

The Future of Syria

Commentary for April 15, 2012 — More Political Changes in the Middle East

Events are continuing to change the Middle East. I recently came across this saying: **“The Bible is the only book whose Author is always present when one reads it”** (author unknown).¹ I believe that this statement is true. Does it relate to prophecy? We are given the gift of observing how our Father acts and moves the pieces on the world stage. We can even have occasional insights into events as they move toward prophetic ends shown in the Bible.

The current chaos in Syria that began in January 2011 is an example. The uprisings there will not immediately end the current country of Syria, although it will eventually result in Syria breaking into three new countries, and dividing its 11 million people.

Here is a current political map of Syria at this moment, from a [“BBC Syria Profile”](#) article. Note Syria’s borders with its neighbors. Syria has a shore with the eastern Mediterranean Sea, long borders with Turkey and Iraq, and a border with Israel, a short 48 miles from the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights to the Syrian capital of Damascus. Syria has a shape with its longest expanse from the southwest to the northeast.



Dr. Ernest L. Martin’s April 2001 article [“The Prophesied State of Palestine”](#) shows the rough configuration of Middle East nations surrounding Israel just prior to the second coming of Christ. Understanding and analyzing Psalm 83 as a future prophecy yet to occur (and having never occurred in such a configuration in the past) we are confronted with a problem.

How can we know the process of movement from the current situation of unrest and civil war going on presently in April 2012 to the end result given in Psalm 83? We cannot know — but we can become more confident as we approach the final Psalm 83 configuration of nations and we see the current nations breaking up, and the new nations forming. The path of events from the present chaos to the future “snapshot” given in Psalm 83 may be varied and will likely be many decades in duration.

That being said, it is always interesting whenever there is movement from a long-term static political situation to a more fluid and changing situation, whether those changes are:

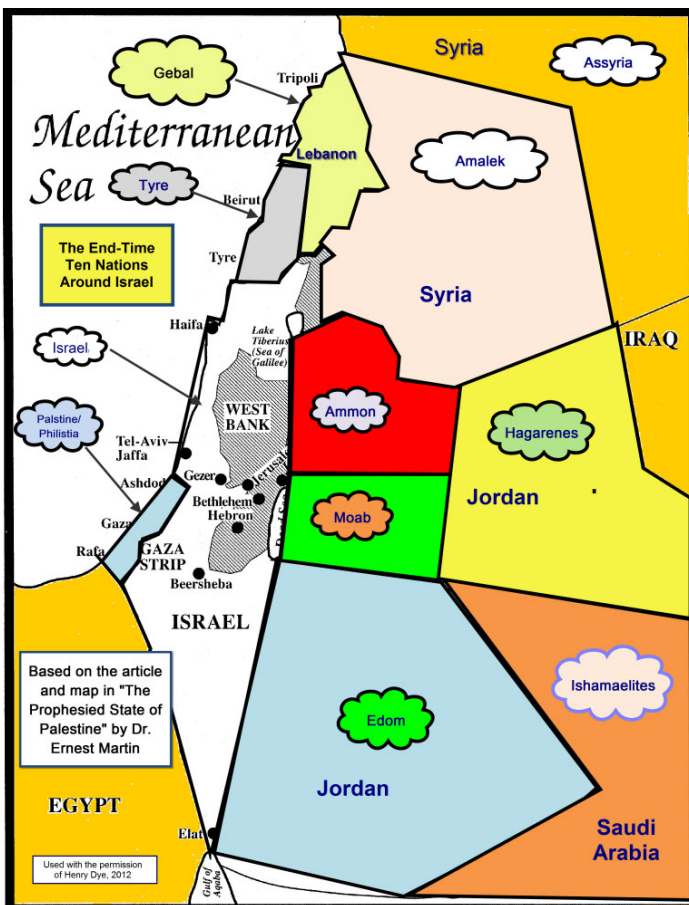
- a relative quieting down in Iraq that may soon lead to the future reconstruction of the ancient city of Babylon, and Iraq becoming known as Assyria,

¹ Kenneth W. Osbeck, *Amazing Grace: 366 Inspiring Hymn Stories for Daily Devotions* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 1990), p. 293.

- changes of government in Egypt that will promote economic freedom to eventually lead to prosperity in that desolately poor country, along with expansion of influence and power over its neighbors, all ultimately resulting in great riches for Egypt,
- expansion and stabilization of a country of Palestine,
- breakup of the country of Jordan into several countries,
- and a division of Syria into three countries: one along the coast, a country to be called Amalek (according to the Bible), and a country composed of southern Syrian territory and northern territory from Jordan.

Psalm 83 lists the nations with rough descriptions of the territories, and some cities within those areas, at a time future to Psalm 83's composition. Here is Dr. Martin's 1991 analysis:

This map shows the general areas that will become the ten small nations in the Middle East.



Note that the present Kingdom of Jordan will be divided into three new political areas: Edom, Moab and Ammon.

To the east of these three nations will be the Ishmaelites who will comprise almost the whole of Saudi Arabia today, with the Hagarenes in the northern part around present day Kuwait and including some of the Gulf states.

Syria will be divided and it will become the nation of the Amalekites (the ancient and continual enemy of Israel — see Exodus 17:16).

A new nation of Gebal (the ancient Byblos) will be created on the north coast of the eastern seaboard.

Tyre will become Lebanon. Philistia will be the State of Palestine and will include the ancient five ancient cities of the Philistines (the Pentapolis).

Israel itself will be slightly reduced in size (it will lose Ashdod and Ashkelon) but remain in the same place as it is today.

The rogue nation of Iraq will be eliminated and the world will accept the name "Assyria" for the new state, and its modern capital will be at a renewed "Babylon."

This is the prime prophetic teaching of Psalm 83.

Of course, the borders are approximate even at the end of the age. This is because written descriptions cannot be mapped with greater detail. Remember, God changes rulers and borders of nations, and moves peoples according to the counsel of His will. Indeed, God is always present when you read the words and prophecies in His Book, the Bible.