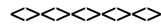


# CHARIOTS AND HORSES

– Part One –

*Some trust in chariots, and some in horses:  
but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.*

– Psalm 20: 7 –



All Scripture citations are to the KJV, unless noted otherwise.

**ISRAEL'S WAR IN** the Gaza Strip enters its fourth month (January 2024). With the cautious approval and armed support of the United States, the operation has to date killed tens of thousands of civilians in that confined territory, drawing opprobrium from large swathes of the international community.

Two articles posted previously on this website [*'Jacob's Trouble'* [Part One](#) and [Part Two](#)] set forth the outline of the conflict, along with a potted history of Israel's formal accession to the Holy Land in 1948, an event which, at the time, drew widespread admiration from the Western world. Feeling guilty over the holocaust many nations applauded that event as justice rendered for the sufferings of the Jewish people during the Second World War.

For the Palestinians who already inhabited the land, the 'nakba' (catastrophe), was viewed by them as a hijacking by hordes of Jewish settlers, displacing as it did thousands of native residents from home and hearth, cementing hatred between Palestinians and Jews, a suppurating wound that has been turning gangrenous for decades. The irruption of Hamas forces into Israel's suburbs on October 7 prompted an angry, blistering retaliation from Tel-Aviv, in part because Israel had let down its guard that fateful morning; the Netanyahu government felt humiliated, Israel's vaunted security defences having been breached.

Decrying their attackers as vermin, the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) have vowed to extirpate Hamas as an organisation and as individuals from all of Gaza, a pledge described by one commentator as an 'empty slogan'. Estimated to comprise 30,000 fighters, many squirrelled away deep below the ground in the warren of tunnels that fan out across the Strip, Hamas is an ideology, with supporters across the Arab region, not confined merely to a 25 x 5-mile sliver of land to which the IDF is laying waste. No doubt Hamas is comprised of deeply unpleasant people, who wish to see the state of Israel obliterated. As of writing, there is no truce on the horizon. The parties are implacably hostile to each other; a fight to the death is in view.

## **Trade and the World Economy**

The various Arab powers in the Middle East would prefer the Israel 'problem' be resolved, short of regional war. The present conflict – not yet full-blown – is bad for the oil business and their economies. Houthi attacks on ships plying the Red Sea, inward and outward bound for Israeli ports, exacerbate the situation. The 'just in time' delivery of components to far-flung manufacturers will be severely disrupted, as ships are forced to extend their journey and sail around Southern Africa rather than through the Suez Canal.

## **The Role of the United States**

Long a guardian of and benefactor to Israel, the U.S. seeks to protect its ward from assault by

neighbouring countries. U.S. Secretary of State, Antony Blinken shuttles between Arab capitals, trying to persuade them to tamp down their rhetoric against Israel. He has had little success. To compound the problem, raising the spectre of a wider war, Iran is in America's sights. (The country has been a burr in U.S. foreign policy as far back as 1979, when the American embassy in Tehran was captured by Iranian revolutionaries.)

To those paying attention to recent geopolitical developments (e.g., BRICS), the U.S. faces the widening perception abroad that it is a fading power, with few throws of the imperial dice left. Its war against Russia *via* Ukraine has exposed its unpreparedness for combat with a peer power. Russian forces have decimated Ukraine's army and air force, destroyed large numbers of heavy weapons supplied by the U.S. and Europe under the NATO umbrella, and effectively demilitarised both Ukraine and the western allies, the latter now short of ammo to donate to Kyiv. The Biden administration is loth to admit defeat or to engage in peace talks with President Putin; better, it reasons, to force Ukraine – now on its third army – into a static defence. Undermanned and under-equipped, the Ukrainian forces are being slaughtered in their trenches by the thousands. For the U.S., the conflict in Israel is a distraction from the Ukraine debacle, but an opportunity to demonstrate its naval power in the Middle East.

### **Israel's Return**

The promised return to their ancient land was by the early 1900s an article of (Jewish and Christian) faith, understood by men such as Pastor Charles T. Russell, General Edmund Allenby, Major General Orde Wingate, and others. Prophecy seemed to be moving in one direction – in favour of the Jewish people. Although the Holocaust of the Second World War seemed to shatter that expectation, it effectively guaranteed Israel's installation into the world community: the outpouring of sympathy for the Jewish people – tinged with guilt – spurred the important powers, under the authority of the U.N., to grant the Jewish people a national home. And so Israel came into being on 14 May 1948.

### **Today's Israel A Bane, Not A Blessing**

'The Jerusalem which now is . . . is in bondage with her children'. So writes the Apostle Paul in Gal. 4: 25 of the city standing for the nation. But the Israel 'which is now' wears a Gentile disguise, with a similar capacity for cruelty as its bellicose Western allies. Israel's present strategy to defeat Gaza comes under their military operation, *The Gospel*, a twisted, cynical allusion to the good news of the kingdom heralded by Jesus (Luke 4: 43, *NIV*). Israel's version is a plan for assault, deploying Artificial Intelligence to locate targets to strike.

**Note:** the Jewish state is the 10th largest exporter of weapons in the world, many of them refined by testing them on Palestinian territory; its support of [apartheid](#) in S. Africa during that country's persecution of its black population; its involvement in the 1960s genocide of the native population of [Guatemala](#). For further reading see *The Palestine Laboratory: How Israel Exports the Technology of Occupation Around the World*, by Antony Loewenstein.

The Israel that 'now is' is unmoved by the exhortations of Lev. 19: 34:

The stranger [foreigner] who dwells among you shall be to you *as one born among you, and you shall love him as yourself*; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I *am* the LORD your God.

Josh. 8: 33-35:

And all Israel, and their elders, and officers, and their judges, stood on this side the ark and on that side before the priests the Levites, which bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD, as well the stranger, *as he that was born among them*; half of them over against mount Gerizim, and half of them over against mount Ebal; as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded before, that they should bless the people of Israel. And afterward he read all the words of the law, the blessings and cursings, according to all that is written in the book of the law. There was not a word of all that Moses commanded, which Joshua read not before all the congregation of Israel, with the women, and the little ones, and the strangers that were conversant [familiar] among them.

The persecution and near-genocide of the Jewish people by Nazi Germany caused many who survived the horror of the camps to renounce their belief in a benevolent God, though most continued to identify themselves by their ethnicity, as did their children. Today's Israel lacks the wherewithal to fulfil its true destiny, but its day will come. Today's Israel is a power that tilts more west than east; it is *goyim* in its commercial and military pursuits. Its cleverness may have brought the nation much prosperity, but it has paid for its riches at the cost of a more godly future.

The distinction between 'Zionists' and 'Jews' – the former bad, the latter 'okay' – now popular with the Press, is a distinction without a difference. Zionism, a term fostered in the era of the British Empire, described most of the Jews who aspired to return to their ancient homeland. (The compromise offer made by the British government to move the Jewish people *en masse* to Uganda was rejected – as will the plan now under consideration by Israel to re-locate two million Palestinians to tent cities in the Sinai Peninsula.)

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This website and its supporters have long championed Israel, in line with the beliefs of the Bible Students movement and other Christian groups. Despite the disappointment with the turn of affairs, we remain convinced that the return of the Jews to their Promised Land was prophetically sound and, indeed, demonstrated by the facts. At length, after Israel receives '[an heart of flesh](#)', one of compassion, in place of its stony heart, the nation, purified by God, will prove to be a net benefit to the whole world, as promised to Abraham (Gen. 12: 1-3).

The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come ye, and let us walk in the light of the LORD. – *Isa. 2: 1-5*

*To be continued*

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