# Choice It Is Your Choice! Rev. Charles E. Darnell, PhD

# **CHOICE**

Rev. Charles & Darnell, PhD

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### Introduction

In bygone days there were certain things that you found any journalist asking in order to gather information to make a newscast presentation. Those things were <a href="who, what, when, where">who, what, when, where</a> and <a href="how">how</a>. Now days, as we go further and further through this pandemic we seem to get the idea that the only thing a modern day journalist is concerned about is how to get their image on television. The presentation presented is either a chastisement of someone's actions, a statistical number count or an opinion of the journalist who are calling themselves analysts. What happened to the gathering of provable facts? What happened to the presentation of truth that was supported by these facts and not the spin doctor's rewording that put a different slant on the statement or situation.

There used to be honored people who gave the nightly news. People like Walter Cronkite and Paul Harvey, to name a couple, who would also give you the rest of the story. We could also expect to learn about news worthy events in Europe, Asia, South America or anyplace else for that matter. Now we hear very little news from any other point on the planet. Why?

Has our society digressed to the point that only the riots and looting are news worthy and those facts must be stated in a manner that blames and finds obvious fault concerning someone with whom the presenter doesn't agree. This nation really needs to stop, take a breathe and look at itself for a brief moment of introspection. What are our beliefs, where did they come from, and how do they apply to us as a society today? What occurred in our history that helped form us as a nation? Maybe we should return to some of those facts and do a review of who we are and how we got to this point in time.

The peoples of the United States of America are of imported descent for the most part. We do not pay enough respect to our First Nation peoples as we took away their lands, their beliefs and their heritage. Those who came later were from Europe, Africa and the Far East and not all of them came by their own initiative. Africans and Orientals were brought into this country as slave laborers but they were not alone in this. Let us not forget that many Europeans were brought to this land as indentured servants who owed their labors to someone else who had paid for their journey to this country. As indentured servants they had to work as slaves to repay that expense. Even those who worked the land on farms worked side by side as black and white share croppers who worked long hard hours just to make enough to raise a family. They never got rich from their labors but they did make a vast investment in the structure of our society. Both races went to church, learned about Jesus and made their testimonies of faith to believe in the Son of God. These were all strong minded individuals who helped form our nation and who have gone to war to protect our freedom and our great God blessed society. Today greed and idolatry has stepped in and caused a great schism in our society. We no longer have those citizens who will step up to the task to represent our fellowman and work toward the betterment of us all for a couple of years and then return home. Politicians have become the norm with their perks and high minded ideas that they are better then the rest of society and can do no wrong and their way is right. Follow the money as it pertains to politicians because money is the root of all evil.

Our forefathers penned documents that caused the entire world to be envious. They laid out a tri-branched system of checks and balances that allowed all of us to be free. They laid down the tyranny that they left in the places they came from and picked up the moral ideas and concepts of the Judo-Christian perspective. In other words they placed God first in their endeavors and we as a people were blessed by and through these words and ideas. Our

Constitution, Declaration of Independence and Bill of Rights are the standards of freedom and other documents around the world are modeled after these documents. Can I prove any of what I have said. Yes! Most definitely! Look into our history at the men who penned our Constitution. They wrote other articles, made great speeches and lived by the values they incorporated into the Bill of Rights. Along with these other writings and speeches you will find the heart felt serious respect for God and His Son Jesus. They were not ashamed to use their belief in honoring God within their work or their life.

I'll be bold and go one step further in what I'm saying. I am an American with a heritage that initially goes back to Europe. But that heritage goes much further than just Europe. In my searching for truth I ran across a most interesting tidbit of Biblical history.

Many of us do not read the Old Testament as we should. We say that we are New Testament believers and the Old Testament doesn't really pertain to us. **WRONG ANSWER!** As Christians we are the grafted in branch and not the original stem. Our roots are Jewish and that is the true branch that goes back to our roots in Adam and Eve as the first of God's people. We really don't know that much about our Old Testament roots. Let me make a short clear statement. There are three groups of people that we all should understand who they are. There is the People of Israel, the House of Israel and the House of Judah! The People of Israel means all Israel. The House of Israel means the ten tribe, Northern Kingdom that was taken into captivity and has not returned to the present day country of Israel. Finally, the House of Judah represents the modern day Jews and they are the peoples who presently live in the country of Israel.

There have been those who have made attempts to identify the location of the lost ten tribes and have made documentary movies of Jewish sects in Africa, Northern and Eastern Asia. By locating ten such sects these producers have felt that they have answered where in the world you find the ten lost tribes of Israel. Not so! My very nature of persistence means I will search ten, fifteen, twenty or more years to find the definitive end to my search. I've done it with old tombstones, with Biblical passages and with genealogy records. My website contains the results of some of these searches, especially as they pertain to the Bible. My website is www.vqpub.org and the website has all of my work in PDF format and all items are available for free download. Take for instance the Adam and Eve Family Tree<sup>TM</sup>. It took eight years to research, identify and lay out the 1500 plus names identified on this genealogy chart. It took twenty years to research, study and learn the truth concerning the lost Ten Tribes of Israel. The record is recorded in my book, The Thirteenth Tribe of Israel. It is this record that will show that many of Irish, Scottish and English descent are descendants of the children of Joseph. Many others of European descent are the children of the other lost tribes and all of these are the descendents of Abraham. These are the peoples of the lost ten tribes and they represent some of those that Jesus told the Apostles to proclaim to them the truth of the Gospels. Matthew 10:6, But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel (KJV). The truth of the Gospels came to our forefathers and some of the greatest missionaries of all ages have come from Great Britain and the United States. It is time for the children of the lost ten tribes of the House of Israel to realize their true heritage and to repent of their sins and humble themselves before the God of Israel.

### What Are The Choices Before Us?

I entitled this work *Choice* and have given you a short introduction to whom you might be if you are of European extract. I really haven't asked you anything about the choices that you make in your everyday life. Stop for just a moment and consider that for every situation you encounter there will always be at least two choices that could be made. It could be as simple as yes/no; up/down; right/left; in/out or true/false. In the present pandemic it could be wear a mask or not wear a mask; social distance or not to social distance. But is that all there is to the current situation that mankind is facing in America and around the world? I really don't think so.

I have shown you that your heritage may lead you back to the Northern Kingdom of Israel, referred to as the House of Israel. Even so, we are called Gentiles because we are not Jewish. The Apostle Paul is the appointed Apostle to the Gentiles and a major portion of the New Testament was written by Paul. It might reflect greatly upon what I'm attempting to get you to understand if I use portions of Paul's writings to illustrate my point. The first book of Paul's epistles is the book of Romans and there are many statements that I could use to show you the present situation and why God is giving mankind a preview of His wrath to come. In the book of Romans Paul doesn't wait long before he begins to show mankind their errors. He even warns us that there is a wrath to come for ungodliness in the following, Romans 1:18-23 (NKJV), <sup>18</sup> For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. <sup>20</sup> For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, 21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup> Professing to be wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup> and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man--and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. Paul goes further in identifying the manner of mankind's heart and what their desires had become. Read the next portion of Chapter 1, Romans 1:24-32 (NKJV), <sup>24</sup> Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, 25 who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. <sup>26</sup> For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. 27 Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. 28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; <sup>29</sup> being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, <sup>30</sup> backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, <sup>31</sup> undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; <sup>32</sup> who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them. Paul gives us an explanation why God is revealing only a glimpse of His wrath in the following verse in chapter 2, Romans 2:5 (NIV), But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. I know that I am taking the next verse out of contexts but I'm doing so to transition to another point. Read

Romans 5:13 (NIV), for before the law was given, sin was in the world. But sin is not taken into account when there is no law. Paul also gives us instructions toward those in positions of authority. Read the following, Romans 13:1-7 (NKJV), <sup>1</sup> Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. <sup>2</sup> Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. <sup>3</sup> For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. <sup>4</sup> For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. <sup>5</sup> Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake. <sup>6</sup> For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing. <sup>7</sup> Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.

There are two other situations that are currently happening in our nation. One is the upcoming presidential election? We have two sides which would make up two choices that we have in viewing this election; we can be either Democrat or Republican and we will vote for one party or the other. The airwaves are full of ad after ad from the local level all the way up to the Presidential level. The rhetoric is name calling after name calling with slander and cussing spoken with just about every sentence. Where is the honesty, where is the leadership, where is the moral values, and what is the platform that each party says they represent? What happened to our morality?

Let's add to these two elements a third; racial tension, anarchy, riots and the looting that is running rampant in some of our major cities. We are a democratic nation of law and when the law is not respected there is no law. Anarchy becomes the rule! That is not the backbone ideology of our nation. It is not Biblical, nor constitutional and most certainly does not reflect the thoughts and heart of the majority of the citizens of this nation.

Let's take these three elements and mix them together and then look at where we are as a people and as a nation. To make a simple statement: All hell is breaking loose! The primary choice that can be made at this point is this: Either we are headed toward a **great revival** when God's people repent of their sins and humble themselves; or, we are headed toward the second **civil war and revolution** in our history as a nation. We can say with assurance that on the one hand we might get a reprieve from God and He will allow our children's, children's children to live life as we have known it prior to the coming of the end of the age. On the other hand it will be **this generation** that will see the failure and the fall of our land and the coming of God's wrath upon the whole of earth. It really is our choice and we really are going to have to make up our minds and make that choice in the very near future, if not now.

The easy side of this discussion is that a great revival is about to take place and people will realize that this pandemic is a wakeup call and they need to reevaluate their life and how they conduct themselves on a day-to-day basis. I know even before I begin that I cannot change the hearts and minds of everyone in this nation. Yes! There are those who will have thoughts similar to my own and their prayers are as my prayers that God will forgive us and allow us to go forward. But what about the others who feel that they are being abused by society and that Black Lives Matter. If you are a Christian please consider that God does not see color of skin, He sees the condition of the heart. The Bible cast humanity into one group and the term used in the Bible for race is flesh and there is animal flesh, bird flesh and fish flesh along with human flesh. Notice that we are of one blood and that is human blood. There is no such thing as white blood, brown

blood, black blood, yellow blood or even red skin blood; there is only one blood amongst the human race and that is red blood. I served proudly with those of different races for twenty-seven years in the Air Force and had respect for all who wore the uniform of this nation. When I retired I returned to my hometown and began a small business with many black employees. After only a few months I was approached and told that if I didn't want to be cut I'd have to change my leadership around and toward black people because I was acting too friendly with them and making them my peers. Satan won that round and I gave up my business and many friends. That was also the time that God led me to writing about His Word and I began my search through the passages of the Bible. I always enjoyed reading the Bible and loved it when someone showed me the little phrase which said Bible means - Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth. Allow me to once again return to Paul's writings in Romans and present to you several verses that we all need to look at and understand how it could be applied to Black Lives Matter. Romans 12:3-19 (NKJV), <sup>3</sup> For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. 4 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. 6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; <sup>7</sup> or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; 8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. 10 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; 11 not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; 12 rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; 13 distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup> Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion. 17 Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. 18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. 19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

I highlighted greed and idolatry in the introduction and would like to address these two items in more detail. First, there is the rampant greed that seems to be a major driving force in most businesses anymore. One such item is quality. It used to be that American products were carefully crafted with pride to be the best in the world. Now days there seems to be engineered obsolescence in the products built. Take for an example major household appliances. In the 1950s and 60s you could buy a washer, dryer or refrigerator that would last for 20 years or longer. Now you can go to Lowe's and buy a replacement item and they will tell you that the expected life of the appliance is five to seven years. Along with that knowledge is the devaluing of our currency. In the 1950s and 60s a washer or a dryer would cost you 150 to 200 dollars and today that will be 600 or more for the replacement item. Refrigerators, "Oh my!" how they have gone up in price. I replaced one earlier this year and a basis refrigerator was 2000 dollars. What about cars? We are not in the Lee Iacocca era! When Mr. Iacocca took over Chrysler Motors the name Chrysler was not the best in the automotive market. Mr. Iacocca instigated the 100,000 mile warranty on a new car and the cost for a new car was around 1500 to 2000 dollars. Today the basis starting price for the lowest priced automobile is about 20,000 dollars. Tell me there

isn't greed. Tell me that the items constructed and built are not meant to fail and another one must be purchased.

What about idolatry? You may not think that such a thing exists in our modern day society. We do not have house idols of silver and gold that we worship and pray to so how is there idolatry? Let me ask you some questions. Do you like sports? Do you enjoy your weekends and vacation time? Do you polish and clean your car on a regular basis? Do you have a pet that you treat as a child? Do you have a hobby that takes up a major portion of your spare time? Evaluate those questions and ask yourself if you are performing idolatry in your heart. God knows your heart and He alone knows what you cherish and worship. If the object of your attention is not God or His Son, you may be worshipping the wrong thing.

Are you starting to see the need for a national or even a world wide revival of the spirit. It is your choice and you do have to make the choice for yourself. **Choose wisely!** 



### The Other Side of the Choice

There is the other side of all this and it is the ugly side of what is happening. Satan has a group of demons who overpower the minds of those they attack and once overpowered the person becomes possessed with the overthrow of anything that even has a hint of having a connection with God, His Son or the nation of Israel. They are supporting Satan's idea that he can overthrow the throne of God and take God's place. These demons use their influence and power to cause hate, despair, division, envy and contempt for anything they see as righteous. They play on the emotions of those who are not strongly based in Christian principals. These people then become the instigators and influential leaders of those who riot, destroy and loot storefronts and other people's property. They want everything to be their way or no way!

Stop! These means and methods are not the actions of a moral citizen of this nation. This is not reflecting our American ideology of being united together with a common cause of freedom and prosperity. Did you know that there are two states that the logo in the middle of their state flag says: United We Stand, Divided We Fall. These two states are Kentucky and Missouri. Do you recall the vision that King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon had as it pertained to the statue he saw in his dream? Do you recall the structure of the statue? It had a head of gold, a chest of silver, an abdomen of bronze, legs of iron and toes that were a mixture of iron and clay (Daniel 2:32-33). Daniel interpreted the dream and told the king that he was the head (kingdom of Babylon), the chest would be the kingdom of Persia, the belly the kingdom of Alexander the Great (Greek) and the legs would be the divided Roman kingdom with its east and west capitals. The toes would be the last kingdom to exist and would be made up of iron and clay. In other words it would be partially strong and partially weak. Daniel records the condition of these toes in the following verse, Daniel 2:43 (NIV), And just as you saw the iron mixed with baked clay, so the people will be a mixture and will not remain united, any more than iron mixes with clay.

Those individuals who are rioting and looting are marching toward the end of this age and fulfilling Bible prophecy. You may hate everything that is righteous but you are the agents of fulfillment of God's wrath in the Bible. Those who act is this manner will not see an eternity of peace, instead it will be an eternity of agony in the lake of fire. Read very carefully Revelation 21:8 (NIV), But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death. Need another source for a similar statement, read Revelation 22:12-15 (NKJV), <sup>12</sup> "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward *is* with Me, to give to every one according to his work. <sup>13</sup> I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the* Beginning and *the* End, the First and the Last." <sup>14</sup> Blessed *are* those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. <sup>15</sup> But outside *are* dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.

Maybe the best answer for the moment is to lead you toward another book. It seems that there are many Christians who have great difficulty in studying the Revelation of Jesus as given to the Apostle John. I penned a simple book titled *Days to Come* that goes through the book of Revelation verse by verse that may help some understand more of the days that we are in and the days that are coming if we stay on this present path. If you desire a slightly deeper view of the Revelation go to Lamb and Lion Ministries, https://christinprophecy.org/ and seek Dr. Reagan's DVD *Revelation Revealed*. This is a 75 minute DVD that will take you through the Revelation and show you the meaning of all the symbols. There are others who also have study material

pertaining to the Revelation that will run from the simple to the very deep. These in-depth commentaries will go so far as to review every Greek word used in the Revelation and what that word means. These are studies taking many hours of time and recorded on 7 to 12 DVDs or more.

What I feel the Holy Spirit is leading me to do is go through the event known as the Rapture and then to go through the possible wars that will occur from this time to the end of the Millennial Kingdom of Jesus. First, there are many who will debate the fact that the word rapture is not in the Bible. That is a true statement! However, there are those verses in text that imply there will be a removal of the Church prior to the period of time known as the Tribulation or the Great Tribulation. One such verse is found in First Thessalonians 4:16-17 (NKJV), <sup>16</sup> For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Notice what is said in verse 17, that we who are alive shall be caught up. This is the event we are speaking of when the Church is removed from the earth. You must also remember that you have to be a member of Jesus' church in order to be caught up. Jesus' church is not the name of a denomination it is the body of believers that have been justified and sanctified by and through the blood of Jesus. The second reference that is used to show the event called the rapture is 1 Thessalonians 5:9 (NKJV), For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. Notice that Christians (true believers of Christ or simply the Church body of Christ) are not appointed to wrath. In other words we are removed prior to the coming tribulation. We can also show the removal of the Church in the book of Revelation. Notice in Revelation that Jesus identifies seven churches in Asia. These could be seven types of churches or seven church ages and spoken of in chapters 1 through 3. Beginning in chapter 4 to the end of Revelation in chapter 22 there is no further mention of the Church. Yes! I agree there is the bride of Christ that is spoken of in chapters 19-22 and yes, that is the church. But you also have to notice that the bride is in heaven with Christ and now called the bride and not the church.

It is now time to approach the most difficult task assigned to me during this journey through God's word. I said I felt the Holy Spirit leading me to define the wars that are to come from now to the end of the thousand year reign of Christ. I can only pray and ask God to lead me through what He wants said. With that I say Amen and start my task.

One of the thoughts I presented was that as a people and as a nation we stand on the brink of either a great revival or a 2nd civil war and revolution. Where would I even pick up such an idea of a 2nd civil war or revolution? That should be a no-brainer! Look around at what is happening in this country. Those whose intent is to stir up trouble are doing their job well and there are many who have made their choice to follow the trouble makers and take up arms against authority and those who stand for righteousness. If these trouble makers continue to incite hostility between the races of this nation then we as a nation have become divided and not united and shall see our fall from God's grace. Jesus told his disciples the following when they asked Him about the signs of the end of the age. Matthew 24:4-8 (NIV), <sup>4</sup>Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. <sup>5</sup>For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. <sup>6</sup>You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. <sup>7</sup>Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. <sup>8</sup>All these are the beginning of birth pains. Strong's Concordance - Greek Dictionary number

1484 gives the definition for nation as *ethnos* meaning a race. The Greek number 932 gives the definition for kingdom as *basileia* meaning realm, therefore, what Jesus was saying was that race will fight race and realm (country) will fight realm. If lawlessness prevails in this nation we are at that point where there is no trust, no unity and most certainly no common ground. You would think that the blood of Christ was shed only for one particular group of people and all other groups are left out. Somehow Satan's influence has become so strong in one group or the other that truth no longer applies. Go back to the words of Paul and look once again at Romans. Romans 5:12-21 (NLT) NOTE: This is my first use of the New Living Translation (NLT) in this work and I needed to identify this reference source. <sup>12</sup> When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned. <sup>13</sup> Yes, people sinned even before the law was given. But it was not counted as sin because there was not yet any law to break. <sup>14</sup> Still, everyone died—from the time of Adam to the time of Moses—even those who did not disobey an explicit commandment of God, as Adam did. Now Adam is a symbol, a representation of Christ, who was yet to come.

<sup>15</sup> But there is a great difference between Adam's sin and God's gracious gift. For the sin of this one man, Adam, brought death to many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of forgiveness to many through this other man, Jesus Christ. <sup>16</sup> And the result of God's gracious gift is very different from the result of that one man's sin. For Adam's sin led to condemnation, but God's free gift leads to our being made right with God, even though we are guilty of many sins. <sup>17</sup> For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ.

<sup>18</sup> Yes, Adam's one sin brings condemnation for everyone, but Christ's one act of righteousness brings a right relationship with God and new life for everyone. <sup>19</sup> Because one person disobeyed God, many became sinners. But because one other person obeyed God, many will be made righteous.

<sup>20</sup> God's law was given so that all people could see how sinful they were. But as people sinned more and more, God's wonderful grace became more abundant.<sup>21</sup> So just as sin ruled over all people and brought them to death, now God's wonderful grace rules instead, giving us right standing with God and resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Notice two things in the passage from Matthew 24. First, in verse 6 it says that the end is still to come and in verse 8 it says these are the beginning of birth pains. So, if we have a 2nd civil war it will have to happen before the tribulation and I would go so far as to say that such a war would have to be after the Rapture. I say this because there are very righteous, God fearing Christian believers in all races including black and white and it is not the will of God that His people fight each other. That was how we ended up with the Northern Kingdom and the Southern Kingdom of Israel and they did fight each other, but that was not God's desire.

Now that we have addressed the possibility of a civil war in our country let us attempt to go through the battles that the area of the Middle East and Israel will go through between today and the end of the thousand year reign of Christ.

There will be many people that think of the battle of Armageddon as the only war that will involve Israel. Not so! Would you believe that there are as many as 9 different battles that are identified in scripture. By God's grace I am going to attempt to show you each battle and where you can find the facts for each battle in scripture. The first battle will not be the battle of Armageddon, in fact the battle of Armageddon may be the eighth battle in our list of battles.

### **Battle One**

The first battle may be titled Israel Extermination or the Battle of Neighbors and is found in Psalm 83. You wouldn't expect to find a battle concerning Israel in Psalm would you? We read in Psalm 83:2-8 (NKJV) the following, <sup>2</sup> For behold, Your enemies make a tumult; And those who hate You have lifted up their head. <sup>3</sup> They have taken crafty counsel against Your people, And consulted together against Your sheltered ones. <sup>4</sup> They have said, "Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation, That the name of Israel may be remembered no more." <sup>5</sup> For they have consulted together with one consent; They form a confederacy against You: <sup>6</sup> The tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites; Moab and the Hagrites; <sup>7</sup> Gebal, Ammon, and Amalek; Philistia with the inhabitants of Tyre; <sup>8</sup> Assyria also has joined with them; They have helped the children of Lot.

These are the inner circle of neighbor nations around present day Israel. The current names of the countries around Israel are Jordon, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria and Gaza. If you study the individuals and their relationship to Abraham you will find out that most of these countries are the descendents of Isaac's cousins and kin. Notice that all of these countries are Islamic. Here is the identity of each player:

**Edom** - also known as Esau, the brother of Jacob and son of Isaac. A portion of Jordon.

**Ishmaelites** - Sons of Ishmael the half brother of Isaac and son of Abraham and Hagar. Ishmaelites are the descendents of Ishmael and may include Saudi Arabia.

**Moab** - One of the sons of Lot and his daughter after the fall of Sodom and Gomorrah. Lot is nephew of Abraham. A portion of Jordon.

**Hagrites** - same as Hagarites, descendent of Hagar, concubine of Abraham and mother of Ishmael. Hagar was an Egyptian, her other offspring are not identified in the Bible. Egypt

**Gebal** - An Edomite territory and Phoenician trade city. A portion of Lebanon.

**Ammon** - also known as Ben-ammi. The other son of Lot through the other daughter and half brother to Moab. A portion of Jordon.

**Amalek** - Grandson of Esau through his son Eliphaz and his concubine Timna. Israel's persistent enemy.

**Phillistia** - Philistines, today known as Gaza.

Tyre - A costal city of Phoenicia. Located in Lebanon.

Assyria - Syria

The last portion of Psalm 83 makes a request to God to help Israel. Here are those verses. Psalm 83:13-18 (NKJV), <sup>13</sup> O my God, make them like the whirling dust, Like the chaff before the wind! <sup>14</sup> As the fire burns the woods, And as the flame sets the mountains on fire, <sup>15</sup> So pursue them with Your tempest, And frighten them with Your storm. <sup>16</sup> Fill their faces with shame, That they may seek Your name, O LORD. <sup>17</sup> Let them be confounded and dismayed forever; Yes, let them be put to shame and perish, <sup>18</sup> That they may know that You, whose name alone *is* the LORD, *Are* the Most High over all the earth.

### **Battle Two**

The next battle that we have to deal with is the first battle of Gog of Magog as shown in Ezekiel 38 and 39. The players for this battle are named in verses 2, 3, 5 and 6 of Ezekiel 38 (NKJV), <sup>2</sup> "Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him, <sup>3</sup> and say, 'Thus says the Lord God: "Behold, I am against you, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal". . . . <sup>5</sup> Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya are with them, all of them with shield and helmet; <sup>6</sup> Gomer and all its troops; the house of Togarmah from the far north and all its troops--many people are with you. These are an outer ring of countries led by Russia that will attack Israel. In these verses I will show why this war will be fought at least three and a half years before the start of the tribulation. First, here is a list of the players:

Gog, of the land of Magog, the chief prince of Rosh - Rosh is an old name for Russia. So it seems that the lead country for the war will be Russia.

Meshech, Tubal, Gomer and Togarmah - are all names of people now located in Turkey.

Persia - modern day Iran

**Put** - modern day Lybia

Cush - modern day Sudan and Ethiopia

Most of these names are given in the table of nations of Genesis 10. Genesis 10:2 gives the sons of Japheth and we find Gomer, Magog, Tubal and Meshech in that group, verse 3 gives the sons of Gomer which lists Togarmah. We find Cush and Put in verse 6 as sons of Ham. There is no direct link from the table of nations to the present day country of Iran.

A portion of the reason for this war is given in Ezekiel 38:14-16 (NLT), "Therefore, son of man, prophesy against Gog. Give him this message from the Sovereign LORD: When my people are living in peace in their land, then you will rouse yourself. <sup>15</sup> You will come from your homeland in the distant north with your vast cavalry and your mighty army, <sup>16</sup> and you will attack my people Israel, covering their land like a cloud. At that time in the distant future, I will bring you against my land as everyone watches, and my holiness will be displayed by what happens to you, Gog. Then all the nations will know that I am the LORD. Then verses 18-20, <sup>18</sup> But this is what the Sovereign LORD says: When Gog invades the land of Israel, my fury will boil over! <sup>19</sup> In my jealousy and blazing anger, I promise a mighty shaking in the land of Israel on that day. <sup>20</sup> All living things—the fish in the sea, the birds of the sky, the animals of the field, the small animals that scurry along the ground, and all the people on earth—will quake in terror at my presence. Mountains will be thrown down; cliffs will crumble; walls will fall to the earth. Finally, read verse 22, I will punish you and your armies with disease and bloodshed; I will send torrential rain, hailstones, fire, and burning sulfur!

That gives us some of what is to happen during the first war of Gog and Magog. However chapter 39 tells us more of the reason for this war and the results pertaining to both Gog and to Israel, along with the proof that this war begins prior to the tribulation. The following verses are from chapter 39 of Ezekiel and will continue from the New Living Translation for ease of reading. We begin with verse 1, "Son of man, prophesy against Gog. Give him this message from the Sovereign LORD: I am your enemy, O Gog, ruler of the nations of Meshech and Tubal. Then we read in verses 3-6 the following, <sup>3</sup> I will knock the bow from your left hand and the arrows from your right hand, and I will leave you helpless. <sup>4</sup> You and your army and your allies

will all die on the mountains. I will feed you to the vultures and wild animals.<sup>5</sup> You will fall in the open fields, for I have spoken, says the Sovereign LORD.<sup>6</sup> And I will rain down fire on Magog and on all your allies who live safely on the coasts. Then they will know that I am the LORD. The next entry will provide to us the reason to state that this battle must begin at least three and a half years before the beginning of the tribulation. Read verse 9, "Then the people in the towns of Israel will go out and pick up your small and large shields, bows and arrows, javelins and spears, and they will use them for fuel. There will be enough to last them seven years!" Read that last sentence. Do you see where it takes seven years to burn up all the weapons? The Abomination of Desolation stands in the temple at the 3 1/2 year point of the tribulation and it states in these verses that it takes Israel 7 years to burn up all the weapons. Therefore, this battle must take place prior to the beginning of the tribulation and could even be before this point of 3 1/2 years but must be at least that long before the beginning of the tribulation.

Continuing with chapter 39 we read the outcome of Gog in verse 11, "And I will make a vast graveyard for Gog and his hordes in the Valley of the Travelers, east of the Dead Sea. It will block the way of those who travel there, and they will change the name of the place to the Valley of Gog's Hordes." Ezekiel 39:11 (NLT) The next verse, verse 12, shows us how long it takes Israel to bury the dead and verse 13 indicates that Israel is victorious, <sup>12</sup> It will take seven months for the people of Israel to bury the bodies and cleanse the land. Everyone in Israel will help, for it will be a glorious victory for Israel when I demonstrate my glory on that day, says the Sovereign LORD.

Toward the latter part of chapter 39 we find the reason God does this. Ezekiel 39: 21-24 (NLT), 21 "In this way, I will demonstrate my glory to the nations. Everyone will see the punishment I have inflicted on them and the power of my fist when I strike.<sup>22</sup> And from that time on the people of Israel will know that I am the LORD their God.<sup>23</sup> The nations will then know why Israel was sent away to exile—it was punishment for sin, for they were unfaithful to their God. Therefore, I turned away from them and let their enemies destroy them.<sup>24</sup> I turned my face away and punished them because of their defilement and their sins." Then we see the restoration of Israel in verses 25-29, 25 "So now, this is what the Sovereign LORD says: "I will end the captivity of my people; I will have mercy on all Israel, for I jealously guard my holy reputation!<sup>26</sup> They will accept responsibility for their past shame and unfaithfulness after they come home to live in peace in their own land, with no one to bother them.27 When I bring them home from the lands of their enemies, I will display my holiness among them for all the nations to see.<sup>28</sup> Then my people will know that I am the LORD their God, because I sent them away to exile and brought them home again. I will leave none of my people behind.<sup>29</sup> And I will never again turn my face from them, for I will pour out my Spirit upon the people of Israel. I, the Sovereign LORD, have spoken!"

### **Battle Three**

We could call this battle many names: It could be called World War III; the Battle to Conquer the World; or the Seal Judgments. It appears that this battle is fought with conventional weapons. We find the explanation for this battle in the sixth chapter of Revelation 6. The leader for this battle is the Antichrist who is shown as the rider on the white horse within seal one. Revelation 6:2 (NKJV), And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer. We must also review passages from Daniel to confirm some things. Daniel's vision of the seventy weeks tell us this in Daniel 9:27 (NLT), "The ruler will make a treaty with the people for a period of one set of seven, but after half this time, he will put an end to the sacrifices and offerings. And as a climax to all his terrible deeds, he will set up a sacrilegious object that causes desecration, until the fate decreed for this defiler is finally poured out on him."

Seal two brings forth war. Revelation 6:4 (NKJV), Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that *people* should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword. Seals three and four bring forth pestilence and death. Revelation 6:5 (NKJV), When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come and see." So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. Revelation 6:8 (NKJV), So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.

Stop for a moment and think about what this truly says. We are approaching a total population of the earth at 10 billion and verse 8 above says one fourth of earth's population is to be killed in this battle. I must inject one other factor when I start giving figures. There are approximately 2 billion Christians now on earth. If they are removed in the Rapture we must start viewing our figures at 8 billion and not 10 billion. Therefore, we are seeing the warning that 2 billion people are to be killed in this battle. With the fifth seal we see the Christian and Jews who are martyred during this war. Revelation 6:11 (NKJV), Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both *the number of* their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they *were*, was completed. The sixth seal brings us to the escalation of this battle to the point that it goes nuclear. Revelation 6:12-14 (NKJV), <sup>12</sup> I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. <sup>13</sup> And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. <sup>14</sup> Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.

### **Battle Four**

This is the nuclear portion of this war and/or the trumpet judgments of Revelation 8 and 9. We find one third used repeatedly in these two chapters and we also see the demonic locusts, the four bound angels of the Euphrates and their mounted troops who killed one third of the remaining population of earth. Revelation 9:15 (NKJV), So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind. With the killing of this one third of the remaining population of mankind an additional 2 billion people

have now been killed. That's a total of 4 billion people or one half of the total population of the earth at that time. Go just a little further in chapter 9 and you will find the horses and riders of the two hundred million mounted troops and verse 18 says that these horses kill one third of mankind. Revelation 9:18 (NKJV), By these three *plagues* a third of mankind was killed--by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which came out of their mouths. The total population of mankind has been decreasing as these battles went along and each time a number is given it seems that we are talking about the remainder of the population at that point in time. At this juncture we started with 4 billion and we have one third of this number killed by the demonic horses. That would be an additional 1.33 billion killed. There are those places within Revelation that presents a flash forward and there are a few that flash backward into history. One such flash forward is given here in the last two verses of chapter 9. Revelation 9:20-21 (NKJV), <sup>20</sup> But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk. <sup>21</sup> And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

### **Battle Five**

Our fifth battle does not take place on earth, instead we jump to the Heavenly War. Read with me as we look at Revelation 12:7-9 (NKJV), And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, \*but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. \*So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. Revelation 12:12 (NKJV) informs us that Satan is thrown out of heaven for the last time and he is furious. "Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time

### **Battle Six**

This battle represents the Antichrist's battle against the Saints and the Jews. Since Satan has been thrown out of heaven he goes after those who believe in Jesus as the Son of God. He is continuing to think that he can overpower God and take away His throne. He knows his time is short and he thinks that if he can destroy the saints and the Jews he can gain God's throne. We can see some of this in Revelation 12:13-17 (NKJV), <sup>13</sup> Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child. 14 But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. <sup>15</sup> So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. <sup>16</sup> But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. 17 And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. The woman in verse 13 is Israel, Christ is the male child, her place in the wilderness may be the city of Petra in Jordon and her other offspring are the saints (Christians). We must also remember that the tribulation period is mainly for the Jews to come to acceptance that Jesus is Israel's savior and

the one that they pierced. Many of those who accept Jesus as savior during the tribulation will be the martyred of Revelation 7. These actions by Satan will be the second holocaust of the Jews and we may see this in Zechariah 13:8-9 (NKJV), \* And it shall come to pass in all the land, Says the LORD, "That two-thirds in it shall be cut off and die, But one-third shall be left in it: 'I will bring the one-third through the fire, Will refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them. I will say, 'This is My people'; And each one will say, 'The LORD is my God.'"

### **Battle Seven**

The Middle East Campaign Against the Antichrist should be the title of this battle. The battle is toward the end of the seven year tribulation period and represents the battle, or battles, between the king of the north and the king of the south in Daniel 11. In verse 36 of Daniel 11 we see the one who is called king is actually the Antichrist. Daniel 11:40-41 sets up this final battle between the king of the north and the king of the south; (NKJV), "At the time of the end the king of the South shall attack him; and the king of the North shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter the countries, overwhelm *them*, and pass through. <sup>41</sup> He shall also enter the Glorious Land, and many *countries* shall be overthrown; but these shall escape from his hand: Edom, Moab, and the prominent people of Ammon." However, the Antichrist begins to hear rumors of discord from the north and from the east and the Antichrist sets up his tents in the valley between the seas and awaits the advance of these other forces. Daniel 11:44-45 (NKJV), But news from the east and the north shall trouble him; therefore he shall go out with great fury to destroy and annihilate many. <sup>45</sup> And he shall plant the tents of his palace between the seas and the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and no one will help him.

### **Battle Eight**

This sets up the battle that everyone seems to know about, the battle of Armageddon. The Antichrist and his forces are waiting for the others to gather from the north and from the east. Revelation 16:12 (NKJV), Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared. Finally, we get to the second rider on a white horse coming out from heaven in Revelation 19:11-21 (NKJV), 11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. 12 His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. 13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. 15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. <sup>16</sup> And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.<sup>17</sup> Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, "Come and gather together for the supper of the great God, 18 that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all *people*, free and slave, both small and great." <sup>19</sup> And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth,

and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. <sup>20</sup> Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. <sup>21</sup> And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh. So! With the understanding of these verses everyone should know that there is no Battle of Armageddon because all those who had gathered to fight against Jesus were destroyed with one word from His mouth.

With that said and done the Kingdom of God has arrived and Jesus shall rule on earth for one thousand years. There will be no sickness, pain, worry or death during that thousand years of peace. The righteous who have overcome the tribulation will be those in the flesh who will enter the thousand years and will have children and they will have children throughout the thousand years. At the end of this thousand years Satan will be released from the abyss and he will deceive the world to rebel against God.

### **Battle Nine**

It is easy to establish what happens in this concluding battle that shall take place on earth. This is the second battle of Gog of Magog. It is different and distinct from the first battle of God of Magog. In the first battle of Ezekiel 38-39 we see Russia gathering Moslem countries and they go against Israel. In this second battle we see Russia gathering the world's armies to go against Jesus. Revelation 20:7-10 (NKJV), <sup>7</sup> Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison <sup>8</sup> and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number *is* as the sand of the sea. <sup>9</sup> They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. <sup>10</sup> The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet *are*. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

# It Is Your Choice!

With this second battle between Gog of Magog and Israel we close out all of the wars that shall occur on earth. Eternity is from this point forward and there are only two places that mankind's soul and spirit can exist. Either you will spend eternity in the New Jerusalem on the new earth with God, Jesus and all souls who accepted Jesus as their personal savior. Or, the other place that souls will spend eternity is in the lake of fire with Satan, the beast, the false prophet and all the other souls who never accepted Jesus as the Son of God and savior of mankind.

Through the presentation of information that is presented in these few pages every person reading this should see the deception that Satan is using to get us to deny that God is real or that there is a necessity to accept Jesus as your personal savior. We should all see the influence the Black Lives Matter leaders along with Antifa have made within our society to instill violence, rioting and looting as a portion of their political anarchy agenda. We should also see the biased objectives of the media to present what suits their opinion and how they criticize any word or action that doesn't go along with their political game plan.

God is also performing His work as only He can. The Bible says many things about the living, supreme God. He cannot lie! He does not desire for anyone to will themselves into Hell, yet that is what you are doing by your own actions and decisions. To encourage mankind to repent and humbly seek forgiveness God sent this pandemic upon the earth to get all of mankind to stop and review our personal actions. We have had three hurricanes to hit the Gulf coast. We have forest fires burning in nine states. We have already had a snow storm in Colorado, and it is only the first week in September. We have had an earthquake in South Carolina and one in New Jersey. The air quality in three western states is the worst in the world and the Liberal minority wants to declare it is due to global warming. Folks who think things like this surely do not believe in God. Everything that we are seeing happen that pertains to weather is under the control of God.

Here is the bottom line decision that you must make. If you enjoy what is happening with the pandemic, the weather, the riots, the looting and the deprived ideas of humanity you don't have to do a thing. You will fit right in with the plans of Satan. However, if, on the other hand, you would like to return to some semblance of life as we knew it, you need to evaluate your life. You need to see if there is something for which you need to ask God to forgive you, and for you to repent. Maybe you need to make a change in your life and accept Jesus as your personal savior. It is through the blood sacrifice that Jesus made on your behalf that gives you an Advocate to stand before His Father and vouch for you. Remember it is not by our works that gets us into heaven it is only by the accepted blood sacrifice of Christ that we have a means to spend eternity with our Creator. Once again I will say it!

It is your choice! Choose wisely!

## An Afterthought

Yesterday was the 15th of September 2020 and my wife and I watched a very historical event take place. In the young life, seventy-two years, of modern Israel's existence only two Arab countries have previously signed a peace agreement with Israel. These two countries are Egypt and Jordon. Yesterday we saw two more Arab countries in the Middle East sign a peace agreement with Israel. These two countries are UAE and Bahrain. One of the amazing facts pertaining to this agreement is that these two countries worked with the United States and Israel to work out this treaty in just over one month. It has been almost forty years since the Jordanian peace agreement was signed. Simply amazing!

I am not a prophet but I most certainly could speculate because of this agreement. Go back to those first two battles and look at what the supporting Biblical text says. Now, let's start adding current information to those statements. Turkey is now showing contempt for the United States and NATO while agreeing with Russia and Iran. I foresee the soon coming day when the United states is asked to move our military out of Turkey and Turkey will pull out of NATO. The United States will move its Middle East base to one of these two countries, UAE or Bahrain. President Trump also stated that up to nine other Arab countries may join the Abraham Accord after our November election. Review the first two battles presented in this document. The first was a battle of Israel's neighboring Arab countries against Israel and those neighbors are Syria, Egypt, Jordon, Lebanon and Gaza. Egypt and Jordon have signed peace agreements with Israel in the past. It seems the one country in this group that we must look at is Gaza, which actually is the representative portion of Palestine. If other countries in the area join the Abraham Accord there is tremendous pressure on Palestine to come to the peace table. If Palestine signed on to this peace agreement there might be peace in the Middle East for a few years and there would be a sharing of wealth in science, food and health issues. But we must remember what the prophecy of the Bible says and that God is not a liar. These actions only help set up the conditions necessary for Ezekiel 38 to take place. Here is what the Lord says, Ezekiel 38:1-23 (NLT), <sup>1</sup> This is another message that came to me from the LORD:2 "Son of man, turn and face Gog of the land of Magog, the prince who rules over the nations of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him.3 Give him this message from the Sovereign LORD: Gog, I am your enemy!4 I will turn you around and put hooks in your jaws to lead you out with your whole army—your horses and charioteers in full armor and a great horde armed with shields and swords.<sup>5</sup> Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya will join you, too, with all their weapons.6 Gomer and all its armies will also join you, along with the armies of Beth-togarmah from the distant north, and many others.7 "Get ready; be prepared! Keep all the armies around you mobilized, and take command of them.8 A long time from now you will be called into action. In the distant future you will swoop down on the land of Israel, which will be enjoying peace after recovering from war and after its people have returned from many lands to the mountains of Israel.9 You and all your allies—a vast and awesome army—will roll down on them like a storm and cover the land like a cloud.10 "This is what the Sovereign LORD says: At that time evil thoughts will come to your mind, and you will devise a wicked scheme." You will say, 'Israel is an unprotected land filled with unwalled villages! I will march against her and destroy these people who live in such confidence!12 I will go to those formerly desolate cities that are now filled with people who have returned from exile in many nations. I will capture vast amounts of plunder, for the people are rich with livestock and other possessions now. They think the whole world revolves around them!'13 But Sheba and Dedan and the merchants of Tarshish will ask, 'Do you really think the armies you have gathered can rob

them of silver and gold? Do you think you can drive away their livestock and seize their goods and carry off plunder?'14 "Therefore, son of man, prophesy against Gog. Give him this message from the Sovereign LORD: When my people are living in peace in their land, then you will rouse yourself. 15 You will come from your homeland in the distant north with your vast cavalry and your mighty army, 16 and you will attack my people Israel, covering their land like a cloud. At that time in the distant future, I will bring you against my land as everyone watches, and my holiness will be displayed by what happens to you, Gog. Then all the nations will know that I am the LORD.<sup>17</sup> "This is what the Sovereign LORD asks: Are you the one I was talking about long ago, when I announced through Israel's prophets that in the future I would bring you against my people?18 But this is what the Sovereign LORD says: When Gog invades the land of Israel, my fury will boil over!19 In my jealousy and blazing anger, I promise a mighty shaking in the land of Israel on that day.<sup>20</sup> All living things—the fish in the sea, the birds of the sky, the animals of the field, the small animals that scurry along the ground, and all the people on earth—will quake in terror at my presence. Mountains will be thrown down; cliffs will crumble; walls will fall to the earth.<sup>21</sup> I will summon the sword against you on all the hills of Israel, says the Sovereign LORD. Your men will turn their swords against each other.<sup>22</sup> I will punish you and your armies with disease and bloodshed; I will send torrential rain, hailstones, fire, and burning sulfur!<sup>23</sup> In this way, I will show my greatness and holiness, and I will make myself known to all the nations of the world. Then they will know that I am the LORD.

Another item that was discussed during this two hour ceremony was the possibility of selling F-35 aircraft to the UAE. The Israeli ambassador to the United Nations expressed a little concern over this statement. Here are a few things that I know and a few that I think are possible. We sold Saudi Arabia our F-15 fighters either in the late 80's or early 90's. That airframe is now 40 years old and has been replaced by F-22s or F-35s in our own aircraft inventory. If the United States sold the F-35 to the UAE other Arab countries would also want to have the same capability and buy them for their air force. Now, the question is the security of Israel. The United States has made a sound commitment to help defend Israel at all cost. Stop and think for a moment. Technology is moving at such a rate that it is only a matter of a few years, if not months, that technology doubles. I personally know that smart phones, tablets and desk top computers can all track your location and can listen to your conversations. They can also be turned on, updated and turned off remotely. Incorporate that technology into all the other technology of the F-35 and we would have a fighter jet that could be controlled from satellites if they entered the wrong air space at the wrong time. We might even have the capability to shut them down completely so that you couldn't even start them up if things turned ugly. As long as there is peace things work as they should. Allow things to escalate into a warfare footing and either technology or God Himself will come into play. Look at verses 21-22 in the above passage to see if this isn't so.

In all honesty I praise the actions of our President, I thank my God for leading him in the manner that He has and for this reprieve to allow mankind to go forward for a little longer. Remember what Jesus said in Matthew 24. Matthew 24:6-14 (NLT), 6 And you will hear of wars and threats of wars, but don't panic. Yes, these things must take place, but the end won't follow immediately. 7 Nation will go to war against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in many parts of the world. 8 But all this is only the first of the birth pains, with more to come. 9 "Then you will be arrested, persecuted, and killed. You will be hated all over the world because you are my followers. 10 And many will turn away from me and betray and hate each other. 11 And many false prophets will appear and will deceive many people. 12 Sin

will be rampant everywhere, and the love of many will grow cold.<sup>13</sup> But the one who endures to the end will be saved.<sup>14</sup> And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then the end will come.

I have one more speculation to make. All this rioting and looting in America that is called protesting will come to a screaming halt. By God's grace this action in America would match the grace of God as shown in the Abraham Accord. Police agencies all across America will arrest those who are causing these things to happen. Mayors and Governors will be chastised by those they are serving. Remember those in elected office in this nation are servants of the people who put them in the positions they are holding. They are not elevated royalty who make all the rules and everything is to be their way or no way. We will return to being a God fearing, lawful nation with a moral backbone. That is still freedom, but with the original idea that the majority rules, and not the rule of every quack that comes down the road with a different viewpoint.

Even with the addition of this information the fact still comes down to one of two choices. I have stressed what those two choices are and that you alone must make up your mind on where you desire to spend eternity.

# It is your choice! Choose wisely!