

Perspective

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Are We in a Countdown to Armageddon?

The United States has not done well dealing with wars in the world of Islam. Why? Their religious fervor in fighting, vowing never to give up. We got caught in the quagmire of an armed conflict with Afghanistan. It turned out to be a 20-year war, 2001-2021. We left in disgrace leaving the country to the Taliban. The U.S. ended its eight-year occupation of Iraq on December 18, 2011, effectively ending the U.S. military's presence in the country. However, the absence of U.S. forces revealed ongoing challenges, including sectarian violence and the rise of extremist Islamic groups. The world seems to be on a track unlike any other time in world history. Some would even argue we are on the cusp of World War III. Fast forward to February 28, 2026; Operation Epic Fury was launched by the United States against Iran with coordinated airstrikes inflicting collateral damage across Iran with widespread infrastructure damage. The war has been taking place for a little over 61 days with seemingly no end in sight. Will it be another endless war dealing with hard-headed Iranian hardliners who from a religious mindset feel they must be the architects of Armageddon? Their way of thinking makes them willing to kill thousands of their own people, not just to remain in power, but to perpetuate their ideology. Are we then on a countdown to Armageddon?

The clash of ideologies is still alive

They are just as committed to bringing down the whole of civilization as the United States and the free world are dedicated to fight anyone in any place to maintain their freedom. On January 20, 1961, U.S. President John F. Kennedy delivered his inaugural address in which he announced that "we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and success of liberty."

The growing involvement of the United States in Vietnam under President John F. Kennedy saw a big escalation in our military commitment to those who supported Democracy during the early 1960s. It was feared that there would be a domino effect of nations falling under Communism. The domino theory was a Cold War policy that suggested a communist government in one nation would quickly lead to communist takeovers in neighboring states, each falling like a row of dominos. In Southeast Asia, the U.S. government used the now-discredited domino theory to justify its involvement in the Vietnam War. The United States misjudged the strength of Vietnamese nationalism; they viewed the war through the prism of a worldwide effort to fight against communism. The Vietnam War remains one of America's demoralizing prolonged 20-year wars. It began in 1955, investing between 111-168 billion dollars and tens of thousands of American lives. One big reason we lost, we were not committed to win the war. Yet, despite this immense commitment, we left in disgrace, and Vietnam still remains a one-party communist state. A people cannot be forced to be free. It is like the wisdom of an old saying, "A man convinced against his will, is of the same opinion still."

Maybe knowing this we can understand why God ordered ancient Israel to wipe out their enemies. God told King Saul: "*Thus says the Lord of hosts: 'I will punish Amalek for what he did to Israel, how he ambushed him on the way when he came up from Egypt. Now go and attack Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and do not spare them. But kill both man and woman, infant and nursing child, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.'*" (I Samuel 15:2-3)

Amalek was a barbaric tribe, which unprovoked, attacked Israel as they were leaving Egypt at their weakest point. They became a recurrent enemy of Israel. God's command to Saul in I Samuel 15 to execute His stern judgement upon them was a direct result of Amalek's cruelty to Israel. In God's view—the only view that matters—the land belonged to Israel. The Canaanites and others were essentially squatters. Since Israel was given the land by God, they had the right of possession and the authority to implement God's commands within the land which rightly belonged to them as the "governing authority." (Romans 13:1-4).

God gave Israel the duty to wipe out the people of the land who were idolaters and delving into demonism, sorcery, witchcraft, and the sacrifice of small children. God did not want His people to intermingle with those kinds of religious influences to corrupt them.

Sadly, King Saul did not obey the instructions he was given. He feared the people rather than God (I Samuel 15:10-20). God rejected Saul, and David was anointed to be king.

Will the US-Iran war be different?

Every war is different. This one has security issues which must be dealt with one way or another. Iran has been a state sponsor of international terrorism for the last 47 years. It is right they should be held accountable by the United States for the hundreds of Americans who have been killed by Iranian terrorism and her proxies.

It is also against the law for Iran to block international waterways and charge passage fees as they have done. The U.S. and other nations have the right to cause Iran to cease and desist illegal operations. Enforcement of waterways is not new.

Wikipedia states, “The Barbary Pirates of North Africa, based in Morocco, Algiers, Tunis, and Tripoli, had raided shipping in the Mediterranean for centuries. With the support of their governments, these state-sponsored pirates would capture merchant ships and hold their crews for ransom, or demand an annual tribute to guarantee safe passage of a nation’s ships. Paying the tribute was often cheaper than waging war, so European powers had done so for decades. The newly independent United States no longer had the British Royal Navy’s protection and, after the American Revolution, began to experience pirate attacks on its merchant shipping. When Thomas Jefferson became president in 1801, he decided that the US should stop paying tribute to the pirates. This decision led to a series of naval battles known as the Barbary Wars. Jefferson’s decision to stop paying the tribute was the first time the United States used military force abroad. It was a formative moment in American history and helped establish a new era of US foreign policy based on principles of sovereignty, strength, and self-determination.”

It is possible, because the U.S. and Israel have the will to win the war and they are striving to remove the threat of nuclear weapons in the hands of a rogue nation like Iran, that it very well could bring about a temporary peace. Iran does not know how to exist as a peaceful nation. It is not in their genetics, and they will always be looking for opportunity to plot revenge against Israel and the United States.

However, there may be an agreement for peace. It may be the peace the apostle Paul was inspired to record in I Thessalonian 5:3-4, “*For when they say, ‘Peace and safety!’ then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.*”

Are we on a countdown to Armageddon?

The short answer is no. We have more time because of what must happen in Europe. Things are in the works, and the characters of the ten-nation combine are in preparation choosing up sides. It is very likely the U.S. will pull American troops out of Spain, Italy, and Germany. These countries are distancing themselves from the United States anyway.

Germany’s Defense Minister has said they have committed themselves to build the most powerful military on the continent of Europe by 2039. Breitbart.com reported, “‘We are developing the *Bundeswehr* into the strongest conventional army in Europe. In the short term, we are increasing our defense and resilience, in the medium term we are aiming for a significant increase in overarching capabilities and in the long term we will establish technological superiority,’ Pistorious said, per Politico.”

Chances are, when the ten nations work together, Germany and union of ten will develop a strong army much sooner than Germany supposes to respond to the threats coming out of Russia and the push from the Mideast (Daniel 11:40, 44).

Jesus admonished us to watch

We are not there yet, but events can speed up. Jesus Christ taught His disciples to be observant and watch: “*And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.*” (Luke 21:28)

Most of all, we must watch ourselves spiritually. Luke 21:36 warns us, “*Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.*”