

# **RUMINATIONS OF A FORMER HEATHEN**

Copyright Walter Arcel

W. Arcel e-mail, [gen315@charter.net](mailto:gen315@charter.net)

**Israel surrounded**

[www.graceandsanity.org](http://www.graceandsanity.org)

Grace and Sanity Ministries, January 2012

Israel is closer than ever to striking Iran. The nearer the Iranians get to producing a nuclear weapon the more likely it is that Israel will attack. The president of Israel, Shimon Peres (a well known dove), has said the moment is approaching when Israel has to make that decision, a terrible one to be sure. If Israel attacks Iran and Iran retaliates as expected the weapons used will be the most destructive available. Bombs from Iran will not affect only the Jews. The Arabs of the West Bank and Gaza, Jordanians, Syrians, Lebanese and Egyptians will be directly affected. The radius of immediate destruction of an atomic bomb depends on the size of the bomb, but there are radii of fallout of waning intensity that can be hundreds of mile across. Actually, an atomic bomb is not altogether necessary; enough rockets from every direction loaded with highly radioactive material would achieve a similar effect. Dirty bombs are easier to make. Their prized mosque on the Temple Mount will be incinerated, but the hatred of the Arabs toward the Jews is so intense that they might not mind losing the mosque and frying a few hundred thousands of their brethren as long as they can destroy Israel.

Contemporary to all this is the Palestinians bid for statehood at the U.N. That effort seems to be stalling for now, but U.N.E.S.C.O. and recently the country of Greenland have recognized as a State the part the Arabs are currently occupying in the West Bank. More of Israel's haters will be quick to recognize this contraption as a State, thereby increasing the danger to Israel. Meanwhile, Iran keeps working on its project, testing detonators, fitting rockets with warheads, refining uranium with their happily spinning centrifuges.

What is going to happen? The Israelis are coming down on the side that they can't take the chance that the Iranians, once they acquire their atomic bomb they have been working on for several years, will think better of it and not use it. A first strike on Iran's nuclear facilities by the Israelis seems almost inevitable. They would use bunker-busting bombs that can penetrate deep into the earth and heavy concrete. Some experts say that bombing Iran would delay their program

only a couple of years, but it's difficult to predict. It could be very hard for Iran to come back from well-placed precision strikes. The internal opposition in Iran may also increase even before any bombings, simply by having that threat and by the economic sanctions that are making life more miserable every day for the people.

The Saudis would welcome a strike by Israel against Iran. They don't want Iran to have a nuclear weapon with which they could dominate the whole Persian Gulf. The Saudis won't say anything publicly in support of an Israeli strike but they see the threat of Iran very clearly and have declared so, with a sense of increasing urgency, to the American administration. Of course, if Israel were to attack Iran, the Saudis would be the first ones to denounce the attack. After the Israelis remove the threat the Saudis will be quick to turn against them again. The hatred of Ishmael toward Isaac has never abated.

So, who stands with Israel today in the world? Obama says he stands with Israel; the French have said recently that Israel has no better friend than France. But on November 9, 2011 at the G20 meeting, Sarkozy said to Obama regarding Netanyahu: "I can't stand to see him, he's a liar." Obama responded: "You're fed up with him; I have to deal with him every day." This was caught on a live microphone that these two leaders did not know was on. Their comments were heard simultaneously through headphones in several languages by reporters from different countries attending the G20 meeting. Caroline Glick of the Jerusalem Post called these comments "vile." And they are. These are Israel's friends? These are the leaders Israel trusts to assist them in the moment of need? The Europeans have become more and more anti-Semitic over the last 20 or 30 years. There is a new generation that does not know by direct experience what happened to the Jews at the hands of their parents. They were not yet alive at the time of the ovens. They don't carry the same sense of guilt that their parents do, or did. The new generation doesn't feel they owe Israel anything for those past sins for which they were not responsible. If anything, the general sense of the rising anti-Semitism in Europe is that the Jews are continually using the Holocaust to exploit that guilt. It would not be prudent for Israel to count on this American president and this new generation of European as friends.

What about the support from the U.S.? The possibility that the U.S. would not stand with Israel was unthinkable until very recently. Yet, it must be

considered today. With Obama spewing that venom from his mouth toward Netanyahu he demonstrates very clearly his unfaithfulness toward Israel.

What to do? The time when Jerusalem would be surrounded by armies seems to be here right now. When the nominal friends quit being nominal and outright abandon Israel the wolves will make a move. In a dramatic part of a story, there was a man stranded in the snow, surrounded by wolves with his only defense being fire, but he was down to his last stick. Each time he turned to repel a wolf, others crept forward. Right now the wolves are mostly watching (other than Hamas shooting rockets from Gaza), but at some point they will make a move.

One interesting thing that is happening currently is that the countries that support Hezbollah in Lebanon (Syria and Iran), and Hamas in Gaza (Egypt) are in deep turmoil themselves. Syria has an increasingly severe revolt underway with members of the Army defecting and siding with the civilians who want to get rid of Assad. Lebanon may seize the opportunity to try to break the yoke of Syria at this time, but they will have to confront Hezbollah, their resident evil. Hezbollah has been pretty much able to do what it wants in Lebanon, but that has been largely so because of the support of Syria and Iran; now, Iran has no money to support them, and the leaders of Hezbollah are having their own internal unrest. Egypt, after the overthrow of Mubarak, began to declare that the peace treaty with Israel should be revisited, they didn't like the terms and it was galling to them that the Sinai was still under Israeli control. The treaty says that Egypt cannot have troops in the Sinai without Israel's permission. As more Muslims come into the government, talks of getting rid of the treaty and of confrontation with Israel are increasing. The cries in the mobs to "kill all the Jews" are being heard more and more often. But today, January 2012, Egypt has fallen into a state of near anarchy with the Army still in control but with violence rising all across the country. Police are absent or ineffective, law and order are non-existent in many areas, murders, robberies, rapes, lootings are going on with no one to stop them. Also, with Libya next door itself having fallen into chaos, the weapons looted from the armories of Khaddafy are flooding the region from Egypt to Lebanon, a good number of weapons is going to the opposition against Assad. Arms smugglers are making a lot of money these days. In due time these weapons will be turned against Israel; shoulder-fired missiles from Libya are already showing up in Gaza.

Iran is the puppet master of his proxies against Israel. Iran's boasting and threatening of Israel is similar to the time when Sennacherib (701 B.C.) came with a lot of troops to threaten Jerusalem (Hezekiah then being king). Sennacherib came with a great deal of confidence to the walls of Jerusalem, he had made it there all the way from Nineveh by defeating every army that he encountered in his path, the Babylonians, the Moabites, Canaanites, Philistines, Edomites, Egyptians, and Ethiopians. The fortified cities of Judah that were outside Jerusalem also went down. He took prisoner more than 200,000 Jews. He set a siege on Jerusalem to starve the rest into surrender, and he boasted that he had the king (Hezekiah) "as a bird in a cage." Hezekiah was well intimidated and at one point he gave Sennacherib a bribe to keep him away. But the siege continued and Hezekiah would not surrender. Sennacherib then sent his ambassadors to intensify the threats and through them he asked the Jews (paraphrasing), what kind of God is it that you are trusting? Did I not defeat all these nations around? Their gods could not withstand me, how is your God going to stop me?

Through Isaiah God answered: "Whom hast thou reproached and blasphemed? And against whom hast thou exalted thy voice, and lifted up thine eyes on high? Even against the Holy one of Israel..." II Kings 19: 22.

"But I know thy abode, and thy going out, and thy coming in, and thy rage against me."

"Because thy rage against me, and thy tumult, is come up into mine ears, therefore I will put my hook in thy nose, and my bridle in thy lips, and I will turn thee back by the way which thou camest." II Kings 19: 27, 28.

"For I will defend this city, to save it, for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake." "And it came to pass that night, that the angel of the Lord went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand..." II Kings 19: 34, 35.

Sennacherib's army was decimated overnight, he went home and his own sons killed him. God has intervened many times before in defense of the Jews, and the turmoil in the Arab countries looks like he is doing it again.