



# THE WAR ON TERROR & THE BUSH VISION OF PEACE.... Another Disaster

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The Bible is in the News again this week and this is Paul Billington talking to you about it.

Every week—sometimes every DAY—the Middle East features on the News wires: Often it's IRAQ or ISRAEL or IRAN... sometimes all of them—and very often we see other powers like United States, Britain or Europe, linked to it in some way.

Well—as long as THAT is the News, the Bible will always shed light on it. World Leaders don't see that of course, and the media rarely make the connection—except to scorn and blaspheme the idea that the hand of God is involved, but whether men want to see it or not—the Bible tells us in many places that God Guides the Destiny of Nations—As it is expressed in Daniel 4:17,

“The Most High ruleth in the Kingdom of Men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men.”

Also look at Jeremiah 18:7-10: “At what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, and to pull down, and to destroy it; If that nation, against whom I have pronounced, turn from their evil, I will repent of the evil that I thought to do unto them. And at what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to build and to plant it; If it do evil in my sight, that it obey not my voice, then I will repent of the good, wherewith I said I would benefit them.”

There are very many examples in history that we could turn to in order to illustrate that—but now we want to look at current News—What is happening Right Now—and what does the Bible have to say about it?

Well—President Bush who is in hot water over the administrative bungling of relief for the soggy city of New Orleans has now informed a stone-faced U.N. that his War on Terror cannot succeed!

This President who confidently boasted to the world on 9/11 that “WE WILL NOT FAIL,” and went on to invade Afghanistan and then Iraq, now stands before the U.N. and as bold as brass says:

“This war will not be won by force of arms alone. The lesson is clear. There can be no safety in looking away or seeking the quiet life by ignoring the hardship and oppression of others. Either hope will spread or violence will spread.”

In other words he has adopted the Humanist philosophy that says—Give the terrorists what they want and they will turn into nice guys. Well: it seems he was heard over in Iraq where on the *same day* 160 people were killed and 570 injured, through the attacks that Al Qaida claimed to have organized. That is the same outfit that was behind the 9/11 towers attack in New York.

So Mr Bush—Not only did you and Mr Tony Blair start a civil war in Iraq, but like it or not you and your soldiers are now in the middle of it! But then you are no doubt, *in this for a purpose*. Both the United States and Britain are to be involved in the Middle East during the Latter Days—and they have a role to fulfill by being there.

The Middle East as we see it today has to undergo some drastic changes—not least of which is to be the division of the Islamic world. This is what the Bible shows us. There is to be a North-South division. This can be seen from at least 3 passages of Scripture: Daniel 11; Ezekiel 38 and Zechariah 6:1-8.

Daniel 11 records a lengthy history of a King of the north and a King of the south. This was a division that originally came out of Alexander's Greek Empire. There were the Seleucids in the North, and the Ptolemies of Egypt in the South. The Ptolemies of course were not Egyptians themselves—but a foreign power that controlled it. Well—Daniel 11:40 tells us that a similar situation will exist at the time of the end. Again there is to be a Northern power and a Southern power. It will be a divided Middle East.

Ezekiel 38 has a parallel scene—a power from the North is to invade the Mountains of Israel—see especially verses 15 and 16. This is to be in the latter days. But another power block protests the invasion. Verse 13 tells us

that merchant, or Trading Nations, together with Sheba and Dedan (that's Saudi Arabia and the Gulf area in the SOUTH) will oppose the seizure of wealth by the Northern aggressor. Again we see a divided Middle East.

Zechariah 6:1-8 talks about two mountains of brass. Brass is an element which links with the Greek empire again (as in Daniel 2:39). Zechariah shows us two mountains (v. 1) which are called "the north country" and "the south country" in verse 6. Again—this is a division of the territory; North and South. When you put these passages alongside each other and view them as being parallel prophecies, it leads to but one conclusion—a North/South Division of the Middle East at



the time of the end. Today, that means a Divided Islamic world. There is a map on page 7 of the current Bible Magazine that shows this (copied above). Islam of course is divided into two main and often rival sections—the Sunni Moslems and the Shiite Moslems. These are the two groups fighting each other in Iraq today. Al Qaida has aligned itself with the Sunnis of Iraq who ruled the country under Saddam Hussein.

So it is interesting to see how this might develop. Will we see a divided Iraq come out of this mess? And what about the rest of the Middle East? SOMETHING must give rise to that division.

Well, while President Bush spares his blushes on that front—he also meets with Israel's Ariel Sharon to say what a great job he has done in clearing the Jews out of Gaza and handing it over to Palestinian terrorists—NOT that he put it in quite those words of course—he talks about his vision of peace coming to be.

—And oh, by the way Mr Sharon, you know that \$2 Billion aid package we promised you to help with the pull out—well I'm afraid we had a bit of a disaster... perhaps some other time then—eh??

So as the vision of peace slips from view a bit—the Palestinians are bringing in armfuls of weapons across the Egyptian border while their leader Mahmoud Abbas (or Abu Masen if you prefer) shouts out:

"Today Gaza, tomorrow the West Bank and Jerusalem." PA television announces—Israel's Destruction is within Reach. The words of Psalm 120:6-7 just seem to hit the mark.

"My soul hath long dwelt with him that hateth peace. I am for peace: but when I speak, they are for war." You know—you look at the whole picture, and what the Bible has to say—and you just wonder how long before the whole of the Middle East explodes into a lake of fire.

There is but one Hope in it all—and that is the advent of the King of Israel: Jesus Christ, the prince of Peace. Acts 3:19-21 says this: "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began."

Join us again next week when, God willing, we will see the scroll unrolled a little further, revealing some more Bible in the News.