

The Rise of ISIS and The Fall of Damascus, Syria

Garrick Augustus

First Presented on September 1, 2011

October 17, 2014

Study Fast-fulfilling Prophecies

- “God has a people upon the earth who in faith and holy hope are tracing down the roll of **fast-fulfilling prophecy**, and are seeking to **purify their souls** by **obeying the truth**, that they may not be found without **the wedding garment** when Christ shall appear.” –*Testimonies for The Church*, vol. 4, p. 307.
- The burden of Damascus. Behold, **Damascus is taken away from being a city**, and **it shall be a ruinous heap**.” Isa. 17: 1
- How, why and when will this prophecy be fulfilled, and what will follow in the wake of Damascus’ demise? As signposts to the weary traveler, so are the fast-fulfilling prophecies to the student of Scripture. The central theme of these warnings is to prepare a people for the kingdom of YHWH, wherein dwells righteousness and peace.
- **Since 2011, and new resistance movement has begun in Syria, known as ISIL (The Islamic State of Syria and the Levant). The Levant is a large swath of land covering from Turkey in the North to Egypt in the South, and From Ethiopia in Africa to Iran in the near east. This terror group has become famous for the high level of violence it projects and the wanton beheadings and direct persecution of all persons disagreeing with their views.**

Current Events & Bible Prophecy

- It has been 3 years, 7 months and 2 days since the Syrian Day of Rage protests staged on March 15, 2011
- Over the past 5 years a violent civil war has erupted in the land of Syria, a Moslem strong hold, which is very heavily supported (financially and militarily) by the country of Iran. Ten thousands of militants and innocents alike have died in this uprising, yet the bloodshed continues unabated. The people are crying for “more economic prosperity, political freedom and civil liberties,” the basic human right, to chart their own destinies. America and the West are seeking to benefit from Bashar al-Assad’s fall, and the politics goes on. In this study, we will learn that there is a Divine hand involved in the destinies of nations and kingdoms, and that the crisis in the Arab world today, is but the dawning of a new prophetic day, the very sounding gong from the contractions of birth-pains for the Messiah’s Kingdom of peace and righteousness. Next will follow persecution on Christians, not just in the Middle East, but across the globe. This kingdom will not be realized on this earth, until the peoples of Abraham’s descent hear the gospel in the own tongue, even while the salvation of our world awaits the Loud Cry of the Third Angel’s message. The challenge is ours, to rise to the antitypical Macedonian call, to rise up to the help of the Lord (YHWH), to the help of YHWH against the mighty!

News Roundup on Syria

- “The **Syrian civil war**, also referred to as the **Syrian uprising**, is an ongoing internal armed political conflict in [Syria](#). The conflict began on 15 March 2011 with public demonstrations as part of the wider [Arab Spring](#) and developed into a nationwide uprising, and a civil war in 2012. Protesters have demanded the end to nearly five decades of [Ba’ath Party rule](#), as well as the resignation of [President Bashar al-Assad](#).
- “In the spring of 2011, the Syrian government deployed the [Syrian Army](#) to quell the uprising. Several cities have been besieged, and soldiers were reportedly ordered to open fire on civilians.^[52] According to witnesses, soldiers who refused to open fire on civilians were summarily executed by the Syrian Army. Civilians and army defectors began forming fighting units, and unified under the banner of the [Free Syrian Army](#), fighting in an increasingly organized fashion...”http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syrian_Civil_War
- “The death toll from three years of Syria's civil war has risen to more than 191,000 people, the United Nations reported Friday.”
<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2014/08/22/united-nations-syria-death-toll/14429549/>

“Exclusive: Libyan fighters join Syrian revolt against Assad”

- “BEIRUT (Reuters) - Veteran fighters of last year's civil war in Libya have come to the front-line in [Syria](#), helping to train and organize rebels under conditions far more dire than those in the battle against Muammar Gaddafi, a Libyan-Irish fighter has told Reuters.” By [Mariam Karouny](#), BEIRUT | Tue Aug 14, 2012 3:18am EDT; <http://www.reuters.com>
- Tunisia, Egypt and Libya have already fallen, while Syria is in teeters—on the verge of collapse. The struggle is not over, it will sweep from one Arab nation to another. Numerous countries in the greater Middle East have had their uprisings, and power shifting to ease the bloodshed, but tensions are running high, and they will reach the tipping point of outright civil war as we are currently witnessing in Syria.
- Joining the Syrian Army is the Hezbollah Islamist Terror Group, one of Israel’s arch enemies.
- What of Israel? This uprising in the Middle East is also a unifying voice in the wait, and at the appropriate time, they will set their eyes on Israel, the real prize and enemy of Islam, and then the flood-gates bloodshed and warfare will be opened in the general Middle East!

Background on Syria

- “The burden of Damascus. Behold, **Damascus is taken away** from *being a city*, and *it shall be a ruinous heap*.” Isa. 17: 1
- Damascus, Syria was first mentioned in the Bible when Abraham engaged the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah to recover his nephew Lot.
- “14 And when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his trained *servants*, born in his own house, three hundred and eighteen, and pursued *them* unto **Dan**. 15 And he divided himself against them, he and his servants, by night, and smote them, and pursued them unto Hobah, which *is* on the left hand of **Damascus**. 16 And he brought back all the goods, and also brought again his [**brother’s son** (Gen 14:12)], Lot and his goods, and the women also, and the people.” Gen. 14:14-16
- Note that Lot is not Abram’s “brother,” but is instead his **nephew** (Gen 14:12). Observe too that Damascus is identified in the territory of “Dan,” years before the land was so divided. In other words, the expanse of the ancient Kingdom reached to Syria, the territory of Dan—Israel’s Judge and apostate!

- That Damascus is in the territory of “Dan,” gives rise to the memorable expression “from Dan even to Beersheba” (Judg. 20: 1), which provides the northern and southern extents of the occupied territories of Israel.
- “Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold, and said unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. And he set the one in Bethel, and the other put he in Dan. And this thing became a sin: for the people went to worship before the one, even unto Dan.” 1Ki. 12: 28-30
- [New International Version \(©1984\)](#): And this thing became a sin; the people went even **as far as Dan** to worship the one there. 1Ki. 12: 30
- [New American Standard Bible \(©1995\)](#): Now this thing became a sin, for the people went to worship before the **one as far as Dan**. 1Ki. 12: 30
- [GOD'S WORD® Translation \(©1995\)](#): Worshiping them became [Israel's] sin. The people went **as far as Dan** to worship the one calf. 1Ki. 12: 30

Syrian Background Cont...

- “There was a long war, with varying success, between the Israelites and Syrians, who at a later period became allies of Israel against Judah #2Ki 15:37 The Syrians were at length subdued by the Assyrians, the city of Damascus was taken and destroyed, and the inhabitants carried captive into Assyria #2Ki 16:7-9 comp. #Isa 7:8...**The kingdom of Syria remained a province of Assyria till the capture of Nineveh by the Medes (B.C. 625) when it fell under the conquerors. After passing through various vicissitudes, Syria was invaded by the Romans (B.C. 64) and Damascus became the seat of the government of the province. In A.D. 37 Aretas, the king of Arabia, became master of Damascus, having driven back Herod Antipas. This city is memorable as the scene of Saul's conversion #Ac 9:1-25....Christianity was planted here as a centre #Ac 9:20, from which it spread to the surrounding regions. In A.D. 634 Damascus was conquered by the growing Muslim power. In A.D. 1516 it fell under the dominion of the Turks, its present rulers [till WW1, after which it was given its independence]. It is now the largest city in Asiatic Turkey. Christianity has again found a firm footing within its walls.” Easton’s Bible Dictionary, Syria**

The Birth of Islam...

- “Near the close of the sixth century there was born in Mecca, of the princes of Arabia, a man who claimed direct descent from Ishmael, the son of Abraham. This man was Mohammed, the son of Abdallah, and the founder of a faith, which, to-day has many thousand adherents. "Arabia," says Gibbon, "was free; the adjacent kingdoms were shaken by the storms of conquest and tyranny, and persecuted sects fled to the happy land where they might profess what they believed, and practice what they professed." In Arabia were gathered, at this time, Christians, Jews, Persian fire-worshipers, and representatives of all sects and beliefs. Mohammed was acquainted with them all as he mingled in the thoroughfares of Mecca, and **in his journeys to Damascus**, and seaports of Syria. Mohammed was of a serious mind, and it was his custom to retire one; month each year to a cave, a few miles from Mecca, where he gave himself to; fasting and prayer. On his return from one of these seasons of seclusion he announced his belief in one God, and that Mohammed was the prophet of God. This was the beginning of Islamism.” {1905 SN Haskell, *Story of the Seer of Patmos* 162-1633.1}

Syria and Christianity, History

- “Syria is significant in the history of Christianity; Paul was converted on the road to Damascus and established the first organized Christian Church at Antioch in ancient Syria, from which he left on many of his missionary journeys.”

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/3580.htm>

The Predicted Fall of Syria

- “The burden of Damascus. Behold, **Damascus is taken away from being a city**, and **it shall be a ruinous heap**.” Isa. 17: 1
- While the governments of the earth plan on the fate of Syria, prophecy declares “Damascus... shall be a ruinous heap.” This ruin is the result of war—fightings from within and battles from without, and Damascus will not survive, but will be deposed and ruled by another government. Credited as one of the “oldest continuously inhabited cities of the world,” a great change is about to take place in this country of Abraham’s descendants.
- The US-Led Coalition of some 50 nations have started bombing targets in Syria, even as they train “moderate” terrorists to unseat the Syrian government of Basher Al-Assad.

Syria



The Islamic Power Centers of Africa, Europe and Asia



History of Damascus, Syria

- “**Damascus**, settled about 2500 B.C., **is one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world.**” <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/3580.htm>
- “Many scholars believe that, **among the ancient cities of the world, Damascus is perhaps the oldest continuously inhabited.** Over the centuries, Damascus has been conqueror and conquered, wealthy and destitute, and capital of empire and small states. Its fame has been sustained by its continuous prominence as a commercial and intellectual centre.”
<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/150420/Damascus/25657/History>
- Damascus is “one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world.”
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Damascus>

Aram or Padan-Aram = Syria

- **Gen 10:22** The children of Shem; Elam, and Asshur, and Arphaxad, and Lud, and **Aram**.^{H758}
- **H758** 'ărâm; *arawm'*; the *highland*; **Aram or Syria, and its inhabitants**; also the name of a son of Shem, - Aram, Mesopotamia, Syria, Syrians. 1) **Aram or Syria the nation**; 2) **the Syrian or Aramean people**; Aram = "exalted"—*Strong's Hebrew Dictionary*;
- An interesting sideline to note: the language of Canaan in Christ's days was "Aramaic"
- **Gen 28:5** And Isaac sent away Jacob: and he went to **Padanaram**^{H6307} unto Laban, son of Bethuel the **Syrian**,^{H761} the brother of Rebekah, Jacob's and Esau's mother.
- **H6307** paddân, paddan 'ărâm, *pad-dawn'*, *pad-dan' ar-awm'*
- From an unused root meaning to *extend*; a *plateau*; or the second form which is from the same and H758; the *table land of Aram*; *Paddan* or *Paddan-Aram*, **a region of Syria**: - Padan, Padan-aram —*Strong's Hebrew Dictionary*;

Aramaic, The Language's History

- **“Aramaic...**The name of the language is based on the name of [Aram](#),^[3] **an ancient region in central [Syria](#)**. Within this family, Aramaic belongs to the [Semitic](#) family, and more specifically, is a part of the [Northwest Semitic](#) subfamily, which also includes [Canaanite languages](#) such as [Hebrew](#) and [Phoenician](#). [Aramaic script](#) was widely adopted for other languages and **is ancestral to both the [Arabic](#) and [modern Hebrew alphabets](#)**.
- **During its 3,000-year written history,**^[4] **Aramaic has served variously as a language of administration of empires and as a language of divine worship**. It was the day-to-day language of [Israel in the Second Temple period](#) (539 [BCE](#) – 70 CE), **some speculate was the language spoken by Jesus,**^{[5][6]} is the language of large sections of the [biblical](#) books of [Daniel](#) and [Ezra](#) and is the main language of the [Talmud](#).^[7]
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aramaic_language
- **“The Aramaic language was the international trade language of the ancient Middle East. Originated in what is modern-day Syria,** between 1000 and 600 BCE it became extremely widespread, spoken from the Mediterranean coast to the borders of India.”
<http://www.ancientscripts.com/aramaic.html>

The country of Aram = Syria

- “The country of Aram was Aramaea, or Syria, and northern Mesopotamia, that is, the country **north of Palestine** and Phenicia, and the north country between the Euphrates and the Tigris below Armenia. In Num. 23:7 the Hebrew word Aram is rendered Aram, while in Judges 3:10 the same word is translated Mesopotamia, and in Judges 10:6 it is translated Syria. Where David conquered and put garrisons in "Syria of Damascus," it is in Hebrew, Aram-Dammeseck. **Wherever the Hebrew word Aram is used with reference to the people of Aram, King James's Version always translates it Syrians.** Damascus was the capital of Syria (Aramaea), and Isa. 7:8 says, "The head of Syria is Damascus." {1904 ATJ, Empires of the Bible, p. 37.2}

Cont...

- 14. **Damascus is one of the very oldest cities in the world.** It was "unto Hobah which is on the left hand of Damascus" that Abraham pursued "Chedorlaomer and the kings that were with him" after he had defeated them at Dan. Eliezer of Damascus was the steward of Abram's house. There were many wars between Syria and Israel. Naaman the Syrian was healed of his leprosy by the direction of Elisha the prophet; yet he at first disdained to wash in Jordan because "Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus were better than all the waters of Israel." 11 {1904 ATJ, EB 38.1}
- 15. Damascus was for a time the capital of **the Mohometan Empire**, and in the palmy days of Saracen rule was one of the greatest manufacturing cities in the world. {1904 ATJ, Empires of the Bible, pp. 37-38}

Syria (Antioch), Known by Messiah

- “And his fame went throughout all **Syria**: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them.” Matt. 4: 24
- “(And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of **Syria**.)” Luke 2: 2
- “Then pleased it the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to **Antioch** with Paul and Barnabas; *namely*, Judas surnamed Barsabas, and Silas, chief men among the brethren:
- “And they wrote *letters* by them after this manner; The apostles and elders and brethren *send* greeting unto the brethren which are of the Gentiles in Antioch and **Syria** and Cilicia.” Acts. 15: 22, 23

Isa. 17, Cont...

- 2 The cities of **Aroer** *are* forsaken: they shall **be for flocks** [See Zeph. 2: 6], which shall **lie down**, and **none shall make *them* afraid**.
- 3 The **fortress** [stronghold or fortifications] also shall **cease** from Ephraim [10-tribe kingdom, Israel], and the kingdom [shall cease] from Damascus, and **the remnant of Syria**, they shall be **as the glory of the children of Israel**, saith the LORD of hosts. Isa. 17: 2-3
- “The remnant of Syria” represents the faithful believers who dwell in that land; they shall not be cut off, but remain to enjoy the glories of the kingdom, similar to the remnant in Zech. 14: 2, who are not cut off, but remain till the kingdom comes.

Zech. 14: 2

- “For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and **the residue [remnant] of the people shall not be cut off** from the city.”
- “The dangers of soy”, www.Mercola.com

Zeph. 2; The **Flocks** dwell Peacefully []

- 4 ¶ For Gaza shall be forsaken, and Ashkelon a desolation: they shall drive out Ashdod at the noon day, and Ekron shall be rooted up.
- 5 Woe unto the inhabitants of **the sea coast**, the nation of the Cherethites! the word of the LORD is against you; O **Canaan**, the land of the Philistines, I will even destroy thee, that there shall be **no inhabitant**.
- 6 And **the sea coast shall be dwellings and cottages for shepherds, and folds for flocks**.
- 7 And **the coast** shall be for **the remnant of the house of Judah**; they shall feed thereupon: in the houses of Ashkelon shall they lie **down in the evening**: for the LORD their God shall visit them, and **turn away their captivity**.

Moab = Lot's Descendants, Shemites

- 9 And the LORD said unto me, Distress not the Moabites, neither contend with them in battle: for I will not give thee of **their land** *for* a possession; because **I have given Ar unto the children of Lot** *for* a possession.
- 10 The Emims dwelt therein in times past, a people great, and many, and tall, as the Anakims;
- 11 Which also were accounted giants, as the Anakims; but the Moabites call them Emims. Deut. 2: 9-11

Isaiah 17:3 In other Versions

- “Fortified cities will disappear from Ephraim, and the kingdom will disappear from Damascus. **The remaining few from Aram will share Israel’s honor,**” declares the Lord of Armies.” **Isaiah 17:3**, GOD’S WORD Translation (GW)
- “The fortress will disappear from Ephraim, and the kingdom from Damascus; and **the remnant of Syria will be like the glory of the children of Israel,** declares the LORD of hosts.” Isa. 17: 3, ESV
- "The fortified city will disappear from Ephraim, And sovereignty from Damascus And the remnant of Aram; They will be **like the glory of the sons of Israel,**" Declares the LORD of hosts.” Isa 17: 3, ASB

The cities of **Aroer**, Israel possessed

- Aroer is now called Arair, 13 miles west of the Dead Sea.
- Deut 4:48 From **Aroer**, which *is* by the bank of the river Arnon, even unto mount Sion, which *is* Hermon,
- Jud 11:26 While Israel dwelt in Heshbon and her towns, and in **Aroer** and her towns, and in all the cities that *be* along by the coasts of Arnon, three hundred years? why therefore did ye not recover *them* within that time?
- “In those days the LORD began to cut Israel short: and **Hazael** smote them in all the coasts of Israel; From Jordan eastward, all the land of Gilead, the Gadites, and the Reubenites, and the Manassites, from **Aroer**, which *is* by the river Arnon, even Gilead and Bashan.” 2Ki 10:32-33

2 Kings 13: 22-24; Hazael = Syria

- 22 But Hazael king of Syria oppressed Israel all the days of Jehoahaz.
- 23 And the LORD was gracious unto them, and had compassion on them, and had respect unto them, because of his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and would not destroy them, neither cast he them from his presence as yet.
- 24 So Hazael king of Syria died; and Benhadad his son reigned in his stead.

The Rise of ISIS and The Fall of Damascus, Syria-2

Garrick Augustus

First Presented on September 1, 2011

October 24, 2014

Current Events

- Currently
- Parliament Attacked in Canada
- Police attacked by hatchet wielder

Isa. 17, Cont...

- “The burden of Damascus. Behold, **Damascus is taken away** from *being a city*, and **it shall be a ruinous heap**. 2 The cities of **Aroer** *are forsaken*: they shall **be for flocks** [**See Zeph. 2: 6**], **which shall lie down**, and **none shall make *them* afraid**. 3 The **fortress [stronghold or fortifications]** also shall cease from Ephraim [**10-tribe kingdom, Israel**], and the kingdom [**shall cease**] from Damascus, and **the remnant of Syria**, they shall be as **the glory of the children of Israel**, saith the LORD of hosts. Isa. 17: 1-3
- We see here that Syria is to be a ruinous heap with its major **cities** “forsaken” by their inhabitants, because of the war. But, according to prophecy, “The remnant of Syria,” which represents the faithful believers who are dwelling in that land; they shall not be cut off, but remain to enjoy the glories of the kingdom when it shall be set up. This is very similar to the remnant in Zech. 14: 2, who are not cut off, but remain till the kingdom comes.

- “For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and **the residue [remnant] of the people shall not be cut off** from the city.” Zech. 14: 2
- 4 And **in that day** it shall come to pass, *that* **the glory of Jacob** shall be made **thin**, and the **fatness** of his flesh shall **wax lean**. Isa. 17: 4
- This means YHWH is about to “thin” up Jacob, and “lean” up his people—his church. When therefore Damascus becomes a trembling to the nations, the Almighty sends this sign as a warning to his people, his church, that he is about to take the divine scalpel in hand, and begin the purification work among them, and only the faithful remnant will survive this purifying, **leaning** and **thinning** process. See Ezek. 9: 1-7 for more on this. He will turn and overturn in the institutions called by His name, and separate the wheat from the tare, the good fish from the bad, the dross from the gold, the righteous from the unrighteous in the Laodicaen Church of God!

The Purification Process in Zion

- This statement from Ellen White's pen is rather timely and fitting here:
- “**Whole conferences** are becoming leavened with the same perverted principles. ‘For the rich men thereof are full of violence, and the inhabitants thereof have spoken lies, and their tongue is deceitful in their mouth.’ **The Lord will work to purify his church.** I tell you in truth, the Lord is about to **turn and overturn** in the institutions **called by his name**. Just how soon this refining process will begin, I cannot say, but it will not be long deferred. He whose fan is in his hand will cleanse his temple of its moral defilement. He will thoroughly purge his floor.” *The Paulson Collection* of Ellen G. White Letters PARAGRAPH 01, PAGE 415; also in TM pp. 372-3

“The Harvestman Gathereth the Corn”

- 5 And it shall be as when the **harvestman gathereth the corn, and reapeth the ears with his arm**; and it shall be as he that gathereth ears in the valley of Rephaim [the valley of the giants]. Isa. 17: 5 [Comment on next slide]
- Corn is a crop which is harvested during the firstfruit harvest, thereby representing the gathering time of the 144,000 saints:--the gospel's “first fruits.”
- Lev 2:14 And if thou offer a meat offering of thy firstfruits unto the LORD, thou shalt offer for the meat offering of thy **firstfruits** green ears of **corn** dried by the fire, even corn beaten out of full ears.
- Jos 5:10 ¶ And the children of Israel encamped in Gilgal, and kept the **passover** on the fourteenth day of the month at even in the plains of Jericho.
- Jos 5:11 And they did eat of the old **corn** of the land on the morrow after the passover, unleavened cakes, and **parched [corn]** in the selfsame day. [See Rev. 14:4—“first fruits”]

The Valley of Rephaim

- 2Sa 5:18 **The Philistines** also came and spread themselves in **the valley of Rephaim**.
- 2Sa 5:22 And **the Philistines** came up yet again, and spread themselves in **the valley of Rephaim**.
- 1Ch 11:15 Now three of the thirty captains went down to the rock to David, into the cave of Adullam; and the host of **the Philistines** encamped in **the valley of Rephaim**.
- 1Ch 14:9 And **the Philistines** came and spread themselves in **the valley of Rephaim**.
- **The valley of Rephaim:** is proverbial as a philistine hideout, hence it becomes a symbol of the tares, unfaithful Christians in the Church, the enemies of righteousness, during the time of harvest. We today need to determine if we are an apostate “Philistine” or a conforming Israelite, for the work of the divine “Harvestman” will determine the destiny of each.

The “Thinning” and “Leaning”

- 5 And it shall be as when the **harvestman gathereth the corn, and reapeth the ears with his arm**; and it shall be as he that gathereth ears in the valley of Rephaim [the valley of the giants]. Isa. 17: 5
- This work of “thinning” and “leaning” is as meticulous as though the it were a hand-picked harvest by the farmer himself. This “husbandman” is Messiah himself who will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he shall purify his church—the sons of Levi himself. [See Mal. 3: 1-3 next slide]
- Isa. 17: 6 ¶ Yet **gleaning grapes** shall be **left** in it, as the shaking of an olive tree, **two or three** berries in the top of the uppermost bough, **four or five** in the outmost fruitful branches thereof, saith the LORD God of Israel.
- This tells us that probation is not closed for all, as yet there remain “gleaning grapes” [righteous souls] two or three berries in the top, and four or five in the outermost fruitful branches.

Mal 3: 1-3; The Cleansing

- 1 ¶ Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts. 2 But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for **he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap:** 3 And **he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi,** and **purge them as gold and silver,** that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness.
- At this time also, Isaiah's prophecy will be fulfilled: "19 And I will set a sign among them, and I will send those that escape of them unto the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, that draw the bow, to Tubal, and Javan, to the isles afar off, that have not heard my fame, neither have seen my glory; and they shall declare my glory among the Gentiles. 20 And they shall bring all your brethren for an offering unto the LORD out of all nations upon horses, and in chariots, and in litters, and upon mules, and upon swift beasts, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, saith the LORD, as the children of Israel bring an offering in a **clean vessel** into the house of the LORD. 21 And I will also take of them for priests and for **Levites,** saith the LORD." Isa. 66: 19-21

Isa. 10: 15-19; Leanness, Cont...

- “15 Shall the axe boast itself against him that heweth therewith? or shall the saw magnify itself against him that shaketh it? as if the rod should shake itself against them that lift it up, or as if the staff should lift up itself, as if it were no wood.” Isa. 10: 15
- [In other words, “Shall sinners dictate to the Saviour how to save?” Shall the clay dictate to the potter what type of pottery to make? Since his the Sovereign YHWH all by Himself without the need of any assists, we ought to fear the more earnestly that the proverbial “stone” does not fall on us and grind us to powder!]
- “16 Therefore shall the Lord, the Lord of hosts, **send among his fat ones leanness**; and under his glory he shall kindle a burning like the burning of a fire.” Isa. 10: 16
- “Fat” is never good, and the Torah prescribes it to be burned. See Lev. 4: 8-12
- 17 And the light of Israel shall be for a fire, and his Holy One for a flame: **and it shall burn and devour his thorns and his briers in one day**;
- 18 And shall consume **the glory of his forest**, and of his fruitful field, **both soul and body**: and they shall be **as when a standardbearer fainteth**. [See 5T p. 81, Slides 27-28]
- 19 And the rest of the trees of his forest shall be **few**, that a child may write them. Isa. 10: 15-19

The Shaking and Leaning Time

- “The days are fast approaching when there will be great perplexity and confusion. Satan, clothed in angel robes, will deceive, if possible, the very elect. There will be gods many and lords many. Every wind of doctrine will be blowing. Those who have rendered supreme homage to "science falsely so called" will not be the leaders then. Those who have trusted to intellect, genius, or talent will not then stand at the head of rank and file. They did not keep pace with the light. Those who have proved themselves unfaithful will not then be entrusted with the flock. In the last solemn work **few great men** will be engaged. They are self-sufficient, independent of God, and He cannot use them. **The Lord has faithful servants, who in the shaking, testing time will be disclosed to view.** There are precious ones now hidden who have not bowed the knee to Baal. They have not had the light which has been shining in a concentrated blaze upon you. But it may be under a rough and uninviting exterior the pure brightness of a genuine Christian character will be revealed. In the day time we look toward heaven but do not see the stars. They are there, fixed in the firmament, but the eye cannot distinguish them. In the night we behold their genuine luster.” {5T 80.1}, Cont...

Cont...

- The time is not far distant when the test will come to every soul. The mark of the beast will be urged upon us. **Those who have step by step yielded to worldly demands and conformed to worldly customs will not find it a hard matter to yield to the powers that be, rather than subject themselves to derision, insult, threatened imprisonment, and death.** The contest is between the commandments of God and the commandments of men. **In this time the gold will be separated from the dross in the church. True godliness will be clearly distinguished from the appearance and tinsel of it. Many a star that we have admired for its brilliancy will then go out in darkness.** Chaff like a cloud will be borne away on the wind, even from places where we see only floors of rich wheat. All who assume the ornaments of the sanctuary, but are not clothed with Christ's righteousness, will appear in the shame of their own nakedness. {5T 81.1}

Sinners Respect The Saviour []

- Isa. 17:7 At that day shall **a man** look to his **Maker**, and his eyes shall have **respect to the Holy One of Israel**.
- “A man,” here, implies people in general. They seeing the purification of the church will take serious heed to the gospel, and use this signal [purification of the Church] as their last warning sign to get right with their maker and King, hence the world will “look” to YHWH for salvation, and “have **respect** to the Holy One of Israel.” Today the world flaunts its fist in the face of its Maker, because the church is living after the manner of the world, but when God gets a people to represent his character to the nations, then the nations will also “respect” the God of Jacob. Friends, Christ is waiting on you and me, with longing desire for reproducing in, and the manifestation of His perfect character through our lives.

The Rise of ISIS and The Fall of Damascus, Syria-3

Garrick Augustus

First Presented on September 1, 2011

October 31, 2014

News in Review

- Two Cops injured by axe wielder in NYC, last week
- Cop injured in DC, today
- “BAGHDAD (AP) — Militants from the Islamic State carried out a mass killing of hundreds of Iraqi prison inmates when they seized the country's second-largest city of Mosul in June, an international rights group said on Thursday.
- Some 600 male Shiite inmates from Badoosh prison outside Mosul were forced to kneel along the edge of a nearby ravine and shot with automatic weapons, Human Rights Watch said in a statement based on interviews with 15 Shiite prisoners who survived the massacre.”
- http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/10/30/isis-kills-prisoners-mosul_n_6076448.html

Isa. 17: 1-5

- “1 ¶ The burden of Damascus. Behold, Damascus is taken away from being a city, and it shall be a ruinous heap. 2 The cities of Aroer are forsaken: they shall be for flocks, which shall lie down, and none shall make them afraid. 3 The fortress also shall cease from Ephraim, and the kingdom from Damascus, and the remnant of Syria: they shall be as the glory of the children of Israel, saith the LORD of hosts. 4 And in that day it shall come to pass, that the glory of Jacob shall be made thin, and the fatness of his flesh shall wax lean. 5 And it shall be as when the harvestman gathereth the corn, and reapeth the ears with his arm; and it shall be as he that gathereth ears in the valley of Rephaim. 6 ¶ Yet gleanings shall be left in it, as the shaking of an olive tree, two or three berries in the top of the uppermost bough, four or five in the outmost fruitful branches thereof, saith the LORD God of Israel.” Isa. 17: 1-5

Sinners Respect The Saviour

- Isa. 17:7 At that day shall **a man** look to his **Maker**, and his eyes shall have **respect** to the **Holy One of Israel**.
- “A man,” here, implies people in general. They seeing the purification of the church will take serious heed to the gospel, and use this signal as their last warning sign to get right with their maker and King, hence the world will “look” to YHWH for salvation, and “have **respect** to the Holy One of Israel.” Today the world flaunts its fist in the face of its Maker, because the church is living after the manner of the world, but when God gets a people to represent his character to the nations, then the nations will also “respect” the God of Jacob. Friends, Christ is waiting on you and me, with longing desire for reproducing in, and the manifestation of His perfect character through our lives.
-

Man Respecting YHWH

- “[11](#)The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day. [12](#)For the day of the LORD of hosts *shall be* upon every *one that is* proud and lofty, and upon every *one that is* lifted up; and he shall be brought low:[13](#)And upon all the cedars of Lebanon, *that are* high and lifted up, and upon all the oaks of Bashan, [14](#)And upon all the high mountains, and upon all the hills *that are* lifted up, [15](#)And upon every high tower, and upon every fenced wall, [16](#)And upon all the ships of Tarshish, and upon all pleasant pictures. [17](#)And the loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be made low: and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day. [18](#)And the idols he shall utterly abolish. [19](#)And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth. [20](#)In that day **a man** shall cast his idols of silver, and his idols of gold, which they made *each one* for himself to worship, to the moles and to the bats; [21](#)To go into the clefts of the rocks, and into the tops of the ragged rocks, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth.” Isa. 2: 11-21

- Isa. 17:7 At that day shall **a man** look to his **Maker**, and his eyes shall have **respect to the Holy One of Israel**.
- “**11** And I will punish the world for *their* evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible. **12** I will make **a man** more precious than fine gold; even **a man** than the golden wedge of Ophir.” Isa. 13: 11, 12
- In the day when the Almighty punishes the world for its evil, YHWH will refine and purify those who are striving after holiness, and will esteem a righteous man “more precious than fine gold; [yea], even a man [more precious] than the golden wedge of Ophir.” When through his refiner’s fire and fuller’s soap he cleanses his church, all the dross—the worthless material—will have been washed away, and only the purity of a virtuous Christian character will be remaining for the world to see.
- Ophir is mentioned as a gold-region, and the Gold of Ophir is esteemed for its purity, and so will the Church at that day.
- Ophir: [1 Kings 9:28](#); [1 Kings 10:11](#); [1 Kings 22:48](#); [1 Chronicles 29:4](#); [2 Chronicles 8:18](#); [2 Chronicles 9:10](#); [Job 22:24](#); [Job 28:16](#); [Psalm 45:9](#).

- Isa. 17: 8 And **he** [speaking of the same “man” in verse 7, representative of all sinners,] shall not look to **the altars** [of wood and stone, of mortar and clay], the work of his hands, neither shall **respect** *that* which his fingers have made, either the groves, or the images.
- **24**For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord. **25**Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul: **26**And when he had found him, he brought him unto **Antioch** [a city in Syria]. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And **the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.** **27**And in these days came prophets from Jerusalem unto Antioch.” Acts 11: 24-27
- Damascus was proverbial for idolatry, and wickedness thus the rebuke of God also rested on that city: [See 2 Kings 16: 10-19, Next Slides, the altar from Damascus]

2 Kings. 16: 10-19, Idolatry at Damascus, Syria

- 10 ¶ And **king Ahaz** went to **Damascus** to meet Tiglathpileser king of Assyria, and saw an altar that was at Damascus: and king Ahaz sent to Urijah the priest the fashion of the altar, and the pattern of it, according to all the workmanship thereof. 11 And Urijah the priest built an altar according to all that king Ahaz had sent from Damascus: so Urijah the priest made it against king Ahaz came from Damascus. 12 And when the king was come from Damascus, the king saw the altar: and the king approached to the altar, and offered thereon. 13 And he burnt his burnt offering and his meat offering, and poured his drink offering, and sprinkled the blood of his peace offerings, upon the altar. 14 And he brought also the brasen altar, which was before the LORD, from the forefront of the house, from between the altar and the house of the LORD, and put it on the north side of the altar. 15 And king Ahaz commanded Urijah the priest, saying, Upon the great altar burn the morning burnt offering, and the evening meat offering, and the king's burnt sacrifice, and his meat offering, with the burnt offering of all the people of the land, and their meat offering, and their drink offerings; and sprinkle upon it all the blood of the burnt offering, and all the blood of the sacrifice: and the brasen altar shall be for me to enquire by. 16 Thus did Urijah the priest, according to all that king Ahaz commanded...

Cont...

- 17 ¶ And king Ahaz cut off the borders of the bases, and removed the laver from off them; and took down the sea from off the brasen oxen that were under it, and put it upon a pavement of stones. 18 And the covert for the sabbath that they had built in the house, and the king's entry without, **turned he from the house of the LORD for the king of Assyria.** 19 Now the rest of the acts of Ahaz which he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? **2 Kings. 16: 10-19** [Go back to Slide 20]

- Isa. 17: 9 ¶ In that day shall his **strong cities** [the major cities of Syria] be as a **forsaken bough**, and **an uppermost branch, which they left [abandoned] because of the children of Israel** [the inheritors of the kingdom]: and **there shall be desolation** [in Aram—Syria].
- We see that this desolation is not restricted only to Damascus, but all the major, or “strong” cities of Syria, will be abandoned, or “left” for “the children of Israel”—the 144,000.
- Isa. 17: 10 Because thou hast **forgotten the God of thy salvation**, and hast **not been mindful of the rock of thy strength**, therefore shalt thou plant **pleasant plants** [Abrahamic Christianity and Messianic Christianity], and shalt set it with **strange slips**:
- “**1**Now there were in the church that was at **Antioch certain prophets** and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. **2**As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. **3**And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid *their* hands on them, they **sent them away.**” Acts 13: 1-3

- “Damascus is mentioned in [Genesis](#) 14:15 as existing at the time of the [War of the Kings](#).^[14] According to the 1st-century Jewish historian [Flavius Josephus](#) in his twenty-one volume [Antiquities of the Jews](#), Damascus (along with [Trachonitis](#)), was founded by [Uz](#), the son of [Aram](#).^[15] Elsewhere, in Ant. i. 7^[16] he stated:
- [Nicolaus of Damascus](#), in the fourth book of his History, says thus: "[Abraham](#) reigned at Damascus, being a foreigner, who came with an army out of the land above Babylon, called the land of the Chaldeans: but, after a long time, he got him up, and removed from that country also, with his people, and went into the land then called the land of [Canaan](#), but now the land of Judea, and this when his posterity were become a multitude; as to which posterity of his, we relate their history in another work. Now the name of Abraham is even still famous in the country of Damascus; and there is shown a village named from him, The Habitation of Abraham." <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Damascus>

- So, Antioch, Syria, was a launching base of operation for the early church as is evidenced in this passage. It was in Antioch, also, as we've already seen, that the followers of Christ (Messiah) were first called "Christians"
- [**slips** = shoots or branches; the religions of Roman Catholicism and Mohammedanism (Islam) are such "strange slips" to the historic "faith of our Fathers," which was cradled in Aram (Syria). [[Go to Slide 41](#)]
- "**Great Mosque of Damascus**, also called Umayyad Mosque, the earliest surviving stone [mosque](#), built between ad 705 and 715 by the Umayyad Caliph al-Walīd I. The mosque stands on the site of a 1st-century Hellenic temple to Jupiter and of a later church of St. [John the Baptist](#)."
<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/150445/Great-Mosque-of-Damascus>

- “That’s what the Old City symbolizes,” Ghazi [a secular Christian tour guide] says,... “And if you go back in history, it has always been symbolizing this same thing. **It was Christian**, and when the Muslims came, they converted many churches to mosques” —**the Umayyad Mosque, where a church once stood**, still houses a shrine to John the Baptist—“and life has continued.” -- <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2014/03/syrian-war/barnard-text>
- You can now see that the once burgeoning city for Y’shuah name, was now splintered into these two major rival contenders—Catholicism and Mohammedanism, which are wild idolatrous vines from the parent, Abrahamic stock.

- “**Christians in Syria** make up about 10% of the population.^[1] The country's largest Christian denomination is the [Greek Orthodox Church of Antioch](#) (known as the *Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of [Antioch](#) and All the East*),^{[2][3][4]} closely followed by the [Melkite Greek Catholic Church](#), one of the [Eastern Catholic Churches](#) which has a common root with the Greek Orthodox Church of Antioch,^[5] and then by an [Oriental Syriac Orthodox Church](#); there are also a minority of [Protestants](#) and members of the [Assyrian Church of the East](#) and [Chaldean Catholic Church](#). The city of [Aleppo](#) is believed to have the largest number of Christians in Syria.”
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christianity_in_Syria
- “**Islam in Syria** total population:^[1] [Sunnis](#) make up 74%^[1] of the total, mostly of [Arab](#), [Kurdish](#) and [Turkoman](#) ethnicities. [Shia's](#) make up the remaining 13%:^[1] [Alawites](#) are the predominant Shia group, followed by [Twelvers](#) and [Ismailis](#). Sunnis are mainly of the [Shafi'i madhhab](#) with pockets of [Hanafi](#) and [Hanbali](#). Several large [Sufi](#) orders are active in the country, including the [Naqshbandi tariqa](#), and [Qadiriyya](#). Although not traditionally considered as Muslims, the [Druze](#) make up 3% of the total population.^[1] ” http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam_in_Syria

Religion in Syria

- “Membership of a religious community in [Syria](#) is ordinarily determined by birth. Based on statistical analyses from 2006, [Muslims](#) were estimated as constituting 87% to 90% (depending on whether [Druze](#) were included or not)^[1] of the total [population](#), although their proportion was possibly greater and was certainly growing. The Muslim birthrate reportedly was higher than that of the minorities, and proportionately fewer Muslims were emigrates. Of the [Syrian population](#), 74 to 64%^[1] were [Sunnis](#) (including [Sufis](#)^[2]), whereas 13 to 21% were [Shias](#), either [Alawites](#) (18.0%) from which about 2% are called Mershdis and they are the followers of [Sulayman al-Murshid](#), [Twelvers](#) (3%), or [Ismailis](#) (0.1%).^[1] 5% were [Druze](#),^[1] while the remaining 10-15% were [Christians](#).^[1] Not all the Sunnis are [Arabs](#). Most of the [Kurds](#), who make up 9% of the population^[3] are officially Sunni, as are the [Turkmens](#) who encompass 1%.” http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religion_in_Syria

Comment for Isa. 17: 9

- Amos 3:12 Thus saith the LORD; As the shepherd taketh out of the mouth of the lion two legs, or a piece of an ear; so shall the children of Israel be taken out that dwell in Samaria in the corner of a bed, and in Damascus *in* a couch.
- Meaning: Those who were ready to perish at the hands of the enemy will be rescued by the great I AM.
- Amos 5:27 “Therefore will I cause you to go into captivity beyond Damascus, saith the LORD, whose name *is* The God [YHWH] of hosts.”
- Meaning: Israel was sent into captivity by YHWH of armies, into Syria, and will also be rescued by Him, from there, because of their repentance and acceptance of Messiah.
- Zech 9:1 The burden of the word of the LORD in the land of Hadrach [[Lebanon](#)], and Damascus *shall be* the rest thereof: when the eyes of man, as of all the tribes of Israel, *shall be* toward the LORD. [[Read entire chapter](#)]

- Slips from vines, especially the potato family, hence “slips” are vines, not women’s garments.
- “20 ¶ For of old time I have broken thy yoke, and burst thy bands; and thou saidst, I will not transgress; when upon every high hill and under every green tree thou wanderest, playing the harlot. 21 Yet I had planted thee **a noble vine**, wholly a right seed: how then art thou turned into the **degenerate plant of a strange vine** unto me? 22 For though thou wash thee with nitre, and take thee much soap, yet thine iniquity is marked before me, saith the Lord GOD.” Jer. 2: 20-22

The Two “Slips” of Rome

- The first president of Princeton University, Jonathan Edwards, wrote in his book, *“A History of the work of Redemption,”* the following commentary on the Papacy and Islam:
- “The **two great works of the devil** which he in this space of time [from Constantine to the Reformation] wrought against the kingdom of Christ, are his creating his Antichristian and Mahometan (sic) kingdoms, which have been, and still are, two kingdoms of great extent and strength, both together swallowing up the ancient Roman Empire; the kingdom of Antichrist [the Papacy] swallowing up the Western Empire, and Satan’s Mahometan (sic) kingdom [Muslim or Islamic] the Eastern Empire. As the Scriptures in the book of the Revelation represent it, *it is in the destruction of these that the glorious victory of Christ at the introduction of the glorious times of the church, will mainly consist.* And here let us briefly observe how Satan erects and maintains these two great kingdoms of his in opposition to the kingdom of Christ.” (Jonathan Edwards, 1739, [*A History of the Work of Redemption*](#)), pp. 456-457

The Two “Slips” of Rome, Cont...

- “The Moors once occupied Portugal. The village of Fatima was given the Islamic name of the well-loved Princess of the nearby Castle of Ourem. She died at an early age after marrying the Count of Ourem and converting to Catholicism. Baptized with the Christian name of Oureana, she was named at birth ‘Fatima,’ like many other Moslem girls, in honor of the daughter of Mohammed. Of his daughter, Fatima, the founder of Islam, Mohammed, said: ‘**She has the highest place in heaven after the Virgin Mary.**’
- “It is a fact that Moslems from various nations, especially from the Middle East, make so many pilgrimages to Our Lady of Fatima's Shrine in Portugal that Portuguese officials have expressed concern. **The combination of an Islamic name and Islamic devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary is a great attraction to Moslems.** God is writing straight with crooked lines, as we will see. Fatima is a part of Heaven's Peace Plan. It is hope for the world.”—
Continued...

The Two “Slips” of Rome, Cont...

- **The Koran:** “In the Koran, the holy name of the Blessed Virgin Mary is mentioned no less than thirty times [34 times to be exact]. No other woman's name is even mentioned, not even that of Mohammed's daughter, Fatima. Among men, only Abraham, Moses, and Noah are mentioned more times than Our Lady. In the Koran, Our Blessed Mother is described as "Virgin, ever Virgin." The Islamic belief in the virginity of Mary puts to shame the heretical beliefs of those who call themselves Christian, while denying the perpetual virginity of Mary. **Make no mistake about it, there is a very special relationship between the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Moslems!** Soul Magazine, © 2001 The Blue Army of Our Lady of Fatima, U.S.A., Inc. September - October 2001, page 6;
<http://www.ewtn.com/library/mary/olislam.htm>

The Two Slips of Romanism

- **Interfaith dialogue with Muslims and “Christians”**
- “In November 2007, King Abdullah visited [Pope Benedict XVI](#) in the [Apostolic Palace](#). He is the first Saudi monarch to visit the Pope.^[31] In March 2008, he called for a ‘brotherly and sincere dialogue between believers from all religions.’^[32]
- “In June 2008, he held a conference in [Mecca](#) to urge Muslim leaders to speak with one voice with Jewish and Christian leaders.^[33] He discussed and took approval of the Saudi Islamic scholars and the world's renowned Islamic scholars to hold the [interfaith](#) dialogue. In the same month, Saudi Arabia and [Spain](#) agreed to hold the interfaith dialogue **in Spain**.^[34] The historic conference finally took place in Madrid in July 2008 where religious leaders of different faiths participated.”^[35]
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abdullah_of_Saudi_Arabia
- Note: the relationship between Portugal and Spain, as it relates to Fatima, and the Historic conference for these 3 religions of Abraham’s descent.

- Isa. 17: 11 In the day shalt thou make **thy plant to grow**, and **in the morning** shalt thou make **thy seed to flourish**: *but the harvest shall be* a heap in the day of grief and **of desperate sorrow**.
- In Damascus, Syria, during the “morning” of Christianity, a plant has grown to a false deity, even the plant of Islam, and her seed has flourished—became very popular in its spread, yet, it will not leave a harvest of ripe (righteous) fruits, but instead the harvest will be as “a heap in the day of grief.” It will be stubble for the flames. The great challenge for the Church today, and for the 144,000 saints of tomorrow, will be to uproot this noxious “plant” – the heresy of Mohammed's, with “the everlasting gospel” of the Third Angel’s—
“Fear YHWY and give glory to Him for the hour of His judgment is come.” Rev. 14: 7

- Isa. 17:12 ¶ Woe to **the multitude of many people** [the seed which flourishes--Islam], which make a noise like the **noise of the seas**; and [woe] to the **rushing of nations**, that make a rushing like the rushing of mighty waters! [See next slide]
- Islam is reputed to be the largest religion on earth, and is growing at a rapid pace. It is vast and widespread like “the **multitude of many people**, *which* make a noise like the noise of **the seas**”. This religion has taken in more converts than the gospel of Messiah, although Islam came into existence only some 1,400 years ago, in the year 622 AD! In other words, Christianity predated Islam by about 600 years, yet, Islam has surpassed Christianity in terms of numbers of converts to their faith! We have work to do, individually and collectively, to let the light of the Gospel shine in the darkness our world.

The Growth & Spread of Islam

- “Muslim population has been ever increasing through birth rate as well as high rate of conversions. **Islam is fastest growing religion and consequently this religion has become now the largest followers on this planet. At this moment Muslim population stands at 2.1 billion** which is far greater than currently estimated 1.6 to 1.7 billion whereas Christian Population is 1.98 billion [religiouspopulation.com]. According to some sources Muslim populations in India, China, Nigeria, Tanzania, Ethiopia and in some other countries are displayed less than the actual population they have. In many parts like Europe[Cambridge University], North America[CNN], **Christian's are getting away from their religious belief, On the contrary among the Muslim Population the faith to their religion is ever increasing** [CNN]. Consequently the present so called higher [number] of Christian population as stated in different sources, practically do not have any significance. **It is expected that if present rate of increase of Muslim population continues that by 2030 One out of Three person will be Muslim.**”-- <http://muslimpopulation.com/>

Cont...

- Our calculations displayed that in **2012** Christian population is **2** billion and Muslims are **2.1** billion. <http://www.religiouspopulation.com/>
- **This equates to 30% of the current global population of 7.1 billion!** See: <http://www.islamicweb.com/begin/population.htm>
- “Ethnic Syrians are of Semitic stock. Syria's population is 90% Muslim--74% Sunni, and 16% other Muslim groups, including the Alawi, Shi'a, and Druze--and **10% Christian**. There also is a tiny Syrian Jewish community.” <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/3580.htm>

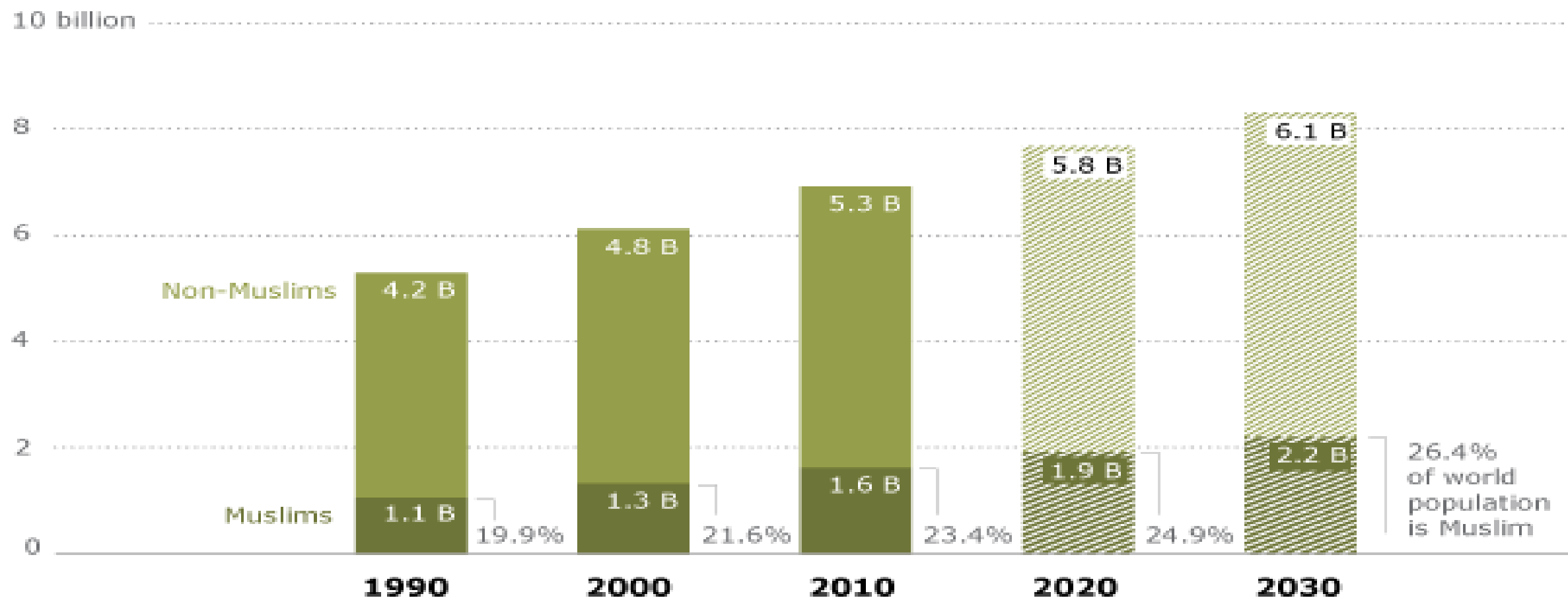
Muslim Population by Region

	2010		2030	
	ESTIMATED MUSLIM POPULATION	ESTIMATED PERCENTAGE OF GLOBAL MUSLIM POPULATION	PROJECTED MUSLIM POPULATION	PROJECTED PERCENTAGE OF GLOBAL MUSLIM POPULATION
World	1,619,314,000	100.0%	2,190,154,000	100.0%
Asia-Pacific	1,005,507,000	62.1	1,295,625,000	59.2
Middle East-North Africa	321,869,000	19.9	439,453,000	20.1
Sub-Saharan Africa	242,544,000	15.0	385,939,000	17.6
Europe	44,138,000	2.7	58,209,000	2.7
Americas	5,256,000	0.3	10,927,000	0.5

Population estimates are rounded to thousands. Percentages are calculated from unrounded numbers.

Figures may not add exactly due to rounding.

Muslims as a Share of World Population, 1990-2030



Percentages are calculated from unrounded numbers. Cross hatching denotes projected figures.

Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life • *The Future of the Global Muslim Population*, January 2011

- 13 **The nations shall rush** like the rushing of many waters: but **God shall rebuke them**, and **they shall flee far off** [He will drive them out], and [they] shall be chased as **the chaff** of the mountains before the wind, and like **a rolling thing** [tumble weed] before the whirlwind. Isa. 17:13
- Islam, with the rest of the unbelieving world, will “rush like the rushing of many waters” — as it is made up of many nations, but YHWH “shall rebuke them” all, and drive them out of His land, yet, He will redeem only those who have made His Son their hiding place for salvation.

- 14 And behold **at eveningtide trouble**; *and* before **the morning** he *is* not. This *is* the portion of **them that spoil us** [the spiritual robbers], and the lot of **them that rob us**. Isa. 17:14
- The “eveningtide” here mentioned, marks the end of earth’s history, the very last closing hours of human probation. What a great work of harvest abounds for the 144,000! The evening of earth’s history will be an intense time of trouble, but the “morning” of the resurrection hastens, when it is not, because there’ll be joy to the righteous, in the morning!
- “**Them that Spoil us, and...them that rob us**” speak specifically to the prophecies of Daniel 11:14 which declare, “And in those times there shall many stand up against the king of the south: also **the robbers of thy people** shall exalt themselves to establish the vision; but they shall fall.” The “robbers” here, are those who have robbed from the Church the Hebrew-Christian faith once and for all delivered to the saints, and intertwined it with Babylonian worship.

Cont... []

- “**Them that Spoil us, and...them that rob us**” have independently corrupted the Torah, and the rest of Scripture and presented a false standard of righteousness before the world, while at the same time they work with clandestine deceitfulness to stamp out the light of salvation, the light of truth as it is in Messiah.
- Dan 11:27 “And **both these kings**’ hearts shall be to **do mischief**, and they shall **speak lies at one table**; but it shall not prosper: for yet the end shall be at the time appointed.”
- That we are here dealing with two distinct “branches” or “kings” cannot be controverted, as the Scriptures clearly declare, “**both these kings**” shall do mischief, which will lead them both to “**speak lies at one table**”. This “one table” clause illustrates that these powers will grant false hopes of salvation to the same people (nations) they are seeking to convert to their respective religious views. For example Roman Catholicism requires its converts to believe in the Blessed Virgin Mary for salvation, while Islam requires belief in Allah as the one and true God, and Mohammed to be his last and greatest prophet—both being “lies” spoken at this “one table” — same group of people.

The Kingdom Extends to Damascus

- Eze 47:16 Hamath, Berothah, Sibraim, which *is* between the border of Damascus and the border of Hamath; Hazarhatticon, which *is* by the coast of Hauran.
- Eze 47:17 And the border from the sea shall be Hazarenan, the border of Damascus, and the north northward, and the border of Hamath. And *this is* the north side.
- Eze 47:18 And the east side ye shall measure from Hauran, and from Damascus, and from Gilead, and from the land of Israel *by* Jordan, from the border unto the east sea. And *this is* the east side.
- Eze 48:1 Now these *are* the names of the tribes. From the north end to the coast of the way of Hethlon, as one goeth to Hamath, Hazarenan, the border of Damascus northward, to the coast of Hamath; for these are his sides east *and* west; a *portion for* Dan.

Hamath Today

- “**Hama** ([Arabic](#): حمّاة Ḥamāh [\[ħa'maː\]](#), Biblical Ḥamāth, ("Fortress") is a city on the banks of the [Orontes River](#) in west-central [Syria](#). It is located 213 kilometres (132 mi) north of [Damascus](#) and 46 kilometres (29 mi) north of [Homs](#). It is the provincial capital of the [Hama Governorate](#). With a population of 698,928 (2011 census), Hama is the fourth-largest city in Syria after [Aleppo](#), Damascus and [Homs](#). The modern city is built on the site of the ancient city of **Hamath**.
- “The city is renowned for its seventeen [norias](#) used for watering the gardens, which are locally claimed to date back to 1100 BC. Though historically used for purpose of irrigation, the norias exist today as an almost entirely aesthetic traditional show.

- In the last decades, the city of Hama has become known as a center of the anti-[Ba'ath](#) opposition in Syria, most notably the [Muslim Brotherhood](#). The city was raided by the Syrian Army, beginning with the [1964 Islamic uprising](#), and becoming the scene of carnage during the [Islamic uprising in Syria](#) in [April 1981](#) and especially in 1982, when some 25,000 people were killed in what became known as [Hama massacre](#). The city was once again [besieged](#) by the Syrian military, as one of the main arenas of the [2011 uprising](#). <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hamath>

The City of Hamath Today

- **Hama** city, central Syria, on the banks of the [Orontes River](#). It was an important prehistoric settlement, becoming the kingdom of Hamath under the Aramaeans in the 11th century BC. It fell under Assyrian control in the 9th century BC, later passing under Persian, Macedonian, and Seleucid rule, the Seleucids renaming the city Epiphaneia in the 2nd century BC. During Byzantine rule it reverted to Emath, a form of its traditional name. When the Arabs took the city in the 7th century AD, they transformed the principal Christian church into a great mosque. Hamah was captured by the crusaders in 1108, retaken by the Muslims in 1115, destroyed by an earthquake in 1175, and occupied by Saladin in 1188, the Egyptian Mamluk sultans about 1300, and the Ottomans in the early 16th century. It passed to modern Syria after [World War I](#). **Encyclopedia Britannica**, 2008. Encyclopedia Britannica Online.

Hama (Hamath)

- “The city has a long history, having been settled as far back as the Bronze Age and Iron Age. In the 2nd millennium B.C. , it was a center of the Hittites. **As Hamath it is often mentioned in the Bible, where it is said to be the northern boundary of the Israelite tribes.** The Assyrians under Shalmaneser III captured the city in the mid-9th cent. B.C. Later included in the Persian Empire, it was conquered by Alexander the Great and, after his death (323 B.C.), was claimed by the Seleucid kings, who renamed it Epiphania, after Antiochus IV (Antiochus Epiphanes). The city later came under the control of Rome and of the Byzantine Empire. In A.D. 638 it was captured by the Arabs.”

<http://www.reference.com/browse/wiki/Hama>

Idolatry Imported From Damascus

- 2Ki 16:10 And king Ahaz went to **Damascus** to meet Tiglathpileser king of Assyria, and saw an altar that *was* at Damascus: and king Ahaz sent to Urijah the priest the fashion of the altar, and the pattern of it, according to all the workmanship thereof.
- 2Ki 16:11 And Urijah the priest built an altar according to all that king Ahaz had sent from Damascus: so Urijah the priest made *it* against king Ahaz came from **Damascus**.
- 2Ki 16:15 And king Ahaz commanded Urijah the priest, saying, Upon the great altar burn the morning burnt offering, and the evening meat offering, and the king's burnt sacrifice, and his meat offering, with the burnt offering of all the people of the land, and their meat offering, and their drink offerings; and sprinkle upon it all the blood of the burnt offering, and all the blood of the sacrifice: and the brasen altar shall be for me to enquire *by*.
- 2Ki 16:16 Thus did Urijah the priest, according to all that king Ahaz commanded.

- Am 1:3 Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Damascus, and for four, I will not turn away *the punishment* thereof; because they have threshed Gilead with threshing instruments of iron:
- Am 1:5 I will break also the bar of Damascus, and cut off the inhabitant from the plain of Aven, and him that holdeth the sceptre from the house of Eden: and the people of Syria shall go into captivity unto Kir, saith the LORD.
- Am 3:12 Thus saith the LORD; As the shepherd taketh out of the mouth of the lion two legs, or a piece of an ear; so shall the children of Israel be taken out that dwell in Samaria in the corner of a bed, and in Damascus *in* a couch.
- Am 5:27 Therefore will I cause you to go into captivity beyond Damascus, saith the LORD, whose name is The God of hosts.
- Zec 9:1 The burden of the word of the LORD in the land of Hadrach, and Damascus *shall be* the rest thereof: when the eyes of man, as of all the tribes of Israel, *shall be* toward the LORD.

- Ob 1:1 The vision of Obadiah. Thus saith the Lord GOD concerning Edom; We have heard a rumour from the LORD, and an ambassador is sent among the heathen, Arise ye, and let us rise up against her in battle.
- Hab 2:7 Shall they not rise up suddenly that shall bite thee, and awake that shall vex thee, and thou shalt be for booties unto them?

Sweep away ...

- In Christ's day the religious leaders had so long presented human ideas before the people, that the teaching of Christ was in every way opposed to their theories and practice. His sermon on the mount virtually contradicted the doctrines of the self-righteous scribes and Pharisees. They had so misrepresented God that He was looked upon as a stern judge, incapable of compassion, mercy, and love. They presented to the people endless maxims and traditions as proceeding from God, when they had no "Thus saith the Lord" for their authority... **Christ made every effort so to sweep away the misrepresentations of Satan**, that the confidence of man in the love of God might be restored. He taught man to address the Supreme Ruler of the universe by the new name -- "Our Father."-- Review and Herald, Sept. 11, 1894.

Sweep away clouds of error

- The Waldensian missionaries were invading the kingdom of Satan, and the powers of darkness aroused to greater vigilance. Every effort to advance the truth was watched by the prince of evil, and he excited the fears of his agents. The papal leaders saw a portent of danger to their cause from the labors of these humble itinerants. **If the light of truth were allowed to shine unobstructed, it would sweep away the heavy clouds of error** that enveloped the people; it would direct the minds of men to God alone, and would eventually destroy the supremacy of Rome. {GC88 75.5}
- The very existence of this people, **holding the faith of the ancient church**, was a constant testimony to Rome's apostasy, and therefore excited the most bitter hatred and persecution. Their refusal to surrender the Scriptures was also an offense that Rome could not tolerate. She determined to blot them from the earth. Now began the most terrible crusades against God's people in their mountain homes. Inquisitors were put upon their track, and the scene of innocent Abel falling before the murderous Cain was often repeated. {GC88 76.1}