



# WHO WILL BECOME THE LEADER OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND ULTIMATELY THE WORLD?



By Conrad Barrett



Two leaders emerge in the Bible as being end-time personalities. The first one becomes the head of ten nations and captures world-wide attention. The second one becomes the leader of the entire world. The Middle East is directly affected by the coming of both personalities. The first leader is bad and will come to an abrupt end. The second leader will rule the world forever. He is good and “of His kingdom there will be no end.” (Isaiah 9:7)

A brief description of coming events as well as places and other things are included, herein, which will help the student of the Bible understand the influence of these two powerful personalities.

No nation located within the geography of Middle Eastern peoples has a greater influence throughout the world than the nation of Israel. Located with borders joining Lebanon and Syria on the north, Egypt on the south, Jordan on the east and the Mediterranean Sea on the west, this small piece of real estate and its people have attracted worldwide attention since 1948. The land size of Israel is basically somewhat larger than the U. S. state of Maryland. It’s not the land size of 10,840 square miles nor its natural resources that are so impressive. It is something much more significant. Both Israel and their Middle Eastern neighbors seem to be targeted as being among the first to be overwhelmed under the influence of satanic power.

The population of Israel is unique. Mostly Arabs and Jews make up the majority of the citizens and residents. Approximately five million Jews call Israel their home. Jews are called “Jews” because of their relationship to Judah and their religion. Other definitions apply, too. The Jewish people, however, are descendants of Israel (Jacob) in the Bible. Actually, they are Israelis since many may be descendants from different tribes other than Judah. Right or wrong, language has a way of becoming elastic and sometimes changes identities. In this brochure Israel refers to both the country and the people.

Israel is different for many reasons, but the God-effect has unparalleled importance on this subject. Like it or not, the Bible has singled out the people of Israel as being special and who for centuries have been destined to be major players in the leadership of the world. In general, it started with Abraham in Ur of Chaldees. According to the Bible, God led him out of Ur and into the land of what we now call the state of Israel. The Bible records that God gave that land to Abraham and his descendants forever. Because of disobedience to God and a propensity to go into backsliding, Israel’s descendants have been uprooted many times. Other people moved into the area and replaced the people whom God chose to populate that real estate, thus scattering the Israelis to various parts of the world. They have survived as a unique and special people, even though many have had to live and die in different parts of the earth.

Israel seems to be at center stage of unfolding end-time events. It is there that the last battles of earth will be fought and even now the eyes of the world seem to be skewed more toward Israel

than any other part of the world. It is Israel who becomes the object of the wrath of Satan, the Antichrist and the false religious system. At that particular time those sinister powers seem to be in full control of the world. But, only for a limited time will they be permitted to prevail upon humanity and their forces will come to a sudden and abrupt end. During their term of power they will heap much misery upon their subjects. They are identified in scripture as being conquerors of the ten nations in the Middle Eastern part of the world and at the very end of their seven-year rule extend their power to include all nations. This concluding event is called Armageddon.

The Bible is specific in describing the “Tribulation Period” which will directly affect Israel. In fact it records it as being a time like has never been before nor ever will be again. (Daniel 12:1) It will be a time of great distress of nations. It will produce the worst behavior in Satan as well as in mankind. When we read of the cruelties imposed upon the helpless in times past, and know such atrocities have been excessive, both in gravity and execution, such things will be mild when compared to the terrible impositions that are forthcoming.

A time of tension and great sorrow is detailed in the books of Daniel and Revelation. Knowing he has only seven years to disrupt civilization and do indescribably great damages, Satan and his “unholy trinity” must work hard to reach their final objectives.

Ten nations is the number stated as being under the direct control of the antichrist and it is interesting to note that he seemingly comes from a “nobody” status and in war is able to conquer three nations. Seven other nations join the ranks of the three which give the antichrist his total end-time alliance of ten. These nations seem to be located in the Middle East arena of nations. For several reasons the Middle East is important. Human beings were first created there. Jesus was born, lived, died and rose again there. The church began there and most of the prophets did their prophesying there. It is one of the most popular places on earth even though much blood has been shed in that area of the world.

During the darkest days of the Tribulation period when the three satanic personalities seem to be in full control of events and the Middle Eastern nations, it should be understood that Divine limitation has been put upon their geographical powers. Their leadership and sinister government is soon to fall. Seeming silence in heaven should not be misunderstood nor interpreted as being a sign of God’s weakness. God is both watching and waiting. His hour is soon to come and when it does, both heaven and earth will be changed forever.

The prophetic theme of the Bible gives us insight into many “end-time” events. Two are outstandingly striking as change comes to earth’s social, political, and religious structures. Each unfolds in timely fashion as world systems crumble and give way to different expressions of pressure during those stressful times. Jesus spoke of such change as being remarkably different and warned that the demeanor of His creation would alter trends as well as much human behavior forever.

Rising up from earth’s population, “a king of fierce countenance will emerge.” (Daniel 8:23) He is described as being the antichrist and will have almost magnetic influence. His ability will be strengthened as he is able to exploit an already staggering social structure. He will be assisted by direct influence from Satan, himself, who has at that time found himself evicted from the heavenlies forever. (Revelation 12:7) Looking in prophetic perspective three strong satanic personalities will be a major part of the “end-time” struggle. In a sense they comprise an unholy “trinity.” Namely, they are Satan, Antichrist and the false prophet. Together they will devastate nations and bring misery to all subjects of the earth. The false religious system will offer hollow promises which offer no relief to a hurting world. Neither Satan nor his followers ever provide genuine help. Always death, disappointment and sorrow are the result of such coercive behavior and end-time events will intensify such maladies.

In generalizing the categories in which Satan does his diabolical work, Jesus said, “Satan is a liar, a thief and a killer.” (John 10:10) Jesus, also, warned us about deception. Be very careful! Whatever influence of any diabolical nature which reaches to nations and earth’s people, Satan is the “engine” which drives the forces of the antichrist, the false religious system and all other

influences of evil. Actually, the antichrist and the false prophet and whatever they do, are personal extensions of Satan, himself, who will be soon removed from the heavenlies to the earth. His final purpose is futile. He tries in vain to thwart God's eternal plan. This, he can never do.

The second coming of Christ back to this earth, will correct all things which have drifted away from their point of origin. Jesus Christ is the final power to lead and direct this world and eternal events. When He comes, He will destroy all the powers and influence of Satan. In gist, Satan will be placed in the bottomless pit, the antichrist and the false prophet will be consigned to hell and the One we call Jesus will assume full control of all the nations of the world. Later Satan, himself, will be placed in Hell forever.

Leadership of planet earth is destined to change. It will be a new beginning for all of God's creation. It is then that the desert will blossom like the rose and true peace will fill all the earth. (Isaiah 6:10, 35:1) (Luke 2:14) Sin and wrong doing, like deception and lying, will be removed from the earth forever.

A special message given at the announcement of the birth of Jesus and sent by the angel of the Lord are these words: "peace on earth and goodwill toward men." (Luke 2:14) Only in the heart and soul of mankind have people realized such peace. It has been a divided world ever since the Garden of Eden and even the coming of Christ didn't fully change the social composition of the world. Permanent change is imminent, however, and is in the near future. It will be realized when government will be assumed by Christ, (Isaiah 9:6, 7) who will lead angels and people eternally.

Trouble and sorrow are predicted in the Bible, but they must give way to victory in Jesus. The student of the Bible knows, very well, that "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those that dwell therein." (Psalm 24:1)

Jesus Christ will become the final and absolute leader of the Middle East and the entire world. When He returns the second time He will destroy all the powers and influences of Satan.

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