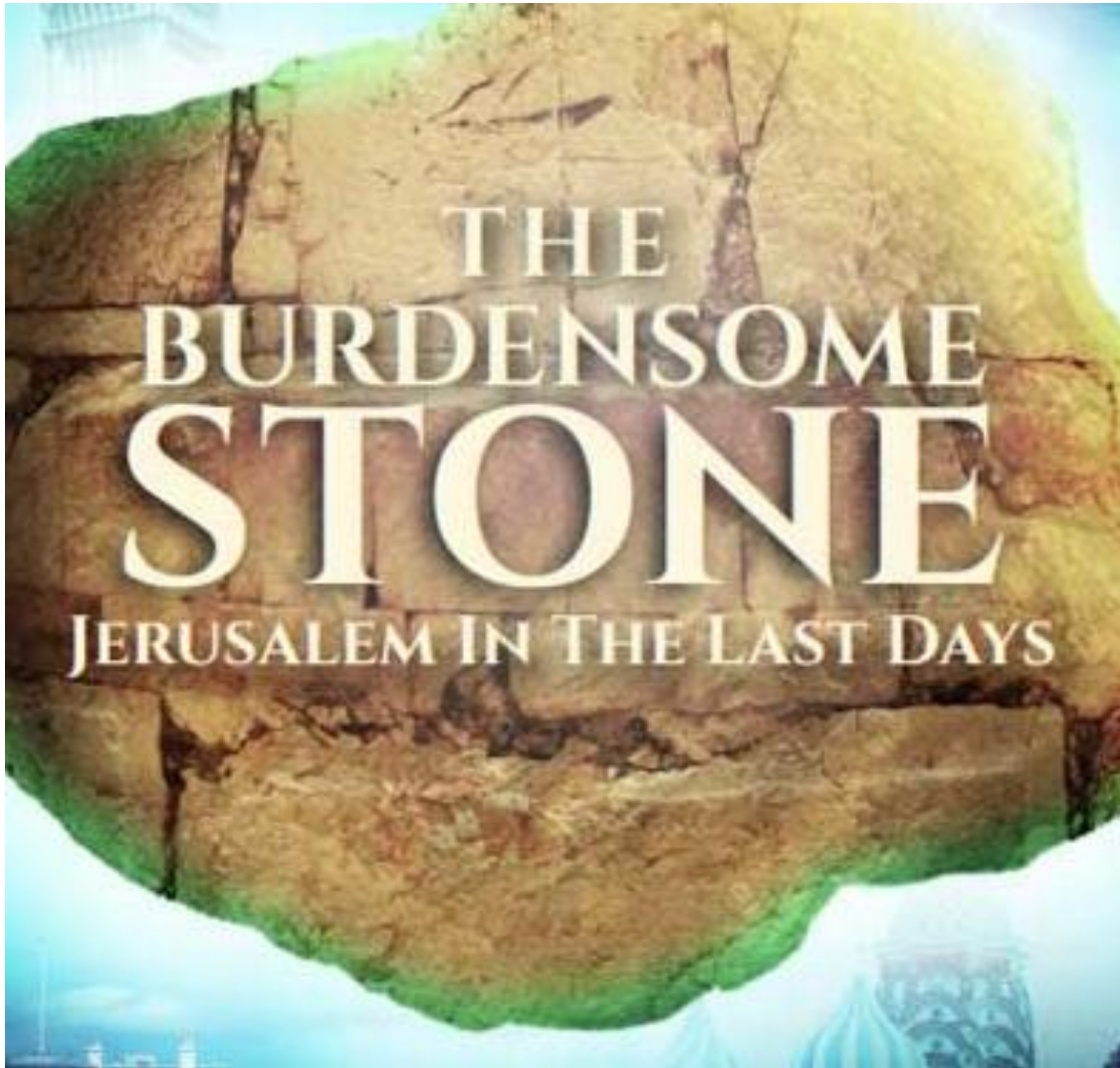


Thursday Bible Class

Zechariah 12

13/10/22

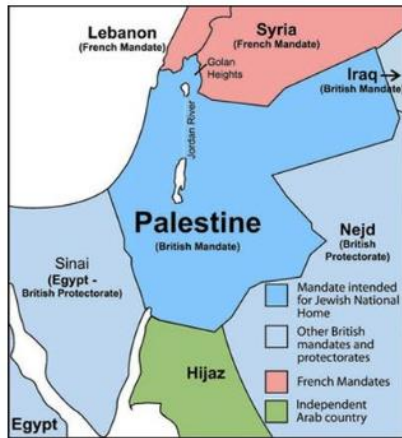
A Burdensome Stone

Verse 1 The burden of the word of the Lord for Israel, saith the Lord, which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, and formeth the spirit of man within him.

This sets the context, as Zechariah under Divine inspiration describes the final confrontation of the arrogance of the Gentiles against the few, the chosen of God, His people, Judah, the Jews, the nation of Israel who are back in their land, returned from captivity after 1900 years, though in unbelief. The Jews, despised, oppressed, persecuted, beaten, stolen from, spat at, kicked, hated, tormented and murdered for 1900 years, nearly wiped out by the Nazis, finally living in the land of their ancestors, though only 15% of the land

promised in the Balfour Declaration, is a thorn in the side of the world.

Promised by Britain 1917:



1917-1922

In the 1917 Balfour Declaration, Britain endorsed "Zionist aspirations" to reestablish their homeland in Palestine and promised to "facilitate" the effort. ³ In 1920, international peace negotiators incorporated the Balfour Declaration in the Treaty of Sevres and called for a Mandate in Palestine. ⁴ In 1922, the League of Nations instructed the British Mandate authorities to "facilitate" Jewish immigration and settlement of Palestine. ⁵ many European and Arab leaders hoped Jews would revive this small, impoverished, thinly populated region.

Resented by the World 2022



This land mass is about 2% of that which Muslims control in the Middle east. But still it is too much according to them. The world pretends it is not antisemitic. But it most surely is.

Zechariah prophesied their return, along with other prophets, but also in this chapter, anticipates the destruction of Israel's enemies.

Verse 1, is the context which immediately shows the sovereignty, superiority and authority of the Higher Power, which reveals the absolute accuracy and finality of this prediction, destiny assured, fate sealed. The God of the Bible, is the Creator of the Heavens and the Earth, a statement derided and scoffed at by the majority of scientists of the world. God does not exist according to them. Well, they choose to ignore the visible proof of the existence of God in the miracle of the presence of the Jewish people in their Homeland.

They will not be able to choose to ignore the miracle of the destruction of the powerful militaries upon the mountains of Israel. The destiny of nations will show the world that God does exist, and though he is a God of Love He is a God of justice and vengeance upon those who deny Him.

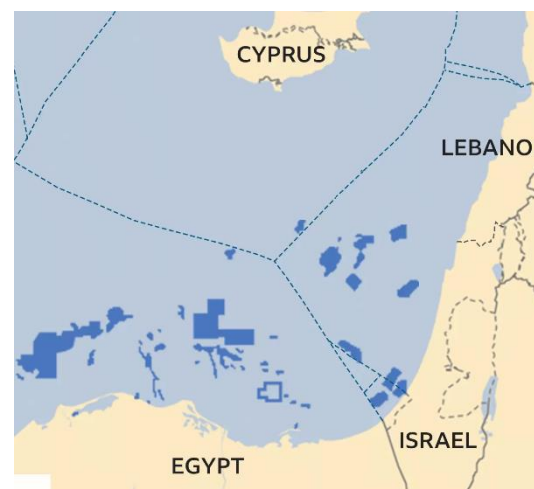
So Zechariah says in verse 2

Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem.

A cup of trembling...? Other translations have *a cup that brings dizziness*... Comparing similar passages, this phrase is about a situation which is not one of fear, but of drunkenness. Isaiah 24:20 *The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again.* God will bring about a situation where the nations in question who will surround Jerusalem will behave as if drunk, - that is lose sense of judgement, make faulty decisions because of loss of control – this will be drunkenness caused by a overpowering belief in their own ideology PLUS GREED! And the desire to control the world's economy.

Daniel 11: 43 *But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: ...Ezekiel 38:12 To take a spoil, and to take a prey...*

See the riches of the newly discovered oil fields in the Levant:



God will use the momentum of the nation's own foolishness to bring about their own downfall. Zechariah continues: *And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it.*

Jerusalem to them has become such a weighty problem of their own making – because of their prejudice, and willingness to trash the

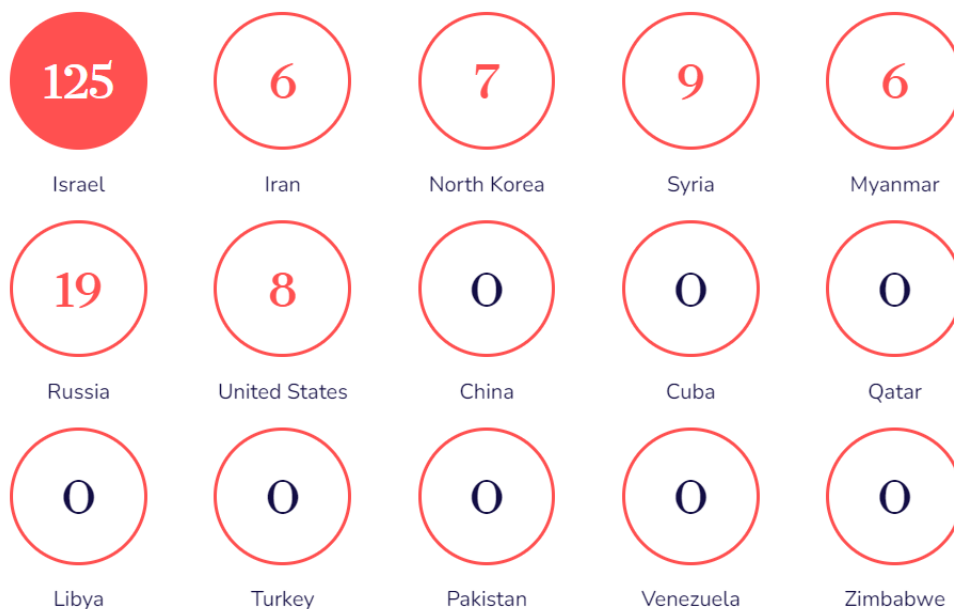
Truth of the Word of God. The Jews claim to the Holy Land is based on the Bible. The Bible is false, therefore so is their claim, so follows their reasoning. But according to these libertines, the Koran must be respected at all costs, therefore the claim of Muslims must be right.

All the people of the earth be gathered against it says Zechariah... 2600 years ago he predicted this. Has it ever happened before that all nations around the world would be concerned about just one city??? Well, Zechariah is right, it is happening now. Just look at these statistics of voting by the United Nations.

This is the record of the resolutions condemning various nations from 2015 for their humanitarian record. 125 against Israel, but only 7 against North Korea which systematically starves its own people, Zero against China which has been shown to carry out ethnic cleansing against the Uyghurs, 19 against Russia who stole Crimea, and invaded Ukraine...

General Assembly Condemnatory Resolutions: 2015 - present

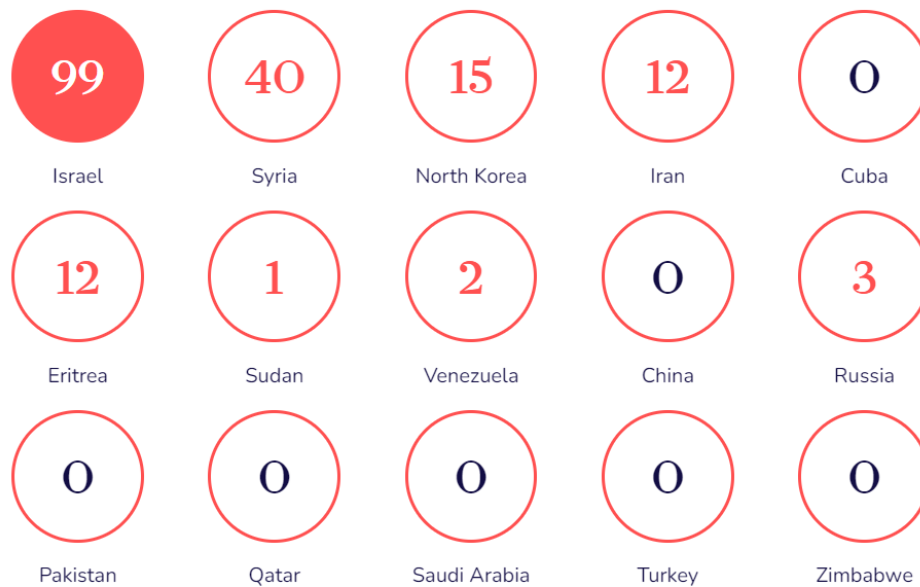
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It is the same story with the United Nations Human rights Council

Human Rights Council Condemnatory Resolutions: 2006 - present

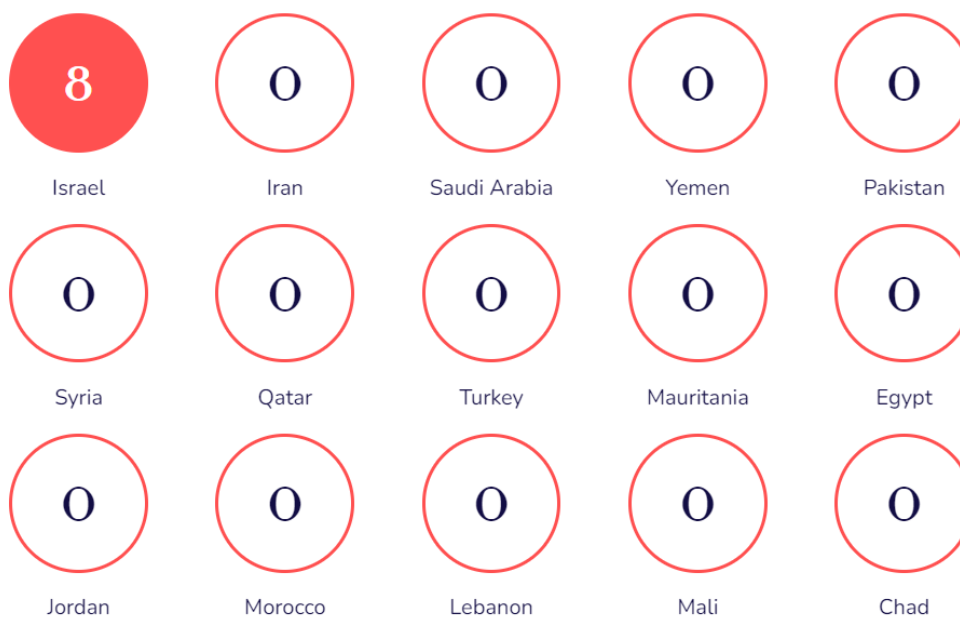
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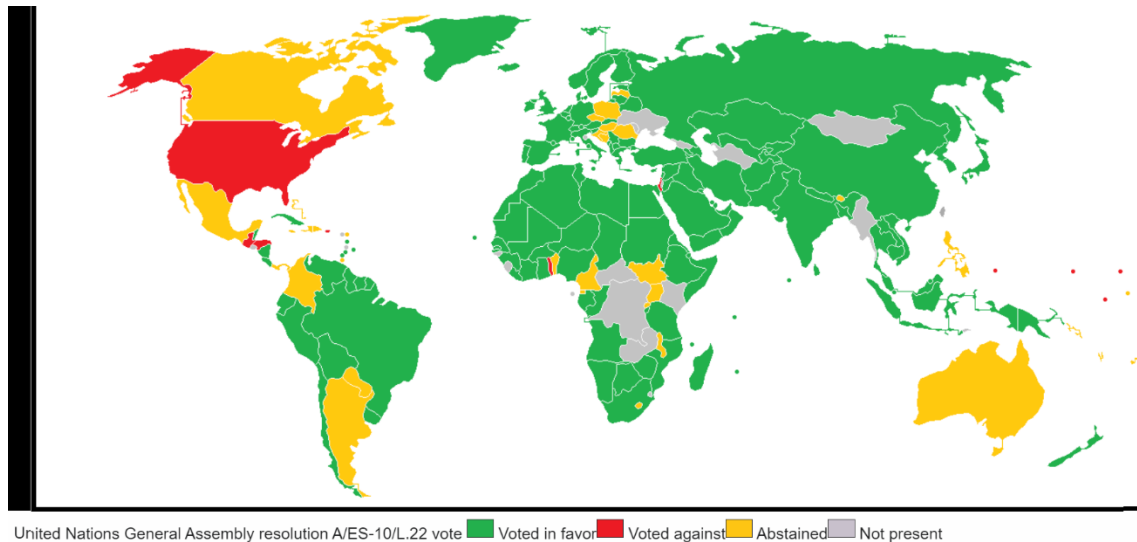
It is even the same story with the World Health Organisation:

World Health Organization Condemnatory Resolutions: 2015 - present

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Likewise on 21 December 2017 the United Nations General Assembly issued a resolution ES-10/19 in an emergency session declaring the status of Jerusalem as Israel's capital as "**null and void**." The resolution was drafted by Yemen and Turkey.[3] Though strongly contested by the United States, it passed by 128 votes to 9 against with 21 absentees and 35 abstentions



Even the Papacy had something to say!

The Permanent Observer for the Holy See, Tomasz Grysa, emphasised that Jerusalem was most sacred to the Abrahamic faiths and a symbol for millions of believers around the world who considered it their "spiritual capital." Its significance went "beyond the question of borders, a reality that should be considered a priority in every negotiation for a political solution." The Holy See, he said, called for a "peaceful resolution that would ensure respect for the sacred nature of Jerusalem and its universal value...reiterating that only international guarantee could preserve its unique character and status and provide assurance of dialogue and reconciliation for peace in the region. In other words agreeing with the resolution.

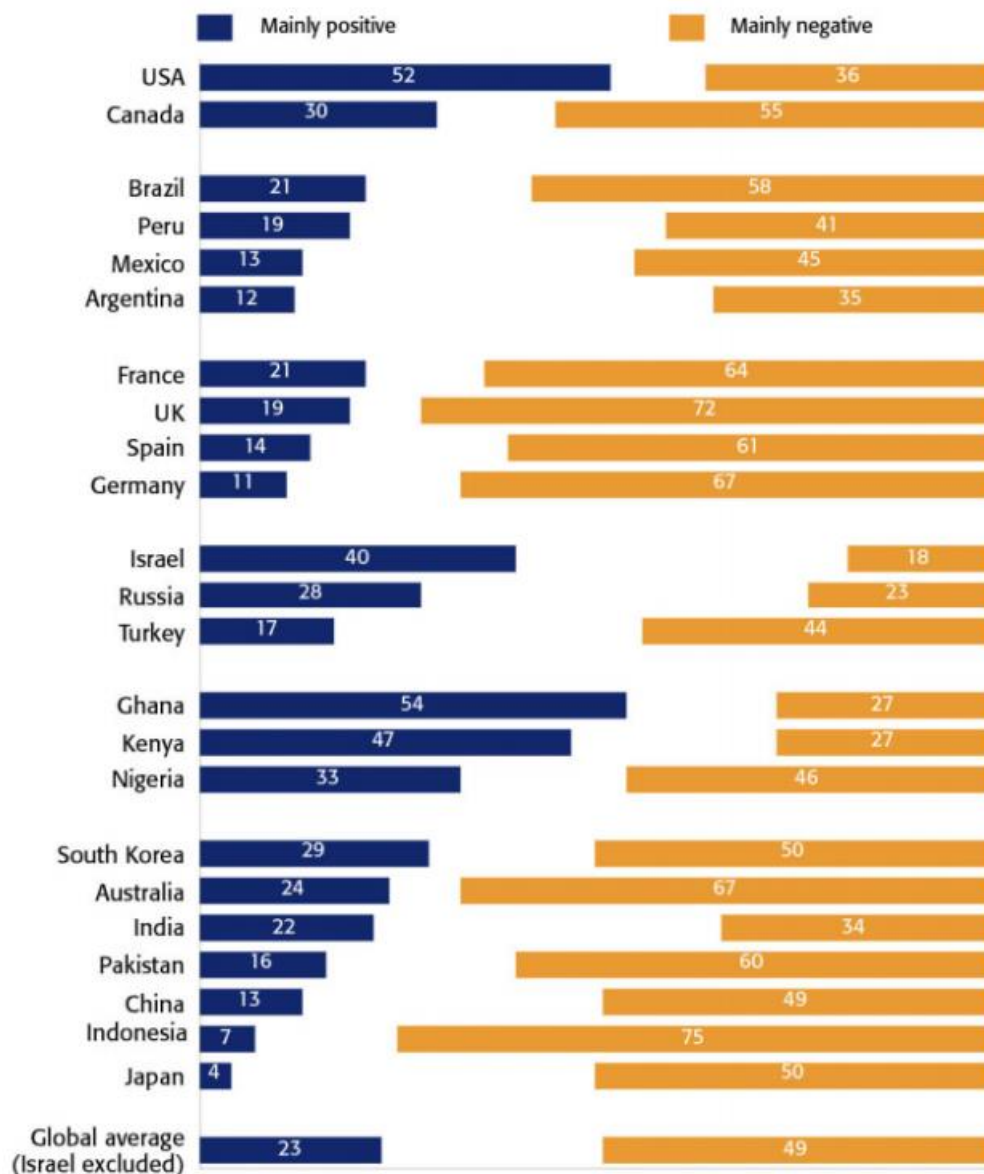
Hmm. Read Jeremiah 51:7: *Babylon hath been a golden cup in the Lord's hand, that made all the earth drunken: the nations have drunken of her wine; therefore the nations are mad.* The Papacy is the world's arch manipulator.

We can see clearly the UN's – the representative body for *all nations* irrational obsession with one nation. Even those who deem Israel deserving of criticism cannot dispute that this amounts to an extreme case of selective prosecution. Such disproportion on focusing on Israel to such an extreme degree, the UN neglects the plight of millions of human rights victims around the world. Such obsession driven by ideology is drunkenness, it is the cup of dizziness which the nations have consumed.

Interestingly there are one or two exceptions. Sub-Saharan Africa favours Israel. Note Kenya. Why is this? God surely knows.

Views of Israel's Influence

By Country, 2014





The following are excerpts from a very recent article entitled Redefining the camps, from the Atlantic Council, by Ksenia Svetlova, which reveals the astonishing assessment - that to many was inconceivable, that there could soon be war between Russia and Israel:

Along with Russia's growing isolation, which dictates closer military and economic integration with countries like Iran and North Korea, tensions between Moscow and Jerusalem have been growing since before the outbreak of the war in Ukraine.

Since the beginning of 2022, Russia's tone towards Israel has become more aggressive, often harshly rebuking Israel for its alleged military activities in Syria. ... While Ukraine demands that Israel provide it with military assistance, Russia is fuming over then-Foreign Minister and current Prime Minister Yair Lapid's remarks over Russian war crimes in Bucha. The latest Russian retaliatory slap is a threat to halt the activities of the Jewish Agency, an Israeli

non-governmental organization providing services and immigration assistance to Russia's Jewish population...

Today, due to the war in Ukraine, camps in the Middle East are being quickly redefined: the comfortable position of neutrality that allowed regional states to cooperate with both superpowers is no longer an option. ...

For Israel, the region's biggest recipient of US military aid and the United States' closest ally in the Middle East, there was never a doubt as to which camp it belongs. ...

*Russia's recent rapprochement with Iran, its growing criticism of Israel, and its moves aimed against Israeli and Jewish organizations in Russia leave no room for doubt that **Moscow and Jerusalem might be bound for some kind of confrontation**, and relations between the countries are likely to deteriorate further. While Israel still hopes that the Jewish Agency will remain in Russia, there is no doubt that it is difficult for both countries to return to a pre-Ukraine-war reality.*

Today, Israel urgently needs a new and more confident policy on Russia. To do so, it can build on its previous experience of dealing with the Soviet Union during the Cold War era. At that time, while Israel was weaker than the Soviet Union, Jerusalem was determined to defy any limitations on its freedom of operation in Egyptian skies. Israel refused to be a Soviet hostage and showed that, in an extreme situation, it was ready to confront Soviet planes and air defences.

*It is often assumed that Russia has no appetite to open another front against Israel in Syria due to its focus on the battlefield in Ukraine, and this red line has not been crossed by Moscow yet. However, the situation might change if Russian alignment with Iran and Syria keeps expanding. If and when that happens, **Jerusalem must be ready with an adequate and strong response**, and with the confidence that it has the United States to rely upon.*

*There will certainly be a strong and adequate response, but not after Israel as we know it today will suffer loss, and collateral damage in the form of widespread destruction and death. – see Zechariah 13:8
And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the Lord, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein.*

But this chapter is more about the Response. It will be more than strong and adequate!

The Military forces of Gog and his allies will stopped in their tracks. Zechariah explains it will be through blindness. The effectiveness of the weapons systems will be made useless through loss of communication through the electromagnetic spectrum. No satellite systems, fibre optics, laser, or digital communication will be possible. Modern warfare is completely dependant upon such technology.

The array of the world's destructive technology pointing at Jerusalem, at the small puny Israeli army, to enforce the partition of Jerusalem will completely overwhelm Israel, as all the Tarshish allies will do is to complain about their economic resources being raided – Ezekiel 38:13, they will do little else to defend these troublesome Jews. As the “Zionist entity” surrounded, and desolate, sees the miraculous intervention of God, they will be utterly compelled to accept the Truth.

5 And the governors of Judah shall say in their heart, The inhabitants of Jerusalem shall be my strength in the Lord of hosts their God.

The Lord of armies THEIR God. Words said in their hearts. This is not a reaction of convenience, but of belief. In former times, Israel said all the right things, but actions would not follow. For example: Isaiah 29:13 *Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:*

But this time their hearts have been affected and transformed. Actions will follow.

Verses 6 – 9 of this chapter reveal how the survivors of Israel of this Armageddon will arise from the ashes of Judea, to become an exceeding great army – Ezekiel 37:10, the Spirit of God breathed into them, no longer the valley of dry bones. We think how the survivors of the Holocaust came to Israel and fought in the war of

Independence in 1948, and what a miracle that was, that will pale in significance compared with what is to come, when they will become God's battle axe and weapons of war: for with them will He break in pieces the nations, and destroy kingdoms; see Jeremiah 51:20

Verse 10, we quote this so many times, and it is such an emotive verse, the other brothers I am sure will comment on this,

10 And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.

The extremity of their sorrow, will be as they realise how deluded they have been with the false religion of Judaism. They will see how the supposed identity of the Jewish nation as been completely fake, based on the pronouncements of ancient rabbis, and the outward appearance, of feast days, and tallits, yarmulkes, tzittzits and kippurs, but omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: *these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone*. So many millions, so many generations clinging to the false hopes of a false Messiah, perished in terror and misery, hated by the world, and let down by their leaders and rabbis. But. Finally. Their true Messiah is there, looking at them, with pity and compassion, as sheep without a shepherd. He will show them his hands.

They will be ashamed as they realise the pain they have caused the God of their Fathers – they will be pierced through with many sorrows, as they comprehend what they did to the Son of God, and to their loving Father. This self-loathing and revulsion is what the Believers experience now, as we battle sin, a familiar shame, only fades away, when we also experience the joy and sure certainty of the grace of God through the forgiveness of sins.

11 In that day shall there be a great mourning in Jerusalem, as the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the valley of Megiddon. Even in the

days of Zechariah, the death of the righteous King Josiah was still a raw memory of national grief, where he was killed at Hadadrimmon in the valley of Megiddo see 2 Chronicles 35:-22-25. He uses this national grief as an example to explain how Israel in the future will be overwhelmed with sadness.

Brother Terry