

Middle East Inferno

By Charles Feinberg

Charles Feinberg:

I better cut it straight, my father was an excellent tailor.

[Laughter]

Don't laugh, that was the second occupation in the history of the world. The first was gardening and then Adam became a tailor and he fell flat on his face. He made a terrible job of it and the Lord had to redo it, you remember the third chapter of Genesis, I assume. Chamber music ensemble is always very, very beautiful. Sometimes you wonder, when you can get such beautiful music out of small ones, why you need one that looks like it's had a bad case of the mumps but that is music and it is beautiful, beautiful.

This evening our subject is the Middle East becomes an inferno. If you think the devil has been on a rampage thus far, you have not seen anything yet. Many folk are indicating, I had a word recently from somebody that had been in the Holy Land in the last year the very place of Zion where two years ago we had a time of teaching at the Institute of Holy Land Studies, apparently there are some over there who already believe that the church is going through the time of great travail and agony on earth. Well if you judged only by what you see on the outside, that statement could have been made quite a number of times. Even have it in an old Negro spiritual, "Nobody know the trouble I've seen", that's quite a broad statement, you don't know all the trouble that folk have seen. But some folk think things couldn't get worse at all. No, actually, all perdition hasn't broken loose yet. It will break loose not in Vietnam. Not in any of the far eastern areas. Not in the Americas, though there's so much unrest, such terrific unrest, all through the

areas south of us, from Mexico down to Argentina. No, there is one place where the devil is going to make his last stand. That's in the Middle East. They tell us that one day, Napoleon was looking at a large map of Europe and he had one place marked in red and he put his finger on it. He said if it were not for that one spot on this map, I could control all of Europe and satisfy my objectives. And the red spot was, of course, the British Isles. And he did get, as we say down south, he got his comeuppance at Waterloo. And it is true, there's one spot on the face of the earth, and that's Calvary, where Satan got such a beating that he has been scheming ever since to get revenge. But instead of revenge he will get his final putting down, just before he is consigned to the bottomless pit, according to the 20th chapter of the Revelation.

Well this tremendous prophetic theme, and things are really developing very, very rapidly, these things are stated not in one passage of Scripture, but in numbers of them. Quite a good number of them. And not just in historical books or in prophetic books, or even in doctrinal books that have some prophetic conclusions drawn. But even in portions like the Psalms, if you'll turn with me to the second Psalm, I'll just indicate to you what will be the heading up of the affairs of Earth. And it's so often capsulated. In such small compass, it's almost what the German professor said when he got carried away. He said, "Students, if you get this in your head, you'll have it in a nutshell".

Well, it's in the nutshell here. Psalm 2 verse 1, "Why do the nations", plural, "rage and the peoples", that's a poetic parallel to the word nations, "why are they imagining a vain thing, thing that won't succeed?" Notice who they are, kings of the earth, and rulers that have plotted it all out to take counsel together against the Lord. They are ultimately against God the Father and against his anointed, that's his messiah, that's the Lord Jesus Christ. Where are they going to strike? They're going to strike at the place where God has already made his decision. And they are sadly late in coming.

Verse 6, "Yet have I set my king", they can try to nullify it all they want, "yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion". Look at that remarkable verse. Every pronoun there is in the first person. God is going to overrule all; and he does. Do you know that twice in as many months recently, the whole world was on the verge of a universal catastrophe? They just made a mistake. They made a mistake about the signals of the Strategic Air Command, or haven't you read it? And the second time the men were already running out to their aircraft to get aloft, just in that little amount of time. How did it happen that it didn't go through? God rules, and he overrules. "Yet have I set my king on my Holy hill, Zion". That's in the psalms. Isaiah, after he's concluded what's called the apocalypse of Isaiah in chapters 24 to 27, listen to him. Listen to Isaiah the prince of prophets. He says in the twenty ninth chapter of Isaiah, he calls Jerusalem by a very unusual name, Ariel, the hearth of God. Some think it can also mean Arie'el, the Lion of God. We know who the lion of the tribe of Judea, Judah is. And you're not left in doubt to figure out who this Ariel is because, he says, "Woe to Ariel, Ariel the city where David dwelt", there it is, there it is. This area is going to see a tremendous siege. Notice verse 7 of that 29th chapter of Isaiah, "And the multitude of all", A-L-L, "of all the nations that fight against Ariel, even all that fight against her in her stronghold and the distressor shall be like a dream of a night vision. They are going to dream that, though hungry, they're feasting and wake up just all the more hungry. Or as a thirsty man dreams he's having his thirst satisfied, assuaged, and wakes up to find out that he's all the more thirsty. "So shall", verse 8 of Chapter 29 in Isaiah, "so shall the multitude of all the nation", notice how comprehensive worldwide are these expressions. "So shall the multitude of all the nations be that fight against Mount Zion." It's Zion they're after. It's not some other area. They are not ultimately interested in the west bank of the Jordan any more than they are

interested in the west bank of the river Seine in France. Don't let them fool you, that's just a smokescreen. They are arguing that way because they want to win one short battle after another. Then who would ever have surmised that we would live in the time that such an important prophecy as Ezekiel 38 is being fulfilled? Almost more than a year now, that so much of this is in the fulfillment. Ezekiel 38 verse 5, Persia, who thought about Persia, except rugs. I suppose if you got a half a dozen people together and said, "Do you know of any work of God, any missionary work, that's going on in Iran?" Most people don't even know how to pronounce it. The Iranian name, I-R-A-N, not Iran, I wish some of them would run, but it's Iran. I R A N. Persia. Think of it, what has happened. The supposedly strongest nation on earth is stymied as never before. Not knowing which way to turn. You heard the news within recent days. We don't know what the next step is. Even our secretary of state's been telling us that. And whatever he tells us, we've already known for a long time. Persia.

And a lot of folk want to know why the United States of America isn't in prophecy. Why emphasize a circle with a rim knocked off? We are absolutely powerless. We've opened up a keg of worms that nobody in the country knows how to stop. Did you see what they did in Peru? Just this past week? Do you see what's going on in Pennsylvania? You thought they had more respect. That's my home state, Brother Morse, they can't do that. But you see what they've been doing there, these folk that have been let in? Do you know how many people, you ought to go abroad and see how many have had heartaches waiting to get in. Here the flood gates are open and Castro has proved to be far more wise than anyone around here. Yes. Our country has done a marvelous job in recent years of stumbling out of one crisis into another. If you ever prayed for the government, you better pray now. If you differ from them more than ever before, you ought to pray for them or. Every decision that's made back there has something to do with you and me.

Well you say, "What's this got to do about the Middle East?" Well haven't you heard that we are up to our shoulders in diplomacy in the Middle East? And that's where the showdown is going to come between communism and the free world. Yes, Persia. And they have it. [Inaudible] to think he has it.

And then notice the next one, notice the next one: Kush. Who in the world is Kush? That is Ethiopia. And have you been reading, it is Ethiopia in the King James Version, Ethiopia and Libya. They took the old Hebrew words in this new [sp?] reference and put Kush and [sp?]. Those are the words in Hebrew. But they are literally in English, Ethiopia. Have you talked to any people from Ethiopia? Have you talked to a Sudan interior mission missionaries? My how they try to undo all that's been done in recent years in Ethiopia. And [sp?] is Libya. Do you know of a country in the Middle East that's more anti-west, and especially the United States, than they? All of them with whom? That great colossus in the north. And already we are outmaneuvered by tactical and other weapons. And now they just want that last stranglehold and they're after it just the way you want to breathe.

Where are they headed? Turn with me to the next to the last prophecy in the Old Testament and here you have it twice over by the mouth of two witnesses. The twelfth chapter of Zechariah says, verse 2, "Behold, I will make Jerusalem", it should be literally a basin, because so many are going to drink of it, not just a cup, different word in the original Hebrew for cup "behold, I will make Jerusalem a basin of trembling unto all the peoples". Who are they? They're going to come against Jerusalem. And all peoples, verse 3, who are they? All the peoples, all the nations, verse three. And here you have all coming against Jerusalem. I dare say there is no chapter in the Bible that has more mentions of Jerusalem than the twelfth chapter of Zechariah. Every verse, every verse here you have it. There in the second verse, Jerusalem twice. Verse 3, Jerusalem. Verse 4,

Judah, not Jerusalem at the moment. Verse 5 Jerusalem. Verse 6 you have Jerusalem. Verse 7, you have Judah twice and Jerusalem. In verse 8, you have again Jerusalem. 9 Jerusalem. 10 too. By that time, you can really believe he's talking about Jerusalem can't you? The inhabitants of Jerusalem. What about verse 11? Jerusalem. What about 13:1? Jerusalem. That is the most important city in the world. Why? Not because you and I want it to be, but because God made it that way. That's where he had the great plan of redemption completed through the Lord Jesus Christ. And the world, though it may little value it and think of it, the devil has never, has never forgotten it. We may, but the world never has, Satan especially. I mean, chapter 14, here we find, verse 2, "I'll gather all", notice, "All nations against", where? Jerusalem. Jerusalem. To battle. And this time, they are going to meet the champion, the Lord sends, out the Lord's going to go forth and fight against those nations as when he fought in the day of battle. And you know when he fought in the battle in Egypt, at Gideon, and many other times, and those same blistered feet that were pierced at Calvary are going to stand in that day upon the Mount of Olives. Where? Before Jerusalem. Yes. Here it is. That's the area.

Now all the other skirmishes are just so much window dressing. Shortly before he was assassinated by his nephew, King Ibn [sp?] said, and he's getting close to 70 and getting more and more impatient, he said, "Before I leave this world, I want to worship Allah in the Oksa Mosque, the mosque of [inaudible]. And that under Muslim jurisdiction, not against some foreigners. Imagine, they are supposed to be foreigners, those that are there now. And all that because the Qur'an says that no pious, Qur'an believing Muslim must ever allow, hear it, must ever allow himself to be under the domination or jurisdiction of the Dhimmis. That's an Arabic word, D-H-I-M-M-I-S, which means people of the book: Christians and Jews. You must never allow that. And even Sadat, yellow Muslim, says you have gone too far, you and I may question

the timing, I wouldn't say that [sp?] gets all his orders directly from on high. But some of the timing leaves a lot to be desired. But even so, Sadat says that's I draw the line. As long as all the giving is on the other side, why should he worry? Look what he's gotten back. He's gotten back more, Sadat has, than any other Arab nation since they began fighting in 48. Look it over, yes. You say, well I don't know about that. So what do you know? Don't be dogmatic about something that you haven't worked through. That's one of our failings, you've got to watch out. I tell my students and have told them for years that you can always be most emphatic, you can be most emphatic about any subject that you haven't studied because you're not hampered by the facts.

And now you hear it in Revelation 16:12-16. Here is the Middle East on fire, it becomes an inferno. There is the judgment of God in verse 12. Revelation 16:12, "The sixth angel poured out his bowl upon the great", the old version, the Authorized Version said vial, V-I-A-L, you get a little picture of a bit of a container a French perfume. See, I don't know whether Chanel 2 or 5 or whatever channel it is but that's the picture you get. This isn't it at all. This is a huge bowl just as Zechariah 12. "He pours out his bowl", what a mixture, "upon the great river Euphrates", the largest river in that part of the world "and its water was dried up". That was tried once a few years ago, diverted, but here it's going to be all dried up. Even the 11th chapter of Isaiah indicates it. "And its water was dried up", why? "That the way of the kings of the east, the sun rising, might be prepared". They are just beginning to come into the picture. And if you want to know where most of the human family is, you'd better not look this way, the western hemisphere. You'd better look far, far, far to the east. Most folk haven't learned that yet. Most of the people in the world, good half of them, live in the Far East. You go there once and you'll believe it. "The way of the kings of the East might be prepared. And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs", they

weren't frogs, they were like frogs, "come out of the mouth of the dragon", that's Satan, "and out of the mouth of the beast", there it is, that's the political leader. "And out of the mouth of the false prophet", that's the religious leader. That's what I call the evil trio, not trinity, trio; the gruesome threesome. "For they are the spirits of demons". Demon spirits working miracles. Can they do that? Well do you read your Bible and believe it? Of course. "They are the spirits of demons working miracles that go forth under the Kings of the earth". That explains Psalm 2, why it's the Kings who take counsel and jockey for position. And to the whole world to gather them to the battle, it should be war in the original. Original is to be translated war, there's more than one battle. North, One down Petra, one around the [inaudible] of Jehoshaphat, including one there. But there's one also in the Armageddon area. To gather them to the war, the great day of God Almighty, and verse 16 tells us it's called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon, the Middle East is hastening on to a showdown; to a grand climax.

Now that word, Armageddon, these passages that I gave you since we began the message this evening, all relate to Armageddon. Here it is mentioned, it's two Hebrew words: mount Megiddo. And the word Megiddo is from a Hebrew root meaning cut off, to slaughter, to annihilate. It's frequently on the lips of men even when they don't recognize what the full meaning of it is. It has a way of cropping up, you get it in print, you'd get it in public utterances. Even dear Teddy Roosevelt said, when he began that progressive party that was short lived, he said, "We stand at Armageddon and do battle for the Lord". He is wrong on both counts but he's not here to defend himself. It's known, generally, that it relates to the last great war of the Bible. You meet a fellow on the street in Tustin, Maybury, anywhere in the area here, and ask him, "What do you mean by Armageddon?" He would be pretty much alert to the fact that it's the last great war of the Bible.

Now the three main features of Armageddon: its extent. We have had wars called World War 1 and 2, even President Franklin Delano Roosevelt said we ought to call it global war. Now they're talking about intergalactic warfare between the galaxies, definitely so. It's extent. That's an amazing thing about the end time, it gets wider and wider; just as you throw a pebble in a body of water, ever increasing circles. You'd think, well let's say, "A plague on you and all your company". No they don't, you'd think they've learned it, but here they are. And then, it's Confederacies. I think it's correct to say if you studied the history of warfare that up until World War 1, 1914, most wars, not all of them, were fought between one nation and another or a small group on one side and another. Now it's got to be in Confederacies. It has to be in blocks. It has to be the Western powers against the Eastern powers; the axis against the free world. It must be certain nations dominant with their satellites, confederacies.

And then, violence. The violence of Armageddon is practically unthinkable. In the fourteenth chapter of the Revelation and the 20th verse we read, and here is a picture from nature of Armageddon of the Middle East become an inferno, a fire that no man can put out, "The wine press was trodden outside the city". What's the wine press? Well that's the wine press of the wrath of God, verse 19, wickedness come to fruition. "And the wine press was trodden outside the city", city of Jerusalem. "Blood came out of the wine press". So you see that the wine press is a figure. Grapes do not have blood; they have juice, grape juice. But here it is representative of blood, of warriors came out of the winepress. "Even to the horse bridles", and you know as well as I do that the bridle of a horse is not way near its mane or below, among its legs but way up on the horse. And he says, "By the space of a thousand six hundred furlongs", and if you translate that into our measurement, it is the distance of the Holy Land. They are going to have a literal bloodbath there; that's when it comes on fire. And they know that the cementing force, the

driving force of our civilization and economy is oil. And finally, the most backward nations in the world have found what's under their soil by our help and technology. Don't forget that, you see, nothing like giving your enemy a club to hit you on the head with. We're good at that. We've got post post post graduate degrees in that. Put me out of my misery, we say, in a hurry; it's amazing. That's what scripture meant when it says, "I will make foolish the wisdom of the wise". We have more schools in the United States of America than any nation on earth and I've been around, yes. And don't ask me to finish the thought. We're not quite so wise as we think. In fact, the student newspaper in Oklahoma, called The Norman, called the Oklahoma haymaker, had a little word on it, said, "Thermometers are not the only things that are graduated and have degrees without having any brains". I wonder what he meant.

Now this place that's going to be an inferno, it's unique. When Napoleon when he came back from the Battle of the Nile, about 1810 first decade of the last century, when he came back and he was a military strategist, par excellence, and he looked out over this area, Megiddo, he said what an incomparable battlefield upon which to maneuver all the nations. It doesn't mean all the nations in its population, but all the armies of the nations of the world. It is a unique area to the end of a spur that runs from the ridge of Mount Carmel into the plane. It's a conspicuous feature in the landscape. It is the plane of [sp?], that's Greek for Jezreel, triangle. Sides of 20 miles by 15 by 15 goes all the way from Khaifa in the north and west down into the Jordan Valley hills surrounding on every side. And there are five passes with Jezreel guarding the eastern side of Megiddo, the northern approach an ideal battleground, the most famous in all the world. If you began in your Bible with the fifth chapter of Judges, Sisera against Barak, and went on through the historical books, you would be amazed at the major battles that took place there. This was the area where dear, godly King Josiah went to war one time too many; went against Pharaoh Neco

and he had misunderstood the purpose of that Egyptian monarch, and even he said, "Don't meddle to your own hurt. Do I come out now without the Lord's direction?" And Josiah said no, I am going to meddle. This is where Elijah contended with the prophets of Baal. Then the scene of conflict from the Assyrians to Napoleon and so this area is going to see it again. Not many know that when Lord Allenby, General Allen came before King George the fifth to be knighted Sir Allenby, he was asked what additional title like Lord of Marlborough, Lord or this that or the other such as the Churchill family had, what would you like to be Lord of, Sir Allenby? And he chose, knowing his Bible as a godly man, he chose the extra title Lord of Megiddo. That was his title, Sir General Allenby, Lord of Megiddo.

The prophetic passages, we've indicated them, Israel back in the land. Some folk have said, "Get them back in the land and the troubles will be at an end". They were right but at the front end, at the front end. All the nearness of Armageddon, that area is bound to break up more and more and more. Why? There's no area on the face of the earth where you have such a combination of nationalism, religious fanaticism, economic clout as they call it, and, at the same time, biblical longing and expectation. After all those centuries God says I will bring them back in spite of all the devil can do. I will.

Now what is this picture? It's the powder keg. Scarcely can one imagine a day without some conflict there. It gets shoved off in the new somewhere. There was another encounter, another engagement in the southern part of Lebanon. And may I say in all honesty and truthfulness that if it were not for the intervention into position of the Israeli army, you wouldn't have anything in Lebanon that could be called, by any stretch of the imagination, a Christian community. The ones who have saved them from extinction is Israel. In fact, when Dion, you will remember him, he has been in the news lately but the fellow with the patch, if it hadn't been for Dion's

intervention, Syria would have gobbled up all that air. In fact, they are now mouthing great boastings about how they're ready. And we are living in a strange world. Young men are asked to give their lives in battle, in war, and we're not allowed to win the war. Think of it, not allowed to win. And Israel could have won more than once. The U.N., better name than anything you know, unable and unaware and a few more U.N.'s, yes, they always step in at the wrong time. If ever there were debating society, that's it. And when I hear folk downgrading ladies about talking so much, I said, "Have you ever heard how long they talk at the U.N.? And what they say is U-N, unknown and unbearable".

The times of the Gentiles are certainly running out. Think of this area. Toynbee when he wrote about the Near East. When he wrote about. The civilizations of the world, he traced 21 civilizations in all, and 12 of them ultimately, to the Middle East. That area we owe so much of civilization, culture, philosophy, science. Every one of the monotheistic religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. The area is of tremendous military importance. Two million, eight hundred thousand square miles. And Russia's attempt into Afghanistan is just a matter of testing the waters. We were in a prophetic conference recently, early part of the year, in Dallas, at the First Baptist Church, Dr. Criswell. And while there, we were talking over a number of the prophetic things that Dr. Rod Mocker and some of the rest of them, and it came out in the discussion that from every indication this encounter, this entrance, invasion into Afghanistan wasn't even planned by the political heads. The military had gotten so many bees in their bonnet, they were ready to try anything and they jumped ahead. Well they always know how to make an embarrassing situation sound as if it was the, oh the [inaudible]; well, we're just helping them police themselves. That's what Hitler said too when he went into Sudetenland, and into Poland, and some of the other areas. Beloved, when will the world learn? It never will. No man in the

world can learn anything from history unless he learns it from God. Here's the land bridge, the greatest land bridge in the world between Europe, Asia, and Africa. My how tyrant after tyrant has sought to get this area. And you know that today we are souping up every single possible armament. We have a death ray. Supposed to be ready in '78. Costing us over a billion dollars. A laser beam. You don't hear anything about it, just like with Israel. They asked Dion, "Are you going to have a bomb?" "We're working on it". Three years later, we're still working on it. They asked him shortly after that. How about it? He said, we'll be ready. That means it's already there. Yes. And do you know that in our congressional Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, they already have figured out how many would die in a nuclear assault? Here it is: Dallas Morning News, 50 million. You look down the list, you say Los Angeles is there, well at least they've left Santa Ana out. Is that right? What would our country look like even if one city were gone? You say, I don't care what they do even if they do lop off my ear. Have you ever heard a person having his ear bleed and bleed and bleed and still live? Oh no, your life, your life blood, can be spilt that way. Do you know the Russians, and this has been a number of years now, they've been working on a giant space mirror. That's why they want this satellite exploration. They are going to put such a mirror so they can use the sun, that's what they think, they can use the sun in order to kill people and property and burn up, talk about scorched earth policy, burn up everything underneath it. All of it, the peril is there.

And as soon as you begin to have the snake with a large vertical sign line, that means the dollar, when you get wealth in the picture, it is impossible for folk to allow it to remain quiet. Think of this evaluation of what's in the Dead Sea. This is authentic. The Dead Sea has more mineral wealth than any single place on the globe. Potash to make soap, and fertilizer, nitrate. 1 billion. I haven't even seen that many peanuts let alone tons; but of potash: one billion, three hundred

million tons in the so-called Dead Sea. Bromine for medicine, synthetic chemicals, color agent: eight hundred, thirty five billion tons. Salt, that's why in Hebrew it's called Yama Melach, has never been called the Dead Sea by the Hebrews. They had more sense. It's not a dead sea. It is a salty, and by the way, they are trying now to test out opinion there as to making a joining between the Dead Sea, or the salt sea, and the Mediterranean. Of course, they'd have to get permission from the Jordan. It is an international thing, there is such a thing as international law but they're starting to think of it. Salt, table salt, bath salt, commercial salt: 11 billion, nine hundred million tons. Gypsum, that's to dress soils, plaster paris: 81 million tons. All this in the same place. Calcium chloride, drying agent: 6 billion tons. Bitumen, or asphalt, that's to pave roads, to seal ships, to embalm: unknown quantity. And magnesium chloride, the lighter than aluminum metal of the future, magnesium chloride, more even in tons than salt: Twenty-two billion tons. And yet that dead sea, salt sea more correctly, is 47 miles long, nine miles wide, and from three to 13 hundred feet deep. And Israel possesses a 35 mile shoreline. You have then, as I've just indicated, more elements in the middle east, used to be called still correct to call it that, the Near East. Near eastern studies are still taught at UCLA, other universities, we had it back at Hopkins years ago during the war and before that, called it the Near Eastern seminary teaching seminar.

My dear friends, you have a tremendous concurrence coming together of elements that can only cause tremendous inferno. What we have seen in recent days concerning a bombing of those who seem to know something about it there in those areas that rhyme with lost wages, if you think that that's something, when the world really is on a rampage, and Satan says, "What do I have to lose?" Then you will see the Middle East an inferno, and you have the elements one part after another, after another be place just as in a mosaic. Watch for that beloved. Don't read your

newspaper and then read your Bible. Read your Bible first so you know what the newspaper is talking about. No newspaper in the world is up to date, you know why? Because by the time you receive it, the news already changed. But the Bible is miles and miles and miles ahead of them. Beloved, this isn't the day to quibble with folk. This is no day to tell folk fairy tales and legends and myths. And that everything is rosy and we ought to be optimistic. As the optometrist said in Dublin on his window, "You can't be optimistic with a misty Optic". You'd better start seeing correctly and clearly and astutely and properly. Friend, if ever there was a time when we need to flee to the refuge that's in Christ, it's now. And beloved, as we go into this Jubilee year, we ought to be all out. Why is it that the Communists can ask for everything and we are so afraid that we're going to get a few blisters on our hands? Better to have them on the hands than on the soul. Let's be in prayer, then for this coming church calendar year, this year of great celebration. Thank God for what has been done. But let's put up our Ebenezer and hitherto hath the Lord helped, us henceforth he will. Shall we stand for the benediction?

[Choir sings hymn]