

Pastor Jeremy M. Thomas
Fredericksburg Bible Church

107 East Austin

Fredericksburg, Texas 78624

830-997-8834 jthomas@fbgbible.org

C1302 – January 9, 2013 – Daniel 11:40-45
Egypt & Syria vs. Israel

Once upon a time there was a city. God placed this city at the very navel of the earth with all the nations around about it. From all eternity He chose it as the city where He would establish His name forever. First ruled by Melchizedek, king of Salem and then by Adoni-zedek the Jebusite, who was defeated by Joshua but not driven out, and for centuries the city was ruled by Jebusite kings, until one David, chosen by God, came and deployed his soldiers through a secret water tunnel, capturing the city. Then David's son Solomon constructed the royal sanctuary of God, the Temple of the Great King in the center of this city upon the rock of Mt Moriah, the very location where Abraham offered his only begotten son, Isaac. It remained the capital city and center of Jewish life until Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, razed it to the ground. Returning Exiles rebuilt the Temple, though with less glory than the former; it was expanded by the Hasmoneans and then by Herod the Great and yet it came to its end when the Romans razed it to the ground just 37 years after God offered His only begotten Son, Jesus, as the sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. And though the name of the city means peace, it has thus far been a city of great conflict. We should not expect this great conflict over this city to cease for God says, in the last days I "will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people around about." And at last, "in those days and at that time, I will restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem." This series is dedicated to the battles for Jerusalem in the last days that will usher in the final and everlasting restoration of God's name in Jerusalem.

There are three such battles that I believe can be arranged in a chronological sequence resulting ultimately in the restoration of God's name in Jerusalem. The first battle is an alliance of Egypt and Syria vs Israel, a battle described in Daniel 11:40-45. The second battle is an alliance of Russia, Iran, Turkey,

Sudan and Libya vs Israel, a battle described in Ezekiel 38-39. The third battle is an alliance of Every Nation in the World vs Israel, a battle described in Rev 16 and 19.

That is the way I understand these three portions of Scripture but I am well aware of the fact that not all scholars agree that these are distinct battles. So let me give three reasons why I think they are three distinct battles. First, there are three distinct groups of nations listed in these passages and I believe that argues for distinct battles. In the first battle of Daniel 11:40-45 only Egypt and Syria are listed as coming against Israel. In the second battle of Ezekiel 38-39 Russia, Iran, Turkey, Libya and Sudan are listed as coming against Israel. While one could confuse the king of the north in Daniel 11:40 with those from the north in Ezek 38, the fact that Ezek 38 refers to the remotest parts of the north which can only be Russia, distinguishes it from the king of the north in Daniel 11:40 who is clearly Syria. And finally, in the third battle of Rev 16:13-16 every nation on earth gathers against Israel. So the very fact that three distinct groups of nations are involved in these three battles argues for the three being distinct battles. Second, there are three distinct manners of defeat in these passages and that argues for distinct battles. In the first battle of Daniel 11:40-45 it is the anti-Christ who defeats Egypt and Syria. In the second battle of Ezekiel 38-39 it is God who supernaturally defeats Russia, Iran, Turkey, Libya and Sudan. And in the third battle it is Jesus Christ who single-handedly defeats all the nations of the earth. So the very fact that there are three distinct manners of defeat argues for three distinct battles. Finally, there are three different locations of the defeat in these passages and that evidence must not be overlooked for distinguishing three battles. The first defeat occurs throughout the land of Israel. The second defeat occurs in the northern mountains of Israel. The third defeat occurs in the valley of Jehoshaphat on the east of Jerusalem. So the very fact that there are three distinct groups of nations involved, three distinct manners of defeat and three different locations of defeat all argue, in my humble opinion, for three distinct battles.

Now it stands to reason that if they are three distinct battles then they can be organized in a sequence, a specific chronological arrangement if you will and that the way to do this is to search the Scriptural passages for clues that might indicate whether one battle occurs before another or vice versa. I think one clue is the escalation in military force that is exerted to take Jerusalem.

The first battle begins with just two nations, the second battle involves five nations and the final battle involves every nation. So it stands to reason that the escalation in military force gives the proper sequence of these battles.

It also stands to reason that there has to be some stage setting prior to these battles. Certain pieces have to be in place before they could occur. Of course many stage-setting events have already occurred. Of great significance is the fact of the establishment of the modern State of Israel which occurred under the UN resolution in 1948. Obviously there must be a Jewish people in the land of Israel for certain end-time prophecies to be fulfilled and this aspect of the stage-setting has occurred. Another event of great significance is the fact that Jerusalem came under the control of the State of Israel after the war of 1967. And obviously there are prophecies concerning a rebuilt Temple on the Temple mount in Jerusalem that could not be fulfilled unless the whole of Jerusalem was under Jewish control. And this stage too has been set. Even now a sect of orthodox Jews are training priests to serve in the Temple, preparing the Temple furniture in minute detail, in short, they are preparing to build the next Temple. However, there are still yet other aspects of the stage-setting that must occur. As significant as the State of Israel and Jerusalem are, those are just two of many stage setting events which must occur for the end-times scenario to begin to unfold. Therefore the exegete must have extensive knowledge of many prophetic texts in order to identify other stage-setting events that *could* precede the rapture and therefore be observed by the church before her departure. I think it is a failure to take note of this one important point that has led many to date set the rapture; they have rightly seen some of the stage setting occur but erroneously forgotten that other stage-setting events must occur.

Now when I look at the current events over the last 100 years I observe a pattern of activity when it comes to the stage being set. The pattern is much like that of waves in an ocean where there are crests and there are troughs. Most of the time we have been in a trough but occasionally we encounter a wave. Now take yourself back 100 years when the land of Israel was ruled by the Ottoman Turks, Muslims. And you do know that once the Muslims conquer a land they consider that land to be Allah's and therefore if anyone takes that land away from them that is a disgrace to Allah and therefore that land must be re-taken. That is why even today the Muslims want to take back the land of Israel. That land, in their mind and in their religion, belongs

to Allah. That is why they will not recognize the State of Israel. That land belongs to Allah because the Ottoman Turks conquered it. Now the British defeated the Ottoman Turks in 1917 and took possession of the land of Israel. Lord Balfour wrote the Balfour Declaration designed to partition Israel into two states, the first two-state solution, that was almost 100 years ago. Lord Balfour loved the nation Israel because God loved the nation Israel and he knew that God had a plan for Israel in the land of Israel. Now then it took 31 years for Israel to get authorization to have a State of Israel and to be recognized first by the United States of America. So you see that there was a trough of 31 years between the Balfour Declaration and a UN declaration that somewhat resembled the original. So in 1948 there was a State Israel in the world, but Jerusalem was a divided city, the western half was under Israeli control and the eastern half, including the Temple mount was under Jordanian control. And it was not until 1967, another 19 years that Jerusalem came under total control of the Israeli's. My point is simply to say that the overall trend in stage-setting has occurred much like a wave pattern in the ocean. There are long periods when we are in the trough and then suddenly there is a wave that launches us forward toward end-times prophecies for Israel and we get excited when we see these surges, and rightly so. But understand at the same time that usually there is another trough waiting right behind the wave and so we might have to wait many more years for another surge.

In the last six years several developments have transpired in the Middle East that are necessary to set the stage for three battles for Jerusalem to take place. Many prophecy experts talk about Russia and the threat of a nuclear Iran and what that might hold for the world. They are linking these developments with the battle of Ezekiel 38-39 and saying this battle could come even before the rapture, maybe after, but possibly even before. Now there is no question these developments in Russia and Iran are significant and certainly the rapture could be nearer than we might expect. And yet we are to always be expecting Christ's return, perhaps today. The rapture is imminent, it can occur at any moment so you should be prepared by living in fellowship at every moment so that you will not be ashamed when He comes but will have confidence. But surely the more stage setting we see occur, the more likely we are to expect the rapture. Now these two things, imminency and the wave pattern of stage-setting must be carefully thought about by the Christian. You cannot go into a frenzy when stage-setting waves hit because

historically these waves are followed by troughs and so you must keep a level head about you and keep your focus on the Lord and keep expecting the Lord to come for us at any moment at the rapture.

At the same time I must say that the current world situation seems to be setting the stage for three battles described in Scripture and that is what I want to look at. Three battles, each distinct, each an escalation in military power, each ultimately for Jerusalem and each I have concluded occur during the 70th week of Daniel, the final seven years of Israel's calendar which most people call the Tribulation. So it is in our interest to study these three battles in Scripture so that we have tools to interpret current events.

As far as the current world situation is concerned there are several significant developments that may be setting the stage for these three battles. First, Egypt and Syria trending toward extremist Islam accompanied by a radical anti-Semitism. In January of 2011 a revolution in Tunisia spawned a revolution in Egypt and the long-time strongman Hosni Mubarak was deposed. Out of this a power struggle has developed between three factions, 1) the Military and the Mubarak Regime, 2) the Islamic extremist party known as the Muslim Brotherhood and 3) the Young, Liberal Secularists who started the revolution. In the May 2012 elections, Morsi, the Muslim Brotherhood candidate, narrowly won the presidency. This inserted a strong Sunni Islamic faction into the ruling position in Egypt. Since then Morsi and the Muslim Brotherhood have ratified a new Islamist-backed constitution. If they can somehow enlist the military support of their regime then Egypt could become a major power to reckon with. Egypt has the largest military in the Arab world. At present a peace treaty exists between Egypt and Israel. But this peace treaty was formed by Anwar Saddat in 1979 and he was assassinated by the Muslim Brotherhood in 1981 for signing a peace treaty with Israel. Remember, Israel is occupying Allah's territory, in the minds of extremist Islam. So I cannot see an Egypt ruled by the Muslim Brotherhood keeping the peace treaty with Israel. It seems rather that they will eventually break the treaty and turn against Israel. Now as a consequence of the Egyptian revolution, you may recall that civil unrest broke out in several countries, most prominent of which is Syria. Assad, the leader of Syria, responded with heavy-handed military force. This caused a civil war with portions of the military separating and forming rebel groups, some of which are radical Islam including branches of the Muslim

Brotherhood. Already the UN has estimated 60,000 people have been killed and 400,000 people have fled the country. The concern is that Islamist extremist groups like the Muslim Brotherhood could remove Assad's present government and form an Islamic state. If this occurs then two of Israel's closest neighbors would be in a political and ideological position to make a military alliance and attack Israel. Therefore, I think it is feasible that the current developments in Egypt and Syria are setting the stage for a battle against Israel. The striking thing is that Daniel 11:40 predicts just an alliance and battle in the end times. So Daniel 11:40 is a crucial text to study and understand in a chronological sequence of end-times battles.

The second thing of interest I am seeing now is Russia, Iran and Turkey. After the cold war Russia has struggled to regain its status as a major superpower. But they desperately want to regain their status. They have supported the Iranian nuclear program in order to get their hand in the Middle East. They have an extremely large weapons arsenal. Further, they have historically been anti-Semitic and pro-Arab. In 1979 the Shah of Iran was overthrown and Ayatollah Khomeini took over the government. Within weeks the government was a theocracy ruled by Islamic religious leaders called mullah's. Ever since then both the US and Israel have been repeatedly attacked. The ideologically driven vitriole that has repeatedly come forth from Ahmadinejad and others that Israel is a cancer that must be removed and that Israel must be wiped off the map should be taken very seriously. With their nuclear program not being seriously hindered by sanctions, a nuclear Iran is something Israel and the world must prepare to deal with. Finally, Turkey which has historically been secular is now becoming more Islamic as more Islamic extremist have come into positions of power. The flotilla incident and others have signaled that Turkey is anti-Semitic. As these three countries begin to develop anti-Semitic sentiments in the Middle East region it reminds one of the Battle of Gog and Magog described in Ezek 38-39 since those nations among others are players in that attack against Israel. So I'm very interested in determining where the Ezek 38-39 battle fits in the end-times scenario.

Finally, I'm interested in the trend toward every nation in the world turning anti-Semitic and the rise and growth of Islam. Europe is increasingly anti-Semitic and at the same time increasingly Islamic. A few countries have boasted of becoming Judenrein, Jew-free and stated a serious problem with

Islam. Even the present US administration is increasingly anti-Semitic and pro-Islamic. Just Monday, "President Obama...nominated an anti-Israel former Senator to be Secretary of Defense. Senator Chuck Hagel has blamed American support for Israel on the "Jewish lobby," refused to sign a letter supporting Israel, and opposed labeling Hezbollah a "terrorist organization." But that's not all. Senator Hagel supported direct dialogue with Hamas – a terrorist group that launches near-daily attacks on Israeli civilians – and even refused to label the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps as terrorists."ⁱ Further, we are sending 20 F-16 fighter jets to Egypt to fulfill a past contract despite the fact that the Egyptian government has changed to an Islamic one. This trend toward every nation turning anti-Israel points toward the conditions necessary for the world to gather against Israel at Armageddon.

My main interest, in light of these current events, is how the conditions for these three battles might be currently forming. And I take it that the timing of these battles can be deciphered with some degree of certainty. But not everyone agrees with the timing of the battles. For example, on the timing of the battle of Ezekiel 38-39, Randall Price, Th. M. in Old Testament and Semitic studies, has studied at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, is a professor of Archaeology and Biblical Studies and directs archaeological excavations in Israel said, "Without question this matter of chronological placement is one of the most difficult issues in prophetic interpretation."ⁱⁱ His conclusion is that the Ezekiel battle will occur before the Tribulation and I don't think that's right but nonetheless, like he said, it's very difficult. Dwight Pentecost, long time distinguished professor at Dallas Theological Seminary says after evaluating several views, "One can see what a wide divergence of opinion there is as to the chronology of events in this campaign."ⁱⁱⁱ He places the battle of Ezekiel 38-39 near the mid-point of the Tribulation. Harold Hoehner, also a long-time professor at Dallas Theological Seminary, after critiquing several views concludes that the events take place during the last half of the Tribulation. So there are three great prophetic scholars who disagree. Since that's the case it should give us pause in being dogmatic about any timing of these battles. However, I am hopeful that we can have a degree of certainty as to when these battles occur.

Not only is it difficult to know the timing but attached to this difficulty is the order of the battles. Which battle comes first, if indeed the battles are distinct? Which one is second? Which one is third? Again, there is not total

agreement on the order of these battles. John Whitcomb, for example, thinks that the Daniel 11:40 battle is the same as the Ezekiel 38-39 battle and therefore occur at the same time. He says, ““The king of the north” in Daniel 11:40. This is the same as “Gog of the land of Magog” of Ezekiel 38-39, and “the northern army” of Joel 2:20.” However, Arnold Fruchtenbaum separates these battles saying, “...it is wrong to identify *the king of the north* of Daniel 11:40 with *Gog* of Ezekiel 38:1-39:16. Throughout the Book of Daniel references are made to *the king of the south* and *the king of the north*. Consistently, the former is applied to Egypt, including the reference in verse 40. The latter is consistently applied to Syria...The invasion of Daniel 11:40 is distinct from the Ezekiel 38 and 39 invasion.”^{iv} Again, such differences among well-known prophetic scholars should at least give the exegete pause when being dogmatic about conclusions, particularly when there are so many passages involved in laying out a sequential end-times scenario. Therefore I will proceed with caution.

The only way, ultimately, to resolve these issues, if indeed they are resolvable, is to delve into the passages and try to solve the timing of the battles and the sequence of the battles with respect to the other battles. Again, I do think they are distinct battles because the enemies are distinct, the manner of defeat is distinct and the location of defeat is distinct. Since there are three battles I therefore think they can be organized in a sequence. Let's turn to the first battle in the sequence, Daniel 11:40-45. We covered this as we studied the Book of Daniel but I've continued to study this section and my conclusions have changed a bit. I've also given you a map that charts the military movements revealed in this section so you can use it to help you follow along. Verse 40, **At the end time the king of the South will collide with him, and the king of the North will storm against him with chariots, with horsemen and with many ships; and he will enter countries, overflow *them* and pass through.** ⁴¹**“He will also enter the Beautiful Land, and many *countries* will fall; but these will be rescued out of his hand: Edom, Moab and the foremost of the sons of Ammon.** ⁴²**“Then he will stretch out his hand against *other* countries, and the land of Egypt will not escape.** ⁴³**“But he will gain control over the hidden treasures of gold and silver and over all the precious things of Egypt; and Libyans and Ethiopians *will follow* at his heels.** ⁴⁴**“But rumors from the East and from the North will disturb him, and he will go forth with great wrath to destroy and annihilate**

many. ⁴⁵“He will pitch the tents of his royal pavilion between the seas and the beautiful Holy Mountain; yet he will come to his end, and no one will help him.

Alright, starting in verse 40 there are several questions we must answer.

First, who are the two kings? Who is **the king of the South** and who is **the king of the North**. There are two arguments that clearly indicate that these two kings are the king of Egypt and the king of Syria. *First*, in Daniel 11:4 Alexander the Great’s Greek Empire is predicted to break up and be parceled into four parts according to the four points of the compass. Since these things have already been historically fulfilled we know that in Daniel 11:5 the king of the South was the king of Egypt since that is where the Ptolemaic Greek kings ruled. And we also know in Daniel 11:6 that the king of the North was the king of Syria since that is where the Seleucid Greek kings ruled. So to be consistent with the passage, when we come to Daniel 11:40 the king of the South refers to the king of Egypt and the king of the North refers to the king of Syria. Any other suggestion is inconsistent with the earlier identification of these kings. As Fruchtenbaum said, “Throughout the Book of Daniel references are made to *the king of the south* and *the king of the north*.

Consistently, the former is applied to Egypt, including the reference in verse 40. The latter is consistently applied to Syria... *Second*, in Daniel 11:27 it says that the king of Egypt and the king of Syria will try to come into an alliance with one another but it will not succeed at that time because that is not the appointed time of the end. Because the failed attempt at an alliance in this verse was historically fulfilled between the king of Egypt, Ptolemy VI Philometer, and the king of Syria, Antiochus Epiphanes IV then we know that there is still a future alliance between a king of Egypt and a king of Syria that will succeed at the appointed time of the end. Thus a future time is appointed for Egypt and Syria to have a successful alliance, that time is stated to come “at the end.” Daniel 11:40 is the fulfillment of that end time alliance. **At the end time the king of the South will collide with him, and the king of the North will storm against him.** So for these two reasons the South is Egypt and the North is Syria. Therefore the Bible student should expect a future end-times alliance between Syria and Egypt.

The second question is who are they going to battle against? The **king of the South** is said to **collide with him** and the **king of the North** is said to

storm against him. Since Egypt and Syria are predicted in verse 27 to make an end-time alliance then they cannot be fighting one another. They are rather joining forces against a common enemy simply referred to as **him**. Who is the **him**? Since Daniel 11:36-39 has been describing the anti-Christ then contextually the **him** of verse 40 is the anti-Christ. Therefore, the Bible student should expect the king of Egypt and the king of Syria to make an alliance and go to battle against the anti-Christ.

Finally what is the timing of this battle? When should the Bible student expect this to happen? Verse 40 says **At the end time**. The Hebrew word for **At** can also mean **In** so this battle occurs either **At the end time** or **In the end time**. The Hebrew word for **end** essentially means “to sever,” i.e. to separate in two. The Jews separated history into two segments. The first segment was the present era; the second segment was the Messianic era. Since the Messianic era will have no end then **the end time** must refer to the end of the present era leading up to the Messianic era. And since this is a Jewish context, this is not the end times of the Church but the end times of Israel, also known as the 70th week of Daniel or the Tribulation.

Why will Egypt and Syria join forces against the anti-Christ during the Tribulation? We’re not told but perhaps two reasons may be highlighted, both from Daniel 9:27. First, the peace covenant. “And he,” the nearest antecedent being “the prince who is to come” who is of Roman origin, whom we know as the anti-Christ. “And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week.” This we know is the starting point of the 70th week of Daniel or the Tribulation; when the anti-Christ makes this covenant with the leadership of Israel. The verb “he will make a firm” refers not to the covenant itself but to the one making the covenant. He will be firm. The Hebrew verb means “be strong, mighty” and may mean that the anti-Christ will enforce the treaty upon the leadership of Israel. If this is the case then the leadership of Israel is not willingly entering the covenant but is being forced on them. If this is the case then an attack by Egypt and Syria upon Israel would be an attack upon the anti-Christ since Israel would essentially be an extension of himself. As Renald Showers suggests, “...he will consider any attack against Israel as an attack against himself and, therefore, will guarantee Israel’s national security...it appears the way Egypt and Syria will jointly attack the Antichrist during the seven year Tribulation will be by jointly attacking his...ally, Israel.” More particularly, this battle must occur during the 1st half

of the Tribulation since the anti-Christ will break his covenant with Israel at the mid-point by committing the abomination of desolation and will attack Israel himself. Second, Daniel 9:27 assumes the Jews will be given free reign to sacrifice on an altar in a rebuilt Jewish Temple. This will be abhorrent to Egypt and Syria since they will likely be Islamic states. Therefore, they will attack Israel in order to remove the rebuilt Jewish Temple. So for those two reasons Egypt and Syria will attack Israel during the first half of the Tribulation.

Why will anti-Christ protect Israel against this attack when he is planning on turning against Israel in the not very distant future? Because he must maintain his foothold in the Middle East. He cannot risk losing what will be the center of his empire only to try and regain it later. So he will protect Israel by holding up his end of the treaty and therefore maintain his foothold in the Middle East.

How will this battle occur? Evidently the Syrians will attack from the north, on land by crossing the Golan Heights as well as by ships on the Mediterranean sea. Egypt will attack from the south, on land by crossing the Sinai, as well as by ships in the Mediterranean Sea. The kind of military attack utilized will be a pincer movement. Likely they will press in on Israel from her northern and southern flanks simultaneously and then try and get behind her east side as well as having ships on the west side in the Mediterranean. The ultimate strategy will be to totally surround them. Verse 41 indicates that the anti-Christ will not be in the land at the time of the attack and so he will have to bring his military forces from outside. The flow of the text starting in verse 40 indicates that he will start in the north by invading Syria and perhaps Lebanon and northern Jordan. The verse says, **he will enter countries, overflow them and pass through.** To **overflow** is a Hebrew word for a water catastrophe and indicates total destruction. To **pass through** in the Hebrew means that he will not stay in the countries he totally destroys but will keep on advancing. In verse 41 he will advance south into the **Beautiful Land** which is clearly the land of Israel and his main purpose there is not to attack Israel but the text says **and many will fall;** *countries* is not in the original text, I take it he is defeating the Syrian and Egyptian armies who have attacked Israel. Then in verse 42 he will continue to advance his armies south into other countries, perhaps Saudi Arabia, but most prominently **Egypt.** Egypt will be retreating from their defeat in the

land of Israel and he will pursue them and chop them down. So the result of the battle is the anti-Christ will have successfully defended Israel against Egypt and Syria.

What about the weapons used? Daniel 11:40 says **chariots, horses and ships**. Are these idioms for more modern advanced weaponry or literal chariots, horses and ships? If this battle occurs in the first half of the Tribulation then it is completely feasible that these are literal **chariots, horses and ships**. If you understand that the first seal of Rev 6 is describing world disarmament then a time is coming when all modern advanced weaponry will be given up and destroyed. And maybe 1 Thess 5 fits in here where the world is saying, "peace and safety," perhaps that peace and safety is due to world disarmament. But then the text says when they are saying that then sudden destruction will come upon them and they shall not escape. So if all modern advanced weaponry is destroyed then ancient weapons like chariots and horses will have to be employed in combat. So I take **chariots, horses and ships** as literal **chariots, horses and ships**.

Verse 43, having defeated Syria and Egypt the anti-Christ **will gain control over the hidden treasures of gold and silver and over all the precious things of Egypt**; he will take over Egypt and add it to his ever-expanding empire, he will take control of all the valuables of Egypt such that they will be at his disposal for funding his military machine in his attempt to take over the world. At the end of verse 43 he heads west toward **Libya** and south toward **Ethiopia**. These it is said, they **will follow at his heels**. Libya we all know as **Libya**, it's on the western border of Egypt, it's also dominated by Sunni Islam and anti-Semitic. Then you see **Ethiopia** but the Hebrew translated **Ethiopia** is misleading because it is the Hebrew *Cush* and Cush is the nation that borders Egypt on the South. Since that nation is Sudan then the text should read **Libya and Sudan** not Ethiopia. So **Libya and Sudan will follow at his heels**. And the expression **follow at his heels** means that he will intend to attack and conquer these nations in his quest for global dominion but verse 44 indicates that when he reaches these nations at the borders of Egypt he will be forced to turn around and not enter to conquer them at that time. Thus they will be **at his heels**, left behind him due to the disturbing rumors of verse 44. But take note of **Libya and Sudan** because they are two nations that are involved in the Ezekiel 38-39 battle which is the next conflict and I think they get involved in that conflict because they

know very well that they were next on the anti-Christ's hit list, so they are going to join forces against the anti-Christ and Israel in the next battle we look at. But for now he hears rumors from the east and from the north.

Verse 44, **But rumors from the East and from the North will disturb him, and he will go forth with great wrath to destroy and annihilate many.** So these rumors cause his military progress to come to a halt and this sets in motion the next battle against Jerusalem which I take as the battle of Gog and Magog described in Ezekiel 38-39. So in a way the first battle for Jerusalem feeds into the second battle for Jerusalem. While the anti-Christ is down south conquering Egypt, militaries from the East and the North are preparing to take advantage of his absence from Jerusalem and take it by force. Since the anti-Christ is still keeping his covenant with Israel and it is to be the center of his kingdom then he has to return to Jerusalem at this time.

Now **East** of Jerusalem is Iran and **North** of Jerusalem is Russia, those are two major enemies of Israel, both are anti-Semitic; Iran is Islamic, Russia is Atheistic but becoming much more Islamic as we speak. They've been working together for years. It's not strange that they would make an alliance and attack Israel. So now that the anti-Christ has defeated Egypt and Syria we have rumors of the more distant enemies of Russia and Iran planning to invade Israel in the second battle for Jerusalem. And next week we'll start looking at that battle. It's apparent in verse 44 that he intends to **go forth with great wrath to destroy and annihilate** them. But as we'll see in Ezekiel 38 and 39, when he gets there they've already been supernaturally destroyed by God. So since his enemies are defeated then that opens up the entire Middle East to him. He will have a free hand to do whatever he wants. And I take it verse 45 brings us to the mid-point of the Tribulation when **He will pitch the tents of his royal pavilion between the seas and the beautiful Holy Mountain.** That's his military tents. Then he'll turn against the Jews.

But the main idea tonight is that the Egypt/Syria battle against Israel will occur early in the first half of the Tribulation, then on the heels of that battle the Russia/Iran battle against Israel will follow, then you come to the mid-point. So both the Daniel 11 battle and the Ezekiel 38-39 battle occur in the first half of the Tribulation.

In summary, I've broken down this battle into five stages on your handout. After the anti-Christ forces a seven year peace treaty on Israel and is somewhere outside the land of Israel, stage 1; Egypt and Syria will attack Israel simultaneously in a pincer movement, Egypt from the south and Syria from the north. Stage 2; because the anti-Christ has promised to protect Israel for seven years he will defend Israel. In doing so he will invade Syria from and likely conquer Lebanon and northern Jordan as well. Stage 3, the anti-Christ will enter Israel and defeat the Syrian and Egyptian forces in the land. Stage 4, anti-Christ will conquer other countries but in particular Egypt extending his kingdom to the western and southern borders of Egypt with intention to conquer Libya and Sudan. But stage 5, anti-Christ will be disturbed by rumors from Russia and Iran forcing him to return to Jerusalem. When he arrives he will find they have already been supernaturally defeated so he will set up his royal military tents. And with all his enemies removed he will then have a free hand to do whatever he wants in the Middle East and he will start his persecution against the Jews.

So with the current geopolitical changes in both Egypt and Syria, will the strong possibility of an Islamic state in both countries set the stage for this first battle against Israel? Only time will tell but as Walvoord always noted, when God takes a step forward He typically does not take a step back. If so then this battle would solve the first stage of God's answer to the growing Islamic problem in the Middle East.

ⁱ <http://aclj.org/israel/stop-president-obama-anti-israel-nomination>

ⁱⁱ Randall Price, *The Temple and Bible Prophecy*, p 452.

ⁱⁱⁱ Dwight Pentecost, *Things to Come*, p 344.

^{iv} Arnold Fruchtenbaum, *The Footsteps of the Messiah*, 118.

[Back To The Top](#)

Copyright (c) Fredericksburg Bible Church 2013