

**THE GOSPEL GIVES US
CONFIDENCE IN GOD
AND IN ONE ANOTHER**

2 CORINTHIANS 1:12-2:4

INTRODUCTION

- Certain allegations are made against Paul from the Corinthian believers.
- They question the nature of his travel and as a result, question his integrity.
- They accuse Paul of flippant behavior, making decisions based on feelings and self-interest rather than the needs of others.
- But Paul won't have it.

INTRODUCTION

- In his explanation, Paul seeks to do two things. First, he wants to make sure that any doubt in his actions is not synonymous with doubt in the Gospel message.
- Second, Paul wants to assure them that he has acted in a godly manner and out of deep care and concern for them, not a lack of it.
- Paul wants them to have confidence in the Gospel and he wants them to have confidence in those that preach and live by the Gospel.

THOUGH WE MAY DOUBT
OTHERS, WE MUST NOT
DOUBT THE TRUTH OF
THE GOSPEL

2 CORINTHIANS 1:12-22

PAUL'S CONSCIENCE

- In verses 12–14, Paul wants to be clear: there's nothing secretive about what he's doing. He can be trusted.
- He and his colleagues have acted in line with the Scripture and in line with godly wisdom and care, not flippantly or according to the world's standards.
- When he speaks of boasting he means that they have acted out of godly sincerity. Paul means they are confident in their behavior.

PAUL'S TRAVEL PLANS

- In verse 15, Paul appeals to their relationship. Before he explains his travel, he wants to start by calling to mind the deep bond in Christ he shares with them.
- The Corinthian believers aren't convinced that Paul has acted in their best interest. This is the cause for Paul's writing in verse 17.
- He assures them that he doesn't make his plans according to his own desire. He isn't lacking focus or dedication.

PAUL'S INTEGRITY

- Paul appeals to God's faithfulness to explain his own in verse 18.
- God is faithful and His promises are always sure, coming to complete fruition.
- There's nothing about God that is uncertain.
- Paul continues in this train of thought through verse 22. In Christ, there is no uncertainty, not a trace of indecision.

**WE CAN TRUST ONE
ANOTHER BECAUSE OF
OUR LOVE FOR ONE
ANOTHER**

2 CORINTHIANS 1:23-2:4

TRUST

- Paul continues to fight for the relationship with the Corinthian believers.
- He postponed his travel plans because he didn't want to cause them any more pain than he already had, according to verse 23.
- Paul appeals to his role as an apostle, that it is one of service, not one of a tyrant.

TRUST

- In the second chapter, we notice that Paul's joy is intimately connected with the joy of the Corinthian Christians.
- He did not want to dry up the very source of his happiness (verse 2).
- For their sake, Paul wrote them a letter instead of visiting them. This isn't for self-interest; this is for their good and their pleasure.

TRUST

- Paul assures them in verse 4 that “although the letter arose out of deep distress and anguish, his main aim was to convince them of his deep affection and concern for them.”
- This is the message throughout Scripture.
- God disciplines those whom He loves, not those toward whom He is ambivalent. Discipline is not the absence of love, but the abundance of love.

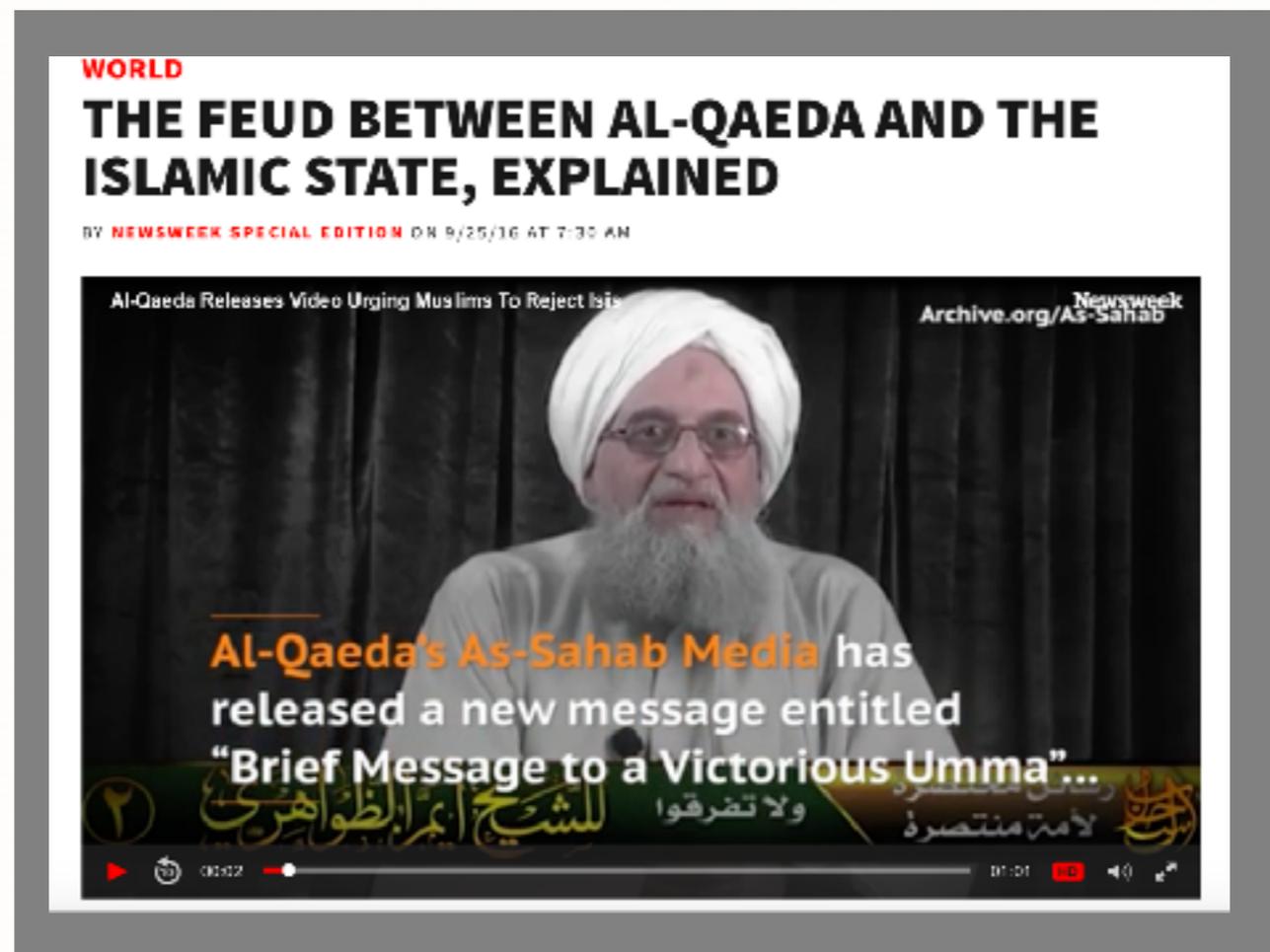
TRUST

- Pastor Tim Keller says that true friends are like surgeons, only cutting in order to bring healing.
- Paul wants the Corinthians to reflect on his care and love for them and let that influence the conclusions they've come to about his actions.
- Because we can trust Christ, we can trust Christ's Spirit to work in and through the body of believers.

MIDDLE EAST QUESTIONS

ISIS AND PROPHECY?

- Question: ISIS and al Qaeda may be joining forces. Is that prophecy in the Bible?



ISIS AND PROPHECY?

- Two major divisions in Islam:
- Sunnis - followers of the Sunna (they follow the example or practice of Muhammed).
- Shi'ites - partisans (shia) of Ali, (they follow those in the line of Muhammed's son-in-law).



ISIS AND PROPHECY?

Lines in the Sand: Shiites as % of Muslim Population



ISIS AND PROPHECY?

- During the 1990s, al Qaeda (the base) carried out various attacks overseas (Saudi Arabia, Kenya, Tanzania) and then in the U.S. (attack on 9/11).
- After 2001, al Qaeda became a franchise operation. The leaders in Iraq was Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.
- ISIS filled the power vacuum when al-Zarqawi was killed. Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi became the head of the Islamic State of Iraq.

AL-BAGHDADI



ISIS THEOLOGY

- July 4, 2014 - Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi was proclaimed at the Mosque in Mosul as the “Caliph Ibrahim” and leader of the Islamic State.
- “Fear Allah as he should be feared and do not die except as Muslims. . . . Go forth, O mujahidin in the path of Allah. Terrify the enemies of Allah and seek death.... for the dunyā will come to an end, and the hereafter will last forever.”

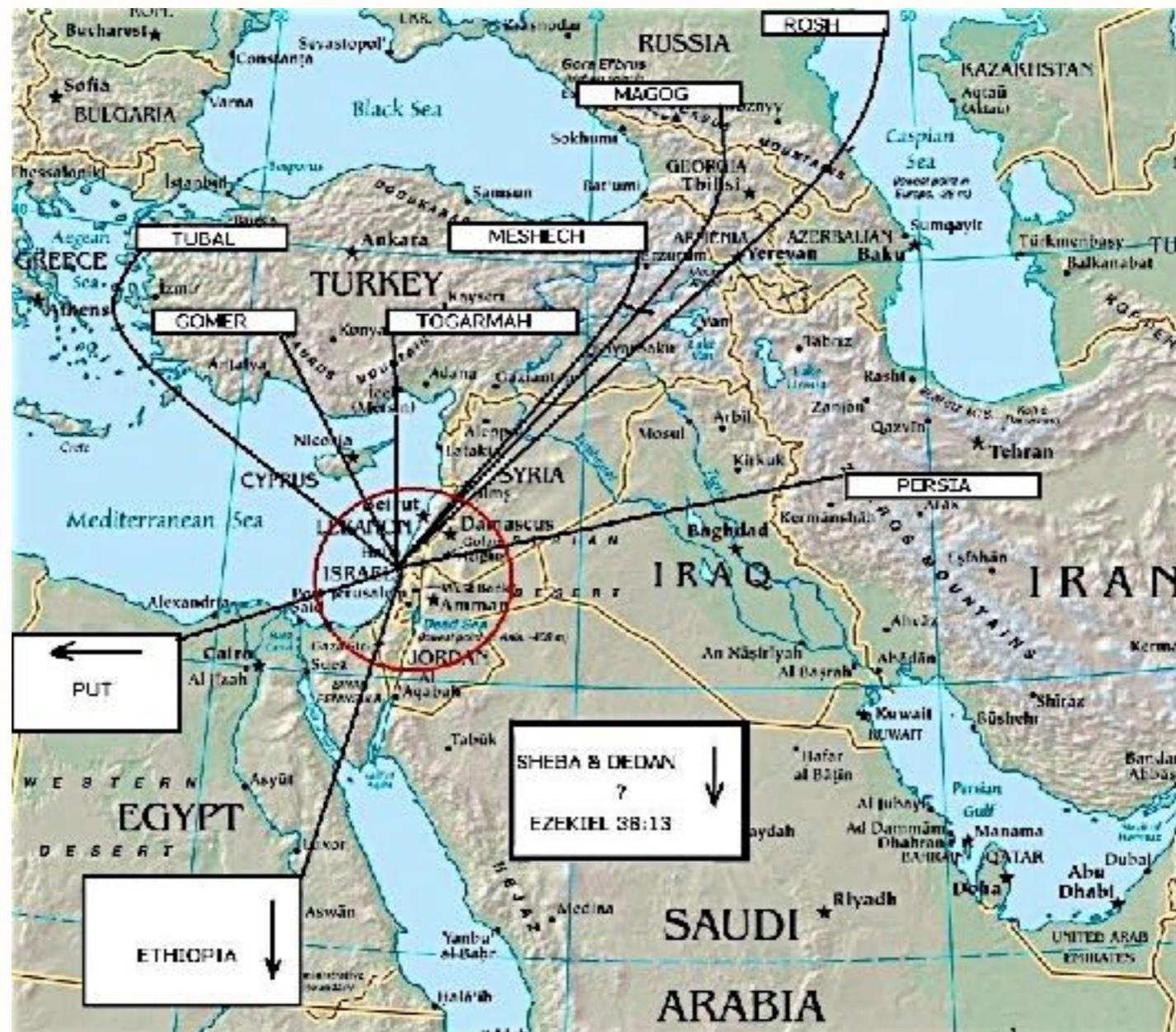
EZEKIEL 38:1-6

“Gog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal. And I will turn you about and put hooks into your jaws, and I will bring you out, and all your army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed in full armor, a great host, all of them with buckler and shield, wielding swords. Persia, Cush, and Put are with them, all of them with shield and helmet; Gomer and all his hordes; Beth-togarmah from the uttermost parts of the north with all his hordes—many peoples are with you.”

EZEKIEL 38

Rosh	Russia
Magog	Central Asia
Meshech & Tubal	Turkey
Persia	Iran
Cush (Ethiopia)	Sudan
Put	Libya
Gomer	Turkey
Beth-togarmah	Turkey

EZEKIEL 38



SYRIA

- Question: How should the U.S. respond to the civil war in Syria?
- Less than 72 hours after the chemical attack that killed dozens of civilians, President Trump hit a Syrian airfield with 59 Tomahawk missiles.
- If this is a one-off, then the strike would be the very definition of a symbolic pinprick. If there is more to come, the question logically is: What's next?



USS Ross



USS Porter



Al Shayrat Military Base

Tartus Port

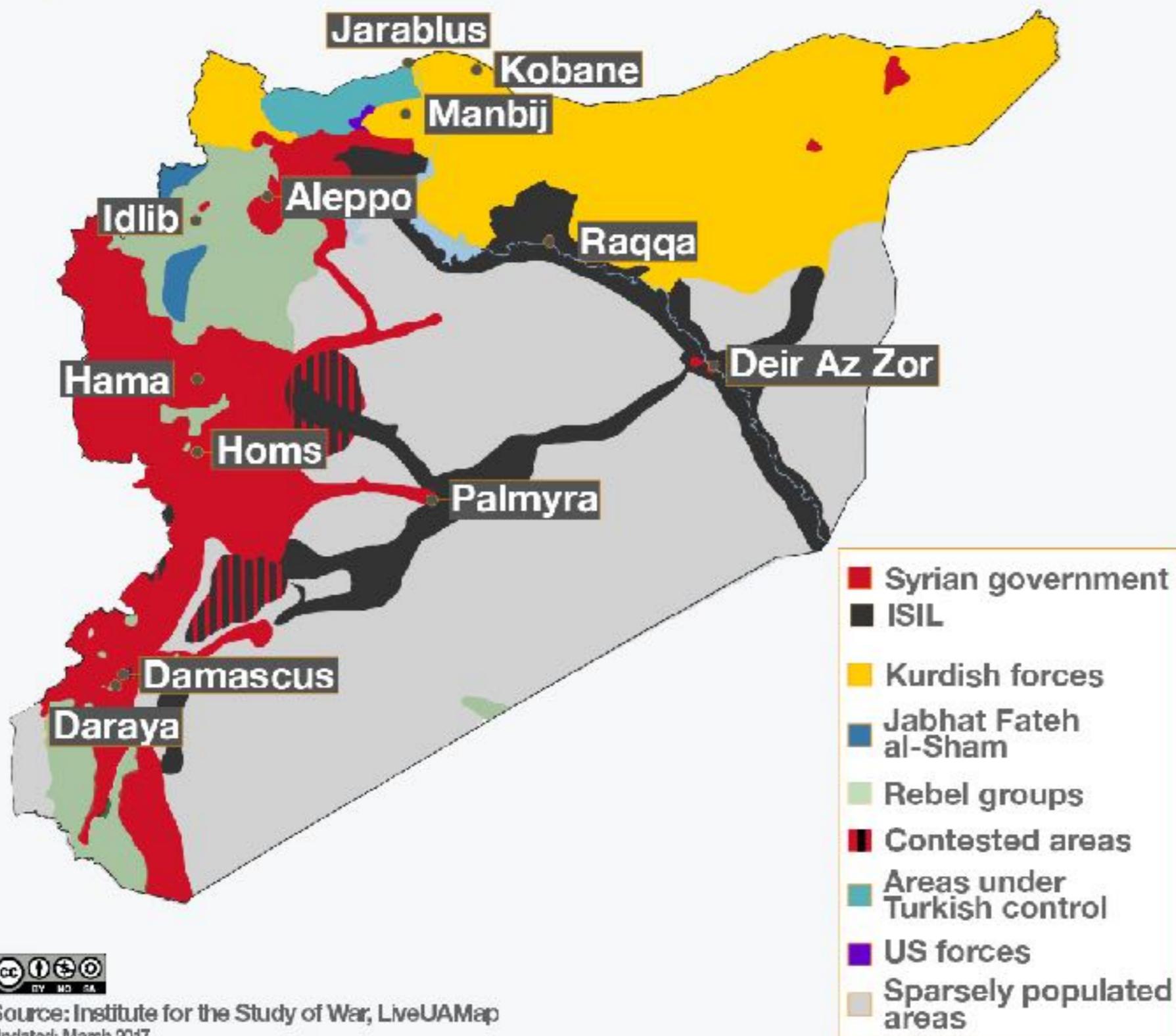


The Admiral Grigorovich coming from the Black Sea

SYRIA

- In some ways, President Trump and the U.S. are being tested. The world has been watching to see how we respond to Assad's war crime.
- Victor Davis Hanson - "Rightly or wrongly, China, Iran, North Korea, Russia, and Middle East-based terrorists concluded after 2009 that the U.S. saw itself in decline and preferred recession from world affairs." America seemed more interested in climate change, resets, and goodwill gestures.

Syria: Who controls what?



Source: Institute for the Study of War, LiveUAMap
Updated: March 2017



SYRIA

- Who are the key players?
- Since 2013, Russia has worked with Iranian and Syrian partners to decimate the Syrian opposition. Russia now has control over Syrian's largest cities and is the patroller of the skies.
- Iran has also become Assad's protector on the ground with arms supplies and Hezbollah. America cannot let terrorist groups get chemical weapons.

HISTORY WARNINGS

- Big wars start from small beginnings (World War I started with the assassination of a Austrian archduke and ended with 18 million dead by 1918).
- Verbal threats should be backed up with force (pseudo-red lines invite further aggression).
- Deterrence is what prevents war (appeasement and isolationism may avoid immediate crises but usually end in military conflict).

BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

- Defend those who cannot defend themselves (rescue the weak and needy - Psalm 82:3-4)
- Seek justice for those who oppress the innocent (seek justice, correct oppression - Isaiah 1:17).
- Pray for our leaders and military (leaders need divine wisdom - 1 Timothy 2:2).
- Ask God how He wants you to respond personally (pray for laborers for the harvest - Matthew 9:38).

GENESIS QUESTIONS

SATAN - SERPENT

- Question: How did Satan get into the garden in the form of a serpent? Was the serpent in somewhat different form after his deception? He was cursed: “on your belly shall you go.”
- We learn from 2 Corinthians 11:14 that Satan disguises himself. So it is reasonable that he came in the FORM of a snake for his purposes.
- It appears from the passage that snakes did not crawl the bellies before God cursed them.

SATAN - SERPENT

- Why did God curse the snake?
- First, the snake would forever be a symbolic reminder of the Fall. Humans are to have dominion and rule over the animal kingdom, yet it was an animal that led them astray.
- Second, the snake becomes a symbolic reminder of Satan's destruction (Genesis 3:15) - "he will crush your head and you will strike his heel."

120 YEARS?

- Question: Why does God say He will number man's days to 120 in Genesis 6:3, yet we read that many lived more than 120 years?
- First, this verse does not teach that our lifespan is limited to 120 years, even though some teach that.
- Second, the context is crucial. Genesis 6 explains the need for the Flood (decadence was polluting the human seed, threatening the seed of the Messiah).

ONLY SON?

- Question: Why did God call Isaac the ONLY son of Abraham? Was it because Ishmael was illegitimate?
- Jews and Christians not only ask this question, but Muslim apologists argue this shows that Genesis was doctored by the Jewish people to make Isaac the chosen heir of Abraham rather than Ishmael.
- In Genesis 21, we find that Hagar and Ishmael are legally separated from Abraham.

ONLY SON?

- God then tells Abraham that through Isaac shall your descendants be named. Ishmael had no contact with Abraham until his burial in Genesis 25:5.
- Hebrews 11:17 refers to Isaac (in some translations) as “his only begotten son.”
- This implies that Isaac was special and unique.
- This is actually what the Hebrew word (*yachiyd*) for “only” actually means.

OUT OF SIGHT?

- Question: Why did Abraham say the he wanted Sarah to buried out of his sight?
- He said this (23:4,8) to make the point that her body (and our bodies) are not to be be venerated or treated like some kind of sacred object.
- The dead body is only the shell in which the soul has lived. Paul calls it a tent (2 Corinthians 5:1).
- The body should be laid aside, put out of sight.