

Prophecy Through the Bible – Year End 2016

As we begin 2017...

It has been a few weeks since we have met due to the decision to not have SS the last three weeks. It has been a great time to spend with family, and reflecting on a lot of things going on in the world, our country, our church, and our own lives.

There is no doubt that many of the things in our lives are in chaos, and do not appear to be calming down as we enter 2017. Certainly with the Election in November of a new president, VP, and Congress we have much to be hopeful about. However, the climate for this new administration is being poisoned each day with fake news, Alarming headlines, and outright hatred and violence on display for all to see.

The economy, jobs, inflation, healthcare costs and changes, plus our security from terrorists is churning the water. The nations of the world are also in chaos.,. Some by their own actions and others by actions of others. Wars and the calls for war are ever present. State sponsors of war and terror like Iran, Syria, North Korea, China, Russia, Libya, and the Palestinians are all over the news. Targets for them are also everywhere including Israel, America, England, France, Germany and all of Europe.

Immigration is swamping Western countries is causing huge problems, from terror to crime, loss of culture, and tremendous expense to the “host” countries.

Lawlessness seems like the normal way of life now. Government not enforcing or obeying the laws, courts making up new interpretations for existing laws, criminals being released or even being excused and promised not to be punished is all part of the behavior we see in the US today. Media failing to hold our leaders and citizen accountable, except in narrow ideological circumstances builds a sense of hopelessness.

Add to this all, the hysteria over climate change and the radical environmental agenda being played out in the UN and leading countries. Increasing natural disaster frequency and intensity, from floods, to fires, to tornadoes and hurricanes, to drought and earthquakes and new eruptions and boiling of Yellowstone and other magma kettles and vents.

Of course, there are personal struggles we face as well. There have been so many surgeries in our class and in the larger church. Financial Stress, Relationship stress, drugs. It is all overwhelming.

Bad news...Bad News...Bad News...it seems like it is EVERYWHERE.

Where do we turn? What do we do? Who can help and give us some peace?

Good questions! There are two answers that come to my mind:

- For those who are not believers, then man and governments, and institutions will provide the answers. This is the most common response of the world, and increasingly the US as well.

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- For those who are believers (really), then the answer lies in understanding God, His Plan, and His Word. Hopefully this is where we find ourselves.

Because we find ourselves at the beginning of a new year, and with the appearances of so many chaotic events, I want to take the time today to talk about how these relate to the Bible, and what God has told us to expect, *aka Prophecy*.

I could never cover all of the important items today that should be said, but I will try and cover what I see as the most urgent for us to pay attention to, and focus on.

In studying Bible prophecy, there are so many signs that are given of things to come, it is prudent to group them in categories, and talk about each as they come to the front of the headlines.

The big 8 to watch out for from my perspective are these:

- **Israel – Everything about it. It is a miracle of God to even exist**
- **All the countries of the world will turn against Israel in preparation for Armageddon**
- **Jerusalem will be a stumbling block** or “**cup of trembling**” for all the world
- The “**church**” will turn away in **Apostasy**, eventually becoming a one-world religion (think false religion and false Prophet)
- **World gets chaotic** from earthquakes, storms, volcanoes, storms, financial stresses, terror, plagues and pestilence
- The last of the Gentile empires will recreate as the “**revived Roman Empire**”
- **Evil takes center stage** – lawlessness, wars, violence, morality gone, Days of Noah return
- **World longs for “man with a plan”** to solve the problems

To be sure there are many prophecies under these groupings, but you can see the moving of the chess pieces in place to enable these to come to pass. We are closer than ever and with all of them going on at once it fulfills another sign that these events would be like birth pains, getting more frequent and higher intensity leading up to the “birth” or in this case the Second Coming of Christ.

You might be wondering why the Rapture of the Church is not in the list above. It is because it is an “imminent” event and there are no signs left that precede it. The signs above are all in preparation for the Second Coming and the 7 year tribulation period that comes after the Rapture and before the Second coming.

Look at the list above...Do you hear the hoof beats of the Four Horses of the Apocalypse?

I want to take the first 3 signs as a group and discuss the Prophecy and the current signs today of its fulfillment.

Jerusalem coming back to life in the land of Promise

Amos 9:14-15

I will bring back my exiled people Israel; they will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them. They will plant vineyards and drink their wine; they will make gardens and eat their fruit. I will plant Israel in their own land, never again to be uprooted from the land I have given them,” says the Lord your God.

Isaiah 66:7-8 Birth of a nation in one day

“Before she goes into labor, she gives birth; before the pains come upon her, she delivers a son. Who has ever heard of such a thing? Who has ever seen such things? Can a country be born in a day or a nation be brought forth in a moment? Yet no sooner is Zion in labor than she gives birth to her children.”

Ezekiel 37 Valley of Bones

The hand of the LORD was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ² He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. ³ He asked me, “Son of man, can these bones live?”

I said, “Sovereign LORD, you alone know.”

⁴ Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones and say to them, ‘Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!’ ⁵ This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. ⁶ I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.”

⁷ So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. ⁸ I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.

⁹ Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.’” ¹⁰ So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.

¹¹ Then he said to me: “Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.’ ¹² Therefore prophesy and say to them: ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³ Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. ¹⁴ I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD.’

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*This is called the **Dry Bones** prophecy, and it speaks of the time when Israel will be restored while back in the land in 3 stages*

Stage 1 : You will be restored to the Land of Israel from where you are. Your bones will be hooked together but you will not have the breath of life in you. **This happened in May 1948.**

Stage 2: You will then have life; flesh, tendons, muscle, and skin and you will stand up and be a vast army. **This is where Israel is today.** They are a powerful nation in the world and can defend themselves and are becoming prosperous as a nation and people.

Stage 3: Finally I will put my Spirit in you and you will live and I will settle you in the Land. This is yet to come but it comes when the Jews see the Lord as their Messiah and become believers. **This happens in the Tribulation period.** We will not see this with our own eyes because we will be raptured out ahead of this time.

Isn't it interesting that we are living in the midst of Bible Prophecy? Because we are not looking for it, or do not recognize it happening, we are confused, perplexed and depressed at what is happening to the world, our country, and our families and friends. Read the Word and open your eyes of Faith and you will see what is happening and you will be encouraged.

All the countries of the World turn against Israel and Jerusalem will be a stumbling block for them all

Jerusalem will be a stumbling block or “cup of trembling” for the world. In the book of **Zechariah, Ch 12** covers both these prophecies. This will happen when the entire world has gathered against Israel.

12 The burden of the word of the LORD concerning Israel.

Thus declares the LORD who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him, ²“Behold, I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that causes reeling to all the peoples around; and when the siege is against Jerusalem, it will also be against Judah. ³ It will come about in that day that I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples; all who lift it will be severely injured. And all the nations of the earth will be gathered against it.

Earlier, President Obama authorized the US to abstain from a vote condemning Israel from the land it now possesses. This land is called Samaria, and Judah in Biblical times but the PC name today is the West Bank because when Jordan was created in 1947 it ruled the “west bank” of the Jordan River It also includes “east Jerusalem” and the Jewish quarter in Jerusalem as well as the whole Temple Mount. Israel took this land in the war of 1967 when the Arab world tried to conquer Israel and drive them into the sea. If you know history, Israel won this war despite being outnumbered, by the grace and power of the Lord, and still holds it today. Also taken was the land called the **Golan Heights** in

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northern Israel which was part of Syria before 1967 but also part of the Northern Kingdom of Israel before Israel and Judah were conquered and carried into captivity during the time of Daniel, Ezekiel, and Jeremiah.

A shaky agreement with the “Palestinians” gives Israel some leeway and the Arabs some leeway in controlling sections of the land. Now, rather than recognize Israel’s right to exist and negotiate directly a settlement both can live in peace with, the Arabs have gone to the UN, which is an anti-Semitic organization and procured an agreement that the land in dispute is now “occupied” land and the Jews are subject to the International Criminal Court for settlements, prayer at the Western wall and being in the Jewish quarter, considering them in “flagrant violation”.

This prophecy is rapidly coming into view both supporting the nations turning against Israel, but also the rise of Anti-Semitism in the last days. Unfortunately it also sets the stage for two additional prophecies...

Against Israel

Psalm 83:3-5

With cunning they conspire against your people; they plot against those you cherish.⁴ “Come,” they say, “let us destroy them as a nation, so that Israel’s name is remembered no more.”⁵ With one mind they plot together; they form an alliance against you—⁶ the tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites, of Moab and the Hagrites,⁷ Byblos, Ammon and Amalek, Philistia, with the people of Tyre.⁸ Even Assyria has joined them to reinforce Lot’s descendants.

Genesis 12:2-3

*² “I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.
³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”*

Joel 3:1-2 the Nations judged for dividing the land

*³ “In those days and at that time, when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem,
² I will gather all nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat
There I will put them on trial for what they did to my inheritance, my people Israel,
because they scattered my people among the nations and divided up my land.*

Now let me say that the UN Security Council vote on Israel that was just completed sets up another meeting in Paris on **January 15, 2017** where high level representatives of 70 nations will attend. The topic and purpose of the meeting is to declare the new “borders” affirmed in the previous resolution as

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part of the new State of Palestine. This act is a complicit act of 70 nations that the US can veto but there is great skepticism about our UN rep doing that since this will be the last act against Israel of the Obama administration and 5 days before our new President is sworn in. President-elect Trump has condemned both actions by the US.

This act in conjunction with the earlier one, sets the US directly against Israel and accountable for the dividing of the land of Israel. These prophecies predict judgment against ***all who do these things***, and we are no exceptions. As much as we want this not to happen, it may be in the timing and plan of God. If that is the case, we are looking at a judgment coming swiftly.

One last prophecy to think about –

Ezekiel 37:15-23 Two Sticks into One Nation

¹⁵ The word of the LORD came to me: ¹⁶ “Son of man, take a stick of wood and write on it, ‘Belonging to Judah and the Israelites associated with him.’ Then take another stick of wood, and write on it, ‘Belonging to Joseph (that is, to Ephraim) and all the Israelites associated with him.’ ¹⁷ Join them together into one stick so that they will become one in your hand.

¹⁸ “When your people ask you, ‘Won’t you tell us what you mean by this?’ ¹⁹ say to them, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I am going to take the stick of Joseph—which is in Ephraim’s hand—and of the Israelite tribes associated with him, and join it to Judah’s stick. I will make them into a single stick of wood, and they will become one in my hand.’ ²⁰ Hold before their eyes the sticks you have written on ²¹ and say to them, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will take the Israelites out of the nations where they have gone. I will gather them from all around and bring them back into their own land. ²² I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel. There will be one king over all of them and they will never again be two nations or be divided into two kingdoms. ²³ They will no longer defile themselves with their idols and vile images or with any of their offenses, for I will save them from all their sinful backsliding,^[b] and I will cleanse them. They will be my people, and I will be their God.

This prophecy has always been a dilemma for me. I am not sure what the timing is for this dividing and uniting. In some ways I think this has already happened. If this is true, then Israel will not again be divided. In other ways, it appears that the Nations will divide Israel again and when the time of the end is nearer, God will join them back together. ***A word of caution – I don’t know which it is, but if the UN plan succeeds and Israel is divided for real, then the Israelites in the Palestinian territory will be driven out and the stage is set for the uniting by God again.*** This will be a big indicator that we are very close to the end times events yet to come.

So many more things are happening, we could spend several more sessions on them but if you look at the items I listed as the things to watch out for, you can see for yourself what is going on:

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- Apostasy, Certain groups promoting Religious harmony... separating from orthodox Christian beliefs to gain acceptance and unity. This is plain with the ideas on Homosexuality, marriage, and cultural rot. Churches are in the forefront of acceptance.
- The Word of God is not to be taken for what it says, it is taken as metaphor, and judgment is so “old school” ...God is pure Love.
- The EU looking to create an army along the lines of the revived Roman Empire, Gog-Magog alliance in place and rattling sabers,
- Damascus being bombed by Israel already to eliminate weapons caches, and
- the world coming against Israel through boycotts,
- UN actions, and
- Anti-Semitism is a growing concern worldwide.
- Uptick in Natural Disasters, some call this Global Climate change and blame it on carbon emissions, but force of nature disasters are getting more frequent and intense.

You may not believe in prophecy but you have to admit, there is a lot going on that looks like the Bible predictions. I am not to convince you of anything, but I believe we are coming to a watershed time in the world and in our own country.

I am watching Israel. For a tiny country, it generates a lot of hate in the world far beyond its own actions. It is a demonic hate born out of a satanic hatred for God, the things of God, and the people of God. It is a burdensome stone around the neck of the world now. It will become a cup of trembling and will shake the countries to their roots if they try and take it or destroy it, or exterminate the Jews.

I am also watching the gathering of nations against Israel and looking at the Psalm 83 scenario and the Gog/Magog war yet to come. The props are in place, the stage is set, and the actors are coming to the stage to begin the play.

The Apostasy is in full swing so it is easy to see but I am watching two other items

- One World Church under the control of the False Prophet. We can see the early signs now
- Revived Roman Empire coming out of the ashes of History to take its place as the last of the Gentile Nations to rule. Watch the European Union.

Look behind you and Praise Him, Look around you and Serve Him, and Look up and Anticipate His Return.

He is coming soon

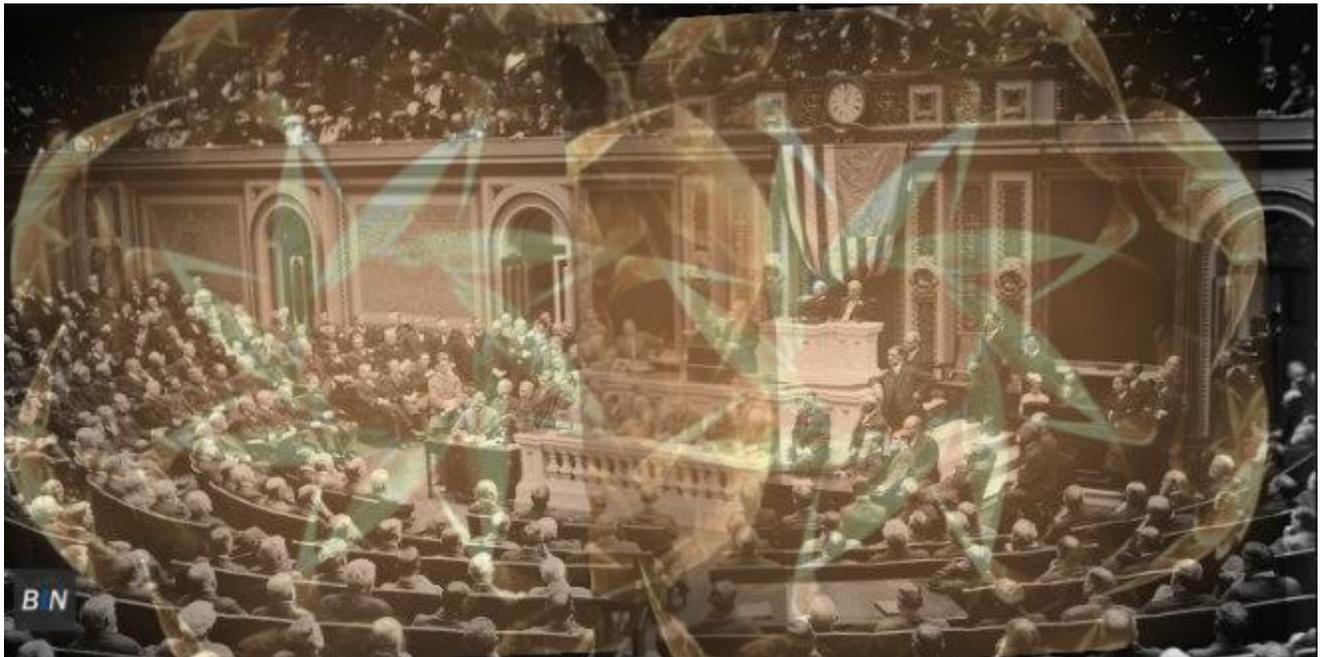
Biblical Return of 70 Nations as Countries Gather in Paris to Condemn Israel

By Adam Eliyahu Berkowitz January 5, 2017 , 11:30 am

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“They have said: ‘Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Yisrael may be no more in remembrance.’ For they have consulted together with one consent; against Thee do they make a covenant.” [Psalms 83:5-6 \(The Israel Bible™\)](#)

image: <https://www.breakingisraelnews.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/jerusalem-1-1.jpg>



Illustrative: dignitaries gather for a crucial meeting. (Photo: Breaking Israel News)

High ranking officials from 70 nations of the world will gather in [Paris](#) on January 15th in an attempt to force Israel to accept a two-state solution with the Palestinian Authority. By so doing, they will be fulfilling a momentous Biblical prophecy foretold thousands of years ago.

When Israeli statesman [Shimon Peres](#) passed away in September, leaders and dignitaries from [70 nations](#) gathered in Jerusalem to pay their last respects. The symbolism is no mere coincidence; the very same number of representatives will gather in Paris, but this time to deny the Jewish connection to the Land of Israel.

image: <https://www.breakingisraelnews.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/rabbi-trugman-300x250-300x250.jpg>



Rabbi Avraham Arie Trugman (Courtesy)

“Everyone knows already what the purpose of the conference is: it will be used as another opportunity to try to impose a settlement on Israel and avoid direct negotiations between Israel and it’s neighbors,” Rabbi [Avraham Arie Trugman](#), director of Ohr Chadash Torah Institute, told *Breaking Israel News*. “What’s interesting is that it isn’t just one or two enemies with a specific grudge, like the Arabs or the Nazis. It is 70 nations, which in Torah terms, means all of the nations,” explained Rabbi Trugman.

Rabbi [Shimon Apisdorf](#), a prominent Jewish educator and bestselling author, told *Breaking Israel News* that seeing 70 nations written in the headlines caught his attention.

“There is no question that the aspect of specifically 70 nations gathering is significant, the point being Israel is not one of them,” said Rabbi Apisdorf, citing the book of Numbers.

Lo, it is a people that shall dwell alone, and shall not be reckoned among the nations. [Numbers 23:9](#)

“We are fundamentally different,” stated Rabbi Apisdorf. “And as a light unto the nations, we are supposed to be separate and different.”

Rabbi Trugman understood a different message in the gathering of the 70 countries.

“There is no doubt this is a fulfillment of the prophecies that in the end of days, all the nations will come out against Israel,” noted the rabbi. He quoted the commentary of Rabbi Shlomo Yitzchaki, an 11th century French commentator known by the acronym [‘Rashi’](#), on the first verse in the book of Genesis.

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“1,000 years ago, Rashi said that in the future, the nations of the world will come and say we stole the Land of Israel. This is precisely what we are seeing now,” Rabbi Trugman said. “The majority of the nations say we have no claim to Israel, and the rest say we only have a claim to a small section of Israel.”

“Rashi told us how to answer this claim,” said Rabbi Trugman. “We need to remind them that the same God who created the heaven and earth gave it to them, and then he took it from them and gave it to us.”

The concept of 70 nations has its source in the 70 grandsons of [Noah](#) listed in the Bible.

These three were the sons of [Noach](#), and of these was the whole earth overspread. [Genesis 9:19](#)

image: <https://www.breakingisraelnews.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/JacobsLadder-247x300.jpg>



Jacob's Ladder (Publisher of Bible Card/Wikimedia Commons)

According to Bereshit Rabbah, a collection of homiletical teachings compiled around 400 CE, each nation is appointed an angel, except for Israel, which is protected by God Himself.

According to Midrash Tanchuma, homiletical teachings believed to have been compiled around 500 CE, Jacob's vision was of these national angels ascending and descending a ladder, determining the fortune of their nations.

And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven; and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it. [Genesis 28:12](#)

Jacob's vision is interpreted as a message that the nation of Israel was no longer part of this natural process. Though other nations will rise and fall, eventually disappearing into the sands of time, Israel will never disappear.

The concept of 70 nations also appears in reference to the 70 oxen offered in the Temple throughout [Sukkot](#) (the feast of the tabernacles) which the Talmud (Sukkah 55b) teaches are for the merit of the 70 nations.

In the wake of the recent United Nations Security Council [resolution 2334](#) declaring Jewish housing in Judea, Samaria and East Jerusalem to be illegal, the outcome of the Paris conference seems certain. A two-state solution would call for Israel to relinquish territories conquered in the 1967 Six-Day War, and subsequently create a Palestinian State. This would include establishing a Palestinian capital in East Jerusalem, thereby removing the Kotel (Western Wall) and the [Temple Mount](#) from Jewish control. It is unclear whether the 800,000 Jews living over the 1949 Armistice Lines, comprising approximately 13 percent of Israel's Jewish population, will be required to relocate, as they were when the Israeli government dismantled the communities of Gush Katif in the Gaza Strip in 2005.

Even if the 70 nations at the conference decide in favor of the two-state solution it is unclear how this plan will be practically implemented. On January 20, five days after the conference is set to take place, Donald Trump will take the seat in Oval Office, and he has already made his opinion clear that, like Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, he believes the only solution to be face-to-face negotiations without pre-conditions between the Israelis and Palestinians.

Read more at <https://www.breakingisraelnews.com/81577/return-70-nations-paris-condemn-israel/#XCvcbEQE6tp4s65V.99>