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# Our Present Age

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## Israel Hits Back at Iran and Syria Is There Hope?

**WHEN IT COMES TO THIS LAST GENERATION WE NOW** live in, Scripture records that the continual conflicts between Israel and Syria and Israel's neighbors, will only escalate until Israel is compelled to sign a treaty with her neighbors.

The interpretation of the media on these conflicts, as well as most national and world events, has to do with who is in the right and who is in the wrong. Looking at world events, especially prophetic events, from the perspective of right and wrong and good guys and bad guys, can have us thinking that there can actually be peace in Israel and hope for the world's situation instead of focused on the work we are to accomplish as God's people

I know some have already turned me off with this last statement, but lend me your ear for a moment longer and I will briefly explain why I believe these three statements.

### Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem

Too many will quote Psalm 122:6 as evidence that peace will come to Jerusalem/Israel in our lifetime:

“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee.”

What is not taken into consideration is that Scripture is clear that peace will not come to Jerusalem in our present age. In our age there will be a seven year deceptive confirmation of peace with Israel. At this time Israel will indeed have peace for three and one half years and the temple will be rebuilt in Jerusalem. The next three and one half years will be a literal hell and global holocaust of Israel and all belonging to God.

However, this is not the “peace of Jerusalem” that we are praying for. The peace of Jerusalem is that eternal peace when all conflicts with her neighbors and God have ceased—for eternity. This peace does not come until after the great tribulation by the Antichrist, the revival of Israel during the tribulation, and the return of Christ after the tribulation.

Our praying for Israel's peace is equivalent to our praying for the salvation for our loved ones. Without her return to God, there will be no peace.

When Israel is accepted by God as the firstfruits of all who will enter His kingdom, then everyone else belonging to God will be accepted. Indeed, praying for the peace of Jerusalem is equivalent to praying for our own eternal peace.

### No Hope for the World's Situation

Let's focus on that word "hope" for a moment. Our present age can certainly be called the age of platitudes, false support, and pats on the head based on unrealistic optimism. Unrealistic optimism does not bring true, eternal hope.

As Christians, we seek to bring true hope through Christ. This hope is found in His teachings. His teachings are a forward looking toward a new world without suffering, pain, sorrows, sin, and all the grief the world hands down to us.

True hope is based on reality. As Christians, our reality as God's people and the promises He gives to us are yet unfulfilled until a future date when Christ returns.

In this context, there is no hope for the world's situation.

Matthew 24 is clear on this point. Here Jesus tells of the wars, false Christ's, violence, famines, diseases, earthquakes, and persecution that will take place. Instead of giving hope that these things will be taken away in this life, he tells us they will increase until they become so bad they are almost unbearable to deal with.

This is what is meant when He tells us these things are only "the beginning of sorrows," or as others translate it, "the beginning of birth pains" (Mat. 24:8). This gives the picture of the world situation growing worse with every generation, not better. There is no hope in the world's situation...our hope is in the world situation that will be given when Christ returns.

Our hope is not in what we presently experience, but in what will be given and experienced by us as the Apostle Paul states in Romans 8:18:

"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."

## The Work We Are to Accomplish

Since there is no hope in the world situation in our present age, what hope do we offer to those around us?

This is where Christ comes in. He is the hope of the world. He is the way out of the world's mess. He offers the truth of what is taking place. He will give life, peace, and comfort in the midst of all the hell (Joh. 14:6).

Christ does not take us out of the world and its mess. He gives to us peace and comfort in the midst of all the mess. Imagine having peace in the midst of the most terrible situation you might be in...here's how Jesus puts it:

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world gives, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (Joh. 14:27).

Jesus gives to us peace through the Holy Spirit . This peace allows us to go through extremely difficult situations without being overtaken or destroyed by them (Joh. 15:26,27; 2 Cor. 4:8-12).

This message of hope through Christ, and the comfort now given to us through the Holy Spirit, is the hope we have to offer to those around us.

Helping others to understand why the world is not getting better is our responsibility. We are the light and the salt that can inform and preserve others from the hell all around them. It is our responsibility to tell those around us about the hope found through Christ (Dan. 11:33; Rev. 10:10,11).

Do you have this hope? Believe the history recorded about Jesus in the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Stop doing what you know you shouldn't be doing. Receive God's Holy Spirit. Go tell the world the great things God has done for you.

Jesus—hope for the world!