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The Battle for Jerusalem

*“For it is the day of the LORD’s vengeance, and the year of recompences
for the controversy of Zion.” [Isaiah 34:8](#)*

By Mike Wingfield

We live in incredible times when significant prophetic events are rapidly falling into place to set the stage for the Biblical end of days. My generation has witnessed more preparations for the Tribulation Period than all of the previous generations since the time of Christ. The announcement on December 6, 2017 by President Donald Trump to officially recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel is one of these significant events. It signals that the Biblical stopwatch of God that will tick off the final seven years before the literal and supernatural return of Christ to earth is rapidly approaching. In [Psalm 102:13](#), the Psalmist declared: *“Thou shalt arise, and have mercy upon Zion: for the time to favour her, yea, the set time, is come.”* In the context of this great prophetic psalm, the Holy Spirit has revealed that developments in Jerusalem are directly related to the end of this age. *“When the LORD shall build Zion, he shall appear in his glory.”* ([Psalm 102:16](#))

Anyone who has studied the Bible thoroughly will know that historically and prophetically the Holy City of Jerusalem is at the center of God’s stage for the unfolding of His divine plan and purposes on earth. As we shall discover in this article, the struggle for the Jewish occupation and ownership of Jerusalem as viewed within the nations will continue until the very end of this age.

I have had several people call and write me concerning the significance of our president’s announcement. Here is the big question: “How does President Trump’s announcement fit into the overall big picture of the Biblical prophetic end-time scenario?”

President Trump stated that part of his decision was based upon the historical reality of what is true about Jerusalem. Since the founding of the modern State of Israel, Jerusalem has been the only capital of the Jewish nation. Almost all of the governmental affairs of Israel are conducted in the governmental buildings in Jerusalem. I

have seen and photographed many of the buildings on my tours in Israel in the last 32 years. In addition to this, the Scriptures and hundreds of solid archeological evidences prove that Jerusalem was occupied by God's chosen people since it was declared by King David to be their capital almost 3,000 years ago.

We could all wish that this recognition of Jerusalem and the plans to move the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem would start a new political global trend. However, the current events and the prophetic Scriptures indicate otherwise.

First, the liberal political U.S. leaders and media are all opposing President Trump's decision. They overlook the fact that congress overwhelmingly voted to move the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem in 1995. Since that time, three previous presidents promised, while campaigning for the presidency, that if elected they would move the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem as directed by congress. Each of them vetoed this bill twice each year. It is now apparent that President Trump was the only one who really intended to honor his campaign promise.

These same political pundits and uninformed media personnel are stating that what President Trump has done is politically foolish. While this decision is not popular with the political leaders of the world, as indicated by the recent UN vote to oppose this announcement, it is certainly approved by the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. As we all know, that's all that really matters!

I do not pretend to agree with all of President Trump's decisions, policies, or actions. The world may view his declaration about Jerusalem as foolish. The Bible states: ***"But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty."*** ([1 Corinthians 1:27](#)) We must not expect the world to really understand all of this! Those without the Spirit of God are spiritually dead and blind. They really cannot understand. ***"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."*** ([1 Corinthians 2:14](#))

Many billions of people, especially those who follow the Islamic mindset, hate Israel and the God of Israel. They

are blinded by their hatred. They hate God and are united against Israel. Read [Psalm 83:1-8](#).

According to the Bible, the acceptance of the return of the Jewish people to their land and their occupation and ownership of Jerusalem is a divine test that will determine who is for or against God. Those who stand with God will applaud and pray for His ***"will be done in earth, as it is in heaven."*** ([Matthew 6:10](#)). In [Psalm 122:6](#), we are commanded: ***"Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee."*** Therefore, all believers who know the prophetic Word of God should support President Trump's decision to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of the Jewish nation of Israel.

In the context of the final seven years at the end of this age, [Jeremiah 30:18](#) states: ***"Thus saith the LORD; Behold, I will bring again the captivity of Jacob's tents [their temporary dwelling places among the Gentile nations], and have mercy on his dwelling places; and the city [Jerusalem] shall be builded upon her own heap [the rubble of its ancient remains], and the palace [center of governmental affairs] shall remain after the manner thereof."*** This text, and many others we will examine in this article, clearly demonstrates that the struggle for the city of Jerusalem will be at the center of the conflict between God and the nations in the immediate future.

I believe that President Trump's recent recognition of Jerusalem will have the effect of galvanizing international opposition against God's city, ultimately leading to Armageddon. Others agree with me on this. Charles Gardner, in an article in an e-mail from *Israel Today*, comments: "The decision of President Trump to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital as a probable first step towards moving the American Embassy there could well be a catalyst for a battle of the ages." (e-mail from *Israel Today*, December 8, 2017)

Jerusalem will be the focus of the international attack upon Israel during the last half of the Tribulation Period. While calling Jerusalem "Ariel" (which is Hebrew for "the lion of God"), [Isaiah 29:7-8](#) depicts the nations' passionate determination to distress Jerusalem, as ***"a dream of a night vision."*** They will dream of their victory over Jerusalem, but their dream will not come to fruition. Finally, at the end of the Tribulation, the Antichrist will call for the nations of the world to join him

in the Battle of Armageddon. ([Revelation 16:12-16](#)) [Zechariah 12](#) and [14](#) highlight the Antichrist's attack upon Jerusalem. The Lord has declared: ***"And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem."*** ([Zechariah 12:9](#)) While the forces of the Antichrist are attacking Jerusalem, the Lord will descend from heaven and fight against this evil force gathered against His people, destroying them all with the power of His spoken word. ([Zechariah 12:2-3, 12-15](#))

Therefore, it is clear that Jerusalem is the epicenter of the international political conflict at the end of this age. The nations will join Satan in his attack upon Israel, and especially Jerusalem. The Scriptures paint a clear picture of the global attack upon Jerusalem that will not end until the battle of Armageddon at the end of the Tribulation Period. While speaking to His disciples on the Mount of Olives about the end of this age, Jesus told His disciples: ***"Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled."*** ([Luke 21:24](#)) The time that is designated as ***"the times of the Gentiles"*** speaks of all the Gentile governments from [Genesis 9](#) until [Revelation 19](#). The Gentiles are destined be in control of events on earth until the Jewish Messiah returns from heaven at the end of the Tribulation to rule over all the nations of the world ([Revelation 19:15](#)) for 1,000 years. ([Revelation 20:4-6](#)) Finally, a Jewish global kingdom will rule over all of the Gentile nations.

It is very insightful to examine the Scriptures to determine why Jerusalem is at the center of the war between heaven and hell, God and Satan. Understanding this is critical to developing a Biblical view of what lies ahead for our world. Let us examine two major reasons why this is true.

Reason #1

God's Desire for the Destiny of Jerusalem

The city of Jerusalem is mentioned by name more than 800 times in the Bible. It is emphatically important to grasp that Jerusalem lies at the very center of God's eternal plans for this earth.

Jerusalem is not the choice of the Jews, it is God's choice. [Psalm 132:13](#) plainly states: ***"For the LORD hath chosen Jerusalem..."*** Jerusalem is called ***"the holy city."*** ([Matthew 4:5](#)) This declaration is mentioned many times in the Bible, which indicates that God has set this city apart from all of cities in the world for His purposes.

Jerusalem is uniquely called ***"the city of our God"*** ([Psalm 48:1, 8](#)), and ***"the city of the great King."*** ([Psalm 48:2](#)) Uniquely, God has created the earth and placed Jerusalem at the geographical center of the nations. ([Ezekiel 5:5](#))

The Lord has openly declared His special love for Jerusalem. In [Psalm 78:68](#), the Lord spoke of Zion ***"which he loved."*** In [Zechariah 1:14](#), He expressed His love: ***"...I am jealous for Jerusalem and for Zion with a great jealousy..."*** In [Zechariah 2:8](#) He spoke of Jerusalem as ***"the apple of his eye."*** These unique statements of God's special love for Jerusalem should open our eyes to the central divine focus upon Jerusalem in these last days. If He is our Lord, and we love Him, we should love what He loves.

When I am in Jerusalem, these passages flood my mind and fill me with a wonder and love for this great city. I have traveled to many places in this world, but none touch my heart like Jerusalem. When I am there, I feel like I am in my spiritual home.

As the sovereign Almighty, the Lord is determined that His divine destiny for Jerusalem will be accomplished. This is very powerfully expressed in [Isaiah 62:1-7](#). ***"For Zion's sake, will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth. (verse 1) ... Thou shalt also be a crown of glory in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of thy God. (verse 3) ... I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the LORD, keep not silence, And give him no rest, till he establish, and till he make Jerusalem a praise in the earth." (verses 6-7)***

The joy of the Jewish people over Jerusalem is an amazing thing to witness. No other people on earth have such a loving attachment to a city as do the sons of Jacob for Jerusalem. The eternal city is the subject of their prayers, singing, and dancing. This is a fulfillment of many Biblical prophecies. ***"The redeemed of the LORD shall return, and come with singing unto Zion..."*** ([Isaiah 51:11](#)) Jerusalem is destined to become the international capital of the Messiah's government for 1,000 years.

Reason #2

Satan's Desire for the Destruction of Jerusalem

Satan knows that if he does not stop God's revealed destiny for Jerusalem, he will be imprisoned in the bottomless pit for 1,000 years. ([Revelation 20:1-3](#)) Satan has never faced such a judgment or restriction, and he is determined to oppose God in his desperate attempt to avoid this. As a result, Jerusalem is at the center of Satan's attack against God. [Isaiah 14:13](#) reveals that Satan's agenda is to dethrone God in heaven and to control the Temple Mount in Jerusalem to oppose God's agenda for His Son to rule the earth from this location. History demonstrates that Satan has done everything in his power to oppose the Jewish occupation of Jerusalem. Amazingly, the Arab people have been the major tool of his attack upon the Jewish people and their beloved city. This was true in the days of Nehemiah. Read [Nehemiah 4](#). The ancient prophet Obadiah faced this Arab hatred and opposition. And, this was the situation in [Psalm 83:1-8](#), and [Psalm 120](#). So, it is not a surprise that at the center of the attack against the Jewish occupation of the city of Jerusalem is the Arab people and their religion – Islam. Zechariah records God's verbal confrontation with Satan about all of this. ***"And the LORD said unto Satan, The LORD rebuke thee, O Satan; even the LORD that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?"*** ([Zechariah 3:2](#))

The name Jerusalem means "city of peace." How ironic that no other city on earth has known so much war, destruction and bloodshed. Jerusalem has suffered the threats, attacks, and/or control of Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Rome, the multiple wars between the Muslims and crusading Catholic Church, the Ottoman Turks, and the British. When my tour groups walk through the Old City of Jerusalem there are many places where we are reminded that the present level of Jerusalem is 14-21 feet above the level of Jesus' time, and even deeper to the various levels of the Old Testament period. Much of this death and destruction that Jerusalem has suffered is a result of the conflict that exists between God's and Satan's opposing agendas. As we get closer to the final phase of this war in the spiritual realm, the spotlight upon Jerusalem will once again become increasingly intense.

According to the prophetic Word of God, Jerusalem will be the center of the Antichrist's focus in the last half of the Tribulation Period. ([Daniel 11:45](#); [Zechariah 12, 14](#); [Matthew 24: 15-20](#) and [2 Thessalonians 2:4](#)) The fact that Islam has been at the center of the conflict against the Jewish occupation and control over Jerusalem and the

Temple Mount for 14 centuries is not a coincidence. This is one of many reasons why I believe the Antichrist will be a Muslim and the religion that will consume and control him is Islam. The powerful control and growing influence of Islam is evidence that we are living in the last of the last days!

There is coming a future day when many Arabs and Muslims will be saved and surrender their lives to Jesus Christ as their Savior. In an amazing chapter, [Isaiah 60](#), the prophet Isaiah wrote about the transformation of the Arabs who will be saved and survive the Tribulation Period. Their former hatred for the Jews and their land and city will be replaced with a respect and support of the Jewish occupation of the Promised Land and Holy City. [Isaiah 60:14](#) summarizes this astounding change: ***"The sons also of them that afflicted thee shall come bending unto thee; and all they that despised thee shall bow themselves down at the soles of thy feet; and they shall call thee, The city of the LORD, The Zion of the Holy One of Israel."***

Presently we are hearing of a supernatural movement of the Holy Spirit within the Muslims populations of the Middle East. Tens of thousands of Muslims are having dreams of seeing Jesus and later hear the gospel and are saved. Many of these former Muslims have already become martyrs for their Lord as they attempt to share the gospel with their Muslim families and friends. I believe that this sudden supernatural event and its powerful impact throughout the Muslim world in the Middle East is a forerunner of what the Lord will do during the Tribulation Period among the Jewish people in Israel. ([Joel 2:27-32](#)) Therefore, this supernatural evangelism of the Muslim masses is another powerful sign that the Rapture is very near.

When the Tribulation Period is over, those who survive will stand before the Lord in the judgment of what is called the Sheep and Goat nations, as recorded in [Matthew 25:31-46](#). The sheep represent those who are genuinely saved, while the goats represent the lost. As you read this text, you will realize that the faith of these people will be exposed by their works. Their works are centered upon their treatment of ***"the least of these my brethren"*** – the Jewish people. ([verse 40](#)) Those who are saved will love what God loves and pray for His will to be done on earth. When one understands the role of the Jewish people and their occupation of the Holy Land and

the Holy city of Jerusalem, he will always stand with God, His people, His land, and His city.

I believe that President Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel will be used to force the world to take sides. If they are for God, they will stand with the Jewish people and their occupation and ownership of Jerusalem. If they oppose God, they will support the Arab/Muslim agenda, which calls for the destruction of the Jewish nation of Israel.

For several decades now, the world has followed the false cry for peace in the Middle East. The world refuses to look at the true historical facts. Prior to modern times, there never was an ethnic group of people called "Palestinians." There never was a Palestinian country. The land called Palestine was always governed by an outside political power for thousands of years until modern times. The Jews never stole the land from the Arabs. In contrast, the Arab nations surrounding the Holy Land called for the Arab people living in that land to evacuate as the Arab nations invaded the newly born nation of Israel in May, 1948. The Arab masses complied, and when Israel won the war, the Arab nations chose to keep the displaced Arabs (now called Palestinians) in refugee camps as a bargaining chip to tempt the world to force the Jews out of the land.

It is no secret that the Arab people, including those who now call themselves Palestinians, do not want to create a two-state solution to this conflict. The world thinks that the Arab/Muslims want a Palestinian State to live in peace along side of a Jewish State [Israel]. However, when you examine their charters, education materials, maps, media, and religious declarations, it is not a secret that the Palestinians and all of their Arab/Muslim friends are really calling for the creation of a Palestinian State from the Mediterranean to the Jordan River. They want the complete removal of the Jews from the land of Israel.

The nations of the world have been blinded by all of the Arab/Muslim false promises. The financial and political corruption of the Palestinian leadership and the incitement toward violence and hatred of the Jewish people have been totally ignored by the western nations. In essence, they are promoting the creation of another Islamic terrorist nation, while they oppose the only true democracy in the Middle East. This is not only unbiblical. It is also wrong and insane! This is another testimony that we live in a

pagan, godless culture that has inverted reality. Good has become evil and evil has become good.

At the center of this conflict is the city of Jerusalem. The world recognized this in 1947. When the United Nations voted in November, 1947, on a plan to partition the land of Palestine, they created a map showing a Jewish State, and a new Arab State. However, they declared that Jerusalem and the immediate surrounding area would be declared an international zone. They recognized that neither the Jews nor Arabs would accept a plan that would give Jerusalem to the other side.

However, the conflict over Jerusalem is not a nationalistic struggle. At the center of this conflict is the religion of Islam. The struggle for Jerusalem is a religious war. Muslims claim that Jerusalem is an important Muslim center of worship. However, the Koran never mentions Jerusalem by name. Until modern times, the Muslims did not consider Jerusalem to be important. As a matter of fact, the passionate possession of Jerusalem did not begin with the Muslims until the creation of the modern state of Israel in 1948.

President Trump's announcement to accept Jerusalem as the capital of Israel is a very big issue in this religious war. Until his announcement, the western world was playing along with the Muslim world, ignoring the Biblical facts, modern historical records, and amazing archeological discoveries that prove that Jerusalem belongs to the Jewish people and should be recognized as the capital of Israel. Now, President Trump has dared to take a bold step and do what is right in a world that celebrates wrong.

Soon, and very soon, the church is going to be caught out of this world and the struggle for Jerusalem will reach a new level that will finally bring the nations to Armageddon, where Jesus will settle the score once and for all!

I thank the Lord that I have been given the privilege to watch all of this unfold. If the prophets or apostles were here with us, you would not be able to shut them up! They would be proclaiming the promise of our Lord's soon return. How sad that we live at a time when the churches are so silent about His Second Coming. Get ready for the shout that will take us out!

Dangerous Developments on Israeli's Northern Border

While the war of Jerusalem is heating up, there is another critical development on Israel's northern border. According to many sources, the failed Syrian government is nothing more than a weak puppet government now controlled by Russia and Iran. In the past year, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has frequently visited Moscow to speak with Russian President Vladimir Putin about the Iranian presence in Syria. The Israelis know that it is Iran's goal to control the Middle East and eventually establish a Shia-based global empire. In order for this to happen, Iran's goal is to establish a land bridge from Iran, through Iraq and Syria to Lebanon, which is nothing more than a weak puppet of Iran, controlled by Hezbollah. Hezbollah has engaged in war and terrorist attacks against Israel along the southern Lebanese border for several decades. This militia terrorist group is trained and supported by Iran and operates in the region with the ultimate goal to bring about the destruction of Israel.

Israelis are concerned that Iran is now building a powerful military base just 31 miles from their northern border with Syria. Despite Netanyahu's warnings to Russia that Israel will not accept Iran's military presence in Syria, the Russians are giving their support to Iran's new military Syrian base.

Several sources indicate that Iran's purpose for this military presence in Syria is religiously motivated by their Shia prophetic convictions. *World Net Daily* recently released the following report: "Ryan Mauro of the Clarion Project argues the bases near Israel don't pose an imminent threat of a conventional military strike or even an asymmetrical attack. But he said the motivation is rather a desire to fulfill Shia prophecy of a showdown with the Jewish state that Iran's religious leadership believes will prompt the coming of a messianic figure, or 'Mahdi.' ...

There are now some 13 Iranian military installations in Syria – some manned by Hezbollah terrorists and others by Iranian Revolutionary Guard forces.

'This isn't normal competition between hostile powers; this isn't even the normal Iranian sponsorship of terrorism or attempts to expand their military presence,' Mauro said in a recent television interview. 'To the Iranian regime this is the fulfillment of prophecy.'

Mauro pointed out that new Iranian troops are called Ansar al-Mahdi, or 'Supporters of the Messiah.' And Iran has also created a 313th brigade, into which it is recruiting young Syrian Shiites. According to tradition in Shiite Islam, 313 is the number of fighters that will arrive with the Mahdi, the Islamic Messiah, Mauro explained.

Shia tradition holds that the arrival of the Mahdi will coincide with the arrival of the Christian messiah, Jesus, who will be the Mahdi's lieutenant in fighting the Masih ad-Dajjal, the false messiah, or anti-Christ.

Shia Islam believes the Mahdi will reappear with Jesus, who will declare himself a Muslim, and kill Christians who refuse to convert. 'The end of days,' according to Shia belief, will be a bloody battle, killing off two-thirds of the world population and leaving the rest to convert to Islam.

The concept of the Mahdi figures in Iranian politics. In a speech in front of the U.N. General Assembly in 2008, then-Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad left the gathered politicians aghast as he begged Allah to hasten the return of the Mahdi.

'You are not dealing with fully rational actors,' Mauro said. 'You can be irrational and strategic and pragmatic at the same time, which is what Iran is doing. If you understand these prophecies, you can understand Iran.'

Mauro explained that according to Shiite theology, Iranian leadership believes it will lead the battle against Sunni adversaries, invade Israel and take over Jerusalem. He added that the recent destabilization in Saudi Arabia is a direct result of Iran's apocalyptic agenda." (*World Net Daily*, November 24, 2017) To watch this interview, go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w6fTlpYzrE>

As the Bible prophecy student follows all of these recent ongoing developments, he realizes that the hour is very, very late. We are literally standing on the brink of major events that have overwhelming prophetic implications. I can honestly say that I have never been more focused or excited about following all of this. Perhaps this is the year we will fly home to heaven.

"Therefore, be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." (Matthew 24:44)

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January 14--16- Telford, TN	Telford GBC	1-423-257-2880
January 18- Roanoke, VA	<u>Monthly Bible Study at South County Library Theater</u>	1-540-798-5110
January 26-28- Kittanning, PA	North Buffalo GBC	1-724-763-7871
February 1- Rocky Mount, VA	<u>Monthly Bible Study at Franklin Heights Baptist</u>	1-540-798-5110
February 11-13- Kokomo, IN	Higher Ground Fellowship	1-765-434-1242
February 15- Roanoke, VA	<u>Monthly Bible Study at South County Library Theater</u>	1-540-798-5110
February 25-27- Manheim, PA	Manheim GBC	1-717- 665-2334
March 1- Rocky Mount, VA	<u>Monthly Bible Study at Franklin Heights Baptist</u>	1-540-798-5110
March 5-13	9-day tour to Israel	1-540-798-5110
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Mike is scheduling conferences for 2018. Please call him if your church is interested in hosting a conference.