

ISAIAH 17 vs 1

Watch **Israel** and **Judah** – greatly blessed by God. **Israel** = **Ephraim** who received the promises given to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, promised to become a commonwealth of nations, **Manasseh** promised to become a great nation; and **Judah** promised the law giver Messiah. Isaiah is prophesying around 750BC when the 10 northern tribes are carried away by the king of Assyria... to become the 10 Lost tribes of the **House of Israel**... carrying with them all the birthright promises of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; leaving the **House of Judah** and Benjamin... those known as the Jewish people... to be carried into their own Babylonian captivity 150 years later.



The Two Houses of **Israel**.

The Two Houses supposedly **ruled by God**

In the sixth year of Hezekiah, king of Judah, Shalmaneser already carried away **Israel** from Samaria to Assyria. The people were warned 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 from Him. The northern house of **those ruled by God** chose God's **curses**, and was resettled as slaves at the Caucasus mountains.

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,

and we know that certainly happened to some degree 2700 years ago; but we see Damascus in the news today; 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 with its endless wars, 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 violent fulfillment. Certainly, the last goofy roman govt overpopulated with Herodians is doing their best, trying to make that happen.



² The cities of Aroer are deserted, they will be for flocks, which will lie down, and none will make them afraid. / sheep, cows and goats will be meandering about, troubled by no one, the surrounding towns are abandoned; they are no longer safe to live in; its citizens were either frightened or forced away by their invaders:

³ The fortified city of **Ephraim will also cease** /at least in Samaria. and history tells us: 2700 years ago, Ephraim -- 10 northern tribes were resettled in northeast Assyria, between Nineveh and the Medes

the strength of Ephraim ceased in that place. But it doesn't mean Ephraim suddenly is finished. Father Israel said, Ephraim the ½ Egyptian son of Joseph 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. So where did that happen? King David is told that Israel would be in a place of their own, away from Judah – living 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, / 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 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 descended from one of these bands of giants.

But lest we get too far from the verse, this verse speaks of the time of the harvest; the last 3 days of the LORD... shadows of things to come, what it will be like leading up to the In-gathering. Jesus said, as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be when the Son of man comes again.

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, not on the demonic Asherim, or images.

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

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

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, became humdrum, and looking to the neighbors, they found it more novel and exotic, albeit inferior quality junk:

¹¹and 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?

¹²Woe / how terrible it will be... **the thunder of many nations, who thunder** like the thundering sea of humanity; and to the rushing of nations they roar like the rushing of mighty waters! / like we have seen the nations surging over borders; the rushing roar of millions, but does this thundering include: booming and the fierce noise of war,

¹³**The nations roar like the rushing of many waters: but God will scold them,** and they will flee far away, chased like the chaff through the mountains before the wind, and whirling dust before the storm.

¹⁴And 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.

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