

Associates for Scriptural Knowledge • P.O. Box 25000, Portland, OR 97298-0990 USA  
 © ASK, January 2018 • All rights reserved • Number 1/18

**Telephone: 503 292 4352**

• **Internet: [www.askelm.com](http://www.askelm.com)** •

**E-Mail: [askoffice@askelm.com](mailto:askoffice@askelm.com)**

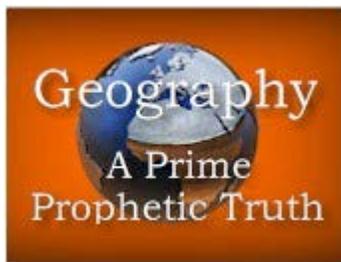
# Geography, A Prime Prophetic Truth

by Ernest L. Martin, Ph.D., September 1990

Transcribed and edited by David Sielaff, January 2018

Read first January 1, 2018 Commentary, "[Who, What, Where](#)"

Then read the "[January 2018 Newsletter](#)"



**This article<sup>1</sup> concerns a very important prophetic indication, but one which is not only neglected by most prophetic interpreters today, it seems to be avoided altogether. That subject involves what could be called “prophetic geography.” That is, where will end-time events take place, and to whom. To what peoples will those end-time prophecies pertain? Many people are confused about this subject. It is no wonder they are confused over prophetic teachings today when this prime prophetic truth is not comprehended by the majority of prophetic teachers.**

Let me explain what I mean, and give what all reasonable people can understand. Look at Matthew chapter 24 which is the Olivet Prophecy given by our Lord. He gives some indications here dealing clearly with the end time, the time that you and I are looking to see on the horizon at the present. He gave this to His disciples about two days before His crucifixion on the Mount of Olives. Though it had some relevance back in the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD, the questions they asked Him pertained to the end time, the end of the age. In the King James Version, it is called the “end of the world,” but it means “end of the age,” the time of His coming, His *parousia*, His second advent into this world.

They wanted to know those answers and He gave them teachings that would reveal those things to them.:

**“And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, ‘Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of your coming, and of the end of the world?’”**

• **Matthew 24:3**

## ***The Abomination and the Tribulation***

He had just told them that Jerusalem and the Temple were to be utterly destroyed. Then Jesus began to answer them and He gave them quite a number of factors. In verse 14, He says:

<sup>1</sup> The original title of the source audiotape of this article was “A Prime Prophetic Truth.” I added the word “Geography” at the beginning. DWS

“**And this gospel** [good news] **of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come. When you therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso reads, let him understand** [reading Daniel’s prophecies]).

**Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take anything out of his house: Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! But pray you that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day: For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.”**

• *Matthew 24:14–21*

That verse is a quote from Daniel 12:1. There can only be one such time. It has to be unique because it says the time of great tribulation had never happened before and will never happen again. That one time according to Daniel, is at the end of the age. We see in this context given by Christ that the disciples wanted to know about end-time affairs.<sup>2</sup>

What is the problem I am talking about when it comes to “a prime prophetic truth”? I said it involves the question of prophetic geography. Note, geography. Many people today feel that geography is a subject that can be studied in high school or perhaps in college, but it is not important when it comes to biblical prophetic matters.

Let me tell you, the understanding of proper geography is **one** of the three cardinal ways to understand history. Prophecy is nothing more than history recorded in advance. **Another** happens to be chronological matters, the need to know when things will occur as well as where they will occur. The **third** factor of history is the events themselves.

Those events must be put into a geographical and chronological framework for us to understand the consequences of any teachings based in history, and of course, prophecy is history recorded in advance.

### *Proper Identification of Places in Prophetic Geography*

The subject I am talking about here is the dismal effect of the lack of prophetic geography being considered relative to the end time. The reason I mention these verses and do not explain the totality of the prophecy (most of us have been aware of this for some time), is that I am selecting only a few items to bring out a principle.

The principle is this: Jesus **did not say** in verse 15, “when you therefore shall see the abomination of desolation (spoken of by Daniel the prophet) stand in St. Peter’s in Rome.” He did not say that. He did not say, when you see it stand in the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. He did not say St. Paul’s Cathedral in London. He said when you see the abomination of desolation stand in the holy place. He even said, where Daniel said it should be. Daniel was talking in his time of the prophecy concerning the abomination of desolation about Jerusalem and a future Temple there.

In the Book of Truth recorded in chapters 11 and 12 of Daniel, we have a whole section given by Daniel where he clearly shows there will be an abomination of desolation placed in the Temple in Jerusalem. Jerusalem is under discussion and so is the Temple. Let us not look any place else, Christ tells us, Daniel tells us, and we have it recorded in Matthew for us.

At that time He says, then when that abomination of desolation is seen in the Holy Place in Jerusalem, that is in the Temple, “**Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains.**” He did not say those who are in the Po River Valley flee to the Alps. He did not say for the people of England to flee to the Welsh mountains. He did not say for us who are here in the western part of the United States to flee to the Sierra Nevada Mountains. He said those in Judea to flee unto the mountains. If they are going to flee, it says they should pray that they flee not in the winter or on the sabbath day. This means the mountains must be close

<sup>2</sup> For detailed analysis of the Olivet Prophecy, see Dr. Martin’s 1987 article “[Essentials of Prophetic Understanding.](#)” DWS

enough that they can get there within six days.

**“Pray you that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day.”** It is also interesting that the sabbath will be in existence at that time in Judea. It will not be very pleasant if you have to flee on the sabbath, because at that time whoever is there will be the false Christ. He will put into effect the very laws of God. That is, he will misuse them; he will abuse them. He will be so clever in what he gives to the people in Judea and Jerusalem, and the people worshipping at the Temple at that time, they will think that man is no less than Christ Jesus returned from heaven.

The antichrist will put in the sabbath day as a day to keep, as a mandatory command. There is nothing wrong with the sabbath day of itself, but on the other hand, we are told that Jesus Christ is the one who has done the works for us, to get us saved. Our salvation is not dependent upon our works, whether they be good or bad. We should do good works all the time. We are created to do good works (Ephesians 2:10). Good works have nothing to do with our salvation.

You should pray if (1) you are in Judea, (2) at this time in history when the abomination of desolation is placed in the holy place. You should pray when you flee Judea that it will not be in winter, nor on the sabbath, so you can find a proper refuge wherever you go in the mountains. Those mountains must be close enough to Judea that you can make it within six days. That is just a simple teaching of Christ.

The geography here is most important. What I am trying to show from this example is do not take these prophecies into the United States, nor take them to South America, or to Tokyo, Japan, or to Sydney, Australia, or anywhere else. Keep them where Daniel and Christ said they will occur.

Many people today are doing just the opposite. They take prophecy after prophecy in the Old Testament, and many prophecies in the Book of Revelation and other sections of the New Testament, and what they do is transport the prophecies wholesale to other areas of the world. It is no wonder they are presenting confused and misunderstood teachings to the world and to themselves. It is time this prophetic geography is properly understood. In this same prophecy recorded in Luke, a few different principles are given:

**“And when you shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh.**

**Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out [of Jerusalem]; and let not them that are in the countries [adjacent to Jerusalem] enter thereinto [meaning into Jerusalem] ...”**

• **Luke 21:20–21**

Do not go into Jerusalem. Get out of Judea. Go to the mountains. Jerusalem will be encircled with armies. Do I have to belabor this matter? I think all of us are aware that in these Scriptures the “Jerusalem” being talked of, the “Judea” being talked of, and “the mountains” being talked of, are in Palestine and you can go see them yourself today.

These prophecies have to do with that area of the world. It would be silly to transport them to other regions when Christ Jesus, Daniel, and others said exactly where these events will take place and when they will take place as well.

Jerusalem is presently made up of many races and nationalities. There is hardly a city on earth more diverse than Jerusalem — perhaps New York, maybe London — but Jerusalem, because of its interest to people all over the earth, there are representatives there from almost every race that you can find on earth. People are very interested in Jerusalem. You can find Jews, Arabs, Armenians, Copts, Egyptians, Americans, English, Russians, Germans, on and on. You find them in Judea, but principally in Jerusalem.

There are so many people today who say the prophecies really have to do with the descendants of the ancient peoples of the early times, that the prophecies given by Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Amos, Hosea, and others, that they were talking about, it is the peoples of modern times being discussed in those prophecies. Well, that may be, if those people happen to be in the lands the prophecies are talking about. If they are not in the lands being discussed in prophecy, if people are not there, the prophecies do not pertain to them at all. It pertains to people who are in those lands at the time of the prophetic fulfillment.

I want you to notice here in Matthew and in Luke; Jesus did not single out any races at all. He simply said that if anyone is in Jerusalem, if anyone is in Judea, get out, if you want to believe Me. I tell you, I do not care what race you are, if you are a Christian at the time being discussed, you better get out if you want to have the physical salvation that God is talking about.

In this case, the prophecies pertain to specific locations on earth which are clearly delineated by Christ Himself. Those locations are where we should focus our attention. So many teachers abuse this subject. It means we should stay in the geographical areas that the prophecies are about in the first place. Do not transport them in part or wholesale to other areas of the world where we think their descendants are living at present.

It is common today for many prophetic interpreters to say that the prophecies really talk about the people, wherever they are in the world from 2,000 years ago when Christ spoke, or back some 2,500 years ago when Jeremiah and Ezekiel wrote, or even earlier than that.<sup>3</sup> They think these prophecies talk about the people in a racial or a national way. In fact, if we read the prophecies carefully we find the vast majority of prophecies in the Old and the New Testaments have to do with lands — areas on earth.

Of course they talk about the people in the land. They talk about the problems of the people on the land. They talk about famines, pestilence, or wars that might take place against those people, and the people will either suffer, or go by the advice of Christ and get out of those lands and be saved from the problems. That is true, but it is the lands being discussed in these prophetic contexts and not essentially the people themselves, that is racially or even nationally. That is what we must understand.

### *Misplacing Prophecies*

This matter of prophetic geography is a prime prophetic truth. There are people today, and I mean vast numbers of them, who believe that Israel is no longer in the Middle East exclusively, that the Jews do not make up Israel today, or people called Jews, but that the Jews are only one tribe of Israel. That happens to be the case as far as a racial Jew is concerned.

They say that Israelites, the northern ten tribes in the Assyrian period of the 8<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> centuries BC were taken into Assyria. Some stayed there in the north. From there they supposedly migrated across Russia as we know it today. Some of them purportedly went by way of the Mediterranean. They found themselves finally in Central Europe, and some of the coastlands of Spain, North Africa, and from there they journeyed on until they got to the British Isles and into Scandinavia, and there they settled, and became great nations.

When the New World was discovered, the English, the Irish, the Scots, and others moved, along with certain Germans and Dutch, Danes, French, Italians, and so forth, into the New World, into Canada and the United States. Now they say we have Israelites as powerful nations and that at the end time these nations in Great Britain, northwestern Europe, and the United States are being discussed in the prophecies of the Bible.

When they read prophecies in Isaiah, Ezekiel, Jeremiah, or in others, some of the prime prophecies dealing with Israel at the end time, they just transport those prophecies wholesale into the United States, Great Britain, or other countries. For some strange reason they get Jerusalem to be London or Washington D.C.

My goodness, they are violating one of the cardinal rules of prophetic geography. They are absolutely denigrating this prime prophetic truth in Scripture that when Jerusalem is mentioned by name, unless some way, somehow, there is a special allegorical meaning to it, which is explained, it always means Jerusalem which is in Palestine. Clearly that is the case.

When it talks about Israel, when it talks about Judah — it means the lands of Judah, it means the lands of Israel. It does not mean somewhere over in Mt. Poconos in Pennsylvania or in the Welsh mountains. It simply does not. That uses interpretations as wrong as a three-dollar bill to use an old expression.

They do not stop there. They take Assyrians, some of them, out of Assyria in northern Mesopotamia, and they take them up into Germany, and some — believe it or not — even say the Assyrians are modern Germans, and that all the prophecies of Assyria, though they mention the River Tigris in the Middle East, it makes no

---

<sup>3</sup> Dr. Martin's 1996 article, "[Mosaic Prophecies for the End Time](#)" discusses some of the earliest prophecies. DWS

difference, they just call that the River Rhine. Yes, they do that.

Babylon, where the Babylonians were, these teachers moved to Italy. While it is true that many Babylonians go to Italy in history, so do people from Syria and other places,<sup>4</sup> but Italy is not Babylon. No, Babylon is right there on the Euphrates River and it is prophesied at the end of the age to come back into power in the Middle East.<sup>5</sup> We find Iraq at this very time [in September 1990, before the first Gulf War of 1991, *DWS*] and Sadaam Hussein, the ruler there, saying he wants to build back Iraq into the Mesopotamian power held by Nebuchadnezzar, the ancient King of Babylon who took the Jews captive in the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC.

They call themselves Mesopotamians. They call themselves Babylonians. You go to Iraq, if you could, you cannot get in right now, but you see huge posters showing Sadaam Hussein as a great Arab defender of the people. He was Arab, but Sadaam compares himself alongside with a picture of Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon. He says he is the successor of Nebuchadnezzar. He is right.

The prophecies in the Bible in most cases deal with the lands of the Middle East. After all, the Bible prophecies deal with the Middle East primarily. It is true that the prophecies deal with the peoples who dwell in the lands, but the prophecies themselves concern the geographical boundaries of those lands. It makes no difference what peoples are living there at the time the prophecies are to take place, they will all be affected by those prophecies, because the prophecies deal almost exclusively with the lands of the Middle East.

### *The Immanuel Prophecy as an Example*

Look at the Immanuel Prophecy in Isaiah chapters 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12. That prophecy is about Jesus Christ, the Immanuel to come into the world hundreds of years after Isaiah gave the prophecy, but it is couched in language dealing with the 8<sup>th</sup> century BC. It has the geography associated with it, which is also the geography that Isaiah, who lived in Jerusalem, was very familiar with.

It also has nations with boundaries discussed that were very much in existence in the time of Isaiah. It mentions Assyria, Syria, Israel, Judah, Judea, and Jerusalem. It mentions all of that in this long multi-chapter Immanuel prophecy. Immanuel means **“God with us”** (Matthew 1:23), the Christ child born of the seed of Isaac and David who was to come into the world.

When I have taken people to the Middle East, one tour I like to take them on is just north of Jerusalem. When we go up about 6 to 7 miles north of Jerusalem, I take people to the very region this prophecy of Immanuel is talking about. I can show you the very hills, valleys, villages, mountains, just point to them that Isaiah was talking about in this prophecy here. Do you know where many people want to put this prophecy at the end time? It is clearly a prophecy dealing with the advent of Christ. In chapter 11 of Isaiah, the second coming of Christ is mentioned, and Paul even refers to it in 2 Thessalonians chapter 2.

Many people take this prophecy and transport it to wherever they think Israelites are today. That means Great Britain, the United States, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and other places. It is nonsense to do so when Isaiah himself even gave indications to hills and valleys, and I can take you to them myself.

Let me show you. Isaiah speaks about an Assyrian coming against Judah and Jerusalem at the end of the age. This part of the Immanuel prophecy dealing with the end time has never been fulfilled in history. Look at Isaiah 10:28 and forward, speaking about this Assyrian, this man of sin, the one coming to shake his fist against the Messiah out of Jesse and His branch who will be in Jerusalem at the time. It speaks about this Assyrian in verse 28, the pronoun “he” is used, but earlier in verse 24 he is called **“the Assyrian”** in charge of the Assyrian army:

**“He is come to Aiath [Ai], he is passed to Migron; at Michmash he has laid up his carriages: They are gone over the passage: they have taken up their lodging at Geba ...”**

• *Isaiah 10:28–29*

<sup>4</sup> The migration of Babylonian people and Syrian people to Italy and other places in Europe is shown in Dr. Martin’s book, *The People That History Forgot* (Portland, OR: ASK Publications, 1993). It can be read free online. *DWS*

<sup>5</sup> See *“Will Babylon be Rebuilt?”* by F.E. March (1925), and *“The Rebirth of Babylon”* by Dr. Martin (2002). *DWS*

**Aiath** (or Ai) is about 15 miles north of Jerusalem where the mound of the ancient city of Ai was located. I can take you to the little village of **Michmash** to this very day. The Arab name of this village is “Mikmush,” the same word as the Hebrew.

For **Geba**, there is a passageway between Geba on one hill and Michmash on another hill. I can take you there. In between is a passage. Usually, what I do since there is a roadway that goes right down between Geba and Michmash, I have the bus drive right down there and stop in the passageway. I read this prophecy to the people.

Yet some who read this prophecy (since it deals with Israel and “the Assyrian” at the end time), they feel compelled to call the Assyrian a German, and call Israelites the people of the United States and Britain. They believe this will all take place some way, somehow, between Germans and the English and Americans, and maybe some South Africans put in somewhere. They actually believe and teach it. It is utter nonsense.

I can take you to the very spot, show you these places, and point to them as if Isaiah was there. If he was resurrected from the dead, he could do the same thing. Isaiah’s prophecy has the Assyrian going on to Ramah, **“Ramah is afraid”** (verse 29); where I have been many times. I lived over 5 summers about ¼ of a mile from Ramah. I know the village.

**“Gibeah of Saul is fled”** (verse 29). Gibeah is the ancient capital of Israel in the time of King Saul. I used to drive to work by Gibeah every day, hundreds of times.

**“Lift up your voice, O daughter of Gallim: cause it to be heard unto Laish, O poor Anathoth”** (verse 30). Anathoth is just north of Jerusalem, a little to the east. Jeremiah was born there. I have been there many times.

**“Madmenah is removed; the inhabitants of Gebim gather themselves to flee. As yet shall he remain at Nob that day”** (verses 31–32). It will take him one day to get from the passage of Michmash, about five miles north of Jerusalem, to the place of Nob.

Nob is easily identified. It was a priest city on Mount Scopus overlooking the city of Jerusalem in the time of Isaiah. I can take you to that very spot today. When the Assyrian gets there, **“... he shall shake his hand against the mount of the daughter of Zion, the hill of Jerusalem”** (Isaiah 10:32).<sup>6</sup> This is not the Poconos in Pennsylvania. It is not somewhere in the Welsh mountains. It is not London, or Berlin, or Tokyo. It is Jerusalem. Leave these prophecies where they belong. I tell you when you think about what people have done to the prophecies and tearing them to pieces, it is an abysmal shame. It is no wonder people do not understand what is going on.

Consider Jeremiah chapters 27 and 50 (and I could refer you to other Scriptures as well); if you look at those two prophecies carefully, invariably they have to do with the lands being discussed. Of course, they have to do with the peoples inhabiting those lands, we know that. Yet who is inhabiting them?

If they are Israelites, they will be involved, and in most cases they were back in Judea, it would have been Jews and Israelites, but what if there were some Ethiopians there? They would be involved also. It does not make any difference who, those in the land will experience the prophecies.

You look at those prophecies and in almost all occasions they have to do with the lands, the lands are being judged in most cases. In Jeremiah God said in 2 Chronicles 36:19–21 that because the Jews and the Israelites had violated the sabbatical rest of the land for 390 previous years (going back to the time of Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon), God said, I will give the lands their sabbatical rest for 70 years. It had nothing to do with the people. It was the lands that rested.

It did have to do with the people in this sense, YHWH would take the people out of the land and take them to Babylon. They will stay there for 70 years and this land of Judah will maintain its sabbaticals. It was the land being discussed.

If the land was judged, no matter what race or nationality of people inhabit that land, they will be judged with that land. Let us keep the lands beings discussed in the proper place. Let us not take them to other areas

---

<sup>6</sup> For information to show the nonsense of the British/Israel theory that the white people of Britain and the USA are supposed to be descendants of Israelites from Palestine — see the three of Dr. Martin’s articles that deal with this subject: [“Just Who Is an Israelite Today?”](#), [“Who Are the Northern Ten Tribes of Israel Today?”](#), and [“Is David’s Throne in Existence Today?”](#) DWS

in the world. Whatever we do, do not look on these lands, prophecies about the land of Israel, the land of Judah, the land of Babylon, the land of Elam, the land of Media, the land of Assyria, the land of Egypt, need I go on, the lands are being discussed as are the people dwelling on the lands at that time.

It is the land that is the prime subject of these prophecies and it makes no difference what race of people or nationalities of people are dwelling in those lands at the time those prophecies are to be fulfilled, those lands will be judged along with the peoples who are there.

We have lands over in Palestine or in the Middle East at the present time that we do not find many people in anymore of the ancient times like Moabites, Ammonites, and others. However, those lands of Edom, Moab, and Ammon still exist in the Middle East, but with modern names.

There are prophecies for the end time concerning those lands. The people dwelling on those lands at those times will be judged as the lands are judged, or blessed as the lands are blessed according to their actions at the time.<sup>7</sup> It makes no difference what race they are. This is the prime key to understanding biblical prophecy.

### *An Example in the United States*

Let me give you an example we in the United States can understand pretty well, how areas which had people in them in the past by race or by nation, those people can disappear from that area. They leave their name on that land, other peoples come in, settle on that land, take over the name of the people formerly there, and they are not the racial descendants of the original people. We have this happening time and time again in history.

Here in the United States in the early 1600s in the area later known as Boston, Massachusetts, there were Indians who lived there, about 3,000 in number. They were called the Massachusetts Indians. Because of wars, famine, and pestilence, by 1631 they were reduced to 500 in number. Most converted to Catholicism, some to Protestantism, and they became known as “praying Indians.” They settled in about five or six towns round about Boston.

Because they were “praying Indians” and now Catholics and Protestants, other Indians thought of them as traitors, so they went to war with them and started killing them. They were reduced further in number. The English in the 1670s who controlled that area thought the remaining Massachusetts Indians were adherents to another Indian chief called “King Philip” and they went to war with them and wiped them out to a man. There is not a Massachusetts Indian or a descendant of them left any more.

You can go to the State of Massachusetts and you would offend about six million people if you said they were not from Massachusetts people. Of course they are, but now they are made up of English, Irish, Greeks, Italians, Portuguese, Germans, and all the others, and they are citizens of the State of Massachusetts and that is what they call themselves. Yet the original Indians are gone completely.

That has happened in country after country in various areas of the world. If a prophecy for the end time will be made against Massachusetts (I don’t know of any, this is an example), those Massachusetts Indians cannot be part of it, because they disappeared completely. But the prophecy on Massachusetts as a geographical area would take place because God says it will, right on time. The people who are there would be considered to be those under the judgment or blessing of the prophecy. People come and go in various lands, but the lands stay the same, and the prophecies generally refer to the land.

### *The Book of Truth in Daniel*

Look at a certain end time prophecy in Daniel 10:11–12. It is a prophecy about the Book of Truth or the end time. This is important to recognize because in Daniel chapter 10 this prophecy was given to Daniel. It had to be interpreted by the angel Gabriel. The interpretation starts in chapter 11:

**“Behold, there shall stand up yet three kings in Persia; and the fourth shall be far richer than all: and by his strength through his riches he shall stir up all against the realm of Grecia [Javan in**

---

<sup>7</sup> Dr. Martin’s article, “[The Repentance of God and Influencing God](#)” explains how God is just and can be influenced. DWS

Hebrew]. **And a mighty king shall stand up** [out of the Greek empire], **that shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will.**

**And when he shall stand up, his kingdom shall be broken, and shall be divided toward the four winds of heaven; and not to his posterity, nor according to his dominion which he ruled: for his kingdom shall be plucked up, even for others beside those.”**

• *Daniel 11:2–4*

When does this Book of Truth have its fulfillment? Look at the introduction to this long prophecy, the longest in the Bible giving a consecutive prophecy from one point to the resurrection of the dead and the Kingdom of God on earth. Daniel was told earlier in chapter 10: **“Now I [Gabriel] am come to make you understand what shall befall your people in the latter days: for yet the vision is for many days** [far in the future]” (Daniel 10:14).

This Kingdom of Grecia will be divided to the four winds. Then will emerge two major kingdoms known as the Kingdom of the South and the Kingdom of the North. In Daniel 11:5 down to verse 19, only one King of the North is discussed. This has no historical relevance back in the 4<sup>th</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, or 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries BC as most scholars feel today. These verses are not dealing with the Seleucid Kingdom that had its capital primarily at Antioch in Syria. Those verses have to do with the end time. Only one King of the North is discussed.

In verses 5 and 6 the King of the South is mentioned. Between Daniel 11:5 and verse 19 you have two kings of the South (not eight as most people think). There is no historical basis to this at all. This is a future prophecy about two kings of the South.

- In Daniel 11:20 it speaks about the King of the North finally dying.
- Another King of the North will come, will rule for a short time, and be destroyed.
- He will be followed by, **“a vile person”** in Daniel 11:21, the last King of the North. This **“vile person”** sets up the abomination of desolation in the Holy Place in Matthew chapter 24 and Luke chapter 21.

Not only does the **“vile person”** set up that abomination of desolation, in verse 36 he calls himself a “king,” a king of great power because he takes a position of godhood upon himself. In fact, he overthrows all of the deities of the world and assumes to be God Himself on earth. We know from other Scriptures he will call himself the divine Christ. He will rule as the antichrist. He will look like Christ. This is the very person the apostle Paul called **“the man of sin ... the son of perdition”** (2 Thessalonians 2:3). He will have such power that the people will say, we cannot make war with this man.

What will this man do? The prophecy deals with an area of land that we must be concerned with. Egypt is mentioned, dealing with the King of the South. Jerusalem is mentioned. We find a land mentioned on three different occasions that we can identify if we are very careful. This is what we must do. What is that land? In Daniel 11:16 it is called **“the glorious land”** or “the beautiful land” as it is in Hebrew. The first King of the North will have something to do with this **“glorious land.”** The third and last King of the North also will have something to do with this **“glorious land.”** At the very end when he proclaims his godhood:

**“He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon.”**

• *Daniel 11:41*

Those lands east of the Jordan River will escape his attack, but **“the glorious land”** will not escape:

**“And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him.**

**And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which stands for the children of your people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time ...”**

• *Daniel 11:45–12:1*

Remember Christ said that, and then a resurrection from the dead will take place. This is an end time scenario.

In verse 45 it says geographically speaking, **“he shall plant his tabernacle,”** his tent, his palace **“between the seas in the glorious holy mountain.”** What is that mountain? It is **“glorious.”** It is in the land of Palestine, but **“the glorious land”** is much greater than just Palestine as we will see in a few moments.

The seas being discussed would be the Mediterranean Sea on the west and the Dead Sea on the east. In the middle of the Holy Mountain in Jerusalem is the Temple. He will establish his palace in that Temple. Paul said in 2 Thessalonians 2:3–4, when you see this man sit in the holy place where he ought not to be, then we find **“the man of sin”** and **“the man of perdition.”** Jesus Christ soon will come into this earth to put down rebellion and overcome this **“man of sin.”** It goes on in Daniel chapter 12 that there will be this **“time of trouble,”** the resurrection from the dead, and the Kingdom of God will emerge on earth with the great Messiah ruling in peace, the true Christ. This prophecy of the Book of Truth from Daniel 11:5 through the end of chapter 12 has geographical terms that we can understand.

I will show you where **“the glorious land”** is. It not only encompasses Palestine, but it covers a much larger area. And yes, Jerusalem and Palestine are prominent. I will show you things in prophecy you never saw before. You will be able to understand, perhaps,

- what is happening in the Middle East [in 1990],
- why Iraq went into Kuwait,
- why Saudi Arabia does not want any foreigners, not even Arabs, coming into their land,
- why we have the nations of the world coming in unison to put down Iraq’s invasion.

When you look at this prophecy, this **“glorious land”** not only involves Palestine, it involves other areas in the Middle East. The promise given to Abraham for **“the glorious land”** is far more extensive than most people have thought. This is something for us to understand, because prophecy will be made clearer as the end of the age comes closer. We are told at the end of the prophecy in Daniel 12:4 and 9, that the knowledge of these prophecies of the Book of Truth will be clearer as time goes on.

### ***“The Glorious Land”***

**“The glorious land”** is the central land of prophecy in the entire Bible. **“The glorious land”** in Daniel’s **“Book of Truth”** prophecy deals with the end time. It makes no difference what people dwell in those lands. When prophecy says the lands will suffer judgment or will reap blessings, in fact the people living there at the time will receive those judgments or blessings.

In most cases if the land of Israel is being discussed, the principal people would be Israelites, normally speaking. So too for the land of Judah, the people living there would be affected. The same for the land of Assyria, or Babylon, or wherever. Still we must recognize that the prophecies themselves have to do with principally the land, whatever people live there.

People can come and go on those lands, but we here in America are a very mobile people ourselves. In the last 15 years, I moved ten different times to end up here in Portland, Oregon. The house I was in 10 years ago, I do not know who lives there now, nor in the other nine houses. Those houses, if there were so-called prophecies associated with them (there are none, this is an example), I am not in those houses any longer, someone else lives there. It is the same dealing with the lands of prophecies of the Bible at the end time.

### ***Peoples Returning to their Original Lands***

We read in the Bible that people who were distributed throughout the world as wanderers will return to those lands. That is what is happening now with the Israelites. They are coming by the tens of thousands back to Palestine, back to the land of Canaan, back to their homeland, back to part of **“the glorious land”** mentioned in the Book of Daniel. Read Acts 17:26, God places people wherever He wishes.

We find others who want a homeland of their own, such as the Philistines (the Palestinians)<sup>8</sup> and others

---

<sup>8</sup> The Palestinians will have their own nation. See Dr. Martin’s 2001 article [“The Prophesied State of Palestine.”](#) DWS

wanting the same thing. We need to look at the time period of these prophecies. Many will be fulfilled at this end time in ways that may surprise people, but principally we have to look at the lands. People come and go in various lands, but the lands stay in the same places they always have been.

Daniel's Book of Truth mentions this **"glorious land."** If we can find out what that is, it will help in interpreting **"The Book of Truth"** prophecy in Daniel 11:5 down through Daniel 12:4. To find the dimensions of that **"glorious land,"** also called **"the beautiful land"** (which includes Palestine) you must go back to Genesis chapter 12 to the time of Abram whose name God changed to Abraham. He was called out of Ur of the Chaldees. God told him He would make a great nation out of Abram: **"And I will bless them that bless you, and curse him that curses you: and in you shall all families of the earth be blessed"** (Genesis 12:3).

The people of Abraham will be a blessing to others in the world. If people curse the descendants of Abraham, they would in turn be cursed. This has a descendant theme, but it is not long until we get to the land being discussed. What is that land given to Abraham and what are its dimensions? Going on,

**"And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem, unto the plain of Moreh. And the Canaanite was then in the land."**

• **Genesis 12:6**

Here is the first prophecy having to do with **"the land"** itself:

**"And YHWH appeared unto Abram, and said, 'Unto your seed will I give this land': and there built he an altar unto YHWH, who appeared unto him."**

• **Genesis 12:7**

### ***The Extent of "the Glorious Land"***

The next prophecy about the land is in chapter 13:

**"For all the land which you see, to you will I give it, and to your seed for ever [unto the age]. And I will make your seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall your seed also be numbered. Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto you."**

• **Genesis 13:15–17**

The land is brought in, length and breadth. God did not tell him then what the length of it was or the breadth of it — not yet. We have to go farther. Go to chapter 15 where YHWH told him the dimensions:

**"In the same day YHWH made a covenant with Abram, saying, 'Unto your seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates.'"**

• **Genesis 15:18**

Now we have the dimensions of the land, north and south, given to Abram. These dimensions are further reinforced through chapters 17, 18, 19, and 20 until Isaac comes and then Jacob. Jacob with his twelve sons, all the way to their journey into Egypt, we find this land, and its dimensions, are given in full glory. Sometimes different words are used for a river here, but the dimensions of the land are clearly given in YHWH's first statement to Abram: **"from the river of Egypt,"** and in this case the Hebrew word is, *nachar*, a **"great river"** like **"the River Euphrates."** Both rivers are called by the word *nachar* and the Hebrew term means **"great river."**

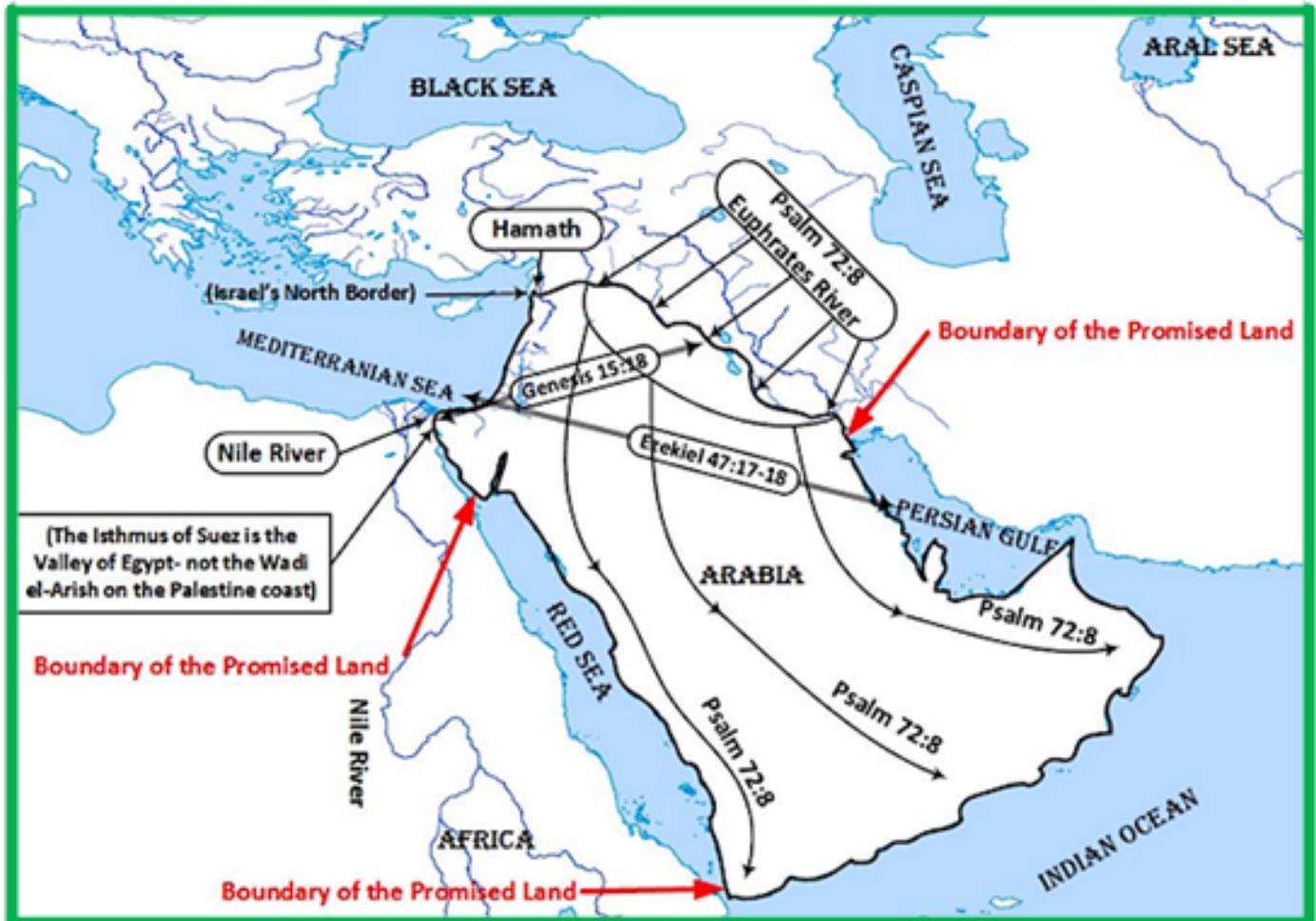
There can be no question the River Nile is meant (probably the eastern arm of the Nile Delta which today no longer exists), close to the present Suez Canal. It would indicate that the Suez Canal position, and a bit farther to the west toward Egypt, is the terminus to the southwestern portion of **"the land."** It also reaches north to **"the great river, the river Euphrates."** All that is **"the land"** God wants to give Abraham.

Up north, the River Euphrates makes a great bend you might say, around Mesopotamia on the western side, and there is a 150 to 200 mile gap where there is no river. But if you go over toward the Mediterranean coast, there is another river there called the River Orontes which comes from the Lebanese mountains northward and finally it turns into the ocean at a place called Antioch. On the seacoast in ancient times there was a town or a city called Seleucid. At that area it was known as the "Entrance to Hamas." Hamas was on the

Orontes River, upstream a little distance toward Lebanon, but the entrance to Hamas, the indication is given in Numbers 34:8, happens to be that area of Antioch in Syria, going to the Mediterranean coast.

The northern area of the land is far north to Antioch of Syria. In the New Testament, Christians were first called Christians at Antioch when Paul and others were up there. That is almost 400 miles north of Jerusalem. That is the dimension in the north of the land.

## “The Glorious Land” or “The Promised Land” ( from “[Prophetic Geography and the Time of the End](#)” )



The River Euphrates keeps going in a southeasterly direction until it gets all the way to the Persian Gulf. From the arm of the Nile, near the Suez Canal, if you continue south from there, it would include all of the Sinai Peninsula. This includes the whole Arabian Peninsula, because there is no dimension mentioned to the east. This means all of the Arabian Peninsula is part of “the glorious land” given to Abraham and his descendants. It was to include not only the land of Canaan, but also Tyre, Sidon, Damascus up to Antioch, all the way east to the Persian Gulf. This includes all of the Arabian Peninsula, around from Oman to Yemen and back up through the sacred cities of Islam (Mecca and Medina), up to and including the Sinai Peninsula and through what we call the Suez Canal today. There is no question that is what it means.

Some scholars say that the southwestern section of the “the glorious land” only goes to the Wadi el-Arish called “the Brook of Egypt.” In fact, if you look at it carefully, the dimensions of the land go farther to the west than that. They go all the way to the Nile, and that is what we should understand. That is what the ancient

rabbis knew. That is what Paul and the rest of them understood.<sup>9</sup>

### *For Israelites Only?*

Does that mean that the Israelites will have all of that land? No. Abram had other children who also receive the blessing of **“the glorious land.”**

Abram had a son by Hagar named Ishmael. Because Sarah and Hagar could not get along with one another, Ishmael and Hagar were sent off into the desert area. Hagar was a concubine of Abraham, but she was an Egyptian by race. Ishmael himself was half Egyptian. When she took Ishmael her son into the desert land, she sought out for him a wife. She got him an Egyptian wife. They had children, 12 Ishmaelite sons (Genesis 25:12–16) and at least one daughter who is named (Genesis 28:1). Ishmael’s children were three-quarters Egyptian. They had Abrahamic blood in them, but they were mostly Egyptian. It says they settled near their other brethren of the Israelites, in the area from Havilah to Shur which was next to Egypt (Genesis 25:18).

Havilah is mentioned in the first chapter of Genesis as one of the four rivers in the Garden of Eden. Havilah was an area of much gold (Genesis 2:11–12). It was just on the north side of the Persian Gulf in what is presently called the southeastern corner of Iran, all the way from there across the desert region until you come to the border of Egypt was where the Ishmaelites were to live.

It means they were to inhabit the entire Arabian Peninsula. That is not Israelite territory, but it is the territory of the twelve sons of Ishmael. They are of Abrahamic stock, though they have more Egyptian than Abrahamic blood in them. But they are still Abrahamic and they come under the blessings given to Abram.

**“The glorious land”** given to Abraham from the River Nile to the River Euphrates also includes that area, though it was given to the Ishmaelites. The two holy cities of Islam, Mecca and Medina, are in that area on the Red Sea coast. All Muslims, Arabs or not, worship toward Mecca and the sacred Kaaba stone at Mecca. The Islamic peoples themselves are looking toward **“the glorious land”** because to them it is not only Jerusalem and Palestine, but also this area of South Arabia given to the descendants of Abraham.

### *More Sons of Abraham*

Abraham not only had Ishmael as a son, he had another wife, a concubine named Keturah having six sons by her before Sarah died when Abraham was age 140. He then married Keturah. Sarah bore one son, Isaac. Abraham died at 175, his grandsons Jacob and his twin Esau,<sup>10</sup> both were of Abrahamic stock:

**“... unto the sons of the concubines [Hagar and Keturah], which Abraham had, Abraham gave gifts, and sent them away from Isaac his son, while he yet lived, eastward, unto the east country. ... the days of the years of Abraham’s life which he lived, an hundred threescore and fifteen years.”**

• **Genesis 25:6–7**

They were sent by Abraham into the east country to live, some went south as well, as the Midianites did, and they occupied this land between the rivers Nile and Euphrates. **“The glorious land”** given to Abraham was a rich land, a land of political importance, with a holiness attached to it. The world’s greatest oil reserves are located in that land. At this time [1990], the Israelis in the land of Canaan do not have such oil reserves.

In the empire of David and Solomon, though it did not embrace the entirety of the Arabian Peninsula, it still controlled it.<sup>11</sup> The Kingdom of Israel in the last years of David’s life and during the whole of Solomon’s 40 years controlled the western area of that land from the River Euphrates down to the River Nile. As a result, David and especially Solomon were able to control the entirety of the world at that time. We find **“the glorious**

<sup>9</sup> Today the Israeli flag, a blue and white flag, has in the middle of it the Star of David, the six-pointed star with two blue lines, one at the top of it laterally and the other at the bottom. I am told they denote two rivers. The river in the south is the Nile and the river in the north is the Euphrates, and that is exactly what God gave to Abraham in Genesis 15:18. *ELM*

<sup>10</sup> Esau’s descendants became the Edomites. See Dr. Martin’s article [“The Most Significant Gentile Nation in the Bible.”](#) *DWS*

<sup>11</sup> See Dr. Martin’s article [“How Israel Will Conquer the Middle East.”](#) Israel will not conquer by force. It will do so peacefully with the full willingness and cooperation of her neighbors. *DWS*

**land**” is far more extensive than just the land of Canaan. In fact, the Canaanite land is only part of the glorious land mentioned in Daniel chapters 11 and 12.

Do you realize that when Iraq invaded Kuwait, on the west side of the River Euphrates, that Iraq was already invading part of **“the glorious land”**? That is certainly interesting. I think we should keep our eyes on what is happening there.

When Daniel says the King of the North will invade the King of the South, and there will be various wars in **“the glorious land,”** many people have taken that to mean the land of Canaan is under discussion. That can be, but that is only part of it. Edom, Moab, and Ammon on the east side of the Jordan River are part of **“the glorious land.”** In one prophecy when the King of the North comes down to attack the King of the South, those lands will be free from the King of the North’s influence. This **“glorious land”** is extensive. It embraces the entirety of the Arabian Peninsula up to a line directly east from the Mediterranean coast to the Euphrates River at Antioch of Syria, and south then west all the way down to the River Nile.

The nations mentioned as living in that land when most of the prophecies were given like Moab and Ammon and Edom, people living now in those lands, at the time when those prophecies will be fulfilled mentioned in the Book of Daniel, they are considered as Moabites, as Ammonites, as Edomites because they are living in those lands.

The people in Iraq at present call themselves Babylonians and Mesopotamians. They exult in that fact. They are trying, through Sadaam Hussein, who has been and will continue, (or his successor will) to build up Babylon. Iran, which occupies most of the territory of ancient Persia is gaining power.<sup>12</sup> They are saying they want the ancient glory we had when we were under Cyrus. They do not consider themselves different people. They consider themselves the descendants and inheritors of the glories of the ancient Iranian past.

When you look in Daniel chapter 7 it even says at the end of the age that the Kingdom of Babylon will come back into power. The Persians will come back into power. It also says Javan, Greece, will come back into power. The three will be major powers at the end of the age. I think we are beginning to see some developments of that at present in the Middle East with Iran and Iraq.

We have not seen the end of it yet. Many prophecies of the end time have to take place, but they are not too many that we have to put them out way off hundreds of years. No, it will come probably quicker than many of us imagine. About a year ago [from 1991], no one would have imagined that the Berlin Wall would have been torn down, and the two nations of Germany would become one, and the Soviet Union would desire a democratic form of government and economic prowess.

Things can occur quickly and as the prophecies show will occur. In Daniel chapter 7, Daniel was given a prophecy and he saw four beasts come out of the sea: one was a lion, another a bear, another a leopard, another was a non-descript beast associated with iron. The first three beasts were to be taken over. It says:

**“As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time.”**

• **Daniel 7:12**

There will come a time in the future where the lion, representing Babylon; the bear, representing Persia; the leopard, representing Greece or Javan; they will return to power. That is shown in verse 15:

**“I Daniel was grieved in my spirit in the midst of my body, and the visions of my head troubled me. I came near unto one of them that stood by [one of the angelic watchers], and asked him the truth of all this. So he told me, and made me know the interpretation of the things.**

**“These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth.”**

• **Daniel 7:15–17**

The Babylonian Kingdom was already there in the earth when Daniel made this prophecy, but this is a

---

<sup>12</sup> See footnote #4 above regarding Babylon. Dr. Martin’s [“Iran in Prophecy”](#) article (1995) tells about Iran’s future. DWS

future rising at the end of the age when ten kings come out of this beastly image. Then those ten kings will be led by one man, a little horn who will speak great things against God Almighty for a time, times, and a half a time. Then we find that the judgment, the Christ, the Messiah will come and put him down, and then the Kingdom of God will emerge on earth (Daniel 7:24–27).

Do you know that the Kingdom of Babylon, which we call Iraq today, is returning to exist at the end time? Persia is coming back to power. Look for Greece (Macedon), to do the same. More and more power will be concentrated in the Middle East. It makes no difference if the peoples there are exactly the ancient descendants of the Babylonians or not, or the Persians, or whatever. In fact, many will be their ancient descendants.

When we come to the Jews, they have been scattered around the world according to the prophecies. Remember, the northern Israelites were to be wanderers and scattered amongst all nations of the world. They were not to become nations of their own. **“My God will cast them away, because they did not hearken unto him: and they shall be wanderers among the nations”** (Hosea 9:17).

Yet in Amos it says, **“For, lo, I will command, and I will sift [shake] the house of Israel among all nations, like as corn is sifted [shaken] in a sieve, yet shall not the least grain fall upon the earth”** (Amos 9:9). They will be scattered, certainly, and the seeds will fall upon the earth, but not one of the seeds will germinate into the soil of that land so the land where they fall becomes Israel. The Jews have a name for Israelites scattered throughout the world outside the land of Canaan, they call them “the Diaspora.” *Dia* is a Greek preposition meaning “through,” while *spora* means “seed,” the scattering of seed through the world. The prophecy of Amos 9:9 says those seeds will not germinate in those lands to take root, stay, and grow.

Do you know why? It is because a rolling stone gathers no moss, see the point? It means those Israelites will die there, but their hearts are not there. They will not raise up an Israelite nation anywhere else but in Israel and Judea. They will not establish their roots in the United States or Britain or elsewhere. Their roots are somewhere else. Almost all Jews throughout the world, up until the time of 1967 when they took over all of Jerusalem, their prayer was at Passover time: “Next year in Jerusalem.” In the hearts of most of them, not all, the majority have their roots, where they will plant their seeds and grow when watered and nurtured, it will be right back in their own land.

Some peoples are that way. The Armenians are that way. You just cannot take them away from their lands. You cannot take the Greeks so much away from their land. You take Irish, which I am, and German, and a little French, my ancestors have been in America even before it became the United States. I believe one of my genealogical ancestors came over here in 1688 from France. He was a Huguenot [a French Protestant]. My roots are not back in France. I have no desire to live there. I love the Irish people, but I have been many generations over here. I come from Germany on my father’s side but I have no desire to go there and live.

But I will tell you this, talk to Jewish people. Their homelands are back in Palestine. That is where they want to go. That is what the prophecies said they would want. Do you know what they are doing before the end time? Right now in fact, tens of thousands of them are leaving the Soviet Union to live in Israel. The end times are approaching.

The Iraqis, they see what the Jews are doing, going back to their own homeland. The Iraqis call themselves Babylonians and Mesopotamians, and they use the ancient teachings to say, as Nebuchadnezzar overcame, so will we. The Iranians say the same thing, “We are Persians.” The Greeks say, “We are Greeks.” The people of northern Iraq and Iran, some of them consider themselves to be Assyrians. The Egyptians, why a whole segment of Egyptians know they are not Arabs. They are mixed with other nations, but some of the people of Egypt are the descendants of Egyptians from ancient times.

In Daniel chapter 7, starting with verse 5 on down about **“the glorious land,”** it is talking about that land that comprises the whole of the Middle East between the River Nile, the River Euphrates, and all the Arabian Peninsula. The central part of it, as far as holiness is concerned, is Palestine. Jerusalem is the place where this **“Man of Sin”** (2 Thessalonians 2:3) establishes his power at the end of the age. If you want to know what will happen between the King of the North and the King of the South, do not concentrate just on Palestine. You must go into other areas of that region given to Abraham that comprise **“the glorious land.”**

What I tried to show in this lecture is that the matter of prophetic geography is most important to understand end-time prophecies. Do not take the prophecies about Babylon, Persia, Egypt, Assyria; and Israel, Judah or Jerusalem out of those areas and put them in the United States, Europe, India, or the islands of the sea. Keep them where God says they will be fulfilled in the first place. If we keep them there, and understand the dimensions of the lands within this end time scenario, we will understand prophecy as never before.

The prophecies are opening now in a way that, in the next few years I believe we will be better able to understand the Book of Truth in Daniel chapters 11 and 12. Keep our eyes on the Middle East and the nations there, because prophecy is about to be fulfilled.

Ernest L. Martin, September 1990  
 Edited by David Sielaff, January 2018

### *Additional Prophetic Geography* *Articles by Dr. Ernest Martin*

Each of these articles deal with a different characteristic of prophetic geography in the Scriptures.

“[Prophetic Birth of Our Civilization](#)” (1975). Jeremiah’s prophecies about a world-changing time during the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon. Many older kingdoms and peoples ceased to exist.

“[New Prophetic Discoveries Concerning the End Time](#)” (1981). A detailed presentation of Isaiah’s prophecy, with excellent maps illustrating the geography and maneuvers of the last battles at Christ’s return.

“[Prophetic Geography and the Time of the End](#)” (1992). A perspective building on this article.

“[The Place of Safety](#)” (1997).

“[Personal Safety During End-Time Prophecy](#)” (1999).

“[How to Fully Escape the Great Tribulation](#)” (2001).