



# The Trumpeter

Ezek 33:3 If when he seeth the sword come upon the land, he blow the trumpet, and warn the people;

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## Outcome of Current Middle East Crisis?

by Gary Fisher

The whole world is watching and wondering about the trouble going on currently in the Middle East and what will be the outcome. I thought it proper to let you know how I assess the problems as a student of Bible prophecy.

The fighting erupted after Hezbollah guerrillas crossed into Israel, killed eight soldiers and captured another two on July 12, 2006. Israel already had been fighting Hamas-linked militants in the Gaza Strip following the capture of another Israeli soldier on June 25. A few weeks ago, Hamas, the newly elected Palestinian Authority majority since January of 2006, kidnapped an Israeli soldier. Israel, having offered the olive branch of peace to Hamas but getting nothing in return except Katysha rockets being shot at them, lost patience with Hamas with the kidnapping of the soldier. Israel defensibly decided to put a stop to the rocket attacks and to retrieve their kidnapped soldier and therefore entered the Gaza Strip and have been battling Hamas accordingly for the last few weeks. Keep in mind that the Gaza Strip was surrendered by Israel to the Palestinians as a gesture of peace in 2004.

Hezbollah, a terrorist organization with a small army headquartered in Damascus but present in Lebanon on the Lebanon/Israeli border, has been for years firing rockets into Israel. Hezbollah's purpose is the destruction of Israel. Israel, in a previous war, achieved a buffer zone on the Israeli/Lebanon border that Israel occupied. Hezbollah was deterred from harassing Israel by this buffer zone. During the Israeli Prime Ministership of Ehud Barak, the world convinced Israel that they needed to abandon occupation of this buffer in order to achieve peace with the Palestinians. Israel pulled back from the buffer zone and Hezbollah moved in. Since, Israel has experienced rocket attacks on the northern parts of Israel by Hezbollah. Hezbollah recently ambushed an Israeli patrol and killed several Israeli soldiers and kidnapped two. Israel defensibly decided to retaliate and they crossed the border of Lebanon with the intent of disarming Hezbollah and retrieving the two kidnapped soldiers.

At this writing, a very fragile cease-fire has been achieved. Israel had vowed they will not stop until Hezbollah is defeated and

disarmed, but have left this task under the cease-fire agreement, to Lebanon and the U.N. who both say that they will not disarm Hezbollah. The United Nations and the world fears that the fighting will eventually involve other nations. The first nation most likely to get involved would be Syria because of their support for Hezbollah. Israel has vowed that if Syria makes a move, Israel will hit them very hard. **Prophetically speaking, this is very significant! Isaiah 17:1 predicts a day when Damascus will become a "ruinous heap", a prophecy that has never been fulfilled.** The current fighting certainly has the potential to bring the **destruction of Damascus** by the Israeli army into view.

Also, many of the weapons being used by Hezbollah have been supplied by Iran through Syria. Iran has vowed that if Israel attacks Syria, they will enter the fight. Iran is mentioned as "Persia" in the Ezekiel 38-39 prophecy. God promises in Ezekiel 38-39 that **when Iran comes against Israel, she will meet her doom.** Is this war possibly the catalyst to bring this about? We shall see.

The physical fighting we see occurring in the Middle East today is an extension of a greater spiritual battle taking place over Israel. You see, the most prolific prophecy in all the Bible is the one that says that God will gather the dispersed of Israel and Judah back to the land of Israel (Isaiah 11:12). Amos 9:14-15 declares that God will gather the Jewish people back to the land of Israel, bless them with great agriculture, and they would never again leave the land. Lucifer (Satan) knows this and he tries to prevent this gathering and restoration from taking place. He knows that if successful in preventing this truth of the Bible, then all claims made in the Bible become invalid, including the ones of our need of Jesus as Saviour. The Bible thus would simply become a book of legends and myths. In this interest, eventually Satan will lead "all nations" to "come against Israel to battle" (Zechariah 14:2). Does the current fighting in Lebanon have the potential to escalate to this point? We shall have to wait and see.

Meanwhile, here on the home front, **let's pray for our leaders, especially our president.** He faces a grinding and unpopular war in Iraq, a growing insurgency in Afghanistan, an impasse over Iran's nuclear ambitions, war between Israel and the Palestinians that has big potential to escalate, the threat of terrorism on US soil—the litany of global crises that would test the fortitude of any president.

The Bible says that in the last days that "perilous times would come" (II Timothy 3:1). They are definitely here! The state of the world looks pretty grim! If not for the promise of the return of Jesus and the great things He will accomplish once in place as King of Kings, there would be much reason for despair! But Jesus said, "when you see these things beginning to take place...your redemption is drawing near" (Luke 21:28). Let's Look Up!

# Recent News and Bible Prophecy

**Iran, Syria called 'playing with fire'** - Washington Times - July 14, 2006 - Israel's ambassador to Washington said yesterday that Iran and Syria are "playing with fire" and "will bear the consequences" if Hezbollah transfers two kidnapped Israeli soldiers to either of its patron nations. Ambassador Daniel Ayalon did not rule out retaliatory strikes against Iran's nuclear facilities, though other Israeli officials said that was not being planned. Fears mounted that Israel's military offensive against southern Lebanon could spread to other countries after Israeli officials said yesterday they had received indications that Hezbollah is trying to move two captive Israeli soldiers to Iran.

**Comment:** This is a major development in Middle Eastern affairs! Israel threatening Syria involves the Isaiah 17:1 prophecy that has never been fulfilled. It says that Damascus will become a ruinous heap. Also the Ezekiel 38 prophecy that calls for the Persians (modern Iran) to attack Israel, which will result in a divine intervention from God. We are drawing close to the fulfillment of these prophecies.

**How to slow the spread of the bomb** - Christian Science Monitor - June 5, 2006 - The world may be teetering on the edge of a worrisome new phase in the sixty-year-old age of atomic weapons. North Korea now has the bomb, probably. Iran may seek nuclear devices of its own. India's stockpile of weapons-grade fissile material could soon grow larger - thanks to a controversial new treaty with the US...Meanwhile, efforts to strengthen the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty have stagnated. Last year's NPT review conference fell apart amid international bickering. Will nukes now become must-haves for more nations? Asked for their worst-case scenario, experts say there could be 10 new members of the nuclear club by 2015...Events in recent years may have begun to undermine the taboo against nuclear use. At the least, the world faces the prospect of a new wave of nuclear proliferation. And that could roil some of the globe's most unstable regions... "Over the last decade, there has been a serious and dangerous loss of momentum and direction in disarmament and non-proliferation efforts," concluded a Swedish-financed international commission in a lengthy report released last week.

**Comment:** We are the first generation in human history that could see the carnage described in Revelation 6 and Matthew 24 brought about by human means. What time do you think it is?

**Hamas invited to visit China** - Jerusalem Post - May 17, 2006 - China said Wednesday it will host the foreign minister of the Hamas-led Palestinian Authority, and said that Beijing's interests in the Middle East range beyond oil to development issues and the Palestinian-Israeli peace process. Palestinian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Zahar is among 23 ministers from Arab states and entities invited to Beijing late this month for a conclave on China-Arab relations...The invitation to Zahar, considered a Hamas hard-liner, comes as frictions between Beijing and Washington are rising over another Middle East issue: oil.

**Comment:** An army from the east of at least 200 million will march soon to the Valley of Armageddon to do battle (Revelation 16). Will oil be their motivation for coming?

**First International Wine Competition in Israel** - IsraelNationalNews.com - Jun 08, '06 - Israel is hosting its first international wine competition in Tel Aviv. More than 400 wines from 50 vineyards have been entered in the competition. The wines are from 17 different countries, including France, Italy and Spain. Sixty Israeli wineries are participating in the event. The wine industry in Israel has grown dramatically in recent years, and small wineries have won international acclaim for several wines from the Golan Heights to the southern Hebron Hills.

**Comment:** Wine is an item named specifically to become a part of Israel's restoration. Amos 9:13 declares: *"Behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "When the plowman shall overtake the reaper, And the treader of grapes him who sows seed; The mountains shall drip with sweet wine, And all the hills shall flow with it."* NKJV

**Episcopalians Choose First Female Bishop in Anglican History** - Fox News - June 19, 2006 - The Episcopal Church on Sunday elected Nevada Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori as the first female chief pastor of the denomination and the first female leader in the history of the world Anglican Communion...Schori was elected during the Episcopal General Convention, where delegates have been debating whether to appease Anglican leaders by agreeing to stop ordaining gay bishops — for now. In 2003, the Americans angered the Anglican world by electing the first openly gay bishop — V. Gene Robinson of New Hampshire.

**Comment:** More and more Biblical standards are meaning less and less! 1 Tim 3:1-2 states, *"This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife..."* KJV. This writing indicates that a bishop can neither be female nor homosexual. Much of the emerging church of today seems to care less about what the Bible declares. We are not surprised for the Bible continues to say in 1 Tim 4:1 *"that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;..."* KJV. God will one day hold accountable all who have abused His Word.

**Presbyterian Church lets locals decide on gay clergy** - Associated Press - June 21, 2006 - A Presbyterian Church (USA) national assembly voted yesterday to let local bodies that wish to have homosexuals serve as clergy and lay officers do so, despite a denominational ban on homosexual ministers. A measure approved 298-221 by a Presbyterian national assembly keeps in place a 1997 church law that says clergy and lay elders and deacons must limit sexual relations to marriage. But the new legislation says local congregations and regional presbyteries can exercise some flexibility when choosing clergy and lay officers of local congregations if sexual orientation or other issues arise.

**New US church leader says homosexuality no sin** - Reuters - June 19, 2006 - Newly elected leader of the U.S. Episcopal Church Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori said on Monday she believed homosexuality was no sin and homosexuals were created by God to love people of the same gender.

**Comment:** They evidently thought the same thing before the destruction of Sodom and Gamorrah. (See Genesis Chapter 19).

**Clerics insist on execution of convert** - Washington Times - March 24, 2006 - Senior Muslim clerics demanded yesterday that an Afghan man on trial for converting from Islam to Christianity be executed, warning that if the government caves in to Western pressure and frees him, they will incite people to "pull him into pieces." The 41-year-old former medical aid worker faces the death penalty under Afghanistan's Islamic laws for becoming a Christian.

**Comment:** The insistence in the western world that Islam is a "religion of peace" is surprising and ironic considering so much evidence that says otherwise! We have recently found that Islam is not a religion of peace in Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia, Lebanon, Syria, England, Spain, and others. This is part of that great end-time deception that Jesus said would exist just before His return in Matthew 24.

**Europeans Rush to Get '.eu' Domain Names** - Associated Press - April 7, 2006 - Some 300,000 Europeans rushed to register their new ".eu" domain names in the first hour of being able to sign up for the new Internet addresses, officials said Friday. By midday, registrations had exceeded 550,000. Until Friday, registration was limited to specific groups, such as registered trademark owners, public bodies and companies. Now, anyone who resides in the 25-nation European Union can buy a name on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Comment:** The European Union is taking shape as an organized entity. Many prophecy scholars believe it is becoming the revived Roman power described in Daniel 2 and 7 to be in place when Jesus returns.

**States again ponder space travel business** - USA Today - May 14, 2006 - The promise of blasting thrill-seeking tourists into space is fueling an unprecedented rush to build snazzy commercial spaceports. The Federal Aviation Administration is reviewing proposals from New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas to be gateways for private space travel. Depending on how environmental reviews and other requirements go, approval could come as early as this year and the sites could begin preparing to ferry space tourists soon afterward.

**Comment:** No other generation could have even considered this. Daniel 12:4 states that knowledge and travel would greatly increase in the time of the end. How much more will man achieve?

**Palestinians commemorate 'catastrophe' of Israel's creation** - AFP - May 15, 2006 - Palestinians marked the worst day in their history, determined to lift damaging economic sanctions and warning that Israeli unilateralism could kill off a two-state solution. The commemoration of the 58th anniversary of the "catastrophe" of Israel's creation came with Palestinian Authority president Mahmud Abbas in Russia on a quest to shore up financial and political support for his beleaguered people. "Our first priority is to lift the economic and political siege imposed on our people, then to end the occupation of our land once and for all, and to establish our independent Palestinian state," Abbas said in televised address.

**Comment:** There will never be peace between Israel and her Arab neighbors as long as it is viewed among the Arabs that the founding of the state of Israel was the "catastrophe".

**VW Gears Up Using Israeli Products** - International Christian Embassy - June 19, 2006 - The internationally renowned German car manufacturer Volkswagen has spent over US\$ 113m in Israel over the past five years, exceeding its obligatory reciprocal purchase agreements with the country by almost US\$ 100m. The Israeli Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labor reported Sunday that in 2005 alone, Israeli sales to Volkswagen reached over US\$ 28m and range from products the company needs for its regular manufacturing operations to new technologies used to upgrade its equipment.

**NYSE Confident of More Israeli Listings** - Jerusalem Post - March 12, 2006 - The New York Stock Exchange is bullish it will attract more Israeli listings and initial public offerings in 2006, as it eyes smaller and medium-sized companies after this week's merger with the electronic trading firm Archipelago Holdings.

**Comment:** Israel is to receive the "*wealth of the nations*" in the last days (Isaiah 60:5). It therefore becomes very interesting to watch more and more international companies investing in Israel. Among them are Volkswagen, Microsoft, Motorola (inventors of the cell phone in Israel), Nokia, Intel, and many others. All of these have helped Israel develop a \$100 billion economy. Outside the U.S. and Canada, Israel has the largest number of NASDAQ listed companies.

**Israeli Economy Growing at Unprecedented Pace** - IsraelNational News.com - May 15, 2006 - The Israeli economy is expected to grow by 6.6% in 2006, exceeding government forecasts. Business production for the first quarter of the year was up by a 10% annual pace, after jumping by 7% in the previous quarter.

**Comment:** The Israeli economy is doing exactly what God said it would some 2700 years ago through the prophet Isaiah. "*Your sons will come from afar, And your daughters will be carried in the arms. Then you will see and be radiant, And your heart will thrill and rejoice; Because the abundance of the sea will be turned to you, The wealth of the nations will come to you*" (Isa. 60:4-5). This indicates the blessings that will come after the Messiah comes, but if we see it happening now, how much more then?

**2,500 American, French Immigrants to Arrive This Summer** - Ha'Aretz.com - May 15, 2006 - Some 2,500 new immigrants from North America and France will come to Israel on eight special El Al flights this summer, Haaretz has learned. Six of the flights will take off from New York and Toronto between July and September, and two more will arrive from Paris and Marseilles in July. The flights will be jointly sponsored by the Jewish Agency, the French organization Ami and the North American group Nefesh B'Nefesh.

**Comment:** The most prolific prophecy in the Bible says that God will bring the Jewish people from all over the world back to Israel (example: Isaiah 11:12) and that is exactly what is going on today, even in times of distress and against all odds. But nothing is impossible for God! God is not limited to accomplishing His will by obstacles that man or Satan can manufacture. God is able to do what He says He will do. Israel is a great testimonial of how great and mighty God is today. "*Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep*" (Ps. 121:4).

**The deadliest war in the world, Congo's simmering conflict has killed 4 million** - CNN - May 28, 2006 - In Congo, a nation of 63 million people in the heart of Africa, a peace deal signed more than three years ago was supposed to halt a war that drew in belligerents from at least eight different countries, producing a record of human devastation unmatched in recent history. The International Rescue Committee (IRC) estimates that 3.9 million people have died from war-related causes since the conflict in Congo began in 1998, making it the world's most lethal conflict since World War II.

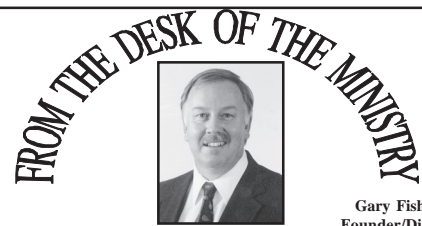
**Comment:** Jesus said about the "last days", there shall be "wars and rumors of wars" (Mark 13:7). More lives were lost to war in the twentieth century than all of the other centuries combined. So, are the current days the ones of which Jesus was speaking?

**Pakistan Bans 'Da Vinci Code' for 'Blasphemous' Material About Jesus** - Fox News - June 3, 2006 - Pakistan on Saturday banned cinemas from showing "The Da Vinci Code" because it contained what officials called blasphemous material about Jesus. Although the film has not been screened in any theater in mostly-Muslim Pakistan, authorities decided to ban it out of respect for the feelings of the country's minority Christians.

**Comment:** Much has been said about the 'DaVinciCode'. It is not the first attempt to insult God and question the divinity of Jesus, nor will it be the last. Anyone remember the 1970's movie *Jesus Christ Superstar*? One of the songs in the movie chanted over and over, "He's just a man, He's just a man". *Jesus Christ Superstar* faded into nothingness and so will the 'DaVinciCode'. Jesus said to all the skeptics two thousand years ago, "if I be lifted up...will draw all men unto me" (John 12:32). Nothing Hollywood can do will ever change this!!!

**Hungary offers compensation for survivors' families** - Ha'Aretz.com - March 10, 2006 - The Hungarian government will allow first-degree relatives of Jews who were killed in the Holocaust to submit claims for monetary compensation, it was reported yesterday during a meeting of the Conference on Material Claims Against Germany in Budapest yesterday...The president of the Conference, Israel Singer, said he welcomed the decision...Hungarian government leaders who met this week with Singer and other senior Claims Conference officials, also promised to move ahead on the matter of returning private property seized from Jews who died in the Holocaust.

**Comment:** I first discovered "by accident" the Jewish Claims Conference on an airplane travelling to Israel a few years ago. I found myself sitting beside and in conversation with a man who was on his way to Israel, working with the Jewish Claims Conference to distribute \$11.2 billion dollars. Since then I have learned that the Jewish Claims Conference has negotiated with mostly the German Government, but also with others, the release of unclaimed funds and compensation to Holocaust survivors and their heirs. The amount distributed up until the year 2003 has been 100 billion Deutschmarks. In 2004 the Claims Conference distributed \$1.1 billion dollars. Zechariah 14:1 promises a day when the "spoil taken from you (Jewish people) will be divided among you". Verse four of that same prophecy includes the return of Jesus. Verse one is in process. Folks, **Jesus, the Messiah of Israel, is coming soon!** Are you ready? If not, get right with Him today!



Gary Fisher -  
Founder/Director

The following products are offered for your personal study and edification.

<u>Title</u>	<u>Suggested Donation</u>
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<b>Eye to Eye</b> consequences of dividing Israel....(book, Koenig)	\$12.00
Signs of the Soon Return of Jesus (audio CD, G.Fisher)	\$ 5.00
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The Fate of Israel .....(audio CD, G. Fisher).....	\$ 5.00
<b>NEW!</b> Four Things Out Of Place (audio CD, G. Fisher)	\$ 5.00

**Comment:** There are four things identified in the Bible, that are out of place that result in all of the problems in the world today. This CD message identifies and elaborates on the four in a forty-minute message.

\*Please include \$1.59 for postage for each item ordered.

### Upcoming Speaking Schedule:

**Schmidt's Retreat** - August 24, 2006 - College Grove, TN. -  
"Update On Current Middle East" - 6:30pm

**"Delivered From The Wrath To Come"** conference -  
September 1st & 2nd - Emmanuel Baptist Church, Lafayette, LA.

**"Update on Middle East"** - September 3, 2006 - Amana  
Christian Fellowship - Maurice, Louisiana - Sunday am

**"Signs of the Soon Return of Jesus"** conference -  
September 24, 2006 - Trinity Baptist Church - Clarksville, TN -

**"Discerning the Times"** conference - October 13 & 14, 2006 -  
Erindale Alliance Church - Saskatoon, SK Canada

**"The Soon Return of Jesus"** - October 15, 2006 - Erindale  
Alliance Church - Saskatoon, SK Canada - Sunday am

**Feast of Tabernacles Celebration** - October 21, 2006 - Joelton, TN -  
Guests welcome - Please call for information.

**"Middle East Prophecy Seminar"** - Franklin, TN. October 23,  
24, & 25 pm - Guests Welcome - Please call for information.

**\*Let's Have An All-Day Seminar** - Many of my speaking engagements for the last couple of years have been all-day seminars mostly in churches. The goal of these seminars is to equip those attending to learn how to "connect the dots" as to how Bible prophecies are being fulfilled and how close we are to the return of Jesus. These seminars usually feature dinner on the grounds, lots of fellowship, are intellectually stimulating, uplifting, and encouraging. Let's have one at your church.

**\*Note:** For those whose lives this newsletter touches, please let us hear from you. Your feedback is very important to us! If you can help us with a financial contribution, it would be greatly appreciated as well, but please write, e-mail, or call.

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