

# Bible Prophecy And The Middle East

## Introduction:

- A. Speculators capitalizing on Middle Eastern Turmoil.
  - 1. **Pat Robinson:** Recent events point to fulfillment of Bible prophecies that nations of world to come against Israel.
  - 2. **Jack Van Impe:** Told national TV audience that Iraq and Persian Gulf is prelude to Armageddon which is to begin in Euphrates River in Iraq (Babylon)
  - 3. **Ken Fleming:** "Prophetically, in the future Babylon will once again be a great nation. The Bible foresees that it will prostitute its political and religious and commercial power in association with a world leader called The Beast (Rev. 14:8-9; 17:11-12)...Likewise note things of interest in Iraq (Babylon) which may have a bearing on the approach of the events surrounding the Second Coming."
  - 4. **Dr. Spiros Zodiatas:** Advertises tape called "Iraq in Prophecy" - "These lessons provide the biblical information to identify Iraq as the modern Babylon."
- B. Nothing new - Every war has given rise to speculation about prophecy.

## Discussion:

### I. The Captivity and Return Of The Jews?

- A. Israel to be taken into captivity. (Deut. 28:36-47, 45-52)
- B. Northern kingdom taken away. (2 Kg. 17:6,23-24; 2 Kings 18:9-12)
- C. Southern kingdom (Judah)
  - 1. Prophesied. (Isa. 39:6; Jer. 20:4; 25:2-22; 32:28).
  - 2. Fulfilled. (2 Kings 24:25).
- D. Jews returned. (Ezra, Nehemiah)

### II. The Fall Of Babylon?

- A. Ancient Babylon fell in 539 B.C.
- B. Millennialists reason that since prophecies not fulfilled, Iraq is Babylon.
  - 1. Isaiah and Babylon. (Ch. 13,14)
    - a. Babylon to be destroyed. (13:1,6)
    - b. Destroyed by Medes. (13:17-20).
    - c. Not to rise again. (14:21-23).
    - d. Judgment in figurative language. (13:10; cf. Mt. 24:29; Joel 2:10; 3:15-16).
  - 2. Jeremiah and Babylon. (ch. 50,51)
    - a. Babylon to be destroyed (ch. 50:1-10; 51:37)
    - b. Statement from McClintock and Strong. (GOT Feb. 7,1991 p. 7).
    - c. Invaded from north by armies using bow and arrows, etc. (50:9,14,42).
    - d. Israel to be restored to homeland. (50:4-5; cf. 29:10).
    - e. Israel to flee from midst of Babylon. (51:6).
    - f. All this fulfilled by return in 536 not today.
  - 3. Revelation and Babylon. (ch. 17,18).
    - a. A mystery or figurative. (17:7)
    - b. Best fits Rome, not Iraq.
      - (1) Rules of kings of earth. (17:18).
      - (2) Corrupts nations. (17:2, 18:3, 19:2).
      - (3) Sets on seven hills (17:9).
      - (4) Center of world trade. (18:3,11-13).
      - (5) Persecutes saints. (17:6).

### III. The Great Tribulation and the end?

- A. Abomination of Desolation. (Mt. 24:15).
- B. Fulfilled in A.D. 70 (Matt. 24:1-34).

### IV. The Battle Of Armageddon? (Rev. 16:16)

- A. Means "Mount of Megiddo".
- B. No mention of such a literal Mountain.
  - 1. Megiddo and its three heights. (Josh.17:11).
  - 2. Megiddo and its towns. (Jud. 1:27)

3. Waters of Megiddo (Jud. 5:19)
4. Valley of Megiddo (2 Chron. 35:22; Zech. 12:11)

C. Many battles fought in this area.

1. Deborah against Canaanites. (Jug. 4,5).
2. Gideon defeat Midianites. (Jug. 7:1).
3. Josiah fought Neco (2 Kings 23:29f; 2 Chr. 35:22) proved to be decisive against Egypt.  
Slowed Neco from reaching Haran to aid Assyria against Babylon.

D. Thus figure of great spiritual battle.

E. Probably Lord's defeat of Rome with its pagan power. (cf. 19:11-21).

Conclusion:

- A. Many have sensationalized current event in past - will continue.
- B. Most of what they see in prophecy has long since been fulfilled.
- C. Will continue to gain from the gullibility, fear and hopes of people.
- D. Lord will return in due time, we know not when, be prepared at all times.
- E. So-called signs are just imaginations based on already fulfilled prophecies.