

The Isaiah 19 Highway

God's Plan for Revival, Unity, and Blessing in Israel, Egypt, and the Middle East

I. Israel and the End Times

Few biblical subjects stir up more angst, controversy, confusion, and even sometimes cynicism and eventually apathy like the END TIMES!

For some, eschatology – the study of the end times – is all about interpreting charts, predicting dates, and discussing beasts and dragons. For others, it is all so confusing or flaky that it's easier to not mess with it at all.

For some, biblical end-time prophecy was fulfilled in 70AD. For others it's being fulfilled today. While for others, fulfillment of end-time prophesy is a far and distant reality.

But the church, in this hour, cannot afford to be a wishy and washy people, but rather we are called to be a watching and waiting people.

(Matt. 24:42), Watch therefore for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.

(II Tim. 4:8), Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on the Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

In fact, Jesus tells us in Matthew 24 that even though we can't predict the day or the hour of His return, we should know the times and the seasons.

*(Matt. 16:2,3), **2** He answered and said to them, "When it is evening you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red,' **3** and in the morning, 'It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.' Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times.*

Even when Jesus' disciples asked Him about the end times, He didn't rebuke them, He encouraged them; He didn't taunt them, but taught them.

Beloved, God wants us to seek, learn, watch, wait, pray, discern, teach, sing about, and anticipate His return. In fact, **God gave us over 150 chapters in the bible in which the primary subject matter is the return of Jesus and/or the events related to His return.**

Believe it or not, America is not at the center of biblical end-time prophesy. In fact, the Middle East is the epicenter of God's end-time plan. This does not mean that the whole earth is not involved and affected. **But the Jewish Man, Jesus, will not rule and reign from the White House in Washington DC. He will rule and reign from the throne of His father David from Jerusalem, Israel.**

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(Is. 9:7), Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

(Jer. 3:17), At that time Jerusalem shall be called the throne of the Lord, and all nations shall gather to it, to the presence of the Lord in Jerusalem...

II. The Isaiah 19 Highway

One of the end-time scenarios that we see in scripture is a relational, economic, political, and spiritual unity among the family of Abraham - Isaac and Ishmael, Jacob and Esau. Isaiah 19 describes this planet-shaking miracle.

*(Is. 19:23-25), **23** In that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrian will come into Egypt and the Egyptians will worship with the Assyrians. **24** In that day Israel will be one of the three with Egypt and Assyria – a blessing in the midst of the land, **25** whom the Lord of hosts shall bless, saying, “Blessed is Egypt My people, and Assyria the work of My hands, and Israel My inheritance.”*

This highway (often called the Isaiah 19 highway), is spoken of numerous times in prophetic scripture. Isaiah speaks of it 7 times directly and 3 times indirectly (Is. 11:16; 19:23; 35:8; 40:3; 43:19; 49:11-12; 62:10 and 42:16; 43:2, 5-9; 57:14).

Jeremiah even mentions it in Jeremiah 31:8-9, 21.

<map> This highway is multidimensional. It was an ancient way walked by Abram (Abraham) and even Jesus (when He and His family fled to Egypt). It's also connected to ancient trade routes in the region.

Although it is a literal highway that will also be used by the nations to come up to Jerusalem to worship Jesus in the Millennial Kingdom, it is also a relational/spiritual highway in the season before Jesus' return.

Before the return of Jesus, there will be believers in the Egypt, along with believers in the surrounding region, together with Israel, worshipping, praying, connecting relationally, loving one another, and together being a “blessing in the midst of the land.”

The ancient Assyrian Empire covered land that would now include parts of Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Armenia, Turkey, Iran, Oman, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and United Arab Emirates.

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The nation of Egypt is mentioned in end-time scripture more than any other Gentile nation.

Isaiah tells of a time when believers in Egypt, Assyria, and Israel will be in unified worship of Yeshua the Messiah. This is a stunning prophet promise! This unity will be witnessed by the entire Middle Eastern region and will result in divine blessing.

The significance of this Highway is staggering. Consider the thousands of years of animosity between these 3 pieces of this highway. But nothing is impossible with God!

Jesus even prayed for this supernatural unity in His High Priestly Prayer in John 17.

(Jn. 17:20-23) 20 I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; 21 that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. 22 And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: 23 I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

When Jesus was praying for unity among the brethren, He wasn't just praying that a few western denominations would temporarily put aside some of their differences once or twice a year for a community project and a joint prayer service.

Although we love (and He loves) when we do this, His "unity prayer" involves so much more. It includes a supernatural and divine witness among historical enemies that provokes the Jews to jealousy (Rom. 11), resulting in revival and blessing in the entire middle-eastern region and the world.

In Isaiah 19 alone we see revival prophesied 10 times, unity 5 times, and blessings 2 times.

III. The Isaiah 19 Highway and the Great Tribulation

(Matt. 24:15-18), 15 Therefore, when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place 16 then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. 17 Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house, 18 And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes.

The abomination of desolation refers to the antichrist placing an image of himself in the temple of the Lord and demanding to be worshiped as God.

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The Antichrist will be in Jerusalem on the temple mount, IN the temple. He will have been known as the man of peace – the one who strikes a miraculous peace accord bringing long-awaited peace in the region.

Then, marking the last 3½ years of the tribulation (called the Great Tribulation), the Antichrist shows his true colors by placing an image of himself in the temple, ending the sacrifices (Dan. 11:31), and demanding to be worshiped. Anyone who does not worship him as God will become the target of his fury and wrath.

Jesus is saying that this sign-event in Jerusalem, on the temple mount, is a major, flashing, neon sign for the Jewish people. *“When you see this event happen, RUN!”*

He's saying, *“Don't even go home. Don't pack up your stuff. Just Go. Flee to the hills!”*

Many Jews in the land will flee. But where? Where will they go? They are surrounded by enemy nations – some of whom have stated that their goal is to wipe Israel off the map.

They will flee into the land of hostile nations. **BUT GOD has prepared for them a table in the presence of their enemies (Ps. 23) – believers in Yeshua the Messiah.**

(Ps. 23:5), You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies...

(Rev. 12:13-17), 13 *Now when the dragon [Satan]...persecuted the woman [the remnant of Israel]...14 The woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for [3 ½ years]...16 The earth helped the woman...and swallowed up the flood [of persecution]...17 The dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who...have the testimony of Jesus Christ.*

(Is. 43:19-21), 19 *Here I am, doing a new thing; Now it is springing up – do you not know about it? I will surely make a way in the desert, rivers in the wasteland. 20 The field animals honor Me – the jackals and the ostriches – because I give waters in the desert, rivers in the wilderness, to give drink to My chosen people, 21 the people I formed for Myself, so they might declare My praise.*

One of our tasks as a praying, prophetic church is to pray for salvation of souls in Egypt and the “Assyrian” nations; pray for a witness of Jesus in the nations surrounding Israel. Pray the Lord would raise up radical, fiery believers who will put their own lives on the line to take in the fleeing Jews and cover them during the persecution of the Antichrist.

This radical show of sacrificial Christ-like love will provoke the Jews to jealousy and result in revival among the Jews.

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(Jn. 15:13), *Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.*

(Mic. 7:15), *As in the days when you came out of the land of Egypt, I will show them wonders.*

(Rom. 11:11), *...salvation has come to the Gentiles, to provoke Israel to jealousy...*

The destinies of the offspring of Abraham are intertwined. Let us not neglect to contend for a mighty outpouring of the Spirit in Egypt and the Arab nations surrounding Israel. After all, God called them:

- **Egypt, My People – “my own”**
- **Assyria My Handiwork – “that which My hand has made”**
- **Israel My Inheritance – “my possession**

IV. Praying Into Isaiah 19

Tom Craig wrote a book entitled, *Living Fully for the Fulfillment of Isaiah 19*. This is the most clear, concise, and anointed book that I've read on the subject.

He also produced a Prayer Guide with 7 Prophetic Proclamations as we pray into Isaiah 19.

Although we just focused on the last few verses of Isaiah 19, the entire chapter is significant and insightful as we contend for God's purposes in the region in the end-time scenario.

- 1. For the Fear of the Lord to Come Upon Egypt (Is. 19:16,17)**
- 2. For the Five Cities to be Raised Up in Egypt (Is. 19:18)**
- 3. For the Altar in the Midst of Egypt (Is. 19:19,20)**
- 4. That the Egyptians Will Know the Lord (Is. 19:21,22)**
- 5. For the Highway of Worship from Egypt to Assyria (Is. 19: 23)**
- 6. For Egypt and Assyria to be Reconciled with Israel (Is. 19:24)**
- 7. For the Consummate Blessings to Be Declared by the Lord over Egypt, Assyria, and Israel (Is. 19:25)**