

# WELCOME TO THE FUTURE -NOW-

[PART 15]

## JERUSALEM ~ A CUP OF TREMBLING AMONG THE NATIONS

Reading: **Zechariah 12:1 - 3**

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### Introduction

- 9th December 1917 saw the liberation of Jerusalem and the end of the '**times of the Gentiles**' as the Bible had foretold.
- 1917 was indeed a pivotal date on God's prophetic calendar.

### 1 From 1917 To 1948

- The British foreign secretary set forth plans (the Balfour Declaration) for a Jewish homeland in Palestine.
- Britain was given a mandate to make the declaration happen. Sir Herbert Samuel (a British Jew) was first governor of Palestine.
- Jewish immigration to Palestine was now encouraged.
- The Arab population was not happy and Arab – Jewish riots occurred.
- Just before WWII Britain gave in to Arab pressure and said all further immigration would be curtailed. Jews felt betrayed.
- Then came WWII and the Nazi genocide against the Jews.
- The end of WWII saw an acceleration of Jews who wanted to immigrate to Palestine. Many Jews were subsequently smuggled into the land.
- The British blockaded the coastland and those caught were put in prison camps in Cyprus.
- 1946 saw the '**League of nations**' become the '**United Nations**' and Britian terminated its mandate.
- The Zionists seized the moment.
- 1948 saw the announcement to the world of the new Zionist state to be called '**Israel!**'
- The Arab world was enraged. Farouk: '**I cannot and will not tolerate a Zionist state in the Middle East!**'

## 2 The Budding Of The Fig Tree

- Consider [Matthew 24:32 - 34].
- The Jews were the fig tree coming to life after centuries of being nationally deceased.
- In May 1948 the **'fig tree'** budded but it was a **'tender branch.'** (Vulnerable).
- The fig tree only put forth **'leaves.'** No fruit. Still, after 200 years they reject their Messiah.
- The generation that would witness the budding of the fig tree would witness Christ's return.

## 3 The Arab-Israeli Wars

- There have been many attempts to squash the **'tender branch.'**
- Wars in 1948 and 1956 and the **'Six Day War'** of 1967. (Here the Jews took the whole of Jerusalem.)
- There was also the **'Yom Kippur War'** of 1973.
- In 1979 Egypt and Israel signed a peace treaty and in 1981, the Egypt president Anwar Sadat was assassinated for making peace with Israel.
- Israel has also had to fight 2 Lebanese wars in 1982 and 2006.
- They have also suffered years of deadly suicide bombs.

## 4 Israel Today

- Israel's single greatest loss in one day since holocaust was 7th October 2023 when Hamas invaded Israel.
- The resultant Gaza war is Israel seeking to locate the scores of hostages Hamas took and obliterate Hamas too.
- Iran funds and orchestrates numerous proxy groups to attack Israel and Israeli interests. (Hezbollah, Hamas, the Houthis and Islamic Resistance.)
- They refer to themselves as **'the Axis of Resistance.'** Others call them **'Axis of Evil.'**

## 5 What Does What's Happening Now Tell Us?

- It is a tremor before the earthquake and another strong contraction before the birth.
- Zechariah tells us Jerusalem is becoming **'a cup of trembling among the nations.'**
- NB. The many nations getting drawn into the region.
- This is the result of an **'unclean spirit'** in the region. [A demon prince].
- But God is also setting the chessboard for the **'endgame'** when He will checkmate Satan.
- The King Himself is personally coming to the fight.

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