

# Lebanon in Prophecy



**By Peter Salemi**



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## Lebanon in Prophecy

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***Trouble is now brewing in Lebanon! Protests have begun, and the leader of Lebanon is threatening to resign if the government cannot find a way to solve the crisis. Many are now comparing it to Tunisia and the beginning of the Arab Spring back in 2010. What is prophesied for Lebanon?***

The tiny nation of Lebanon is mentioned in the prophecies of your Bible! This tiny land was once home too mainly of the tribe of Asher (Joshua 19:24-31). This once Israelite land was the launching pad for all the Israelite explorations and commerce of what the world called the Phoenician Empire. Great Phoenician city states of Tyre, Zidon and Byblos were exporting their goods to other parts of the Mediterranean, and their advanced culture. *(For more details Read our booklet the USA and British in Bible Prophecy).*

After many waves of invasions by other armies of the Assyrians, Babylonians, Greeks, Romans and the Arabs, the Lebanese nation is comprised of different peoples today. The peoples of Lebanon today are the Maronites (from the Byzantine Empire), the Druze, and Arabs of the Ottoman Empire.

### **A Little History of Lebanon**

Lebanon was part of the *Ottoman Empire* from 1516-1918. After *World War I*, France was given a *League of Nations* mandate over Lebanon and Syria. In 1920, the *State of Greater Lebanon* was created out of the provinces of Mount Lebanon, north and south Lebanon, and the Bekaa.

Lebanon proclaimed independence on November 26, 1941, but full independence came in stages. Under an agreement between representatives of Lebanon and the *French National Committee of Liberation*, most of the powers exercised by France were transferred to the Lebanese government on January 1, 1944. The evacuation of French troops was completed in 1946.

Civil war broke out in 1958, with Muslim factions led by Kamal Jumblat and Saeb Salam rising in insurrection against the Lebanese government headed by President Camille Chamoun. At Chamoun's request, *President Dwight Eisenhower*, sent U.S. troops to re-establish the government's authority.

A Lebanese civil war broke out in 1975. In the fighting, 40,000 Lebanese were estimated to have been killed and 100,000 wounded between March 1975 and November 1976. Syrian troops intervened at the request of the Lebanese and brought large-scale fighting to a halt. In 1977, the civil war flared again.

Palestinian guerrillas staging raids on Israel from Lebanon led to two Israeli invasions in 1978 and 1982. In the first invasion, Israelis entered Lebanon in March 1978 and withdrew in June after the UN Security Council created a peacekeeping force called *United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)*.

The second Israeli invasion came on June 6, 1982, after an assassination attempt by Palestinian terrorists on the Israeli ambassador in London. On September 14, president-elect Bashir

## Lebanon in Prophecy

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Gemayel, was killed by a bomb that destroyed the headquarters of his *Christian Phalangist Party*.

In 1985, the majority of Israeli troops withdrew from Lebanon, but Israel left some troops along a buffer zone on the southern Lebanese border. The Palestinian terrorist group Hezbollah, or "*Party of God*," was formed in the 1980s during Israel's second invasion of Lebanon.

In July 1986, Syrian observers took up a position in Beirut to monitor a peacekeeping agreement. The agreement broke down and fighting between Shiite and Druze militia in West Beirut became so intense that Syrian troops mobilized in February 1987, suppressing resistance. In 1991, a treaty of friendship was signed with Syria, and the Lebanese government regained control over the south and disbanded various militias, ending the civil war.

In June 1999, Israel bombed southern Lebanon. In May 2000, Israel's Prime Minister, *Ehud Barak*, withdrew Israeli troops.

In the summer of 2001, Syria withdrew nearly all of its troops from Beirut and surrounding areas. In 2002, Hezbollah began building up forces again along the Lebanese-Israeli border. In August 2004, Syria insisted that Lebanon's pro-Syrian president, Émile Lahoud, remain in office beyond the constitutional limit of one six-year term. Despite outrage, the Lebanese parliament permitted Lahoud to serve for three additional years.

In September 2004, a *UN Security Council* resolution asked Syria to withdraw its remaining troops from Lebanon. Syria moved about 1,000 troops from the vicinity of Beirut to eastern Lebanon. Prime Minister Rafik Hariri resigned.

On February 14, 2005, Rafik Hariri was killed by a car bomb. Many implicated Syria in his death. Hariri opposed Syrian involvement in Lebanon. Lebanese protests called for Syria's withdrawal, a demand backed by the U.S., *European Union (EU)*, and the *United Nations (UN)*. After protests by Sunni Muslim, Christian, and Druze parties, pro-Syrian Prime Minister Omar Karami resigned. Hezbollah sponsored a pro-Syrian rally on March 8, 2005. The demonstrations led to the reappointment of Karami as prime minister on March 9. An anti-Syrian protest followed. In April, Omar Karami resigned for the second time. Lebanon's new Prime Minister, Najib Mikati, announced that elections would be held. On April 26, Syria withdrew all of its troops from Lebanon.

In May and June 2005, Syria held four rounds of parliamentary elections. An anti-Syrian alliance led by Saad Hariri, the son of assassinated former prime minister leader Rafik Hariri, won 72 out of 128 seats. Former finance minister Fouad Siniora, became prime minister.

Four men were charged in the murder of Rafik Hariri on September 1, 2005. The commander of Lebanon's Republican Guard, the former head of general security, the former chief of Lebanon's police, and the former military intelligence officer were indicted for the assassination.

## Lebanon in Prophecy

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On October 20, 2005, the UN released a report on Hariri's slaying, concluding that the assassination was organized by Syrian and Lebanese intelligence officials, including *Asef Shawkat*, Syria's military intelligence chief.

On July 12, 2006, Hezbollah fighters entered Israel and captured two Israeli soldiers. Israel responded by launching a military attack, bombing the Lebanese airport and other major infrastructures. Hezbollah, led by Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, retaliated by launching hundreds of rockets and missiles into Israel. Although much of the international community demanded a cease-fire, the United States supported Israel's plan to continue the fighting until Hezbollah was drained of its military power. An UN-negotiated cease-fire went into effect on August 14.

### **Lebanon and the Beast Power**

The NATO Alliance [The Potter's Clay phase of Daniel chapter 2] will "come to his end" as Daniel 11:45 predicts, and then the "miry clay" and the "Iron" will form the final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire as it is prophesied in Revelation 17.

During this time, the great tribulation will happen, the time of "Jacob's Trouble" (Jer 30:7), the time when the USA, Britain and the Commonwealth, North Western Europe and the Jews will go into slavery and captivity. It is in this time setting in Joel the third chapter that God is angry with the Palestinians and the Lebanese. God says to them, "I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land." (v.2). Clearly Israel and Judah [the Jews] and scattered among the nations in slavery and captivity (see Joel 3:3 & Ezekiel 39:25-29 for confirmation). The land also is divided among the heathen that have overrun the land that God gave them; clearly this is Jacob's trouble God is referring to.

God then says, "Yea, and what have ye to do with me, O Tyre, and Zidon, [Lebanon] and all the coasts [Gaza strip] of Palestine? will ye render me a recompence? and if ye recompense me, swiftly and speedily will I return your recompence upon your own head;" (Joel 3:4).

"and what have ye to do with me" God says. Muslims claim Islam, Christianity and Judaism all worship the same God, but God says "and what have ye to do with me"? The Jamieson Fausset and Brown commentary says of this verse, "Ye have no connection with Me (that is, with My people: God identifying Himself with Israel);"

Gill's Commentary writes, "to be called by my name, or accounted my people? I know you not, nor will I have any fellowship with you:" They claim they are God's people via Islam, and some false connection with Ishmael, which is a total myth. God says there is no connection between him and them.

The latter end of that scripture says, "will ye render me a recompence? and if ye recompense me, swiftly and speedily will I return your recompence upon your own head."

## Lebanon in Prophecy

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Gill's commentary perfectly illustrates what God is saying, "**will ye render me a recompence?** for turning you out of your land, and putting my people into it? do you think to retaliate this? **and if ye recompense me;** by doing an injury to my people:

**“swiftly and speedily will I return your recompence upon your own head;** bring swift and sudden destruction upon you.” (Emphasis his). They want to seek vengeance on the Jews for taking over their lands as they claim even though God promised those lands to Israel.

God says that by injuring Israel you are injuring me and your revenge is against me, God says. If your revenge is against me, he will bring swift and immediate destruction on them (see below).

The prophecy continues, “Because ye have taken *my silver and my gold*, and have carried into your temples my goodly pleasant things:” (Joel 3:5). The gold and silver of God is the gold and silver of the coming temple that will be built in Jerusalem. It will be destroyed and the gold and silver will be put into their temples [mosques & Dome of the rock]. This is one of the reasons why God will take vengeance on them due to their hatred towards him and his people.

Joel continues, “The children also of Judah and the children of Jerusalem *have ye sold unto the Grecians, that ye might remove them far from their border.*” (v.6). Is this not what is taught in the schools in the Gaza strip? To drive Israel into the sea and take over their lands and Jerusalem? Well they will eventually succeed. Notice that the Jews are “sold” as slaves to the “Grecians.” Obviously this is Europe. The coming beast power will put them into slavery and captivity and the Palestinians will help the beast to do so *because they are part of that “Miry clay” alliance* (Read our booklet the “Middle East in Prophecy for details). Lebanon due to the fact that half the country is Muslim, and many terrorist organizations dwell there and the wars they had with the Jews-will take part in selling the Jews into slavery to the beast power as well.

Then God says, “Behold, I will raise them out of the place whither ye have sold them, and will return your recompence upon your own head:” (v.7). In Isaiah the eleventh chapter the prophecy says that Judah and Israel will return to the Promised Land from all parts of the world including the European nations like Assyria which is modern day Germany. When they do return the Palestinians and the Lebanese will have God's vengeance upon them as it is described in the next verse, “And I will sell your sons and your daughters into the hand of the children of Judah, and they shall sell them to the Sabeans, to a people far off: for the LORD hath spoken *it.*” (v.8). What they did to the Jews is exactly what is going to happen to them. God says “and I will judge thee according to *thy ways*, and will recompense thee for *all thine* abominations.” (Ezekiel 7:8). The Lebanese will be taken out there land and sold to nations all over the globe and not return. It is the end of Lebanon as a nation and it will not be rebuilt! It will all go to Israel and Judah. (see also Jer 47:4-5)

### Events for Our Time

The Lebanese today are now beginning to see civil unrest in their country. The Bible reveals that just before the second coming of Jesus, there will be war from *within* and *without* towards Lebanon.

## Lebanon in Prophecy

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Zechariah says, “Open thy doors, O Lebanon, that the *fire may devour thy cedars*.”

“Howl, fir tree; *for the cedar is fallen; because the mighty are spoiled*: howl, O ye oaks of Bashan; for the forest of the vintage is come down.

“*There is a voice of the howling of the shepherds; for their glory is spoiled: a voice of the roaring of young lions; for the pride of Jordan is spoiled.*” (11:1-3).

God says to “open thy doors,” and what is to be let in? “fire” which is a symbol of war and destruction (see Ezekiel 5:2, 4). This is to “burn up Lebanon’s impressive cedars. *They are often used as a symbol of pride. The oaks of Bashan, in the far north of the land east of the Jordan, are similar. Both occur in Isaiah 2:13 (c.f. Ezekiel 27:5-6). It is possible that the regions of Lebanon and Bashan were guilty of particular wrongs against the Israelites...*

“This type of ‘call of lament is often used in prophetic passages of *judgment* as a graphic way of *describing a coming disaster* (Isa 13:6; 14:31; Jer 25:34; Zeph 1:11). The *shepherds and lions* indicate the *leaders to be judged; their environment is destroyed and they cannot operate any more*” (The New Bible Commentary, p.878, emphasis theirs and mine).

The International Bible Commentary by F.F. Bruce explains, “The section ends with a taunt-song against *Israel’s enemies*, Lebanon and Bashan in particular. *The pride of these two, the cedars of Lebanon and the oaks of Bashan, is to be destroyed*, and possibly the mention of their trees by name symbolizes the *respective strengths of these two alien powers* (note especially the dense forest of Bashan). The two means of destruction of trees, fire and axe, are irresistible as God prepares the way for the *return of his people. The imagery of the song is expanded as shepherds mourn for their flocks ravaged by lions*. Even the lush thicket of the Jordan—the rich and thick undergrowth alongside the river—does not escape the *terrifying arrival of the Lord in delivering judgment.*” (p.982, emphasis added).

Now, “Some commentators, following an old Jewish interpretation, take Lebanon to mean the temple or Jerusalem;” but, “we are constrained to *adhere primarily to the literal signification* by the difficulty of carrying on the metaphorical allusions in the following clauses... *The prophet graphically portrays the punishment that is to fall upon the people [of Lebanon & Bashan]...*” (Pulpit Commentary, emphasis added).

The mighty trees of the land, besides being literal, could also symbolize the principal men of the nation (the “shepherds” of verse 3). The roaring lions of verse 3 would seem to represent the ravaging *conquerors*.

This prophecy includes the nation of Jordan. As we demonstrate in our booklet *Jordan in Prophecy* that the people of the “east” are going to invade and conquer it as they did in Syria. So this prophecy is linked to the great prophecy of Jeremiah 25 of the *coming judgment of the nations. Will Lebanon become conquered the same time Jordan is conquered?* The scripture seems to suggest it will.

The howling of shepherds can also be found in Jeremiah 25:34-36.

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## Lebanon in Prophecy

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These “young lions” are its conquerors and these “men of the east” are literally a young nation, ISIS is now established as a “state.” These will be moving into Jordan and Lebanon as well. Already ISIS has a presence in Lebanon, “ISIS, which is commonly referred to in Lebanon by the derogatory name daesh, and its frenemy Islamist group Jabhat al-Nusra separately mounted series of incursions across the Syrian border into Lebanon. In fact, there are just two small, sparse, overlapping mountains — more like hills, really — standing between Ras Baalbek and the neighboring town of Arsal, parts of which are now in ISIS and Nusra hands...ISIS is already reported to have established an Islamic Shariah court in Arsal.” (ISIS Is Trying to Take Over Lebanon, By Sulome Anderson, July 21, 2015). Conquering Lebanon will have the nation in control of the terrorist and there are already many in Lebanon that support the terrorists. It is easy to see Lebanon selling Jewish slaves to the Europeans in the Tribulation since the Muslims believe in slavery, and the slave trade.

God said that he will also, send a sword from “among them” (Jer 25: 16). Civil strife, which is occurring right now! Reuters reports, “The Lebanese group Hezbollah and allied Christian politicians will boycott a cabinet meeting on Thursday, deepening a political crisis that has paralyzed Prime Minister Tammam Salam’s national unity government.

“The political conflict has obstructed efforts to find a solution to a crisis over waste disposal that has fueled public anger and triggered anti-government protests that brought thousands of people into the streets at the weekend.

“The Salam government, formed last year, groups parties at opposite ends of the Lebanese political spectrum, including the Future Movement led by Sunni politician Saad al-Hariri, and Christian rivals to Aoun.

“With the presidency vacant for more than a year, the Salam government has spared Lebanon a vacuum in the executive arm. But it has struggled to take even the most basic decisions.” (Tom Perry, August 27, 2015). The shepherds are beginning to howl, the young lions are starting to invade, Lebanon will be no more, and its total collapse is imminent.

Why are these judgments coming upon Lebanon? As noted above, they are the enemies of Israel-Judah. Jordan and Syria “...have reproached my people, and magnified *themselves* against their border.” (Zephaniah 2:8). The Lebanese have done the same; and will *continue* to do so in the tribulation when they sell the Jews to the Europeans as slaves.

Jordan is linked to this prophecy it is safe to conclude that Lebanon will suffer the same fate. War is coming to the nation of Lebanon until its eventual destruction at the second coming of Jesus Christ.

### **Lebanon being prepared**

Almighty God is preparing to bring his people Israel back to the Promised Land at the second coming of Jesus Christ.

## Lebanon in Prophecy

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Chapters 10 and 11 of Zechariah many commentaries demonstrate that they are linked, as the K&D Commentary writes, “That these verses do not form the commencement of a new prophecy, having no connection with the previous one, *but that they are simply a new turn given to that prophecy*, is evident not only from the omission of any heading or of any indication whatever which could point to the commencement of a fresh word of God, but still more so from the fact that the allusion to Lebanon and Bashan *and the thickets of Judah points back unmistakably to the land of Gilead and of Lebanon (Zech 10:10)*, and shows a connection between ch. 11 and Zech 10:1-12...” (Emphasis added).

In Chapter 10 it speaks of the second Exodus of the Israelites back to the Promised Land, “And I will strengthen the house of Judah, and I will save the house of Joseph, and I will bring them again to place them; for I have mercy upon them: and they shall be as though I had not cast them off: for I *am* the LORD their God, and will hear them.” (v.6).

God says in verse 8, “I will hiss for them, and gather them; for I have redeemed them: and they shall increase as they have increased.” God will increase “Ephraim” (v.7), as Ephraim increased in the past, meaning the colonies of Ephraim, the British Empire and its expansion will happen once again with colonies of Ephraimites all over the world and preach and teach the Gospel to heathen once again. God says, “And I will sow them among the people: and they shall remember me in far countries; and they shall live with their children, and turn again.” (v.9).

God then says, “I will bring them again also out of the land of Egypt, and gather them out of Assyria; and *I will bring them into the land of Gilead [Jordan/Ammon possess it, see Jer 49:1; Gilead is in Gad’s land] and Lebanon; and place shall not be found for them.*” (v.10). Lebanon will be re-colonized by the Israelites, by the tribe of Asher, since that land was allotted to him and his seed. Notice however it says, “and *place shall not be found for them.*” They will increase to the point where they will begin to colonized once again around the world as they did before (see Joshua 17:14-18; Isaiah 49:19-20).

Then, “...I will strengthen them in the LORD; and they shall walk up and down in his name, saith the LORD.” (v.12). The Israelites will become missionaries for Jesus Christ, preaching and teaching in his name.

What we are witnessing today is the preparation of Lebanon for the return of the Israelites to their land, and the judgment upon the current peoples for their sin and wickedness towards God’s people Israel-Judah. Jesus is coming soon!