truth to the soul of the Arab people that the God of Israel is the one true God

Ezekiel 37

We can also surmise that this prophetic event will probably set up Israel’s eventual confrontation with the northern confederacy as described in Ezekiel 37, which the prophet says will attack Israel.

Notice that the northern and hostile confederacy, in which all the Arab states described in Isaiah 11 are conspicuously absent, will suddenly attack Israel in a time of great prosperity and peace. The Isaiah 11 confrontation and consequent period of prosperity and peace would certainly prepare the way for the fulfillment of the famous Ezekiel prophecy.

We know that God is gathering Jewish people home to Israel from the far corners of the earth

Are We on the Threshold of Isaiah’s Prophetic Confrontation?

Maybe. Truly, we can only wait to see if the current confrontation develops into the broad conflict described in Isaiah 11. If it does, we will see God move in a supernatural way and the worldwide perception of who Israel is—and who God is—will never be the same again.

One thing is certain; we know that these events and others are just around the prophetic corner. We know that our Jewish people are headed for both days of trouble and prosperity. We also know God is gathering our Jewish people home to Israel from the four corners of the earth; millions are yet to leave Russia, Eastern Europe, Europe, South America and

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elsewhere.

That is why, as I watch events unfold in Israel, I cannot help but be challenged that we must do all we can to prepare for the difficult day ahead, even as the Lord has prophetically called us to work for the restoration of Israel.

The Messianic movement is the “first fruits” of the Jewish people who have come to believe and accept Yeshua/Jesus as their Messiah. Together with our Christian brothers and sisters we have a central role to play in God’s great prophetic plan for Israel. We are right where God wants us—Jew and Gentile, one in the Messiah, working together for the honor and glory of Yeshua/Jesus.

History of the MJAA

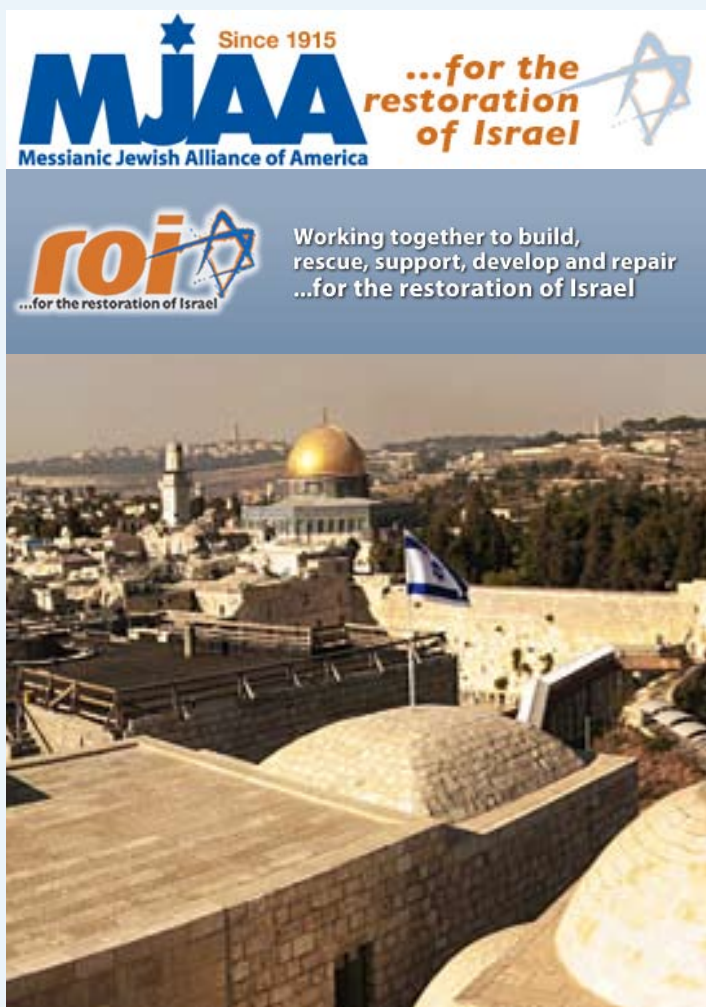
The Messianic Jewish Alliance of America (MJAA), founded in 1915, is the largest association of Messianic Jews in the world. Its purpose is threefold:

- To testify to the large and growing number of Jewish people who believe that Yeshua (Jesus) is the promised Jewish Messiah and Savior of the world;
- To bring together Jews and non-Jews who have a shared vision for Jewish revival; and
- Most importantly, to introduce our Jewish brothers and sisters to the Jewish Messiah Yeshua.

Why is this necessary? For many centuries Jews have frequently suffered at the hands of those calling themselves followers of Jesus. At the same time, the “Good News” or gospel of Yeshua was often presented without mention of this gospel’s roots in God’s relationship with His Jewish people throughout Scripture, and His promise of salvation through the Jewish Messiah. These factors lead many Jews to assume that to follow Yeshua is to leave the faith of their fathers and become non-Jews. The MJAA has worked to combat this misperception for nearly 90 years.

The MJAA takes seriously our role in both the physical and spiritual restoration of Israel and welcomes all who feel called to partner with us. Together—in unity as brothers and sisters in the Messiah—we can be part of God’s prophetic fulfillment.

Jew and Gentile One in the Messiah



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