



### **MIDDLE EAST MELTDOWN**

The events of the last week in the Middle East should create intense interest and significant concern in the hearts of the people of the world. With renewed conflict between Israel and Lebanon, that entire region of the world is once again thrown into turmoil. Perhaps, like never before, the world in general and that region in particular is crying for a peaceful answer to this millennia old problem. All of this has keen biblical significance. The world is holding its breath awaiting a leader who can propose and actually bring peace to that troubled region.

Daniel 8: 23-24 states, "in the latter time...a king of fierce countenance and understanding dark sentences shall stand up. And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power." This "king" (prince; political leader) will be none other than the Anti-Christ, history's greatest imposter. He will come, promising peace, and seemingly have the ability to make good on that promise. Verse 24, of Daniel 8, says, "and his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power." Paul, in commenting on this apparent "peace-maker" says, that his appearance on the world stage will be "after the working (energizing; empowering) of Satan" (II Thess. 2:9). Signs and lying wonders will accompany Anti-Christ's arrival, to validate his claims of bringing peace. Not until AFTER they've signed on to his proposals, will the world realize the true nature of this individual. By that time, he will have implemented a widespread "tagging" system, whereby he can track the movements of the world's populace, thereby exercising almost total control over them.

With each additional missile lobbed into Israel, and each advance of Israel's army further into Lebanon, we move ever closer toward a Middle-East meltdown. As the United Nations and world leaders offer futile advice in an attempt to quell this conflict, we must understand that we are inching closer toward Jesus' glorious return and the church's rapid exit from this earth. Because the time is short, may we who know Jesus Christ as Savior redeem every moment, knowing that the minute in which we currently find ourselves could be our last.

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