

Israel: Cause of a Future World War or World Peace?

Bruce Scott

- Israel: Cause of a Future World War?
 - Future world war known as Armageddon (Rev. 16:16)
 - Takes place in the north of Israel in the Jezreel Valley and will go all the way south into Judah and Jerusalem (Zech. 12:1-3; 14:1-2).
 - From an earthly perspective: Israel may be viewed as cause of world war
 - From a heavenly perspective: Armageddon brings judgment upon the nations (Joel 3:9-16; Zech. 14:2), particularly for their treatment of Israel (Zech. 12:9)
 - Times of the Gentiles: began with Babylon under King Nebuchadnezzar and will continue until the Second Coming of Christ
 - Two-Edged Sword Principle in Bible: 1) Nations Punish Israel (Jer. 25:8-9); God Punishes Nations (Zech. 2:8; Jer. 25:12; 50:17-18; 2:3)
 - Biblical imagery of cup filled with intoxicating drink representing God's wrath and judgment, and those deserving He causes to drink (Zech. 12:2; Ps. 75:7-8; Isa. 51:17, 21-23; Jer. 25:15-17, 27-29; Obadiah 15-16)
 - Importance of Jerusalem (Ezek. 5:5; Ps. 137:5-6; 2 Chron. 6:6; Ps. 87:2-3)
 - Jerusalem's Past
 - Melchizedek first king (Gen. 14:18 where called by original name "Salem"; cf. Ps. 76:2)
 - King David's capital city, as with all the kings of Judah (2 Sam.5:5)
 - Destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 B.C. (Jer. 52:13-14)
 - Rebuilt by Nehemiah (ca. 444 B.C.) (Book of Nehemiah)
 - Wept over by the Lord Jesus (Luke 19:41)
 - Destroyed again by the Romans in 70 A.D. (Luke 19:43-44)
 - "Trampled underfoot by the Gentiles" ever since, and will be "until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled" (Luke 21:24)
 - Jerusalem's Present
 - 1947 the United Nations declared Jerusalem an international city
 - 1948, as Israel fought for independence, Jerusalem left a divided city
 - 1967, during Six Day War, Israel liberated Jerusalem and made it unified city, with free access to all holy sites by all peoples, but also declared to be its capital
 - Israeli sovereignty over Jerusalem still disputed today
 - Jerusalem's Future
 - Today's events preparation for future all nations gathered against Jerusalem (Zech. 12:3)
 - Jesus Christ returns and rescues Israel at darkest moment of their history (Zech. 14:3-4)
- Israel – Cause of Future World Peace?
 - Israel repents (Zech. 12:10)
 - Israel cleansed (Isa. 4:2-6)
 - Jerusalem rejuvenated, a place of peace and blessing, because of presence of Messiah (Zech. 8:1-8)
 - Peace and blessing spill over to surviving Gentile nations (Zech. 8:23; Isa. 62:1-5; Isa. 2:2-4; Rom. 11:12)
- Making This Personal
 - Jesus Christ only exception to the cup analogy since He was undeserving, but still drank it willingly on our behalf (Matt. 26:39; Rom. 5:8-9; John 3:36).
 - If you choose not to believe (depend upon) that Jesus died to pay for your sins and rose from the dead to give you eternal life, you are still under the wrath of God.
 - If you do believe (depend upon) Jesus Christ for your salvation, the cup of God's wrath is no longer for you to drink (1Thess. 1:9-10; 5:9).
 - There is the Cup of Wrath and the Cup of Salvation. When Jesus Christ returns, which one will you be drinking?