



The Trumpeter

Ezek 33:3 If when he seeth the sword come upon the land, he blow the trumpet, and warn the people;

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"For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth".

Matt 12:39-40

Was Jesus Crucified on Friday?

Have you ever considered that the Bible states Jesus would be in the grave three days and three nights, (Matthew 12:38-40) yet, church tradition insists that Jesus was crucified and laid in the grave on Friday evening and arose on Sunday morning before dawn, which at best, is only two days and two nights later? This is a contradiction that the church has been willing to live with for centuries. Why? The answer to this question may surprise you!

The contradiction is easily answered, however, in noting the order of the first three feasts of Israel found in Leviticus 23, which Jesus was to prophetically fulfill. These feasts are Passover, Unleavened Bread, and First Fruits. Jesus, being the Passover Lamb of God, was crucified on Passover, laid in the grave as the unleavened (sinless) bread of God, and resurrected on First Fruits as the "Firstfruits from the dead" (I Cor. 15:20). The feast of First Fruits was always on the Sunday following Passover. Since it is easily proven that Jesus arose on Sunday, counting backward from Sunday should cause one to conclude that Jesus was crucified on Thursday. This is the best way to harmonize the call in Matthew 12:38-40 for Jesus to be in the grave three days and three nights.

Why is this important one might ask? First, the critics of the Bible love to point out these so-called contradictions so as to question the integrity of the Scriptures themselves. Second, should not the facts surrounding the most important and impacting event of human history be important? Lion of Judah Ministry has just published a booklet about this subject, dealing with these issues in detail. It is a fascinating forty-page booklet that you will find enlightening, challenging, and stimulating. It will make a most convincing case that Jesus was indeed crucified on Thursday. It is called ***Christ and the Passion Week*** by James Jones, Lion of Judah Board Chairman, with Gary Fisher. To receive a copy, call the Ministry, or see the enclosed response form.

The Battle of Ezekiel 38 & 39 - Fulfilled Soon?

One great interesting feature in Bible prophecy is the battle that is described in Ezekiel 38 & 39! Bible prophecy students for centuries have examined this prophecy that talks of the future invasion of Israel by Russia and Iran along with a few other nations. Of particular interest is the fact that God will miraculously judge this invading army. Ezekiel 39:4 says that God will feed this invading army to the ravenous birds.

On a trip to Israel in December of 2005, I discovered something there that I had never had the luxury of observing before. Our tour guide had the bus driver stop at an out-of-the-way place up on the Golan Heights. At this particular site in the northern part of Israel, our tour guide asked us to join him for a walk from the bus. We walked until we reached an overlook where several high hilltops could be viewed. Soaring from one hilltop to another and sometimes above us were large eagles with about seven-foot wingspans. The guide told us that these eagles had taken up residence in Israel and had been there for years, but in the last few years, for some unexplained reason, they have started multiplying at a rapid rate. We opened and read Ezekiel 38 & 39 and shared with the tour group that God was preparing the birds mentioned there. **How awesome this moment was! There before us was evidence that God was already gathering the birds for this great battle.**

Inspired by this experience, I decided to do some research when I arrived back home. I reasoned that it was going to take a lot more birds of prey for the task described in Ezekiel 39 than what we observed on the Golan Heights that day and to consider that we might be so close to this great battle, then there would be evidence of many more birds presently in Israel. What I discovered was just as amazing as observing the eagles that day!

By visiting a couple of WEB Sites at my office computer, I found that Israel has become the major flyway for all kinds of birds that migrate between Africa, Asia, and Europe. This

becomes more meaningful to realize that the birds now stop in Israel whereas before there was no reason for them to stop because the land was desolate some fifty or so years ago. Because of agricultural efforts, Israel has since become a land of plenty. As a result, Israel now has small agricultural animals, wildlife, and fish that are raised in ponds that would be attractive to the birds and give plenty of reason to stop and linger in Israel. Surprisingly, but accordingly, over one million raptors were observed in Israel during 2005! Among them were the Honey Buzzard, Levant Sparrowhawk, Lesser Spotted Eagle, Steppe Eagle, Steppe Buzzard, Black Kite, and others. For verification of this, see the following Web Sites:

<http://www.science.co.il/Birding/Yizrael.asp>
<http://www.birdcare.com/bin/shownews/26>

Not only are the birds taking their place for the fulfillment of the Ezekiel 38 & 39 prophecy, but the political situation is lining up as well. Russia is allied with Iran and supports Iran's efforts to become a nuclear power and has a history of being very anti-Israel. Russia has also invited Hamas, a terrorist organization against Israel, after winning seats in the recent Palestinian Authority elections, to Moscow for diplomatic talks. This places Russia as having a political ally inside Israel that is hostile to Israel. Also, Iran is working defiantly against the United Nation's desires to become a nuclear power and at the same time saying that Israel must be "wiped off the map". It is estimated that soon Iran will have the ability to build a nuclear bomb that Israel is sure will be used against them.

Israel cannot allow Hamas to take up a stronghold in the heartland of Israel and use it a staging ground for more suicide bombings against the people of Israel. Also, Israel cannot afford to quietly stand by and watch Iran build nuclear weapons. If Israel soon retaliates against either, will this be the catalyst that brings Russia and her allies listed in Ezekiel 38:5&6 against Israel?

How soon all these things might take place is not evident but there are certain things concerning the Ezekiel 38 & 39 prophecy that are taking shape. The people of Israel, after almost nineteen centuries of being dispersed all over the world, are now returning to the land and Israel is now functioning as a country again. Russia has taken her place as a major military power and is located to the north of Israel just as Ezekiel 38:2 says and is allied with the countries listed in Ezekiel 38:5&6 including Iran (Persia). Iran has emerged as one of Israel's most threatening enemies and is telling the world they will "wipe Israel from the map". Then, there are the birds. Why are they showing up now? Is the Ezekiel 38 & 39 battle soon to take place?

Seeing all of these things developing can only mean one thing, that we are living in the last of the last days and Jesus is coming soon. The prophecies that are to precede His coming are lining up. The stage is being set. All of the players are taking their places. The curtain is about to rise and will take many by surprise.

People be aware! **God is "about to act"** (Ezekiel 36:22)! It is a good time to be right with Him and, if not right, there is no better time to get right! Romans 10:9 is the place to start. It says, **"If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved"**.

by Gary Fisher

Current Events and Bible Prophecy

Iranian Leader: Israel Will Be Destroyed - Associated Press - Oct. 25, 2005 - Iran's hard-line president called for Israel to be "wiped off the map" and said a new wave of Palestinian attacks will destroy the Jewish state, state-run media reported Wednesday. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad also denounced attempts to recognize Israel or normalize relations with it.

Iran removes seals from nuke facilities - Jerusalem Post - Jan. 10, 2006 - Iran risks losing influential friends and giving foes long-sought leverage to haul it before the UN Security Council. But it seems ready to defy the world in its drive to master technology that could be used to make nuclear weapons.

Comment: Iran's continuing to press for nuclear ability and calling for Israel to be wiped off the map is very sobering! We move closer to the fulfillment of the Ezekiel 38 & 39 battle! Will Iran back down for now? Will Israel be moved to act militarily? We are living in interesting times!

Will that be cash, credit — or finger? - USA Today - December 2, 2005 - In need of toothpaste and ice, Laura Wadsworth dashed into a supermarket Monday in Mount Pleasant, S.C. She didn't bring her wallet. Wadsworth paid by touching her index finger to a scanner. Ten seconds later, she was out the door. The pay-by-finger system is already being used in hundreds of U.S. supermarkets, including Albertsons and Piggly Wiggly. It relies on fingerprinting, a biometrics technology that identifies people by physical traits. Your finger is scanned and linked to your payment information. At the register, you touch your finger to the reader, enter your phone number and select bank account or credit card. No cash or checks or credit cards to carry.

Comment: This latest biometrics technology brings us a step closer to a cashless economy that will merely take a swipe of the hand or forehead to make a purchase. Revelation 13:16-17 says that in the coming system no one can buy or sell without a "mark" in their right hand or forehead. The Revelation "mark" will be necessary to participate in the new system and biometrics will probably provide the identity of the person buying or selling.

Turkey battles bird flu amid new deaths in China - AP - January 11, 2006 - Turkey insisted it had a deadly bird flu outbreak under control after 15 confirmed cases of the virus in humans, as China revealed two more deaths, underlining the spread of the disease.

After Asia and Europe, H5N1 bird flu spreads to Africa - Associated Press - February 8, 2006 - H5N1 avian influenza has been detected in Africa for the first time...

Comment: The World Health Organization and all other interested parties are still watching with great concern the bird flu virus. It remains to be seen if it will develop into a global epidemic. Eventually there will be new epidemics that have no cure. They will sweep the earth in the end times. Jesus referred to them in Matthew 24:7. Will this be one of them?

Assad may attack if pressure escalates - Jerusalem Post - February 9, 2006 - If Syrian President Bashar Assad continues to feel threatened by the United States and the rest of the international community, he may be pushed into a corner and decide to fire missiles at Israel, senior IDF officers from Northern Command warned this week....But if Assad were to make such a "mistake," Shapir (former Israel Defense Force Intelligence Officer) said, "he knows Israel's capabilities, and if a Scud falls here, Israel will respond fiercely".

Comment: Isaiah 17:1 declares that Damascus, the present day capital of Syria, will be destroyed. As this has never happened in history, obviously it is to happen at some point in the future. With reports like this one, it makes it seem that we draw ever closer to this fulfillment?

Hamas leaders to be invited to Russia - Jerusalem Post - February 9, 2006 - Russian President Vladimir Putin, in a joint press conference with Spain's Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero on Thursday, stressed that Russia does not consider the Palestinian group Hamas a terrorist organization, and urged the global community to work with a Hamas-led Palestinian government.

Comment: Ezekiel 38 & 39 make it clear that Russia is a hostile nation to Israel in the last days. This latest development makes this prophecy even more interesting now that Hamas has taken up residence inside Israel winning seats in the Palestinian Authority. Russia is now a political ally to a sworn enemy to Israel not outside, but inside Israel.

Tsunami Quake Shook Earth's Total Surface - AP - May 19, 2005 - December's great Sumatra-Andaman earthquake (search)---the most powerful in more than 40 years and the trigger of a devastating tsunami---shook the ground everywhere on Earth's surface. Weeks later the planet was still trembling. The quake resulted from the longest fault rupture ever observed---720 miles to 780 miles, which spread for 10 minutes, also a record. A typical earthquake's duration would be 30 seconds.

Evidence of Unusual Structural Disturbance Inside the Earth - Indiadaily.com - Mar. 31, 2005 - A computer model monitoring the recent seismic disturbances - earthquakes and volcanoes show extreme disturbance in the outer and inner core of the earth....Between now and 2012, these disturbances will keep increasing making earth's crust and tectonic plates very disturbed causing severe volcanoes and earthquakes. In the last four months the earth experienced the largest three earthquakes in the last two hundred years. The under water volcanoes and earthquakes have gone up 88% over the last three years. The continental earthquakes have gone up by 62% during the same time frame. The rate of increase of these earthquakes and volcanoes when drawn against time is staggering.

Comment: Even though these last two news stories were posted during 1995, they are still very relevant today. Jesus said that as we get closer to His return, famines, pestilence (incurable disease), and **earthquakes** would increase logarithmically like birth pangs. (See Matthew 24:7-8). We are rapidly approaching the days He was describing!

Adrian Rogers, longtime Bellevue pastor and leader in Conservative Resurgence, dies - Baptist Press - Nov 15, 2005 Adrian Rogers, the longtime pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in suburban Memphis and one of the fathers of the grassroots movement that brought the Southern Baptist Convention back to its biblical, historical roots, died Nov. 15. He was 74.

Comment: Known as "the pastor's pastor", Adrian Rogers was a giant in the Kingdom! He was such an encourager to so many. I personally met him and talked with him on occasion. I even was able to discuss Lion of Judah Ministry with him at the last National Religious Broadcaster's Convention in Nashville in 2003. He told me he loved the focus and message of Lion of Judah Ministry. That was greatly encouraging coming from a man of such great stature! He was a great preacher, teacher, and a good man! He will be greatly missed!

Hamas Victory Clouds Peace Outlook - Associated Press - January 26, 2006 - Hamas won a huge majority in parliamentary elections as Palestinian voters rejected the longtime rule of the Fatah Party, throwing the future of Mideast peacemaking into question, officials from both major parties said Thursday.

Comment: The Bible gives no indication that there will be peace in Israel until the Prince of Peace comes to establish it. (See Ezekiel 35). With Hamas, a sworn enemy of Israel, now officially present in Israel, hostilities are more sure than ever.

Russia Says It Will Be More Active in Middle East Affairs - Israel National News - Feb 02, '06 - Russia will take on a greater role in the Middle East, said Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Thursday. Lavrov said his country will build closer ties with Islamic countries, which he said would help resolve major international problems.

Comment: This is definitely in keeping with what God says. Ezekiel 38:1-6 makes a list of allied countries that include Russia, many of which are Middle-Eastern. Russia being allied with these anti-Israel countries makes it more understandable why she would come against Israel in the last days and lead the charge as is called for in Ezekiel 38 & 39.

Israeli Jewish Population Draws Level with US - International Christian Embassy - January 17, 2006 - This year will mark the first time in history that there will be as many Jews living in Israel as in the United States, according to statistics presented at a Jewish Policy Planning Institute conference this week, with the greater Tel Aviv area replacing New York as the city with the most Jews.

Comment: Most estimates I have seen suggest that there are about 13-14 million Jews in the world. The vast majority of these Jews live in either the United States and Israel, each with approximately 5-6 million Jews. Recent trends of immigration from the U.S. will soon shift the majority to Israel. God said He would bring the Jewish people home to Israel from the West (Isaiah 43:5). He is doing exactly what He promised.

Lion of Judah Ministry

Response Form

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