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God's Vengeance upon the Nations

"Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord." **Romans 12:19**

By Mike Wingfield

We serve an awesome God! The more I learn about the God of the Bible, the more I love Him and want to worship and serve Him. God loves all that is good and righteous. He loves what is good because He is good. He loves people. He loves sinners. He loved mankind enough to provide a way back to Him after mankind walked away from Him and rebelled against Him. God demonstrated *"His love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us"* (**Romans 5:8**). God the Father made Jesus *"to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him"* (**2 Corinthians 5:21**). Wow! What a God! What a Savior!

God deeply cares about and loves every human being. He made each one of us in our mother's womb (**Psalms 139:13-16**). The Bible declares, *"How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God"* (**Psalms 139:17**). The Living God deeply cares about every person on earth! God is incredibly patient with each one of us, *"not willing*

that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (**2 Peter 3:9**). When a sinner dies and goes into the eternal fires of hell, God has no pleasure in that. In **Ezekiel 33:11**, God said, *"As I live, saith the LORD God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways, for why will ye die?"*

God hates all forms of sin. Sin is very offensive to Him because it defies His holy character. He knows that sin is deadly and destroys people's lives. He loves us enough to tell us that *"the wages of sin is death: but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord"* (**Romans 6:23**). God loves us very much and His way is the only way to true joy and a meaningful life. Jesus made that clear when He said, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me"* (**John 14:6**).

In the beginning, God made man in His image (**Genesis 1:26**). He made us to glorify Him, know Him, and serve Him. When we do not do that, we have missed the mark for which He created us. ***“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God”*** (**Romans 3:23**). When we do not please Him, we have failed and will be miserable. Life will be filled with meaningless and bitter disappointments. When we daily confess our sins and seek a relationship and daily fellowship with Him, we will be content and filled with joy. That is what God intended when He made us. He made us to be in a relationship with Him, to fellowship with Him, and to spend eternity with Him in His heaven.

According to the Bible, we either love God or hate Him (**Exodus 20:5-6**). When we hate Him and rebel against Him, we are the enemies of God (**Romans 5:10; Colossians 1:21**). Before a person comes to Christ, he walks ***“according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now [works] in the children of disobedience”*** (**Ephesians 2:2**).

When this happens, we have chosen to join the rebellion of Satan against God. Most people do not grasp this. There is no middle ground with God. You are either saved or lost. You are either a child of God, or a child of Satan (**John 8:44**). If you love this godless world system, you are not of God (**1 John 2:15-17**) and are an ***“enemy of God”*** (**James 4:4**). I did not say that God did!

The Bible teaches that there is a constant and deadly war raging in the spirit world. God and His angels are at war with Satan and his angels (**Revelation 12:7-8**).

Shortly after God finished His creation, Satan, who was originally known as Lucifer, led a rebellion against God in heaven. In his defiance of God, Satan persuaded one-third of God’s created angels to follow him instead of God. These angels are now part of Satan’s rebellion against God (**Revelation 12:4**). We call these fallen angels demons.

As believers in Jesus Christ, we are all involved in God’s war with Satan and his demons. The Apostle Paul said, ***“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in***

high places” (**Ephesians 6:12**). This is a real war. We are on the winning side. ***“Greater is he that is in [us], than he that is in the world”*** (**1 John 4:4**).

Make no mistake, Satan is real and he is a powerful foe of God. Satan does not want to lose this war and he eventually cast into the Lake of Fire forever (**Revelation 20:10**). Like a ravenous animal, he is desperate and will not go down without a fight. He wants to enlist helpers to join him in this revolt against God. He has made it his business to capture and corrupt the minds and souls of people to deceptively use them in his war against God. One of his greatest tools is the nations of the world, with all their wealth, power, and prestige. Satan is constantly spiritually weakening and blinding the nations (**Isaiah 14:12**). In the Bible he is known as the great deceiver of the nations (**Revelation 12:9; 20:3, 8**). The Bible teaches that the entire world that we live in is under the sway of the devil (**1 John 5:19**).

The Bible tells us that very early in the ministry of the Lord Jesus, Satan tempted Jesus. He showed Him ***“all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them”*** (**Matthew 4:8**). He told Jesus that if He would worship him, he would give Him great power and authority over the nations. Jesus resisted Satan. However, we see evidence in our world that Satan is still tempting kings and leaders of the nations to accept his offer of wealth, power, and prestige. When they accept his bait, they will worship

Satan, and follow him, and will have joined his rebellion against God. They are evil men! The Bible says that when the end comes, all nations, except Israel, will have joined Satan’s revolt against God (**Joel 3:2; Zechariah 14:2**).

At the heart of God’s vengeance is His response to the rebellion of Satan, the demons, and the nations who have opposed Him from the beginning of time.

When the end of this age comes [and we have just about arrived at that point] the world will be ushered by God into a dark and agonizing time called the Tribulation Period. The Bible calls this time, ***“the day of the LORD’s vengeance”*** (**Isaiah 34:8**). At the heart of God’s vengeance is His response to the rebellion of Satan, the demons, and the nations that have opposed Him from the beginning.

I am convinced that most pastors and Christians give little thought to God’s vengeance. Satan has blinded their eyes about who God is. With the help of his false prophets,

Satan has deceived many to believe that God is so loving that He will overlook their sin and welcome all them into His heaven. The Bible is clear. God ***“will not justify the wicked”*** (**Exodus 23:7**). When Moses went up to Mount Sinai to receive the law of God, the Lord told him that He would ***“by no means clear the guilty; [but would visit] the iniquity of the fathers, upon the children, and upon the children’s children, unto the third and to the fourth generation”*** (**Exodus 34:7**).

Vengeance is a testimony to God’s faithfulness, goodness, holiness, and justice. God stands on the side of good and what is right. God will uphold and defend Himself and His will, His eternal plan, His people, and all that He loves. Therefore, the Lord will punish the angels and men who hate Him, oppose Him, and rebel against Him. This punishment is called vengeance.

The Bible repeatedly tells us that vengeance belongs to the Lord and to the Lord alone. **Romans 12:17-19** says, ***“Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.”*** God has promised us that we can trust Him to settle the score with all those who hate or harm us. This battle belongs unto the Lord! He demonstrated this to Israel on many occasions (**2 Chronicles 20:15; 1 Samuel 17:47**). I have witnessed God deal with those who hurt me many times throughout my life!

Vengeance belongs to the Lord! Only God has the right and authority to execute perfect vengeance. He is our judge because He created us and we must all give an account unto Him. God’s judgment flows out of His holy character and regal authority. He is the Creator and Lawgiver. His authority is final and complete. The authority of heaven has been given to Jesus, the Son of Man (**John 5:22; 5:27; Matthew 28:18**).

All vengeance belongs to the Lord for four reasons:

(1) Only God is holy. God will judge the world and all the people and nations according to His holiness (**Psalms 96:13**). God is ***“the Judge of all the earth”*** (**Genesis 18:25**). Part of the wardrobe of God’s character is His holy vengeance. **Isaiah 59:17** says, ***“For he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and an helmet of***

salvation upon his head; and he put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloak.” Vengeance is an essential part of who God is because He is holy and He hates sin and those who rebel against Him.

(2) Only God is omniscient. He knows everything! He is infinitely perfect in His knowledge of everyone and everything. Everything He sees is judged based upon how it measures up to His holiness. He looks down from heaven and sees and hears all. ***“The LORD [looks] from heaven; he [beholds] all the sons of men. From the place of his habitation he [looks] upon all the inhabitants of earth”*** (**Psalms 33:13-14**). Nothing is hidden from God. He sees our actions, understands our motives, and knows the desires, and thoughts of our minds. He even knows the thoughts of Satan (**Isaiah 14:13-14**). Nothing is hidden from God. We all need to think about that a lot more!

God has promised us that we can trust Him to settle the score with all those who hate or harm us. This battle belongs unto the Lord!

(3) Only God is eternal. God was there before the beginning of time, before the heavens and the earth were formed by Him (**Genesis 1:1**). He inhabits eternity (**Isaiah 57:15**). That simply means He has seen it all and was there when it happened in heaven and earth! Moses wrote, ***“LORD, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations”*** (**Psalms 90:1**). That is why His vengeance against man and the nations extends all the way back to Genesis. He was there from the beginning and has witnessed every sin, every act of defiance, and every rejection of His righteousness throughout the ages. What God began in Genesis, He will finish in the book of Revelation. This is very foundational to the infinite vengeance of God. He must hold all people and nations accountable to Himself.

(4) Only God is omnipotent [all-powerful]. God alone holds supreme sovereignty over all realms, both spiritual and physical. He rules over the heavens and the earth, over angels and mankind, and all creation remains under the authority of His eternal power and divine purpose. The instruments of God’s justice are unlimited. He uses people, nations, angels, creation, and especially His Son, Jesus Christ, who is ***“the Lion of the Tribe of Judah”*** (**Revelation 5:5**). All of this is showcased in the final war

between God and Satan in the book of Revelation. It will be the most awesome demonstration of the power of God in the history of man!

In the end, God's righteous judgment will come upon all people, nations, and angels. Each person will face Jesus as their eternal judge on their judgment day. Believers will appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ to give an account of what they have done since they received Christ (**2 Corinthians 5:10**). All the unsaved will stand before the Lord Jesus at the Great White Throne Judgment (**Revelation 20:11-15**).

However, the nations and evil angels will all face the wrath of God's vengeance during the Tribulation Period. The Tribulation is called, *"the day of the LORD's vengeance, and the year of recompenses for the controversy of Zion"* (**Isaiah 34:8**).

About 4,000 years ago, God looked down from heaven and saw the spiritual darkness upon the earth. The world was immersed in the worship of false gods. This religion was centered in the worship of the moon god, with its emblem of the crescent moon. Archeological evidence indicates the worship of this crescent moon religion had permeated the entire Middle East. This false religion traces its roots back to the evil desires of the people at the Tower of Babel (**Genesis 11:1-9**). This place was called *"Babel"* (**Genesis 11:9**). It was the beginning of the city of Babylon and the religion that Satan would use to deceive the world until the end of this age (**Revelation 17:5; 18:24**).

After the revelation of the Tower of Babel in **Genesis 11:1-9**, the very next verse says, *"These are the generations of Shem"* (**Genesis 11:10**). Shem was one of the three sons of Noah that was on the ark. He was the forefather of the generation of Abram (**Genesis 11:26**), whose name was later changed to Abraham. Abraham was called out of pagan idolatry where he lived in Ur of the Chaldees (**Genesis 11:31**). The chief god of this region was the crescent moon god. Abraham was called out of this pagan religion. God revealed to Abram that He was the one and only true God.

God called Abram to leave his homeland and travel to another country that God would choose (**Genesis 12:1**). He told him that He would make him the father of a great nation that would bless all nations (**Genesis 12:2**). Then He told Abram that if the nations cursed him and his generations then, God would curse them. If the nations blessed Abram's generations, then God would bless those nations (**Genesis 12:3**). When Abram arrived in the land of Canaan, God appeared unto him and said, *"Unto thy seed will I give this land"* (**Genesis 12:7**).

God kept His word to Abram. He blessed him and through his seed, the Lord blessed all the nations with a written revelation that came through His people – the Bible. God also blessed the nations with the Jewish Redeemer, Jesus Christ, who was a descendant of Abraham (**Matthew 1:1**).

The Bible teaches that the nation of Israel was created by God (**Isaiah 43:1, 7**). Despite their sins and failures to glorify God, God chose the Jewish people to be His chosen people to demonstrate that He is the Lord God. Many of His promises to them were unconditional. The

promises of blessing Israel are grounded in the unchanging faithfulness of God. God said, *"This people have I formed for myself; they shall show forth my praise"* (**Isaiah 43:21**).

When God chose Israel, they were a sinful people, just like all the Gentile nations. God



knew when He chose them that they would be a rebellious people. He said, *"for I knew that thou [would] deal very treacherously, and was called a transgressor from the womb. For my name's sake will I defer mine anger, and for my praise will I refrain for thee, that I cut thee not off. Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction. For mine own sake, even for mine own sake, will I do it: for how should my name be polluted? And I will not give my glory unto another"* (**Isaiah 48:8-11**).

The text referenced above declares that God cannot forsake His chosen people, Israel. He has invested Himself and His holy Name and character in the nation of Israel. He is as a faithful, and unchanging God. He repeatedly calls Himself *"the Holy One of Israel"* (**Isaiah**

45:11; 48:17). He is *“the God of Israel”* (Isaiah 45:3). Near the end of the Old Testament, after the Assyrian and Babylonian captivity of Israel, God said, *“For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed”* (Malachi 3:6).

Satan has seen and heard all these promises God has made to Israel and the Jewish people. The Bible testifies that Satan has made the destruction of the Jewish people the focus of his rebellion against God. Satan is behind the plot to destroy the nation of Israel and to keep it from possessing the land that God gave to them in an unconditional covenant forever (Genesis 13:15). I find it interesting that God made this promise to Abram while he was living in Bethel (Genesis 13:3), which is in the middle of what the world today calls “the West Bank.”

God revealed to Moses, 3,400 years ago, that He would force His people out of their land and scatter them among the nations of the world (Deuteronomy 28:63-67). This happened in the first century at the hands of the Romans. Then, He promised that in the last days, He would regather them back into their ancient homeland, put a new heart in them, and curse the nations around them (Deuteronomy 30:1-7). We are watching the beginning of all of this unfold in our lifetime (Ezekiel 36:1-24).

The Bible is very clear that the ancient conflict that began in Genesis between the two sons of Abraham, Ishmael and Isaac, was the seed that would produce the conflict that would bring God’s vengeance upon the nations during the Tribulation.

The Bible is very clear that the ancient conflict that began in Genesis between the two sons of Abraham, Ishmael and Isaac, was the seed that would produce the conflict that would bring God’s vengeance upon the nations during the Tribulation. The Tribulation is *“the day of the LORD’s vengeance, and the year of recompenses for the controversy of Zion”* (Isaiah 34:8). The controversy with the Jewish people and the nations is focused upon the debate about the Jewish people and their right to the land God promised to them forever. This conflict is spearheaded in our world by the Arab/Islamic nations in the desert region of the Persian Gulf. It is a religious and spiritual conflict. The Muslims, who trace their ancestry to Ishmael, claim that the land the world calls “Palestine,” and especially Jerusalem, belongs to their god, Allah.

Therefore, the people of the world must decide who they believe. Do they believe the passionate religious traditions of the Muslims, or do they believe what God says in the Bible. Those who side with the Muslims are siding with the enemies of God. Psalm 83:1-8 states that those who are against the Jewish people are the enemies of God. These enemies are passionately united in their destruction of Israel. They are named in this text. The names of these ancient people groups are the same as the Arab/Islamic nations that surround the modern nation of Israel today. The Bible indicates that the religion of the Antichrist, and the Antichrist himself will come from the desert region east of Israel. In Revelation 17:3, the Apostle John reported that he was directed by the Spirit of God to see the global religious harlot of the Tribulation Period in *“the wilderness.”* The Greek word translated as *“wilderness”* is also translated in the Bible with the word *“desert.”* So, John said that this was a religion located in the desert.

When Jesus spoke about the Antichrist and the Tribulation in Matthew 24:15-26, He mentioned that the people who would be living in Jerusalem would receive a report that the Messiah was in the desert or in the holy place of the temple in Jerusalem (verse 26). Obviously, Jesus was warning them that this would be a false messiah [the Antichrist] who would be in the desert and later in the holy temple as mentioned by the Apostle Paul in 2 Thessalonians 2:4. Take note that they will be saying he is in the desert. The desert in Israel is east of Israel.

In essence, Jesus was warning His disciples that the counterfeit messiah would attempt to deceive the Jewish people by coming to Jerusalem from the east. In the next verse, Jesus said, *“For as the lightning [comes] out of the east, and [shines] even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be”* (Matthew 24:27). This simply means that when the true Messiah comes to Jerusalem to His temple, He will come from the east. When Jesus comes to Jerusalem at the end of the Tribulation, He will come from Edom, which is in southern Jordan east of Israel (Isaiah 63:1). Therefore, the Antichrist will mimic Jesus when he breaks his treaty with Israel at the mid-point of the Tribulation. He will travel from his headquarters in the east and come to Jerusalem to enter the temple.

Moses was directed by the Spirit of God to write God's Word in the book of beginnings, the book of Genesis. In this book, God clearly laid out the generations of people who would be the seeds of the conflict in the final war of God's vengeance against the nations. Genesis chronicles the beginning of the nations. This foundation cast a long shadow into the future and displays the players that will culminate the history that began in Genesis. In Genesis, God points to the genealogical record of significant patriarchs of the nations that will play a part in the history of planet earth (*Bible and Spade*, Spring/Summer 2016, p. 70). These genealogical records are introduced in Genesis with the phrase, ***“these are the generations of ...”***

Here is the list of the seed generations that would form the nations that would lead to the vengeance of God poured out upon the nations in the Tribulation. Notice they begin after God's judgment at the Tower of Babel.

Genesis 11:10- “these are the generations of Shem”

This section focuses on Abraham.

Genesis 11:27- “these are the generations of Terah”

This section focuses on Abraham and his two sons, Ishmael and Isaac.

Genesis 25:12- “these are the generations of Ishmael”

This section focuses on the 12 princes of Ishmael.

Genesis 25:19- “these are the generations of Isaac”

This section focuses on Esau and Jacob.

Genesis 36:1- “these are the generations of Esau”

Esau, like Ishmael, chose the gods of darkness east of Israel. He is called Edom and is connected to Mount Seir, which extends into northern Saudi Arabia.

Genesis 37:2- “These are the generations of Jacob”

This section to the end of Genesis develops the story of Jacob's 12 sons, especially Joseph.

In Genesis there are two spiritual lines: The sons of light- the greater light that rules over the world; and the sons of darkness- the lesser light that rules over the world. The sons of light are Adam, Noah, Shem, Terah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, the 12 tribes of Jacob, and especially Joseph. The bulk of the revelation in Genesis is about them. The sons of darkness are Cain, Ham, Ishmael, and Esau. The descendants of Ishmael and Esau intermarried (**Genesis 36:3**) and occupied the area east of Israel and became worshippers of the gods of darkness. The moon god eventually became the prevalent god of this region. All of

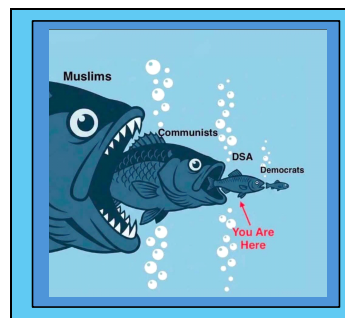
this was the beginning of the modern conflict between Israel and the Arab/Islamic nations to the east.

The false religious system in **Revelation 17-18** is in the desert and connected to the worship of a false god in the region of ancient Babylon. The name of this harlot religion (**Revelation 17:5**) focuses upon two things. The religion is ***“great”***, meaning it is the predominant religion that is in conflict with the people of God (**Revelation 18:24**).

The name of this harlot indicates that it was the ***“mother”*** (**Revelation 17:5**) of all false religious systems. The Bible indicates that this is connected to the worship that was developed at the Tower of Babel. About 13 centuries later, the prophet Isaiah wrote about this religion in **Isaiah 47**. In **Isaiah 47**, Isaiah connects this religion from Babel (**verses 1, 5**) as developing the worship of the luminary objects of heaven (**verses 9, 12-13**). He also describes the destruction of the region of this religion. The description of its sudden destruction in one day is repeatedly quoted by the Apostle John in **Revelation 18**.

Furthermore, **Revelation 17-18** indicates the kings of the nations, and all the inhabitants of earth will be enamored with the riches and luxuries of this religion (**Revelation 17:2; 18:3, 11-19**). They will be spiritually ***“intoxicated”*** with this religion (**Revelation 17:2; 18:3**). Because of their spiritual drunkenness, they will not be alarmed by this religion's wickedness and the violence she perpetrates upon the followers of Jesus Christ (**Revelation 17:5**).

I am amazed that so many in the church have not connected the biblical dots that reveal the only religion in these last days that fulfills the details found throughout the prophetic passages of God's Word. Without question, the religion of Islam is that religion.



All this shines like a beacon on events that have been unfolding in the Middle East since 1948. Without question, our world is being prepared for the end of God's chapter about His vengeance upon the

nations as described in the book of Revelation.

Be ready for the shout that will take us out!