



Middle East Meltdown - Is this the Beginning of the End?

Haggai 2:6,7: (ASV) ⁶For thus saith Jehovah of hosts: Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land; ⁷and I will shake all nations; and the precious things of all nations shall come; and I will fill this house with glory, saith Jehovah of hosts.



Special Guest: David Stein

In addition, we recommend listening to the following archived programs and follow along with their Rewinds: "What's Next for Israel in Prophecy," Part 1 (June 27, 2010) and Part 2 (August 1, 2010)

The recent newscasts from around the world depict a growing sense of dissatisfaction with civil government. Reports from Muslim nations in the past few weeks reveal a surprising amount of anger towards the totalitarian governments, even when the rulers are ostensibly fellow Moslems. Dictators, kings and rulers long entrenched are coming under assault by mass demonstrations in the streets. Already we have seen the Egyptian Hosni Mubarak government changed. Muammar Qaddafi of

Libya is under pressure from his people and now from the world to step aside. Similar sentiments are occurring in Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Somalia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Yemen, Jordan, Kashmir, and Iran. Other governments such as China, Russia and Pakistan are already taking steps to undermine any civil demonstrations against them. Even in the United States, we are experiencing angry demonstrations by state and union workers over proposed cost cutting state-level budget changes. Everywhere we look we see growing unrest in civil, religious and economic circles. Is this just like any cycle of change sweeping the world or does it indicate something more fundamental and earthshaking? Is this the beginning of the biblical Time of the End?

Facts of Unrest

Tunisia: First of the demonstrations starting in December, 2010



(Source: Wikipedia) The Tunisian Revolution is an intensive campaign of civil resistance, including a series of street demonstrations taking place in Tunisia. The events began in December 2010 and led to the ousting of longtime President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali in January 2011. Street demonstrations and other unrest have continued to the present day.

Egypt: Demonstrations start January 25, 2011, Mubarak out Feb. 11, 2011



(Source: Wikipedia) Events in Tunisia may have inspired the largest street protests ever to challenge Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's nearly 30 years in power, but the anger fueling those protests is not new. It has been seething beneath the surface for many years, exploding at times, but never before in such widespread, sustained fury.

(Source: New York Times, January 28, 2011) The grievances are economic, social, historic and deeply personal. Egyptians, like Tunisians, often speak of their dignity, which many said has been wounded by Mubarak's monopoly on power, his iron-fisted approach to security and corruption that has been allowed to fester. The litany of complaints against Mubarak is well-known to anyone who has spent time in Egypt. The police are brutal. Elections are rigged. Corruption is rampant. Life gets more difficult for the masses, as the rich grow richer and the poor grow poorer.



Egyptian Fall Sparks Middle East, CBS News

- *Mubarak's fall will change the Middle East forever*

Jordan, Kuwait, Yemen, and Iran: Further Protests and Violence, CNN

Yemen:



(Source: Wikipedia) A major demonstration of over 16,000 protestors took place in Sana'a on 27 January, 2011. On 2 February, President Saleh announced he would not run for reelection in 2013 and that he would not pass power to his son. On 3 February, 20,000 people protested against the government in Sana'a, others protested in Aden, in a "Day of Rage" called for by Tawakel Karman, while soldiers, armed members of the General People's Congress and many protestors held a pro-government rally in Sana'a.

Kuwait:



(Source: Reuters, 2/19/11) Thirty people were wounded in Friday's clashes in Kuwait between security forces and stateless Arabs demanding citizenship, security sources said on Saturday. The protest in Jahra, northwest of Kuwait City, was the first in the oil-producing Gulf Arab state since a wave of unrest began sweeping across the Middle East in December.

Jordan:



(Source: Wikipedia) The 2011 Jordanian protests are a series of protests occurring in Jordan in 2011, which resulted in the firing of the cabinet ministers of the government. Food inflation and salaries were a cause for resentment in the country. The 2010-2011 Tunisian uprising and 2011 Egyptian protests also raised hopes for political change in the region.

Together with unrest elsewhere in the Middle East and North Africa, including the disturbances in Jordan and Yemen, they are part of the 2010-2011 Arab world protests also known as the domino effect of Arab unrest.

Bahrain:



Further protests and violence (Our United States Navy 5th Fleet is stationed here, so we have a strategic interest here!)

What causes such widespread and seemingly spontaneous unrest?

Iran:



(Source: Asia News, 3/2/2011) Basij militias attack demonstrators with batons, firearms and tear gas. Dozens of arrests. Demonstrations in the streets of Tehran and other major cities of Iran. The Green Wave demands the release of all leaders. Another demonstration is scheduled for March 15.

Saudi Arabia: Protests start 1/29/2011



(Source: Wikipedia) The 2011 Saudi Arabian protests have been influenced by the 2010-2011 Middle East and North Africa protests. On 29 January, hundreds of people protested over poor infrastructure in Jeddah following flooding and an online campaign for major political and economic changes started. Forty women demonstrated on 5 February for the release of prisoners held without trial. Plans were made for a "Day

of Rage" on 11 March, contributing to a rise in oil prices. One of the main online organizers, Faisal Ahmed Abdul-Ahadwas, was alleged to have been killed by Saudi security forces on 2



March, by which time one of the Facebook groups discussing the plans had over 17,000 members.

Libya: Demonstrations start February 15, 2011, currently in a civil war, becoming a world crisis:



(Source: Wikipedia) The 2011 Libyan uprising began as a series of protests and confrontations occurring in the North African state of Libya against Muammar Gaddafi's 42-year rule. The protests began on 15 February 2011 and have since become a widespread uprising that continues to the present. Inspiration for the unrest is attributed to the uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt, connecting it with the wider 2010-11 Middle East and North Africa protests. On 22 February, The Economist described the events as an "uprising that is trying to reclaim Libya from the world's longest-ruling autocrat."

CAUSES OF THIS UNREST:

Corruption of the Rulers

Economic Hardship – Rich get richer and poor get poorer

Joblessness or Low Paying Jobs

Rising Prices (Inflation)

Suppression of Freedom

Rigged Elections

Hopelessness

Anger!

Religious Differences (Sunni and Shiite)

Qaddafi's Net Worth, *CBS News Online*

- *Net worth estimated at over \$20 billion dollars*

The callousness of these ruling parties with so much wealth, not freely sharing with the people for the advancement of their societies shows they have no heart.

Are these revolts spontaneous? They were spontaneous in the sense that they started in Tunisia and spread because people began to see that mass demonstrations were actually working.

The technology of this age provides of flow of knowledge that is keeping this fire going. Communication networks like Twitter allows people to organize and coordinate immediately like never before.

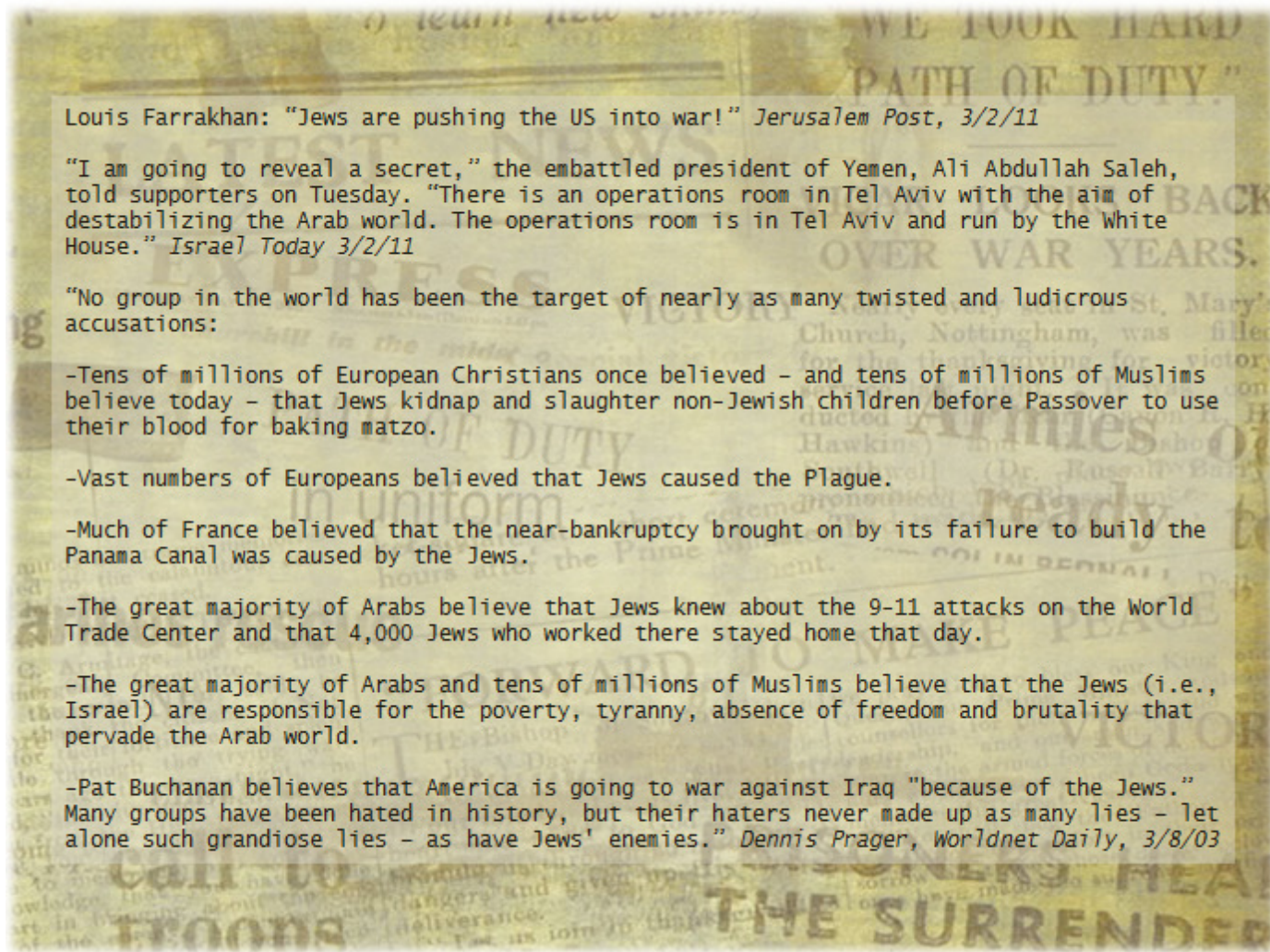


But you can see from these factors that “knowledge” of itself is actually a basic cause of the unrest! How?

- People learn about corruption in the ruling elite;
- People learn that they are being ripped off by an unfair economic system;
- People learn about political and financial inequities - who owns the world’s natural resources?
- People see others doing well elsewhere in the world;
- People learn the power of knowledge and the power in numbers.

Is Israel to blame for all of this?

Jewish people for centuries were not allowed to be in the Land, and then for a time they were not allowed to actually own any land. That changed in the year 1878 with the first establishment of an agricultural settlement called *Petah Tikva*. From 1878 to 1948 when Israel became a nation is 70 years. This 70-year time period was prophesied in the Bible.





As you can see from the above quotes, the Jews have been the scapegoat of history. Anti-Semitism is completely irrational and is nothing more than emotional/cultural hate. Yet it thrives to this day even in the minds and hearts of many "educated" people.

Clearly the causes for Arab/Moslem unrest have nothing to do with the Jews or with Israel.

So why do Arab leaders point the finger at the Jews for the unrest?

- a. It takes attention away from them.
- b. The Arabs have had tribal divisions and wars historically. Islam had the positive effect of reducing that divisiveness to some extent but did not eliminate it. The shared, mutual hate of Israel is a powerful unifying factor.
- c. Jealousy of Israel - their democratic political system, their political freedom, their economic prosperity flies in the face of the lack of those things in the Arab world.
- d. Moslem doctrinal belief that Israel would be the trigger to bring about Islamic supremacy!



Islamic Apocalyptic thought: Israel starts global Jihad, "Epicenter" produced by Solomon Productions

- *Radical Muslim thought is that Israel will start global Jihad.*

Scripture foretold this return of the Jews to their land!

Hosea 2:14,15: (ASV) ¹⁴Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfortably unto her. ¹⁵And I will give her her vineyards from thence, and the valley of Achor (which means trouble!) for a door of hope (Petah Tikva); and she shall make answer there, as in the days of her youth, and as in the day when she came up out of the land of Egypt.

We believe Israel is God's time clock in part because of the prophecy of Israel as a fig tree. (Matthew 24:32-24) The nations around Israel have been in existence a great deal longer than 1948, and yet Israel has far exceeded them in development on the whole. Their prosperity is a notable exception to that which is going on around them. They weren't on the biggest pool of oil, they weren't in the best cultivated land. What is it then, that makes them so different? It is the application of intelligent human resources. Israel for centuries has been carrying the law of God. It produces in people a reverence for God that God blesses.

Amos 9:14,15: (ASV) ¹⁴And I will bring back the captivity of my people Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them. ¹⁵And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be plucked up out of their land which I have given them, saith Jehovah thy God.

This is exactly what has happened in Israel.



(Theme Scripture:) Haggai 2:6,7: (ASV) *⁶For thus saith Jehovah of hosts: Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land; ⁷and I will shake all nations; and the precious things of all nations shall come; and I will fill this house with glory, saith Jehovah of hosts.*

Note the result of the shaking of all nations - *the precious things of all nations shall come*. God is interested in all the people of the world, not just the Jews and not just the Christians. John 3:16: *God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten son. But the Bible talks about an order of all things. The present hatred that exists on the part of many Arabs against Israel is a big problem right now and God will work that out, but He still has a plan for all people. His love and desire is the same as what the people want - to bless them, to live in peace, to have them enjoy their families. God is very opposed to rulers who are corrupt, who oppress, who murder, and they will suffer very much at God's hand.*

Is all of this part of Biblical Prophecy about the end of the age?

YES!

Financial:

James 5:1-9: (ASV) *¹Come now, ye rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you. ²Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. ³Your gold and your silver are rusted; and their rust shall be for a testimony against you, and shall eat your flesh as fire. Ye have laid up your treasure in the last days. ⁴Behold, the hire of the laborers who mowed your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth out: and the cries of them that reaped have entered into the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. ⁵Ye have lived delicately on the earth, and taken your pleasure; ye have nourished your hearts in a day of slaughter.*

Political Revolution:

Psalms 46:1-3,6: (ASV) *¹God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. ²Therefore will we not fear, though the earth do change, And though the mountains be shaken into the heart of the seas; ³Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, Though the mountains tremble with the swelling thereof. Selah... ⁶The nations raged, the kingdoms were moved: He uttered his voice, the earth melted.*

This is symbolic language. In the Bible, mountains frequently symbolize kingdoms or governments. The restless sea is frequently used to symbolize the restless masses of mankind. We can put this in the context of the Middle East, because we literally have kingdoms or governments "shaking" with the restless masses of the people. This shows the finality of the end, when the mountains fall into the sea, engulfed in the people.

What about the earth melting? Earth is contrasted with the sea. If the sea is the restless elements of mankind with no control or order, by contrast, earth represents the more stable elements of society. So when the earth is "melting," it is the dissolution of our civilization today. People will lose rights and privileges, there will be war and anarchy, all of these things precede something that is much better.

War, Revolution, Anarchy:

1 Kings 19:11,12: (ASV) *¹¹And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before Jehovah. And, behold, Jehovah passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before Jehovah; but Jehovah was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but Jehovah was not in the earthquake: ¹²and after the earthquake a fire; but Jehovah was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.*



In Scripture, wind generally represents war; we see especially since 1914 one wind/war after another. This is an international phenomenon.

As earth represented stable society, an earthquake represents the shaking of stable society. This is a national phenomenon.

Fire represents anarchy at the local level.

So we have instability at all levels - all three are in preparation for the kingdom. We believe this is part of a process taking place.

Fear and Uncertainty:

Luke 21:25,26: (ASV) ²⁵And there shall be signs in sun and moon and stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, in perplexity for the roaring of the sea and the billows; ²⁶men fainting for fear, and for expectation of the things which are coming on the world: for the powers of the heavens shall be shaken.

Much of this revolution is being fueled by knowledge. Oppressed people are rising up and causing others to be emboldened to try to rise up as well.

Who is responsible for all of this? 2 Corinthians 4:4: *In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not...* What is happening today is going on by God's permission. He is allowing mankind to have this experience so they will be equipped to obey Him later on. But the great authority of this world is the "god of this world," Satan. So much of the terror, suffering, and corruption that goes on can be attributed to him.

From a prophetic standpoint, this latest Middle East meltdown appears to be like a chess game, where pieces are getting into position for other things.

A Time of Trouble:

Daniel 12:1: (ASV) *And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince who standeth for the children of thy people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.*

The worst Time of Trouble in history:

Matthew 24:21,22: (ASV) ²¹for then shall be great tribulation, such as hath not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, nor ever shall be. ²²And except those days had been shortened, no flesh would have been saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

Jesus is alluding to what Daniel referred to previously. The whole outworking of human history is coming down to a focus. With the growth of population and technology, mankind is getting himself in deeper and deeper trouble. These scriptures are saying that unless God steps in, man would be successful in eliminating himself from the face of the earth. God allows these things, but He also gives the assurance that it will only be allowed for so long and so far. There is hope provided even in this Time of Trouble.



God has something in mind for *all* people. (Reference: [Isaiah 19:16](#) regarding Egypt; [Zechariah 12 and 14](#) for descriptions of a battle that comes against Jerusalem.)

There are battles that are prophesied and have not yet to come to pass, but the pieces are being put in place so that they *can* come to pass. One way to look at this is as a house that has fallen in disrepair. It is in such bad shape that it can't be repaired. The house has to be removed and rebuilt. That's a good analogy for what has happened to this world. It's unfortunate that it's going to take revolution and war and anarchy to take this house away so that the Kingdom house with the rightful king, Jesus, can be set up.



Where is the silver lining?

[Luke 21:25-28](#): (ASV) ²⁵And there shall be signs in sun and moon and stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, in perplexity for the roaring of the sea and the billows; ²⁶men fainting for fear, and for expectation of the things which are coming on the world: for the powers of the heavens shall be shaken. ²⁷And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸But when these things begin to come to pass, look up, and lift up your heads; because your redemption draweth nigh.

Christians have a general knowledge and direction of what is happening because of the prophecies. As we see these things happening, don't get discouraged but rather lift up your heads, knowing that these things have to first come before the great blessings can flow.

What does this all lead to?

[1 Timothy 2:3,4](#): (ASV) *This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; ⁴who would have all men to be saved, and come to the knowledge of the truth.*

Although there is difficulty in the short horizon, there is definite hope as well. God really does love the whole world, which is why He sent Jesus. This is a scripture that applies to the Kingdom because there is an order change from what we normally see - "believe and you will be saved." Here, you are saved so that you can believe. This is the long term purpose under Jesus' rule in the Millennial Age to come.

The Middle East upheaval is a part of the development of prophecy and it very much has to do with Israel.

Revisiting [Amos 9:14,15](#): (ASV) ¹⁴And I will bring back the captivity of my people Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them. ¹⁵And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be plucked up out of their land which I have given them, saith Jehovah thy God.

They have enemies surrounding them, but Israel is not going to be defeated or removed from the land anymore. The scripture says so.



Israel's Diaspora, "Epicenter" produced by Solomon Productions

- *The Jews, although dispersed after the second Temple was destroyed in 70 AD, are neither annihilated nor assimilated and cling to each other and to the promises made repeatedly throughout the scriptures: Israel will be rebuilt as a country, Jews will pour into the Holy Land after centuries of exile.*

The Law God gave them kept them together as a group.

Daniel 2:44: (ASV) *And in the days of those kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed, nor shall the sovereignty thereof be left to another people; but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.*

The restoration of Israel to favor in the sight of the whole world!

Zephaniah 3:19,20: (AVS) ¹⁹*Behold, at that time I will deal with all them that afflict thee; and I will save that which is lame, and gather that which was driven away; and I will make them a praise and a name, whose shame hath been in all the earth.* ²⁰*At that time will I bring you in, and at that time will I gather you; for I will make you a name and a praise among all the peoples of the earth, when I bring back your captivity before your eyes, saith Jehovah.*

God has a love for all mankind. He is going to do special things for Israel because of His promises to Abraham, but there are also going to be special things done for "all the peoples of the earth." This is a silver lining! The final result of His plan will be praiseworthy.

The true knowledge of God spreads to the whole world!

Isaiah 11:9: (ASV) *They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of Jehovah, as the waters cover the sea.*

In summary, we believe that this Middle East meltdown is part of a prophetic positioning for an eventual battle against Israel. Israel is being blamed for things they are not guilty of, they tend to be the scapegoat in the Middle East, and the prophecies tell us that many of the nations involved in these uprisings now will be involved in coming against Israel in the future. The end result is difficulty and then the silver lining comes afterwards.

The unrest of the world today - starting in the Middle East and that we would expect to spread to the whole world - we believe is indicative of the approaching end of the age, part of the beginning of the "time of the end." It will be a terrible time of trouble for all the world. But, as Christians, we can be beacons of hope for the people world who don't understand what is going on. What it will end with is the saving of Israel, the defeat of its enemies, and the whole world in the resurrection. True freedom for each individual will be attained as God intended.

Yes, there is trouble and it is going to get worse. But there is greater hope than most of us can even imagine. It is all biblical and therefore is all coming true.

***So is this Middle East meltdown the beginning of the end?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!***