

70 YEARS, 490 YEARS

Part III

The Time of Israel's Restoration to Their Land
All to be Realized in God's Way and Time

By Arlen L. Chirwood

To provide a current, up-to-date example of what is really happening in the Middle East relative to Israel and the nations, showing how Scripture handles and reflects on the matter rather than how all too many of those who should know better are trying to handle the matter, note that which has been and continues to occur in that part of the world today.

The Middle East, for sometime, has been unraveling, so to speak; and that can be seen even more so with events of each passing day, with this unraveling, this coming apart, now beginning to spill over into and affect Europe in a negative manner. And from there, of course, it can only eventually affect the world at large in a similar or related manner.

As this is being written (September 2015), ISIS, with its continuing reign of terror, now has existing cells scattered over a good part of the war-torn Middle East (e.g., a four-year-old civil war in Syria), fostering persecution (often ending in death) and economic hardship. And masses of people — mainly Moslems — are fleeing the Middle East by whatever means they can find.

They are traveling by boats on the Mediterranean, walking across land routes in different nations, and are heading toward parts of Europe, overwhelming sections of Europe by their very numbers.

Then there is the Iranian nuclear problem, with

different opposing and often warring segments of the Moslem religion (mainly Sunnis and Shiites) thrown into the mix.

Then, of course, there is Israel — the only nation with a God — situated in the midst of all this turmoil.

All is seemingly *quite uncertain* in one respect. Though, in another respect, *there is ONE THING that can be known for certain.*

One can know for certain that THE WHOLE OF THE MATTER is only going to get worse, far worse.

Why?

It is very simple and can be answered in two very concise, short, to-the-point statements:

- 1) *Israel, the nation through which God views and deals with the entire matter (ref. the article on this site, "The Pupil of God's Eye")!*
- 2) *The Prophets, those through whom God spoke in time past!*

Israel's very presence in the Middle East is the catalyst for, essentially, the whole of what's occurring.

And, the Prophets have spoken, with their words being FINAL!

The present existence of a Jewish nation in the Middle East (which is made up largely of humanists, atheists, and agnostics), *BEFORE* the full end of the four hundred and ninety years, is nothing more or nothing less than *the Jewish people rising up and seeking to emancipate themselves from exile, apart from their Messiah, establishing a Jewish nation themselves, entirely through natural means, in the land covenanted to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.*

The Jewish people have sought to do this *BEFORE* the time by re-entering a desolated house, seeking to effect a healing of the Jewish people and their land themselves, through natural means.

Then, not only is the preceding true, but, by doing this, the Jewish people *have not only opened the door for but guaranteed that God's judgment*

upon the nation, to ultimately bring about repentance, would be intensified seven-fold (Matt. 12:43-45; cf. Lev. 26:18ff [ref. to the two articles on this site, "Zionism," & "Last State Worse Than the First"]).

And God uses the Gentile nations to bring about judgment of this nature upon His people. In this respect, the turmoil existing among the nations in the Middle East can be addressed in a very simple manner, made known millenniums ago by the Prophets.

It all has to do with *God's plans and purposes for Israel and the nations. It has to do with bringing to pass that which it will ultimately take to bring Israel to the place of repentance, in order that through the Jewish people, all of the Gentile nations — even the very nations fostering anti-Semitism today, some to the extent of seeking Israel's very destruction — can not only be evangelized by but be blessed through Israel.*

And God is going to allow matters to increasingly go to *the extremes that it will ultimately take* in order to bring this to pass.

The Biblical Picture

The Biblical picture of that currently occurring in the Middle East can be seen in the opening verses of the Book of Jonah.

An unrepentant Jonah, out of the Lord's will and seeking to distance himself from the presence of the Lord, booked passage on board a ship headed in the opposite direction from where the Lord had told him to go. And Jonah, in this condition, was asleep down in the hold of the ship when God caused the sea to become so tumultuous that the very ship itself, with all those on board the ship, was about to be destroyed (Jonah 1:1-5).

This storm arose for *one multifaceted reason and purpose alone.*

It arose because of Jonah. God's prophet was out of place, and the storm arose in order to rectify the situation (1:6-12).

Jonah must be dealt with and brought to the place of repentance, bringing Jonah to the place where he would then do as God had commanded. And bringing about repentance was something which could happen only one place, *not on the ship, but in the sea*. Jonah *MUST* be cast from the ship into the sea.

(“The sea” in Scripture is used as a metaphor for *the nations* [also, *the place of death*]; and “the ship” could only be seen as a reference to *the land of Israel*, for that is the only place on earth where one could reside and be seen as other than out among the nations, other than in the sea.)

The preceding is the type. Now note the antitype — Israel in the land today and that which, according to the type, *MUST* occur.

A disobedient and unrepentant nation, following in Jonah’s footsteps, resides in the land — on the ship — today. And exactly the same thing is occurring among the nations, particularly those nations surrounding Israel, as occurred in the sea during Jonah’s day.

The sea raged in the type, *because of Jonah*; and the sea is raging today in the antitype, *because of Israel*. In the type, the sea raged to the extent that the ship was about to be destroyed; and the beginning of exactly the same thing, to be climaxed during the coming Tribulation, can be seen in the Middle East today.

And whether type or antitype, the reason for the tumultuous condition was/is the same — *a disobedient and unrepentant Jonah running from the presence of the Lord, and a disobedient and unrepentant Jewish nation following suit in the land today*.

The Biblical Solution

Do you want to know what’s about to happen? The type will relate the complete story. *And if you think it’s bad now, just wait!*

It can only become worse with time, with no one being able to do a thing about the matter (Hosea

5:14). The type relates this, and the antitype must follow the type in exact detail.

Again, the whole of what is presently occurring and will yet occur in the Middle East has *one catalyst*, and God is bringing all of this to pass in order to rectify an existing situation.

As long as a disobedient and unrepentant Jonah was on board the ship, out of the Lord’s will, the sea raged. And the sea raged to the extent that the ship was about to be destroyed.

And matters can be *NO DIFFERENT* in the antitype.

As long as an unbelieving and unrepentant Jewish nation is in the land, turmoil can only exist among the Gentile nations, particularly those nations surrounding Israel in the Middle East.

And this turmoil, as the raging sea during Jonah’s day, can ultimately be no ordinary turmoil. It can ultimately only be the same type turmoil seen in the tumultuous sea during Jonah’s day, described in Matt. 24:22:

“And except those days should be shortened [days during the coming Tribulation just out ahead, the last seven years of the full four hundred and ninety years], there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect’s sake [for Israel’s sake] those days shall be shortened.”

(For additional information on these days, refer to the author’s book, *DISTANT HOOFS BEATS*.)

God, exactly as in the type, is about to pull out all stops in order to bring His plans and purposes for mankind to pass, *plans and purposes to be effected through Israel*.

In the type, bringing about His plans and purposes had to do with *a Jewish prophet*, ultimately bringing to pass salvation and blessings for the Gentile city of Nineveh.

And in the antitype, bringing about His plans and purposes has to do with *the nation of Israel*, which will ultimately bring to pass salvation and blessings for the Gentile nations of the earth.

(For additional information on the preceding, refer to the author’s two pamphlets, “The Turbulent Middle East” [Parts I, II].)

Also, note something which some individuals would see as a problem with respect to all of this.

As Jonah in the type had to be removed from the ship and cast into the sea, Israel in the antitype has to be removed from the land and driven back out among the nations. God dealt with Jonah *only in the sea*, as He will deal with Israel *only out among the nations* [this is *the place* where He had previously driven Israel, to deal with the nation in this manner—the “place” which He will also have “prepared” for Israel yet future, during the Tribulation (Rev. 12:6, 14)].

The seeming problem would emanate from God having dealt with Israel in the land after this fashion numerous times in the Book of Judges, along with similar dealings at Christ’s first coming.

But note a major difference between the nation both times in history and the nation today. The nation in the land both times in history found itself *under Gentile dominion and control*; the nation in the land today is *not under Gentile dominion and control*.

Thus, the nation presently in the land is left without recourse. *This nation either has to be brought under Gentile dominion and control or be uprooted and driven back out among the nations; and Scripture states that the latter will occur* [Matt. 24:15ff; Luke 21:20ff; Rev. 12:6, 14ff].

Then, out among the nations, God will deal with Israel [the whole house of Israel, not with just those in the land today] exactly as He dealt with Jonah in the sea, with the ultimate results in the antitype occurring *exactly as seen in the type* [Jonah 2:1ff; 3:1ff].)

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