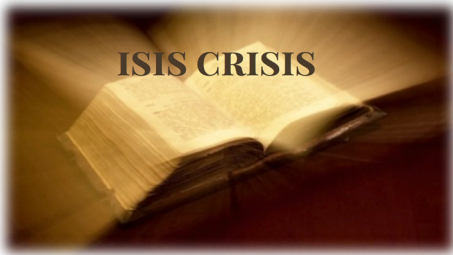




What Does the Bible Say About the ISIS Crisis?

Psalms 34:16: (NASB) *The face of the LORD is against evildoers, to cut off the memory of them from the earth.*

Special Guest: David Stein



Terrorism - it is a fearful and horrific development in our present day. The barbaric and merciless treatment of those who stand in your way simply because of their religion or country of origin has been made to be household conversation, most recently by ISIS. Does the Bible talk about ISIS? If so, what does it say, and if not, then why not?

(Commentary has been edited for brevity and clarity.)

RICK: This is an important question. ISIS is on the minds of people all over the world and rightfully so. To deal with such a question, we asked one of our favorite guests to join us, David Stein. Good morning, David. It is good to have you back. We often ask you to come back when we do programs with a prophetic relationship or sometimes a scientific relationship. This program will be a very specific focus on ISIS and Scripture. Before we get started, give us a little background on yourself.



DAVID: I am an elder of the Allentown Bible Students in Pennsylvania and have been a student of the Bible since I was about 17 or 18 years old. I enjoy the scientific and technical parts of biblical truth. My background is in engineering, but I am so excited about prophesy. Prophesy, especially the time that we live in, is so vibrant today. To be able to see happening what God had written thousands of years ago is exciting. For Christians today who are worried about the direction the world is going in, prophesy gives us insight into what is happening and hope for a wonderful future.

RICK: Our program today has information that is troubling in nature. The practices of ISIS are horrific, but they illustrate how bad evil is in the world and how wonderful it will be when God eradicates this plague of wickedness. Some of our discussion may be graphic.



Is ISIS in the Bible? What is ISIS?

DAVID: ISIS stands for the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria.

RICK: Often President Obama does not say ISIS. He says ISIL, I-S-I-L.

DAVID: Interesting, he is about the only one in his administration who uses that. That stands for Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant. Levant is that eastern Mediterranean area. It is kind of a high-brow way of saying ISIS. ISIS has changed its name once more, calling themselves the Islamic State now, or IS. ISIS is what the western world says, but they define themselves as the IS.



This came about when one of the leaders, who we will talk about, declared a worldwide caliphate. What is a caliphate? Basically it is a kingdom with Islam (the religion) as the basis for all of law. It is a theological empire.

The leader of ISIS is the Cali, the grand Cali. It was intended to be a rallying call to Muslims around the world that now the caliphate of Islam has been established. They call for all Muslims to join them in support.

RICK: Their objective is to rule the world through their interpretation of Muslim scripture.

DAVID: I think it is very important to note that is the objective of ISIS - to rule the world and establish *their* version of Islam.

RICK: Just like in Christianity, in Islam there are a lot of different perspectives, and there are a vast majority of Muslims who do not follow after the principles of violence to which this particular group adheres. But the guy with the biggest stick gets the most attention. That is why we end up talking about them and is why we asked the question, is ISIS in the Bible? Their military conquest is a conscription of children. They murder all who oppose. We have seen the horrible, horrible videos, heard the amazing threats. Let's try to establish a very brief history of ISIS.

Origins, *The Rise of ISIS, Earliest Roots*

- The Islamic state of Iraq and Syria is a phenomenon so terrible and shocking it seems impossible. It controls an area the size of the United Kingdom, commits mass atrocities and launches terror attacks abroad. But to understand ISIS it helps to tell the story of its rise. That story begins far away and many years before the group existed. In 1979, the Soviet Union invades Afghanistan to defend a puppet dictator against rebels. Young men from the Middle East flock in to join the rebels. Many see it as a religious struggle and some develop extremist views. Among them is a well-educated young Saudi named Osama Bin Laden. Also in Afghanistan is a semi-literate former street thug from Jordan who calls himself Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. They do not get along and never will but will create the groups we today know as Al-Qaida and ISIS.*

DAVID: It is interesting to see the genesis - this whole thing starts with ideas. The roots of these radical ideas began back to 1979, but they ripen and begin to gather more adherence. And then as the world stage changes with wars and revolutions, it pushes them into certain directions that become a movement.

RICK: Right. So an idea needs an opportunity. As the world stage changes, the opportunity begins to present itself sometimes in a very small way.

ISIS through 2014, *The Rise of ISIS Explained*

- In April 2013, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi announces he is taking control of all Al-Qaida allied forces in Syria and Iraq. His group expands into Syria, becoming the Islamic state of Iraq and Syria or "ISIS." Al-Qaida rejects Baghdadi's power grab and in 2014 formally exiles. The two jihadist groups long at odds are now at war. ISIS grows powerful in Syria. In part because Assad tolerates its rise, which he does because it divides his enemies in Syria and because foreign powers are too focused on ISIS now to worry about Assad. By June*



2014, ISIS has built an army in Syria and it launches a military-style invasion into Iraq. The Iraqi army, weakened by corruption, folds with little fight and many Sunnis are tired of their Shia dominated and increasingly authoritarian government and welcome, or at least tolerate, ISIS' arrival. Within days, ISIS controls a third of Iraq and a big part of Syria.

RICK: ISIS now begins its development and starts to pick up steam. It goes from one terrorist leader to another, and involves the Sunni versus Shia rivalry that goes on within Islam. Let's focus on the funding. Where does ISIS get its money?

DAVID: That's a question that comes to mind right away. They have all these weapons and military hardware. How are they doing it? There are wealthy donors in the Middle East - Saudi Arabia and some of the other eastern countries - who want to see change. For example, Saudi Arabia is ruled by a kingship, a monarchy. Some would like to change that and are funneling money. Also, within the ISIS territories themselves, they have oil.

RICK: Oil wells they took over.

DAVID: They're using that and they are smuggling it. We might just note here they are smuggling it because nobody in the open market will buy the terrorists' oil, but that does not deter them from selling it in other ways.

When they take over cities, they loot the banks. They take all the money in the bank and use it for themselves. (For example, they took \$429 million from central bank of Mosul.) They charge local businesses "protection fees." This sounds like the mafia. Since they are the government now, they tax everybody.



Inside the Two Billion dollar ISIS War Machine, CNN (December 7, 2015)

- It's the best-funded terrorist organization in history. ISIS controls big territory in Syria and Iraq, and it runs its pillaging machine like a business to fund its ultimate goal: one ginormous Islamic state. Let's follow the money. At its heart, ISIS is a criminal enterprise. In 2014, the U.S. Treasury Department says it made a least half a billion dollars from seizing banks in northern and western Iraq. But banks aren't the only targets. ISIS fighters loot houses, they steal cars, chop them up for parts, they trade weapons and people. It's a revenue stream that thrives on territory - the more they control the more they can steal.*

RICK: It just gets worse. The bigger the power, the further the reach, the more the territory, the more places you can fund something so completely awful.

DAVID: Did you notice how it is characterized as a criminal organization?

RICK: Because they are! They are literally taking places over they have no right to be. So far we have not quoted a single Scripture, because we want to lay the groundwork of what ISIS is and where they are going. David, their rulership style is fascist. What does that mean?



DAVID: Fascist means totalitarian. It is a "do or die" type of situation, literally. When they conquer a population, they either join ISIS or are killed. If they are not Muslim, they either convert or are killed.

In preparation for the program, I looked at a lot of videos which is one of the reasons for the disclosure we gave at the beginning of this program. It was horrific seeing some of the things they did. How old is your grandson?

RICK: My grandson is eight, and I have two granddaughters who are newborns.

DAVID: Imagine taking your eight-year old grandson, and they have done this to children as young as five. They say: "Here is a Teddy bear. Behead it. Take the Teddy bear's head off." Or they give the child a gun. They did not show whether it was loaded or not, but here is a five-year old child pointing a gun at the back of a blindfolded man who is going to be executed. They don't show them executing him, but they have them practicing it. Those images are just awful.

They will conscript young men in their newly-conquered territories and give them positions, even children, and they use terror on everyone who does not conform.

We rejoice in the freedom we have in this country. The women's movement for voting rights started as early as the 19th century. Women under this form of Islam have no rights at all. They are not permitted to be seen in public without a male relative, and they just do not participate at all. This is the type of regime now, the ideologue, the doctrines ISIS promotes.

RICK: And it is gathering momentum, getting bigger and growing stronger. They have gathered more territory. So, it is a very serious and disheartening situation.

ISIS Terror and Barbarity in Raqqa, CNN, (December 22, 2015)

- The city burst into our consciousness with these horrific images. Enemies of ISIS killed in battle. Their severed heads displayed on poles in the city center. Crucifixions of non-believers out in the open for passing residents to see. Western journalists can't get into Raqqa but residents and human rights groups say atrocities are a part of life in this ISIS stronghold.*

RICK: I apologize for the graphic nature of this, but you have to understand what we are looking at. Because you see this on such an overtly visible scale in the world, is ISIS in the Bible?

ISIS Changing Its Message, CNN (December 14, 2015)

- ISIS has changed its message. More and more it is calling on people around the world to carry out Jihad right where they are. Whatever they can do. Take up a gun, make a bomb and carry out terror attacks particularly with a focus on the West more and more.*



Is ISIS in the Bible?

RICK: They have made progress in taking over territories, sort of like an army, but now the message is, "Anybody who believes in our approach, go do it on your own."

DAVID: We were talking about how historical things change. ISIS has lost some territory. They are by no means quenched, but they lost a little territory. That is when they began sending the word to expand this to lone wolf acts everywhere else in the world like the Paris bombings and San Bernardino shooters.

RICK: Right. They are trying to wreak havoc in the way we understand the world. The bottom line is they are just evil and dark, the darkest representation of Islam. They are very vocal and powerful. Their religious fanaticism sounds an awful lot like Nazi Germany.

DAVID: Doesn't it? The type of atrocities that Germany did back in the 1930's and 1940's are identical to what ISIS is doing today. In both cases there is an ideologue, hate and a desire for power.

RICK: The interesting thing, though, is that Nazi Germany was not based on religion, but there was the same result. There is the same kind of the execution of power but one has a religion base and the other a base of social conquering.

DAVID: You cannot rule out the hatred of the Jews there as well. But in both cases, notice how Nazism got its power - through fear. No one wanted to speak up or be a force against it. You see ISIS' same modus operandi.

I like how you said that ISIS is the darkest form of Islam, because there are 1.6 billion Muslims in the world today, but they do not all practice this same view. The vast majority of American Muslims would say, "No, that is not us. Islam is supposed to be a religion of peace."

There is peace in the Koran, but there is also war, so it comes down to a matter of interpretation. Muslims are 25 percent of the population of the earth, not as numerous as Christians. There are 2.2 billion Christians in the world compared to 1.6 billion Muslims.

The Scriptures show the important division in modern-day Islam between what are called the Sunnis and what are called the Shiites.

RICK: Wait...are you saying that division has a scriptural reflection that needs to be looked at?

DAVID: I believe it does. One other thing, we tend to think of Islam as Arabic. The religion is certainly Arabic in its source; Muhammad was an Arab. But it has spread throughout the world and only 15 percent of Muslims today are Arabic. They still use Arabic as the language of worship. The Koran was written in

الحب Love	الحكمة Wisdom
السَّلام Peace	الحياة Life

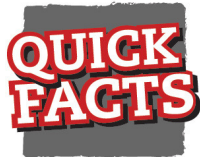


Arabic, so every Muslim knows the Arab prayers. But only 15 percent of them genealogically are Arabic.

RICK: ISIS has its roots obviously in Islam, and Islam has its roots in the Arab people. Students of Scripture have long understood certain prophecies as referring to Arab nations, and it is convenient to associate these nations with the religion of Islam. But only 15 percent of Muslims are actually Arabic. So is that a good association or do we need to be more careful with it?

DAVID: The answer is yes and no.

RICK: Figures.



- 1.6 billion Muslims in the world today - about 25 percent of the population of the earth (compare with 2.2 billion Christians).
- 85-90% are Sunni, (Arab sphere), about 10% are Shiite (Persian/Iranian sphere).
- Only 15% are Arab.
- Arabic is the language of Islam.

DAVID: We can never give a concrete answer. Bible prophecy involves interpretation. I would love to say that today you have the prophet David on your program, but I am not a prophet. I am a Bible student. I certainly cannot provide the authority of a prophet. That means that I, along with millions of other Christians, look at Bible prophecies and try to work out what they mean. That is one of the reasons we get together for fellowship and discussion. We try to get our interpretations as close as possible both to history and what is taking place today.

Looking at the fact that there are nations in the Bible that are Arabic and yet only 15 percent of Muslims are Arabs, are there Scriptures that talk about this fanatical Islamic movement? I think I have a text that might be able to do that for us.

Jeremiah 9:25-26: (NASB) ²⁵*Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, that I will punish all who are circumcised and yet uncircumcised* ²⁶*Egypt and Judah, and Edom and the sons of Ammon, and Moab and all those inhabiting the desert who clip the hair on their temples; for all the nations are uncircumcised, and all the house of Israel are uncircumcised of heart.*

RICK: The average reader would look at these Scriptures and say, "What? First of all, it says *I will punish all who are circumcised and yet uncircumcised*. It sounds like there is a contradiction of terms. What does focusing on the concept of circumcision have to do with Islam and then with ISIS?"

DAVID: Well, this provides an interesting way of looking at groups of people in the world today, and I think what the text does is break out those groups. Circumcision is not practiced universally. But it is practiced almost universally among three groups of individuals:



1. Jews, of course, they were among the original peoples going back to the day of Abraham
2. Christians and
3. Muslims.

Three groups practice circumcision today:

Jews

Christians

Muslims

Those are the only three groups in the world that do this routinely. But we have five nations listed here.

RICK: Egypt, Judah, Edom, sons of Ammon and Moab.

DAVID: That is right. And it says they are circumcised. So these nations must represent peoples that practice circumcision.

RICK: The first thing you notice is Egypt is certainly not Jewish!

DAVID: That is right. We are going to suggest an interpretation of what these nations mean. Can you buy a flight ticket to Moab today?

RICK: Uh, no. I do not know where Moab would be.

DAVID: And nobody does. It does not exist today.

RICK: That is why I do not know where it would be!



DAVID: Moab and Ammon have not existed since centuries before Christ. Understanding this references the last days, we therefore conclude Moab and Ammon and these other nations are symbolic of groups of peoples.

RICK: How do you figure out what groups of people they symbolize? Great, they are symbolic, but that leaves you high and dry if you have a nation that has not existed in several thousand years! Let's list them out to try to figure it out. I'm going to give you one of the nations mentioned and you give me what you think: Judah.

DAVID: Judah must refer to the Jews. That is where the word "Jew" comes from, the fleshly seed of Abraham. So, the first group we would identify interpretively, of course, as the Jews of the world today.

RICK: That was the easy one. Egypt.



DAVID: Egypt is found in many places in Scripture, and we wish we had more time to expand on this, but Egypt prophetically often represents the world, and in particular we can see the western world - the western Christianized world - not necessarily religiously Christian, but Christian in the way their laws, democracies and societies are laid out. So, we would say it represents Christendom, and Christendom does practice circumcision.

RICK: Edom.

DAVID: Edom is another name for Esau, and if you remember Esau, he gave up his birthright. We are going to suggest that this represents nominal Christianity; that is, people who call themselves Christians, but they neither practice nor believe in the morals and ethics.

RICK: Because they had the right of birth and gave it up. That does make sense. So, we have two nations left representing two groups that practice circumcision.

DAVID: Who else is left now in the world that practices circumcision?

RICK: Muslims.

DAVID: Exactly right. So Ammon and Moab must represent the Muslim movement practicing circumcision, but there are two of them. Why two? Well, clearly God's word must recognize there is some division within the Islamic community represented by these two.

There are several possibilities and they do overlap. For example, we mentioned earlier Sunni and Shiite going back to the time of Mohammed, so there was a difference. We mentioned already Arab and non-Arab. We also mentioned that 15 percent are Arabs - well, that is considered Semite, meaning the other part are non-Semitic. And lastly, there is the peaceful versus the radical.

RICK: What you're saying is of the five nations, the last two are showing Islam and two divisions within Islam.

DAVID: Exactly.

RICK: We have done CQ programs on the Middle East and Islam before. I do not recall you ever making that distinction before.

DAVID: Well, this is a distinction I just recently came to appreciate, and it does not originate with me. I mentioned earlier the value of fellowship with other Christians. We need to talk with others about it, and this idea of identifying Ammon and Moab as two groups of Islam came from another dear brother of mine. Using that as a starting point, we look for where else in the Bible these two groups are mentioned to add to our understanding.

Zephaniah 2:8-10: (NASB) *⁸I have heard the taunting of Moab and the revilings of the sons of Ammon, with which they have taunted My people And become arrogant against their territory. ⁹Therefore, as I live, declares the LORD of hosts, The God of Israel, Surely Moab will be like Sodom And the sons of Ammon like Gomorrah- A place possessed by nettles and salt pits, and a perpetual desolation.*



RICK: Let's stop there for a second. The suggestion of Ammon and Moab scripturally representing two divisions of Islam - with *the taunting of Moab and the revilings of the son of Ammon, being arrogant against their territory - that really does sound like it is happening.*

DAVID: In past programs, we looked at other Scriptures that talk about Arab nations in that same role, and we will come back to that in a little bit. But here we have another context that shows that same thing. And please note they are united in their hatred for God's people.

Moab and Ammon were the sons of an incestuous union between Lot and his two daughters.

Going back to the writings of Moses, we find Moab and Ammon were always attacking God's people. Moab and Ammon came from the same father, Lot, and they were united in their hatred of Israel. So, that is one of the things we look for in the prophecy that we find fulfilled today.

RICK: Curious, isn't it, when you start to put things together, how they can now start to tell a story that was written thousands of years ago but is happening today?

*The remnant of My people will plunder them And the remainder of My nation will inherit them.
10This they will have in return for their pride, because they have taunted and become arrogant against the people of the LORD of hosts.*

RICK: That does not sound like a good end for Moab and Ammon.

DAVID: Remember in Scripture, nations are talked about as in composite, not necessarily referring to the individuals within those nations. What I read is those groups of Islam, of Muslims, represented by that negative ideology, focus, motivation and those plans against Israel will be done away with. But the people themselves are handled differently. (More on that soon!) That is an important point from the standpoint of God's love.

RICK: That is a principle we talked about last week.

Please see the CQ program, "What Will the World Look Like in the 22nd Century?" from March 6, 2016.

DAVID: One more thing about Zechariah - if you read the context you see this has an End Time application. It says *the taunting and the revilings*. We see this! There is a lot of verbal abuse going on towards God's people. We readily see those who have become arrogant against *the territory*. There is land involved here. It is Israel.

RICK: Let's talk more about this judgment of Moab. Again, when we think of Moab, we believe it represents Muslim nations. But is ISIS mentioned in the Bible?

DAVID: No. If you go to a Concordance and look up "ISIS," you will not find it.

RICK: But is ISIS identified prophetically in the Bible perhaps by another name?

DAVID: Absolutely. Assuming Ammon and Moab represent the Islamist movement, perhaps the division there into two may refer to the fanatical elements ISIS represents.



RICK: ...Not necessarily just ISIS but the elements it represents.

DAVID: That's right.

Do the successes of ISIS follow the pattern of other biblical accounts?

Isaiah 25:8-11: (NASB) ⁸*He will swallow up death for all time, And the Lord GOD will wipe tears away from all faces, And He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth; For the LORD has spoken. ⁹And it will be said in that day, Behold, this is our God for whom we have waited that He might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; Let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation.*

RICK: So far, so good! This is after the End Times. Again, we reference last week's program as an introduction to this week. We talked about how the Day of Judgment has to be mentioned in connection with reconciliation. Here Isaiah 25 describes that process - a very good, very positive process.

¹⁰*For the hand of the LORD will rest on this mountain, And Moab will be trodden down in his place as straw is trodden down in the water of a manure pile. ¹¹And he will spread out his hands in the middle of it as a swimmer spreads out his hands to swim, But the Lord will lay low his pride together with the trickery of his hands.*

RICK: Interestingly, just Moab is mentioned here from the standpoint of being put in a position of judgment in the context of this great reconciliatory movement by God. How do you put all that together?

DAVID: Well, this is interesting. Again, we've been applying Moab to be the more fanatical elements, and it is mentioned in this case. I wanted the earlier part of these verses read to show the context about the *swallowing up*. We generally are applying it for the purposes of this program to these radical elements, but we might also apply this Scripture all the way down at the end of the reign of Christ when those radical elements are destroyed for the final time. But we see the continuity here - it is the radical elements, the hate against God's people.

RICK: And in the context of the previous Scriptures where *all tears are wiped away* and the *reproaches of all people* are taken away and God rules with glory, there is goodness surrounding this throwing of those radical elements onto the manure pile.

ISIS is a radical movement, but it is just one radical movement that seems awfully big to us. But how big is it in relationship to, for instance, World War II?

DAVID: There is no comparison.

RICK: It pales.

DAVID: But ISIS could well be destroyed by western powers then another organization could develop.

RICK: Al-Qaeda was the same kind of thing.

DAVID: Exactly. Al-Qaeda was overcome, and part of those elements evolved into ISIS. That is why we are not saying ISIS specifically is in the Bible, but the



movement, the ideology, where they are being gathered to the final battle is common.

RICK: So, the ideology has the name of ISIS today, but the ideology and opportunity may have a different name tomorrow. It is all under one covering in Scripture.

DAVID: That is right.

RICK: God permits evil on the earth to work out His eternal purposes. Last week's program was all about that as well. He does not let it go beyond certain boundaries. You and I have discussed this many times - God will interfere when He deems it necessary to interfere.

DAVID: Yes. Remember our theme Scripture for this program:

Psalms 34:16: (NASB) *The face of the LORD is against evildoers, to cut off the memory of them from the earth.*

ISIS is just one wicked movement in the past 6,000 years of human history that has produced suffering.

RICK: God gave us many examples in Scripture of allowing evil to come to its full and then stopping it.

DAVID: Yes, that is important.

As an example, the destruction of the Canaanites:

Genesis 15:16: (NASB) *But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full ("come to the full" - KJV)*

God did not permit Israel to come to the Promised Land until it was time to end the evil there.

The Flood is another example - God allowed evil to go to a certain point and then stopped it. The destruction of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar shows the same principle. Even in our modern day, the Nazi movement got to a certain point. Then it was stopped. Why was it stopped? Because it wasn't time for those things to spill over. God will allow things to look like they spill over into the Time of Trouble, which we are not quite yet fully in.

But God gives us assurance this type of wickedness, ISIS included, will be removed.

Joel 3:9-14: (NASB) *⁹Proclaim this among the nations: Prepare a war; rouse the mighty men! Let all the soldiers draw near; let them come up! ¹⁰Beat your plowshares into swords and your pruning hooks into spears. Let the weak say, I am a mighty man. ¹¹Hasten and come, all you surrounding nations, and gather yourselves there. Bring down, O LORD, Your mighty ones. ¹²Let the nations be aroused and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat, for there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations. ¹³Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, tread, for the wine press is full; the vats overflow, for their wickedness is great. ¹⁴Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.*

DAVID: There is something you don't see every day, *beat your plowshares into swords*. We usually say it the other way around. But in the very end times, this is preparation time. We are not in the severe time of trouble yet, but we are leading up to it. This talks about it. I liked the part that said *let the weak*



say *I am a mighty man*. ISIS is a relatively small movement when you look at the whole world, but they say, "We are mighty. We are going to do this and that." Many "mighty" movements have fallen away, but the finality is the wickedness will come to its completion and Jesus will take care of it.

RICK: In reality what you're saying then, ISIS is a speck, they are a small group that represents something much larger working in this time leading up to *the time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation*. (Daniel 12:1)

Zephaniah 2:10: (NASB) *This they will have in return for their pride, because they have taunted and become arrogant against the people of the LORD of hosts.*

RICK: Pride and arrogance are always going to be opposed to God. There is a real sense of arrogance of Islam against Israel right now.

DAVID: Zephaniah describes what this group will do. We ask, who is doing that? Who has this arrogance and who is taunting Israel? The Islamic movement and many Arab nations within that movement.

(Source: en.farsnews.com, September 9, 2015)

Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei described Israel as a "fake" regime, and said there won't be any Israel in 25 years from now. "Some of the Zionists have said that given the results of the nuclear negotiations (between Tehran and the world powers), they have been relieved of concerns about Iran for 25 years, but we tell them that basically, you will not see the next 25 years and with God's grace, nothing under the name of the Zionist regime will exist in the region by then," Ayatollah Khamenei said, addressing a large number of Iranians in Tehran on Wednesday.



DAVID: Khamenei described Israel as a fake regime and predicted there won't be any Israel 25 years from now. He made all kinds of statements like that. Is this taunting, these ravings, the thing Isaiah talked about? I think it is spot on.

RICK: Go back to the Scripture and see who is being spoken of. It appears these individuals are representing, for the moment, this faction playing this specific role in prophecy.

DAVID: And indeed God said because of this taunting, because of this arrogance, He would take care of it. He makes a judgment upon them.

RICK: So, the good news is God is not only aware of it, but was aware of it long before it happened!

DAVID: Yes. Going back to our theme, *the face of the Lord is against evil doers*, and this is part of that.

RICK: The bad news is you have to get through what the prophecies talk about in order to get to the good part. Rate the trouble in the world on a scale of one to ten, ten being *the time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation*, and one being everything is as peaceful as the sinful world could be. Where would you say we are in that? This is subject to interpretation I know.



DAVID: I would say two, three, maybe four. There is a lot of trouble in the world, but we are not anywhere near what we expect. Now, if you go to the city of Raqqa in Syria, that is like seven or eight. People are still living and they are still doing business, but conditions are atrocious. Where Christians are being persecuted elsewhere because of Islam, like Africa and Indonesia...

RICK: ...People are being crucified...!

DAVID: The distinction we want to make is this is all preparatory, leading up to a time Jesus described would be a great *time of trouble*. Such a total time of worldwide trouble has not yet occurred. Everybody in the world will feel this.

RICK: What we are seeing are pockets of severity but not overall severity.

DAVID: Do you remember the experience Elijah had after the contest of the prophets on Mount Horeb? (1 Kings 19:11,12) He ran away and he was up on the mountain. And God came through with a wind and with an earthquake and with a fire. These are all elements of the time of trouble, but take note - this is the way we interpret it (and these are very common interpretations):



*Wind - represents war, the winds of war.
War is an international conflagration.*

RICK: World War I and World War II are very dynamic representations of what that can be.

DAVID: Exactly. That is the first phase. The second phase is an earthquake.



*Earthquake - represents revolution.
Revolution is on a national level, not an international level.*

Finally there is fire.

*Fire - represents anarchy. Where's anarchy?
In your neighborhood, down your street. Local.*



You notice the continuity: International, national and local. That is how this Time of the End starts to develop.

But these taunts and arrogant statements were prophesied!

Psalms 83:2-5: (NASB) ²For behold, Your enemies make an uproar, And those who hate You have exalted themselves. ³They make shrewd plans against Your people, And conspire together against Your treasured ones. ⁴They have said, Come, and let us wipe them out as a nation, that the name of Israel be remembered no more. ⁵For they have conspired together with one mind; against You they make a covenant.

RICK: Who has been saying these kinds of things?

DAVID: We are going to see in the next verse, but we want to emphasize what "they" are saying: "Come, let us wipe them out." Who do they want to wipe out? The nation of Israel. We already said there is *taunting*. Compare this with what the Ayatollah Khamenei just said in September.



Psalms 83:6-8: (NASB) *⁶The tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites, Moab and the Hagrites; ⁷Gebal and Ammon and Amalek, Philistia with the inhabitants of Tyre; ⁸Assyria also has joined with them; they have become a help to the children of Lot. Selah.*

RICK: It was easy before because we only had five nations mentioned, and now you have all these other names I can't even pronounce! Edom, Ishmael, Hagarenes, Gebal, Ammon, Amalek, Philistia, Tyre, Assyria - what is it about them that brings them to this particular prophecy?



DAVID: These are the ones doing the taunting we read about in Psalms 83:2-5. Although Moab, Hagarenes, Gebal and Ammon do not exist anymore, we can look at the geographical position of these nations in ancient times. They are all around modern day Israel. We suggest this represents the Arab components of the Islamic movement who have a vested interest in taking Israel out, because they feel they are being oppressed by her.

Where were these tribes geographically located in ancient times?

- 1. Edom - Southwest Jordan
- 2. Ishmaelites - Southern Jordan
- 3. Moab - Jordan, east of Israel (Moab was a son of Lot.)
- 4. Hagarenes - Lived east of Israel; Jordan, possibly including modern Damascus
- 5. Gebel - Still today in modern Lebanon to the north; also called Byblos
- 6. Ammon - Jordan; Ahman, the modern spelling of Ammon, is the capital of Jordan. (While the government of Jordan has a peace treaty with Israel, we should remember that some 70% of Jordan's population is "Palestinian" and in fact the country was originally formed to be the Palestinian home land.) (Ammon was another son of Lot.)
- 7. Amalek - South of Israel, Sinai area; the Amalekites lived in Israel's southern desert and Philistia settled in Gaza on Israel's southern border.
- 8. Philistines - Gaza (Hamas)
- 9. Tyre - Still today in modern Lebanon (Hezbollah)



RICK: I have a hard time with that. Israel is the size of New Jersey. When you look at the Arab nations, they are the size of the rest of the United States. Israel has only 7 million people compared to tens of millions in these other nations. How can they be "oppressed" by this one tiny democratic nation?

Incidentally, in Israel, a million of the population of Israel are fully vested, voting Arab people. Yet Jews are not allowed in these other nations. How can they be feeling oppressed by them? It just does not make sense.

DAVID: It is a case where there is no rationalization in hate. It cannot be explained. By the way, if you talk to many Israeli-Arabs that live in Israel, they feel Israel treats them fine. They have jobs. But those on the outside are still stoking those fires of hate.

RICK: It is interesting - there is a common thread when you stoke the fires of hate. Let's go back to Nazi Germany. That is how Hitler created such a massive, powerful war machine. He focused the fires of hate so everybody could get on the same page behind that hatred. And look what happened! This is what is happening with the ISIS movement today.

DAVID: Although we are talking about a locale in the Middle East, this hate is not located or constrained to just there. The hatred of the Jews and the hate of Israel is worldwide. Look what is happening in France. The emigration out of France has grown leaps and bounds because Jews no longer feel safe there. Much of Europe is experiencing the same thing because of the hate. We have not seen that rear its ugly head in any large degree in this country yet, not that there is not anti-Semitism. You do hear it, but it is verbal at this point. That is another unfortunate development I think we will see in the future.

RICK: What about Assyria?

DAVID: Assyria stands out as being different here. All of those nations except Assyria are Semitic nations - they are actually relatives of Israel with the same forefathers. Assyria was an Aryan nation.

Here is an example of how our understanding of these prophecies grows and changes over time. Assyria was to the north of Israel. In the past we have interpreted it to be nations from the north, perhaps Russia. But recently, we noted something very unusual about the use of Assyria in Ezra 6:22.

Ezra 6:22: (NASB) *And they observed the Feast of Unleavened Bread seven days with joy, for the LORD had caused them to rejoice, and had turned the heart of the king of Assyria toward them to encourage them in the work of the house of God, the God of Israel.*

DAVID: The unusual thing is there was no king of Assyria at the time this was written in Ezra. In fact, if you read earlier, you find the king was Persian - King Darius. But the usage of Assyria at that time was for that king as well. In other words, in the ancient mind, the king of Assyria and king of Persia meant the same person.

So, we are now linking this word "Assyria" not with the Assyrian nation or empire, but rather with the king of Persia. What is Persia called today?

RICK: Iran?



DAVID: It is Iran, exactly right. Going backwards, we see Assyria has helped these others. Iran is helping others. And Ayatollah Khamenei and all his cohorts are a sponsor of terrorism. They help terrorism. This now brings Persia - Iran - into the picture, not a direct attack role. But as a Muslim nation, such support would be expected.

RICK: Now the plot thickens! We started out talking about ISIS and now Iran becomes a major player in this whole prophetic look.

DAVID: Reading the rest of Psalms 83, you find that battle concludes with a great victory for God's people, Israel.

RICK: All of those nations against the tiny little speck of a nation, the tiny little speck of a nation ends up winning.

DAVID: We are going to be seeing a repeat of what we saw in the battles in 1948, 1956, 1973 and 1967 in particular. What is important about Psalms 83 is those participants named are different from participants in other prophecies that talk about the final battle. The Psalms 83 battle is not the final battle in Israel.

RICK: Right. It is very much a regional-type of situation.

DAVID: Very much regional; that is well put.

RICK: ISIS is small in relation to all of this other stuff, but they are important because they are putting out the ideology and are representative of some of the evil focused to disrupt the world.

DAVID: Remember Joel 3:10? *Let the weak say I am strong.* They couldn't stand up to any of the armies of the world and the armies of the world all come. That is why they continue to exist, but they think they are really something.

RICK: But, again, it is not to diminish the damage they do in the places where they are, because it is the most horrible kinds of things that you can even imagine.

Are the ISIS and threats from divisions of Islam the biggest threats of our time?

Here is another text showing the overthrow of antitypical Moab and Ammon - the Muslims.

Isaiah 11:11-14: (NASB) *¹¹Then it will happen on that day that the Lord will again recover the second time with His hand the remnant of His people, who will remain, from Assyria, Egypt, Pathros, Cush, Elam, Shinar, Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. ¹²And He will lift up a standard for the nations and assemble the banished ones of Israel, and will gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth. ¹³Then the jealousy of Ephraim will depart, and those who harass Judah will be cut off; Ephraim will not be jealous of Judah, and Judah will not harass Ephraim. ¹⁴They will swoop down on the slopes of the Philistines on the west; together they will plunder the sons of the east; they will possess Edom and Moab, and the sons of Ammon will be subject to them.*



RICK: I notice that Moab and Ammon are there. But what is the *plunder*? What is happening? Where are all these names? Where do they fit?

DAVID: Well, we wanted to read verses 11-14 to set a context. Verse 14 was really our key to bring in Ammon and Moab once again. We saw those before and the result is they will be defeated by Israel. But we wanted to bring in the others because notice in verse 11, it will happen *on that day*. Well, what day? The day that brings the Jews back to the land, brings Israel back to the land.

RICK: That sounds like right now.

DAVID: It brings it right into the 20th and 21st centuries, which is why we wanted to include it. In reference to all of these *jealousies* and whatnot, keep in mind all of this takes place in trouble.

Hosea 2:15: (NIV) *There I will give her back her vineyards, and will make the Valley of Achor a door of hope. There she will respond as in the days of her youth, as in the day she came up out of Egypt.*

Achor means trouble. All of this regathering and all of the things associated with it are not easy. You remember we talked about Nazi Germany. There was one good thing that came out of that awful holocaust - it brought the Jews back to Israel. God said He would send *hunters and fishers* (Jeremiah 16:16) to make that happen. We want to emphasize we are interpreting prophecy and give everyone confidence we have the right time period.

RICK: What about the *plunder*? *Together they will plunder the sons of the east*. Who's plundering what from whom?

DAVID: What would you say in the Arab states of the Middle East is their number one export?



RICK: Oil.

DAVID: Again, we are interpreting. What is it they have that Israel could use and benefit from? Oil comes to mind. So, whatever the plunder is, I think oil has to be at the top of our list of guesses of what it would be.

RICK: So we are putting prophecies in place. We are looking at them in relation to the Islamic presence in the Middle East and to what effect it all has on Israel. We look at ISIS and we say, wow, it affects the world, but the main effect of all these prophecies is first to Israel and then to the world.

DAVID: We say to all of our Christian friends: Watch Israel. As far as Bible prophecy, that is where you are going to see the most fulfillment and the most interest going forward.

RICK: Interestingly as we go further, we walk away from ISIS as an entity, and we just take what they represent as part of prophecy.

DAVID: So far we looked at Psalms 83. There was a battle. And what that battle produces is some level of - I almost hesitate to say peace, but some level of order now where the threat, the immediate threat from Israel's



neighbors, is removed and there's some ascendancy of Israel getting the plunder of perhaps oil. Incidentally, when ISIS plunders a nation, oil is what they plunder as well.

RICK: That makes sense.

DAVID: And they make use of it. Prophetically we are at the situation where Israel is at relative peace and we are setting it up for the final scene in the End Times. We're going to use the word "Armageddon" at this point.

RICK: Now we are coming to big trouble!

DAVID: Big trouble, that is right.

RICK: So, previously you said the Trouble Meter was at three or four.

DAVID: We expect it to ratchet up very quickly.

What is next after defeat of the Arab/Muslim threat? Yet another threat!

Ezekiel 38:1-4: (NASB) ¹And the word of the LORD came to me saying, ²Son of man, set your face toward Gog of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him ³and say, Thus says the Lord GOD, Behold, I am against you, O Gog, prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal. ⁴I will turn you about and put hooks into your jaws, and I will bring you out, and all your army, horses and horsemen, all of them splendidly attired, a great company with buckler and shield, all of them wielding swords;

RICK: We have a lot of names again! *I am against you Gog, prince of Rosh.* Who are we speaking of and what is beginning to happen?

DAVID: We are at now the very end of the God's permission of evil, just before the setting up of God's kingdom. This is the final conflict. These names - Gog, Rosh, Tubal, Meshech and so on, they are all representative of forces that are coming down from the north. Gog appears to be the one in charge. Although we have heard some interpretations it might be a man, I'm more inclined to think it is the satanic forces behind the scenes causing this to happen.

But what is of interest - Rosh, Meshech and Tubal - you can make direct connections with Russia, Moscow and Tobolsk. They are cities in the north. I wouldn't focus too much on that and say it is representative of the whole group that comes down, and there is more as we're going to see in the next verse. But you see there are *hooks* and *jaws*. There are circumstances that lead these down south, such as wanting to get some of that plunder Israel got in the previous war.

RICK: So, the previous war was much more of a local event and it puts Israel in a position of ascendancy. And now this is a next stage where others geographically farther away say, "We want some of that."

DAVID: Exactly right. Here are some Scriptures where God said He will gather the nations against Jerusalem:

Zechariah 12:3: (NIV) *On that day, when all the nations of the earth are gathered against her, I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock for all the nations. All who try to move it will injure themselves.*



Zechariah 14:2: (NASB) *For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city will be captured, the houses plundered, the women ravished and half of the city exiled, but the rest of the people will not be cut off from the city.*

Joel 3:2: (New Living) *I will gather the armies of the world into the valley of Jehoshaphat. There I will judge them for harming my people, my special possession, for scattering my people among the nations, and for dividing up my land.*

Continuing with Ezekiel:

Ezekiel 38:5-9: (NASB) ⁵*Persia, Ethiopia and Put with them, all of them with shield and helmet;* ⁶*Gomer with all its troops; Beth-togarmah from the remote parts of the north with all its troops - many peoples with you.* ⁷*Be prepared, and prepare yourself, you and all your companies that are assembled about you, and be a guard for them.* ⁸*After many days you will be summoned; in the latter years you will come into the land that is restored from the sword, whose inhabitants have been gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel which had been a continual waste; but its people were brought out from the nations, and they are living securely, all of them.* ⁹*You will go up, you will come like a storm; you will be like a cloud covering the land, you and all your troops, and many peoples with you.*

RICK: Now you are adding Persia and Ethiopia. It sounds like there is this big, group - all these nations from the outside of the region coming in. But it says *the mountains of Israel which had been a continual waste*, but didn't we say they won a battle before?

DAVID: Again, we can interpret many of these nations from their geographic positions in the past. Notice you have some coming *from the north*. Then you have Ethiopia and Put from the south and Persia from the east. We are talking about nations from everywhere coming in. That is the idea.

Persia here is important. Remember we believe Persia represents modern day Iran. Iran is not stopped in that battle of **Psalms 83**. They helped those who were involved, but they are preserved until the end.

Notice *after many days* that they would *be summoned* and will come down. To address your question, how was Israel considered a *continual waste*? If you look at the land of Israel before the Jews returned, what was it?

RICK: It was a continual waste.

DAVID: It was a swamp, definitely not the Land of Promise. There were Bedouin who lived there but did not have much of a population. But the Jews brought it back and today it is a rich and productive land.

And notice here, they are living securely - all of them. We cannot describe Israel like that today. This is why we took the time to look at **Psalms 83** - to establish how that security comes. We will see it mentioned a little bit more in the next group of verses. So, there will be a time when Israel is living securely at peace when the adversary from all nations of the earth comes to address them.



Ezekiel 38:10-13: (NASB) ¹⁰Thus says the Lord GOD, It will come about on that day, that thoughts will come into your mind and you will devise an evil plan, ¹¹and you will say, I will go up against the land of unwallled villages. I will go against those who are at rest, that live securely, all of them living without walls and having no bars or gates, ¹²to capture spoil and to seize plunder, to turn your hand against the waste places which are now inhabited, and against the people who are gathered from the nations, who have acquired cattle and goods, who live at the center of the world. ¹³Sheba and Dedan and the merchants of Tarshish with all its villages will say to you, Have you come to capture spoil? Have you assembled your company to seize plunder, to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to capture great spoil?

RICK: It is interesting how prophecy is written - like a story. The storyteller suggests what different players are going to be doing, saying and thinking. In this section of verses, it talks about just what you described after the **Psalms 83** conflagration - relative peace - and this opens the door for the last time of great trouble in Israel.

DAVID: I like your little nuance there - relative peace. We are not suggesting everything is fine, but the main threat has been removed so they feel safe. In our current day, they built a wall in Jerusalem to keep the Palestinians out of Israel. The **unwallled villages** here are likely symbolic walls, meaning they are not going to have the military alliances they have to guarantee their peace anymore. They are going to have this relative peace.





I had not noticed until just now, even though I read this over several times, *people who live at the center of the world*. We just mentioned that is where the center of attention is going to be and this particular translation makes that clear.

One last note...there are several nations here that are NOT involved in the attacking. They are not the military portion of this, but rather are commercial centers with financial interests - Sheba, Dedan and the nations of Tarshish are coming down to take a spoil. They are not participating in the attack but they watch and have a vested commercial interest in this.

As we watch the real world develop, we will see this group of antagonistic and aggressive nations, and we will see another group of nations not involved but still watching and interested in what is happening.

RICK: It is interesting how ISIS has fallen off of our conversation. We started talking about ISIS and it ends up being a small piece in a very large puzzle.

Does God's endgame have room for ISIS and their Muslim heritage?

RICK: Does God's endgame have room for ISIS and their Muslim heritage? Does ISIS have a future?

DAVID: The answer is no. It is an evil organization with wicked practices, and we saw many Scriptures - even our theme text for the day - *the face of the Lord is against evil doers*. He will cut the memory of them from off in the earth. ISIS, as an organization, is doomed along with every other evil organization that has existed on earth.

RICK: Good news. What about those individuals who have that Muslim heritage and have passed it on from generation to generation? Does God's endgame have room for them?

DAVID: Yes! We know Jesus died for everyone. We have talked about that on this program many times. All individuals will have an opportunity. I want to give an example of how this works: Most of us are familiar with Jonah the prophet. Jonah was told to go to Nineveh, a wicked city of Assyria at that time. God instructed Jonah to tell the people He would destroy the city in 30 days. Jonah ran away but came back and delivered that message. What did that city do? They repented. This is one curious example where a true prophet had a true message from the true God that did not come true - the city was *not* destroyed in 30 days.

RICK: God said he was going to destroy it, but He did not.

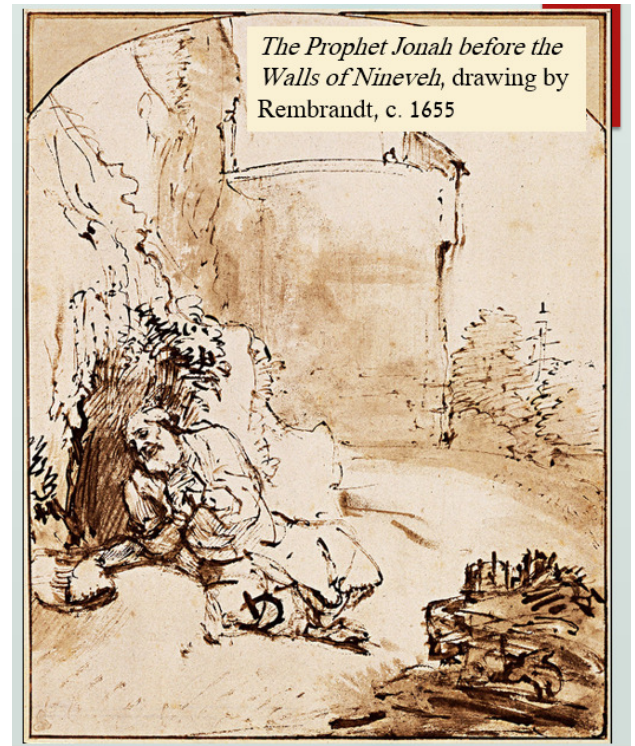
DAVID: However, I think this furnishes us a beautiful example of God's interest in individuals. The evil city of Nineveh was destroyed by their repentance by their own people.

RICK: The *individuals* were saved and the *evil city* was destroyed. So, the prophecy DID come true, just not the way you would have expected!



DAVID: Exactly. I think that furnishes us an example for how God will deal with people who are evil in heart today, but the whole idea is to kill that evil, to get rid of that evil, to convert all mankind back to a love of righteousness and a love of God. All the members of ISIS, if they will - they still have to want to - God will provide them everything that they need to live forever.

RICK: You mentioned something earlier in the program about how Muslims from Arab decent are related to Jews. They are cousins. God is very gracious and generous and we want to see if there is something in the works for them specifically because of that relationship.



Zephaniah 2:9: (NASB) *Therefore, as I live, declares the LORD of hosts, The God of Israel, Surely Moab will be like Sodom and the sons of Ammon like Gomorrah- A place possessed by nettles and salt pits, And a perpetual desolation. The remnant of My people will plunder them and the remainder of My nation will inherit them.*

RICK: Moab and Ammon show up again. *The remainder of my nation will inherit them.*

DAVID: This is so beautiful. Let me go back a little about the judgment. *They will be like Sodom and Gomorrah.* Those evil cities are gone forever, but the PEOPLE who lived there are still redeemed and will have an opportunity to change their lives, obey God and have eternal life.

RICK: The Scriptures say they will have an easier time than the cities that rejected Jesus.

DAVID: Very good observation. Jesus said they will come back, and as bad as Sodom and Gomorrah were, they were not as bad at heart as some people of Jesus' time.

Here's an example of why it is good as Bible students to look at particular words. Every word in Scripture is inspired of God. It says, *my nation will inherit them.* It does not say they will inherit their land, but that Israel will inherit THEM. Think about what that means. Israel is going to be the blessing nation of all mankind, and now they inherit these people. What are they going to do to them? They are going to bless them.



Deuteronomy 2:9,19: (NASB) *⁹Then the LORD said to me, Do not harass Moab, nor provoke them to war, for I will not give you any of their land as a possession, because I have given Ar to the sons of Lot as a possession. ...¹⁹When you come opposite the sons of Ammon, do not harass them nor provoke them, for I will not give you any of the land of the sons of Ammon as a possession, because I have given it to the sons of Lot as a possession.*

RICK: Again Moab and Ammon are mentioned, and now every time I see those names I think, ka-ching! I think I get this now. They are representative of two factions of Islam. In these Deuteronomy verses, they keep their own land.

DAVID: Yes. Let's look at this from the standpoint of Moses' time. God is telling the people of Israel, "Don't harass them. I gave them their land. Moab has land that I gave them. Ammon has land that I gave them. You have your own land." Of course, Moab and Ammon didn't cooperate and attacked Israel. But it is important here to note that God's promises never go unfulfilled.

That promise He gave Moab and Ammon, the original, physical Moab and Ammon, they will have a place in the kingdom. Using the symbolic application, (the people represented by Moab and Ammon, the Islamic movement) they, too, have promises from God.

RICK: So, there is a special opportunity for the people - not for the ideology - but for the people. Let me ask you a practical question in terms of getting back to the ISIS conversation.

You have a scriptural perspective that ISIS is not in Scripture from the standpoint of their organization, but they are representative in Scripture of an ideology and an opportunity. What does the average listener do when looking at what ISIS does today? We keep saying, well, it is not so bad in relation to the time of trouble, but it is bad. It is awful and horrific. How do we as individuals put that into a perspective that would honor God but also stand up for the things for which we should stand up?

DAVID: You're absolutely right - it is horrific and the evil of that is unquestioned. It needs to stop. What individual Christians can do (and what we *must* do) is what Jesus taught: pray for the kingdom of God. The kingdom of God is the final answer for these things. It will take away the evil and the atrocities of people and give everyone an opportunity to have a change of heart and to conform. God is going to cut off evil doers. In the kingdom either you stop being an evil doer and live, or if you do not, you get cut off.

RICK: What we need to do, then, is have hope and live our hope and not be afraid to speak out about our hope. We should condemn the actions of such organizations. We shouldn't say, "Well, you know God's going to take care of it so I don't have to say anything." No, you should speak up because evil needs to be pointed out. That is why the permission of evil is here. It needs to be recognized, labeled and highlighted so we never have to go down this road again.

DAVID: That is a test of our Christianity - whether we're willing to speak the truth about what evil is, what wickedness does and the results of it, or just keep quiet because we do not want to be embarrassed.



RICK: God is in control of it.

Isaiah 19:21-23: (NASB) ²¹Thus the LORD will make Himself known to Egypt, and the Egyptians will know the LORD in that day. They will even worship with sacrifice and offering, and will make a vow to the LORD and perform it. ²²The LORD will strike Egypt, striking but healing; so they will return to the LORD, and He will respond to them and will heal them. ²³In that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrians will come into Egypt and the Egyptians into Assyria, and the Egyptians will worship with the Assyrians.

RICK: You said Egypt was a representative of the world. What is happening in this particular prophecy?

DAVID: This shows the ultimate plan of God is to bring all people together under Christ, *bring all things together under Christ* as Ephesian 1:10 says, both the *physical* nations of Egypt and Assyria will be reunited and the *symbolic* nations (all elements of the world) will be brought together in peace and harmony once again.



RICK: In that verse it said, God will strike them but heal them. In other words, "I am going to press you into learning righteousness. I am going to be generous and merciful but firm."

DAVID: Exactly right.

RICK: Again, the Day of Judgment has to be looked at in the context of reconciliation. That is its purpose.

Isaiah 19:24-25: (NASB) ²⁴In that day Israel will be the third party with Egypt and Assyria, a blessing in the midst of the earth, ²⁵whom the LORD of hosts has blessed, saying, blessed is Egypt My people, and Assyria the work of My hands, and Israel My inheritance.

DAVID: Isn't that reconciliation?

RICK: That is reconciliation, and that is startling because Assyria was representative of Persia, which is Iran, and Egypt is the world. God looks at Egypt, the world, as His people and looks at Assyria as the work of His hands? How do you get there except by the process of real, true and full reconciliation?

DAVID: Yes. And as you noted in the previous verses, God is going to strike the whole world. Jesus as king is going to strike the whole world, ruling with a *rod of iron*. The time of trouble we have been talking about is a very difficult time, but it will wake people up. When they see the horrible experience of mankind through more than 6,000 years associated with sin and then they see the peace, tranquility and love that will begin in Israel and grow outward, they will want to be a part of it. They will be fed up with everything else.

RICK: One of the outgrowths of the activities of organizations like ISIS is the pressing of Jews to go back to Israel. If you follow what the prophecies talk about, that is where the blessings begin so those who go back there can be part



of the beginning of the blessing. It is a huge privilege to be there! ISIS, in their horror, actually provokes that.

DAVID: ISIS is a demonstration of how the problem of evil can become global, causing disruption of peace everywhere. But it also demonstrates how new alliances can form that we would not expect like the unity of the Arab nations against ISIS, the growing cooperation between Israel and Egypt, not to mention Jordan and Saudi Arabia. And you have already mentioned about accelerating the emigration of Jews from around the world back to Israel.

RICK: God is in control. All of these things were prophesied to happen. God does not *make* them happen; He watches them unfold because He knows what sin can produce. He also knows what the ransom sacrifice of Jesus produces - justice, resurrection, Day of Judgment and reconciliation, and all of these things will work together for good because God said so. Make sure you look at the trouble of the world through the eyes of scriptural hope!

*So, what does the Bible say about the ISIS crisis?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*

*And now even more to think about...
only in the **Full Edition** of CQ Rewind!*



God places a limit on evil:

Genesis 15:16: (KJV) *But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full.*

Refer to the program where the Assyrian = Persia/Iran:

Micah 5:5-6: (KJV) *And this man shall be the peace, when the Assyrian shall come into our land: and when he shall tread in our palaces, then shall we raise against him seven shepherds, and eight principal men. 6 And they shall waste the land of Assyria with the sword, and the land of Nimrod in the entrances thereof: thus shall he deliver us from the Assyrian, when he cometh into our land, and when he treadeth within our borders.*

Moab = one of two Muslim factions

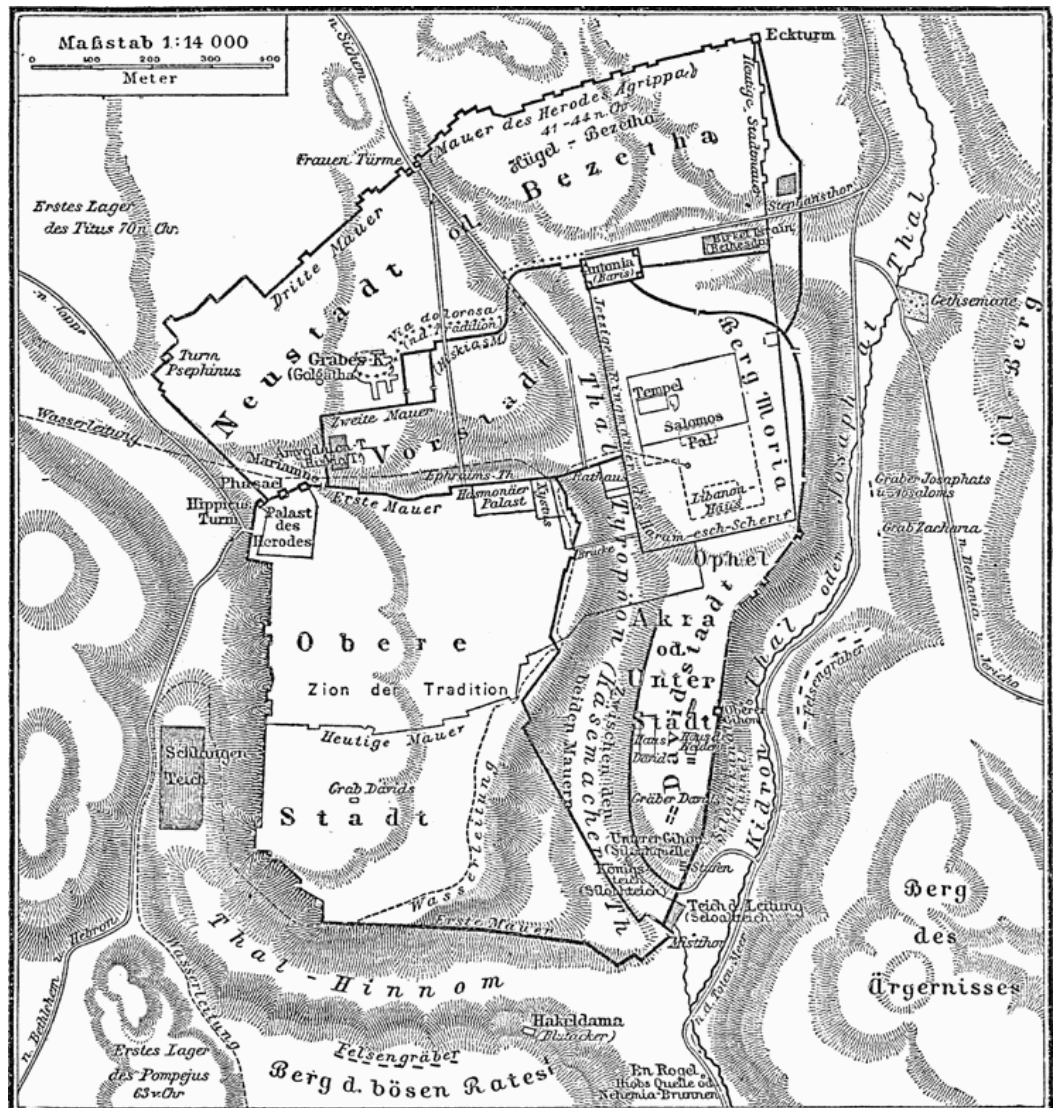
Isaiah 25:9-12: (KJV) ⁹*And in that day it will be said, See, this is our God; we have been waiting for him, and he will be our savior: this is the Lord in whom is our hope; we will be glad and have delight in his salvation. ¹⁰For in this mountain will the hand of the Lord come to rest, and Moab will be crushed down in his place, even as the dry stems of the grain are crushed under foot in the waste place. ¹¹And if he puts out his hands, like a man stretching out his hands in swimming, the Lord will make low his pride, however expert his designs. ¹²And the strong tower of your walls has been broken by him, made low, and crushed even to the dust.*

Jeremiah 25:1-38: This whole chapter describes the judgment of God at the end of the age of evil. All nations of the earth will be involved! Many of the symbolic applications we referred to on the program apply.



Zechariah 14:1-5: (KJV) ¹See, a day of the Lord is coming when they will make division of your goods taken by force before your eyes. ²For I will **get all the nations together** to make war against Jerusalem; and the town will be overcome, and the goods taken from the houses, and the women taken by force: and half the town will go away as prisoners, and the rest of the people will not be cut off from the town. ³**Then the Lord will go out and make war against those nations**, as he did in the day of the fight. ⁴And in that day his feet will be on **the Mount of Olives, which is opposite Jerusalem on the east**, and the Mount of Olives will be parted in the middle to the east and to the west, forming a very great valley; and half the mountain will be moved to the north and half of it to the south. ⁵And the valley will be stopped...and you will go in flight as you went in flight from the earth-shock in the days of Uzziah, king of Judah: and the Lord my God will come, and all his holy ones with him.

- This is another text that demonstrates all nations of the earth will be involved in the final conflict of Armageddon.
- The finality will be God fighting for Jerusalem/Israel.
- The valley between Jerusalem and the Mount of Olives is the "Valley of Jehoshaphat" mentioned in Joel 3:2,12 - "the valley of decision" - verse 14.
 - o This valley is also known as the Kidron Valley.



Old German map of Jerusalem - note the Kidron Valley is also noted as "Kidron Thal oder Josphat Thal" which translates to "Kidron Valley or Jehoshaphat Valley."



Photo taken from Mount Scopus toward the Old City of Jerusalem. Kidron Valley - the "Valley of Jehoshaphat" is in between.

News Items:

Note: Some of these videos containing disturbing images. The evil of this world is very apparent.

VIDEO

ISIS Funding - CNN Video

<http://www.cnn.com/videos/world/2015/12/07/isis-two-billion-dollar-war-machine-cnn-money-pkg.cnn/video/playlists/isis-power-an-terror/>

The Rise if ISIS - Frontline

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/rise-of-isis/>

The Children of ISIS - Frontline

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0VPiJr3qBEc>

ISIS in Afghanistan - Frontline

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/isis-in-afghanistan/>



ARTICLES

Call ISIS' Killing by Its True Name: Genocide

http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2016/03/15/call_isis_killing_by_its_true_name_genocide_129970.html

The Greatly Exaggerated Rumors of Islamic State's Demise

<https://geopoliticalfutures.com/the-greatly-exaggerated-rumors-of-islamic-states-demise/>

A Brief History of ISIS

<http://theweek.com/articles/589924/brief-history-isis>