

## **Christ in Prophecy**

### **Israel 30: The End Times Focus on Israel, Part 2**

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#### **Opening**

**Dr. Reagan:** What in the world is going on in the Middle East? Why is the region embroiled in such turmoil? What is ISIS all about, and how does the rise of ISIS relate to the regathering of the Jewish people to their homeland? And what is the biblical significance of the events in the Middle East? Stay tuned.

#### **Part 1**

**Dr. Reagan:** Greetings in the name of Jesus, our Blessed Hope, and welcome to Christ in Prophecy. The focus of world politics today is the nation of Israel in the Middle East. And that focus is one of many signs that we are living in the season of the Lord's return because all of end times Bible prophecy focuses on Israel, just like today's newspaper headlines. The Middle East today is a cauldron of turmoil, and much of that turmoil has been stirred up by a mysterious group called ISIS that seemed to come out of nowhere. What is this group? What are they all about, and how do they relate to what the Bible says about Israel and the Arabs in the end times? Stay tuned for a presentation that will seek to answer these questions.

#### **Dr. Reagan's Presentation**

**Dr. Reagan:** Where in the world does ISIS fit into this picture? ISIS is a Sunni Muslim group that has transformed rapidly a terrorist group into a full fledge army and I mean rapidly. The group was founded by this man Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi he is a recluse; he keeps to himself. I think he's afraid of assassination. He never stays in the same place in a night. He is moving around all the time. He's only made two public appearances since he formed ISIS. He is a real recluse. And very, very little is known about this particular man. What we do know is that he became the leader of an Al Qaeda group, an Al Qaeda group that was called ISI standing for the Islamic State of Iraq. That's what they called themselves. And because of that he began to launch terror attacks across Iraq with the idea of taking over Iraq and turning it into a Muslim, a pure Muslim State with Sharia Law. In 2013 he ventured into Syria and he changed the name of his group to ISIS, standing for the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria. He later changed it again to ISIL, Islamic State of Iraq and Levant. Levant is a French word which means the Middle East. So, you can see how he is expanding it. It starts out with Iraq, then it goes to Iraq and Syria, and then it goes to Iraq and the entire Middle East. And then in his most important public appearance in June of 2014 where he made a public speech for the first time he declared the establishment of the Islamic State. And that's what he calls it today IS, I-S the Islamic State. He doesn't call it ISIL or ISIS he calls it IS and that is the Islamic State. And let me tell you that was the most important pronouncement that had been made by a Muslim in many, many years. Keep in mind that no Muslim Caliphate, no Muslim Empire has existed since the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire in 1922. When he declared an Islamic State, an Islamic Caliphate, Muslims, radical Muslims at least all over the world became excited. And they began to flood into the Middle East because they wanted to be part of the establishment of the next Muslim

Caliphate, the next Muslim Empire which they hope will be the empire that will take over the world.

Let's consider for a moment what motivates these people. Folks, in February of 2015 this lady Marie Harf a State Department Spokesman made the most incredible proclamation I think has ever come out of the mouth of a government employee. She said, "That the motivation of ISIS is the desire to get jobs. That these are people who need jobs." Here is her actual words, "We cannot win the War on Terror, nor can we win the war on ISIS by killing them." Oh? "We need to find them jobs. We need to get to the root cause of terrorism and that is poverty and the lack of opportunity in the terrorist community." This is liberal thinking gone to seed. It is just pathetic. Pathetic. This perverse idea that ISIS is driven by poverty and the need for a job. One of my staff members who doesn't even know anything about this when I told him about this he said, "Dave, this is insane. I haven't heard one members of ISIS yet yelling, 'Jobs, jobs, jobs.'" He said, "All they seem to be yelling is, 'Allahu Akbar.'" "Allahu Akbar" "Allah is the greatest." "Allah is the greatest." The real motivation of course is religion, and specifically the commands of the Quran. Now these are verses right out of the Muslim holy book. "To fight non-Muslims until you exterminate all other religions, leaving Islam as the one and only religion in the world." What are they doing? They are following the dictates of their holy book. Mohammad is quoted in the Hadith as saying, "I have been ordered to fight with the people until they say, 'None has the right to be worshipped except Allah.'" ISIS has become very quickly identified by their use of indescribable, widespread, radical terror and this is in accordance with the Quran. In addition to military force the Quran orders Muslims to terrorize non-Muslims. Sura 8:60, "Strike terror in the hearts of the enemies of Allah and in your enemies." And Allah then assures his followers that he will help them do this. "I will instill terror in the hearts of unbelievers. Smite them above their necks, and smite all their fingertips off them. It is not you who slay them it is Allah." And concerning jihad or Holy War he says the Quran guarantees paradise to those who fight for Allah. In fact in the Muslim religion the only guarantee you have that you will go to Heaven is if you die in combat fighting for Allah. Otherwise there is no guarantee whatsoever. Even Mohammad said he wasn't sure whether he would go to Heaven or not. And dying for Allah is presented as better than living. And if you are killed or die in the way of Allah forgiveness and mercy from Allah are far better than all the others may amass of worldly wealth. It is a great thing to die for Allah. Also martyrs are promised a sensual and luxurious life in Paradise. In short the Muslim paradise is one of eternal decadence.

Let's consider for a moment the purposes of ISIS. We don't have to guess at it. We don't have to guess at their purposes because they have made this very, very clear. And you'll be surprised at what their number one goal is. Their number one goal always has been to overthrow the secular rulers of Islamic states. That's why Egypt is number one of their hit list, they want to take out the secular leaders of Egypt and get someone in there who is an Ayatollah, who is a cleric type individual. They want to take out all of the secular leaders of all the Islamic countries and that will then produce their Islamic Caliphate. Number two is to take back the land of Palestine for Allah, exterminating Israel in the process. One of the reasons they are so determined to do that is because the Quran teaches that if you ever conquer a land for Allah it becomes his, that he only owns the land your conquer. And that if you lose that land you have an absolute obligation to go back and conquer it again. That is interesting, the Bible says the whole world belongs to our God. But according to the Quran the only thing that belongs to Allah is what has been conquered by the sword. And the Ayatollah Khomeini argued that the reason that the Arabic countries, the Muslim countries had fallen in such disrepair in the 18th and 19th Centuries simply was because they sat on the sidelines and allowed Israel to be established, and they have an obligation to destroy Israel. Number three is to conquer the rest of the world

for Allah, and that includes of course the United States of America. Those are the three purposes of ISIS.

Now it is important to note something here, very important; the eradication of Israel is not the top priority, nor is Israel viewed as a major obstacle to world conquest. I want to emphasize this because many Americans now are saying that we are to abandon Israel. We are to dump Israel. I see these bumper stickers all over the place. It's amazing you turn on the radio and you hear people saying this. Abandon Israel. Dump Israel. Many Americans are saying, "If we will just abandon Israel and dump Israel we'll have peace. Then the Muslims will leave us alone. They won't attack us anymore." Folks, that is so misguided. It is so misguided. It's utter nonsense. Israel is not the cause of Islamic terrorism towards the West. If Israel were to disappear tomorrow fundamentalists Islam would still be determined to destroy America and to take the world for Allah. And if we were to abandon Israel, if that were to happen and we are on the verge of doing it, we are right on the verge the Muslim world would interpret that as cowardice. They would interpret it as proving that our word is meaningless, and they would say that we have proved what they say about us; that we are a depraved society devoid of values. The Arab world respects only strength, only strength.

Let me give you an example of that. When the Arabs conquered the Old City of Jerusalem in the War of Independence in 1948 and 49 they conquered the Old City. You know what they did? They went to the Jewish Quarter and they blew up every synagogue in the Jewish Quarter. They burnt every Jewish house to the ground. The entire Jewish Quarter was obliterated. Then they went to the Mount of Olives and they desecrated all the Jewish cemeteries. And they took the stones from the Jewish cemeteries and took them out and used them as stepping stones to the latrines of the army camps. In 1967 when the Jews reconquered the city of Jerusalem there was panic throughout the Muslim world because they expected the Jews to do to them as they had done to the Jews. They expected the Jews to go in and burn the Arab Quarter to the ground, blow it up. They expected the Jews to blow up the Dome of the Rock on the Temple Mount. And the Jews never even touched the Arab Quarter, and they never touched the Temple Mount. And in fact the second day after they had won it they called a press conference and said to the Arabs, "We believe in freedom of religion, and although this now belongs to us we are going to let you administer the Temple Mount." And to this day even though the Temple Mount is under the sovereignty of Israel when you go up there you are under control of Muslims: you can't touch your wife's hand, you can't read the Bible, you can't pray. You have to obey all their rules. The Jews thought this would prove to the Arabs that they wanted to live in peace with them. To the Arab mind all that the Jews did there was a sign of weakness; they don't have the will to destroy our Quarter. They don't have the will to destroy the Dome of the Rock. These are weak people and one day we will conquer them. The only thing they respect is power. And let me tell you this same thing of trading land for peace wets the appetite of the aggressor and only makes them want more. They said, oh, there will be peace, peace if you would just give us the Gaza Strip. They gave them the Gaza Strip, what did they do? Move all the terrorists in and start shooting rockets into Israel.

You don't get peace through appeasement. As Winston Churchill once said, "Appeasement never works because when you go down that road sooner or later you are going to be eaten by the crocodile." And that's exactly what happens with appeasement. Do you remember Chamberlain who tried to appease Hitler? Do you know what Chamberlain said on his death bed? He said, "It would have all been alright if Hitler hadn't lied to me." Well what do you expect Hitler to do? Right now we are negotiating with Iran. What do you expect Iran to do? They are going to lie to us. They don't care anything about truth. They don't care anything about honor or valor. They are going to do whatever they can to get ahead and produce that nuclear bomb so

that they can drop it on Israel. Well folks, what is going to be--I love this, this is a quote from Netanyahu, he says, "The Nazis wanted to establish the master race. ISIS wants to establish the master faith." And he is right on target; a man who always is able to see through it all.

What's going to be the fate of ISIS? What's going to happen to them? Well I can say with confidence here what is going to happen to them because the Bible makes it very clear. First-- I'm sorry I've got on there Psalm 38 that is a mistake, it should be Psalm 83. I apologize for that. Psalm 83 indicates that Israel will be attacked in the end times by a coalition of Muslim states that share a common border with the Jewish State. In other words those Arab States that have a common border with Israel are all going to attack Israel in the end times. And it says they will attack them for the purpose of wiping out the nation of Israel. That would today include Lebanon, and Syria, and Jordan, and Egypt and the Gaza Strip. And what's going to happen? The psalm doesn't tell us but the Bible tells us. It says here wipe out Israel as a nation and here's the ones who are going to do the attack. You can see them right there. And what's going to be the result? Zechariah 12:6 says "That in the end times Israel will be like a firepot among pieces of wood, and a flaming torch among sheaves, so that they will consume on the right hand on the left all the surrounding peoples. In that day the Lord God Yahweh will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem. And the one who is feeble among them that day will be like David and the House of David will be like God like the Angel of the Lord before them." Israel, tiny Israel the size of the state of New Jersey is going to be like David against Goliath in the end times. Zechariah 12:9 "In that day I will set about to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem." There is no doubt ISIS's fate is already settled. God is going to destroy them sooner or later if they try to come against Israel. It's probably during that time that the prophecy is going to be fulfilled that is mentioned twice in the Bible, Isaiah 17 and Jeremiah 49. It says that in one of these wars of the end times Damascus will be destroyed and will never be built again. I suspect that Damascus will start hitting Israel with missiles that contain poisonous gas. And I suspect that the Israeli's will respond with nuclear weapons blowing Damascus off the face of the earth. But we know for sure that Damascus will cease to exist.

And then we'll come to the war of Gog and Magog it is mentioned in Ezekiel 38 & 39. Here is what I think is going to happen, now this is just speculation but here is what I think is going to happen. That after the War of Psalm 83 when the Jewish IDF the military force conquers all the Arab forces the Arab nations will be in a panic and they will turn to their natural ally which is Russia and they will call for Russia to come to their aid. And Russia will come down with all of its current allies which happen to be Turkey, and Iran, and others like that and they're all Muslim States. And they will come.

So first you have the war of the inner ring, and now you have the war of the outer ring of states around Israel called the War of Gog and Magog. And so great will be the invasion at that time of Israel by Russia and all of its allies, it will be beyond anything that the Israeli forces can handle. And so we are told that God will handle it. We are told that God will destroy all these armies supernaturally upon the mountains of Israel. Look at this Ezekiel 38:18, "It will come about on that day when God comes against the land of Israel declares the Lord God that my fury will mount up in my anger, in my zeal, and in my blazing wrath. I declare that on that day there will surely be a great earthquake in the land of Israel and all the men who are on the face of the earth will shake at my presence. I will call for a sword against him, Gog and his allies, on all my mountains declares the Lord God every man's sword will be against his brother with pestilence, with blood I will enter into judgement with him and I will rain on him and on his troops and on the many peoples who are with him a torrential rain with hailstones, fire, and brimstone. I will magnify myself and make myself known in the sight of many nations, and they will know that I

am Yahweh, the Creator." God is going to handle these Muslim Nations, they don't have a chance.

Franklin Graham recently affirmed this particular scenario of end times. He said, "The evil of ISIS really shouldn't shock us. It is fully in keeping with their ultimate agenda of hastening of a final apocalypse. God's Word tells us that there will be a final battle one day and it will result in the defeat of Satan and all those aligned with him. One day is for sure, one day every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father."

In that regard I am reminded of a presentation made a year ago by my dear friend Al Gist who has a prophecy ministry in Louisiana. He was speaking at the Louisiana Prophecy Conference in Lake Charles and he spoke on ISIS. And in the process he began to tell about how in his research he discovered all these different names that ISI lead, to ISIS, to ISIL, to IS. And he was explaining this to his dear wife Sandy who has one of the greatest senses of humors I've ever run across in my life. And he said Sandy sat there for a moment and she looked at all that. And she looked up sort of confused and she said, "Honey, I don't know much about all this but I know one thing for sure." She said, "The Great I AM is going to convert IS to was." Hallelujah. And all I can say is amen.

Well this brings us to some crucial questions: Why has God regathered the Jews? Second: What is the likely future of Israel? And third: What does it all mean to us a group of Gentiles here in Katy, Texas at the beginning of the 21st Century. The first question is easy: Why has God regathered the Jews? It is because it is part of His plan to bring a great remnant of the Jews to faith in Yeshua as their Messiah. And what is that plan? Well the first step is to regather the Jews to Israel. The second step is to bring the nations against them over the issue of Jerusalem. That is happening now. The third step is to hammer them until they come to the end of themselves; that's the Tribulation. Resulting in the salvation of a great remnant who will turn to God in repentance. And thus the future of Israel is a period of great tribulation that will bring the Jews to the end of themselves with the pouring of God's wrath will be followed by a showering of His glorious grace. For when Jesus returns and comes to the Mount of Olives we are told that the city of Jerusalem will be surrounded by the Antichrist and his forces, it will be about to fall. He will come to the Mount of Olives when His foot touches the mountain it will split in half. It says the remnant will come out of the city, they will come up to the Mount of Olives and they are going to bow before him, and they are going to cry out, "Baruch haba B'shem Adonia" "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord." This is an illustration by a Messianic Jew from Israel. Folks, it is going to a glorious day when this great remnant comes to the Lord Jesus Christ and acknowledges Him as their Messiah. What a glorious, glorious day that will be. In fact Jesus Himself said, "I will not return to this earth until the Jewish people are willing to say, 'Baruch haba B'shem Adonia'"

Now what does this mean to us? To a group of Gentiles here. What does it mean to us? Well, many things but I just want to mention two. One it's a great testimony of God's faithfulness. Folks, He is fulfilling prophecy, after prophecy that was made to the Jewish people thousands of years ago. I want you to just consider a few of the prophecies that He has been fulfilling in our day and time. He has regathered them from the four corners of the earth, just as He said He would. He has re-established their state, just as He said He would. He has revived their language from the dead, just as He said He would. He has restored the city of Jerusalem as their capital, just as He said He would. He has enabled them to reclaim their land from the wilderness it had become, just as He said He would. He has provided them with the resurgence

of military strength. And He has refocused all of world politics upon them. He says in the end times the whole world will come against Israel.

Second what is happening is evidence of the Lord's soon return. Folks, these prophecies, the fulfillment of these prophecies is literally shouting the soon return of Jesus. It's like God has a neon sign in the sky saying Jesus is coming soon. Jesus is coming soon. We are witnessing the fulfillment of Bible prophecy before our very eyes. And we can be assured that if God is faithful to fulfill every promise He's made to the Jewish people, He is going to be faithful to fulfill every promise He's made to you and me to His Church. There are glorious promises He's made to us. He has said that one day very soon, any day, there is not one prophecy that has to be fulfilled for this. That one day very soon an angel is going to appear in the heavens. He is going to blow a trumpet and He is going to shout. And when that happens the Lord Jesus Christ is going to appear. He is not going to come back to earth He is just going to appear. And the graves of the believers are going to be emptied. He is going to bring with Him it says in the Thessalonian letters it says He is going to bring with Him the spirits of the dead who are in Heaven with Him. And He is going to resurrect their bodies in a great miracle of recreation. Listen this is the one who spoke and the whole world came into being. And there is nothing for Him to speak and the bodies to come back together. Whether they be burned. Whether they be in the sea. Whether they be in the ground. Whether they be decayed. Whatever they are going to come back together in a great miracle of recreation. In the instance of an eye He is going to take their spirits and He is going to put them back together with their bodies. And He is going to glorify their bodies and give them an eternal body. And then those of us who are alive when that happens, and I hope I am we are going to be translated up following them to meet Him in the sky. And on the way up we are going to be translated from mortal to immortal in a twinkling of an eye. We won't even experience death the generation that is alive on that day. People say there are only two things you cannot escape and that is death and taxes. No, it is just taxes, and more taxes. There is a whole generation that will escape death. On the way up when we meet the Lord in the sky we are going to be given glorified bodies. We are going to be taken to Heaven. He is going to judge us of our works, not to determine our eternal salvation, but to determine our degrees of reward. And He is going to hand out all kinds of degrees of reward. And at the end of the Tribulation we are going to be in Heaven while that's going on. At the end we are going to sit down with Him at the greatest feast the cosmos has ever experienced the Marriage Feast of the Lamb, and we are going to sit with Him and we are going to celebrate our union with Him. And at the end He is going to stand up and when He says, "Go." Let's go. And He is going to get on that white horse and He is going to break from the heavens and we are going to come with Him. I don't know if you've ever thought about this but it says we're coming with Him; hundreds of millions of glorified saints. You know I've had a vision of this. That the Lord comes back to the Mount of Olives and hundreds of millions of glorified saints are in the sky above and many are in the Kidron Valley filling it. And He is going to replay a day in His life. Once before He came to the Kidron Valley. Once before He got up there on the Mount of Olives. And He got on a donkey and He rode it down the Kidron Valley and up to that Eastern Gate. And people yelled, "Hosanna to the Son of God. Hosanna to the Son of David." And then a week later they were yelling, "Crucify Him. Crucify Him." Well this time we are going to be there in our glorified bodies and we are going to be yelling, "Hosanna to the Son of David. Hosanna to the Son of God." Let me tell you I can hardly wait. Every time I sing a song that has Hosanna in it I get goosebumps because I know one day I am going to be there to see this. And He is going to ride that great white war charger down and read Psalm 24 it says that when He comes up to the Eastern Gate the gate will say, "Come on in you King of Glory." And the Eastern Gate which has been bricked up ever since the Turks took it in 1417 I believe it was, bricked up ever since then. But it says in the Bible the Eastern Gate will be closed and it will not be opened until the Messiah comes. That gate is going to blow open. Read Psalm 24 it says, "Come on in you King

of Glory." He is going to go up on that Temple Mount. He is going to be coroneted the King of Kings, and the Lord of Lords and we are going to be there to see it. We are going to be there to sing Hallelujah. What a great day that is going to be. And then He is going to begin His Millennial reign. He is going to put us in gloried bodies all over this earth to reign with Him. He is going to reign in His glorified body from Jerusalem. And the earth is going to be flooded with peace, righteousness, and justice as the waters cover the sea. And at the end of that time He is going to take us off this earth. He is going to put us in that New Jerusalem that He has been preparing all these many years. And in that New Jerusalem I think we are going to see the greatest firework display in all of history as He heats up this earth and He burns away the pollution of Satan's last revolt. And out of that fiery inferno is going to come a renewed earth, a perfected earth, a refreshed earth. And then He is going to lower us down in that New Jerusalem, to that New Earth and we are going to spend eternity, eternally living in glorified bodies in the New Jerusalem, on the New Earth in the very presence of Jesus Christ. And it says we will see the face of God. The Bible says no one has seen the face of God. We will see it. What that means is we are going to have eternal fellowship, intimate fellowship with our Creator and with the Lord Jesus Christ. I tell you I don't know about you but I can hardly wait for that day to come. Come quickly Lord Jesus. Hallelujah.

We are living on borrowed time now. That is the fundamental message this evening. Jesus is coming soon. And when He appears that Jewish remnant is going to cry out, "Baruch haba B'shem Adonia." And in the mean time I am going to get up every morning and I am going to look at the sky and from the depths of my heart I'm going to cry, "Maranatha. Maranatha. Come quickly Lord Jesus."

And I have a crucial question for you this evening: Are you ready for the Lords' return because He can come any moment? Not one prophecy has to be fulfilled for the Rapture to occur.

## **Closing**

**Dr. Reagan:** I hope the presentation you have just witnessed has helped you to better understand what the turmoil in the Middle East is all about. And I hope it has helped you to realize that it is all part of God's end times plan for that area of the world. I hope too, it has convinced you that we are truly living in the end times, and, in fact, we are living on borrowed time because what is going on in the Middle East is a sign that we are living in the season of the Lord's return. Well, that's our program for this week. Until next week, the Lord willing, this is Dave Reagan speaking for Lamb & Lion Ministries, saying, "Look up, be watchful, for our Redemption is drawing near."

## **End of Program**