



# Light of Messiah Ministries

...Bringing Jesus to the Jewish People

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## Egypt: Watching and Wondering

**A**s I write this letter the streets of Cairo, Egypt are filled with thousands of angry protestors calling for the resignation of their President Hosni Mubarak. The Egyptian people are asking for the ouster of the current regime and the installation of a new government. The people want change. The questions are innumerable. What is going to happen next? How is the world going to be affected? Who is going to fill the political void? Will the Muslim Brotherhood gain a deeper foothold in Egypt? How will the balance of power in the Middle East shift? **Most importantly, how will Israel be affected?**

Egypt is no stranger to the geopolitical scene. **Most people do not think of the Bible as a geopolitical historical commentary, but it is. Throughout history God has worked through nations, kings, and judges, to accomplish His purposes.** Egypt is mentioned in the bible over 650 times, more than any other nation except Israel. Though there have been periods of peace between Egypt and Israel, the Egyptians are ancient enemies of the Jewish people. The book of Exodus recounts the story of how God redeemed the Israelites from slavery and bondage to Pharaoh in Egypt. More recently, immediately after the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948, Egypt attacked Israel, hoping to destroy her.

**Egypt and Israel are in the news again. The world watches and wonders.** Scripture tells us that we need to watch, but don't have to wonder. **The events of the past, the present, and the future have been, and are, in the hands of God who is not only aware of the events, but in the events themselves.** He orchestrates, choreographs,



and allows events to unfold for His purposes; the greatest purpose being to show His glory.

### The Ancient Conflict Continues

**Most people do not understand that the conflict that we are witnessing today in Egypt and the Middle East is not a modern conflict, but an ancient conflict rooted in biblical history.** The beginning of the conflict is recorded in Genesis chapters 16 and 21 where we read of the births of Ishmael and Isaac, the two sons of Abraham through whom were born the descendants at odds today. The Islamic community claim ancestry back to Abraham through Ishmael. The Jewish people, the Israelites, claim ancestry back to Abraham through Isaac. The birth of these two sons, and the enmity between them, has continued to this day.

In Genesis Chapter 16 we read the description of Ishmael. *"Then the angel of the LORD told her, "Go back to your mistress and submit to her." The angel added, "I will increase your descendants so much that they will be too*

*numerous to count."* The angel of the LORD also said to her: *"You are now pregnant and you will give birth to a son. You shall name him Ishmael, for the LORD has heard of your misery. He will be a wild donkey of a man; his hand will be against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he will live in hostility toward all his brothers."* Genesis 16:9-12 (bold added)

**The conflict in Egypt, as well as the conflict between Israel and its neighbors, is an extension of the ancient conflict that began thousands of years ago with the birth of Ishmael and Isaac.** We are witnessing a continuation of that conflict today. It should not surprise us that wars rage around the world. War and conflict are a result of the fall of humanity in the Garden of Eden. Hatred, genocide, cruel governments and leaders, come to us as a result of our lost condition and the sinful nature of man. **We should be even less surprised that biblically and historically the world's attention is continually drawn back to the Middle East, to Israel, the place where it all began.**

### Israel Is Central To The Conflict

**Though the eyes of the world are on the conflict in Egypt, the greater concern is over stability of the entire Middle East and how it is going to affect Israel.** Egypt (and Jordan) are the only countries in the Middle East that have maintained peace with Israel. Israel is the only country in the Middle East that has a democratic form of government which represents freedom for its citizens. When the current Egyptian government is replaced, who is going to fill the vacuum and how is it going to affect Israel? No one really knows at this point.

One thing is certain. At some point in the future the entire world is going to wage war against Israel and more specifically Jerusalem. As believers we watch what is happening around the world but we do not have to wonder in darkness. The stage is being set. The turmoil in Egypt today is one small piece in a much bigger picture. But God has shown us the big picture. We can stand back and look at the painting. Rather than seeing a part, we can see in fullness. God is at work and Israel is central to the conflict.

***“A prophecy: The word of the LORD concerning Israel ... “I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that sends all the surrounding peoples reeling. Judah will be besieged as well as Jerusalem. On that day, when all the nations of the earth are gathered against her, I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock for all the nations. All who try to move it will injure themselves. On that day I will strike every horse with panic and its rider with madness,” declares the LORD ... Then the clans of Judah will say in their hearts, ‘The people of Jerusalem are strong, because the LORD Almighty is their God.’”*** Zechariah 12:1-5 (bold added)

The conflict in Egypt is setting the stage for the final battle ... a battle that will culminate with the return of Jesus. As the world watches the unfolding events and wonders what is going to happen next, we wait in anticipation for the return of Jesus to His throne in Jerusalem.

### **There Is Only One Solution To The Conflict**

Instability in the Middle East is nothing new. The Middle East has been an unstable region from the beginning of time as recorded in scripture. The nations have labored in vain to find a solution to the problem. Some have tried to wipe out Israel and the Jewish people hoping their demise would mean peace for the world. Others have tried governing the region from afar. President after president has made peace in the Middle East a goal for their tenure, the crown jewel of accom-



plishments for any world leader who believes in freedom and democracy. The United Nations has attempted to bring peace to the Middle East. Everyone has failed.

Understand that no amount of geopolitical maneuvering or strategic political savvy can bring peace to the Middle East. **There is not a geopolitical solution to conflict in Egypt or the Middle East because the problem is not a geopolitical problem.** The world does not understand the root of the conflict so they strive to find answers to the problem without understanding the cause. It is like trying to treat a viral infection with antibiotics. It cannot be done because viruses do not respond to antibiotics, only bacteria do.

**Conflict in the Middle East began as a spiritual problem and can only be solved through spiritual means.** The animosity between the descendants of Ishmael and the descendants of Isaac began as a result of sin and disobedience. That animosity will continue on a grand scale until Jesus brings His peace to the nations. Until then peace can only come on an individual level, not national.

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The only way for there to be lasting peace in Israel is to bring individual Muslims and Jewish people to Jesus. Peace is not the absence of conflict but the presence of God. Jesus is the Prince of Peace.

When He returns peace will come to the world in a Person who is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He will reign and my people will see. Everyone will see. One day in the future God says...

*“And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. **They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a first-born son.**”* Zechariah 12:10 (bold added)

This verse in no way communicates universal salvation for the Jewish people. Neither does it communicate that Jewish people get a second chance at salvation. We die once, then comes judgment. **But one day in the future there will be a national restoration of the Jewish people to their Messiah.** Until then we watch, we wait, we pray, we work. My Jewish people need Jesus. **Thank you for helping us bring Him back to them.**


### **We Give Thanks...**

**Please remember us in your prayers as we enter our busy spring schedule.** We will all be speaking in churches, sharing our stories, and helping Christians learn more about the Jewish roots of our faith. We will also continue meeting with Jewish people to talk to them about Messiah.

**Your prayers and financial support make what we do possible.**

God bless you....

With deep appreciation for your love for my people

  
Murray Tilles...for the staff  
Light of Messiah Ministries

**Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem!**