



East of Eden

Cain & Abel

The first of many
clashes to come...



Cain...was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous. (1 John 3:12)

*An ongoing
tale of two...*



**Isaac & Ishmael
Jacob & Esau...**

*An ongoing
tale of
conflict...*



Now Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father had blessed him, and Esau said to himself, "The days of mourning for my father are approaching; then I will kill my brother Jacob"

Gen. 27:41 RSV

*This conflict
has an end....*

Isaac & Ishmael



Sing, O barren one, who did not bear;
break forth into singing and cry aloud,
you who have not been in travail!
For the children of the desolate one will be more
than the children of her that is married, says the
LORD.

Is. 54:1-2

*This conflict
has an end....*



Isaiah 54

For you will spread abroad to the right and to the left, and your descendants will possess the nations and will people the desolate cities.

(v 3)

*But is it
ended?*



Isaiah 54

For a brief moment I forsook you, but with great compassion I will gather you. In overflowing wrath for a moment I hid my face from you, but with everlasting love I will have compassion on you, says the LORD, your Redeemer.

(vv. 7-8)

*There are
compass points
to this tale...*



Then Cain went out from the presence of the LORD, and settled in the land of Nod, *east of Eden.*

Gen 4:16 NAS

Consider Israel's foes from the *East*...

Is this
compass point
coincidence?

Esau (Edom)

Moab

Ammon

Babylon (NE)

Assyria (NE)

Medes (NE)

Persians (NE)



Why should our eyes
turn to the East today?

Several key Bible
prophecies point us there!

Psalm 83

*They say, "Come, let us wipe them
out as a nation;
let the name of Israel be
remembered no more!"*

Ps 83:4 RSV

The Geography of Psalm 83

Edom

Ishmaelites

Moab

Hagrites

Gebal

Ammon

Amalek

Philistia

Tyre

Assyria

East-Southeast

Mainly Southeast

East

Further east

North?

East?

East

South

Southwest

North

East Northeast

Children of Lot = Moab & Ammon (Gen 19:37-38)

Psalm 83

*Assur appears to play a key role...
“the strong arm of the
children of Lot” (v. 8).*

Genesis 10 links Assur with:

Nimrod and Ninevah

**And by association,
Canaan, Philistines, and other
Canaanite peoples.**

What *is* happening to the east today?



Disturbing things...

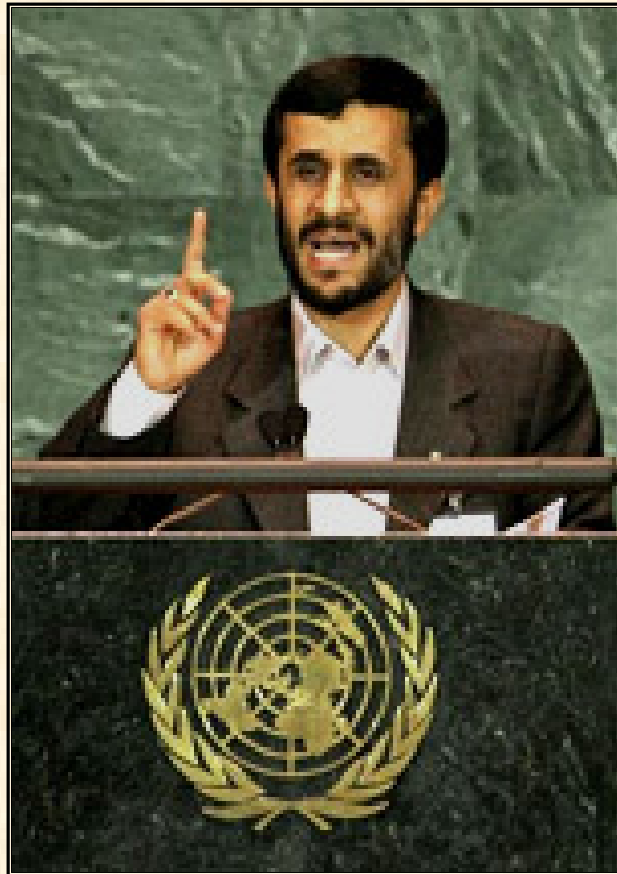
To say the least!

What *is* happening to the east today?



- 1. In what was by all accounts a rigged election, Ahmadinejad stays in power as Iran's president.**
- 2. Iran continues to defy the UN, US, and EU in continuing their nuclear development program.**
- 3. They have been strong backers of Hezbollah in Lebanon—and have also built strong ties to Syria.**
- 4. With nuclear weapons in prospect and civil unrest in the streets, it is volatile to say the least.**

Achmadinejad at the UN



"How can we influence the future of the world? When and how will peace, tranquility and well-being for all come about? These are the fundamental questions before us."

October 2005

Achmadinejad at the UN



"From the beginning of time, humanity has longed for the day when justice, peace, equality and compassion envelop the world. All of us can contribute to the establishment of such a world. When that day comes, the ultimate promise of all Divine religions will be fulfilled with the emergence of a perfect human being who is heir to all prophets and pious men. He will lead the world to justice and absolute peace."

October 2005

Achmadinejad at the UN



*"O mighty Lord, I pray to you to **hasten** the emergence of your last repository, **the promised one**, that perfect and pure human being, the one that will fill this world with justice and peace."*



Divine intervention???

...one of his Iranian colleagues claimed to have seen a glow of light around the president as he began his speech to the UN.

"I felt it myself too," Mr Ahmadinejad recounts. "I felt that all of a sudden the atmosphere changed there. And for 27-28 minutes all the leaders did not blink...It's not an exaggeration, because I was looking."

"They were astonished, as if a hand held them there and made them sit. It had opened their eyes and ears for the message of Islam..."

The Daily Telegraph, January 14, 2006

Who is the promised one?

The Mahdi.



“The most remarkable aspect of Mr Ahmadinejad's piety is his devotion to the Hidden Imam [Mahdi], the Messiah-like figure of Shia Islam, and the president's belief that his government must prepare the country for his return.”

‘Divine mission’ driving Iran’s new leader, Anton La Guardia, *The Daily Telegraph*, January 14, 2006

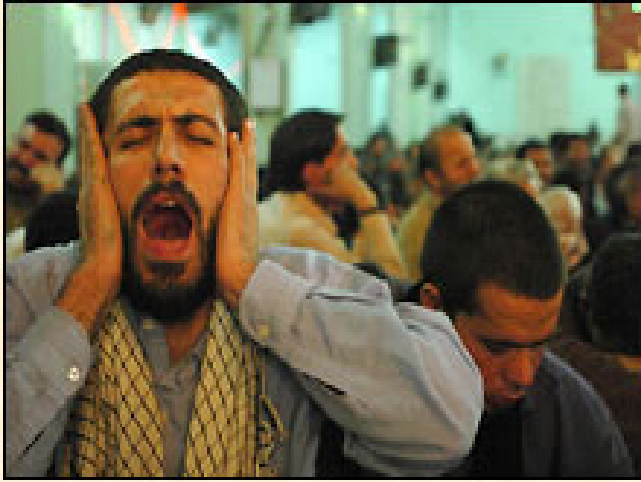


Who is the promised one?

The Mahdi.

“All streams of Islam believe in a divine saviour, known as the Mahdi, who will appear at the End of Days. A common rumor—denied by the government but widely believed—is that Mr. Ahmadinejad and his cabinet have signed a "contract" pledging themselves to work for the return of the Mahdi and sent it to Jamkaran.”

La Guardia



Preparing for the Mahdi

Prayers at Jamkaran

“Iran's dominant "Twelver" sect believes this will be Mohammed ibn Hasan, regarded as the 12th Imam, or righteous descendant of the Prophet Mohammad. His return will be preceded by cosmic chaos, war and bloodshed. After a cataclysmic confrontation with evil and darkness, the Mahdi will lead the world to an era of universal peace. This is similar to the Christian vision of the Apocalypse. Indeed, the Hidden Imam is expected to return in the company of Jesus.”

La Guardia



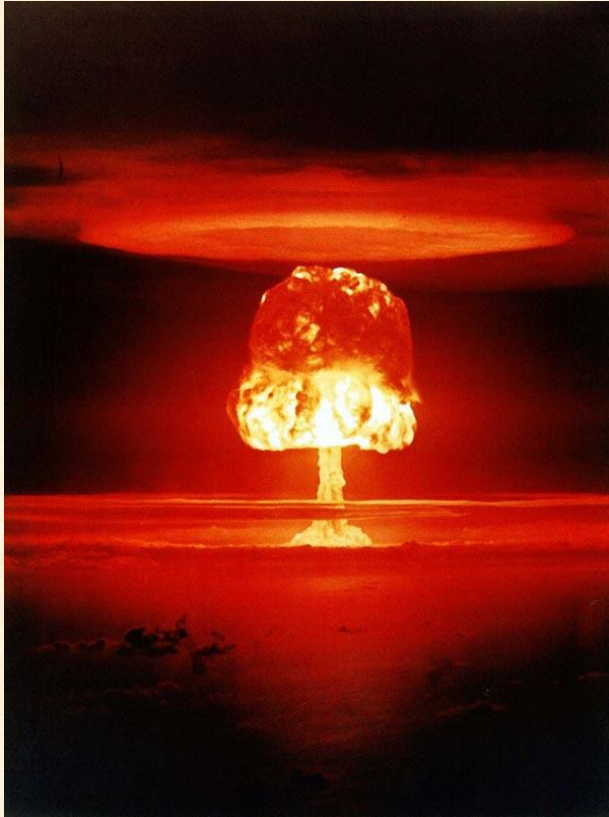
Preparing for the Mahdi

Prayers at Jamkaran

“Mr Ahmadinejad appears to believe that these events are close at hand and that ordinary mortals can influence the divine timetable. The prospect of such a man obtaining nuclear weapons is worrying. The unspoken question is this: is Mr. Ahmadinejad now tempting a clash with the West because he feels safe in the belief of the imminent return of the Hidden Imam? **Worse, might he be trying to provoke chaos in the hope of hastening his reappearance?**”

La Guardia

Iran's Nuclear Agenda



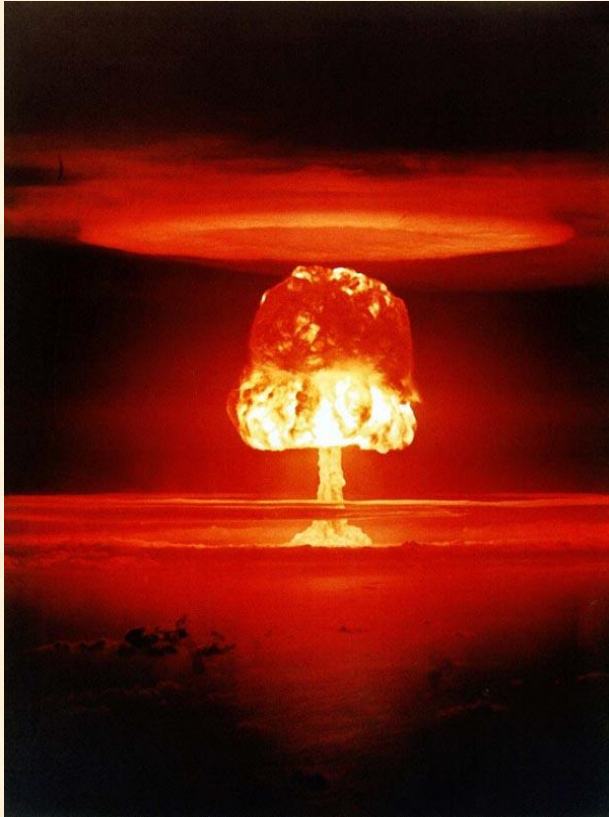
“The International Atomic Energy Agency reported in June 2009 that some 5,000 centrifuges now are working in Iran, churning out low-enriched nuclear fuel, while another 2,000 or so could soon join them.”

“The Institute for Science and International Security ... estimates that at current production rates, Iran could [have] enough feedstock for two nuclear weapons by the end of February 2010.”



**U.S. Juggles Two Iran
Timetables, Gerald F. Seib,
The Wall Street Journal, July 21,
2009.**

Iran's Nuclear Agenda

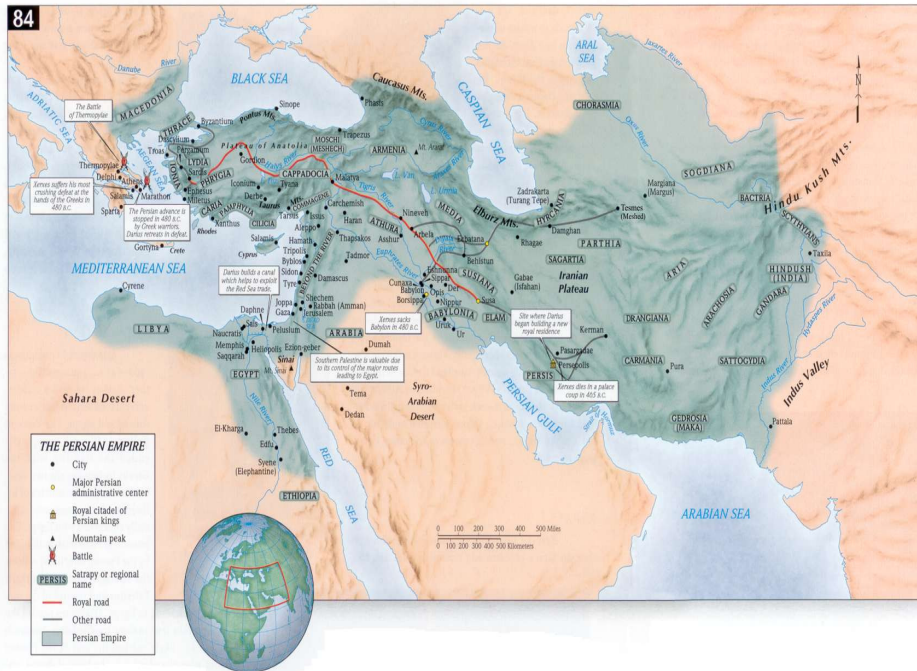


“The bottom line is that their laboratories are probably working 24/7,” says Richard Haass, president of the Council on Foreign Relations.

F. U.S. Juggles Two Iran Timetables, Gerald Seib, *The Wall Street Journal*, July 21, 2009.



The strong arm of the children of Lot ?



A reconstituted Persian Empire?

“Iran is now the strongest presence in Afghanistan and Iraq, after the US. It has turned Syria and Lebanon into its outer defenses, which means that, for the first time since the 7th century, Iran is militarily present on the coast of the Mediterranean. In a massive political jamboree in Teheran last week, Ahmadinejad also assumed control of the “Jerusalem Cause”, which includes annihilating Israel “in one storm”, while launching a take-over bid for the cash-starved Hamas government in the West Bank and Gaza.”

Amir Taheri, *The Daily Telegraph*, April 16, 2006



Mahmoud Ahmadinejad , the Iranian president, called in his speech for “ Israel to be wiped off the map .” He said that “there would be no Zionism in the world...

Jerusalem Day
October 26, 2005
Mehr News Agency



“ the occupying régime [i.e., Israel] should be expunged from the world and the map of Palestine ...”

“ soon the Islamic world will erase the shameful stain of Zionism.”



Iranian leader denies Holocaust

“Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has courted further controversy by explicitly calling the Nazi Holocaust of European Jewry a “myth.” “They have created a myth today that they call the massacre of Jews and they consider it a principle above God, religions and the prophets,” he said.”

BBC News, December 14, 2005



Achmadinejad at the UN, April 2009

"Following World War II," he continued, according to an official English-language text of his remarks, "they resorted to military aggression to make an entire nation homeless, on the pretext of Jewish sufferings and **the ambiguous and dubious question**" of the **Holocaust**.

"So long as Zionist domination continues, many countries, governments and nations will never be able to enjoy freedom, independence and security," he said. "As long as they are at the helm of power, justice will never prevail in the world and human dignity will continue to be offended and trampled upon. **It is time the ideal of Zionism, which is the paragon of racism, be broken.**"

Iranian: Israel is a Racist State, Edward Cody, *Washington Post*,
April 21, 2009

Where is Ahmadinejad headed?



Isaiah 21

The burden of the wilderness of the sea (KJV).

The oracle concerning the wilderness of the sea (RSV).

An oracle concerning the Desert by the Sea (NIV).

Who is this???

Isaiah 21

Like whirlwinds sweeping through the southland, an
invader comes from the desert, from a land of
terror.

(v. 1 NIV)

Isaiah 21

A **distressing** vision is declared to me;
The treacherous dealer deals treacherously,
And the plunderer plunders.

Go up, O **Elam!**

Besiege, O **Media!**

All its sighing I have made to cease.

v. 2 NKJV

Isaiah 21

Therefore my loins are filled with pain; Pangs have taken hold of me, like the pangs of a woman in labor. I was distressed when I heard it; I was dismayed when I saw it. My heart wavered, fearfulness frightened me; The night for which I longed He turned into fear for me.

vv. 3-4 NKJV

Isaiah 21

They prepare the table, *they*
spread the rugs, they eat, they
drink. Arise, O princes, oil the
shield!

v. 5 RSV

Isaiah 21

Who is being hit by this storm?

The prophet gives two important clues.

- **His personal reaction to the vision.**
- **The threshing floor.**

Isaiah 21

**What would Isaiah see that would
make him double over in pain?**

*What if this storm was headed straight
for his own people?*

Note birth pangs...compare "pangs" in Matthew 24.

The place of threshing

O my **threshed and winnowed one**, what I have heard from the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, I announce to you.

Is. 21:10 RSV

The place of threshing

12 In that day from the river Euphra'tes to the Brook of Egypt the LORD will **thresh out the grain**, and **you** will be gathered one by one, **O people of Israel**. 13 And in that day a great trumpet will be blown, and those who were lost in the land of Assyria and those who were driven out to the land of Egypt will come and worship the LORD on the holy mountain at Jerusalem.

Isa 27:12-13 RSV



The place of threshing...

From the beginning!

28 At that time, when David saw that the LORD had answered him at the **threshing floor of Ornan the Jeb'usite**, he made his sacrifices there.

1 Chron 21:28 RSV

22:1 Then David said, "**Here** shall be the house of the LORD God and here the altar of burnt offering for Israel."

1 Chron 22:1 RSV



There are disturbing tidings from the East.

- **This should not surprise us.**
- **Is 21 and Ps 83 are but two of many prophecies that warn us to prepare for such events.**

What lies ahead?

- Is Iran the “strong arm of the children of Lot?”

They are close—perhaps very close—to nuclear weapons, the first Arab enemy to reach this point.

What lies ahead?

- **Is Iran part of the storm that will hit Israel?**

Achmadinejad's stated goal is to "wipe Israel off the map"—a goal entirely consistent with his Mahdi theology.



What lies ahead?

Iran's firepower and its cauldron of Shiite Islam is a potent mix.

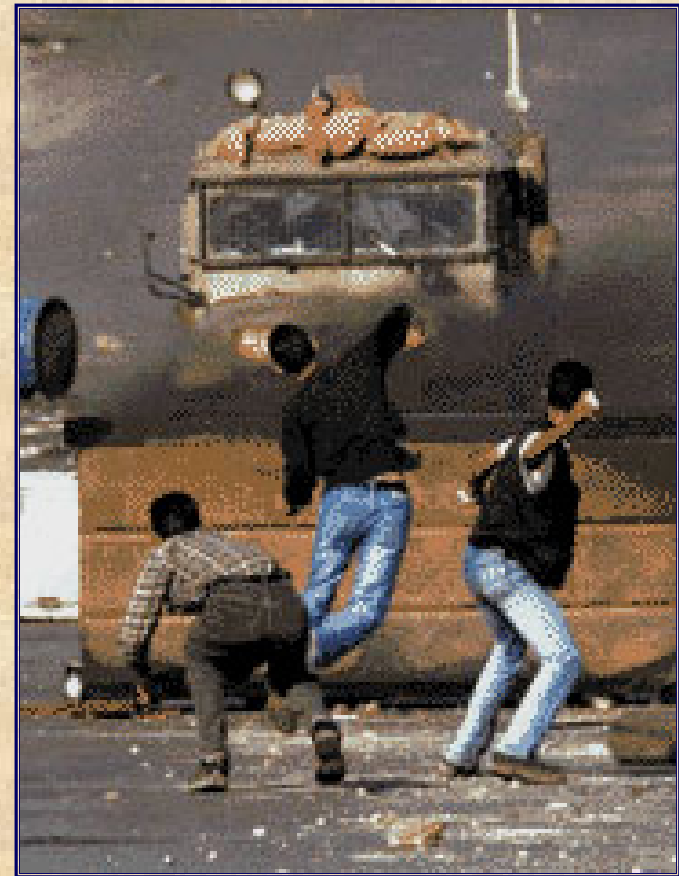
Is this God's hand at work?

It certainly bears watching!

Is *our* faith prepared for
God's people to suffer
under His hand?



Or, do we root for the
“good guys” in their battles
with the “bad guys?”





*God's hand is
always
at work in Israel...*

He seeks faith in His people. If they will not offer it on their own...


His skilled hands will create the conditions in which it will grow!



For us the conclusion could not be more clear.

**The night is coming
when no one can work.**

John 9:4 NKJV



Therefore...Count the forbearance of our
Lord as salvation...and grow in the grace and
knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus
Christ.

2 Pet. 3:15, 18