

ISAIAH 17 vs 1

In the sixth year of Hezekiah, king of Judah, Shalmaneser already carried away **Israel** from Samaria to Assyria. The people were forewarned by Moses as they entered the land pledged to their forefathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; they knew the blessings promised by God should they obey His voice, and the curses should they choose to turn away from Him. The northern house of **the ones ruled by God** who chose God's **curses**, had been resettled earlier. From Isaiah 13 – 23, we learn of the nations in the neighborhood God used to wake up the house of faltering **Judah** from whom would come the Messiah.

It is **not** good for brothers... or even for cousins... to quarrel. **Israel** does not need to resemble **Judah**; the many tribes of **the ones ruled by God** and where they went... welcomed the good news of the Messiah and helped carry the good news for the past 2000 years; thankfully our cousins in Judah are also embracing the Messiah. Check out:

[BEHOLD ISRAEL](#) | [ONE FOR ISRAEL](#) | [LEON MAZIN - TIKKUN](#) | [MESSIAH OF ISRAEL](#) | [STEVEN BEN NUN](#)

Also check out: [The Promises of God to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob](#)

God still uses the neighbors to stir up a remnant of His people to return to Him. In this prophecy, verses 1-11, address **Damascus** and its ally Samaria; and since they were the ring-leaders in the plan to invade **Judah**, they learn their fate first.

¹ The burden of Damascus. Behold, Damascus will be a city no more, it will be a ruinous heap / 300 years ago, Matthew Henry wrote:

Damascus must be destroyed, its houses likely burnt, its walls and gates and fortifications demolished... which is probably true, and we know that certainly happened 2700 years ago; but we see Damascus in the news today; and so, this prophecy has not been fully realized since the city still exists. And it is holding on for dear life... being the home of the early church that first responded to the teachings of Jesus the Messiah; while the last global roman govt along with its surrogate patsies; its chief proxy being the tax-payers of the USA... they have attempted to destabilize Damascus along with



the whole world – as Daniel said: *smashing and destroying until the whole world is broken* – **Daniel 2**. So it makes you wonder if Damascus is nearing its brutal fulfillment? Certainly, the last goofy govt over populated with Herodians... is trying to make it happen. Or will the church of the living God speak up in its defense. You know Jesus said, as is our faith, it would be done to us.

² The cities of Aroer are forsaken / always the surrounding towns are abandoned; they are no longer safe to live in; its citizens either frightened or forced away by their invaders:

they will be for flocks, which will lie down, and none will make them afraid.

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³ **The fortress / clearly,**

The fortified city of Ephraim will also cease / history tells us: 2700 years ago, that is what happened; Ephraim and the 10 northern kingdoms were resettled in northeast Assyria, between Nineveh and the Medes to their east; and **the strength of Ephraim** ceased in that place. But this doesn't mean that Ephraim suddenly is finished. According to father Israel, **Ephraim** would become *a community of nations at the center of the earth*, carrying with them all the national promises God gave to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob – **Genesis 48**. This prophecy merely indicates Ephraim would no longer be in that little slice of land... north of Judah and its capital Jerusalem. King David is told that **Israel** would be... *in a place of their own*, away from **Judah** – where it would live out its historic destiny – **2 Samuel 7**,

The strength also will cease from Ephraim,

and the kingdom from Damascus, and the remnant of Syria: they will be as the glory of the children of Israel, says the LORD of hosts / and what does that mean? What is the glory of **Israel**? They would be greatly blessed – if they, **the ones truly ruled by God**... were faithful, and they would become as numerous as the sands of the sea and the stars in heaven. So, about the kingdom of Damascus and the remnant of Syria; its weakness would never fully recover; they would meet with the same fate as faithless Ephraim; they would be weakened, and their influence eliminated in that place.

⁴ **And in that day, it will happen that the glory of Jacob /** the scoundrel... **will fade, and the fat of his flesh will grow lean,** / we know in the last days Jacob's glory will fade fast. – **Ezekiel 39:6** zeros in on the **isles** where Jacob went; and it sounds like the fool went backwards: **did he forget his Maker?**

⁵ **as when the harvester gathers the grain and reaps the ears with his arm;**

it will be as he who gathers ears of grain in the valley of Rephaim / and just perhaps, when the people of God heard this reference, they said: Oh yeah! I know what you're talking about. We were told about that growing up; that was one... tough harvest as our fathers entered and took the land from them.

This name is associated with a race of giants who inhabited Canaan, Edom, Moab and Ammon. Goliath of Gath was a descendant of one of these bands of giants. The region near Jerusalem formerly occupied by these Rephaim or giants was referred to as the Valley of Giants. The Nephilim, mentioned in **Gen.6:4**; and Num. 13:33 are connected with the Emin in **Deut.2:20**. Some scholars thought: identification of the Nephilim with the Rephaim does not fit so easily as in **Gen. 6:4**; but if you consider the verses found in **Jude 4,6**, it might: *for certain persons crept in unnoticed, who were from long ago condemned*; next Jude writes: *And angels who kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation*. So are we learning about some powerful beings, who will again be present when the time of the Gentiles closes?

But lest we get too far from the verse, this verse clearly speaks of **the time of the harvest**; the last 3 days of the LORD... *shadows of things to come*, awaiting fulfillment are the 3 days at the In-gathering.

Are we learning all about what it will be like... leading up to the In-gathering... that Moses told us? **Yes!** Jesus said, *as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be when the Son of man comes again*.

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⁶ Gleanings will be left in it, as when an olive tree is beaten -- two or three berries in the top of the highest bough, four or five on the fruitful branches of it, says the Lord God of Israel.
/ the Lord says, at the time of the In-gathering the pickings will be slim – only a remnant will be saved.

⁷ In that day, a man will look to his Maker, and his eyes will look on the Holy One of Israel.
/ The Savior, which certainly sounds like they will see Him face to face... in all of His glory! Doesn't it?

⁸ He will not look to the altars, the work of his hands, and he will not look to what his own fingers have made, either the Asherim, or the images.

⁹ In that day, their strong cities will be like deserted wooded forests and hilltops, which they deserted because of the children of Israel: and there will be desolation.

¹⁰ For you forgot the God of your salvation / in Hebrew: **Yesha**; a diminutive of **Yeshua**, where we get the name **Jesus** – so they forgot the God of Yeshua, now, tell me... how did that happen? They weren't having to learn rocket science; or memorize all the chemical elements on the periodic table.

You forgot the God of your salvation, and have not been mindful of the Rock of your refuge / Daniel tells us, there is a Rock coming which will smash the last global govt, causing it to crumble and fall and never rise again – **Daniel 2**,

therefore, though you plant pleasant plants, and sow the vine-branch of a stranger / the ordinary, home grown stuff, was becoming humdrum, and looking around at the neighbors, they found the more valuable... strange, uncommon, far-fetched, dear-bought; novel and exotic, albeit inferior quality junk:

¹¹ and though they grow on the day that you plant them; and make them blossom in the morning that you sow them: but the harvest will be a heap in a day of grief and desperate sorrow / incurable pain; after all the work, of sowing and planting, the harvest was supposed to be a time of singing and great joy, when you thought to inherit it; what happened?

¹² Woe / how terrible it will be... **the thunder of many nations, who thunder like the thundering sea** / of humanity;

and to the rushing of nations / in recent days, we have seen the nations surging over borders; but does this thundering include: booming and the fierce noise of war, **they roar like the rushing of mighty waters!**

¹³ The nations roar like the rushing of many waters:

but God will rebuke them, and they will flee far away, chased like the chaff through the mountains before the wind, and whirling dust before the storm.

¹⁴ And behold, at evening, trouble! Before morning they are not. This is the portion of those who spoil us, and the lot of those who rob us.