

Israel News Desk

With David Hoyle
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Some years ago I spoke in Bournemouth on the subject "*Israel, the surrounding nations & the current crisis.*" Looking back recently at my notes I was struck by the many significant changes that have taken place. Since then I have spoken on the "*Continuing crisis*" & the "*Ongoing crisis*" but today as things change by the hour I think the title would have to be "*the final crisis.*" God is unquestionably bringing His end time purposes to a close & it seems to me that only the intervention of the Lord will solve the crisis. This, of course, we know from scripture. How long before the Lord takes us to Himself & raises the curtain for the last great events in history? Prophecy is being fulfilled on a daily basis & there would seem to be an acceleration of history.

Egypt Whilst Egypt was temporarily stabilised the ongoing situation is not good. Mr Morsi's arrest has preserved Egypt from an Islamic dictatorship. Under Mr Mubarak Christians had reasonable protection, under Morsi Christians were being forced to accept Sharia law but now they have at least some protection again.

The military govt. is fighting al Qaeda militants, who Morsi had allowed into Sinai & Israel has agreed to an Egyptian army division movement into Sinai, hopefully to oust the militants. Egypt has blocked the tunnels into Gaza through which sophisticated arms were moved there but the Bedouin tribesmen, who have made a fortune moving in everything from cars to sheep, are resisting the army because they no longer have an easy living! However, the news is better for Israel as a result of the Egyptian army's presence preserves & restores some stability.

Syria As you know from TV & the newspapers the situation in Syria is desperate & changes hourly. No doubt by the time you read this the situation will have changed again but currently France, UK and USA are arguing with Russia over the content of the UN resolution which is proposed to allow Syria to put their chemical weapons beyond reach under UN control. Mr Obama & France seem to have made up their mind upon military action, come what may, but the Russian move toward handing over control of Syria's chemical weapons stockpile has at least made their impending action more difficult.

Meantime Mr Cameron continues his bellicose threats & he & Mr Hague may yet go back to Parliament for another vote in order to get what they want. As I write USA & Russia are to put an agreement before the UN, it remains to be seen if Syria complies.

Meantime there is no mention of rebel atrocities & their take over by al Qaeda & numerous militants. One Imam has called for all Sunni Muslims to join the rebels to fight the Shia regime of President Assad.

Nor is there any mention of the plight of Christians. I was very upset this week at the attack on Malloula in the mountains near Damascus, highlighted in the press as one of the few villages where Aramaic is still spoken. As the Daily Telegraph put it, the language of Christ. This is a Christian village I visited whilst leading a tour in Syria & I stayed 2 nights there & ate & had fellowship with the Christians who came to our hotel to talk to us in Aramaic via an interpreter. Please pray for this village taken over by Al Qaeda who are trying to force the villages to renounce Christ & accept Islam. Many have fled to Damascus where the Christian community are caring for them. Any attack by the West on Syria might give a mandate for a military intervention in Gaza which the Palestinians hope for. This would put Israel at great risk.

Lebanon Iran's proxy Hezbollah is deeply involved in Syria & the war there is slowly spilling over the border into Lebanon. There is a danger of civil war.

Turkey Once a true ally of Israel but now an enemy. Mr Obama forced Israel to apologise to Turkey for the Gaza boat incident but this move has backfired. The ship in question was trying to break the blockade at Gaza's coast & Turkey was at fault for allowing the ship to sail. The apology has exposed Turkey's anti-Semitism & caused great offence in Israel.

Iran Continues its pursuit of nuclear weapons & also continues its threat against Israel although not with quite as much vehemence as with Mr Ahmadinejad.

UK the govt's posturing on Syria is depressing. No regard is paid to the linkage of Al Qaeda, the rebels & western militants (many British). Humanly speaking there is no solution. How long before Isaiah 17v1 is fulfilled? Two Bradford MP's continue to vilify Israel. Mr Galloway has now gone as far as to suggest Israel supplied Syria with Sarin gas!

At Greenbelt recently a new anti Israel network in Britain was launched. Greenbelt is hardly Christian rather sub Christian. A game was promoted called "*Occupation*" which encouraged people to view themselves as Palestinian "*victims of oppression*". Similar games were promoted at the Norwegian Labour Party summer camp on Utoya Island 2 years ago. Even the Norwegian Prime Minister accepted a T shirt from a Fatah leader inscribed "*free Palestine*". Peter Tatchell was another Greenbelt speaker. How sad that Christian young people are taken in by this!

Temple Mount A portion of the mount close to the Al Aqsa mosque has collapsed; the 2nd collapse in 5 years. Of course the Palestinians claim this is Israel's fault, a deliberate action to bring down the mosques & make way for a rebuilt temple. The fault is that of the Muslims in excavating a huge mosque under the temple area. Israel's archaeologists warned they were destabilising the area. I am reminded of the words of a great prophetic teacher Mark Kagan who said, "*When the Lord wants to rebuild the temple He will deal with the mosques*"! His was an answer to a misguided 7th Day Adventist who tried to burn down the Al Aqsa mosque.

America An orthodox rabbi is reported in Time Magazine to consider the resurrection of Jesus to be a true, historical event. Pinchas Lapid did not become a follower of Jesus but admitted that the evidence for the resurrection was overwhelming.

Polio in Israel The Polio virus has been discovered in the sewers of an Arab town and also in the sewage system in Hadera. Parents of young children are being advised to seek vaccination for them.

Oil Israel is described as having the largest oil wealth per capita in the Middle East. Israel is said to be sitting on large quantities of extractable oil – equal to Saudi Arabia. This could have an effect on the power balance of the region. The Elah Valley where David slew Goliath is the epicentre of the energy eruption Israel can expect.

Israel Army chief Benny Gantz states to Syria, "*Don't attack us or you will suffer*". He went on to say that the losses Syria and our other enemies would suffer in any attack would be "*stinging and difficult*". President Shimon Perez said Israel will respond to any attack with "*full force. We are not involved in Syria's civil war but if they attack us we will respond. We will not allow them to hurt us*". There is an unconfirmed report that the rebels intend to make a chemical attack on the Golan and blame Assad! The Iron Dome Defence System against rocket attacks has been deployed around Tel Aviv as it has in Northern Israel. A stunning discovery has been made in the excavations at the foot of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. Two bundles of treasure contained 36 gold coins, gold and silver jewellery and a gold medallion with the menorah symbol etched on it. The discovery was made in a ruined Byzantine structure close to the Temple Mount's southern wall.

Breaking News Pro Morsi demonstrators at the Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem chanted, "*May US, France, Britain be destroyed, may Rome be conquered, listen Obama the Caliphate shall return*". As an Imam chanted the crowd replied. One of the Imam's statements was, "*We warn you America, take your hands off the Muslims, you have reaped havoc in Syria, in Iraq, in Afghanistan and now Egypt, the Caliphate is the solution, down with the American dogs*".

Finally All this is only background to the current situation. Study Zechariah 12 to 14, Psalm 83, Ezekiel 36 to 39 and many other scriptures. God is working out His purposes. The Bible has the road map for the end times but we will fill in too much detail at our peril.

Next month's issue will be late as I will be with Bob Waughman and Steve Lloyd in Israel, God willing. Please remember us in Prayer. Thank you.