



Mt. Pleasant Bible Institute

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations” (Matt 28:19)

Dr. Joseph Speciale, Instructor

A ministry of the
Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church

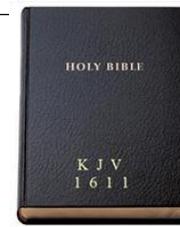
Lee Swor, Pastor



Alt. Pleasant
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Bible Prophecy

The Destruction Of Damascus

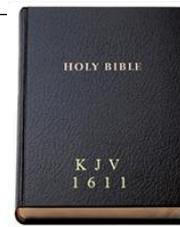


The Destruction Of Damascus

Isa 17:9

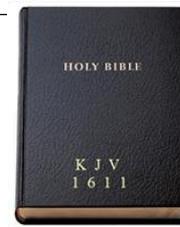
In that day shall his strong cities be as a forsaken bough, and an uppermost branch, which they left because of the children of Israel: and there shall be desolation.

- This passage may not have a near fulfillment and seems to apply exclusively to Damascus and Syria
- HIS/THEY= as opposed to THOU/THEE in (v.10-11), seems to direct the attention to Damascus and Syria, someone other than the children of Israel
- STRONG CITIES= cities throughout Syria will be fortified but when Damascus is destroyed in the manner that it is destroyed (v.1), the people will flee these cities for fear of an identical fate
- BECAUSE OF THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL= Israel is the reason the people flee these cities, which implies ISRAEL is the instrument used by the Lord to destroy Damascus (e.g.- the Israeli Defense Forces)
- THERE SHALL BE DESOLATION= the strong cities meet a similar fate to that of Damascus (v.1), possibly by nuclear weapons



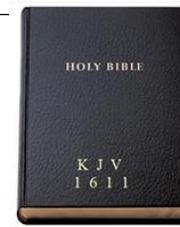
The Destruction Of Damascus

- Applying verse 5 to this scenario, Israel is the harvestman who takes away the corn of Damascus rendering the field desolate
- If this application is accurate, then the day is coming in which Israel will completely and permanently destroy the city of Damascus, possibly through the use of nuclear weapons
- Israeli policy is that WMDs (Weapons of Mass Destruction), including nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, will not be used unless first used against Israel
- The destruction of Damascus is most likely Israel's RESPONSE to a WMD attack from Damascus against one or more Israeli cities
- “The Samson Option” states that if Israel is attacked with WMDs or is in a position facing annihilation, they will respond with the full force of all resources at their disposal (including WMDs) with the intent of obliterating their enemies once and for all, even if it means dying with them



The Destruction Of Damascus

- Syria possesses a massive stockpile of chemical weapons and the Assad regime has vowed to use them in the current civil war before relinquishing power
- One possible scenario is that, in a desperate effort to unify the two sides in the current Syrian civil war and hold on to power, the Assad regime could initiate a chemical weapon attack against a major Israeli city like Tel-Aviv
- This attack could come directly from Syrian forces under Assad's control or from Hezbollah, the Lebanese based terrorist group financed and controlled by Iran's clerics
- Assad is passing many of Syria's chemical weapons into the hands of Hezbollah under the auspices of Iran
- Israel has vowed that it will not allow Hezbollah to come into possession of chemical weapons
- Assad knows that if he uses WMDs against Israel, they will respond with overwhelming force, but he trusts that the entire Muslim world will come to his defense and unite in a final jihad to exterminate Israel
- If Israel destroys Damascus with a nuclear weapon, there will be a massive response, but possibly not from the ENTIRE Muslim world



The Destruction Of Damascus

Isa 17:10-11

Because thou hast forgotten the God of thy salvation, and hast not been mindful of the rock of **thy** strength, therefore shalt **thou** plant pleasant plants, and shalt set it with strange slips:

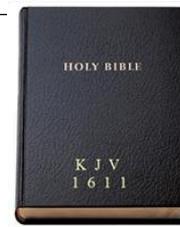
In the day shalt **thou** make **thy** plant to grow, and in the morning shalt **thou** make **thy** seed to flourish: *but* **the harvest shall be a heap** in **the day of grief and of desperate sorrow**.

- THOU/THY= the second person pronoun appears 8x in (v.10-11) and seems to direct the attention exclusively to Israel
- BECAUSE THOU HAST FORGOTTEN= the reason for both the Assyrian captivity in 721 BC and the yet future judgment on Israel in the Tribulation is that they forgot the Lord cf. (2 Kin 17:7-18)
- THE GOD OF THY SALVATION= implies a personal relationship with the Lord

Psa 68:20

He that is **our God** *is* **the God of salvation**; and unto GOD the Lord *belong* the issues from death.

- THE DAY OF GRIEF AND...SORROW= likely a reference to the Tribulation, the time of JACOB's trouble (Jer 30:7)



The Destruction Of Damascus

Isa 17:12

Woe to **the multitude of many people**, which make a noise like the noise of **the seas**; and to **the rushing of nations**, that make a rushing like **the rushing of mighty waters**!

- THE SEAS= symbolic of THE MULTITUDE OF MANY PEOPLE cf. (Rev 13:1)
- MIGHTY WATERS= symbolic of NATIONS cf. (Rev 17:1,15) and ARMIES

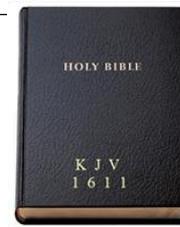
Isa 8:7

Now therefore, behold, the Lord bringeth up upon them **the waters** of the river, strong and many, even **the king of Assyria**, and all his glory: and **he shall** come up over all his channels, and **go over all his banks**:

Rev 12:15

And the serpent cast out of his mouth water **as a flood** after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood.

- The passage describes an attack on Israel from a host of enemy armies that is IMMENSE, IMMEDIATE, and IMPOSING- like a tsunami
- This attack could constitute the response to Israel's destruction of Damascus and correspond to the war of Psalm 83



The Destruction Of Damascus

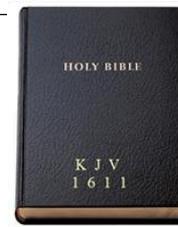
Isa 17:13

The nations shall rush like the rushing of many waters: but **God shall rebuke them**, and they shall flee far off, and shall be chased **as the chaff** of the mountains **before the wind**, and like a rolling thing before the whirlwind.

- **GOD SHALL REBUKE THEM**= this passage has a dual fulfillment
 - There is a near fulfillment in the destruction of the Assyrian armies that intended on attacking Jerusalem in the days of Hezekiah (Isa 37:29-38)
 - There is a far fulfillment in the destruction of the nations participating in the future attacks against Israel including: (1) the war of Psalm 83; (2) the invasion of Ezekiel 38; and (3) the battle of Armageddon (Zec 12:8; Rev 19:11-21)
- If verse 12 gives the **RESPONSE** of the nations to the destruction of Damascus, then verses 13-14 gives the **REBUKE** of the Lord in their attack against Israel
- **CHAFF...BEFORE THE WIND**= the same wording is used to describe the defeat of the nations that attack Israel in Psalm 83

Psa 83:13

O my God, **make them** like a wheel; **as the stubble before the wind**.



The Destruction Of Damascus

Isa 17:14

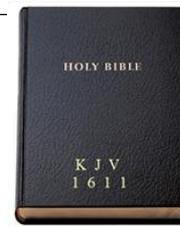
And behold at eveningtide trouble; and before the morning he is not. This *is* the portion of them that spoil us, and the lot of them that rob us.

- The attacking armies are defeated like chaff blown away by the wind, and they are defeated within the span of 12 HOURS!
- This passage also has a dual fulfillment
 - There is a near fulfillment in the defeat of Sennacherib and the Assyrian army

2 Kin 19:35

And it came to pass that night, that the angel of the LORD went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses.

- There is a far fulfillment in the defeat of the nations that attack Israel in Psalm 83, Ezekiel 38, and Revelation 19



The Destruction Of Damascus

Psa 83:13

O my God, make them like a wheel; as the stubble before the wind.

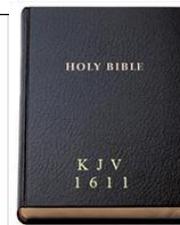
Eze 39:4-5

Thou shalt fall upon the mountains of Israel, thou, and all thy bands, and the people that *is* with thee: I will give thee unto the ravenous birds of every sort, and *to* the beasts of the field to be devoured.

Thou shalt fall upon the open field: for I have spoken *it*, saith the Lord GOD.

Dan 2:35

Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.



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