

Article of the Month
February, 2017

Damascus, Syria

There is always a danger present when discussing things which have not yet happened. But students of the Bible have never shied away from prophetic passages just because of the uncertainties involved. The fact is, **“There hath not failed one word of all His good promise.”** (I Kings 8:56) Because of this, Bible students have a courage in delving into the unfulfilled parts of Scripture, knowing that whatever is yet unfulfilled will, indeed, come to pass.

There is a passage written by the prophet Isaiah which seems never to have had a fulfillment. It has to do with the city of Damascus — a city which is among the oldest cities in the world, and a city which, as far as we can determine, has never ceased from existing during its long history.

Damascus, Syria, of course, is prominent in the news of our day. The ravages on the political and social fabric of Syria have the entire world concerned. We can only have our hearts go out in sympathy to the people of that land who are suffering dramatically. Because Syria is a part of the “Middle East” — that part of the world which is not only unstable, but which directly affects the fortunes of God’s people of Israel — we are all the more justified in focusing on the prophecies of the region.

While there is a multi-verse context to the prophecy in Isaiah, we will focus only on the one most poignant verse. We all will do well to watch to see if its fulfillment is in our near future.

Isaiah’s words are found in Chapter 17, Verse 1 (King James version):

*The burden of Damascus.
Behold, Damascus is taken away from being a city,
and it shall be a ruinous heap.*

The New American Standard translation states it in different, but similar words:

*The oracle concerning Damascus.
Behold, Damascus is about to be removed from
being a city. And it will become a fallen ruin.*

Return to Article of the Month Index

Regardless of translation, the message is clear. While there seems no historical record of such an event having occurred in the past, the certainty of the fulfillment of prophecy is a hallmark of those who trust the Holy Word. So, we are not being prophets or predictors, but we are only trusting that this text must at some time have its fulfillment. The current events in Syria and the involvement of other nations and terrorist movements there seem very much to warrant our close scrutiny at this time in order to see how the Bible may unfold before our very eyes.

The nation of Israel has come back into existence in modern times. It has done so because God has returned the Jewish people to that land in order to set up in their midst the earthly or visible part of His Kingdom for which we have so long prayed. Israel will yet experience some trying times, but its permanent existence and ultimate glory among the nations is assured. Thus, anything affecting Israel and its environs is of vital concern to students of prophecy.

Watch with us to see if Isaiah 17 is about to see its predictions come to life. We live in exciting times. And we continue to pray, "Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth."
