We are witnessing massive uprisings in the Arab world, such as never witnessed before. In this series of articles, we will be going through each country in prophecy. God pronounces judgments on many of these nations and these uprisings are fulfilling Bible Prophecy!

The Judgment of the Nations

These times that we live in, though a surprise to most people, it is not to those who know the prophecies of the Bible. God said, “Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will punish all them which are circumcised with the uncircumcised; “Egypt, and Judah, and Edom, and the children of Ammon, and Moab, and all that are in the utmost corners, that dwell in the wilderness: for all these nations are uncircumcised, and all the house of Israel are uncircumcised in the heart.” (Jer 9:25-26). The “utmost corners” really means, “rather, ‘having the hair shaven (or clipped) in angles,’ that is, having the beard on the cheek narrowed or cut: a Canaanitish custom, forbidden to the Israelites (Lev 19:27; Lev 21:5). The Arabs are hereby referred to (compare Jer 25:23; Jer 49:32), as the words in apposition show, ‘that dwell in the wilderness.’” (JFB Commentary, emphasis added). These are the Arabs that live in Dedan, Tema Buz see Jer 25:23. These Arabs do cut their beards in a certain way, in the shape of the moon, since Allah is the moon god, and this ritual does originate from moon worship. All these nations listed are the nations going through these massive changes right now. We in the church of God intend to write a series of articles covering each nation, and their future. We will begin with Syria

Syria

Many of the Syrians are now rebelling against President Assad. They are tired of the iron fisted rule over them, and want so-called democracy. Problem is, their version of democracy is not the same as the West’s version of democracy. Always in these areas Islamic rulers and dictators always seem to take over, and instead of freedom, more of the same oppressive tactics are used to rule over a people.

These nations in the Middle East are now under the Judgment of God. As we are coming to a close of the end of the age, the end of America, and the EU, many events are going to happen, and are starting to happen fulfilling Bible Prophecy. Where is Syria in the Bible? And what is her future before the Coming of the Lord Jesus?

Identity of Moab

Syria can be identified with Biblical Moab.

Isaiah 11:14 is an end time prophecy that points out that these two sons of Lot live “east” of Palestine today, “But they shall fly upon the shoulders of the Philistines toward the west; they shall spoil them of the east together: they shall lay their hand upon Edom and Moab; and the children of Ammon shall obey them.” (Isaiah 11:14).
Israel “flies upon the shoulders of the Philistines” this means, “This expresses an attack made unexpectedly on one from behind. The image is the more apt, as the Hebrew for ‘shoulders’ in Num 34:11 is used also of a maritime coast (‘side of the sea’: Hebrew, ‘shoulder of the sea,’ Margin). They shall make a sudden victorious descent upon their [the Philistines] borders southwest of Judea” (JFB Commentary). The Philistines are the Palestinians in the Gaza strip today! Here it pictures, “Israel plunges down like an eagle from the height of its mountain-land” (K& D Commentary). The Israelites on their way back to the Promised Land will descend by air into Gaza, and then after landing go to Jerusalem to meet the King Jesus Christ.

Then it says, “they shall spoil them of the east together” in contrast to the West obviously means East in the Promised land. The West Bank where many Palestinians that descend from Edom live today.

Then, “they shall lay their hand upon Edom and Moab; and the children of Ammon shall obey them.” (11:14). These two phrases, “they shall spoil them of the east together:” are tied together meaning those of the east of Palestine together with the people of Moab and Ammon, and Edom—many Edomite [Palestinians] live in Jordan today.

The word “together” is “yachad” (Strong’s #3162) meaning “… properly a unit, that is, (adverbially) unitedly: - alike, at all (once), both, likewise, only, (al-) together, withal.” So with the people in East Palestine united together with the peoples of the East. So these three groups of peoples are in the “east” in this prophecy, east of the Promised Land, where Syria, Jordan, and Edom (many of the Palestinians live in Jordan) are!

Daniel 11:41 clearly reveals Edom, Ammon, and Moab as nations in the Middle East in the end time.

**Moab has Never left the Middle East**

The Bible says that Moab has not been taken “into captivity” to another nation but has “settled on his lees, and hath not been emptied from vessel (country) to (country) vessel.” (Jer.48:11). “For Moab has often carried on wars, and even suffered many defeats, but has never yet been driven from his own land;” (K&D Commentary, emphasis added).
The Original homeland of Moab.

Moab was never driven out by invasions but they have migrated from their homeland to where they dwell today.

Aram, the original Syrians were taken away by the Assyrians.

Other nations occupied the country, but eventually the Moabites came to dominate the area.

After the Babylonian invasions, In the time of Josephus (Ant. 1.11.5), the Moabites were “even still a great nation.”

Then “Noldeke says that the extinction of the Moabites was about A.D. 200, at the time when the Yemen tribes Galib and Gassara entered the eastern districts of the Jordan. Since A.D. 536 the last trace of the name Moab, which lingered in the town of Kir-moab, has given place to Kerak, its modern name.” (Smiths Bible Dictionary under article “Moab”). So by 200 A.D. the Moabites were gone, out of what is today modern Jordan. What happened to them?

“At a later date Moab was overrun by the Nabathean Arabs who ruled in Petra and extended their authority on the east side of Jordan even as far as Damascus (Josephus, Ant., XIII, xv, 1, 2). The Moabites lost their identity as a nation and were afterward confounded with the Arabs, as we see in the statement of Josephus (XIII, xiii, 5), where he says that Alexander (Janneus) overcame the Arabians, such as the Moabites and the Gileadites.” (International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, under “Moabites” emphasis added). Under their occupation the Moabites became identified with the Nabataeans.

During this time, “The kingdom was hereditary; or at least the king was always one of the royal family, and had a prime minister or vizier, who was styled the king’s brother. Another Arabian
king of the name of Aretas is the one mentioned by St. Paul (2Cor 11:32; comp. Acts 9:24-25; Josephus, Antiq. xviii. 5. 1). *We find that a former Aretas had been invited to assume the sovereignty by the inhabitants of Damascus:”* (Kitto; Popular Cyclopedia, under “Nebaioth”).

Aretas IV made leader. He is known as “Philopatris,” and was called “the King of the Nabatu, who loves his people.” During his reign, the Nabataean Kingdom reached its zenith.

Notice these line of kings in Damascus: “Successors of Aretas IV included Malichus II (a.d. 40-70) and Rabbel II, the last king of the Nabataeans who died in a.d. 106.” (Encyclopedia of The Bible under Nabataeans). Malichus is known as a Moabite name.

This source says, “It is interesting to note that a collection of 2000 papyri from 259 BC makes mention of the Nabataeans. These papyri were the archives of Zenon, the business agent for one, Apollonius, the financial minister of Ptolemy II Philadelphos. In among the papyri was a document that reports the activities of two Nabataean men named Drimylus and Dionysius who made their living by selling slave-girl prostitutes. Their business extended between Joppa and Amman, and into southern Syria. The text shows no surprise at Nabataeans being this far north, or of their particular business venture: pimping prostitutes. It is also interesting to notice that the papyri also mention the purchase of Gerrhean and Minaean frankincense from a Malichus in Moab.” (Article “Who were the Nabataeans,? ” by nabataea.net, emphasis added). Clearly the Moabites even though were known as Nabataeans, within the empire were still known as Moabites, and were in Damascus ruling at the time. As this source confirms many settled the plateau east of the Dead Sea and many have spread into Syria, *(see Douglas, J (Ed) (et al) (1972) New Bible Dictionary. Inter-Varsity Press, London, pp. 30, 46-47).*

In the beginning Syria was settled by “Aram” or the Arameans. Syria is the Greek name for Aram (Josephus Ant. 1:6:4). Then the Assyrians took the Aramaens captive (Amos 1:3-5). Many of whom are the Kurds today in Iraq, Iran, Turkey and the Caucasus.

Syria was then populated by the Babylonians (Josephus Ant. 12:5:5; Ezra 4:9-10). Then the Babylonians migrated out and settled into Rome (See Ernest L. Martin “Race Change in Italy”). Then the Moabites came to dominate the area. Modern day Syria is Moab. There are plenty of prophecies about the end time Moabites and what will happen to them in the future!

**Ezekiel 25**

In the book of Ezekiel, God pronounced Judgments on certain nations. Ammon, Edom, Moab, Tyre Zidon etc…

Of Moab God said, “Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because that Moab and Seir do say, Behold, the house of Judah is like unto all the heathen; “Therefore, behold, I will open the side of Moab from the cities, from his cities which are on his frontiers, the glory of the country, Bethjeshimoth, Baalmeon, and Kiriathaim, “Unto the men of the east with the Ammonites, and will give them in possession, that the Ammonites may not be remembered among the nations. “And I will execute judgments upon Moab; and they shall know that I am the LORD.” (25:8-11).
Moab says that Judah, the Jews are like all the nations. They are not called of God, and are not his people. So God says he will open up the side of Moab unto the men of the “east.” So the east side of Moab’s border will be open to invaders from the East along “with” the Ammonites. “Fairbairn explains and translates, ‘upon the children of Ammon’ (elliptically for, ‘I will open Moab to the men of the east, who, having overrun the children of Ammon shall then fall on Moab’). Maurer, as English Version, ‘with the Ammonites,’ that is, Moab, ‘together with the land of Ammon,’ is to be thrown ‘open to the men of the east,’ to enter and take possession” (JFB Commentary). Both borders of Ammon and Moab will be open and taken over by these “men of the east.”

As a result of this, “…the Ammonites may not be remembered among the nations.” Not just Ammon, Moab as well, “…the name of that people, which is entirely lost; and Moab likewise, which underwent the same fate.” (Gill Commentary). So clearly the context is not just Ammon that loses their name but also Moab as well; that the nations would not remember their name any longer. Today, the names of Moab and Ammon are no longer given to those peoples. These nations are now called Jordan and Syria. The Moabites took the name of Syria, the name that already belonged to that region, no longer calling themselves Moab.

Many believe that Nebuchadnezzar fulfilled these prophecies. But history and the Bible reveal that Moab and Ammon still exist, yet God says he would utterly destroy them. “at the time of the end” (Dan 11:40) we find them in the Middle East as two separate nations as Jordan and Syria. Notice what this source says, “The execution of these judgments commenced with the subjugation of the Ammonites and Moabites by Nebuchadnezzar, five years after the destruction of Jerusalem (vid., Josephus, Ant. x. 9. 7, and M. von Niebuhr, Gesch. Assurs, etc., p. 215). Nevertheless the Ammonites continued to exist as a nation for a long time after the captivity, so that Judas the Maccabaean waged war against them (1 Macc. 5:6, 30-43); and even Justin Martyr speaks of Ἄμμανίτων νῦν πολὺ πλῆθος (Dial. Tryph. p. 272). - But Origen includes their land in the general name of Arabia (lib. i. in Job). The name of the Moabites appears to have become extinct at a much earlier period. After the captivity, it is only in Ezra 9:1; Neh 13:1, and Dan 11:41, that we find any notice of them as a people. Their land is mentioned by Josephus in the Antiq. xiii. 14. 2, and xv. 4, and in the Bell. Jud. iii. 3. 3. - A further fulfillment by the Messianic judgment, which is referred to in Zep 2:10, is not indicated in these words of Ezekiel;” (K& D Commentary, emphasis added). God did not destroy Ammon as he said he would do in Ezekiel 25:7, and this same judgment is for Moab as well (vv.10-11).

Ezekiel’s prophecy is obviously for the end time. Nebuchadnezzar did not destroy Moab and Ammon. As noted above Moab continued to exist. Jeremiah said that Moab has not gone into captivity and is settled in his land. Notice what this source says, “When Babylon took the place of Assyria in the suzerainty, Moab joined other tribes in urging Judah to revolt but seems [Moab] to have come to terms with Nebuchadnezzar before Jerusalem was taken, as we hear nothing of any expedition of that king against her” (article “Moab” International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, emphasis added). Though many of these nations were subject to the King of Babylon, Moab and Ammon were not destroyed as God said they would be.

Now God said he would open up the border to the men of the “east” (Ezekiel 25:10). The side of Moab actually means the “shoulder” as K& D explains, “The shoulder of Moab is the side of the
Moabitish land. In the application of the word כָּתֵף to lands or provinces, regard is had to the position of the shoulder in relation to the whole body, but without reference to the elevation of the district.” The North east side of Moab would be “open to the attack of the enemy from the cities, from his cities, from his frontier (or, in every quarter).” (Barnes Notes). “I will open up the side, or border of Moab (metaphor from a man whose side is open to blows),” (JFB Commentary, emphasis theirs). The sides of Moab are opened up in the east, because it’s the “men of the east” that enter into it. Ezekiel 21:31 describes these men as “brutish men, and skilful to destroy.”

We have proved that Ammon and Moab were kept out of the Gulf War in 1990-91 in Daniel 11:40-43 (Read our Booklet Middle East in Prophecy); and these nations are intact. Now verse 44 is the war on Terror- this is where we are right now! Prophecies reveal that before the King of the North (USA & NATO) occupies Israel (Judah) these judgments will take place.

During the time of the Judgments of Egypt, Isaiah 19:17 says that the troops occupy the land of Judah which is NATO (Read our booklet Egypt in Prophecy)

During the time of the judgment of Philistia in Isaiah 14:29-32 again an army from the North comes and occupies the land of Judah (Read our booklet Palestine in Prophecy). We find the King of the North NATO in Isaiah’s prophecy about Damascus destruction, coming to his end (Daniel 11:45) at the same time as the fall of Damascus (Isaiah17).

And Moab and Ammon prophecies are to take place at the same time as revealed in Ezekiel 25 and Jeremiah 48.

It is because of these events that the King of the North occupies Israel, “But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him:” (v.44). This is the context. It is because of these “tidings” that “And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain;” (v.45). The time setting has to be right now in our day today between verse 44 and 45 of Daniel! The troubles are out of the east and north, meaning old Persia and Media.

Has Moab/Syria’s north East border opened up to “men in the east?” Yes it has! ISIS was “…prominent in the Iraqi insurgency in the 2000s, it is also well-armed and financed.” (What is ISIS and where did it come from?). These were east of Moab/Syria and then joined the Syrian civil war. These then “opened” up the east side of Moab/Syria, and took over much of Iraq. So now Syria and Iraqi borders are now open borders and controlled by them as God said it would. (See map below).
The book of Zephaniah

The situation in the Middle East with Israel/Judah and Syria with the Golan Heights is revealed in scripture in the book of Zephaniah chapter 2. Clearly and end time prophecy, verse one speaks of the “day of the Lord.” Here Judah inhabits the seas coast and set up farming and agriculture, and much has been written documenting that the Israelis have “made the desert bloom” with their innovative high-tech agricultural efforts.

The prophecy says, “And the sea coast shall be dwellings and cottages for shepherds, and folds for flocks.

“And the coast shall be for the remnant of the house of Judah; they shall feed thereupon: in the houses of Ashkelon shall they lie down in the evening: for the LORD their God shall visit them, and turn away their captivity” (vv.6-7). In 1948, the Jewish nation called Israel was born in the “seacoast” region of old Palestine, fulfilling this prophecy. Indeed, the 1988 Edition of the Encyclopedia Americana notes this about Israel’s population: “About 70% of it is concentrated in the Mediterranean coastal strip...” (Vol. 15, p. 524). This is exactly what Zephaniah 2 prophesied would occur to Judah in the latter days.

Because the Jews had been a stateless people scattered among the nations for centuries (even millennia), the prophecy’s language that their captivity would be “turned away” (i.e. “ended”) is very descriptive of the fate of the Jews, a people who had not had their own nation for a very long time. This also reveals the holocaust which occurred shortly before the Exodus to the Promised Land after World War Two. Their captivity was “turned” away from them.
Then in verse 8 it speaks of Ammon and Moab, “I have heard the reproach of Moab, and the revilings of the children of Ammon, whereby they have reproached my people, and magnified themselves against their border.” (v.8). Notice Moab and Ammon share a border with Judah. Barnes Notes says, “Both words, ‘reproached, reviled,’ mean, primarily, cutting speeches; both are intensive, and are used of blaspheming God as unable to help His people, or reviling His people as forsaken by Him.” The Imams and the Mullah’s in Syria continually say that the Jews descend from apes and pigs, and that they are not the people of the Lord.

Also, “...everyone recognizes that Egypt, Syria, and Jordan started the [Six Day] war...Damascus Radio incited its listeners: ‘Arab masses, this is your day. Rush to the battlefield...Let them know that we shall hang the last Imperialist [British] soldier with the entrails of the last Zionist.’ Hafiz al-Assad ordered Syrian soldiers to ‘strike the enemies [civilian] settlements turn them into dust, pave the Arab roads with the skulls of the Jews. Strike them without mercy’” (The Case for Israel, pp.91-92).

After that, “In October 1973 Egypt and Syria launched surprise attacks against Israel on Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the Jewish Year...Their goal was to recover the land lost to Israel from the Six Day War...The Syrians failed in their efforts to regain the Golan Heights...”(The Case for Israel, p.101, Alan Dershowitz). But even still, the Syrians continually after Friday prayers still go to the border and blaspheme and throw and launch projectiles at the Israelis “magnifying” themselves against their borders. This is why God has pronounced prophecies against these nations that are going to come to pass in the next few years. Jeremiah and Isaiah deal with these nations.

Notice the next two verses, “Therefore as I live, saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, Surely Moab shall be as Sodom, and the children of Ammon as Gomorrah, even the breeding of nettles, and saltpits, and a perpetual desolation: the residue of my people shall spoil them, and the remnant of my people shall possess them.

“This shall they have for their pride, because they have reproached and magnified themselves against the people of the LORD of hosts.” (vv.9-10). The spoiling or possessing of these people by Israel takes place at the second coming of Jesus Christ, “But they shall fly upon the shoulders of the Philistines toward the west; they shall spoil them of the east together: they shall lay their hand upon Edom and Moab; and the children of Ammon shall obey the them.” (Isaiah 11:14).

The “spoiler” in Jeremiah 48 was supposedly thought of as the Israelites since they spoil Moab and Ammon Zephaniah 2. But the Hebrew words and the time setting are different. The word “Spoiler” in Jeremiah is “Shadad” (Strong’s #7703). The meaning here is more “properly to be burly, that is, (figuratively) powerful (passively impregnable); by implication to ravage: - dead, destroy (-er), oppress, robber, spoil (-er), X utterly, (lay) waste.” (ibid).

The word “spoil” in Zephaniah and Isaiah 11:14 as applied to the Israelites is “bazaz” (Strong’s # 962). This means, “to plunder: - catch, gather, (take) for a prey, rob (-ber), spoil, take (away, spoil), X utterly.” (ibid). It has nothing to do with an oppressing King who is strong and wastes nations. The time setting as well, one is during the exodus and the second coming of Christ the other is before the tribulation. So the spoiler cannot be the Israelites.
Now God says, “Surely Moab shall be as Sodom, and the children of Ammon as Gomorrah, even the breeding of nettles, and salt-pits, and a perpetual desolation” God destroys these nations. Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel reveal who God uses to execute these judgments.

All commentaries say that it was Nebuchadnezzar who was the “spoiler.” As shown previously however that, “When Babylon took the place of Assyria in the suzerainty, Moab joined other tribes in urging Judah to revolt but seems [Moab] to have come to terms with Nebuchadnezzar before Jerusalem was taken, as we hear nothing of any expedition of that king against her” (article “Moab” International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, emphasis added). So who is the “spoiler” in these latter days?

The “Spoiler?”

As we have continually proven that the tidings out of the east and the north in Daniel 11:44 is old Persia and Media.

The word used by Daniel for “east,” is “Mizrach is used of the E. more indefinitely. The Greek plural anatolai, ‘the sunrises,’ is used of the E. indefinitely, the eastern point of the compass (Mat 2:1)...” (Ibid). This eastward area was outside the Area of Assyria, Babylon and Arabia, “The term [kedem] as generally used refers to the lands lying immediately eastward of Palestine, namely, Arabia, Mesopotamia and Babylonia; on the other hand, mizrach, is used of the far east with a less definite signification...” (Smith Bible Dictionary, under “East” emphasis added).

The word “North” or Northward used by Daniel, “(Heb. tsaphon), a ‘hidden’ or ‘dark place,’ as opposed to the sunny south (Deut 3:27). A Hebrew in speaking of the points of the compass was considered as always having his face to the east, and hence ‘the left hand’ (Gen 14:15; Job 23:9) denotes the north. The ‘kingdoms of the north’ are Chaldea, Assyria, Media, etc.” (Easton Bible Dictionary, under “Northward” emphasis added).

What are the lands eastward and northward outside of the boundaries of Babylon, Assyria? Most commentaries generally agree the “North and East” it is speaking of are the Areas of Persia and Media. Is there proof of this?

Isaiah gives prophecies about Cyrus, the King of Persia and Media. The same Hebrew words used by Daniel are used of Cyrus’ location, “Who raised up the righteous man from the east [Heb. Mizrach], called him to his foot, gave the nations before him, and made him rule over kings? he gave them as the dust to his sword, and as driven stubble to his bow.

“I have raised up one from the north [Heb. tsaphon], and he shall come: from the rising of the sun [Heb. Mizrach] shall he call upon my name: and he shall come upon princes as upon mortar, and as the potter treadeth clay.

“Calling a ravenous bird from the east [Heb. Mizrach], the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it.” (Isaiah 41:2, 25; 46:11). These passages point to of course Cyrus who was in Persia, exactly north and East of Babylon.
Isaiah prophesied, “Thus saith the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut;” (Isaiah 45:1).

The K& D Commentary explains the “ravenous bird” as, “The east is Persis (Isa 41:2); and the distant land, the northern part of Media (as in Isa 13:5). Cyrus is called an eagle, or, strictly speaking, a bird of prey (ayit),” (emphasis added).

Barnes Comments as well, “There can be no doubt that Cyrus is intended here (see the notes at Isa 41:2, Isa 41:25). The east here means Persia. The word rendered ‘ravenous bird’ (ôêè ayit#) is rendered ‘fowl’ in Job 28:7; ‘bird’ or ‘birds’ in Jer 12:9; ‘fowls’ in Gen 15:11; Isa 18:6; and ‘ravenous birds’ in Eze 39:4. It does not occur elsewhere in the Bible.... an emblem in either sense especially applicable to Cyrus.... Perhaps also there may be here allusion to the standard or banner of Cyrus. Xenophon (Cyrop. vii.) says that it was a golden eagle affixed to a long spear; and it is well remarked by Lowth, that Xenophon has used the very word which the prophet uses here, as near as could be, expressing it in Greek letters.” (Emphasis added). In these passages of Isaiah the North and East clearly are meant to mean Persia and Media, and these same Hebrew words are used later by Daniel. Isaiah also uses these words for Israel’s dwelling as well. And at the time of Isaiah, Israel did dwell in the “cities of the Medes” (2 Kings 17:6). (To know more about this subject read out booklet The USA and the British Commonwealth in Prophecy).

The Old Medo-Persian lands consisted of modern-Day IRAN, AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN! After 549 B.C., when Cyrus defeated Media, the area under Persian control remained the most important provinces of Persia. Media consisted of parts of Iran, Iraq (much of the area occupied by the Kurds today). These ancient countries under their modern names now occupy center stage in the world of politics. Now that we understand what God was conveying to Daniel, the prophecy becomes clear. Daniel said, “But tidings [announcements, reports] out of the east and out of the north [Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iran, Northern Iraq] shall trouble him:”

Does the “Spoiler” come out of this area as well? There are similarities, and the same reasons are given why Moab is being invaded by the spoiler in Jeremiah 48 and Ezekiel 25. As shown above the “men of the east” invade Moab. These men are in the area of old Persia and Media. The word “East” in Ezekiel is not the same word as in Daniel. It’s “Kedem” (Strong’s #6924). This means “eastward” (ibid) meaning the area of “Mesopotamia” as whole which consist of many nations, Babylon, Assyria, Media etc...(Article “east” Faucette Bible Dictionary).

Smith’s Bible Dictionary writes, “But the region which bears the name of Mesopotamia, par excellence, both in Scripture and in the classical writers, is the northwestern portion of this tract, or the country between the great bend of the Euphrates, latitude, 35 degrees to 37 degrees 30', and the upper Tigris… Mesopotamia seems to have been divided between the Medes and the Babylonians. The conquests of Cyrus brought it wholly under the Persian yoke, and thus, it continued, to the time of Alexander” (Article “Mesopotamia” emphasis theirs and mine). But the end time spoiler in these latter prophecies God is making known to us more specifically where he would come from therefore using a different the Hebrew word “Mizrach” as noted above.

Notice the prophecy in Isaiah 21, “The burden of the desert of the sea. As whirlwinds in the south pass through; so it cometh from the desert, from a terrible land.
“A grievous vision is declared unto me; the treacherous dealer dealeth treacherously, and the 
spoiler [Heb. Shadad] spoileth. Go up, O Elam: besiege, O Media; all the sighing thereof have I made to cease.” (vv.1-2). Elam is used here but Persia is meant, “The discovery that Cyrus, at the time of his conquest of Babylon, Bore the title of ‘King of Ansan,’ not ‘King of Persia,’ coupled with the probability that ‘Ansan’ was a part of Elam, lends a peculiar interest to these words. Isaiah could not describe Cyrus as ‘King of Persia,’ and at the same time be intelligible to his contemporaries, since Persia was a country utterly unknown to them. In using the term ‘Elam’ instead, he uses that of a country known to the Hebrews (Gen 14:1), adjoining Persia, and, at the time of his expedition against Babylon, subject to Cyrus.” (Pulpit Commentary, emphasis added). God is telling Media and Persia to go up and besiege calling them the “spoiler.”

This word is also used of the Medes and Persians in Jeremiah 50-51 speaking of the fall of Babylon which was executed by them.

The spoiler in the end time then we can conclude comes from the “men of the east” from the Medes and Persians. Today we see ISIS and Iran fulfilling these prophecies.

The civil war in Syria consists of ISIS trying to topple the Assad regime, and Iran supporting the Assad regime. Iran believes that Syria is Iran’s “35th province.” Also the “Iranian regime has given more than 15 billion dollars” to Syria (The Interim Finance Minister: 15 Billion Dollars Iranian Support to Assad; syrianef; 24, January, 2014). They currently have 4,000 troops to aid the Syrian government forces as well (Fisk, Robert (16 June 2013). “Iran to send 4,000 troops to aid President Assad forces in Syria”. The Independent. Retrieved 16 June 2013.).

ISIS currently holds the North and east positions in Syria collapsing the borders between it and Iraq setting up and Islamic state. Truely God has given Moab/Syria over to the “men of the east.”

Jeremiah’s prophecy of Moab

In Jeremiah 46 God begins to give Jeremiah prophecies “against the Gentiles” (v.1). This begins a series of Judgments pronounced against certain nations. Chapter 48 God speaks of Moab.

Isaiah chapters15 and 16 many commentaries say comparing them with Jeremiah 48 are the same because of the similarities in the verses comparing scripture with scripture. Clearly these prophecies are in the end time as Jeremiah writes; “the latter days” will be the “judgment of Moab” (48:47).

“Against Moab thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Woe unto Nebo! for it is spoiled: Kiriathaim is confounded and taken: Misgab is confounded and dismayed.

“There shall be no more praise of Moab: in Heshbon they have devised evil against it; come, and let us cut it off from being a nation. Also thou shalt be cut down, O Madmen; the sword shall pursue thee.” (vv.1-2). Heshbon is a “town now belonged to the Ammonites Jer 49:3 but was on the border. The enemy encamped there arranges the plan of his campaign against Moab.” (Barnes Notes). In Jordon the “spoiler” is encamped drawing up plans to invade and attack Moab/Syria. In our booklet Jordan in prophecy the Bible reveals that Jordan will be under attack by the “men in the east” and taken over by them. From there will they continue their war with
Syria in Prophecy

Syria as they already do in the North? The Bible seems to indicate this. The “madmen” that will be “cut down” are the rulers of Syria.

“A voice of crying shall be from Horonaim, spoiling and great destruction.
“Moab is destroyed; her little ones have caused a cry to be heard.
“For in the going up of Luhith continual weeping shall go up; for in the going down of Horonaim the enemies have heard a cry of destruction.
“Flee, save your lives, and be like the heath in the wilderness.” (vv.3-6). Horonaim and Luhith are border towns in modern day Jordan and Syria. These refugees of Moab/Syria come weeping speaking of destruction that is happening in their country.

Isaiah speaks of the same thing, “My heart shall cry out for Moab; his fugitives shall flee unto Zoar, an heifer of three years old: for by the mounting up of Luhith with weeping shall they go it up; for in the way of Horonaim they shall raise up a cry of destruction.” (15:5). “An embassy goes to Jerusalem and begs for asylum for all the Moabite refugees [see Isaiah 16:1-2]” (F. F. Bruce, International Bible Commentary, p.733).

“For because thou hast trusted in thy works and in thy treasures, thou shalt also be taken: and Chemosh shall go forth into captivity with his priests and his princes together.” (Jer 48:7). Baal and Chemosh are often identified as one and the same, and we have identified Allah as Baal who came from Moab and placed in the Kaaba in Mecca and worshipped by Muhammad. The black stone in the Kaaba in Mecca is the same as the stone of Chemosh, “A black stone was the Arab symbol of him” (Faucette Bible Dictionary). The pagan god Hubal or HuBAAL is Allah, the God of the Muslims, (Read our booklet Plain Truth about Islam). Since Syria has trusted in its own evil works, meaning, “i.e. either ‘in thy evil deeds’ (comp. Isa 28:15) or ‘in thy idols’ (frequently called ‘the work of men’s hands,’ e.g. Deut 4:28, and sometimes simply ‘works’. (e.g. Isa 41:29 Isa 57:12; comp. Isa 40:31)” (Pulpit Commentary), they trusted in Allah, and not the true God, then they shall be taken away, and so will their brand of Islam be taken out of Syria as well, along with the Imams and Mullahs.

“And the spoiler shall come upon every city, and no city shall escape: the valley also shall perish, and the plain shall be destroyed, as the LORD hath spoken” (v.8). The “men of the east” will take over Syria.

“Give wings unto Moab, that it may flee and get away: for the cities thereof shall be desolate, without any to dwell therein” (v.9). This verse along with verse 28 which says, “O ye that dwell in Moab, leave the cities, and dwell in the rock, and be like the dove that maketh her nest in the sides of the hole’s mouth.” Today we see millions of Syrians fleeing their homes going into the north as refugees away from ISIS control into Turkey, Jordan, Europe etc...

Also Isaiah 16:1-5 Moab makes an offering to Judah in Jerusalem, “For it shall be, that, as a wandering bird cast out of the nest, so the daughters of Moab shall be at the fords of Arnon” (v.2). Arnon is at the border of Jordan and Israel. God tells Judah to take them in (v.3) and shelter them.
Verse 4 should read, “Let the outcasts of Moab dwell with thee; and so it is rendered by the LXX, the Syriac, by Lowth, Gesenius, Hitzig, Ewald, and Mr. Cheyne.” (Pulpit Commentary).

Other commentaries as well say, “‘Let the outcasts of Moab sojourn with thee, O Zion’ - Setting the points aside, this is by much the most obvious construction of the Hebrew, as well as most agreeable to the context, and the design of the prophet. And it is confirmed by the Septuagint...and Syriac.” (Clarke’s Commentary, emphasis theirs).

Other Translations have it this way as well. One example “Let the fugitives from Moab settle among you; be a shelter to them from the destroyer. When the oppressor comes to an end, and destruction has ceased, and the marauder has vanished from the land,” (International Standard Version).

“Zion” in the prophecies has several meanings. In this context it is speaking of the nation of Israel. All of Israel not just Judah. The Revell Bible Dictionary states: “...The name [Zion] continued to be extended, becoming a metaphor for all Jerusalem as a religious capital of Israel, and later as a metaphor for Israel and all its inhabitants (Isa 28:16; 40:9; 60:11-14; Jer 31:12; Zech 9:13)” (under the article “Zion,” p.1048, emphasis added).

God is bringing the outcasts of Moab into the subjection of Israel. To be a refuge unto them while the war in Syria is continuing. Judah is told to protect them from the “spoiler.” Protect them from the terrorist in their land of Moab/Syria. Notice Judah’s and Israel’s countries are still intact. The great tribulation has not happened yet. This means that these events have to happen between Daniel 11:44-45 the same time setting as the other judgments on the other nations.

“for the extortioner is at an end, the spoiler ceaseth, the oppressors are consumed out of the land.” The spoiler ceases from war, the extortioner and oppressors are consumed out of the land. This happens at the second coming of Christ. (Explained below).

Isaiah 16:5 clearly shows this as being an end time prophecy, “And in mercy shall the throne be established: and he shall sit upon it in truth in the tabernacle of David, judging, and seeking judgment, and hasting righteousness.” This is the second coming of Christ, see Isaiah 11. So these events of refugees coming into Judah is for the end time.

Then Israel when they come back in a mass exodus to the holy land, the refugees of Moab, Jordan, and Turkey shall be under the submission of Israel, “they shall lay their hand upon Edom and Moab; and the children of Ammon shall obey them.” (Isaiah 11:14). But this is a different type of Captivity. God is bringing the outcasts of Moab into the subjection of Israel. This captivity is different from the captivity of this world, of cruelty and punishment-but of learning to obey God, and teaching them his ways and his laws, as the end of the prophecy states, “And in mercy shall the throne be established: and he shall sit upon it in truth in the tabernacle of David, judging, and seeking judgment, and hasting righteousness” (v.5). God in his mercy allows those who are left of Moab to learn of his ways. The territories of the Promise Land will be a lot larger than it is today and Israel former territories will be restored so the Israel will have plenty of land.
to live and rule over these peoples. (Populations will be reduced as well due to warfare God speaks of the “remnant” of nations)

The punishment is now over in Moab, the captivity now begins of humbleness to God and subjection to him. When the land of Moab is in devastation and complete destruction, and they are to stay there with Israel. When they learn God ways then God will “bring again the captivity of Moab in the latter days, saith the LORD. Thus far is the judgment of Moab” (Jer 48:47). So Syria will go through incredible civil strife and judgment from God, until eventually Jesus’ second coming will reform Moab/Syria, those left will be under Israel rule in the land of Israel. When they learn of God’s ways they will return to the land, and live the righteous way, and develop a kingdom to its full potential.

Back to Jeremiah’s prophecy, “Cursed be he that doeth the work of the LORD deceitfully, and cursed be he that keepeth back his sword from blood.” This is from God. He that does not do God’s will, will be cursed. JFB says, “the divinely appointed utter devastation of Moab. To represent how entirely this is God’s will, a curse is pronounced... if they do it negligently (Margin) or by halves...” What you are seeing is the Judgment of God in Syria. It is to reform the Moabites into subjection to God's truth and will, unfortunately because the Moabites are so stubborn and hard hearted that God has to take it to this point for them to finally humble themselves and repent as shown above, Moab will eventually learn of God ways, in Israel then move back to their former home land at the second coming of Jesus Christ. Humans always have to learn the hard way, Moab is “proud” as the prophecy says, and God is going to humble them.

Verse 11 as explained above shows that Moab has never gone into “captivity.” Therefore God says, “Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will send unto him wanderers, that shall cause him to wander, and shall empty his vessels, and break their bottles.” (v.12). “His vessels’ are the cities of Moab; (JFB Commentary). The cities of Moab/Syria are going to be emptied out by the “wanderers.” This should read “pourers out” (JFB Commentary). These are the “men of the east.” They are going to cause the Moabites/Syrians to leave their homes.

Currently the violence in Syria has caused millions to flee their homes. In August 2012, the United Nations said more than one million people were internally displaced. Many have sought safety in nearby countries. Jordan has seen the largest influx of refugees since the conflict began, followed by Turkey, Lebanon, and Iraq. Turkey has accepted 400,000 Syrian refugees, half of whom are spread around a dozen camps placed under the direct authority of the Turkish Government. Satellite images confirmed that the first Syrian camps appeared in Turkey in July 2011, shortly after the towns of Deraa, Homs and Hama were besieged. On 9 October 2012, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that the number of external Syrian refugees stood at between 355,000 to 500,000. In September 2013, the UN stated that the number of Syrian refugees had exceeded 2 million.

Jeremiah continues, “And Moab shall be ashamed of Chemosh, as the house of Israel was ashamed of Bethel their confidence” (v.13). Syria will be ashamed and not put their confidence in the god Chemosh. The Syrians will abandon the Islamic faith.
“How say ye, We are mighty and strong men for the war?” (v.14). The army of Syria boasts of their military strength. They are currently winning over the rebels and Assad is holding his position.

“Moab is spoiled, and gone up out of her cities, and his chosen young men are gone down to the slaughter, saith the King, whose name is the LORD of hosts.” (v.15). The whole country of Syria will be ruined by war, and an exodus out of the country into Turkey, and many more people killed.

God continues, “The calamity of Moab is near to come, and his affliction hasteth fast. “All ye that are about him, bemoan him; and all ye that know his name, say, How is the strong staff broken, and the beautiful rod!” (vv.16-17). The calamity will be so horrible that the surrounding nations are shaking their heads at its devastation, and they will say, as it should read, The Good News Bible expresses it well, “Mourn for that nation, you that live nearby, all of you that know its fame. Say, 'Its powerful rule has been broken; its glory and might are no more.'”

The rule it once had over its people will be gone, and this is exactly what the Western powers want, and that is what is going to happen. The only reason why Assad is still in power is due to Iran and Russia keeping him in power or he would have been gone long ago. But Assad's days are numbered. His reign and rule is going to come to an end!

“...for the spoiler of Moab shall come upon thee, and he shall destroy thy strong holds.” The “men of the east” from Media and Persia, will destroy Syria in all its strong points, its borders its military positions.

“The horn of Moab is cut off, and his arm is broken, saith the LORD.” (v.25). A horn is a symbol of a king see Daniel 7 & 8, but also strength which lies with the King or government, See Psalm 75:5, 10. Again hearkening back to vv.16-17, the Assad government will lose its strength and power over Syria.

Now God specifies the reason, and this scripture shows it is an end time prophecy, “Make ye him drunken: for he magnified himself against the LORD: Moab also shall wallow in his vomit, and he also shall be in derision.” (v.26). Moab/Syria will drink the wine of the wrath of God, “These are to present to the people of Moab the cup of the divine wrath, and so to intoxicate them, that they shall fall like a drunk man into his vomit, and become a laughing-stock to others (cf. Jer 13:13; Jer 25:15), because they have boasted against Jahveh by driving the Israelites from their inheritance, and by deriding the people of God; cf. Zeph 2:8.” (K&D Commentary, emphasis added). Zephaniah 2:8 clearly shows it is in the end time. This is the reason why Moab is being judged right now! Moab shall wallow in its own vomit, meaning, “The divine spirit of judgment makes use of the imaginary wisdom of the priestly caste, and thereby plunges the people, as it were, into the giddiness of intoxication. The prophet employs the hiphil נִעְטָה to denote the carefully considered actions of the leaders of the nation, and the niphal נַעֲטָה to denote the constrained actions of a drunken man, who has lost all self-control. The nation has been so perverted by false counsels and hopes, that it lies there like a drunken man in his own vomit, and gropes and rolls about, without being able to find any way of escape...” (K&D Commentary). Moab/Syria will lose all control of itself and all its filthiness that is will not be able to get of it.
“For was not Israel a derision unto thee? was he found among thieves? for since thou spakest of him, thou skippedst for joy.” (v.27). This is also found in Ezekiel 25:6. With this scripture we know it is speaking of the same time.

JFB Says “The Hebrew has the article: referring to Jer 48:26, ‘Was not Israel (the whole nation) the object of derision to thee?’ “Derision” is “laughter (in merriment or defiance): - derision, laughter (-ed to scorn, -ing), mocked, sport” (Strong's #7814). These people have mocked the West and the Jewish people for decades. “Among the thieves.”? Other translations make this more clear, “You made fun of my people and treated them like criminals caught in the act.” (CEV).

Another translation says, “Moab, remember how you made fun of the people of Israel? You treated them as though they had been caught with a gang of robbers.” (GNB). Syria has tried to make Judah and the West guilty for all the problems in the Middle East. Continually accusing the Jews of stealing land, and the West as their partners. The JFB Commentary says, “What did Israel do to deserve such derision? Was he detected in theft, that thou didst so exult over him in speaking of him? Though guilty before God, Israel was guiltless towards thee.’

“O ye that dwell in Moab, leave the cities, and dwell in the rock, and be like the dove that maketh her nest in the sides of the hole’s mouth.” (v.28). This prophecy is actually being fulfilled right now. The Syrians are leaving their cities, and God says they are to “dwell in the rock, and be like the dove that maketh her nest in the sides of the hole’s mouth.”

Obadiah describes Edom/Esau’s land in this way, “The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee, thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, whose habitation is high; that saith in his heart, Who shall bring me down to the ground? Though thou exalt thyself as the eagle, and though thou set thy nest among the stars, thence will I bring thee down, saith the LORD.” (vv.3-4). See Jeremiah 49:16 as well. JFB Commentary says, “clefts of ... rock — (Song 2:14; Jer 48:28). The cities of Edom, and among them Petra (Hebrew, sela, meaning “rock,” 2 Kings 14:7, Margin)” (emphasis added). Petra in is Jordan. Edom today is TURKEY! (Read our booklet Turkey in Prophecy for details). These are the places where many of the refugees are going to seek asylum! THIS IS AN AMAZING FULFILLMENT OF PROPHECY!

Verses 35-39 God tells Jeremiah how he has broken Syria/Moab, “I have broken Moab like a vessel wherein is no pleasure, saith the LORD.” God has humbled them, has taken their riches, their religion, and their land and destroyed it. The potter (see Jeremiah 18) has broken the vessel called Moab and will reform it when Christ comes back.

“For thus saith the LORD; Behold, he shall fly as an eagle, and shall spread his wings over Moab.” (v.40). Verses 8, 18 shows that this is the spoiler. Also verse 42 says, “And Moab shall be destroyed from being a people, because he hath magnified himself against the LORD” (v.43). The spoiler the “men of the east” will attack Syria will all swiftness (symbol of the eagle) to attack the nation, and the mighty men of Syria (v.41). Their will and pride will be, “but as low spirited as a woman when she finds her pains are coming upon her, and the time of her delivery is at hand.” (Jer 48:41) (Gill’s Commentary).
“Fear, and the pit, and the snare, shall be upon thee, O inhabitant of Moab, saith the LORD. He that fleeth from the fear shall fall into the pit; and he that getteth up out of the pit shall be taken in the snare: for I will bring upon it, even upon Moab, the year of their visitation, saith the LORD.” (vv.43-44). “A proverbial expression, showing, that if they escaped one danger, or sore judgment, they should fall into another and greater:” (Gill’s Commentary). Syria will not get out of this situation that they are in. If they try, they will only get into another and even worse situation. The year of their “visitation” means the time when God’s Judgments are poured out on the nation (Jer 6:15; 9:9).

“They that fled stood under the shadow of Heshbon because of the force: but a fire shall come forth out of Heshbon, and a flame from the midst of Sihon, and shall devour the corner of Moab, and the crown of the head of the tumultuous ones.” (v.45). “Because of the force” The fugitives went to Heshbon as we have seen in verse 2, “As Heshbon was a city of the Ammonites, the sense is that the defeated Moabites looked to Ammon for protection.” (Barnes Notes). Their neighbor Jordan, the Syrians will go for refuge and protection as they are doing in Turkey because of the Spoiler attacking them.

The “fire” and “flame” of course is biblical language for war in Jeremiah 48:45. It says that the refugees of Moab/Syria will be attacked in Heshbon as well and “devour” corner of Moab. Jordan also is taken over by the “men of the east.” The same enemy will attack the refugees in Jordan; is it any wonder why they go to Judah for help?

**Balaam’s Prophecy**

As noted above in Isaiah’s prophecy, “for the extortioner is at an end, the spoiler ceaseth, the oppressors are consumed out of the land.” (Isa 16:4). This is due to Jesus second coming (Isaiah 16:5).

Isaiah 25 also speaks of Moab in the “Mountain” of God which is his kingdom (Isaiah 2), and it says, “For in this mountain shall the hand of the LORD rest, and Moab shall be trodden down under him, even as straw is trodden down for the dunghill.

“And he shall spread forth his hands in the midst of them, as he that swimmeth spreadeth forth his hands to swim: and he shall bring down their pride together with the spoils of their hands. And the fortress of the high fort of thy walls shall he bring down, lay low, and bring to the ground, even to the dust.” (vv.10-12). Notice the “spoils” of their hands. The spoiler that has attacked and taken over Moab, Jesus is dealing with here. The “men of the east.” The remnant of Moab the refugees that have managed to escape shall remain in Israel and ruled by the Israelites in the kingdom of God.

Now in Balaam’s prophecy the time setting is given, “And now, behold, I go unto my people: come therefore, and I will advertise thee what this people shall do to thy people in the latter days.” (Num 24:14) The Time setting is the “latter days” like Jeremiah’s prophecy.

Then verse 17 says, “I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh:” The Young’s Literal Translation has it, “I see it, but not now; I behold it, but not near;” speaking of the event that will come in the far distant future.
The latter end of the verse then says, “...there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth.” The “corners of Moab” is where the “men of the east” have attacked the refugees of Moab. The “star” all commentators agree is the Messiah, Jesus that will come. The children of Sheth does not mean the sons of Moab or Lot as K&D Commentary says, “Moreover the allusion to ‘all the sons of Lot’ i.e. the Moabites and the Ammonites neither suits the thoroughly synonymous parallelism in the sayings of Balaam, nor corresponds to the general character of his prophecies…” So who are these sons of “Sheth?” Some commentaries and translations say the “sons of men,” others sons of “confusion” or “tumult.”

The Pulpit Commentary says of these interpretations, “The expression בְּנֵי־שֵת has been variously rendered. The Jewish commentators, followed by the Septuagint (πάντας υἱοὺς Σήθ) and the older versions, understand it to mean the sons of Seth, the son of Adam, i.e; all mankind. Many modern commentators, however, take בְּנֵי as a contraction of בְּנֵי שָּאוֹן (Lam 3:47—‘desolation’), and read ‘sons of confusion,’ as equivalent to the unruly neighbours and relations of Israel. This, however, is extremely dubious in itself, for בְּנֵי nowhere occurs in this sense, and derives no support from Jer 48:45. It is true that בְּנֵי is there replaced by בְּנֵי שָּאוֹן, ‘sons of tumult,’ but then this very verse affords the clearest evidence that the prophet felt no hesitation in altering the text of Scripture to suit his own inspired purpose. If it be true that בְּנֵי will not bear the meaning given to it in the Targums of ‘reign over,’ still there is no insuperable difficulty in the common rendering.” (Emphasis added). Of course this source has its own interpretation of who these people are. They conclude it just means the “heathen.” But it must be consistent with the inspired prophecies of the Bible.

The Jerusalem Targum translates it: “[He shall] destroy all the children of the East.” The Jamieson, Faucette and Brown Commentary seems to agree on this assessment and it is consistent with the prophecies of the Bible.

In this passage it should not read “reign” as some have it but “destroy”, “…the Syriac and Chaldee versions attempt to soften the harshness of the original term by translating the one, ‘shall subdue all the sons of Sheth;’ and the other, ‘shall rule over all the sons of men.’ [But m’qargar (H6979) is a strong term, and occurs only in Isa 22:5, where it can bear no other sense than that of breaking down, or destroying; and, assuming that such is also the meaning of the word in this passage, it is evident that the objects which the predicted king of Israel shall ‘destroy’ must be, not the human race at large, who are never spoken of in Scripture as descended from Seth as their progenitor, but some particular class of people.]” (JFB Commentary, emphasis added). He shall destroy a particular class of people, the “children of the east” that have taken over Moab. Jesus is going to come and deal with them himself.

Jeremiah ends the prophecy with this statement, “Yet will I bring again the captivity of Moab in the latter days, saith the LORD. Thus far is the judgment of Moab.” (v.47). They will be taken captive by the Israelites themselves and shall serve them, see Isaiah 11:14; Jer 30:16. Moab will learn that Israel are the people of God, and will learn the way of the Lord under the leadership of Israel and Jesus. Afterwards, when they have repented God will return them to their land.
Syria in Prophecy

Prophecies of Damascus

The Capital of Syria is Damascus. The New Bible Commentary on p. 705 states, “Damascus stands for Syria” One of the oldest cities in the world-the place where the Apostle Paul was let down in a basket on the side of the city wall. A place that had a huge Christian population will now be a place of devastation and civil war.

Zachariah 9 is a prophecy for this end time about Damascus. It says, “The burden of the word of the LORD in the land of Hadrach*, and Damascus shall be the rest thereof: when the eyes of man, as of all the tribes of Israel, shall be toward the LORD.” (v.1). fulfilled in type by Alexander the Great, many have recognized the end time language of these verses.

Verse 7 describes the removal of unclean and idolatrous practices from the Philistines—and apparently their conversion, as their remnant will be for God. This will be fulfilled at the return of Jesus Christ, demonstrating that the earlier verses in this prophecy are likely dual—applying to both ancient and future times. Ekron, probably representative in verse 7 of all the Philistines who are left, “will be like the Jebusites [the former inhabitants of Jerusalem] in a good sense. When David conquered Jerusalem, he did not destroy the Jebusites; instead, they were absorbed into Judah (e.g., Araunah in 2 Sam 24:16; 1 Chronicles 21:18). So it will be with a remnant of the Philistines” (The Expositor’s Bible Commentary, note on verses 5-7).

Verse 8 further shows the end-time element of this prophecy, as God promises to never again allow a foreign oppressor to go through His people’s land. Since the time of Alexander, other oppressors have clearly afflicted the people of God. So the prophecy must refer to the time of Christ’s return.

Another end-time element of this prophecy is the latter end of Verse 1 which says “when [“Then” see Strong’s #3588] the eyes of man, as of all the tribes of Israel, shall be toward the LORD.” This passage and the other Burden of Damascus that Isaiah speaks of says, “At that day shall a man look to his Maker, and his eyes shall have respect to the Holy One of Israel” (17:7). Both are end time prophecies, both speaking of the same events of the judgment of God on this city.

What will “rest” on Damascus is “God’s anger rests on those whom he punishes, Eze 5:13; Eze 16:42; Eze 24:13. And his rod, or his arm, rests upon his enemies, Psalm 125:3; Isa 30:23. See Newcome.” (Clarke’s Commentary). “It shall permanently settle on it until Syria is utterly prostrate.”

*The Land of Hadrach? Who is Hadrach? The K&D Commentary correctly identifies the land as, “That Hadrach denotes a land or kingdom, is raised above all reach of doubt by the fact that ‘erets (the land) is placed before it...As the name Hadrach or Chadrach never occurs again, and yet a city which gives its name to a land, and occurs in connection with Damascus, Hamath, Tyre, and Sidon, could not possibly have vanished so completely, that even the earlier Jewish and Christian commentators heard nothing of it, Chadrach can only be a symbolical name formed by the prophet himself (as Jerome maintained, according to a Jewish tradition)...But what land? The statement in the following sentence by no means compels us to think of a province of Syria...it is impossible to imagine any reason for the choice of a symbolical name for another district of Syria bordering upon Damascus and Hamath. The symbolical name rather points to the fact that the land of Hadrach denotes a territory, of which Damascus, Hamath, Tyre, Sidon, and Philistia formed the several parts. And this is favoured by the circumstance that the words, ‘Burden
of the word of Jehovah upon the land of Hadrach,” form the heading to the oracle...But if a judgment of destruction, which Hofmann finds in our prophecy, were announced ‘to all the nations dwelling within the bounds of what was once the Davidic kingdom,’ the judgment would fall upon Israel in the same way as upon the heathen nations that are named...but can only come into consideration as enemies of Israel whose might was to be threatened and destroyed by the judgment. Consequently the land of Hadrach must denote a land hostile to the covenant nation or the kingdom of God, and can only be a symbolical epithet descriptive of the Medo-Persian empire, which is called sharp-soft or strong-weak on account of its inwardly divided character, as Hengstenberg and Kliefoth assume. Now, however difficult it may be satisfactorily to explain the reason why Zechariah chose this symbolical name for the Medo-Persian monarchy, so much is certain, that the choice of a figurative name was much more suitable in the case of the dominant empire of that time, than in that of any small country on the border of Damascus or Hamath. All the cities and land enumerated after ‘the land of Hadrach,’ as losing their glory at the same time, belonged to the Medo-Persian monarchy.” One Translation says, “A declaration: this message from the LORD in the land of Hadrach, with Damascus its confederate, because the eyes of humanity will look to the LORD, along with those of all the tribes of Israel.”(ISV).

These two countries are confederates. Iran and Syria are in league with each other. Iran as we have noted is a supporter of the Assad’s regime in Damascus. The Iranians in this land will suffer in the destruction of Damascus as much as the Syrians.

Isaiah 17’s Prophecy

Isaiah 17 is the prophecy about Damascus we must look to for the Judgment of God on that city. Isaiah says, “The burden of Damascus. Behold, Damascus is taken away from being a city, and it shall be a ruinous heap” (v.1). Damascus will cease from being a city. God will make it a pile of rubble. The K& D Commentary says, “Damascus is removed (= יִרָמֶה, cf., 1Kings 15:13), i.e., out of the sphere of existence as a city. It becomes נשׁע, a heap of ruins.”

Interestingly the Pulpit Commentary says, “According to Vitringa, Damascus has been destroyed oftener than any other town; but it has a wonderful power of rising again from its ashes.” Yet here it stands even today. One of the oldest cities in the world will cease from being a city any longer. This has not happened yet but will happen soon.

Jeremiah 49 touches on this, it says “they have heard evil tidings” (v.23).The men of the east constantly announcing war against Syria to overthrow the country, and as a result “Damascus is waxed feeble, and turneth herself to flee, and fear hath seized on her: anguish and sorrows have taken her, as a woman in travail. ” (v.24). The Assyrians had destroyed the Aramaean kingdom of Damascus around the same time the northern kingdom of Israel fell—and the Syrians were taken captive to the north. But the resettled city survived—and it is the city, along with the territory under its control that Jeremiah addresses. Hamath and Arpad (v.23), “were major towns located west and north of the capital of Damascus” (Nelson Study Bible, note on verses 23-25). They are still under the rule of Damascus, which is today the capital of the modern country of Syria.

What is this “Trouble on the sea,” (EWB) or “Concern” (LEB) which “cannot be quiet,””? This is referring to a force off Syria’s Mediterranean coast. These forces are concerned with the situation in Syria and are “troubled” by it. This did not happen in Nebuchadnezzar’s invasion, which came from the east. Who is this off the sea coast of Syria? Prophecy indicates it is the House of Israel (USA and Britain)-The King of the North who is “Troubled” (Daniel 11:44).
At this time the people of Damascus will flee instead of fighting her enemies, because she is weak and feeble which Syria is today due to its civil war. Assad is fighting to keep his rule but this will change as the following verses indicate.

“Therefore her young men shall fall in her streets, and all the men of war shall be cut off in that day, saith the LORD of hosts...And I will kindle a fire in the wall of Damascus, and it shall consume the palaces of Benhadad.” (vv.26-27). “Ben-Hadad,” it should be recalled, was a title used by a number of Syrian rulers. As noted above the ruler of Syria, Assad, he will be removed as the leader of Syria and his army and the city will be destroyed.

Notice, as Damascus is weak and feeble due to this civil war ravaging the country, God says “AND, I will kindle a fire in the wall of Damascus, and it shall consume the palaces of Benhadad.” In addition to the civil war God is going to, as the Moffat Translation puts it, “…fling fires of war upon Damascus’ walls and burn up all Benhadad’s palaces” What flings through the air and burns down buildings? Missiles! Who does this?

Prophecies show that it is by Israel that God shatters the nations. God states, “The portion of Jacob is not like them; for he is the former of all things: and Israel is the rod of his inheritance: the LORD of hosts is his name.

“Thou art my battle axe and weapons of war: for with thee will I break in pieces the nations, and with thee will I destroy kingdoms;

“And with thee will I break in pieces the horse and his rider; and with thee will I break in pieces the chariots and his riders;

“With thee also will I break in pieces man and woman; and with thee will I break in pieces old and young; and with thee will I break in pieces the young man and the maid;

“I will also break in pieces with thee the shepherd and his flock; and with thee will I break in pieces the husbandman and his yoke of oxen; and with thee will I break in pieces captains and rulers.” (Jer 51:19-23). So does God use Israel to fling fire at Damascus to destroy her? Prophecy indicates that in this end time he does! And God’s wrath is on Damascus, and God uses his people Israel to execute that wrath on nations. Another proof of this we find in Isaiah the 17th chapter.

Isaiah 17 verse 2 it says, “The cities of Aroer are forsaken: they shall be for flocks, which shall lie down, and none shall make them afraid.” The Pulpit says, “That the Aroer of this passage cannot be either that on the Arnon, or that facing Rabbath-Ammon, (Joshua 13:25) has long been perceived and recognized (see Mr. Grove’s article on ‘Aroer’ in the ‘Dict. of the Bible,’ vol. 1. p. 115). It is evidently a city of the same name lying much further towards the north [In Syria]. Arid it is a city of far greater importance, having ‘cities’ dependent on it. Now, Sargon’s annals tell us of a ‘Gal’gar,’ a name well expressing the Hebrew gar, which was united in a league with Damascus, Samaria, Arpad, and Simyra, in the second year of Sargon, and was the scene of a great battle and a great destruction. Sargon besieged it, took it, and reduced it to ashes (‘Records of the Past,’ 50. s.e.). There is every reason to recognize the ‘Aroer’ of this verse is the ‘Gargar’ of Sargon’s inscriptions” (emphasis theirs). These cities will be desolate and the inhabitants either killed or left and have gone to Turkey or Israel. The North-East is subject to ISIS and many towns in the North have been taken by them, and the refugees have left and gone elsewhere. But now notice the next verse:
“The fortress also shall cease from Ephraim [modern day Britain], and the kingdom from Damascus, and the remnant of Syria: they shall be as the glory of the children of Israel, saith the LORD of hosts.” (v.3). in the same time period when Damascus falls the Fortress of Ephraim will then fall as well! Is it then, that when God destroys Damascus through Israel that Israel will then collapse as well?

Notice the time setting of this prophecy. The military power “the fortress” shall “cease” and come to an end. The Hebrew word is, “miḥtsâr miḥtsârâh” (Strong’s #4013). It means, “a fortification, castle, or fortified city; **figuratively a defender**: - (de-, most) fenced, fortress, (most) strong (hold).” **Here is the fulfillment of Daniel 11:45!** The King of the North shall come to his end. It has to do with military defense. Isn’t that the very spirit of NATO TO DEFEND EUROPE! This prophecy is specifically talking about the fall of NATO. The defender of Europe led by the USA will cease and come to its end!

Gill says, “…this may be understood, **not of that particular city and fortress only, but of all their strongholds**, the singular being, put for the plural.” (Emphasis added). So this prophecy is speaking of all of NATO collapsing after the fall of Damascus by NATO! Daniels prophecy reveals that the USA will plant military Bases in Israel to save Judah from her enemies (Daniel 11:45)

Judah being in trouble, troubles the west particularly the USA. This is American interest, and America and Britain will defend Judah at any cost, and “yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him.” (Dan 11:45). The king of that huge alliance of Nations, NATO will end, NATO will break apart! “All thy lovers [“allies” Moffatt] have forgotten thee; they seek thee not;” (Jer 30:14).

Verse 4 clarifies, “And **in that day** it shall come to pass, **that** the glory of Jacob shall be made thin, and the fatness of his flesh shall wax lean.” The Commentary writes, “[Damascus] Shall be diminished, as a body wastes away by disease, and becomes feeble” (Barnes). Syria will rot from the inside out, with violence, corruption, war, and the economy will fizzle away. The West, the glory of Israel will waste away as well with all their social problems, massive debts, war, and the economy. Eventually NATO (the fortress) will break up, and the military of the USA and British will fizzle down to nothing and taken away into captivity.

**Time span of God’s Judgment**

God gives us the time span of his judgment on Moab/Syria. In Isaiah 16:14, he says, “But now the LORD hath spoken, saying, Within three years, as the years of an hireling, and the glory of Moab shall be contemned, with all that great multitude; and the remnant shall be very small and feeble [“without strength”].” Within three years this will end, and remnant of Moab that survives, will the Israelites hold them as captives when Israel reclaim their land, see Isaiah 11:14.

When did these “men of the east” ISIS and Iran start fighting in Syria?

“On 9 April 2013, having expanded into Syria, the group adopted the name ‘Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant’, also known as “Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham’ The name is abbreviated as
ISIS or alternately ISIL. The final “S” in the acronym ISIS stems from the Arabic word Shām (or Shaam), which in the context of global jihad refers to the Levant or Greater Syria. (source Al-Qaeda in Iraq confirms Syria’s Nusra Front is part of its network.” Al Arabiya. 9 April 2013. Retrieved 15 June 2014.).

Iran entered the war “In the summer of 2013, Iran and Hezbollah provided important battlefield support for Assad, allowing it to make advances on the opposition. In 2014, coinciding with the peace talks at Geneva II, Iran has stepped up support for Syrian President Assad. Syrian Minister of Finance and Economy announced that ‘Iranian regime has given more than 15 billion dollars’ to Syria. By December 2013 Iran was thought to have approximately 10,000 operatives in Syria.” (Syrian Civil War Wikipedia). The Iranians have been crossing the border into Syria via Iraq. As Ezekiel 25 said they would (see Reuters; Iran boosts military support in Syria to bolster Assad, Fri Feb 21, 2014).

God said within “three years” the prophecies of Moab would be accomplished. So what happens from the time it started till around 2016? A remnant of Syria will be left feeble and weak taking refuge in Judah, Israel and Turkey while the whole country is destroyed by the “men of the east.” However the city of Damascus will not be included in those 3 years. God has separate prophecies for that city as shown above.

2nd Exodus

During the Exodus of the Israelites after the tribulation during the second coming of Jesus. The book of Obadiah reveals the Israelites taking possessions of lands:

“But upon mount Zion shall be deliverance, and there shall be holiness; and the house of Jacob shall possess their possessions.

“And the house of Jacob shall be a fire, and the house of Joseph a flame, and the house of Esau for stubble, and they shall kindle in them, and devour them; and there shall not be any remaining of the house of Esau [as a nation like Moab and Ammon]; for the LORD hath spoken it.

“And they of the south shall possess the mount of Esau; and they shall possess the fields of Ephraim, and the fields of Samaria: and Benjamin shall possess Gilead.

“And the captivity of this host of the children of Israel shall possess that of the Canaanites, even unto Zarephath; and the captivity of Jerusalem, which is in Sepharad, shall possess the cities of the south.

“And saviours shall come up on mount Zion to judge the mount of Esau; and the kingdom shall be the LORD’S.” (Obadiah 17-21).

Again, Isaiah 11:14 reveal Israel taking back their possessions of lands back from Esau, Philistines, Jordan and Moab. The remnants of those nations that are scattered will also come under the dominion of Israel as well.

During this time “saviors” shall “judge” at that time Esau, Moab, Ammon, and the Philistines. It is the time of judgment meaning correction, “O LORD, thou hast ordained them for judgment; and, O mighty God, thou hast established them for correction.” (Hab 1:12). The church of God
and Israel under the leadership of Jesus Christ will correct these people in the Kingdom of God. They will learn the ways of God in the Promised Land. Then God will send them back to their homelands to live the way God wants them to live. No more oppression, no more evil dictators, but living in Peace and harmony in the Kingdom of God.