

Kingdom Report Strategic Analysis: Middle East

By

Orlando Mostert

Kingdomvision.co.za

War Clouds Gather: Israel's 70th Anniversary

Evangelical leaders open the American embassy in Jerusalem with prayer. But behind the scenes preparations for war mirror the catastrophe leading to the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD. What is the prophetic significance for the Kingdom of God?

The day before Israel's 70th anniversary celebrations America opened their new embassy in Jerusalem as Pres. Trump promised in his election campaign.

The evangelical community were excited as this was believed to be highly significant for America would be blessed by God for its support of Israel. Trump sent a loud message to his voting base among evangelicals by asking Pastor John Hagee and Pastor Jeffrees of the Dallas mega Baptist church to open the dedication of the embassy with prayer.



The World Reaction

The entire world was against this decision by Mr Trump. It virtually ends the role of America as neutral peacemaker between Israel and Palestinians and ends the illusion of the two-state solution and leaves both Israel and the Palestinians with just one option...a one state solution...which is a recipe for war.

The Evangelical Reaction

The evangelical position was clear in the prayer of Pastor Hagee:

“Lord we thank you for the State of Israel...Jerusalem is the city of God .. Jerusalem is where Messiah will come and establish a kingdom that will never end.”



Jewish Reaction

The Jewish Zionist community were equally excited at these developments. Here a settler group present American ambassador David Friedman a photo-shopped copy of a map of Jerusalem with the Jewish Temple where the Al-Aqsa mosque stands. The intentions were clear to the Arab world of what the future holds.

Behind the scenes...preparation for war!

While evangelicals rejoice at this momentous moment of American open support for Israel the pieces on the world geo-political chessboard are being positioned for war....a war to finally solve the intractable Middle East stalemate of perpetual conflict.

For the leadership of Israel now is the time if ever to secure the long term survival of Israel and settle its borders and eliminate its enemies. Why? Because of a number of factors not the least of these is the fact that in Donald Trump Israel has the best support they ever had from the president of America and the power of the American military. Donald Trump and his family have been personal friends with Bibi Netanyahu for decades.

In addition Pres. Trump is very dependent on his evangelical Christian base and needs them fired up for the coming elections. And they are overwhelmingly behind Israel. Then there are the very powerful Jewish oligarchs like Sheldon Edelson who donate hundreds of millions to the Republican party with one purpose in mind...support for Israel.

If Donald Trump loses the presidency in 2020 to the Democrats then Israel will never again have such a solid backing for a major military confrontation. The time for Israel to settle the whole future of the nation is between now and 2020. And as the great German chancellor Bismarck said, "*The great issues of nation states are not settled by talks but by blood and iron*".

Which brings up the other major pressing issue upon both America and Israel.....



The image shows a screenshot of a news article from Haaretz. The article is titled "Lieberman: Iran, Syria and North Korea Are New 'Axis of Evil'". The text of the article discusses Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman's statement during a visit to Japan, where he declared North Korea, Syria, and Iran as the new axis of evil. He claimed that these three countries pose the biggest threat to world security because they are building and spreading weapons of mass destruction. He also mentioned that North Korean weapons seized in Bangkok in December were bound for Middle Eastern militant groups Hamas and Hezbollah. The article is dated May 12, 2010, at 9:26 AM.

America, Israel, Saudi Arabia....all are facing the possibility of a nuclear armed Iran as an existential threat to their very existence. But did Iran not forego their whole nuclear bomb making potential? Well yes....but that brings the whole North Korea threat into focus...

Here is a timeline from international newspapers of the behind the scenes preparation for war....

Back in 28 November 2017 a report from The Washington Times....

Iranian-North Korean talks raise specter of cooperation on military, ballistic missile technology

A series of high-level meetings between Iranian and North Korean officials has prompted fresh concern in U.S. national security circles about the depth of military and ballistic missile technology cooperation between the two American adversaries, according to a Washington think tank.

An analysis from the Washington Institute for Near East Policy said U.S. intelligence has spotted Iranian defense officials in North Korea over the past year, raising the specter that Pyongyang and Tehran might be sharing certain military technological advances with each other.



Kim Yong-nam NK no2 Head of legislature Iran president Hasssan August 2017
Why would Iran want to build their own bomb when they can buy some from North Korea?

Now fast forward to 1 May 2018....Israel Times:

PM authorized to declare war in ‘extreme’ situations without consulting cabinet

Netanyahu wins Knesset approval for contentious clause in new law giving him power to order mass military operation by consulting only the defense minister.

Now forward 8 days later, Prime Minister Netanyahu flies to Moscow as guest of Pres. Putin for the victory of WW2 celebrations and for secret talks on crisis with Iran.

The Jerusalem Post reports on 9 May 2018....

Netanyahu meets Putin in Moscow, attends victory day ceremony

"In light of what is happening in Syria at this moment, it is necessary to ensure the continued security coordination between the Russian army and the Israel Defense Forces."

By the way for “end time” prophecy scholars...there is no Russian invasion of Israel coming. The fact is that Israel and Russia have close ties and are careful to coordinate their military activities so that they do not inadvertently hit each other. Which is why Russia decided not to sell Syria the modern S-300 anti-missile air defense system after Netanyahu’s visit.

Now the North Korea issue....

For years now Israel has been aware that ballistic missile and nuclear components have been passing between North Korea and Iran. Iran would pay for this help with shipments of oil to China and this oil would be offloaded at sea from the Iranian tankers to North Korean vessels.

Until a major “accident “ happened last January when the Iranian oil tanker “Sanchi” blew up and went down with the loss of 32 crew members. What intelligence agencies behind the scenes knew was that this was most probably a torpedo attack by one of Israel’s highly advanced submarines stationed off of North Korea.



This is Israel’s Dolphin 2 class submarines provided by Germany that is crewed by 35 and carries a lethal punch. They displace 2,400 mt and can stay submerged for weeks at a time. Besides a full complement of torpedoes they also carry cruise missiles that can be nuclear armed and most probably are nuclear armed.

Israel with a squadron of Dolphin class submarines off the coast of both Iran and North Korea is very able to take out both countries in a nuclear attack. North Korea would not be able to respond except through Iran. The unknown question is “Does Iran already have a number of North Korean bombs read to drop on Israel from Syria?”

Donald Trump is fully able to threaten North Korea and Iran with Israel’s nuclear attack and promise Israel protection from any counter attack and offer diplomatic support in the UN.

The North Korea negotiations....

To get North Korea denuclearized is of absolute critical importance to both Israel and America. And by that they mean all nuclear bombs must be handed over immediately. Israel is not certain if North Korea has already sold some bombs to Iran. North Korea could charge a higher price from Iran if North Korea could demonstrate that they have detonated some and what their yields are. Which they have done. They have also demonstrated that their ballistic missile design works and has a long range. These are valuable proven weapon systems for sale to high bidders like Iran.

That is why America will absolutely not allow North Korea any more room for further bomb manufacture and development. Israel will not allow it and is ready to take out North Korea if America does not.

Syria is highly important in this "axis of evil" because Iran does not have a secure ability to deliver a nuclear bomb on Israel from great distance with any accuracy. They need to do it from Syria until they can further develop the accuracy of their missiles, which they hope to do with North Korean help.

For Netanyahu now is the time for these issues to be settled. Trump is surrounded by both Christian Zionists and Jewish Zionists. All are telling him "***You are God's prophetic man for the hour of deliverance for Israel and in the process God will be with you to make America great again, because those who bless Israel the Lord will bless.***"

For the Evangelical Zionists...what is God's plan for Israel that they can help with?

Well what every evangelical will tell you is that God made a promise to Abraham about the borders of the land that He will give to Israel one day. In order for the prophecies of Ezekiel to be fully fulfilled it is not just a matter of the return of the Jews to Israel but that they must dwell secure in the promised "greater Israel" borders that God promised them.



So as far as the evangelical community is concerned there is no “two-state” division of the land of Israel. There is no negotiations to give away land for peace as that would be against the Lord’s plans for Israel. In fact America should be destroying all nations that stand in the way of God’s promises to Israel....and key to that is what John McCain famously said to the tune of the Beach Boys song...Ba Ba Barbara Ann “Bomb Bomb Bomb Iran”.

What about the financial markets?

Are there any other beneficiaries in a war that destroys North Korea and Iran?

Well the first thing to note is that Iran’s 3-4 million barrels of oil production goes off the markets and the price of oil goes above \$120 per barrel. The three biggest oil producers in the world America, Russia and Saudi Arabia gain big time!. Along with other smaller players like Kuwait, UAE, Qatar etc.

The losers? Well big financial costs for the world’s biggest oil importers, China, India, the EU, Britain etc. No tears there from America or Israel.

Then there are the financial markets and all the insiders who know what is coming. You short all EU bonds and equities, EU banks, same for Britain. Short the Yuan, pound and Euro. Go long on the US dollar and American treasuries. Get the US Fed to provide massive liquidity to major American banks to play the markets, and America devastates its major competitors in Europe and China. While Israel does nuclear war, America does financial war.

Can you see why the EU is desperately trying to salvage the Iran nuclear deal? If nuclear and financial war breaks out the EU is finished. And so are numerous emerging market countries who are highly leveraged to US dollar debts.

The biggest losers? The whole evangelical Christian Zionist movement!

Why? Because things are not going to turn out the way they believe “end time” prophecy works. They do not understand the Kingdom of God nor the times in which we live.

For literally millions of evangelicals the miraculous existence of the state of Israel seemingly resurrected from the dead is the greatest testament to the accuracy of Biblical prophecy. It therefore becomes the biggest proof of the inerrancy of scripture and the security of the promises of God. Destroy Israel and millions fall away from the faith.

If Israel or Jerusalem somehow would be destroyed then there is no Jerusalem for Jesus to return to, then it means that all the promises of God that centre around the establishment of the Kingdom of God are null and void, because the existence of Israel is central to both the coming of Christ and His establishing His Kingdom on earth...so they believe.

Already the doubts are spreading among young evangelicals. Where is the supposed Anti-christ? Where is Gog and Magog? Where is the Great Tribulation? Nothing prophesied 50 years ago have come true....the existence of Israel is the last sign. What then if no Israel?

Which brings me to one of the most misunderstood prophecies of Jesus and the deception of the early New Testament Jerusalem church under the leadership of the brother of Jesus...after the apostles of the Lord left to do what He told them to do...go into all the world.

Jesus said...."***For many will come in my name saying I am Christ (Messiah) and shall deceive many.***" (Matthew 24:5)

How do you manage to come in Jesus name as His representative and declare to the masses that Jesus is the Messiah and manage to deceive many. Why would Jesus warn His disciples in the very verse before this statement in verse 4 saying "***Take heed that no man deceive you.***"

Keep in mind that He is warning His 12 apostles....watch out you guys there are going to come people among you declaring me to be the Messiah and will deceive many people. Now to understand what deception Jesus is talking about you need the context.

Jesus just finished telling them after they had left the Jerusalem temple that the disciples were very keen to show him...Jesus turns to them with these startling words about the future of the grand temple of Jerusalem "See all these things? Verily I say unto you There shall not be left one stone upon another that shall not be thrown down."

That was very bad news to the 12. They wanted to know more about this coming tragedy. Jesus goes further to amplify all the tragedies that are coming upon Jerusalem. I want to enumerate one important one among the many...the coming destruction of not just the temple but the whole of Jerusalem.

In verse 15-16 He says "***When you therefore see the abomination of the desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet stand in the Holy Place (whose readeth let him understand) then let them which be in Judea flee into the mountains...***" Luke in his gospel illuminates what this abomination of desolation is all about...Luke 21: 20-21 "***And when you see Jerusalem encompassed with armies then know that the desolation thereof is nigh, then let them which are in Judea flee to the mountains....***"

When was this prophecy fulfilled? When was the temple of Jerusalem destroyed that not one stone was left on another? When was Jerusalem surrounded by armies and that resulted in the desolation of Jerusalem?

There is only one answer to this question which is also why Jesus said "This generation shall not pass away till all these things be fulfilled" All this happened within a generation of 40 years that Jesus prophesied...the destruction of Jerusalem and he temple by the surrounding Roman armies in 70 AD,

And the great deception of those coming in Jesus name proclaiming Him to be the Messiah?

After the resurrection of Jesus there was great persecution of the believers by the religious authorities in Jerusalem. Stephen was stoned to death. Saul/Paul was a participant in this great persecution. James the apostle was martyred as well. The other 10 went as Jesus said into Judea, Samaria and the uttermost parts of the earth to preach the gospel of the Kingdom. But back in Jerusalem the leadership of the church passed to James the brother of Jesus...and the persecution stopped...and the message and mission of the church changed. The deception that Jesus prophesied had come....

The Rise of the Messianic Jews and the Judaizers

James the brother of Jesus was not part of the disciple group of Jesus. He came to the faith later after the resurrection when Jesus appeared to him. But after the apostles left for their world mission history and the book of Acts tells us that James became the head of the Jerusalem church. What is even more strange is that early church fathers wrote to tell us that after the death of James in 62 AD the cousin of Jesus, Simeon became head of the church and after the death of Simeon the youngest brother of Jesus, Jude became the head of the church.

What is going on here? Why is the family of Jesus like a royal dynasty made the head of the Jerusalem church and by extension if you are the head of the mother church then you are the head of all the scattered churches. You set the doctrine and the teaching, Where were the apostles?

The closer you look at the practices and teaching of the Jerusalem church under James the stranger things get. Peter comes to the disciples at Antioch for ministry until he hears that a delegation from James is arriving and they want to know how dare he as Jew eat at the same table as gentile believers? Paul accused him to his face as a hypocrite but Paul's ministry companion Barnabas disagreed with Paul. Jews do not eat with gentiles.

Paul comes to Jerusalem to meet with James and the elders and they are concerned about what Paul is preaching and practicing. James proudly shows him how many thousands of Jewish believers there are now in Jerusalem and as James proudly says "they are all zealous for the law". (Acts 21:20). No wonder the persecution in Jerusalem stopped...James had made all the Jews more zealous for the law. Nothing here for the Pharisees to bother about...except for this message of James and the Jerusalem church..."the Messiah is coming back".

For Paul, James had a strange request...strange for us and our theology...Paul was so defiled by all his contact with gentiles that the church elders wanted him to go to the temple and undergo a ritual sacrifice and rite of purification. That was the Jerusalem church idea of the doctrine of Sanctification.

Here was the essence of the deception of the James and the elders of the Jerusalem church. They were what we would call Messianic Jews. They fervently believed that what we today call the Old Covenant of God with Israel was still in effect. They still practiced the rituals of the old covenant temple sacrifices. They still believed in Jewish exceptionalism. That the Jews have a special covenant with the Lord apart from gentiles.

What did that mean for them practically? Well they went in Jesus name and declared that Jesus was the Messiah...and deceived many! How/ They believed that because Jesus was the Jewish Messiah He was going to return to Jerusalem and restore the kingdom of David to Israel and as the son of David the Davidic dynasty would be restored and Jerusalem would be the centre of the world empire and all nations would come there to the temple to worship the God of Israel with the Messiah on the throne....that is why a dynastic family member of the Jesus family should be the head of the Jerusalem church until the family head Jesus returns.

That is why they told Paul, look fellow you go to the gentiles, that is fine but we are going to concentrate on the Jews. They are the people of the covenant. Instead of doing what Jesus told them to do...go to Judea, Samaria and into all the world.

For the Messianic Jews the idea of the destruction of the temple and Jerusalem was absolutely not on. Their temple rites required a Jewish temple. They preached a Jewish Messiah that was coming to be the king of the Jews and the restoration of the Israel nation and the Roman oppressors were going to be driven out.

They read the prophecies of Daniel, made the calculations as to the 70 weeks prophecy and concluded that now was the time for “the saints to possess the kingdom”. The political ferment of Israel at that time played right into this vision. The political Zealots also believed in the restoration of the kingdom of Israel but what the Messianic Jews under the leadership of James was able to do was to convince many thousands of Zealots that the promised Messiah was in actual fact the crucified Jesus and that He would return with an army out of heaven to destroy the enemies of Israel and liberate Jerusalem.

The Judaizers of the Jerusalem church went to all the Jewish communities in the Roman empire to make disciples and convince Jews that Jesus is the coming Messiah to establish the kingdom of Israel...He was coming back soon with the armies of heaven.

But Paul fought them in every city he could.

If they preached Jews are a special people with a special covenant Paul preached there is no difference between Greek or Jew we are all part of the New Covenant in Christ.

If the Judaizers preached you must keep the law, Paul preached Christ set us free from the law and the just shall live by faith.

When the Judaizers preached that Israel would inherit the land promised to Abraham for his heirs...all of ancient borders of Israel, then Paul preached to the Romans 4:13 that the inheritance of Abraham and his heirs was “the whole world”.. not a patch of ground in Palestine.

If the Judaizers preached that the Jews were special because of their blood ties with Abraham then Paul said nonsense the real children of Abraham are those circumcised in the heart.

When the Judaizers said Jerusalem is special city of God Paul wrote to the Galatians nonsense (Gal 4) Jerusalem is Hagar the bondwoman and God is going to cast Jerusalem away and the real Jerusalem is from heaven

The deception that Jesus prophesied about the Judaizers came true when they persuaded more than a million Messianic Jews to rebel against Rome and find shelter in Jerusalem and wait for the miraculous coming of the Messiah who would come to Jerusalem with an army from heaven to destroy the Romans and establish His throne in Jerusalem. They all perished.

Today the Judaizers are once again deceiving the Christians saying Jesus is the Jewish Messiah and is coming to restore a Jewish kingdom centered in Jerusalem with a restored temple because there is still a special covenant for just Jewish people apart from faith in Christ. This is all deception and it will end as bad as the last deception that Jesus warned about in 70 AD...and Jerusalem will be destroyed like before. But the evangelical church will be freed from Judaizing deception and will get back to preaching the gospel of the kingdom to all people of all nations.