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WHEN THE NATIONS RISE AGAINST JERUSALEM



By **Asher Intrater**

A major pattern in Scriptures (both OT and NT) is that all the nations of the world attack Israel. I will cite below 15 biblical passages.

Sometimes these attacks are outside the Land of Israel, such as in the case of Pharaoh, Amalek, Haman, etc. But the more important battles are the ones which take place in the Land, focusing on Jerusalem.

An attack on Jerusalem has increased significance in that Jerusalem (Zion) is the capital city of the Messianic kingdom on earth. Therefore, that attack at times is considered a rebellion and rejection of God's authority (Psalm 2).

Attacks on Jerusalem have two possible outcomes: destruction of Israel or a miraculous victory. The destruction is a severe judgment on Israel's sin. Victory is a step forward in establishing the Messianic kingdom.

There are two time dimensions of the judgments against Israel: one in the period of the Tanakh (Hebrew scriptures), and one in the period of the New Covenant. The first was the destruction of the Temple by the Babylonians in 586 BC; the second was the destruction of the Temple by the Romans in 70 AD.

These judgments on Israel have huge importance in the biblical worldview. They are spoken about by the prophets as the "end of the age." They are compared to the flood of Noah in which the known world came to an end.

Examples of miraculous victory are found in many passages. One outstanding example is the destruction of the Assyrian army when they attacked Jerusalem at the time of Isaiah and Hezekiah. Assyria was the greatest empire of that age.

At that time, the "Angel Yahweh" (Angel of the LORD – Mal'ach YHVH) intervened and killed 185,000 enemy soldiers in one night. That victory is recorded three times (Isaiah 37, 2 Kings 19, 2 Chronicles 32). We see the Angel Yahweh as a pre-birth appearance of Yeshua, the Son of God. This event provides startling insight as to what will happen at the time of the Second Coming.

Human history – in our present stage – concludes with the Second Coming of Yeshua. The prophecies describe an attack of all the nations against Israel at that time. This apocalyptic battle is referred to by different names, such as Gog and Magog, Armageddon, the terrible day of YHVH, the Valley of Jehoshaphat, the battle over Ariel, and the clash on the Mount of Olives.

The fact that this battle will take place is irrefutable from an exegetical point of view. It could be argued that this battle will result in yet another destruction and exile for Israel. Some biblical scholars support that view. It would be the view of Shia Islam, the United Nations, and today's progressive elite.

However, the 2,000-year history of the exile and regathering of Israel, the formation of the international Church, the restoration of the Messianic remnant, and plain common sense would say just the opposite.

Here are 15 citations of the attack of the nations against Israel:

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BE STILL!



By **Avishalom Tekle**



In Psalm 46 we learn that the world is destined to be shaken.

- ¹God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.
²Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
³though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their surging.
⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy place where the Most High dwells.
⁵God is within her; she will not fall;
God will help her at break of day.
⁶Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;
he lifts his voice, the earth melts.
⁷The Lord Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.
⁸Come and see what the Lord has done,
the desolations he has brought on the earth.
⁹He makes wars cease
to the ends of the earth.
He breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.
¹⁰He says, "Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth."
¹¹The Lord Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress. (NIV)

Verse two reminds me of what Yeshua said in Matthew 24, "Do you see all these things? ...Truly I tell you, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down."

In other words, things you thought were stable and reliable will fall, will not hold. The earth will change. It will not be solid as you know it. Life will "move under your feet," like an earthquake, like a boat rocking between waves. You will need something to hold on to.

My father, may his memory be blessed, was a building contractor who always drove pickup trucks. My brother and I would climb into the truck bed; as soon as the truck started moving, we loved to slide back and forth, as my dad purposely steered to and fro. As a child that was fun. Today I don't think I would enjoy the experience nearly as much!

The world we inhabit is unsteady and changeable. Even mountains, that seem the most stable, will be uprooted. It's a very scary thing. Verse six says that kingdoms fall. In modern times, we have seen governments once thought strong and secure, overturned. Yeshua said that kingdoms will rise against kingdoms. I'm sorry if this is an uncomfortable picture, but the earth will melt like wax at the voice of the Lord.

Yet there is something that will not be overturned. It is God – our refuge and strength. He is an ever present help in trouble. What does that mean?

God is not far away. Sometimes the most important help for us is to know that someone is by our side. God is stable and strong in our lives. God does not change. This affects how we walk in this world: therefore we will not be afraid (v.2). Fear will not dominate our lives because something greater is driving it out.

In Genesis 15 God says, "Don't be afraid, Abraham. I am your protector; I am your reward in life. Not the things that you have achieved, not the things that you have NOT achieved. I am the center of your life, so do not be afraid of tomorrow" (my paraphrase).

I think that should touch us! When God becomes the foundation of our lives, shoring us up against the shaking, it affects our character. It eliminates stress. In verse eight he says to observe the actions of the Lord. Our vision clears. We have a purpose. We don't react to our environment; we respond to God.

In verse ten God gives a command – "**Be still!**" Why? Because He is the Lord. Because He will be exalted among the nations. Everything that is happening around us is leading towards God receiving the glory. The purpose of the shaking is to bring Him glory. I know it's hard to say amen, but it's the truth. In Haggai 2, He says, "...***I will once more shake the heavens and the earth... The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former...***"

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SALT AND LIGHT



By **Leon Mazin**

I want to begin this update with the words from Matthew 5:13-14:

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.”

We have read these verses many times, yet here is an insight I would like to share. Scientifically, salt can become contaminated or dirty, but it remains salt. When salt becomes unusable, it is usually because it was stored in the wrong conditions and requires cleansing.

This is a powerful picture here for each of us. Life never follows a straight line; it looks more like a heartbeat graph, filled with ups and downs – both victories and disappointments. We have long moved past the illusion that a life of faith is a series of uninterrupted successes. Faith provides us with an anchor of salvation, a clear path, and the strength to overcome, but it does not exempt us from pain or obstacles.

This Hanukkah will mark 25 years since I became a pastor. Over these two decades, I have experienced powerful moments of anointing and immense joy, but also times of disappointment, frustration, and betrayal. This is a process we all go through. As a pastor, I have watched fellow believers navigate these same rough waters.

The Apostle Paul reminds us that the purpose of this journey is to grow into maturity in Messiah. James echoes this when he urges us to face trials with joy. Interestingly, in Hebrew, the words for trial and temptation share the exact same root as the word for experience – *nisayon* (נִסָּיוֹן). Simply put, life is not a picnic; it is a *nisayon* – a collective experience we bring before God. What matters is approaching Him with love, reverence and gratitude. When we do, everything we have walked through works together for our good.



Prayer Requests for the Congregation and Ministries

Please join us in prayer for the following key areas of our ministry:

Youth Ministry Camp & “Nesher” Project: Our youth are currently in an important season of discipleship. A group of 24 young people (ages 15–18) is preparing for a trip to Norway. They will be visiting many wonderful places and people, and we are praying for a profound, high-quality time of spiritual growth for them.

Humanitarian Projects: We are currently restructuring our congregational outreach initiatives. The Haifa Municipality has reached out to us requesting our assistance. Please pray for wisdom and open doors as we navigate this collaboration.

Congregational Families: Several families within our congregation are walking through exceptionally difficult seasons. Counseling has been completed, and we are now lifting them up in prayer, asking for divine strength, guidance, and heavenly breakthroughs.

I wish you all a wonderful summer. May the peace of God rest upon you and your loved ones.





GOD'S WORD STANDS



By **Guy Cohen**

The world around us often appears to be spinning out of control: wars, threats, rapidly changing alliances, and leaders who rise and fall. Many are asking what the future holds for Israel. When we turn to the Scriptures, we discover that the destiny of Israel has never depended on any human leader, but on God Himself.

In 2 Kings 6:15, we read about Elisha's servant who woke up one morning and saw the army of Aram surrounding the city of Dothan. From his perspective, everything was clear. The enemy was strong. The city was surrounded, and there was no escape. He looked at the situation and was terrified. But Elisha saw something different. He said, **"Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them."** Then he prayed, **"O Lord, please open his eyes that he may see."** When his eyes were opened, he saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around.

The headlines tell only part of the story. Behind everything taking place, God continues to work and fulfill His purposes.

The return of the Jewish people to the land of Israel is not merely a political or historical event. It is evidence of God's faithfulness. In His covenant with Abraham, God promised, **"I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant"**. (Genesis 17:7). The existence of Israel is tied to God's faithfulness, not to the changing political landscape of the world (See Jeremiah 31:35–37).

The parable of the Good Samaritan also teaches us about the danger of failing to see others. The wounded man was invisible to the priest and the Levite, but precious and worthy of compassion in the eyes of the Samaritan.

Some argue that if Israel were more righteous, her condition would be better. Indeed, the Scriptures call the people to return to God and to live in holiness and righteousness. Yet even when Israel drifted far from God, He did not cancel His covenant. He corrected, disciplined, judged, and called His people to repentance. In Leviticus 26:44, God declares, **"Yet for all that, when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not cast them away, nor shall I abhor them, to utterly destroy them and break My covenant with them; for I am the Lord their God."** Our hope is not based on man's perfection but on God's faithfulness.

God can use any president, prime minister, or king to accomplish His purposes today. However, Scripture warns us: **"Do not put your trust in princes, nor in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation"** (Psalm 146:3). The issue is not the leaders themselves, but our tendency to make them the source of our hope. God alone remains unchanged.

"Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?" (Psalm 2:1). While nations strategize and rulers gather to pursue their own agendas, Scripture declares, **"He who sits in the heavens laughs"** (Psalm 2:4). God is not surprised, He is not anxious, and He has not lost control. He sees the entire picture from beginning to end.

Yeshua also warned His disciples that they would hear of wars and rumors of wars. But He said, **"See that you are not troubled"** (Matthew 24:6). Why? God still reigns.

Therefore, in times like these, when the world appears chaotic and the future uncertain, we must remember where our confidence belongs. Not in a leader, not in one superpower or another and not in international alliances. Our hope is in the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He is the One who will continue to guide history until every word He has spoken is fulfilled.

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1. **Joshua 9:1-2** – When Joshua enters the promised land to begin to establish covenantal ownership, all the surrounding people attack. Joshua wins.

2. **Joshua 11:1-4** – As Joshua completes his campaign, nations from the north attack. Joshua wins.

3. **2 Samuel 5:17** – After years of internal conflict, David is finally anointed as king over Judah and Israel. All the Philistines attack. David wins.

4. **2 Chronicles 20:2** – At the height of Jehoshaphat's kingdom, the surrounding nations attack. God intervenes for a supernatural victory.

5. **Isaiah 36:12** – At the time of Isaiah and Hezekiah, the Assyrian empire attacks. The Angel Yahweh descends to destroy their soldiers.

6. **Psalms 83:2-4** – A poetic prophecy describes the peoples of the world consulting together to “wipe Israel out from being a nation.”

7. **Isaiah 29:7** – All the nations join together to destroy Ariel (Jerusalem) but are supernaturally foiled in their attempt.

8. **Ezekiel 38:8-9** – Two whole chapters describe the attack of all the nations against Israel. They are destroyed, and immediately the Messiah's kingdom is set up. Amazingly this battle repeats itself at the end of the Millennium, showing just how deep and satanic this rebellion is.

9. **Joel 3:2** – On the great and fearful day of YHVH, in the valley of Jehoshaphat, God will punish all the nations for their evil treatment of the Jewish people and dividing up the promised land of Israel.

10. **Zechariah 12:2-3** – In the end times, Jerusalem will become the focus of global political conflict. The nations will attack and be destroyed by God. There is an extended section of four chapters that describe this conflict in detail (Zech. 11-14).

11. **Zechariah 14:2-4** – This is perhaps the clearest description of the battle at the Second Coming of Yeshua in the whole Bible. YHVH will stand with his “feet” on the Mount of Olives after annihilating the nations who attack, in what sounds like a nuclear meltdown.

12. **Luke 21:20** – When asked about the end of the age, Yeshua replied that one of the clear signs will be seeing “Jerusalem surrounded by armies.” This is true of both the future Second Coming and the destruction back in 70 AD.

13. **Revelation 16:14-16** – This is the famous battle of Armageddon. Human armies and demonic forces will attack Israel. Yeshua will utterly destroy them.

14. **Revelation 17:14** – The armies of the Beast-Antichrist government will attack Israel, and thus attack Yeshua. He will destroy them because he is Lord of Lords.

15. **Revelation 19:19** – The armies of the Beast-Antichrist will gather “on the earth” to attack. But the One riding the white horse and his angelic armies will descend from heaven to destroy them.

This last reference in Revelation 19 describes the battle at the time of the Second Coming. Yeshua's eyes are filled with fire. He is coming to make war, to punish sin, and to execute the wrath of God.

He is the one winning the war, not the army of Israel. Israel will be overwhelmed. That is the moment the Almighty Savior will intervene. There is no question as to whether this will happen.

The pressing questions are:

Do you know this Yeshua described in the book of Revelation? Will you be ready to meet Him? Whose side will you be on at this final confrontation? Do we think that we can take a neutral stance in the light of this apocalyptic war?

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The path God is leading us on, is actually bringing glory to Him. Therefore, beware lest you find yourselves refusing the One who speaks to you. The purpose of the tremors is to remove the things that are collapsing, so that we will ultimately receive a kingdom that cannot be shaken (Hebrews 12:25-28).

In prayerful conclusion let us say to the Lord:

There are not enough words to describe the good that we have

received. I know where I would be if I did not have You. Lord, You drew me into your mercy.

You have gathered us together and made us citizens of Your unshakeable kingdom. Help us to perceive that there is no place for fear in our lives, no place for confusion, no place for worry and stress, because You have established and prepared everything to bring glory to Your name. Help us to honor You. Help us to be still in the midst of the shaking. Help us to receive into our lives the stability that You give.

WORST HOMICIDE EVER



By **Jonathan Moore**

There can be no homicide more awful than the murder of Yeshua. Even two thousand years later, we cannot fully comprehend the heart-wrenching injustice, the mind-blowing shock, and the devastating loss.

To grasp this better, let's see how this murder wasn't just the worst homicide ever, it was more... because Yeshua is more than just a human.

Fratricide (Murder of a Sibling)

"So that He might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters" (Romans 8:29). Yeshua is the firstborn brother to all of us. We, as humanity, killed Him as an act of fratricide!

Patricide (Murder of a Father)

"His Name will be called ... My Father of Eternity..." (Isaiah 9:5). Yeshua is not just a brother but also a father to us. He is *Aviad* (eternal Father). We, as humanity, killed Him as an act of patricide!

Regicide (Murder of a King)

"Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end – on the throne of David and over His kingdom – to establish it and uphold it through justice and righteousness from now until forevermore" (Isaiah 9:6). Though many Scriptures speak to the Kingship of Yeshua and His future reign over all the earth from Jerusalem, this one is a continuation of the previous prophecy in Isaiah 9; therefore it seemed appropriate. Yeshua is not just our brother and our father; He is our King! He should reign over us, not suffer death at our hands. Even on the cross He had the power to come down and smite each person present. But He lovingly chose to stay there and die for us instead. We, as humanity, killed Him as an act of regicide!

Deicide (Murder of God)

"His Name will be called... Mighty God..." (Isaiah 9:5). Yeshua is not just a King, but the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. He is God. As insane as it may seem, God took on flesh and became a frail part of His own creation through Yeshua. He was God before, during and after the incarnation. He made himself vulnerable to the possibility of death; and we, as humanity, chose in utter cluelessness, to commit deicide.

When we factor in just some of these aspects, we begin to feel the weight of the heart-wrenching injustice, the shocking sin, and the devastating trauma of what we all did collectively as humanity and individually through our sin. It's important to feel the significance of that – in order to comprehend the inconceivable grace lavished upon us. We are murderers each one of us. Saved by the one we murdered – our Brother, our Father, our King and our God. Yeshua, to you be the glory!

Testimony

Twenty Years! Ahavat Yeshua celebrated our 20-year anniversary as a congregation. We started with a handful of people in a Bedouin tent on Shavuot (Pentecost) 2006; and we just celebrated in a packed out room in a large hall in downtown Jerusalem! At the celebration we recognized several new members and ordained three new deacon couples! Then we watched a 5-minute collage video with memories from the past 20 years. We concluded with a wonderful feast of a meal catered by a sweet Arab-Christian man.



Ahavat Yeshua Congregation in Jerusalem

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TEEN CHALLENGE



By **Revive Israel**

In the first week of July we took 29 teenagers out of their “normal” Israeli routine of war and worldly high schools, to a time apart – for a discipleship camp challenge at a site run by good friends in the southern French countryside. Participants and counselors came from all over Israel, from Eilat in the south to Katzrin in the north – and from a variety of congregations.



We heard many testimonies from teens who made a decision on the last day. They stood up to declare their desire to give their lives to the Lord Yeshua and to walk with Him – to receive Him as King in their lives. That was a central theme. Here is one example:

One of the teens had, during the war, fallen into the ways of the world, and set his faith aside. He mixed with bad people. He had signed up for the challenge; then he forgot about it altogether. When he remembered two weeks before, he was in a really bad place, and was really sad. He said, “*How am I going to do this? I am in the world.*” But then when he arrived in France, God touched him very deeply through his friends and through the counselors. Now he knows that he has to stay the course, and that this is the way he wants live, and not the way of the world with the things the world offers. He took it upon himself to change his life direction and return to the Lord, to focus on what is important.



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