

With every passing day events in the countries surrounding Israel give immense cause for concern. The situation in Egypt, Syria and Lebanon is fraught with danger. The only consolation is that God is in control and will have the last word as the end time scenario unfolds.

Mohammed Morsi, Egypt's newly installed president stunned the region last week when he dismissed all Egypt's top generals and installed commanders loyal and subservient to the Muslim Brotherhood. The old generals co-operated with Israel but the new ones are unlikely to do so.

If the new generals fail to stop military incursions into Israel from Sinai, as the previous ones did, it might require Israel to act on its own as it has had to do in Lebanon in the past.

Israel has approved a temporary amendment to the Camp David Accord to allow Egypt to deploy more forces to Sinai to root out terrorists but there is concern they will not pull them back once their mission is complete!

Egyptian born cleric Salah Sultan of the Muslim Brotherhood stated "*all over Egypt and the Middle East people are thirsting for the blood of the Jews.*"

The Obama administration has expressed confidence in Mr Morsi and the Brotherhood! Further Mr Obama views the rise of the Brotherhood as good for the Middle East! Sinai has been described as a '*nest of terrorists*' and an Israeli military source warned the area could well become like the Afghan mountains which hide out the Taliban. Bedouins are reported to be making a fortune trading illegally with Gaza through the cross border tunnels. Even the Palestinians are describing the tunnels as a threat. Gunmen are entering Gaza and only serve their own private interests. Amr Moussa, a secular candidate in the recent Egyptian elections declared, '*The Camp David accords are now dead and buried*'. Another candidate in the elections said before the result was announced, '*If Mr. Morsi wins the election our capital will not be Cairo it will be Jerusalem!*'

The heat is on Israel and Egypt of course is not its only problem.

Iran Continues its rush toward a nuclear capability and the West essentially does nothing except talk. Many nations are now pouring money into cyber warfare; mostly the cyber attacks are coordinated between Israel and America. These have currently had some success in slowing Iran's nuclear programme but not stopping it and there is of course constant talk of a military attack, preferably by America or otherwise Israel.

A super computer virus named '*Flame*' has been blamed on Israel; once it identifies a target it can extract data and destroy it. The virus can attack specific computers and has been described as fantastic. I have mentioned this virus previously but it is now constantly being refined and has endless possibilities.

Syria is of course increasingly in the news as things go from bad to worse. The assassination of several Bashar al-Assad's inner circle has brought an ominous development, the possibility of Israel's military intervention. Ehud Barak, Israel's Defence Minister has indicated this possible scenario to prevent Syria's sophisticated weapons falling into the hands of Hezbollah. However the big concern would be retaliation in the unleashing of Syria's rocket arsenal and a crushing response by Israel that would destroy much of Lebanon and possibly draw in Iran. Tragically should Assad fall and this seems increasingly likely the Alawites would have nowhere to go but Israel and the Golan border is extremely porous, although Israel has stated they will stop entry. Christians and Jews in Syria have also been treated well by Assad and subsequently have resisted pressure to join the uprising. Hould Assad fall they will be in desperate straits.

Russia would seem from reliable reports to be more involved in the Syrian civil war than at first meets the eye. A well connected commentator for the pan Arab newspaper Al-Hayat wrote, '*Russia is taking advantage of Syria and using it as a playground for testing its military toys and for its expansionist policies*'.

Another writer for the London based Al-Quds said this is a power struggle between the Russian and American Camps. It would seem to be struggle between Russia, Iran, Syria and Hezbollah along with Iraqi Shiites and America, Western Europe, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States with some support from Jordan. It must not be forgotten however that China, India and Brazil offer varying degrees of support for the Russian side.

Temple Mount The Islamic Trust that has jurisdiction is reported to be doing construction work over the foundation stone of the Biblical temples, destroying yet more archaeological evidence and backing the Bible's accounts of the first and second temples. The Temple Mount Group state, '*The Holy of Holies is being trampled, desecrated and destroyed*'. Islam continues to seek to de-legitimise Israel's claim to the site as it has before but the Lord says, '*I am exceedingly jealous for Zion with great wrath*'. There will be a price to pay.

Agriculture in Israel New vines are being planted in many new areas from the Jordan Valley way down to the Arava Desert. Huge greenhouses are springing up right down towards Eilat growing fruit and flowers for export all over the world. Israel's cows yield the most milk of any cows in the world and are even to be found by the Dead Sea. Chinese agricultural experts have been to see how this is done! There is even a cheese factory on the shores of the Dead Sea now!

Technology Much of the high tech used in many computers comes from Israel. Microsoft's free antivirus, high speed Pentium 4 and Intel processors were all developed in Israel. Israel is now being called '*Silicone Wadi*'. It all began with the Jaffa orange which has now mutated into '*Apple*'. Advanced electronic medical equipment is being developed in Israel for the benefit of the world.

Gaza Despite all the lies we find in our newspapers supplies pour into Gaza from Israel. In one week alone recently 293 truckloads of food, 8 truckloads of medical equipment, 233 truckloads of animal food, 327 of building materials and lots more were passed through the crossings. 302 medical patients crossed into Israel for treatment in Israel's hospitals.

Rockets into Israel These continue to fall regularly on a day to day basis. Half a million Israelis have less than 60 seconds to find shelter! Most rockets fired from Gaza are capable of reaching Israel's largest southern cities. In a recent development rockets have been fired from Sinai, two of which fell on Eilat without doing damage.

Benjamin Netanyahu has renewed a national tradition which began with David Ben Gurion. Ben Gurion believed that the Bible should be the heritage of the whole nation. He held Bible studies at his home in the Negev desert and Mr Netanyahu has revived these. Those attending include 16 rabbis, academics, Bible scholars and archaeologists along with his wife and two sons. They are currently study the book of Ruth. Mr Netanyahu said "The Bible is a parable for humanity. It provides Israel and the Jewish people with their spiritual and national identity and lays the foundation of their mission to be a *"light for the nations"* Isaiah 49v6.

Israel Tour If you are quick you could just about have time to book to come to Israel with bob Waughman and myself on October 7th. There will be special occasions on the tour including a talk by "Israel Today's" editor in Chief Aviel Schneider.