

ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE



By Rick Sibert

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Watch and Pray

A recent op-ed headline in the local paper read, “Are Americans ready for another war?”

Things are heating up again in the Middle East.

There are so many players involved, pseudo alliances, back room dealing, and double talk that it is hard to keep the facts straight and stay on top of the day-to-day information we are given.

I have always been keenly interested in geo-politics and world affairs (one of my favorite board games is Risk!) however something new has crept from my sub conscious into my day to day thinking recently, and I believe it has been put there by the Lord.

Although I am aware of “end times prophecy” and in fact an eager student of it, He is challenging me to really take a deep look at the unfolding current events in light of those prophecies and what the word of God says instead of viewing it from my armchair as a bystander.

For I believe we could be witnessing circumstances and situations aligning and lining up that could set the prophetic table for the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Disclaimer – dates and times will not be a part of this piece! I am simply going to present some interesting facts as we seen them playing out and challenge you to view them through the lens of scripture with me.

We are told that only the Father in Heaven knows when the second coming of Jesus will happen; however we are also told to look for certain things and be aware (watch) – and pray (2 Ptr 3:10, 1 Thes 5:1-3, Mk 13:35, Lk 21:34-36, and Mt 24).

Dan Hooser, in his article, [Jesus’ Warning to Watch](#), wrote this:

“The closer we draw to the second coming of Christ, the more urgent it is that we awake out of our spiritual sleep!”

So, let’s wake up and begin with Syria.

Did you know God has a lot to say about Syria and her role in ushering in the second coming of Jesus Christ?

The prophet Isaiah spoke this under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit:

“See, Damascus will no longer be a city but will become a heap of ruins. The cities of Aroer will be deserted and left to flocks, which will lie down, with no one to make them afraid. The fortified city will disappear from Ephraim, and royal power from Damascus; the remnant of Aram will be like the glory of the Israelites,” declares the Lord Almighty.” (Isaiah 17:1-3)

Jeremiah also foresaw the future end of Syria:

“Damascus has grown feeble; she turns to flee, and fear has seized her. Anguish and sorrows have taken her like a woman in labor. Why is the city of praise not deserted, the city of My joy? Therefore her young men shall fall in her streets, and all the men of war shall be cut off in that day,” says the Lord of hosts. “I will kindle a fire in the wall of Damascus, and it shall consume the palaces of Ben-Hadad.” (Jer 49:24-27)

Furthermore, Amos, a contemporary of Isaiah’s, had this to say:

Thus says the Lord: “For three transgressions of Damascus, and for four, I will not turn away its punishment, because they have threshed Gilead with implements of iron. But I will send a fire into the house of Hazeel, which shall devour the palaces of Ben-Hadad. I will also break the gate-bar of Damascus, and cut off the inhabitant from the Valley of Aven, and the one who holds the scepter from Beth Eden. The people of Syria shall go captive to Kir,” says the Lord. (Amos 1:3-5)

The Bible tells us that Damascus, the oldest continually inhabited city in the world, will be destroyed in a single day!

As we celebrate with Israel on their 70th anniversary - which is the preeminent event on the prophetic calendar that had to happen, the regathering of the nation of Israel - many scholars and students of eschatology believe that the destruction of Damascus is the next event on the horizon to be watching for.

In addition, many believe that it will be Turkey who will attack and destroy Syria. For the land that now comprises the modern nation of Turkey once housed the ancient peoples of Gomer, Meshech, Tubal and Beth Togarmah, all nations foretold in the fantastic 38th chapter of Ezekiel as those who will lay siege to Israel (more on this in the next issue). At present, Turkey has been allowed to sneak into the northwest corner of Syria unabated, with some estimates believing as many as 100,000 soldiers are now gaining a foothold.

Pay attention to Syria.

However, if end time things are a little hazy for you to grasp, there is a bigger picture here.

The Lord would challenge us as the “day is approaching” to pay attention to everything in our lives through the lens of scripture! Your relationships, your finances, your health, how you order your day, etc.

Whenever the Lord does return, the certainty is that we are moving closer to that time every day, and as we do so we are pressing up against very important things with eternal consequences. Now is the time to see things with the proper perspective.

For when we do this, we begin to live and operate through the spirit, and not allow our mind, will, and emotions (the soul) to dominate (as an example, being fearful about what we see transpiring in the Middle East).

In the next issue, we will look at Russia, and the proclamations made by the Lord Almighty in the book of Ezekiel.

Now is the time to rejoice!

Be blessed, and know that we serve the righteous King of Kings who will one day soon reclaim his throne!