

BIBLE CLASS 19.11.2020

EVENTS PRECEDING CHRIST'S RETURN
THE WAY TO JERUSALEM

Joel 3:2 I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and *for* my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land.

Zephaniah 3:8 Therefore wait ye upon me, says the LORD, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my determination *is* to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, *even* all my fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy.

Zechariah 14:2-5 For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which *is* before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, *and there shall be* a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south. And ye shall flee *to* the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the LORD my God shall come, *and* all the saints with thee.

From our perspective the way to Jerusalem is the way to WORLD
WAR III

We are living at a time which has seen the fulfilling of the prophecy of the 6th vial.

“And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the

kings of the east might be prepared. And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs *come* out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, *which* go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed *is* he that watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.” (Rev 16:12-16)

The first part of this prophecy refers not to the natural river Euphrates, but to the political power occupying the territory through which this river flows. The Euphrates is the longest and one of the most historically important rivers of Western Asia. The river's source is in Turkey and it flows through Syria and Iraq before merging with the Tigris and entering the sea of the Persian Gulf. It forms one of the boundaries of the land promised to Abraham and his seed, and to the land ultimately to be occupied by the restored twelve tribes of Israel. Deut. 1:7;11:24; Joshua 1:4. The Euphratean Empire that is referred to in Revelation 16, was known as the Ottoman Empire. It was founded by Osman in 1352 and conquered the Byzantine Empire in 1453 with the fall of Constantinople. During the 18th and 19th centuries it gradually lost territory, represented by the “drying up of the territory”. The Empire collapsed as a result of the 1st World War, when British and French forces drove the Turkish armies out of Iraq, Syria and Palestine. In 1922 the Ottoman empire was dissolved and became the Republic of Turkey, under Kemal Ataturk.

With the fall of the Ottoman Empire, the way of the kings of the East could be prepared. The Kings of the East (Anatole = the Sun's rising) refers to those who have been made kings and priests of the age to come, when the Kingdom of God will be established according to the boundaries promised to Abraham from the Nile to the Euphrates. This preparation has been going on now for 140 years, Palestine was under British control until 1948 and as a result of the Balfour declaration, Jewish immigration increased, but was severely reduced in 1939 at the beginning of World war two. In 1948

the British withdrew and the State of Israel was founded under Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion. Since the foundation of the State Israel has been involved with armed conflict with its neighbours.

- **1948 Arab–Israeli War** (November 1947 – July 1949).
- **Palestinian Fedayeen insurgency** (1950s–1960s)
- **Suez Crisis** (October 1956) – A military attack on Egypt by Britain, France, and Israel,
- **Six-Day War** (June 1967) between Israel and Egypt, Jordan, and Syria. Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Algeria, **War of Attrition** (1967–1970) – A limited war .
- **Yom Kippur War** (October 1973 Egypt and Syria against Israel
- **Palestinian insurgency in South Lebanon** (1971–1982)
- **1982 Lebanon War** (1982) – Israel Defense Forces invaded southern Lebanon to expel the PLO
- **South Lebanon conflict** (1985–2000) – Nearly 15 years of warfare between the Israel Defense Forces and its Lebanese Christian proxy militias against Lebanese Muslim guerrilla, led by Iranian-backed Hezbollah,.
- **First Intifada** (1987–1993) – First large-scale Palestinian uprising
- **Al-Aqsa Intifada** (2000–2005) – Second Palestinian uprising,
- **2006 Lebanon War** (summer 2006) – Began
- **Gaza War** (December 2008 – January 2009) –
- **Operation Pillar of Defense** (November 2012) – Military offensive on the Gaza Strip
- **Operation Protective Edge** (July–August 2014)

Today Israel is considered to be the 8th most powerful country in the world, and after nearly 72 years of conflict four Arab countries make peace with Israel normalising their relationship with the Jewish State. This development brokered by President Trump's team has taken the politicians by surprise. Very few national leaders have praised this development, because it does not solve the Palestinian issue. It does however conform to prophetic expectations that a counter alliance would be formed that would challenge the Russo-Euro-Asian confederation represented by the image of Nebuchadnezzar's dream (Daniel 2:31 -44)

For the last 75 years the frog-like spirits have like epidemics flooded the nations of the world. They are frog-like because they call for revolution, to establish the French slogan of "liberty, equality, and fraternity" as a national ideal. Napoleon was a child of the revolution and he and his armies sowed the seeds these ideals among the nations of Europe. In time all nations would incorporate these ideals into their forms of government. The latest outbreak was fostered by the socialist President of the USA, Barrack Obama, whose speech in Egypt triggered what was known as the Arab spring. All the Arab nation from Algeria to Syria and the Gulf were infected to a degree, during which their chosen arch-enemy Israel prospered and militarily became even stronger. Further the government of the United States recognised the Golan Heights as Israeli territory, and also recognised, to the horror of countries in Europe and the supporters of Palestinian rights, Jerusalem as the legitimate capital of the State of Israel and promptly established the United States embassy there. Subsequently in what became known as the Abraham Accords, United Arab Emirates and Bahrain. The nations that are to form the fulfilment of Nebuchadnezzar's Image prophecy are not immediately apparent, but the bone of contention is clearly identified and it is Jerusalem, and it will not be long now before **all nations will be on their way to Jerusalem either in offence or defence.**

It will not be the first time that Jerusalem has been a source of contention. The Crimean war began with a problem arising between the Catholic priests and Orthodox clergy both Greek and Russian. The argument began over control of the Church of the Nativity. The Moslem authorities (Turks) gave the Catholics the Keys, but they assured the Orthodox that the keys would not fit the lock! Rioting occurred in Bethlehem, then a region of the Ottoman Empire. During the fighting a number of Orthodox monks were killed whilst engaging in conflict with French monks. The Russian Tsar blamed these deaths on the Turks who had control of these regions. The Ottomans were not happy that this should have happened on their territory and supported by Britain (who was supposed to be a mediator) and France, they declared war on Russia. A war that resulted in nearly a million deaths. British Crimean War Casualties:

21,097 dead (2,755 killed in action, 2,019 died of wounds, and 16,323 died of disease).

Britain having left the European Union (probably without a deal) will leave the EU with a huge problem, which will need to be remedied through increased trade. The countries to the east of Germany are eager to obtain western imports. The same is true of Russia, but the West is already indebted to Russia for Oil and Gas for which two pipelines have been constructed between Russia and Germany, effectively putting Vladimir Putin in control of their energy requirements, so it seems that an agreement will have to be reached.

In respect to the territory which will be under Russian control at the time leading up to the appearance of Christ Jesus on earth again, Bro Thomas considers that it would be vast:

“By turning to a map of Europe and Asia, the reader may trace out the territory of the Kingdom of Babylon as it is destined to exist in its last form under the King of the North in his Gogian manifestation. The names of countries furnished by Ezekiel will lead him to a just conception of its general extent. Besides “All the Russias”, it will take in Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Holland, Belgium, France, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Prussia, Austria, Turkey, Persia, Tartary, Greece, the Roman Africa, and Egypt. This will be a dominion of great magnitude, extending from the North Sea to the Wall of China and Afghanistan, and from the Ice-Sea to the Deserts of Africa and Arabia”. *Exposition of Daniel*

In the second World War virtually the whole of Europe was brought under German Control in 11 months. We can expect things to move much faster today. Aircraft and missiles are far more deadly today than they were seventy-five years ago.



One point of interest is that today 19/11 it has been announced that Britain, notwithstanding the money expended in fighting the Corona virus the Government

has announced the biggest program of **investment** in **British** defence in 30 years. Prime Minister Boris Johnson told the House of Commons that the government will spend £16.5 billion (\$21.8 billion) more on defence over the next four years. The current budget is £41 billion. Most of this is to be allocated to the Royal Navy. So the Merchants of Tarshish are coming back! The reason given by Britain's highest-ranking naval officer has revealed both China and Russia now have a viable route to attack the UK through the Arctic Sea. Due to climate change, he insisted more maritime routes were opening up across the world. With the Arctic regressing, he warned China's large naval force now has its best chance in over 30 years to pass through the region.

These events, all taken together remind us of the beginnings of the First World War. An act of terror took place in Sarajevo in which Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria and his wife Sophie are shot to death. As a result Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia. Russia announced mobilization supporting Serbia. Germany allied to Austria-Hungary declared war on Russia. France bound by treaty to Russia found itself at war with Germany. Germany therefore invaded Belgium and France. Britain therefore declared war on Germany, which included the Dominion countries Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand, and the Union of South Africa. Japan honouring a treaty with Britain declared war on Germany, therefore Austria-Hungary declared war on Japan. As a result in just four weeks the whole world was at war.

Russia will build its mighty coalition to solve the Middle Eastern Problem once and for all and to gather a great spoil. The southern coalition will ask Ezekiel 38 Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof, shall say unto thee, Art thou come to take a spoil?

Have you gathered thy company to take a prey? to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil? (Eze 38:13) But Russian leaders will have prepared their plans well and Daniel informs us, "And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, **and with many ships**; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over. (Dan 11:40) many ships, Russia has had a problem for more than 400 years, the lack of warm water ports. Russia large ports in the north are sometimes ice-bound for months. Under Putin Russia has obtained facilities in Syria at Latakia and Tartus. Just recently an agreement has been reached with the government of Sudan to obtain a port near to Port Sudan for servicing Russia's Fleet, one to the north and one to the south of the Suez Canal. The **Russian naval facility in Tartus** is a leased military installation of the [Russian Navy](#) located on the northern edge of the [sea port](#) of the [Syrian](#) city of [Tartus](#). Up until 2017, Russian official usage classified the installation as a Material-Technical Support Point and not as a "base". Tartus is the Russian Navy's only Mediterranean repair and replenishment spot, sparing Russia's warships the trip back to their [Black Sea](#) bases through the [Turkish Straits](#).^[3] It is the Russian Navy's only overseas base.^[4]



Unbeknown to their leaders the nations are little by little being brought to a confrontation with the Lord Jesus Christ, the son of the God they refuse to accept actually exists. Meanwhile the brothers and sisters of the Lord Jesus Christ earnestly and eagerly await his coming. As we have seen thousands upon thousands will be raised from the dead to face the Lord Jesus at his judgement seat. The rejected are to be driven away, and after the marriage of the



Lamb to his faithful Bride, the sum of all who have rendered faithful obedience. These too are to make their way to Jerusalem. Their march is to begin from Mt Sinai. The question arises as to the location of this mountain, for centuries it was considered as being located far to the south in what is called today the Sinai Peninsula, the origin of it being known as Sinai goes back to the emperor Justinian who ordered a monastery to be built there during the 6th century A.D, enclosing the Chapel of the Burning Bush (also known as "Saint Helen's Chapel") ordered to be built by Empress Consort Helena, mother of Constantine the Great, at the site where Moses is supposed to have seen the burning bush. It is of course fiction. The true Mount Sinai has to be in the region of what was known as the Land of Midian. It was here that Moses saw the burning bush, and it was also in Midian that God assured Moses that he would be successful in bringing the children of Israelites out of Egypt. "Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the

mountain of God, *even* to Horeb.” (Exo 3:1) And he (God) said, “Certainly I will be with thee; and this *shall be* a token unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain”. (Exo 3:12) The mountain that was in Midian on the other side of the Gulf of Aqaba God did not lead Israelites south only to have to turn north again, lengthening their journey. Their destination was the mountain where God spoke to Moses. More over Paul went there and he states that “For this Agar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and answers to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children.” (Gal 4:25) The Sinai of the Roman era was considered Egyptian territory. As we have considered previously. The Lord Jesus and his saints will march from the Biblical Sinai and travel north towards Paran. Meanwhile Russia will invade Egypt and control the Suez Canal. Christ and his Saints will encounter Arab opposition at Bozrah and will destroy that opposition. Isaiah 63 :1.

Meanwhile full might of the Russian Coalition will advance toward Jerusalem from the north. Israelis will retreat towards Jordan, while Israeli possession of Jerusalem will be defended at all costs. Much of modern Jerusalem will be destroyed but the Israelis will hold on to the old City and the Temple Mount. Coalition forces will overrun the country and it will appear as though all is lost. It will be then, that Christ and the Saints will be manifest upon the Mount of Olives. The nations will have arrived at Jerusalem and Christ will have arrived and what happens next you will have to wait for our next Bible Class.

DHH

