

FROM OUR PASTOR

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"The calm that has prevailed for more than a decade along the Lebanon-Israel border is being rattled by a flurry of fiery warnings from both sides that has many here concerned another war between the Jewish state and Lebanon's Hezbollah organization may be drawing closer." So reported Christian Science Monitor this week.

While the US media are obsessed with possible meetings with Russians by administration officials, the primary sponsor of terrorism in the world--Iran--has been moving weapons and possibly preparing to launch another war against Israel by Hezbollah, Iran's puppet Army in Lebanon. If the war breaks out, it will not be a border skirmish.

Hezbollah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah has threatened to attack Israel's only nuclear reactor. Israeli officials are prepared, and have warned that all Lebanon will be struck if Hezbollah attacks the Israeli home front. A rocket or artillery attack from Hezbollah could spiral into a major battle quickly. Hezbollah fighters, especially anti-tank missile teams and the rocket units, have stayed in Lebanon rather than go to Syria. For the past two months, plain-clothed Hezbollah units have been conducting a thorough but low-key survey of the Lebanon-Israel border, taking extensive measurements of terrain and photographing Israel's own defenses on the other side of the fence.

The amount of firepower prepared to strike on both sides is far larger than in the past. CSM also stated, "The prospect of a mutually destructive war unleashed on Lebanon and Israel continues to act as a deterrence, but it remains perilously vulnerable to a miscalculation that could spiral into a conflict before either side can dial it back."

Iran also has client military operative groups in Syria and Yemen, and cells or terrorist operations ready to strike in other nations. Gen. Joseph Dunford, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told an audience at the Brookings Institution last week, "They [the Iranians] have got a very aggressive proxy war..." It is easy to see how a new war in Lebanon could expand and become the first large international challenge for the new administration.

Jerusalem is a chosen place. God chose it for His dwelling place (2 Chronicles 6:6). When Jesus Christ returns this ancient city will become the seat of government of the entire world (Isaiah 2:3). Between now and then are going to be years of turmoil and war. Speaking of these years, the prophet Zechariah was inspired to write, "It shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples (Zechariah 12:3)."

Very heavy indeed. The wars in the region around Jerusalem can effect much of the earth. We will not have much warning, so must be spiritually prepared ahead of time. Remember that the church is going to be half asleep in the time just before the groom--Jesus Christ--returns. (Matthew 25: 1-9).

Never forget this formidable warning from Jesus Christ, "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming."

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