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In the context of:

**New
Testament
Ministries -
Unlimited**

Damascus No More a City

All that's Left: A Heap of Ruins!

Isaiah 17

True prophecies, the ones in the Bible, have a way of being fulfilled, sooner or later. Most prophecies have to do with the Middle East situation, with Israel and the surrounding nations. In this short chapter of Isaiah, both Damascus is mentioned, and the people of Israel. Looking at the horrific videos and pictures, coming out of Syria's capital, so close to the Israeli border, you are left to wonder, could anything be worse? From history, it would seem that nothing like this was ever perpetrated on Damascus. It is one of the very oldest cities in the world, never destroyed before, which makes it a hard case for the 'nay-sayers'. Yes, there are even 'Christians' who just can't take it that prophecy should be wonderfully, or horribly, fulfilled to the letter. Those are the 'Christians' who try to cheerfully live a 'Christian' life - minus the Christian's Bible... The name 'Damascus' is mentioned 60 times in the Bible, 45 in the OT and 15 in the NT. The list starts as early as Genesis 14:15. There were plenty of opportunities to mention any earlier destruction of Damascus, had there been one. But no, only Isaiah's prophecy points to it - as occurring in, what was to him, a very distant future. The city was going to be reduced to one vast heap of ruins! **At last, its time has come...!** Then the prophecy continues and from vs. 4, describes **Israel's** future. After Syria, it

is **Israel's** turn. The Messiah appears, Armageddon takes place, the Day of Anguish has come. Then Messiah intervenes; God's Remnant is saved!

**These are the
days!
You ready?**



Dear friends,

It's impossible really to keep up with so much that's happening in the world. As a Christian you try to - after all, your Bible serves as the backdrop for everything. And how it enlightens us! But it's not us that's running the world. There is ONE who has it all under control. He knows how and when his wonders to perform!

Again, a number of good friends have died, among them, my nextdoor neighbor, **Esteban**'s father; and also the younger of the two Swedish ladies. Their mystic ideas had really estranged them from the meetings. We were sorry about that, but tried to keep in touch. One of their ideas was to keep all doctors at arm's length. When **Myriam** and I visited them and found Mira in pain and unable to stand, we obviously prayed with them and for them, but also urged them to seek out a doctor. However, they were adamant - no doctor needed. Some time later, **Asa** was deeply shocked to find her on the floor one morning - dead. Apparently, she died of an enormous cancer growth that not even Asa had known about... But Asa told me later that she is now reading her Bible!

As I am writing this, word just comes through that our dear English friend and brother, Joe Hayward, has gone to be with the Lord. He and Pat had gotten married later in life and had no children, though Pat, being a widow when they married, had two boys. In Lower Gornal (near Birmingham), they had so often made us very welcome in their humble home, and when Janet died, Joe urged me again over the telephone that I *must* consider their home to be my home... Now Joe has gone home himself, i.e., to his other home, his true home, and there is much rejoicing there!

On Febr. 27, Myriam flew to Costa Rica. We had finally realized that there simply is no way for two widowed foreigners to tie the knot in Spain. We needed papers from four countries, then from five, but from Costa Rica, e.g., after waiting for months, nothing was forthcoming. So she went with the idea to help sort things out. What she found staggers belief, as they say. She is registered officially as 'married', and, humanly speaking, there is no way that can be crossed out and changed into 'widow'. Which, of course, means we cannot get married...

She has the official German death certificate of her husband - had it officially translated into Spanish - but at the Registry they maintain this paper is no good until it is authenticated by the authorities of the country where he died, which is Uganda. That country, however, has never adhered to the Hague-Treaty on Authentications - which rules Uganda out! Neither are there diplomatic relations with Costa Rica. So, Myriam right there, and I from here, have been trying to consult with different people that might have more light on the situation. So far no results, but we are, above all, in touch with the **King of kings**. He knows what HE is doing! And we are **very** grateful for those who are praying with us!

Coaching for Christ from Northern Ireland are descending on us once again in May and **Michael** is very busy preparing for it with a number of schools. Wholesome sports are introduced into the schools, then, at the neutral outdoor facilities, the kids are confronted with the Gospel as well. In the schools, of course, all are invited to these outdoor activities. **Most** youngsters have never had any real exposure to the Bible; in other words, no ‘pre-evangelization’. Do pray with us that God’s Spirit may give break-throughs in many of these lives and families!

Talking about the Bible, how often, in any Christian’s life, is there a subtle sliding back into not really taking God’s Word seriously anymore. It is downgraded to the status of a ‘religious book’ - to be read on ‘special’ occasions. Our only ‘Fountain’ is Christ, yet the ‘**thirst**-consciousness’ is gone! We’ve persuaded ourselves, that, really, we can do without him... In that respect our Wednesday home-meetings are proving a great blessing! What we mainly do together is simply get into the text (and the context) to see what God is telling us there. Last Wednesday we started on 1 Corinthians. There’ll be lots of life lessons in the two epistles!

We are very grateful for some new folks attending with us. There are relatively few Spaniards, but others hail from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Romania, Ukraine, and at times from Cuba, England, N.Ireland, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela. We believe that through their lives and testimonies, what they have received here, may produce even more fruit in their own countries.

That, of course, is already the case with Myriam in Costa Rica right now. On April 16, she was ‘seven years’ old... Before those 7 years, even though her parents were the Lord’s, Myriam lived in the world and for the world, and oh, what a bitter harvest she experienced! Then, right in her own country, in the midst of much turmoil, she finally surrendered and allowed the Lord to take over! When

back in Spain, she eventually found us. The turmoil wasn’t all gone, but now her Lord was there, seeing her through every trial, and teaching her precious lessons! She is now being used to greatly bless her elderly mother and others, among whom a dear Dominican friend, called **Sonia** - with terminal cancer.

Thank you for praying with us!

Jim & Myriam

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Did Something Happen to the Needle?

An old sailor, a Welshman called Clive, wise and experienced, knew the Irish Sea between Ireland and Wales like no other. For years he had been taking small cargoes to several ports on both coasts, criss-crossing the sea in all directions.

This night, home bound from the North West, he was on a course he had run innumerable times, and without any disaster. He and his crew were nearing port and going full steam - soon they should be home! Clive's keen eye was on the compass and on his maritime charts...

Then, all of a sudden, without any warning, there was a sickening, crashing sound and the vessel came to a shuddering halt... Disaster had struck! Somehow, totally unforeseen, they had run into some hidden rock, and now couldn't be moved. In fact, the boat was taking on water...

At great effort, brave men rowed out from the nearby shore and were able to reach the wreck, saving all those still on board. But the ship and its cargo were lost... Worse, there was loss of life as well!

Clive was devastated! Soon afterwards a thorough investigation was launched. All that had been salvaged of the remains and brought ashore, was carefully examined. When it was the turn of the compass, that too was scrutinized - even more closely than the other items. And, yes, it wasn't long before the men discovered the cause of the disaster - just one tiny element had been fatal...!

Before starting out on this last voyage, someone, perhaps trying to give the compass a good clean, had introduced into it the point of a knife blade, but in doing so, a tiny bit of steel from the blade had broken off, and there it was, inside and close to the magnetic compass needle...

And here you have today's illustration. Every single **true** Christian has an infallible 'magnetic compass needle'. It infallibly points 'north' - it is called **The Bible**. By it, every Christian is wonderfully enabled to chart all of his course through life! That is, as long as he keeps his eye on that 'needle'! If he is too busy, or too tired, or too distracted, he will be on the rocks before very long! Or, as in Clive's sad experience, the Christian may somehow allow for some 'insignificant' **unbiblical** teaching to take its place next to the 'needle', thereby deviating it a tiny bit. Could be 'prosperity', could be 'New Apostolic Reformation', could be 'emerging church', could be 'new age', could be 'tradition' - you name it. Once you stop taking God's Word as your **only** point of reference - of orientation and authority - you're off course! The sad results are only too predictable!

The Illustration

