

WHAT ABOUT EGYPT?

Egypt is in transition. There is much communication going on - emails, phone calls, facebook, twittering, blogging, and perhaps also an increase in Bible reading as we try to discern what is happening in Egypt and how it will affect the world.

There are at least three scriptures that will ultimately come to bear on Egypt:

- Psalm 83 mentions a configuration of nations, Egypt conspicuously absent, who come against Israel. The psalmist vigorously implores God to intervene on Israel's behalf. Some believe this is a coalition of nations that is yet to come. Could Egypt come out of the present conflict with their treaty with Israel still intact even while other nations war against her? Possible though not likely.
- Zechariah 12 and 14 describe a time yet to come when all the nations of the world turn against Israel. Including Egypt? Obviously. The United States? Zechariah says "all the nations." Has the escalated distress/tribulation that is to engulf the whole world (see Matt. 24:21 and Dan. 12:1) already happened before all the nations come against Israel? It seems so, since Jesus said that the coming of the Lord and the gathering of the elect would come "immediately after the distress/tribulation of those days" (See Mt. 24:29-31), and Zechariah describes the "all the nations" against Israel as the event that will trigger the return of the Lord to rule as King over the whole earth. Are we at this point? No, but the events in the Middle East and the growing world anti-Semitism are bringing us ever closer to that time.
- There is a much more encouraging Scripture that has often been ignored as we ponder the events in the Middle East. Isaiah looked forward to a time when Egypt, along with Assyria (today's Iraq and other parts of the Middle East) would become a blessing in the whole world (See Isa. 19:19-25). Has this Isaiah-depicted scene ever happened? No. Is it therefore yet to come? Yes. Is this a

picture of these nations during the millennium? Probably. But could it possibly describe some strange phenomenon that will happen before the Lord's return? Possible. Why not let this be our prayer? Could this not be the most God-honoring outcome of the present conflict?

Lord, work a miracle in the Middle East. Turn the hearts of "Assyria" and Egypt to you even in our day. Let there be a spontaneous revival that bursts forth on the Middle East and changes the whole landscape of Israel and Israel's neighbors. Bring Jewish people to acknowledge their own Messiah Yeshua according to Isaiah's prediction (See Isa. 6:8-13) and your own prediction (See Matt. 23:39), and bring the surrounding nations to embrace those "greater riches" that would be released into the world when Israel into her "fullness" (See Rom. 11:12).

We acknowledge You, Yeshua, as King of the whole world, even though the world as a whole does not yet recognize You. Amen.

Don Finto

"Raising up generations of Calebs"