

Prophetic Narratives

Commentary for May 1, 2024 — ... Through Time and Space

Read the "[May 2024 Newsletter](#)" to learn background information about Dr. Martin's updated article "Iran in Prophecy." There are prophecies about future events to the north and south of present-day Israel involving the Kings of the North and the Kings of the South. It does not seem that any of the present ongoing attacks on Israel are from either a King of the North or a King of the South. No such leaders are identifiable or present at this time.

To the east of Israel, old nations with new boundaries will be "created." Psalm 83 gives us their ancient names, even though they might use modern names. See Dr. Martin's updated article, "[The Prophesied State of Palestine](#)."

Some nations in the Middle East will break into parts, others will combine from parts of Syria, Jordan, and perhaps even parts of Saudi Arabia. East of these nations is modern Iraq, which will also have changed borders. Iraq will also experience a restoration of the great ancient city of Babylon. It will encompass a large area, and be an important focus of world commerce.¹



The land of Babylon was never a wasteland of total destruction as described in the biblical prophecies. That destruction has not yet happened. Ancient Babylon was where the Jews were taken into exile, later the Persian king Cyrus allowed Jews to return to Judea if they wished. Many did return, but many remained. In subsequent centuries control of the area of Babylon changed many times.

The Neo-Babylonian empire was replaced by the Medo-Persian Empire. The Greeks conquered

¹ You will find the 1922 article "[Will Babylon Be Rebuilt?](#)" by F.E. Marsh to be very interesting. Dr. Ernest Martin wrote his article "[The Rebirth of Babylon](#)" in 1975, adding to Marsh's information. Both point to prophecies in Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Revelation chapter 18, some tell about the total destruction of the "physical" city of Babylon. (There is also "Mystery Babylon" in Revelation chapter 17). Babylon will be abandoned because no one will be **able** to live in it. That has never happened in history! See also my Commentaries "[More on Rebuilding Babylon](#)" and "[Is America Babylon? No!](#)" The ancient area of Babylon is still occupied today, and is 68 miles south of the Bagdad city center.

Bagdad was besieged and obliterated by the Mongols in 1258 AD, with perhaps 1 million dead. This did not fulfill the biblical prophecies. After the Mongols, Bagdad was rebuilt. Today it is the capital of Iraq with a population of more than 7 million people, all within a short distance from the site of ancient Babylon. Perhaps Bagdad will be renamed, rebuilt, and called again "Babylon the Great" (Revelation 17:5, 18:2) and all Bagdad will become part of Babylon.

the Persian Empire. The Parthian Empire ruled Babylon and Iraq. Still, many Jews remained. The Babylonian Talmud was written in 3rd to the 6th or 7th centuries AD. Babylon slowly declined in population and influence over the centuries. Islam expanded to conquer Iraq and Bagdad between 632 and 654 AD. Babylon continued to be populated. Bagdad grew.²

King Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, after his release from his 7 “times” of madness to be like an animal, proclaimed to all people of his empire:

“... the living may know that the Supreme [1] is in authority in the kingdom of mortals, and [2] He gives it [authority] to whomsoever He will, and [3] He sets up over it a lowly one [the least, basest] of mortals.”

• *Daniel 4:17, Concordant Literal Version*

During our present time of upheaval and changing borders, remember what the apostle Paul said at Mars Hill in Athens Greece: God determines how long nations shall exist, and where people groups will live. God creates and disbands nations, kingdoms, and their boundaries:

“He [God] makes out of one [Adam] EVERY NATION of mankind, to be dwelling on all the surface of the earth, [1] specifying the setting of the [their] seasons and [2] the bounds of their dwelling.”

• *Acts 17:26, CLV*

Various prophecies about the lands around Israel will occur simultaneously with prophecies in other biblical lands such as Egypt, Moab, Edom, Philistia, and other kingdoms.

“LET THEM come close and TELL US WHAT shall happen. The former things, tell what they were, And WE SHALL indeed set Our heart on it; And LET US indeed know THEIR HEREAFTER, Or announce to Us the things to come. TELL WHAT WILL ARRIVE hereafter, And WE SHALL certainly know that you are Elohim [God]. Indeed, YOU SHALL DO GOOD and DO EVIL, And LET US certainly gaze wonderingly and stare together.”

• *Isaiah 41:22–23, CLV*

The Book of Revelation is a link to other prophecies in the Old and New Testaments. Some prophecies are quoted partially and referred to in several ways: in phrases, descriptions, allusions, and imagery. Professor George Wesley Buchanan said that there are more references to prophecies in the Book of Revelation than any other book. The correlation of Revelation to Daniel is well known. There are relationships in Revelation to portions of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, the collected Minor Prophets, Psalms, and even the Torah (the five books of Moses). The information in Revelation can give insight to understanding the original prophecies. We can read the original, and know the end of some prophecies. The coming destruction of Babylon is just one example. Many “story arcs” in Scripture end in Revelation.

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² The prophesied reconstruction and rise of Babylon to wealth and power has been modeled for us in modern times by the oil-rich cities of Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, and other Gulf States on the western shores of the Persian Gulf. It will take decades to rebuild Babylon, for it to again achieve significant power in the world. East of the revitalized land of Babylon is Iran, ancient Persia. In October 2009 I wrote a Commentary, “[Iran and Nuclear Weapons](#).”