

## Israel And Iran in Battle

### Commentary for April 15, 2024 — Escalation of Their Conflict

At night on Saturday, April 13, 2024, Iran attacked Israel with 350 attack drones, ballistic missiles, and some cruise missiles. Most of the attacks came from Iran but some of the 350 “flying bombs” were fired at Israel from Syria, Iraq, and Yemen by militant groups funded by Iran.<sup>1</sup> Here is the situation as I write.

By the mercy of God, all missiles and all but one drone were shot down. Or at least that is the story told by Israeli media. The Iranian government claimed great destruction was done to Israel, but they are accused of showing old photos from other conflicts. Lies are common during war, and are done for a variety of reasons, often done by both sides of a conflict.

One drone exploded at an Israeli airbase, but with no reported damage or injuries. One Bedouin girl, 7 years old, was seriously injured by falling shrapnel east of Jerusalem.

The low casualties and damage came from coordinated efforts by Israeli jet fighters, with United States, British, and French fighter aircraft, as well as anti-drone defenses by the Kingdom of Jordan (immediately east of Israel) defending its own airspace. According to some reports Israel had other help as well. See the article, “Why did some Arab countries appear to help Israel?” The result was, the attack was nullified — this time.

Reactions by several Arab nations were surprisingly mild, not supporting but also not criticizing Iran (a non-Arab nation anciently called “Persia”). Iran also has been aggressive for several decades toward Israel, but also toward several of its Arab neighbors in the Persian Gulf and other territories of the Middle East. Iran has a population of 86 million people, larger by far than the population of any of the Gulf States. Iran would like to dominate them, and their Shia Islam believers are 90+% of Iran’s population. The other Gulf states with their much smaller populations are 90% Sunni.

Also, keep in mind that 18% of the world’s oil flows from the Persian Gulf, and Iran’s western coast extends for the entire Gulf. On the other hand, blocking the Persian Gulf would also prevent Iran from exporting its oil to the world.

The situation today is nearly the same as I wrote in my 2006 Commentary, “Iran in Focus.” The leaders of Iran want to keep power while controlling neighboring nations, and expand its influence as the leading Muslim power in the world. However, this second purpose is complicated by 13 centuries of religious strife between two branches of Islam: the Shia (largely Persian) and Sunni factions. Only 15% of all Muslims are Shia, with Iran being the leading Shia nation. The rest of Islamic believers in the world adhere to the Sunni beliefs.

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<sup>1</sup> I recommend the Israeli television news FREE from Israel, 24 hours a day on [I24 News](#). This news channel is also available free in some cable television areas.

While Saudi Arabia has a small population, it is the leading Sunni nation in both religious influence and wealth. It is also home to the sacred Islamic city of Mecca. Iran wants Israel to be destroyed, but it also seeks to lead all Islam.

The leaders of Iran will not achieve either of those goals. The first will not happen because God will not allow His people to be destroyed at this time. While Iran is currently a threat to Israel (a majority Jewish nation with Islamic citizens), Iran is also a threat to Islamic Arab nations in the Persian Gulf region, and they resent Iran's aggressive posture toward their countries.

### ***The Past***

In Old Testament history, when Persia was powerful, they partnered with the powerful people called the Medes. Along with other kingdoms, they conquered and ended what historians call the "[Neo-Babylonian Empire](#)" (read Daniel chapter 5).

The Persian Empire ruled using the administrative structure developed by the Assyrian and Babylonian empires — with Persian adaptations. They administered their empire with the help of "the best and brightest" individuals from the Tribes of Judah, Benjamin, and Levi, who served the Persian Empire, people such as Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, Queen Esther and her uncle Mordecai, and Nehemiah. All of them, and likely many not named in Scripture, helped the Persian Empire operate efficiently.

God told the exiles taken to Babylon to assimilate and adjust to their situation in exile (Jeremiah 9:4–11) until the 70 years ended. Then, if they wished to return to the land God promised for them, they could do so. The Persian King Cyrus permitted them to return. The majority stayed near Babylon and only later returned when Judea became prosperous.

### ***Prophetic Significance?***

There is no hint in prophecy that present disputes or ethnic differences are reasons for war between Iran and Israel. In Old Testament history Persia is usually presented in a positive light. In the books of Second Chronicles, Esther, Ezra, and Nehemiah, and relevant Minor Prophets during Persian rule, most mentions of Persia are positive. Future prophetic indications are for a positive relationship between Persia and Israel. Iran will change its attitude toward Israel and its people. They will even help Israel. Note what Dr. Martin wrote in 1979 that I quoted in the "[April 2006 Newsletter](#)":

***"We do have the biblical revelation in front of us, however, and it does look pretty clear what will happen just prior to the Second Coming of Christ. There must be a very strong power in Iran, in Persia, existing prior to the Second Coming of Christ. At the present time [1979] we do not see that."***

Many thought this recent attack was an escalation that might lead to a larger pan-Islamic attack on Israel, perhaps even with nuclear weapons being used. That is unlikely, but if such an event happens, it will be because God allows it to occur. Continue to pray for peace.

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