

Associates for Scriptural Knowledge • P.O. Box 25000, Portland, OR 97298-0990, USA
© ASK, May 2024 • Telephone: 503 292 4352
Webpage on the Internet: <https://www.askelm.com> • E-Mail address: askoffice@askelm.com

Dear Associates and Friends,

May 2024

This month's article is "[Iran In Prophecy](#)." As I wrote in my April 15, 2024 Commentary, "[Israel And Iran in Battle](#)," I prefer not to react to recent news in the world. However, I again find it necessary to do so. This month's article is another such occasion, required by circumstances. Recent Israeli and Middle East events are, in sequence:

1. The Hamas attack against civilians across the Gaza border into Israel on October 7, 2023;
2. The multi-years of low-level conflict of Israel with various groups and military forces in Lebanon, Syria, and Yemen;
3. Iran attacked Israel with 350 drones, cruise missiles, and ballistic missiles on April 13, 2024 (most all were shot down by Israeli, U.S., British, French, Jordanian, and Saudi Arabia assistance).
4. Israel responded with a small attack on Iran on April 19, 2024.

The bulk of the article is derived from Dr. Martin's 1995 audiotaped lecture, "Iran in Prophecy" that was transcribed, edited, and annotated for print. You can also listen (for free) to my reading of the 2006 article on a Byte Show presentation that I did with GeorgeAnn Hughes. (Click the link above the words in **bold** introducing the article.) to listen to the reading, along with our questions and answers session.

I updated the article again, with the hindsight of 29 years since 1995, and 18 years since I published the 2006 edition of the article.

Description of "Iran In Prophecy"

This article begins by reviewing the presence of Iran (ancient Persia) beginning as one of the kingdoms presented in the prophecies of the Book of Daniel. Then Dr. Martin examines the unfulfilled prophecies in the Books of Isaiah and Jeremiah that will occur in the future to us today. These yet-to-be fulfilled prophecies show that very dark times will come upon the people of Israel even before the Tribulation occurs upon God's chosen people.

In a 1982 Prophetic Report on Iran, Dr. Martin wrote about those who believe they are doing God's will to lead, control, coerce, and even kill in God's name:

"I have personally known people who have been Christians (or claimed to be Christians) who also feel they have divine missions to carry out things at the end of the age. They may be, but some of those people are the most dangerous on earth, [why?] because they can justify almost anything they feel or do to further the cause of God.

Have we ever read in the Bible where it says that Christians at the end of the age will be killed, and people would think that they would be serving God? Jesus said, "**Yea, the time comes, that whosoever kills you will think that he does God service**" (John 16:2).

The only way that can happen is when individuals in charge of nations, or peoples, or churches, or whatever, feel that they have divine commissions to carry out to promote the teachings of the Gospel, or of Islam, or some other divine institution here on this earth. They feel that they have all the powers of God behind them. In fact, those are some of the most dangerous people you can deal with."

The situation in the area of Iraq and Iran was discussed in my April 2006 Commentary, "[Iran in Focus.](#)" Then I wrote about "[Iran and Nuclear Weapons](#)" in an October 2009 Commentary.

Note the map below shows the scale of the territory of Iran compared to its western neighbors. I thought it interesting that as you look at a map, the countries to the west of Iran diminish in size and population, until you come to the comparatively tiny country of Israel. (I quote a portion of the commentary below.)

Israel, Syria, Iraq, and Iran

Commentary for April 17, 2009 — Comparisons and Relationships

The nature of the modern nations of Syria, Iraq, Iran, and Afghanistan can be understood somewhat better by noting some comparisons between the countries of this important area. The territories comprising Syria and Iraq decrease in size going from Iran west. Afghanistan to the east is half the size of Iran.

The Euphrates River, currently within Iraq, along with the Tigris River formed the homeland for the riverine civilizations of ancient Ur, Assyria, and Babylon. In the future the Euphrates River will become important to everyone in the world (Revelation 9:14–21, 16:12–14). Iran today comprises most of the original ancient land of Persia. Afghanistan directly influences this area of the world, and will do so even more in the future.¹



Conflict Relationships

While conflict in Iraq seems to be winding down, conflict in Afghanistan is increasing. Civil conflict in Iran is possible due to bad governance and mishandling of the economy by the Islamic fundamentalist rulers of Iran. The United States and allied countries have troops in both Iraq and Afghanistan, in other words on either side of Iran. The United States Navy dominates all sea approaches to Iran from the south potentially cutting off all sea-borne trade.

... Notice the physical relationship of these three countries to Israel and Palestine of the Bible. Iran dominates the land mass area in the Middle East. Going west from Iran, note that Iraq, Syria, and then Lebanon and Israel combined are noticeably and significantly smaller than Iran. The population ratios also reflect the same relationship: Iran the largest, then Iraq, Syria, then Israel and Lebanon with comparatively

¹ See Dr. Martin's articles "[Afghanistan \(Gog and Magog\)](#)," "[Iran in Focus](#)" and particularly his "[Iran in Prophecy](#)" article. The first and third articles have a Byte Show audio accompanying each of them. See also Dr. Martin's "[The Damascus Phase of End-Time Prophecy.](#)" and "[Prophetic Geography and the Time of the End](#)" for more prophetic information for countries in the future Middle East.

tiny populations.

Iran dominates the area in terms of population. Note the population differences between Iraq and Afghanistan. The population of Iran is double that of Iraq and Afghanistan. In fact, the population of Iran is greater than Iraq and Afghanistan combined. Note the literacy rates of the various countries, how high it is in Syria, Iran, and Iraq, and how low it is in Afghanistan, particularly education for females. Read and take note of the interesting details and relationships in this chart and Iran's status in the region:

At present the eyes of the world are focused on Iraq, Iran, and Afghanistan. Soon the focus will proceed even more west to Syria, Lebanon, the future Palestinian state, and increasingly upon Israel itself, Jerusalem in particular, and most specifically the true site of the Temple within Jerusalem. The importance of international geography will increase as we approach the time of Christ's return. Relationships and interplay between the relative size of countries, their populations, languages, religion, ethnic groups, and literacy rates within countries — each of these factors have their importance and will play a role in future biblical events. Borders will begin to change to the final status.

Table 1: Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan Comparisons [important facts in blue]^a

	Syria	Iraq	Iran	Afghanistan
Area	185,180 sq km	437,072 sq km	1,648,000 sq km	647,500 sq km
Population	20 million	29 million	66+ million	33+ million
Languages	Arabic ; Kurdish, Armenian, Aramaic, Circassian; some French, English	Arabic , Kurdish, Turkoman (a Turkish dialect), Assyrian (Neo-Aramaic), Armenian	Persian and Persian dialects 58% , Turkic dialects 26%, Kurdish 9%	Afghan Persian or Dari 50% , Pashto 35%, Turkic languages (Uzbek & Turkmen) 11%
Religion	Sunni Muslim 74% , other Muslim 16%, Christian 10%	Sunni Muslim 32%-37% , Shia Muslim 60%-65%	Sunni Muslim 9% Shia Muslim 89%	Sunni Muslim 80% Shia Muslim 19%
Ethnic Groups	Arab 90.3% , other 9.7%	Arab 75%-80% , Kurdish 15%-20%	Persian 51% , Azeri 24%, Gilaki/Mazandarani 8%, Kurd 7%, Arab 3%	Pashtun 42% , Tajik 27%, Hazara 9%, Uzbek 9%
Literacy	total: 79.6% male: 86% female: 73.6%	total: 74.1% male: 84.1% female: 64.2%	total: 77% male: 83.5% female: 70.4%	total: 28.1% male: 43.1% female: 12.6%

Source: "[CIA World Factbook](#)," retrieved April 2009, updated periodically.

The ability to communicate with the world, settling of religious disputes, ethnic peace, and the ability to read the Bible in various languages all will take place before Christ returns. The stage is being set for major changes in these important countries. The players are approaching the stage. Soon the star players of the performance will come on the world stage. Pray that soon we will be able to identify individuals indicated in the Bible as soon as possible so we can understand where they fit in the plot of end-time events.

Thank You

Thank you for your prayers, expressions of support, and contributions. All of them give us the means to regularly produce a wide range of biblical studies by Dr. Martin, and even new research based on his works. The truths that "open up" and make Scripture clear, are provided, God willing, to have wide distribution as God chooses. As you likely know, true happiness and fulfillment is only to be found in God: "**Blessed** ["happy" in Hebrew] **is every one that fears the Lord; that walks in his ways**" (Psalm 128:1).

Thank you for helping us get this information to the world, information that is desperately needed. Some readers, such as those in Iran, risk much to learn about the Bible, Christ, and particularly the Gospel of Christ, the Messiah. The internet is a tool God can use to reach people one at a time as He leads them. We are grateful for your support in this task. We have all been chosen to give as we receive.

Enjoy and learn from this month's article. The future of Israel will be different than you may have thought was taught in the Bible.

David Sielaff
david@askelm.com