



THE WAR IN IRAQ: WHERE IS IT LEADING? As the war in Iraq grinds on, does the Bible help us to understand it?

October 6th, 2005

Hello, this is Paul Billington with another edition of the *Bible in the News*.

Sometimes you know, the connection between the Bible and the News is very obvious—but at other times, what the Bible has to tell us provides a background, which, if we understand it, *explains* what is happening in the News of the day.

We have spoken quite a bit recently about events in Israel, and about Gaza where a struggle is going on between the so-called Palestinian Authority and Hamas. Well—while that competition for power continues, we turn this week to that other on-going and complicated situation in Iraq. What is going on there and how will it wind up? People are constantly being bombed and killed on that battle field—so what is the essence of it? What is it leading to?

Well, the war in Iraq has been unpopular from the start of course. The whole idea of going in there to clear out Saddam Hussein was *strongly* opposed by European nations (notably Germany and France), together with Russia and the Vatican—AND by the world's media, who are not the free and independent agents that most people think!

Today, there is a real battle going on for the Middle East—and it is really a three-cornered fight at the moment. It is between the Anglo-American powers (and that includes Australia) on the one corner; Russia, Europe and the Vatican in another corner, with the third contestant being the Islamic world itself, represented in the conflict by Al Qaeda.

The involvement of the Anglo-American contestant is obvious enough. The role of Russia, Europe and the Vatican however is not so obvious (or perhaps I should say “visible”). They appear to be standing on the sidelines for now, ready to befriend and support Middle Eastern countries who are hostile to the Anglo-Americans. Hence, the role of Europe as the chief negotiator with Iran over her nuclear programme for example.

It helps to just take a step back, and remember the start of this Iraq war. France and Germany were *very* opposed to it, as was Putin's Russia. It should not surprise us now if they stand aside while the Americans, Brits and Aussies dig themselves into a hole fighting against Al Qaeda's suicide bombers and terrorists.

But don't forget about that other invisible foe, the Vatican. They said from the start that this was an immoral war—and they will not have changed their mind. There was a headline in *The Times* newspaper (UK) that said it plain and simple: “BRITAIN'S CASE FOR WAR IS UNDERMINED BY THE POPE.” We included that newscutting in our little booklet on this subject entitled “The Battle for the Middle East”—you can see the cutting reproduced on page 45. The Vatican, through its network of lay members is very adept at influencing public opinion, organizing protest marches, letters to media editors and politicians and so on. This works hand-in-hand with those who



Protests in London, England, against the war in Iraq. Taking part is the Roman Catholic organisation 'Pax Christi'



would undermine the resolve of the Anglo-American powers. It actually assists Al Qaeda to achieve its goals.

As to Al Qaeda itself, their means of fighting is of course through terrorist methods. They use suicide bombers in Iraq, in London, in Bali, or wherever they can strike at Anglo-American targets. But they not only want the Americans and the British out of the Middle East (as do the Europeans and company), but they have the dream of conquering the world for Islam. The recent Bali bombing represents their struggle to establish an Islamic state in Indonesia.

But in the Middle East, the present aim is to demoralize and weaken the Anglo-American powers to the point where the war in Iraq cannot be sustained. They want the forces in Iraq to withdraw. This is in harmony with the original opposition to the war by Russia, Europe and the Vatican.

The situation in Iraq may seem to be very complicated, and we may wonder what it's all about. Well, let's make the following points:

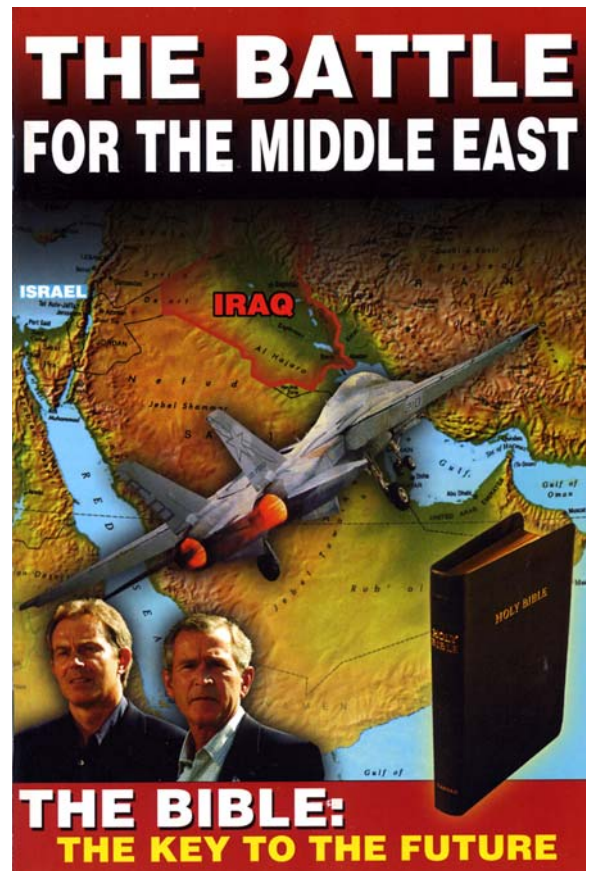
- Scripture gives us a picture of the Middle East at the time of the end, divided into two camps. Daniel 11:40 talks about a king of the North and a king of the South.

That situation is translated (so-to-speak) by what we learn in Ezekiel 38, where we have a *Northern* confederacy of nations (Gog, prince of Rosh, etc), and a group of trading nations with Sheba and Dedan (Saudi Arabia etc) in the *South*.

Now that is the shape of things to come. This is what we can expect to come out of the current situation in Iraq. For now, Iraq is the battle ground, but what happens there will have its effect upon the rest of the Islamic and Arab world. It can be expected to have its impact upon all the Middle East—and upon the involvement of the Anglo-American powers in that region.

Scripture has revealed that these trading nations *will be* involved—and *they are!* So now watch for the Middle East to become divided into two spheres of influence. A Northern sphere, dominated by Russia and the European nations—and a Southern sphere involving the Anglo-American powers.

If you want to understand the News—READ YOUR BIBLE! Talk with you again next week, God willing.



This booklet was written at the beginning of the war in Iraq. It provides background information which explains the context in which the war began, and examines the Scriptural prophecies. The booklet is available from The Bible Magazine.