

## Jerusalem is in the news like a heavy stone

There is talk in the United States of America of moving their embassy in Israel to Jerusalem, which is very controversial as most countries don't recognize this as Israel's capital. Meanwhile France and other nations warned of *serious consequences* if this should be done at the Paris peace conference in January 2017.

These events should be no surprise to Bible students, because they are one of the signs of the end of the world as we know it, and the return of Jesus Christ to the earth.

*“Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples...”* God said to the prophet Zechariah, and *“I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples”* – Zechariah 12.2,3. A few verses later in this prophesy we learn that *“they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son”*, which heralds the return of Jesus back to the earth.

Indeed, a little further in the same prophecy it tells Bible readers that *“in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, from east to west, making a very large valley.”* – Zechariah 14.4.

What is the catalyst for these things?

The context of this and similar prophecies in the Bible is countries going to war against Israel and specifically targeting Jerusalem. We may ask ourselves, what is next after the terrible war and events in Syria? *“I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem”* says God in the same context, in Zechariah 14.2.

The Bible is not silent elsewhere about this momentous event, for in the prophecy of Ezekiel 38.8-9 it says of these nations, *“in the latter years you will come into the land of those brought back from the sword and gathered from many people on the mountains of Israel, which had long been desolate; they were brought out of the nations, and now all of them dwell safely. You will ascend, coming like a storm, covering the land like a cloud, you and all your troops and many peoples with you.”* But God will make Jerusalem not the capital of Israel, but the capital of the world, led not by presidents and prime ministers of this world, but by Jesus Christ, who was born to be King.

Yes, the Bible is in the news today. Huge changes are happening in the world, with more to come. Do we need to be afraid?

No!

Just as certainly as the Bible correctly predicted the return of the Jews to Israel after many years of exile, so the Bible is right about events in the last times, including the coming of Jesus Christ again to the earth.

Do we need to be afraid of national and world events? We can trust in God, as the Psalmist David said in Psalm 18.2-3, *“The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised; So shall I be saved from my enemies.”*

Do you want to be part of God’s plan? Read the Bible, and talk to others about it. If you need help, please don’t hesitate to ask, as you will find contact information elsewhere on this web site.

*“Then those who feared the Lord spoke to one another, and the Lord listened and heard them; so a book of remembrance was written before Him. For those who fear the Lord And who meditate on His name. “They shall be Mine,” says the Lord of hosts, “On the day that I make them My jewels. And I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him.””* – Malachi 3.16-17.