

WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE HOLY LAND?

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All Bible quotes are from the New International version,
except Isaiah 14:29-31 on page 4, which is King James version.

All glory goes to the Father through the Son

What's Going On In The Holy Land?

To answer the title's question, one needs to know exactly who Palestinians and Israeli Jews are. This is key to understanding prophecies about the Holy Land. As it turns out, both groups are either directly descended from Israelite tribes, or should be accorded that status according to the law described in Ezekiel 47:21-23. Palestinians who have lived there the longest come from the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh. So, when one encounters "Ephraim" and "Manasseh" in prophecies, the people they refer to are called "Palestinians" today. Eastern European "Ashkenazi" Jews are directly descended (or joined with) the Israelite tribes driven out by the Romans. Collectively, Israeli Jews are referred to as "Judah" in the prophecies.

There's a little bit more you need to know. Many people think Jews are a race. Perhaps some people can trace specific bloodlines way back in time. But, the Israelite tribes were multi-racial, not a single race, as many people have been misled to believe. Thousands of years ago Abraham's people came from the far eastern end of the Middle East at a time many tribes—including Aryans--were migrating west and north out of central Asia.

Abraham and his wife Sarah had a great-grandson named Joseph, who married an Egyptian woman named Asenath (Gen.41:45). Egypt had a close relationship with the neighboring land to the South, which was called "Kush", and is now called "Sudan". It's a land where people with darker skin live. So, the Israelites were multi-racial. Special laws were even enacted to ensure this.

Unfortunately, people back then could be just as inhumane as people today. The Bible tells of a time the Egyptian Empire enslaved the Israelites. Some people scoff at the notion, but here's an interesting bit of circumstantial evidence the Bible's account is true. The Qur'an actually backs up the Bible's account! Think what you may about the Qur'an, but if the Bible account was false, then when Muhammad told his neighbors in Arabia it was true, they would have called him a liar and Islam wouldn't exist. But it does exist, at least partly because what he said was common knowledge over an area far beyond where the Israelites lived.

So, Joseph married a woman his people saw as coming from the oppressor race. Oppressed people tend to hate people who oppressed them, even their descendants. And when race is involved, it makes it easy to know who to hate. It's very natural, no matter our skin color. That's why the Israelites had special laws made so people on both sides of the slavery issue could live together. It worked out about as well as it has here in the USA. Nevertheless, an agreement, or "covenant" was reached between both sides to share the land some call "Israel" and others call "Palestine".

The narrative of the Old Testament is one of continual squabbles between the two groups, culminating with the division of Solomon's kingdom after he died, when it split into "Judah" (which included Jerusalem and everything south of it), and "Israel" (everything north of Jerusalem).

After the kingdom divided, the Assyrian Empire conquered the northern kingdom, and changed its name from "Israel" to "Samaria". Many people think the Assyrians exiled everyone due to what 2 Kings 17:5-6, 23 says. However, 2 Chronicles 30:1, 6, 2 Chronicles 34:9, and Hosea 7:8, all make clear what actually happened was only the elites were removed, while the poor people were left in place to serve as subjects to exploit. 2 Kings 17:24 then goes on to say the Assyrians brought people in from all over Mesopotamia, who mixed with the remnants of Ephraim and Manasseh, and were then together called "Samaritans". You may recall the time Jesus met the Samaritan woman at the well in Sychar (John 4). In verse 12, the woman asked Jesus, **"¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?"** So, the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh never left, even if many people think they are the "lost tribes of Israel".

Then, Rome invaded the Holy Land. The tribes descended from slave-masters (Ephraim & Manasseh/Samaritans) made peace with the Romans, so they remained in the land. But, the remaining tribes refused to be subdued. There were two major revolts, the first in 70 AD in which the Second Temple was destroyed, and the Bar Kokhba Revolt in 132-135 AD (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bar_Kokhba_revolt). The Jewish tribes were defeated and exiled, after which the Romans changed the land's name to "Palestine", and the remaining inhabitants name to "Palestinians".

Some Jewish refugees fled southeast into what was once called "Midian", and settled there in a city named "Medina". Other refugees made their way north to Jewish trading colonies situated on the north shores of the Black Sea in what later was called "Khazaria" and is today called "Ukraine". Several hundred years later Islam arose, and a very unfortunate incident occurred between Jews and Muslims which is at the root of their difficulties today. The end result was that many Jews fled from the expanding Muslim Caliphate, which drove even more Jews to Khazaria.

For those who wonder how Jews could end up hundreds of miles away in Khazaria, here in the USA we have the Cherokee tribe, who were forcibly displaced hundreds of miles from their home in Georgia all the way west to Oklahoma, during what came to be known as the "Trail of Tears". Anyway, two thousand years later, after going through hell as exiles in other lands, the United Nations decreed the exiled tribes of Jacob should have a homeland of their own back where they originated.

The problem was, the tribes who made peace with the Roman Empire had moved into the other tribe's land and lived there for almost two thousand years! It's so easy to fall in love with the land. Who doesn't? And so, we have the present tragedy. Now, on to the prophecies...

ISAIAH 14:29-31

The Destruction of Gaza

Isaiah 14:29-31, King James Version:

²⁹ Rejoice not thou, whole Palestina,
because the rod of him that smote thee is broken:
for out of the serpent's root shall come forth a cockatrice,
and his fruit shall be a fiery flying serpent."
³⁰ And the firstborn of the poor shall feed,
and the needy shall lie down in safety:
and I will kill thy root with famine, and he shall slay thy remnant."
³¹ Howl, O gate; cry, O city; thou, whole Palestina, art dissolved:
for there shall come from the north a smoke,
and none shall be alone in his appointed times."

...Verse 29 refers to "Palestina", which was the Latin name for Gaza and the surrounding area where the Philistines lived.

..."the rod of him that smote thee" refers to Ariel Sharon, who "smote" Palestinians back in 1982 in the massacres at the Sabra & Shatila refugee camps in Lebanon. He's dead now, but out of his political/ideological root—Likud—a new "serpent" arose, Mr. Netanyahu. (Remember, this prophecy is about the destruction of Gaza, and from a Palestinian perspective "serpent" fits Mr. Netanyahu. But, it's also worth remembering many people on both sides are behaving like "serpents".)

...As for the "cockatrice" whose "fruit shall be a fiery flying serpent": A cockatrice is a winged creature with a dragon's body and a rooster's head. Try doing a Google "image" search for "cockatrice" and compare what you find with a large Predator-style drone firing Hellfire missiles. (But, Apache attack helicopters will do, too.) Now you know what Isaiah was describing in his vision.

...Verse 30 describes Israel limiting food shipments into Gaza, while people needing medical care are being evacuated, and the IDF slaying the "remnant" of Hamas.

...Verse 31 describes what happened in North Gaza at the beginning of the IDF's campaign against Hamas. Note also in photos of Gaza how the bombed-out buildings look like they're dissolved or melted.

...The New International Version of the Bible helps clarify what "none shall be alone in his appointed times" means. Here's the NIV version of Isaiah 14:31:

"Wail, you gate! Howl, you city! Melt away, all you Philistines!
A cloud of smoke comes from the north, and there is not a straggler in its ranks."

"not a straggler in its ranks" ... So, verse 31 describes Israel's military attacking northern Gaza at the beginning of its campaign to destroy Hamas.]

MALACHI 4:1-3

The Utter Destruction of Hamas

¹ "Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace.
All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble,
and the day that is coming will set them on fire,"
says the Lord Almighty.

"Not a root or a branch will be left to them.

² But for you who revere my name,
the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its rays.
And you will go out and frolic like well-fed calves.

³ Then you will trample on the wicked;
they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I act,"
says the Lord Almighty."

Verse 1 describes the fate of Hamas after perpetrating their heinous assault upon Israeli civilians on October 7. No doubt you've already seen photos and news on TV showing Israeli aircraft and artillery bombarding Gaza, so you know why "burn like a furnace", "stubble", "set them on fire", and "Not a root or a branch will be left to them" describe what's happening to Hamas so accurately.

Verse 2 implies Hamas terrorists yelling "Allahu Akbar" ["God is great"] as they murdered and pillaged are "**arrogant...evildoer[s]**", whose actions are like those who revere Satan, not God. However, not all Gazans are Hamas, and the prophecy says there's hope for the Gazan residents who don't support Hamas. Once Hamas is gone, God promises life will be much better for those who were forced to accept the wicked rule of Hamas.

Verse 3 is pretty graphic. Hamas terrorists are dying underground. Whoever is living in Gaza and survives will literally be walking on the ashes of the wicked.

And now, we're on to the next prophecy, Isaiah 9:8-21...

Isaiah 9:8-21, without commentary

- ⁸ The Lord has sent a message against Jacob; it will fall on Israel.
- ⁹ All the people will know it—Ephraim and the inhabitants of Samaria—
who say with pride and arrogance of heart,
- ¹⁰ "The bricks have fallen down, but we will rebuild with dressed stone;
the fig trees have been felled, but we will replace them with cedars."
¹¹ But the LORD has strengthened Rezin's foes against them
and has spurred their enemies on.
- ¹² Arameans from the east and Philistines from the west
have devoured Israel with open mouth.
Yet for all this, his anger is not turned away,
his hand is still upraised.
- ¹³ But the people have not returned to him who struck them,
nor have they sought the LORD Almighty.
- ¹⁴ So the LORD will cut off from Israel both head and tail,
both palm branch and reed in a single day;
¹⁵ the elders and dignitaries are the head,
the prophets who teach lies are the tail.
- ¹⁶ Those who guide this people mislead them,
and those who are guided are led astray.
- ¹⁷ Therefore the Lord will take no pleasure in the young men,
nor will he pity the fatherless and widows,
for everyone is ungodly and wicked, every mouth speaks folly.
Yet for all this, his anger is not turned away,
his hand is still upraised."
- ¹⁸ Surely wickedness burns like a fire; it consumes briars and thorns,
it sets the forest thickets ablaze, so that it rolls upward in a column of smoke.
- ¹⁹ By the wrath of the LORD Almighty the land will be scorched
and the people will be fuel for the fire;
they will not spare one another.
- ²⁰ On the right they will devour, but still be hungry;
on the left they will eat, but not be satisfied.
Each will feed on the flesh of their own offspring:
- ²¹ Manasseh will feed on Ephraim, and Ephraim on Manasseh;
together they will turn against Judah.
Yet for all this, his anger is not turned away,
his hand is still upraised."

Isaiah 9:8-21, with commentary

⁸ The Lord has sent a message against Jacob; it will fall on Israel."

[*Jacob's heirs include both Israeli Jews and Palestinians, not one or the other. The "message against Jacob" in verse 8 "falls" on both branches of Israelites. Neither Israeli Jew nor Palestinian escapes Creator's attention in Isaiah 9.]*

**⁹ All the people will know it—Ephraim and the inhabitants of Samaria—
who [Israeli settlers] say with pride and arrogance of heart,**

**¹⁰ "The bricks have fallen down, but we will rebuild with dressed stone;
the fig trees have been felled, but we will replace them with cedars."**

[*Samaria is the northern half of the West Bank. Palestinians (Ephraim) have lived there for thousands of years, so referring to them as both "Ephraim" and "the inhabitants of Samaria" in the same sentence is redundant. Instead, "inhabitants of Samaria" in verse 9 refers to Israeli settlers living in settlements in the West Bank. The settlers are saying Palestinian villages pre-dating Judah's return from exile have been destroyed, along with their fig and olive orchards. These have been replaced by Israeli settlements and ornamental cedar trees, along with a giant cement Wall of "dressed stone" to keep Palestinians out.]*

**¹¹ But the LORD has strengthened Rezin's foes against them
and has spurred their enemies on."**

[*Rezin was king of Aram (Syria—see 2 Kings 15:37, 16:5,6,9). Aram competed with Assyria (Iraq), Phoenicia (Lebanon), and the Hittites (Turkey) in the Levant. Verse 11 is telling us Iraqi Shiite militias (Iraq), Hezbollah (Lebanon), and Turkey are being spurred on to confront Israel due to the present war with Hamas, Israel's announcement of plans to annex a third of the West Bank, and its continual bombing of Iranian troops and Iraqi militiamen in Syria.]*

**¹² Arameans from the east and Philistines from the west
have devoured Israel with open mouth."**

[*"Arameans from the east" represents Syria, while "Philistines from the west" is Hamas, which rules in Gaza, where the Philistines lived. In verse 12, "devoured... with open mouth" doesn't mean literal cannibalism—it means allegorically "eating someone alive" through the media—i.e., public relations warfare. Hamas is gradually defeating Israel in the battle for international support. They gather sympathy and support by publishing photographs of dead and wounded children and anguished parents whenever Israel attacks Gaza in response to Hamas attacks on Israel.]*

9:12, cont.

**Yet for all this,
his anger is not turned away, his hand is still upraised."**

**¹³ But the people have not returned to him who struck them,
nor have they sought the LORD Almighty."**

[The "LORD Almighty" and "him who struck them" are two different persons. So, who is "him who struck them"? Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's prime minister, who has repeatedly ordered the IDF to strike Gaza. Consequently, Palestinians haven't returned to peace talks with Israel while Netanyahu is Israel's leader.

As for not seeking the "LORD Almighty"— while the Qur'an repeatedly affirms the Bible's Torah and Prophets, Palestinians have neither looked for nor heeded the knowledge and guidance provided there. It puzzles me how so many Muslims claim to worship "Allah", yet when the Qur'an clearly states the Bible was sent as a prior guidance for humanity, they refuse to use it as a foundational context when interpreting the Qur'an's message for them. Surely if they did that, interfaith relations would be much more amicable. But, sadly, I guess the same can be said for many Christians, particularly those who are supporting antichrist political idols.

However, it's worth repeating both Palestinians and Israelis have failed to abide by God's guidance. If Israel was innocent as a dove, no settlers would have ever set foot in the West Bank, and in particular Samaria, located in the northern half of the West Bank. According to the Tanach (Old Testament), Samaria is land God originally gave to Palestinians, and the prophecies didn't change that.]

**^{9:14} So the LORD will cut off from Israel both head and tail,
both palm branch and reed in a single day;**

**¹⁵ the elders and dignitaries are the head,
the prophets who teach lies are the tail.**

**¹⁶ Those who guide this people mislead them,
and those who are guided are led astray.**

**¹⁷ Therefore the Lord will take no pleasure in the young men,
nor will he pity the fatherless and widows,
for everyone is ungodly and wicked, every mouth speaks folly."...**

["palm branch" and "reed" allegorically represent people. See Psalms 92:12 and Song of Songs 7:7-8 for "palm branch" and 2 Kings 18:21 for "reed".

God allowed both Israelite factions to split apart and tell their self-serving lies to justify their actions. Both sides deny the other's birthright as fellow Israelites, and the rights that come with this status. So, God "chose" this headstrong people

as an example to the rest of humanity, to show what happens when God is excluded from our decision-making. Unfortunately, that is what both factions of Israelites decided to do. By doing so, they chose suffering and disgrace, instead. Since both sides deny the other's rights and deceitfully tell only one side of the story...

"everyone is ungodly and wicked, every mouth speaks folly".]

17, cont.

**Yet for all this,
his anger is not turned away, his hand is still upraised."**

[And tragically, now we come to verse 18, where **"wickedness burns like a fire"**]

¹⁸ Surely wickedness burns like a fire; it consumes briars and thorns, it sets the forest thickets ablaze, so that it rolls upward in a column of smoke."

Verse 18 may look like it's describing a wildfire in a field of weeds and the forest, but it isn't. It's something much more than that. To unlock the hidden meaning, let's first take a look at Matthew 10:34-36, Jesus speaking....

**^{10:34} "Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵ For I have come to turn
"a man against his father,
a daughter against her mother,
a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—
³⁶ a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.'"**

Jesus was making reference to Micah 7:6, the partner passage to Matthew 10....

**"⁶ For a son dishonors his father,
a daughter rises up against her mother,
a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—
a man's enemies are the members of his own household."**

If you look a three verses earlier in Micah 7, you'll find...

**"³ ...the ruler demands gifts, the judge accepts bribes,
the powerful dictate what they desire—they all conspire together.
⁴ The best of them is like a **brier**, the most upright worse than a **thorn** hedge."**

If you look up passages Jesus cites from earlier books, you'll oftentimes find he's pointing out metaphorical definitions that will be used in later prophecies. Here, he's letting us know metaphorical "briers" and "thorns" represent people. Ezekiel 28:24 is another example of this particular metaphor...

^{28:24} "No longer will the people of Israel have malicious **neighbors
who are painful **briers** and sharp **thorns**. ..."**

The metaphor of people being "briars" and "thorns" is key for interpreting Isaiah 9:18-21. So, too, is Jude 1:12, where crooked religious leaders ("shepherds who feed only themselves") are metaphorically described as being "autumn trees".

Forests are a large group of trees.
Cities are a large group of people.

Thickets are dense concentrations of trees.
High-rise apartment buildings are dense concentrations of people.

With these allegorical definitions, we're now ready to interpret the passage. Interpreted, verses 18-21 read;

¹⁸ **Surely wickedness burns like a fire;
it consumes briars and thorns** [*burning people alive*],
it sets the forest thickets [*high-rise apartment buildings*] **ablaze,**
so that it rolls upward in a column of smoke."
[*The "column of smoke" has been rising from Gaza for over two months now.*]

¹⁹ **By the wrath of the Lord Almighty the land will be scorched
and the people will be fuel for the fire; no one will spare his brother.**

²⁰ **On the** [*political*] **right** [*Israel*] **will devour** [*land in the West Bank*],
but want more;
on the [*political*] **left** [*Palestinians*] **will eat** [*whatever aid Israel lets through.*],
but not be satisfied.

Each will feed on the flesh of his own offspring:
[*sacrificing their young to endless wars fueled by greed.*]

²¹ **Manasseh** [*Hamas*] **will feed on Ephraim** [*Palestinian Authority*],
and Ephraim on Manasseh;
together they will turn against Judah [*Israel*]."

[*Hamas and the Palestinian Authority compete with each other for public support. And when one group commits acts of violence, the other group feeds off the energy and is spurred on to commit acts of violence of their own. But, when all is said and done, both groups "turn against [Israel]" Please note God says this is wickedness. Also note that all three sides played a part in bringing this tragedy to pass.*]

¹⁹ **By the wrath of the LORD Almighty the land will be scorched
and the people will be fuel for the fire; they will not spare one another."**

[*Dead civilians and combatants of both sides in Gaza, the West Bank, and Israel.*]

Isaiah 9:8-21, with commentary, cont.:

²⁰ **On the right they will devour, but still be hungry;
on the left they will eat, but not be satisfied."**

[*On the political "right", Israel continually devours land in the West Bank for settlements, but always wants more. Those on the political "left", i.e., Palestinians, have barely gotten by on whatever outside aid Israel permits them to receive, and yes, they aren't satisfied with that. Again, no one is blameless. Neither side has honored the sacred covenants their ancestors agreed to.]*

^{20, cont.} **Each will feed on the flesh of their own offspring:"**

[*This is particularly disgraceful. Both groups sacrifice their children to unending war while violating the holy covenants for selfish gain. The most recent example of this horrible tactic is being displayed today in front of the world's eyes. Perhaps God included this verse in the prophecy as a message for believers to consider.*

While Palestinian casualties in Gaza are well over ten times those of Israelis, a disproportionate number of them are mothers and children. Now, one may imagine heartless Israelis are deliberately slaughtering children. But, does this image really make sense? Or is Hamas trying to set them up by using civilians as human shields?

Let's forget for the time being the humanitarian and historical reasons why Israelis wouldn't deliberately do this. Let's assume for a moment Israelis are terrible, cruel, selfish people. From a purely selfish perspective, it's quite clear the many photos of dead and maimed children are crippling Israel's international standing, which directly impacts its economy and the willingness of its allies to extend military assistance to them. Without military assistance, things will look very bleak for Israel, (although if Israel is to suffer, it's unlikely they will be the only ones who suffer). Israel's policy of warning people before destroying buildings shows Israel understands this and is trying to avoid killing civilians. And then, there's always the possibility all Israelis aren't ogres, and they have hearts and humanitarian reasons to avoid harming civilians.

But, if this is so, why are so many children being killed? Perhaps because Hamas fires rockets from civilian areas, knowing Israeli counterstrikes will kill civilians. It's a cold-blooded, but effective tactic. When Israel returns fire, civilian deaths are a public relations victory for Hamas. If Israel doesn't return fire, they invite Hamas to fire an unending barrage of rockets. It's a perfect long-term strategy, provided Hamas is willing to sacrifice enough Gazan children—and provided the rest of the world is so gullible or biased it chooses to abet Hamas (and share their guilt). It's for committing so many heinous crimes against civilians in the name of God, that God is having Hamas destroyed "root and branch" as described in Malachi 4.]

Isaiah 9:8-21, with commentary, cont.:

²¹ **Manasseh will feed on Ephraim, and Ephraim on Manasseh; together they will turn against Judah."**

[*This describes the rivalry between the Palestinian Authority (Ephraim) and Hamas (Manasseh). It says despite their rivalry, when it comes to war, both Palestinian factions will unite against Israel (Judah).]*

21, cont:

"...Yet for all this, his anger is not turned away, his hand is still upraised."

[*People have a choice. They can ignore the history recorded in the sacred books which proves all inhabitants of the Holy Land have the right to be there and share the land peacefully. They can greedily insist the land belongs to them alone until nukes start falling and everyone dies. Or, they can listen to God's guidance, repent, and fulfill the prophecies in a godly way—and live in peace. Next, we'll see what humanity's choices up to the present have led to...]*

Luke 21:20-28, Jesus speaking

Without commentary

Jerusalem surrounded by armies

²⁰ "When you see Jerusalem being surrounded by armies, you will know that its desolation is near. ²¹ Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those in the city get out, and let those in the country not enter the city. ²² For this is the time of punishment in fulfillment of all that has been written. ²³ How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! There will be great distress in the land and wrath against this people. ²⁴ They will fall by the sword and will be taken as prisoners to all the nations. Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

²⁵ "There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. ²⁶ People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. ²⁷ At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Luke 21:20-28, Jesus speaking with commentary Jerusalem surrounded by armies

Many Christians believe Luke 21 was fulfilled back in either 70 AD or 132 AD when the Romans sacked Jerusalem. But, this interpretation is more a product of people wanting an explanation and then cherry-picking the prophecy's contents to arrive at something supporting their viewpoint. For instance, it was one army, the Romans, that surrounded Jerusalem, not armies plural. And whatever prisoners were taken were sent to Rome, not **"all the nations"**. And if Jesus really did make his Second Coming back then, then where on Earth was the 1000 year kingdom of heaven on Earth while the Mongols and Huns and others pillaged their way across the continents? So, on to the prophecy...

²⁰ **"When you see Jerusalem being surrounded by armies, you will know that its desolation is near."** (Let's see...There's Hamas, Hezbollah, the Houthis, the Iranian Revolutionary Guards, Iranian proxy militias...and the IDF, too, for good measure.)

²¹ **Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those in the city get out, and let those in the country not enter the city."** (People have become accustomed to perceiving Palestinians as being Arabs only, but God knows us and where we come from. Judea includes Bethlehem, Hebron, and Old City Jerusalem, where the vast majority of people are Palestinians. Jesus may have been warning Palestinian civilians to flee before the IDF comes in looking for terrorists.)

²² **For this is the time of punishment in fulfillment of all that has been written."** (The Jewish tribes suffered for close to 2000 years. For the last seventy five or so years it's been the Palestinians' (Joseph's tribes) turn to suffer, for breaking the covenant by taking Judah's lands and not wanting to give it back.)

²³ **How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! There will be great distress in the land and wrath against this people.** ²⁴ **They will fall by the sword and will be taken as prisoners to all the nations.** [Refugees from Gaza are being sent **"to all the nations."**] **Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.**

²⁵ **"There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea.** ²⁶ **People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken.** ²⁷ **At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.** ²⁸ **When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."** (Stay tuned for this part.)

Matthew 24:15-21, Jesus speaking

without commentary

¹⁵ "So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation,' spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand—
¹⁶ then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. ¹⁷ Let no one on the housetop go down to take anything out of the house. ¹⁸ Let no one in the field go back to get their cloak. ¹⁹ How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! ²⁰ Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath. ²¹ For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again."

Matthew 24:15-21, Jesus speaking

with commentary

Verses 15 & 21 link this prophecy to Daniel 11 and 12.

Matthew 24:15-22, Jesus;

¹⁵ "So when you see standing in the holy place
 'the abomination that causes desolation,'
 spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand—"

Daniel 11:31, Archangel Gabriel;

"His armed forces will rise up to desecrate the temple fortress
 and will abolish the daily sacrifice.
 Then they will set up the abomination that causes desolation."

[For Jesus, the premier "holy place" would be the Temple in Jerusalem, the same place where the devil tempted him in Matthew 4:5. However, the rest of the information in the two passages above is classified, and will not be revealed until the proper time—God's time. But, I can tell you it has already taken place.]

Matthew 24:15-22, Jesus, cont.:

¹⁶ then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains."

[Judea of Jesus' time was a Roman province. Today, it's the southern half of the West Bank. It includes the Old City of Jerusalem (a.k.a. "Al-Quds"), Hebron, and Bethlehem. "mountains" refers to the hilly area of the northern half of the West Bank. A vast majority of people in the southern half (Jesus' Judea) are Palestinians, and predominantly Muslim or Christian. Both religions recognize Jesus as a valid prophet, whereas Jews do not. So, Jesus was directing his warning to those most in danger and willing to listen to him—Palestinians, not Israeli Jews.]

Matthew 24:15-22, Jesus, cont.:

17 Let no one on the housetop go down to take anything out of the house."

[*Look at Gaza's buildings after Israeli bombing, with floors collapsed and victims crushed inside. That's why Jesus warned people to get out as fast as possible.]*

18 Let no one in the field go back to get their cloak."

[*When the Israeli tanks come, Palestinian farmers in olive orchards and fields will likely be treated as combatants and shot, so they should run for their lives.]*

19 How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers!"

[*You've probably already seen more than enough photos of dead Gazan mothers and children to know what Jesus was warning Palestinians about.]*

20 Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath."

[*When people flee, they take "flight". So here, "flight" doesn't refer to flying on an airplane. It means desperate people fleeing for their lives. And wouldn't you know it? The war has dragged on into winter. People must have forgotten to pray.]*

**21 For then there will be great distress,
unequaled from the beginning of the world until now
—and never to be equaled again."**

[*Verse 21 (above) links this prophecy to Daniel 12:1 (below)...*

**12:1 There will be a time of distress
such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then."**

Archangel Gabriel told Daniel it would be the all-time worst distress—and for "nations" plural, not just Israel. While there have been times of great distress in the past, prior to the 20th century, they were localized or regional, not worldwide. Today, the whole world is faced with potential extermination through nuclear war, pandemics, and climate change—together perfectly fulfilling the prophecy...]

Next, a look at what's happening in Jerusalem...

THE FIFTH SEAL

Revelation 6:9-11

⁹ When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. ¹⁰ They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?" ¹¹ Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the full number of their fellow servants, their brothers and sisters, were killed just as they had been."

THE FIFTH SEAL, unsealed

Revelation 6:9-11,

⁹ When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar
[on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem in the al-Aqsa Mosque]
the souls of [Palestinians] who had been slain because of the word of God,
and the testimony they had maintained."

[Martyrdom is esteemed in the Qur'an, the "word of God" for Muslims.
So, fighting to the death is one of the holiest forms of testimony for them.]

¹⁰ They called out in a loud voice,
"How long, [Allah,] holy and true,
until you judge the inhabitants of the earth [Israel and Israeli settlers]
and avenge our blood?"

¹¹ Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait
a little longer, until the full number of their fellow servants,
their brothers and sisters, were killed just as they had been."

White robes are worn by many Muslims when they're at a mosque. It's supposed to denote equality. The "full number" to balance the suffering of their fellow Israelites from the tribe of Judah and allied tribes—the people driven from their homes two thousand years ago, who suffered for centuries and were not welcomed home by Palestinians presently living on Judah's former homeland. It's so tragic.

You may ask what a prophecy about Palestinian Muslims is doing in the Bible's Book of Revelation. Well, Palestinians are so indigenous they go all the way back to when they were called "Israelites" of the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh. So, in a book with so many prophecies about Israelites, this one is just one more, only this one deals with Israelites who abandoned Judaism and Christianity and accepted Islam as their religion. But, this is God's way of letting you know the Almighty still knows who they are.

There's still hope for the world.

Matthew 24:21-22 - without commentary

²¹ **For then there will be great distress,
unequaled from the beginning of the world until now—
and never to be equaled again.**

²² **If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive,
but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened."**

Matthew 24:21-22 - with commentary

²¹ **For then there will be great distress,
unequaled from the beginning of the world until now
—and never to be equaled again."**

[Verse 21 (above) links this prophecy to Daniel 12:1 (below)..

^{12:1} **There will be a time of distress
such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then."**

We talked about this two pages ago, but I'll repeat it here again for emphasis. Archangel Gabriel told Daniel it would be the all-time worst distress—and for "nations" plural, not just Israel. While there have been times of great distress in the past, prior to the 20th century, they were localized or regional, not worldwide. Today, the whole world is faced with a potential World War III, civil strife, pandemics, climate change, and takeovers by autocratic regimes—which together perfectly fulfill the prophecy...]

Matthew 24:15-22, Jesus, cont.:

²² **"If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive,
but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened."**

Humanity is finding out we need God, and must rely upon the Almighty for salvation. Jesus promised the Tribulation would be "**cut short**" for "**the sake of the elect**". But, who are these people on whose behalf Jesus is doing this? Are they members of a particular religion or sect? I suggest looking at the Beatitudes for the answer. Jesus and the Father are both much kinder than we usually give them credit.

But, we all have a choice to make, and God will see what our choices are. More on the choice in the next article.

All glory goes to the Father through the Son, Jesus Christ.