

What does Israel's War with Hamas Tell Us About End Times

November 05, 2023

Matthew 24:6

The war with Hamas tells us nothing new about the end times. When did the end times start? Rev. 22:20, "Lord come quickly," 1 Pet. 4:7-9, "end of all things at hand," James 5:8, "has drawn near," 1 Thess. 4:13-18, Paul saw himself as one who would be alive at Christ's coming (V15,17).

Definitions: 1) Leadership at GBCOB affirms Scripture teaches: a Pre-Tribulation, physical coming of Christ to rapture His church before the Tribulation, a Pre-Millennial restoration of Israel before Christ rules on earth over Israel, and Dispensational belief that all Scripture is interpreted the same way- with a Literal, Historical, & Grammatical hermeneutic including belief in a literal restored nation of Israel.

Background: On Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas broke through walls into Israel and murdered 1400 Jews, wounded 4500, and took 200 hostages. Thousands of rockets were fired and continue to be fired into Israel and up to 400K Israeli soldiers have become "active" military. Israel is not trying to broker peace with Hamas but to defeat them.

Dos and Don'ts to Understand Current Events in Israel

1. **Don't Let Media Determine Your Theology:** Media blames Israel for the conflict. They don't acknowledge Scripture as the source of ownership to Abraham and his descendants. Jews fought after 70 AD for many decades against Rome. It was named Palestine by Rome after a suppression of the Bar Kokhba revolt in 135 AD. The British took control in 1917 as a result of the Balfour Declaration which confirmed that the Jews should have a home in Palestine. In 1948, the UN declared the area of Palestine to be a home for Israel. Arabs were allowed to stay as a part of the restored nation.
2. **Don't Mistake Israel of Today as the Promised New Israel:** There are literal promises by God to Abraham (Gen. 12, 15, 17, 22). God demonstrated again that He can reconstitute a nation whenever He wants (Rom. 11:3-4, 12, 17, 23). What are the qualities of a future Israel: 1) National Repentance Zech. 12:10, when? Shortly before, during, or shortly after Christ's return. God has blinded Israel for a time until the fullness of the Gentiles have come in, Rom. 11:25. 2) Jerusalem physically the highest place on earth, Is. 2:2, Micah 4:1, Rev. 16:20. 3) Israel beloved of all the Nations, Micah 4:2. 4) Nations that don't obey God will be punished with no rain, Zech. 14:6-7. 5) Historical enemies of Israel will be worshippers of God, Is. 19:23-25. 6) Israel will live in total peace, Is. 2:4, Jer. 33:14. 7) Islam won't exist, Satanic worship and false religion is replaced. All worship Yahweh. 8) Israel will feature a new temple of God, Ez. 40-48. 9) Jesus will be on earth, Zech. 14:9, Jer. 33:15.
3. **Don't Deny Israel Her Divine Land Right:** right to land is divine in origin, Ps. 83 is a response to those that hate Israel.
4. **Don't Make Common Prophecy Mistakes:** 1) The Church is not the new Israel. 2) World events being used as proof Christ's return is imminent.
5. **Don't Interpret News as Authoritative:** Don't attribute current events to things that happen after the rapture. From Matt. 24:3, signs of Jesus coming, V6, wars and rumors of wars, V7-9, nation against nation, etc. V15, "when you see the abomination of desolation," (Daniel 9:27), V16, flee, V17, leave your homes, V21, "great tribulation," V27, Jesus returns, V28, birds feast (See also Ez. 39:17). **We look for no signs right now**, Matt. 24:36. We are to be ready for the rapture, 1 Thess. 4:13-18, Jn. 14:1-3, 1 Cor. 15:51.
>>During the Tribulation those on earth will be able to compare current events to Scripture.

What does Israel's War with Hamas Tell Us About End Times

November 05, 2023

Matthew 24:6

1. **Do Love Israel as God's Chosen Nation**: they are under discipline, but many are praying to Yahweh for peace. God fearers are found in Scripture (Cornelius, Lydia, Ethiopian Eunuch).
2. **Do Eagerly Await Rapture and the Return of Christ**: Rom. 8:23, we groan within waiting for the adoption of our bodies. Rom. 8:25, 1 Cor. 1:7, Gal. 5:5, Phil. 3:20, Heb. 9:28, we hope and wait eagerly for Christ's return.
3. **Do Suffer in Obedience**: Peter tells us how to suffer in the end times (1 Pet. 1:6) with regards to our relationships, 1 Pet. 1:5. In our own sanctification, 1 Pet. 2:1. To authority, 1 Pet. 2:13,17. Wives with Husbands, 1 Pet. 3:1. Husbands with wives, 1 Pet. 3:7. Towards unbelievers, 1 Pet. 3:15, ready to defend our faith. Local church, hospitable, serving one another, 1 Pet. 4:8-9. Shepherds to members, 1 Pet. 5:2. Members to shepherds, 1 Pet. 5:5.
4. **Do Be Obedient Church Members**: be motivated to self-denial and humility. Matt. 16:19 details the keys of the kingdom and locking and unlocking of heavenly and earthly things. Matt. 18:17-18 describes those under Church discipline.
5. **Do Be Obedient Church Leaders**: the church belongs to Christ. Jesus has provided shepherds their duties in 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, and Titus.

Further Discussion and Application

Make a list of the responsibilities of shepherds and members from 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus. The shepherds are to teach no other doctrine. What is the response then of members? Do the commands of Paul to Timothy and Titus seem burdensome? Do they seem pretty straightforward? What is required of us as followers of Christ in simple, Scriptural terms?

What are the responsibilities of believers in Christ in Romans 12:1-21? Why do are our minds need to be transformed to understand how to behave like Christians? How does the world behave?

Titus 2:13 gives a simple reason why we live the way we do in life. What do current events in life show us and how do they encourage us in our daily, Christian walk? What should our focus be on as we get closer to the day when we see the Lord (Heb. 10:24-25)?

There are those that hear and understand the Lord's word and those who are blinded and deaf to His words. What peace and confidence do you possess as you heard this sermon? What knowledge does the Lord provide us in 1 Thess. 4:13-18? What does the Lord command us in 2 Thess. 2:13-17? What other passages bring you comfort and joy from Scripture?