

No Peace in the Middle East

Israel and the Palestinians were again in the news in July, 2014 after fighting in the Gaza Strip erupted after killings on the West Bank. What will the outcome of all this be? Will the United States broker a lasting peace? Again and again there has been failure by Israel and the surrounding nations to reach a lasting agreement which isn't breached.

What does the Bible have to say about this? *"The Lord will give strength unto his people; the Lord will bless his people with peace." Psalm 29.11.*

Is the Bible wrong? Will unrest, violence, war, enmity and oppression last forever? No! There is a day coming when the land will suffer no more killings and strife. The Bible says that this will happen when Jesus Christ returns to the earth from heaven. *"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...neither shall they learn war any more." Isaiah 2:4.*

For centuries, men have tried to end wars and fighting, but have never been successful. Old enemies such as Israel and the Palestinians continue to do battle and never trusting one another. But of Jesus Christ, the Bible says, *"Of the increase of his government and peace, there shall be no end." Isaiah 9:7.*

The rockets fired on Israel and the shelling of the Gaza strip will never be permanently silenced by human mediation. Many people are shocked and saddened that the two warring sides can never put down their arms, resulting in so much suffering. *"There is no peace, saith the Lord, unto the wicked." Isaiah 48:22.* However the Bible clearly predicts that the days of suffering will come to an end.

It will be like the day when Jesus slept in a boat while his disciples were with him in a ship. A storm arose. *"He arose, and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm." Matthew 4:39.* Even so, Jesus will bring peace to the earth where there is war.