

Current Events and Psalm 83

Commentary for August 15, 2020 — Interesting Events in the Near East

Important events have occurred recently in the Near East. They may be setting the stage to establish the nations and peoples described in Psalm 83.

There will be future wars involving Israel before Christ returns. One war is given in a prophecy of Zechariah 12:1–9 (verse 10 begins a new subject). Jerusalem will be at the center of the conflict. YHWH intervenes directly to give His people Israel, Judah, and Jerusalem a surprising and stunning victory. All the world will know God caused the victory.

Such a battle has not yet happened in history. It did not occur in Zechariah's day, nor during the time of the Maccabees in the 2nd century BC, or during the Jewish revolts of 66–70 AD or in 135 AD. Nor do these verses of Zechariah 12 describe any of the battles Israel fought since their creation as a nation in May 1948. No such battle has taken place where YHWH causes the victory. Therefore, it is in the future to us today.

Events Causing Current Middle East Instability

Israel has grown economically powerful in the past decade. Militarily it is far more powerful than it has ever been. Neighboring Arab nations Egypt and Jordan made an informal peace with Israel after the Yom Kippur War (October 1973) and continue to maintain peace. Attacks by militant Palestinian groups such as Fatah (the PLO in the past), Hamas, and Hezbollah torment Israel but have not threatened its existence as a nation. Yet, threats to Israel continue.

Instability of Israel's neighbors has occurred over decades. Neighbors of Israel are dissolving. National borders established after World War I have little meaning. Here are some examples:

- The wars in Iraq in 1991 and 2003 affected Iraq's neighbors with millions of refugees.
- Attacks by Hezbollah (supplied by Arab nations and Iran) from Lebanon and counter-attacks from Israel make borders of Israel dangerous places.
- Civil war in Syria began in 2011 and continues today (see "[The Future of Syria](#)").
- Revolts in 2011 in Egypt caused years of instability until 2014.
- Economic power and influence of Saudi Arabia decreased due to oil price declines.¹
- Military intervention by Iran, Russia, and Turkey further destabilized neighbors of Israel.

These past and continuing issues will result in changing borders and people moving when and where God wants them to be (Acts 17:26–27), always subject to His will.

¹ In a May 2016 ASK Prophetic article I reprinted a non-ASK essay, "[Saudi Arabia, a Failing Kingdom](#)" by George Friedman. In my August 2005 Commentary, "[Civil Wars – Those Potential and Certain](#)," I analyzed ongoing civil wars and others that have not happened yet. (I was wrong about Iraq.)

Two Recent and Significant Events

On August 4, 2020, a massive explosion occurred in Beirut, Lebanon, destroying the docks of the only port in that country and devastating the city itself. (See a [video of the explosion](#) from 12 perspectives, 3½ minutes.) The huge white secondary explosion was caused by a large amount of liquid ammonium nitrate stored at the port. It exploded with a great shock-wave that dissipated quickly. One result was the entire government of Lebanon resigned.

There may be a military connection to the explosion, with the ammonium nitrate being stored as a fuel component for a rocket attack by Hezbollah on Israel. The Beirut explosion may have thwarted an attack by Hezbollah against Israel that Hamas and Iranian forces would quickly join. But now, the Lebanese people are in no mood for a war on their soil; they are sick of death and destruction. Lebanon may fail as a state, collapsing with borders rearranged, and new countries created out of Lebanon and a collapsing Syria, all moving toward the lands populated by people indicated in Psalm 83.

A second event on August 13, 2020 was the signing of an agreement by Israel and the United **Arab** Emirates (UAE) to recognize each other as sovereign nations. The agreement was brokered by the United States. Further negotiations will establish trade between Israel and the UAE. Israel's technological advances will help the UAE to develop economic and human resources for the future. The UAE is an association of small Arab kingdoms rich in oil and natural gas, operating often as a single political unit. A [Wikipedia article](#) describes the UAE:

"... a sovereign state in Western Asia at the northeast end of the Arabian Peninsula on the Persian Gulf, bordering Oman to the east and Saudi Arabia to the south and west, as well as sharing maritime borders with Qatar to the west and Iran to the north. The sovereign absolute monarchy is a federation of seven emirates consisting of Abu Dhabi (which serves as the capital), Ajman, Dubai, Fujairah, Ras Al Khaimah, Sharjah and Umm Al Quwain."

In the past the UAE rejected recognizing Israel. Some members supported the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank with humanitarian funding, sometimes the money was used for weapons to attack Israel. This agreement diminishes funding to attack Israel. There are hopes for seven areas of cooperation to benefit both Israel and the UAE:

"The agreement will include [1] establishing embassies and exchanging ambassadors, [2] investments into the Israeli economy, [3] trade, [4] direct flights between Tel Aviv and Abu Dhabi, [5] an investment in Israeli efforts to develop a coronavirus vaccine ... and [6] cooperation in matters of energy and water. An important element of the deal for the UAE is [7] the expectation that its citizens would be able to visit the Al-Aksa mosque in Jerusalem."

- **"[Israel, UAE reach historic peace deal](#)," *Jerusalem Post*, August 14, 2020**

Psalm 83 tells us there will be ten peaceful nations around Israel, several will be Arab. Peace will bring great prosperity to all in the region. Read Dr. Martin's articles: "[The Prophesied State of Palestine](#)" and my August 2006 Commentary, "[The Bible and War in Lebanon](#)" with links to other articles, further explaining aspects of Psalm 83.

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