

I. LEARNING FROM THE PAST

- A. In 79 AD, Pompeii sat near a volcano called Mount Vesuvius. Before the historical eruption, there were clear warnings including earthquakes, strange gases, and unusual behavior in animals. But people ignored the signs. Life felt normal, Business went on. Then suddenly, the volcano erupted. Within hours, an estimated 4-6 thousand people died, many found frozen in place. Those who died were living life as usual, completely unprepared before being hit with sudden tragedy.
- B. This story mirrors the condition of our world today. There is a growing indifference and ignorance towards some of the current global events Jesus spoke about in the gospels that would unfold before His return.
- C. When it comes to the global events that are happening today, there are two typical responses in the church. 1) people remain indifferent 2) people misinterpret these events and try to fit everything into a specific bible prophecy.
- D. Jesus gave us a warning to heed:
 1. ***34 "But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. 35 For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. 36 Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."-Lk 21:34-36***

II. CONTEXT OF REVELATION 12

1. I believe that Revelation 12 gives us some spiritual insight to why this current conflict is happening in the middle east.
- B. Revelation 12 pulls back the veil, revealing that behind the course of human history lies an ancient, ongoing intense spiritual conflict driven by Satan's past, present, and future deep hostility toward God, His hatred for God's plan for His chosen people Israel, Jesus, and the proclamation of the gospel by the church.

1. ***Revelation 12 doesn't just show what is happening but why its happening***

III. READ REV 12:7-13

1. ***7 And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, 8 but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. 9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.10 Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. 11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. 12 Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time." 13 Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child.***

IV. OUR READING REVEALS A PROFOUND SPIRITUAL TRUTH

A. Wars including the present U.S., Israel, and Iran conflict do not begin on physical battlefields, they originate in the unseen realm and take root in the hearts of men. While conflicts are conceived in the spirit, they are ultimately confronted and overcome through intercession by a spiritually awakened church.

1. ***12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. -Eph 6:12***
2. ***4 Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? 2 You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. -James 4:1-2***

- B. Humanity's fallen nature is inclined toward greed, power, lust, fear, and control, continually striving for a world apart from God's ways, an impulse that inevitably leads to conflict with one another.

V. A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE ABOUT THE US, ISRAEL, IRAN WAR

A. INTERCESSORY PRAYER INITIATES SPIRITUAL CONFLICT

1. The spiritual war that broke out in heaven in Revelation 12 was initiated by an end time global powerful prayer and worship movement that will be on the earth.
 - a) ***8 Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9 And they sang a new song- Rev 5:8***
 - b) ***4 And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand. 5 Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth. And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake. -Rev 8:4-5***
2. The fastest growing church in the world is in Iran with 8 million believers living under persecution engaging in spiritual conflict.
3. The current war was triggered by the May 2023 global fast
 - a) An estimated 7–8 million believers around the world participated in a 21-day fast from May 7–28 for Israel culminating in a global communion gathering in Jerusalem on Pentecost, May 28, 2023.

(1) The same year October 7th happened opening the door into 3yrs of middle east conflict.

B. THE WAR IS A BIRTH PANG SPOKEN BY JESUS

1. Jesus said that one of the birth pangs would be wars and rumors of wars. This will increase in number and intensity before Jesus returns.(Mt 24:6)

C. THE GENESIS 12:3 PRINCIPLE

1. I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed-Gen 12:3

- a) I believe God is judging the Iranian regime for being the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism including being the mastermind of October 7th and global antisemitism.

D. GOVERNMENTS ARE GOD'S MINISTERS

1. Imperfect Governments are established by God to serve God's divine purposes and He will use them to maintain order and restrain evil in the world.

- a) **3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. 4 For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.-Rom 13:3-4**

E. THIS WAR IS SETTING THE STAGE FOR BIBLE PROPHECY

- a) The removal of the Iranian regime can potentially position the middle east for the first time in years for peace, setting up the emergence of the Harlot Babylon, and the Ezekiel 38 war. (see Ezekiel 38 and Israel dwelling in peace and safety)

F. GOD IS BREAKING INTO IRAN WITH THE GOSPEL

- a) God loves the Iranian people and is responding to their cry for freedom by removing the oppressors.

(1) For I will cause Elam (Iran) to be dismayed before their enemies And before those who seek their life. I will bring disaster upon them, My fierce anger,' says the LORD; And I will send the sword after them Until I have consumed them. 38 I will set My throne in Elam, And

***will destroy from there the king and the princes,' says
the LORD. -Jer 49:37-38***

VI. FIVE WAYS WE SHOULD RESPONSE TO THIS WAR?

1. PRAY FOR PEACE
 - a) Over all the nations involved especially for the body of Christ in Israel and Iran.
2. DONT TRY TO FIT THIS WAR INTO ONE SPECIFIC BIBLE PROPHECY
3. DISCERN THE TIMES BUT AVOID SPECULATION
4. TRUST IN GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE NATIONS
5. LOOK UP
 - a) ***And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh-Lk 21:28***