

As we enter 2026, we are seeing headlines of courageous men and women standing up at great personal cost to the Iranian regime. We should all be praying for the people of Iran—especially for the many Iranian Christians among them. Pray for freedom, protection, and the gospel to continue spreading.

Iran is not simply a political talking point, but what many, including myself, believe is a land of biblical significance. Iran (ancient Persia) is considered a major player in end times prophecy.

If you recall, it was in April 2024, that Iran made an unprecedented attack on Israel, firing over 300 drones and missiles toward Israel. With aid from other nations, including the United States, nearly all were intercepted.

Then, in June 2025, Israel initiated Operation Rising Lion, striking dozens of Iranian nuclear and missile facilities to halt uranium weaponization. Key sites were heavily damaged or destroyed. Iran retaliated with about 100 drones, but the conflict—the Twelve-Day War—ended in a U.S.-mediated ceasefire on June 24. I believe this is all related to end times prophecy.

While some hold the theological viewpoint that the Church is now God's chosen people, I disagree. I believe the Jewish people remain His chosen people, and that they play a key role in end times prophecy.

I believe the Bible clearly foretold that Israel would be scattered and regathered—fulfilled on May 14, 1948, and that's when the prophetic time clock began to tick. It was not just a sign, but a super sign.

Scripture also predicts that in the last days, a great coalition from the north—including Persia (modern-day Iran)—will rise up against Israel (see Ezekiel 38–39). While the Middle East conflicts we've seen are not the full fulfillment of that prophecy, it is certainly a foreshadowing.

The Bible has more to say. Not only will the Jews be regathered together in their homeland, but they will be increasingly isolated. That's happening. The Bible also predicted the rise of anti-Semitism in the end times. That is happening. The Bible also predicts a large nation to the north of Israel, identified in Ezekiel as Magog, will attack her. That has not yet happened. Many scholars believe that Magog is a reference to modern-day Russia. I concur with that view, but no one can say with absolute certainty.

And if Russia is indeed Magog, we should pay attention to its involvement with Iran, as one of the allies of Magog (Russia?) will be Persia (Iran). I believe what has taken place in the Middle East is cause for us to sit up and pay attention.

Let me give you just a quick flyover of end times events chronologically. Number one, I think the next event on the prophetic calendar is the Rapture of the Church. Then, the Antichrist emerges on the scene and the Tribulation period begins. The Tribulation ends with the Second Coming of Christ, and then the Lord establishes the Millennium (the 1,000-year reign of Christ). This should not make us fearful. Bible prophecy is not given to scare us, but prepare us.

Ask yourself today, "Am I ready for the Lord's return?" Christ is coming again. This is a wake-up call to get right with God, walk closely with Him, and stay spiritually awake. Let's all make sure we're ready to meet the Lord—because, well, He could come back at any time. (*Greg Laurie blog @ harbingersdaily.com.*)

Grace & peace, love you. PK