

Insights In Prophecy

Unlock The Ancient Mysteries Of Daniel & Revelation

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LESSON 8

Lesson 8

THE GULF WAR CRISIS: THE BEGINNING OF SORROWS

Read Daniel 8:1-9; 11:1-4

- Discover Which Gulf Crisis Leads Up To The Appointed Time Of The End
- Identify The Two Islamic Countries Involved In The Middle-East Turmoil

In Daniel 7 we discovered the "four winds" (four angels) of Heaven stir up the great sea of peoples, and out of this divine movement emerges four governmental beasts: Lion with Eagle's Wings (United Kingdom/United States); Bear (Russian Federation); Leopard (China and Asian Countries); and Terrible Beast with Ten Horns (Western European Union). From the Terrible Beast will emerge the "little horn" (Vatican) whose Pontiff will reign for a "time, times and dividing of time" (Daniel 7:25)—meaning, 1,260 days/3½ years.



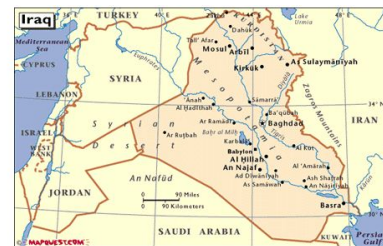
In Daniel 8 we rediscover the four winds and the emergence of the little horn in verses 8-9. However, new events are now depicted, which were not found in Daniel's first vision (chapter 7). Two conflicts will ensue *before* the New World Order emerges and the Papal leader miraculously rises to power. Where are the battles located? These are some of the issues we will address in this study.

Daniel's second vision of the last days (chapter 8) comes to him a couple of years after the first one, recorded in Daniel 7. The prophecy was like the first one, he says. In the vision he finds himself beside the Ulai Canal or River, the region near the Persian Gulf in Old Babylon close to the border between Iraq and Iran, where the two great rivers meet—the Tigris and Euphrates.

Two-horned (Islamic) Ram

1. What kind of animal does Daniel see (8:1-4)? _____

The prophet saw a Ram with two horns and one horn was larger than the other and emerged last. The Ram charges to the west, north and south and becomes powerful. The Ram represents Islam and the two notable horns of this prophecy depict two prominent Islamic countries. The horns are different sizes; a smaller horn sits next to the larger horn with the larger horn clearly representing the dominant of the two nations.



Daniel is in vision and finds himself at Susa. Modern Susa is about 100 miles north of the Persian Gulf in Iran, near the border of Iraq. Michael instructs Gabriel later in the chapter to explain the vision to Daniel (vs. 15-16). Animals represent significant geographical powers and horns in prophecy portray prominent nations in that alliance/area to which Heaven asks us to pay attention. Daniel is told the two on top of the Ram horns are two powers that would battle against Western powers, referred to in the prophecy as the Goat from the West.

2. At what point in human history is the vision going to be fulfilled (Daniel 8:7-19) according to Gabriel? _____

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Gabriel confirms twice, as an added form of emphasis, the confrontations conveyed in the vision concerns the "time of the end." However, as clear as Gabriel states this will occur during the last days, commentators have applied the vision to historical battles over 2,000 years ago, around 331 B.C. Clearly, this would be an application of the prophecy at best, but certainly not the fulfillment. We are nearing the end of time; and, for this reason, we will look at the world today and consider what nations might be represented in the vision.

3. According to Daniel 8:20, to whom does Gabriel associate the two-horned Ram? _____

Media and Persia.

As mentioned, the location of Daniel's ancient vision occurred near what would be today's Iraq and Iran border; therefore, by simple deduction we can conclude that Media refers to modern Iraq, and Persia to modern Iran—a country whose name was changed from Persia to Iran less than 100 years ago in 1935. The dangerous Ram representing Islam is an animal representing a sizeable geographical area (nations in green map). The Islamic Ram of nations surrounds Israel and the Israel is Islam's primary foe. Islam is charging to the "the west and the north and the south" as it compresses upon Israel's borders from all sides, except the east Mediterranean. The two prophetically identified modern-day horns (Iraq and Iran) of the Islamic Ram sit in the same geographic area of Israel's historical enemies—ancient Babylon and Persia. It's as though the ancient conflicts are replaying again at the end of days; however, it's the larger horn that is given the lion's share of attention, prophetically speaking; and, Israel is assured her most zealous enemy—Iran will collapse under the military might of the West.



Another prophet—Jeremiah long predicted the massive downfall of Persia in the latter days, known in the Scriptures as Elam: "The word of the LORD that came to Jeremiah the prophet against Elam, in the beginning of the reign of Zedekiah king of Judah, saying, "Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'Behold, I will break the bow of Elam, the foremost of their might. Against Elam I will bring the four winds from the four quarters of heaven and scatter them toward all those winds; There shall be no nations where the outcasts of Elam will not go. For I will cause Elam to be dismayed before their enemies and before those who seek their life. I will bring disaster upon them, My fierce anger,' says the LORD; 'And I will send the sword after them until I have consumed them. I will set My throne in Elam and will destroy from there the king and the princes,' says the LORD. 'But it shall come to pass in the latter days: I will bring back the captives of Elam,' says the LORD," (Jeremiah 49:34-39; NKJV).



Goat Coalition

4. Daniel 8:5 says a Goat with a prominent horn (country) comes from what direction to confront Iraq followed by Iran? _____

The Goat comes from the west from a great distance and at a remarkable speed to deal with the Islamic Ram with the two prominent horns—Iraq, followed by the larger Iran.

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5. How successful is the Goat in dealing with these two countries (vs. 6-7)? _____

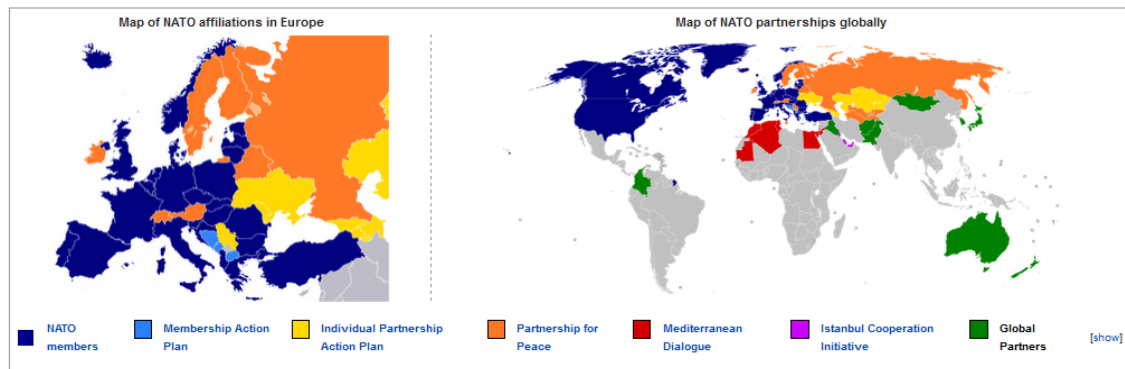
The two horns will be shattered. So strong is the Western Goat that he tramples the two-horned Ram with speed and power. First the smaller horn (Iraq), followed later by the larger horn (Iran).

Daniel 8:21 identifies the powerful Goat and the "horn" as the first king (first in standing—the most powerful). The translators identified the Goat as "Greece" which in Hebrew is actually "Yawan" ("Javan"). Javan was one of the sons of Japheth (Genesis 10:2), and at the writing of Daniel, Javan implied much more than one specific nation but massive powers from the west. Since the vision concerns the time of the end, it would be reasonable to identify the Goat as a coalition of western European powers and their military partners, including Greece (NATO), with the prominent horn as the first king in power.

Wikipedia says, "The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO; also called the North Atlantic Alliance) is an intergovernmental military alliance based on the North Atlantic Treaty which was signed on 4 April 1949. The organization constitutes a system of collective defense whereby its member states agree to mutual defense in response to an attack by any external party. NATO's headquarters are in Brussels, Belgium, one of the 28 member states across North America and Europe, the newest of which, Albania and Croatia, joined in April 2009. An additional 22 countries participate in NATO's Partnership for Peace program, with 15 other countries involved in institutionalized dialogue programs."

For more info, visit <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NATO>

Participating countries



The First King—United States Of America

The large horn—the first king (first in power) and the most prominent in western strength in the NATO alliance—no doubt represents the United States. On March 19, 2003, President George W. Bush, 43rd President of the United States, along with other mainly western powers (the Multi-National Force—coalition forces) attacked Iraq. The bombardment began on Shushan Purim, the annual day of celebration in Jerusalem commemorating Israel's triumph over ancient Persia's attempt to annihilate God's people. Iraq was defeated in relative speed, just as the prophecy predicted, although skirmishes continued until the war's official end on December 18, 2011, just as Hanukkah celebrations were about to begin. The second and larger horn—Iran, will "come up last" (Daniel 8:3). The West will, as a continuation of this prophecy, confront the Persian Iran. And, we will likely see Iraq once again pulled back into the conflict

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when the West confronts Iran. In the end, we know both Iraq and Iran will fall victim to the power of the Western Goat coalition, with catastrophic consequences for the Islamic Ram in the Persian Gulf region.

We know this, because prophecy foretells the Western Goat with the notable horn (America) will furiously attack the Islamic Ram, striking the Ram and shattering his two horns. Daniel adds, "The Ram (Islam) was powerless to stand against him; the [Western] Goat knocked him to the ground and trampled on him, and none could rescue the Ram [Islam] from his power."

6. The West will successfully defeat the Islamic Ram with its two horns. However, after the victory what happens next (Daniel 8:8)? _____

When America and the NATO Coalition are basking in the glory of their decisive conquest, prophecy depicts the next major surprise: the prominent horn will be broken off.

The three following Daniel passages point to America's demise: "The first was like a lion [Britain], and had eagle's wings [U.S.]: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked," Daniel 7:4. "Therefore the he goat [Western Coalition] waxed very great: and when he was strong, the great horn [America] was broken; and for it came up four notable ones toward the four winds of heaven," Daniel 8:8. "A mighty [U.S.] king shall stand up, that shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will. And when he shall stand up, his kingdom shall be broken, and shall be divided toward the four winds of heaven; and not to his posterity, nor according to his dominion which he ruled: for his kingdom shall be plucked up," Daniel 11:3-4.

Prophecy does not specify how America's departure as the world's superpower comes about. Washington, D.C. edifices and/or New York financial district may be destroyed without warning, leaving the U.S. without political strength; global financial markets could be in a spiral. No doubt, social unrest will increase; and, unforeseen tragedies will explode upon the world scene. From the Iranian conflict forward, prophecy warns that natural disasters will also increase, including massive earthquakes. Tidal waves and high winds may buffet and destroy; America's vast military will endure great losses. Nuclear armaments may explode upon America's soil; if so, in a very short segment of time millions of lives could be destroyed. The American horn will be broken and her position of authority will diminish. When World War III erupts, it could be a very short but devastating period of global holocaust as America's power, along with many other nations, is broken and dispersed toward the four winds around the world.

Yeshua warned that these and other events will be just the "beginning" of sorrows and should not to be interpreted as the end of the world, according to Matthew 24:6-8: "You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains."

Satan, the ruler—the prince and power of the air (Ephesians 2:2), is much more formidable than our minds can envision. He will unleash his calculated and deadly plan, and demand his forces of evil march to war (Ephesians 6:12). Nations will erupt one against the other with military confrontations, sparking sorrow and social unrest. As global turmoil mushrooms, the population of Planet Earth will beg for a solution. Revelation 13 speaks of a false prophet given demonic power to perform miraculous signs involving fire (lightning?) from the sky. Added to the desolation of war, Satan could harness nature's elements and unleash environmental fury to bring the nations to his feet, humbled and ready for the Man of Sin—the false savior. Devastation will increase on both land and sea; Revelation 12:12 warns, "Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short."

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7. Read Daniel 7:2-4. How does it describe the emergence of the four world power-bases and the demise of America's supremacy? _____

The four winds (four angels) of Heaven stir up earth's powers. The Lion (Great Britain) with Eagle's Wings (America) is one of the prominent four government coalitions. However, Daniel watched as the Eagle's Wings were "torn off." The United Kingdom/United States alliance will no longer fly free and swiftly. America will be humbled, so that the Man of Sin may come into view with strength and clarity. The world's mighty leader will emerge from the Western European Union, while the United State's dominion will be lost forever.

The Little Horn—The Mighty Ruler

8. Daniel 8:9 portrays the emergence of a "little horn," which will come out of one of the four larger power-bases that spread out in the four directions of the world—particularly the Western European Union. What is the smallest country in the world? _____

The Vatican sits on just 109 acres but will emerge as the leader of the world. Although the smallest of nations, the Holy See will rise to power, first taking control of nations to the east and south, then eventually the Beautiful Land, Israel (Daniel 8:9; 11:16).

The 50 Smallest Countries In The World

Rank	Country	Area (km ²)
1	Vatican City	0.44
2	Monaco	2
3	Nauru	21
4	Tuvalu	26
5	San Marino	61
6	Liechtenstein	160

The southern and eastern directions of new power indicate that the countries in these two directions from Rome, Italy, may be the ones devastated by Russia when the Bear attacks the Western Europe Union (as covered in Lesson 4). The Bear will have "three ribs" in its mouth when it rises to devour much human flesh (Daniel 7:5), representative of the "three... horns" (three countries) uprooted and destroyed just as the little horn (Vatican) comes into power (Daniel 7:8). Of particular concern should be Italy, Spain, Portugal and Greece, although we do not know with absolute certainty which three countries the Bear will most shatter.

Fourth Persian King & The Rise Of Donald Trump

Returning to the conflict that will ignite end-time events and World War III, Daniel's fourth and last vision provides even more details concerning the Persian Gulf confrontation with Persia (Iran). We find these

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details in Daniel 11:2, where we see the same powers and events as Daniel 8—Persia (Iran), Greece ("Javan"—western powers), a confrontation (Gulf War), and a mighty ruler and empire (United States), which will be broken and her power divided and parceled out to the "four winds".

Persia, whose name—as mentioned earlier in this lesson—was changed to Iran in 1935, was ruled by empires and dynasties. However, political revolution led to a major realignment of power and the *Islamic Republic* was established in Iran on April 1, 1979. A Constitution of the Islamic Republic was approved by national referendum in December, 1979. Iran transitioned to *elected* leadership, a clear change from the past. This ushered in the conditions for the end-time predictions of Daniel 11 to become reality. One key religious leader in the development of the Islamic Republic became the fourth and one of the most influential leaders in Iran—the wealthy Hojatolislam Ali Alvar Hashemi Rafsanjani.



9. In Daniel 11:2, the prophet wrote that in the "latter days" there will emerge in Persia (Iran) three kings; however, the fourth Muslim leader would be different in what way? _____

The fourth shall be far richer than the previous three.

"Now then, I tell you the truth: Three more kings will appear [President Banisadr; President Rajar; and President Khamenei] in Persia [Iran, in the latter days], and then a fourth [President Rafsanjani], who will be far richer [much wealthier] than all the others. When he has gained power by his [personal] wealth, he will stir up everyone against the kingdom of Greece [Hebrew "Javan"—Greece; and the West]," Daniel 11:2. His influence and decisions in Iranian politics would change the course of Iranian history.

Persia's Presidents Since the Revolution

- 1st ... Abolhassan Bani-Sadr. Ruled ... 1980 - 1981
- 2nd ... Mohammad Ali Raja'i Ruled ... 1981 - 1981
- 3rd ... Sayed Ali Khamenei Ruled ... 1981 - 1989
- 4th ... Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani Ruled 1989 – 1997**
- 5th ... Mohammad Khatami Ruled ... 1997 – 2005
- 6th ... Mahmoud Ahmadinejad Ruled ... 2005 – 2013
- 7th ... Hassan Rouhani Ruled ... 2013 – Present

Iran > Presidents



Rafsanjani, the richest President in Iran's modern history, was President from 1989 to 1997, but did not fade into obscurity. His influence remained strong as one of the most powerful figures in Iranian politics.

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leading two top clerical bodies—the Assembly of Experts and the Expediency Council. In December 2001, Rafsanjani openly threatened Jews when he said a single atomic bomb has the power to completely destroy Israel, while an Israeli counterstrike can only cause partial damage to the Islamic world. Rafsanjani, the political father of Iran’s nuclear energy program, ran again for the presidency in July 2005, but the man he lost to, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, continued to ratchet up messianic rhetoric, calling into question the Holocaust and seeking the demise of Israel and America. However, the emphasis of prophecy falls on Rafsanjani, and his powerful, long-standing sway in Iranian politics will lead Islam to war, even in death. How?

Rafsanjani, through his wealth and decades of power, stirred up sentiment against the West. This “stirring” can be found in his involvement in the 1979 revolution, the ushering in of the radical mullah Ruhollah Khomeini, and his bellicose public statements against the West and Israel; but more importantly, his wealth and influence led to the initiation of Iran’s nuclear weapons program in the 1980’s. A recent January 16, 2017 article, *Nazarian: Rafsanjani, Father of Iran’s Nuclear Program, Was No ‘Man of Peace’* notes, “between birthing Iran’s nuclear program, oppressing the freedom-craving Iranian people, and orchestrating international terrorist atrocities, Rafsanjani was anything but” peaceful.

Rafsanjani’s nuclear program became the nucleus of Iran’s power, posture and modern-day brazenness, which has played out time and again in the death of countless thousands. Iran has been involved in continuous state-sponsored terrorism against Israel and other Middle Eastern nations, and directly involved in the conflicts in Yemen and Syria.

Some considered Rafsanjani to be a front-runner to replace the supreme leader of Iran, Grand Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Born in 1934, Rafsanjani turned 82, but then suddenly died of a heart attack on January 8, 2017, on the Biblical fast day of Asara B’Tevet—the fast of the tenth month found in Zechariah 8:19.

Wikipedia says, “Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani (Persian: اکبر هاشمی رفسنجانی, translit. *Akbar Hāshemī Rafsanjānī*



or Hashemi Bahramani; 25 August 1934 – 8 January 2017) was an influential Iranian politician, writer and one of the founding fathers of the Islamic Republic who was the fourth President of Iran from 3 August 1989 until 3 August 1997. He was the head of the Assembly of Experts from 2007 until 2011 when he decided not to nominate himself for the post. He was also the chairman of the Expediency Discernment Council. During the final years of Iran–Iraq War Rafsanjani was the *de facto* commander-in-chief of the Iranian military. Rafsanjani was elected chairman of the Iranian parliament in 1980 and served until 1989. He played an important role in the choice of Ali Khamenei as Supreme Leader... *Forbes* named him as one of the richest

persons in Iran in 2003, with an exceeded \$1 billion assets.”

Daniel 11:3-4 continues: “Then a mighty king will arise [Donald Trump—his inauguration occurred ten days after Rafsanjani’s burial on January 20, 2017], who will *rule with great power and do as he pleases* [President Trump, a man who is charting his own course and doing as he pleases, against the norm]. After he has arisen [taken office], his empire [America] will be broken up [superpower destroyed; tragedies; war; economic collapse; social disorder] and parceled out toward the *four winds of heaven*.” Therefore, Donald Trump will likely be the last American President to rule a full term while the U.S. is a superpower. The sudden demise of America is foretold during or just following his Presidency.



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The prophecy ends, "It [American empire] will not go to his descendants [Donald Trump, JR; Ivanka Trump, etc.], nor will it have the power he exercised, because his [American] empire will be uprooted and given to others [the United Nations—New One World Order]."

So, here is what we have learned: The West will confront Iran in anger. This conflict could flair up due to an act of terrorism, a response to a decision to renegotiate the nuclear deal, or events surrounding Jerusalem and the Temple Mount Islamic structures. And, when this conflict hits the world news (Daniel 8:1-7), we can be assured the appointed end-time crisis is at hand. Once ajar, the door of prophecy can never be shut. Mayhem will reign, and the world will never be the same.

The Hanukkah Connection To Overcoming Israel's Enemies

**Parts if this Section Adapted from "Hanukkah Yes, But What About Kislev" Author Unknown*

There are two prophetic watch periods that we should consider—Hanukkah and Purim. Hanukkah was not part of the original Festival celebrations Yahweh gave to the Israelites; nor is Purim, recorded in the book of Esther. However, God inspired their rehearsal celebrations for His divine purposes, in foretelling final events. In addition to the seven Festival events of Leviticus 23, both Hanukkah and Purim were instituted to commemorate God's mercy and His miraculous power and protection over Israel's enemies. Both remind Jews of victory over tyranny, and God's provision for His people—past, present, and future, during the appointed time of the end, when bright hope will spring forth from the greatest of tragedies.

In the centuries before the birth of Jesus, the people of Israel and Jerusalem had been held under years of tribute to various conquering kings. One of these ruling monarchs was Antiochus, one of the Seleucid Kings who reigned in Syria. Resistance finally arose against him. Under the leadership of the Maccabees, the people of Jerusalem overthrew Antiochus and his pagan practices in 166 BC. The Syrians and their Greek religion were driven out, and the altar was rebuilt. The Temple was cleansed, restored, and rededicated to the service of Yahweh. The Festival of Hanukkah celebrates the re-dedication of the Temple following Judah Maccabee's victory over the Seleucids. According to Rabbinic tradition, the victorious Maccabees could only find a small jug of oil that had remained uncontaminated by virtue of a seal, and although it only contained enough oil to sustain the Menorah for one day, it miraculously lasted for eight days, by which time further oil could be procured. Therefore, it was decreed there should be eight days of celebration, with rejoicing and gladness, to mark the re-dedication of the altar, to remember the victory, and to recount the miracle of the supply of oil that lasted through this period. This occurred late in the year, connected to Haggai's Kislev 24th momentous prophecy.

Moses' first miracle was the *bush* that would *not burn* (Exodus 3:1-3); it was an amazing miracle that could not be missed. The miracle of Hanukkah was the *oil* that would *not burn*. However, it was a subtle miracle that unfolded over several days. Sometimes miracles are awe-inspiring, like the burning bush and parting of the Red Sea; at other times, they are slow and restrained, and take eyes of faith to see them. As the oil lasted eight days, so Jews too have survived the Diaspora, the pogroms, and the burning flames of Auschwitz; and the state of Israel has been recognized and its prophetic role methodically reestablished through God's miraculous events starting with General Allenby's victory in 1917, the U.N. Mandate and Israel's Independence in 1947/48, the Six-Day War of 1967, and now events unfolding in 2017/18.

As in the past, Israel continues to be haunted by the Syrian and Iranian enemies on her northern border, along with foes such as Hezbollah, Hamas, Iran's Ayatollah, Iraq, and Libya, all backed by anti-Semitism forged through UN votes cast by hostile international representatives. The prophet Haggai spoke prophetically of events in his day *and* trials of the last days—that God was about to exalt His chosen with blessings by overthrowing the nations and military might of Israel's enemies who hate them, including Damascus (Isaiah 17) and Iran (Daniel 8; Jeremiah 49); thereby, extolling Israel with miraculous victories

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and enlargement of its territory, as God promised long ago. Therefore, expect major military showdowns with Israel's enemies as the end-times begin.

Hanukkah begins each year at the end of 24th day of the ninth Hebrew month of Kislev, as the 25th day begins, which fluctuates on the Gregorian calendar each year (e.g., December 12, 2017 and December 2, 2018), and continues for eight days. Israel is surrounded by past and present enemies—Syria, Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia, and distant foes such as Iran, Iraq, Libya and others. The prophet Haggai spoke prophetically of events in his day *and* trials of the last days—that God was about to bless Israel with eternal blessings by overthrowing the nations and military might of Israel's enemies who surrounded them, including Damascus (Isaiah 17); thereby, extoling Israel with miraculous victories and enlargement of their territory, as God promised long ago. There will no doubt be major military showdowns with Israel's enemies as the end-times begin. The enlargement of Israel's territory is a continuation of God's blessings that began 100 full years ago, with the Balfour Declaration on November 2, 1917. Forty days later the Turks surrendered Palestine to the British General Allenby during World War I, on the 24th day of Kislev (December 9, 1917). These historical events set in motion the restoration of Davidic sovereignty over the Holy Land that came to fruition through the United Nations Partition Plan for Palestine in late 1947, the events on May 14, 1948, and the War of Independence that ended in 1949, stirring the anger of Israel's enemies. This was followed by the Six-Day War in 1967, and the continued enlargement of Israel. Now, we are on the verge of Middle East war that will mushroom into immense tragedy, with unimaginable loss of life.



Still under the grip of King Darius and the Persia Empire in 520 BC, Haggai the prophet wrote, "Now *give careful thought* to this from this day on—consider how things were before one stone was laid on another in the LORD's temple... 'From this day on, from this *twenty-fourth day of the ninth month* [the eve of Hanukkah], *give careful thought to the day... Give careful thought... 'From this day on I will bless you.'*" The word of the LORD came to Haggai a second time on the *twenty-fourth day of the [ninth] month*: "Tell Zerubbabel governor of Judah that I am going to shake the heavens and the earth. I will overturn royal thrones and shatter the power of the foreign [Gentile] kingdoms. I will overthrow chariots and their drivers; horses and their riders will fall, each by the sword of his brother," (Haggai 2:15, 18-22).

Recently, as the sun fell across Israel, Europe, the United States and around the globe on December 12, 2017, millions of Jews and many Gentiles (Hebrew "goyim") prepared for and/or acknowledged the arrival of Hanukkah, also known as the Feast of Dedication and Festival of Lights (John 10:22-24). What might be lost is the modern ramifications of this ancient prophecy on the world stage, rooted in the historical grounding of the feast of Hanukkah itself, which is derived from the first evening of celebration—Kislev 24, the 24th day of the 9th month on the Jewish calendar. What follows is the Biblical backdrop and the timing of this annual festival, and what looks to have been at least a partial fulfillment of Haggai's 2,500-year-old prediction on December 12, 2017.

The book of the prophet Haggai comes to us from the 2nd year of the Persian King Darius, late summer, August, 520 BC. It is one of the most precisely dated books in the Hebrew Bible. Much like twins Zechariah and Malachi, all three were written during that crucial time of the "restoration" of Judah to the Promised Land following the Babylonian captivity. Collectively, they offered the last insights during the Old Covenant period in terms of how the Messianic redemption is to unfold. Both Haggai and Zechariah address their contemporary situation, as one would expect, and are concerned that the Temple be rebuilt and that the constitution of the new state of Judah be ordered according to the Torah. However, if read carefully, both clearly understand that this restoration of Judah is only a preliminary, even symbolic step in this "near and far" prophecy, to a coming great restoration of Judah and all Israel. Even though there is a Priest (Joshua), and a Governor (Zerubbabel) of the Davidic line, there is no anointing of the BRANCH

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(Messiah) figure of whom both Isaiah and Jeremiah had spoken. One way of putting this is to say that Haggai and Zechariah are working in the tall shadow of Jeremiah (see especially chapters 30-31), and they know, from his clear and powerful prophecies, that the final days have not come with this tiny little beachhead return of a portion of Judah to the land. But they do believe that this return of Judah is a “sign” of things to come, and a guarantee that the Plan of Yehovah, to fill the earth with justice and righteousness, through Abraham’s seed, is not to fall to the ground.

And, this leads us to the curious and fascinating references to the 24th day of the 9th month—Kislev 24, now connected to the Hanukkah celebration. Notice, reading the book of Haggai is sequential, it takes you through the last months of the year during late summer and into the autumn period. It begins with the Rosh Chodesh of the 6th month (Haggai 1:1) corresponding in 2017 to August 23rd, the first day of the month of Elul—the annual month of repentance leading up to the High Holy Days; then, continues through the 21st day of the 7th month (2:1), which is the last day of Sukkot (corresponding to October 11, 2017), followed by the 24th day of the 9th month—December 12, 2017, connected to the first evening of the Hanukkah candle lighting. Haggai’s third and fourth messages also come on this very day, emphasizing the date’s significance. It is a short book, but if you skim through it you will see the building sequence.

Kislev 24 is highlighted four times in the second chapter of Haggai, verses 10, 15, 18 and 20. Twice it is emphasized that “from THIS DAY FORWARD I will bless you,” and twice Haggai gets a special Word from Yehovah, on this very day. You must read the whole chapter to get the context. The message is basically that from that day forward Yehovah’s final plans will begin with a BLESSING for Israel, which in turn will lead to God’s plan to “SHAKE the heavens and the earth and ALL NATIONS,” making Jerusalem the “cup of trembling” to surrounding nations foretold in Zechariah 12:2. And, in the end, Messiah will overturn world governments and shatter the power of all foreign powers on His Great Day.

This message is addressed to the two “messiahs,” the “Priest” and the “King” or Governor, Joshua and Zerubbabel, respectively (2:4-5). They become “signifiers” of things to come. They are not the final two anointed ones, who in the last days point to Elijah the priest, and Moses the ruler, which two Zechariah picks up in his visions, especially chapters 4 and 6, and Malachi identifies by name. These two personalities, as well as the promised presence of the Holy Spirit (see 2:5 and Zechariah 4:6), are the guarantee that Yehovah will bring about these promises.

Notice, in correlation to Haggai, the prophet Zechariah begins getting his visions and messages in the 8th month of that same year (Zechariah 1:1), or mid-November. He has eight, night visions, and they are all quite difficult to follow, but prophetically important in forecasting the redemptive future. There is much more detail in Zechariah, but as mentioned, the two, Haggai and Zechariah, should be read in tandem, as one explains the other. Now, note carefully, Kislev 24 is not specifically mentioned in Zechariah, but it is alluded to in chapter 4:8-10. It is the famous “day of small things,” that nations, past and present, might dare “despise,” because after all, this tiny little remnant of Judah in the petite land of Israel, beginning to lay the foundation of a nondescript temple, under the mighty thumb of the Persian empire, was hardly even worthy of the name of a city-state, much less a world kingdom, and yet had hopes and dreams and promises of dominion!

Chapters 7-14 of Zechariah, which he gets two years later, are quite different. They are straightforward, laying out, likely in some sequential order, both the preliminary events, and the detailed climax, of the “time of the end.”

So, what about Kislev 24, which is now connected to the first night of Hanukkah? It seems to have a three-fold meaning. First, in the time of Haggai and Zechariah, it was the day marked for the promise that the redemption would ultimately come about, not by might, nor by power, but by the Spirit of Yehovah—and

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“in its time.” Second, subsequently though history, this day seems to be one upon which key events take place, perhaps only a few of which have been recognized. And finally, it might well turn out that Kislev 24, and with it the Hanukkah celebration, will highlight what might seem a small but despised event, which will turn out to be a “countdown marker” for the soon unfolding mysterious 1260 days, 1290 days, 1335 days, 490 days and 2300 evenings/mornings (1150 days) of Daniel’s visions displayed on *The Kingdom Calendar*; all of which, are intrinsically connected to the prophetic visions of Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi, Isaiah, Jeremiah, the Gospel accounts of end-time events (Matthew, Mark & Luke), and the book of Revelation.

Exactly seven days before Hanukkah on December 6, 2017, U.S. President Donald Trump was the first



and extolled plans for a new American Embassy in Jerusalem. This was timed, because the next day the President and First Lady Melania oversaw a small Hanukkah celebration at the White House, along with Vice-President Mike Pence and wife Karen, including Jewish Cabinet and Congressional members and other special guests. Donald Trump used the White House celebration to highlight his monumental decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital and seat of government. He entered the East Room then declared Hanukkah “especially special”, because of his official edict. “There's a lot of happy people here. Jerusalem!” he spoke to a cheering crowd. He ended with these words, “God bless. May you all have a truly blessed and happy Hanukkah.” Now, the world cannot ignore the fact that Jerusalem is indeed the undivided capital of the nation of Israel. President Trump Remarks at White House Hanukkah Reception

However, in contrast, the Muslim nations surrounding Israel and international bodies were “reeling” from the Jerusalem news, and condemnation and rioting began almost immediately. Then, on the seventh day of Hanukkah, Egypt and the UN Security Council advanced a resolution to reject America’s recognition of Jerusalem; however, while 14 members voted in favor, the U.S. stood alone and vetoed it. It was the first veto cast by the United States in the Security Council in more than six years. Is this the beginning of the “blessings” for Israel, but also the “shaking of the nations,” Haggai spoke of so many years ago, that would begin small, but grow in intensity?

If so, give careful thought to this: Haggai's prophecy may have been partially fulfilled on December 12, 2017—exactly as Haggai predicted on Kislev 24, when the U.S. and Israel signed the secret pact to tackle the Iranian nuclear and missile threat. According to Israeli TV Channel 10, “Dramatic understandings” were agreed at the White House, and a deal was signed by the two countries' national security chiefs. The two nations secretly sealed a far-reaching joint memorandum of understanding providing for full cooperation to deal with Iran’s nuclear drive, its missile programs, and its other threatening activities. The document was signed on December 12 at the White House, culminating intensive talks between representatives of the major Israeli and American intelligence and defense hierarchies, headed by the US and Israeli national security advisers, H. R. McMaster, and Meir Ben-Shabbat, respectively. Specifically, they agreed to set up joint teams to handle various aspects of the Iranian threat. The meeting confirmed that the U.S. and Israel “see eye to eye on the trends and processes in the region,” and have now reached agreement on the strategy and policy required to deal with them. Israeli TV Channel 10 reporter Barak Ravid said, “With all due respect to President Trump’s [December 6] declaration on Jerusalem [as the capital of Israel]”, the December 12 “dramatic understandings” will have “a far greater impact on the security of Israel’s citizens.”

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Consider The Haggai Pattern: 2017-2018

The messages Haggai received on specific dates set a pattern for modern last-day events as the appointed times of the end counting periods approach. His first encounter occurred on the “first day of the sixth month” (1:1)—the first day of the Jewish month of Elul, the annual period of repentance and serious reflection leading up to the High Holy Days, which in 2017 arrived on August 23rd, three days after the North American solar eclipse and darkening of the sun that crossed the United States on August 21st—a sky event that Jews consider to be a dire warning in the heavens for the nations of the world, but most specifically for America. Since that point, the U.S. has experienced several natural disasters and an ever-increasing concern over North Korea, Iran, and Russia’s intentions on the world stage.

Haggai’s message was that God’s people, not only in the United States but around the world, should “give careful thought to your ways” (1:5), because His people are lacking God’s best. It is time to take care of spiritual matters above material/earthly pursuits, for the great shaking will soon overtake the planet and hardships will prevail. In this regard, God has offered ancient warnings for our modern times that global



shaking, and earth-shattering events and collapse are near, and it is time to focus on our relationship with our LORD and SAVIOR. The waves of prophetic events long ago foretold in Haggai, Daniel, Revelation, and the other prophetic scrolls, could overtake and bury us. Words cannot adequately portray the destructive episodes and magnitude of fear and turmoil just ahead. We must know Jesus—Yeshua as our personal Savior, and be spiritually prepared for the physical hardships, personal losses, and realities of a world gone mad.

Haggai's second encounter with the Heavenly Messenger occurred on the “twenty-first day of the seventh month” (2:1)—the last day of Sukkot—the Feast of Tabernacles, corresponding to October 11, 2017. The following day on Shmini Atzeret, the eighth day of celebration prescribed in Leviticus 23:36, President Donald Trump gave his notorious speech on Iran, decertifying the JCPOA deal—his first major step in leading the nations to the West’s prophetic war against the Persians foretold in Jeremiah 49:34-39 and Daniel 8:1-8, to occur at “the time of the end,” (vs. 17,19).

The message of Haggai chapter 2 is particularly dedicated to those who are heeding the first message and have taken up the cause to work in building up the house of God. His words are “‘Be strong, all you people of the land,’ declares the LORD, ‘and work. For I am with you... My Spirit remains. Do not fear,’” (2:4-5). Why the warning for His people to work, even while great turmoil is about to hit with unrelenting force? Because... “In a little while I will once more shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land. I will shake all nations” (2:6-7) in order that Heaven's Kingdom can be ushered in and “I [God] will fill this house [not made with human hands] with glory” when all the gathered nations enter the Bride’s gates of pearl for the Sukkot wedding described in the Apocalypse of John to commence at the end of the counting periods (Revelation 7:9-17; 19:7-9).

“On the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month” (2:10) Haggai receives another message, which as mentioned is the date that leads up to the evening when the first Hanukkah candle is lit. The message the prophet receives relates to how a person is defiled. The warning is that the nation of Israel (but, also including believers of all nations who are grafted in) are defiled by sin and need to repent with sincere hearts. Tribulation sits at our doorsteps. Past economic troubles have already taught us that God’s blessings can be extinguished in a single day, particularly as we embrace sin and remove God from the public square. However, we are to “give careful thought” to where we are in time, because from the “twenty-fourth day of the ninth month” and onward, God says “I will bless you” (2:18-19) by setting into motion God’s final plan of redemption, which centers on Israel and Jerusalem. Nonetheless, the Trump

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blessing by the world's great superpower, by officially recognizing Jerusalem as the Jewish capital, *signifies* that soon believers of all nations—Jews and Gentiles alike—will inherit the New Jerusalem, as the eternal capital of Mashiach's Kingdom; but it also *signals* global troubles and initiates a period of supernatural events foretold in the ancient Hebrew prophecies and illustrated through **The Kingdom Calendar**. Only through the birth pains, and the counting of the appointed times and purification through trials, can Messiah's eternal blessings be fully delivered to a chosen people ready to receive them.

Therefore, Haggai (2:20-22) is told, "I am going to shake the heavens and the earth. I will overthrow royal thrones and shatter the power of the foreign [Gentile] kingdoms. I will overthrow chariots and their drivers [military conquests]; horses and their riders will fall [both military machinery and fighters], each by the sword of his brother." The nations will turn on Israel and each other. The Haggai prophecy indicates fiery cosmic and seismic events will shake the planet, causing a major crisis-point in world affairs, and signaling death and turmoil that will eventually reach its climax a few years later at the Battle of Armageddon.

In Zechariah chapter 4, we find Zerubbabel mentioned again. Zechariah sees a Lampstand of seven lamps [representing Mashiach—the Menorah of the World], with *two olive trees*, one on each side of the Lampstand, which point to the two anointed witnesses—"these are the *two anointed ones* [Moses and Elijah], that *stand by the LORD of the whole earth*," (4:14 KJV). We find that *rulers, priests, and prophets* are *anointed* throughout the ancient Scriptures. God's work is completed not by strength or military might, but by His miraculous intervention in the affairs of mankind: "Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit," says the LORD Almighty," (4:6). Revelation 11:4 adds a timeline of duty, connected to Zechariah's prophecy: "And I will appoint my two witnesses, [Moses and Elijah] and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth." They are "the two olive trees" and the two lampstands, who "stand before the LORD of the earth."

In the book of Malachi, it is said of Elijah the prophet, "I will send My messenger, who will prepare the way before Me" for 1,260 days. "Then suddenly the LORD you are seeking will come to His temple; the Messenger of the Covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the LORD Almighty. But who can endure the Day of His coming?" And "remember the law of my servant Moses, the decrees and laws I gave him at Horeb for all Israel. 'See, I will send the prophet *Elijah* to you before that Great and Dreadful Day of the LORD comes,'" (Malachi 3:1-2; 4:4-5).

The LORD continues in Zechariah 4:7 by describing an important end-time event: "What are you, mighty mountain? You will become level ground." Only after the mighty mountain—the obstacle—is leveled can and will the last-day work begin, and the third Temple rebuilt. The obstacle shall give way, the difficulty



must vanish, the opposition cease. Where is the mighty mountain, you ask? Where have all the Temples been built? Jerusalem and specifically the TEMPLE MOUNT. Psalm 2:6 says, "I have installed My King on Zion, My holy mountain." And "Great is the LORD, and most worthy of praise, in the City of our God, His holy mountain," (Psalm 48:1); followed by, "He has founded His City on the holy mountain," (Psalm 87:1). Soon, the Islamic structures on the Mount and Jordan's Islamic Waqf influence over the mountain will diminish, both in physical structures and overarching control. Following the Festival pattern, this great shaking of nations and Jerusalem will occur at some future Purim/Shushan Purim (next celebrated on March 1-2, 2018), eighty (80) days after the 24th day of Kislev—the first evening of Hanukkah. The destruction in Jerusalem will take away daily worship at the Western Wall and Temple Mount and start the 1,290 and 1,335 counting days of Daniel 12:11-12, followed by the 1,260 days.

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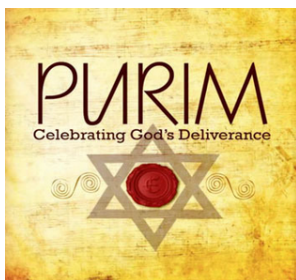
So, what can we conclude from the Haggai and Zechariah prophecies, which are both filled with end-time predictions? The ancient visions and dates correlate to final events, that could well have already begun the last half of 2017 and continuing through 2018. At first, almost undistinguishable, slowly increasing after the solar eclipse with natural disasters of winds, fires, floods, growing plague concerns, and threats of Middle East turmoil; then, with the Trump “blessing” of Israel at Hanukkah on December 6, followed by his joint U.S.-Israeli pact against Iran—Israel's most prominent modern-day threat—exactly on December 12, 2017 (Kislev 24) the “twenty-fourth day of the ninth month.”

Sukkot, the Feast of Tabernacles of early October 2017, offered us the opportunity to reflect upon where we are in prophetic time, and to be strong and to not fear what is to soon come as an overwhelming surprise to the nations. Now, we have reached the “twenty fourth day of the ninth month.” The Hanukkah blessing to Israel could very well lead to the unfolding of final events that will build day by day towards natural and supernatural disasters, the Iranian confrontation, and World War III, followed by the rise of the European Antichrist. However, no matter what global conflicts and unimaginable devastation occurs in the weeks, months, or years ahead, we have the Light of the World to shine upon us. *The Kingdom Calendar* will guide us as we count Heaven’s prophetic time, day by day; and, the Spirit will guide us, whether in life or death, as we depend upon Him. In the days of darkness, we may not always see God’s hands, so we must trust above all in His heart of love, His Words of Truth, and His promise of an eternal Kingdom of peace, justice, and happiness when tears are wiped away.

In conclusion, based on the official recognition of Jerusalem as Israel’s capital, we may now consider the possibility that the Hanukkah celebration of 2017 “on our days and in our time,” brought with it Haggai’s “blessing” and soon “shaking” of nations. However, whether fulfilled now or in the future, every year, at this time, one’s thoughts should go to this Festival date, given such an important emphasis by Haggai and Zechariah. On a personal level, it seems Hanukkah can always be a period of “renewal”; a time to be enlightened, considering God’s past and future blessings as we anticipate our Messiah, the living Shamash—the Great Light.

The Purim Connection To Overcoming Israel’s Enemies

As recorded in the Book of Esther, Haman, royal vizier to the Persian King Ahasuerus, planned to kill all the Jews in the empire, but his plans were foiled by Mordecai and his adopted daughter Queen Esther. This deliverance then became a day of feasting and rejoicing (Esther 9:1, 17). Purim’s historical significance, which originated in Iran in Esther’s day (480 B.C.) when Jews won victory over their Persian foes, also foretells, and forewarns of various conflicts Israel will have with modern-day Persia (Iran), which will initiate the appointed times counting periods and will continue during the final days.



“The cheerful heart has a continual feast,” says Proverbs 15:15. Judaism teaches there are *two constants* that faithful Jews have longed for down through the centuries. First, “feasting continually,” as illustrated in the Purim celebration; and second, the “continual,” or “*tamid* offerings” offered twice daily at Jerusalem. Although Israel’s archrival Iran will be defeated, as will Syria and Israel’s other surrounding enemies during the modern-day uprising foretold in Psalm 83, celebration over Israel’s decisive victories will be transitory. As the counting periods begin, “daily” worship at Jerusalem’s Western Wall will be taken away; as a result, Jews will long for the day when Jerusalem can be rebuilt, and worship can be restored at the Western Wall, and can begin anew in the rebuilt Temple on the Holy Mount after centuries of delay and expectation, finally putting to use the Temple Institute’s restored sacred vessels.

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Purim/Shushan Purim is preceded by *Taanit Esther*—the Fast of Esther. The Torah prescribes that whenever a Jewish army goes to war, the soldiers should spend the previous day fasting. This is in stark contrast to a secular army which spends the day preparing weapons and armaments. The Purim chorus is sung: *“Utzu etzah, vetufar; dabru davar, velo yakum; ki Immanuel,”* derived from the book of Isaiah. It is from the Hebrew text of God's warning to Israel's allied enemies, which are in partnership to wipe this people from the face of the earth: *“Devise your strategy, but it will be thwarted; propose your plan, but it will not stand, for God is with us,”* (Isaiah 8:10).

Once the Middle East erupts in a firestorm of conflict—the Persian Gulf conflict between the U.S. led coalition and Iran, along with Israel against her surrounding enemies, we can know with certainty the appointed end-time crisis is upon us. Israel's dominance will increase, eventually leading to the placement of the foundation stone for the Third Temple in Jerusalem. After the Middle East explodes, World War III will follow in quick succession. We will fear the end of civilization as we know it; but Jesus warned, *“You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. All these are the beginning of birth pains,”* (Matthew 24:6-8).

PROPHETIC NEWS EVENTS OF 2017 & 2018 LEADING UP TO WAR WITH IRAN (All Occurred On Biblical Days Or Significant Israeli Dates)

Below are prophetic news events in the runup to the West's confrontation with Iran. We followed and realized that each time the Trump administration made significant public announcements related to confronting Iran, they occurred on Biblical Festivals or on significant historical dates of Israel's modern history over the last two years.

Shmini Torah (Eighth day celebration of Sukkot: Leviticus 23:39)—October 13, 2017

President Trump gives notorious speech on Iran, decertifying the JCPOA deal.

Related Article:

Trump de-certifies Iran nuclear deal, announces more sanctions against Iran; Trump decertifies Iran nuclear deal, slaps sanctions on IRGC in broadside at 'radical regime'

Hanukkah {Feast of Dedication: John 10:22)—December 12, 2017

The US and Israel sign a secret security pact. *“Dramatic understandings' were agreed at the White House on December 12, and deal signed by the two countries' national security chiefs, says Channel 10” in Israel.*

Related Article:

Report: US, Israel sign secret pact to tackle Iran nuclear and missile threat

Shavuot (Pentecost)—May 21, 2018

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo gave a speech laying out 12 demands upon Iran

Related Article:

Pompeo's 12 Demands For Iran Read More Like A Declaration Of War Than A Path To Peace

Tisha B'AV (Fast of mourning of the fifth month: Zechariah 8:19)—July 22, 2018

President Donald Trump, Secretary Mike Pompeo and National Security Advisor John Bolton orchestrate concerted pressure against Iran with Tweets and speeches.

Related Articles:

No Walk-back This Time: National security advisor John Bolton doubles down on Trump's Iran threat; Trump issues rare all-caps tweet warning Iran of unprecedented consequences for threatening US; U.S. launches campaign to erode support for Iran's leaders; Secretary of State Mike Pompeo URGENT Speech on IRAN.

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Sukkot (Feast of Tabernacles)—September 26, 2018

President Trump's two UN speeches focused on Iran's aggressions--accusing Persia of sowing "chaos, death and destruction" across the Middle East. John Bolton also gave a speech with these words of warning to Iran. "There will be hell to pay" and "we will come after you." Furthermore, Mike Pompeo gave a speech related to Iran. The same day the US State Department issued a 48-page report called: A Chronicle of Iran's Destructive Activities. Last, but not least, Israel's Prime Minister Netanyahu gave a UN speech primarily about Iran's threat and secret nuclear sites.

Related Articles:

At UN, Netanyahu reveals Iranian nuclear warehouse, urges IAEA to go inspect it; US State Department Issues 48-page Report: Outlaw Regime: A Chronicle of Iran's Destructive Activities; President Trump SHOCKING Speech Chairs the UN Security Council Meeting; John Bolton: "There will be hell to pay" if Iran's Hassan Rouhani crosses the U.S.; President Trump's Address to the United Nations: Full Speech 9/25/2018; Pompeo accuses EU of 'solidifying Iran's ranking' as top state sponsor of terror.

Simchat Torah (eighth day celebration of Sukkot: Leviticus 23:39)—October 3, 2018

President Trump's pressure on Iran increases once again. This time, Pompeo announced that the US is terminating the 1955 treaty, further severing ties with Iran, and Bolton warned Iran is not dismantling its nuclear program at the White House.

Related Articles:

Pompeo announces termination of 1955 bedrock US/Iran treaty in response to UN court ruling; US official: All signs indicate Iran increasingly pursuing nuclear weapons.

Balfour Anniversary-- November 2, 2018

At the end of the 100th full year of the Balfour Declaration, President Trump made the official public announcement that the US is re-imposing all sanctions on Iran in three days.

Related Article:

US reimposes all sanctions on Iran lifted under nuclear deal.

Hanukkah—December 2-10, 2018

President Trump gave a Hanukkah speech focused primarily on adding pressure on Iran, while Netanyahu and Pompeo make plans to meet. Also, DEBRAfile reported, "On Sunday, Dec. 2, US Marines opened artillery fire on Syrian and Iranian forces in the eastern Syrian Deir ez-Zour province" in an article called, "Netanyahu flies urgently to Brussels to discuss Iran's missile test with Pompeo."

Related Articles:

Netanyahu to meet US Secretary of State Pompeo in Brussels later Monday; World War 3: Iran says it's ready for offensive against US as navy ship enters Gulf—"The USS John C. Stennis entered the Gulf on Friday as tensions continue to rise and reach unprecedented levels between Tehran and Washington."; Hanukkah-President Trump INCREDIBLE Speech at Evening Hanukkah Reception at White House; U.S. Fears Iran Planning 'Massive Regional War' in Middle East; Netanyahu-Pompeo Brussels meeting is a warning to Lebanon—"Netanyahu and Pompeo will likely discuss the quick establishment of Iran and Hezbollah's high-precision guided missile factories in Lebanon, as preparation for a possible Israeli action to thwart these efforts."; Bolton: U.S. strongly supports Israel's efforts against Hezbollah – Arab-Israeli Conflict; Iran's Rouhani renews threat to blockade Gulf oil shipments; US urges Europe to impose sanctions on Iran over missiles – Israel Hayom; UN Security Council to meet on Iranian missile test; Iran EXPOSED: 'Uninspected' secret nuclear sites REVEALED, sparking World War 3 fears.

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