

# **THIS IS THAT!**

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**One New man Asia**

These past few days have been very eventful, to say the least, with President Trump's declaration of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel it seems that he has opened the proverbial Pandora's Box. Reaction throughout the world has been mixed; from criticizing him for destroying the peace process to violent protests in Gaza and Samaria (West Bank). In Israel too reactions have been mixed, many are rejoicing for what they see as America finally making an official statement of the fact while some disagreeing and saying that this will bring more problems for Israel.

As I pondered this issue, the words of Peter in Acts 2 reverberate in my spirit. After the Holy Spirit had filled the hundred and twenty disciples in the upper room they ran out to the Temple steps and a crowd gathered. The people questioned what this unusual occurrence meant. While some mocked and said the disciples were drunk, Peter stood up and said "This is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel" (Acts 2:16 KJV). He pointed to the prophecy of Joel in Joel 2:28-32 declaring that the prophecy spoken by the prophet almost a thousand years before was being fulfilled.

Could it be that what is happening today is also a fulfilment of Biblical prophecy? Let me explain why I believe it is.

## **The Timing**

God has an impeccable sense of timing but unless we understand His way of counting time we will miss it and see such historic events as happening randomly, but He is not a "random" God, He is a God of order.

President's Trump's declaration is not really new, recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital has been the policy of the US government for many years and other presidents including Clinton, Bush and Obama have spoken about it yet they never incited such reactions as did President Trump's announcement. So Trump was actually following US government policy that was already in place for years except that this time he plans to follow it with action by moving the US embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.



The date when that the declaration was made was Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> of December 2017. On the Jewish calendar that date was 17<sup>th</sup> of Kislev. Seventy years ago, on the 17<sup>th</sup> of Kislev (27 November 1947) the United Nations voted for the partition of Palestine and gave the Jews a homeland in what is their ancient home. In Bible numerology seven is the number of completion and any multiple of that number has the same implication. So a complete cycle of time has passed since the Jewish people were given a homeland.

In the book of Leviticus chapter 25, God gives instructions for the year of jubilee. Every 50 years the land was to be returned to its original owners. In 1917, the British government issued the Balfour declaration giving the Jews unlimited right of return to what was then called Palestine, this set the ball rolling for the establishment of the modern state of Israel in 1947 – 1948. Fifty years later in 1967, Israel had to fight for their lives in the Six Day War, the result was that Israel took control of Jerusalem and for the first time in nearly two thousand years the city was once again controlled by the Jews.

Fifty years after that is 2017, and whilst Jerusalem has always been a disputed city, Trump's declaration seems to seal it as Israel's capital and its ownership by the Jewish people.

### **The Man**

Like many people I wondered whether God really needed a man, whether Trump or anyone else for that matter, to recognize and declare Jerusalem as the capital of Israel? Can God not do it himself? He is sovereign after all. But then I looked at the scriptures and saw how God has always worked with man to accomplish His purposes, also the people He chose were usually flawed.

He chose Abraham and Sarah to bring forth the nation of Israel and they have become the spiritual parents of all believers in Christ. (Isaiah 51:1-2, Galatians 3:29). They are known as the parents of faith yet, Sarah did not believe when God said she would get pregnant and laughed. Abraham lied, saying that Sarah was his sister



instead of his wife. And because they were impatient with God, Sarah told Abraham to have a child with her servant, Hagar.

Moses, the man chosen to lead the Israelites out of Egypt was so brave that he needed Aaron to go with him and be his mouthpiece. He also failed to circumcise his son, which almost led to the Lord taking his life. He was only saved by his wife's quick action of circumcising their son. When God instructed him to speak to the rock to provide water for the Israelites, he struck the rock in his anger, which led to him being disallowed from entering the Promised Land.

We could go on and speak about David, Solomon and many others in the Bible.

We also see in the Bible that God uses people who do not follow him to accomplish His purposes in the world. Let's take Pharaoh for instance, In Romans 9:17 Paul quotes Exodus 9:16 and says"

*For the Scripture says to the Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth." NKJV*

God declares that it was He who raised Pharaoh so that His purpose for Israel could be fulfilled.

When Israel went astray God used their enemies as His instruments to discipline them. In Joel 1:15 God speaks about the coming destruction of the land by the Assyrians and calls that event "the Day of the Lord", indicating that it was His will.

He also used King Cyrus of Persia, not a person one would consider a godly man by any stretch of the imagination, to release the Israelites from captivity to return to the land and rebuild the temple (Isaiah 44:28 – 45:1).

As a final example let's look at the Apostles, the people God used to bring the gospel to the world. Peter denied Jesus three times, Thomas doubted him, and Paul persecuted the church.



The fact is that God uses flawed human beings to accomplish His will in the earth. So, can he not use a man like Trump, ungodly in many ways, brash and politically incorrect to accomplish His purposes? Of course He can.

## **The Prophecy**

So which prophecy is now being fulfilled? It is that of Zechariah.

*Zechariah 12:3 And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it. NKJV*

Israel, and particularly Jerusalem, has become somewhat of a burden on the world's stage. Jewish claims to this city, which is their ancient capital, is viewed as a stumbling block to Middle-east peace. Because of this the nations, particularly the United Nations, which represents practically all the nations of the world, has been trying to disconnect the Jewish people from Jerusalem.

On October 18, 2016, UNESCO, (United Nations Education, Science and Culture Organization) released a resolution saying that the Jewish people have no historical connection with the Temple Mount and East Jerusalem. This was done with total disregard to historical and archaeological evidence proving the Jewishness of the city. Then on December 23rd, just two months later, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 2334 declaring Israeli settlements in East Jerusalem to be illegal.

On November 27 2017, the Security Council passed another resolution declaring that Israel has no legal right to Jerusalem and any laws passed by the Israeli government regarding Jerusalem were null and void. The nations have been trying to remove Jerusalem from the hands of the Jews to the Palestinians. They are trying to move a very heavy stone.

Soon after President Trump announced the recognition of Jerusalem, the Malaysian Defence Minister said that they were ready to send their army to Jerusalem. President Erdogan of Turkey is preparing to bring the issue to the Organisation of



Islamic Countries presumably to ask for a declaration of war against Israel. God's warning to these nations is that; they will be destroyed.

Whilst many Christians may rejoice at the thought of end-time prophecies being fulfilled, let me at the same time caution us. When God keeps His Word to destroy those nations there will be repercussions; it will bring about the collapse of the world's economy. This would possibly be the third seal of Revelation (Revelation 6:5-6) being broken. Doubtless that God can and will preserve His people through those times just as He did in Egypt during the plagues. Still we will not be totally unaffected. We must prepare ourselves mentally and spiritually otherwise we will stumble in our faith and fall away from Christ.

This may seem very dark news but there is light at the end of the tunnel. In verse 10 of Zechariah 12, it says that at that time, when Israel faces attack from their enemies, God will cause them to cry out to him and they will look at Him, whom they pierced and mourn. This means they will repent; this will be a national repentance which will lead to national revival. So as the book of Romans says "all Israel will be saved" (Romans 11:26). This in turn will lead to world-wide revival:

*Romans 11:15 For if their being cast away is the reconciling of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? NKJV*

So even though things are going to get dark, there is hope, and we need to look up to God because our redemption is coming soon.

