

The Coming U.S.-Iraq War

“The agencies of evil are combining their forces, and consolidating. They are strengthening for the last great crisis. Great changes are soon to take place in our world, and the final movements will be rapid ones.” —9 Testimonies, 11.

The coming war against Iraq will be one of the most significant secular events of the decade. Its effects could well overshadow those of September 11.

Therefore, you should be provided with an overview of the situation and what may soon take place. None can know the future, so major portions of the following comments may never occur. Yet we would do well to consider the possibilities.

1 - The United States is headed into a major war against Iraq. Although a majority of people around the world, and in the U.S., do not want it to take place, the war will be launched anyway.

2 - It is definitely “Bush’s War.” His determination that it must occur is bringing Tony Blair to his support (against the majority of British subjects). There is also the strong likelihood of full Congressional approval.

3 - The power of a U.S. president today is indeed amazing. He is often able to ram something through that no one else wants. Something to think about, in view of the coming National Sunday Law. The power and influence of the United States government throughout the world today is amazing. Yet, when the 1884 and 1888 editions of *Great Controversy* were written, few in the world had any interest in America, except as a place they might emigrate to.

4 - Thoughtful people everywhere (including nearly all foreign leaders) recognize that a war against Iraq will bring many negative consequences, some of which could be fearful indeed. This view is held in spite of the fact that most everyone, including all Near Eastern leaders, would like to see Saddam eliminated.

5 - In view of the whole situation and all that it involves, I am beginning to believe the verdict of some thought leaders in Washington, that Bush’s primary reason for wanting to get rid of Saddam Hussein is revenge for Saddam’s attempt to assassinate Bush’s father (George H.W. Bush), when he visited Kuwait two years after the Gulf War.

6 - Iraq has an immense amount of oil and will remain very wealthy until (if time were to last) all world oil peters out in about 75 years. If Saddam is eliminated, his successors would have the funds to keep churning out weapons of war and supplying them to terrorists. Retaliation for two U.S. wars against the nation would be reason enough for doing it.

7 - All reports indicate there really is not sufficient cause to invade Iraq. First, there is not enough indication that Iraq has contacts with al-Qaeda. Instead, there is evidence that al-Qaeda and Saddam have been enemies for years. Second, even though Iraq may have weapons of mass destruction (WMD), there is no evidence that they are giving any to terrorist organizations.

8 - Such a war would cause serious problems to world oil imports and supplies. This could seriously affect oil prices for every oil-important nation on earth.

9 - Now I come to the most serious problem of all: what Saddam might do when such a war started. Since it is Bush’s repeatedly stated objective to get rid of Saddam, the leader of Iraq would have nothing to lose in a war against his nation. Bush is planning to disrupt the Iraqi nation as little as possible while attempting to find and capture or kill Saddam. Well-aware of this objective, Saddam may do some very terrible things in retaliation.

Saddam considers himself an important person in history. He has declared that he is in the line of Nabopolassar, Nebuchadnezzar, and Saladin—very famous men of the past who lived in, what is today called, Iraq.

In order to bolster this impression, Saddam tried to rebuild “Babylon.” Go there today and you will see its walls, in the same style as the ancient walls. (*See box on the bottom of the next page.*)

Saddam really has nothing to lose if the U.S. tries to capture or kill him. This is the man who sees no

value in human life. When a general in a meeting disagrees even slightly with him, he leads him to an adjoining room and shoots him dead, using a handgun he always carries in a holster at his side. When some of the Kurds revolted, he used poison gas on them.

The present writer suggests that, if he is cornered, Saddam will make sure he is not taken prisoner to the Haig to face a war crimes trial. Instead, he will die and take as many as possible with him.

We do not have certainty whether he has nuclear weapons (even though, in 1991, it was predicted that he would have them within five or 10 years). But we can expect that he has biological and chemical WMD. Unless he is prematurely slain, I predict he will use them against our soldiers, and in a manner that will kill large numbers of them, as well as hundreds of thousands of his own citizens. Saddam would not care. He can be expected to also launch missiles, containing smallpox, anthrax, or chemical poisons against the Kurds to the north, Israel to the west, and perhaps also into Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and even Iran.

He would know that the U.S. would later be blamed for causing all this terrific loss of life.

It is because of this concern that I pen this article.

Israel has said that it would only give a "measured response" to any attack Saddam made against it. What kind of "measured response" could equal a smallpox air attack into Jerusalem and Tel Aviv?

Here is a brief summary of information on the situation:

Repeatedly, over the years, Iraqi leaders were killed or ousted in one military takeover after another. In July 1968, a junta, led by Maj. Gen. Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr of the Ba'ath Party, ousted Gen. Abdel Rahman Arif. Bakr's second-in-command was a young man named Saddam Hussein.

Iraq was already one of the world's leading producers of oil. With Bakr and Hussein in power, the revenues were used to develop one of the strongest military forces in the region. On July 16, 1979, Saddam Hussein gained control of Iraq. The next year, he suddenly attacked Iran. He used poisonous chemicals on the Iranians during that war. From September 1980 to August 1988 the war was fought till a cease-fire was agreed upon.

That same year, Saddam turned on the Kurds in Halabjah, in the northern part of Iraq, and gassed 50,000 to 100,000 to death.

Oil was discovered in Kuwait in the 1930s, which amounted to 20% of the world's known oil reserves. Since 1946, it has been the world's second largest oil exporter (after Saudi Arabia). Saddam had his eye on its wealth.

In July 1990, Saddam Hussein claimed that Kuwait was flooding world markets with oil and forcing down prices. A mediation attempt by Arab leaders failed; and on August 2, 1990, over this and territorial claims, Iraqi troops invaded Kuwait and set up a puppet government. On January 18, 1991, UN forces launched Operation Desert Storm and liberated Kuwait in four days (February 23-27), ending the Persian Gulf War.

It was not until after the war had ended, that the West discovered that Saddam had an ongoing biological weapons program.

When the Kurds in northern Iraq rebelled shortly afterward, Saddam bombed them with a mixture of mustard gas, cyanide, and VX nerve poison.

Iraqi "training maneuvers," near the Kuwait border in October 1984, brought U.S. and British troops and equipment.

On November 13, 1997, Iraq expelled the American members of the UN inspection team which had been trying to locate and destroy Iraqi nuclear, chemical, biological, and ballistic arms. Under the 1991

Does Saddam Hussein's rebuilding of "Babylon" violate the Bible prophecies that the city would remain desolate and never be rebuilt? Not at all.

God predicted that the city of Babylon would be destroyed and never rebuilt (Isa 13; 14:1-23; Jer 50-51).

In 539 B.C., Cyrus' general conquered the city. (Xenophon, the Greek historian in his *Cyropaedia*, says Gobryas, also called Ugaru, was the general whose troops conquered Babylon for Cyrus. He is probably Darius the Mede who is mentioned in Daniel's book.)

Several rebellions against Persian rule under Darius I and Xerxes led the latter king to send an army to destroy the palaces, temples and walls of

Babylon in c.480 B.C.

About 150 years later, Alexander the Great planned to rebuild Babylon and make it the capital of his empire. But he died before he could even begin the project.

In 312 B.C., Seleucus I Nicator built Seleucia as his new capital on the banks of the Tigris, using much building material from old Babylon.

Down through the intervening centuries, Arabs have always feared to remain in the ancient city overnight. They believe it is haunted.

When Saddam decided to rebuild "Babylon," he did so a few miles away from the ancient site.

So the city of Babylon has never been rebuilt. Throughout all future time, it never will.

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cease-fire resolutions, the UN will not lift the embargo against Iraq until it fully complies. In August 1998, Saddam ejected all the inspection teams. In September, the UN Security Council voted unanimously that the lifting of sanctions would not be discussed until arms inspectors resumed their work.

From August 1998, down to the present time, Saddam has had unfettered opportunity to continue stockpiling WMD. He has the money, since Iraq continues to sell oil. Secret shipments of supplies continue to pour in from China, Europe, and Russia through neighboring nations.

Keep in mind that Iraq is a one-man government. Saddam makes all the decisions and does whatever he wishes. Everyone fears him.

Perhaps someone imagines that Saddam has no interest in stockpiling such terrible things. But, by the time that the UN inspectors finally left Iraq, they had found and eliminated large amounts of WMD: 39,000 chemical munitions, 690 tons of chemical agents, 3,000 tons of precursors, and 426 pieces of production equipment. They had also located 817 Scud missiles, some of which were destroyed. These could be used to send toxic warheads to surrounding nations, including Israel, U.S. bases in neighboring countries, and its offshore fleet.

Before the Gulf War, U.S. intelligence estimated that Iraq was five to 10 years from building a nuclear bomb. When the International Atomic Energy Agency team went in after the war, it discovered that Saddam was only six months from having a crude one. Iraqi scientists (trained in U.S. and British universities) had designed a workable weapon and had nearly completed refining all the 44 lbs. of highly enriched uranium needed to fuel one bomb.

It is true that for the next seven years, the inspection teams confiscated many nuclear materials and devices, but they never were certain as to how much they had not found.

Because of discrepancies in seized Iraqi documents, it was clear that Saddam still had 6,000 chemical bombs hidden somewhere. Inspectors doubted his assurance that all of the 3.9 tons of deadly VX nerve poison had been voluntarily destroyed.

Based on what they found, Saddam could now be growing anthrax, *botulinum* toxin, and perhaps smallpox strains. His favored chemical agent is the VX nerve agent, which he could easily pack inside bombs. Although the CIA says Iraq has accelerated production of weapons, it has produced little evidence backing that claim. Yet it is definitely known that Saddam regularly purchases war materials through hundreds of front companies around the world, which are then brought clandestinely into Iraq. It is also known that one of Saddam's simplest, most effective weapons would be chemical or biological materi-

als which are stuffed into artillery shells and fired at oncoming troops.

A single gram of anthrax contains 1 trillion spores, enough for 100 million fatal doses. It could be placed inside a suitcase and exploded.

He is thought to have hidden at least 12 to 18 Scud missiles. Each one has a 360-mile range.

Before the Gulf War, Saddam paid German scientists to help assemble hundreds of gas centrifuges, needed to produce bomb-grade enriched uranium from tons of raw ore. Most of the centrifuges were later destroyed by the inspectors. It is estimated that he may still have a dozen hidden somewhere. But he could obtain highly enriched uranium faster by buying it on the black market from former Soviet republics.

It is believed that Iraq may not have much nuclear production capability, since it requires a large amount of electricity and the electrical lines could be seen by spy satellites. In contrast, biological weapons can be secretly made in small quantities inside a hospital or public-health lab.

Could Saddam import nuclear materials and make "dirty bombs" (uranium or plutonium packed inside boxes with dynamite to scatter the radioactive material). It is well-known that immense Russian stockpiles of such materials are guarded (when guarded at all) by underpaid soldiers who would appreciate receiving bribes to share some of the stockpile.

It is also known that Iraq now has drones (unmanned planes) that appear to have been rigged to spray toxic agents at low altitudes. During the 1998 U.S.-British air strikes, analysts spotted previously unknown unmanned planes hidden in a bombed Iraqi hangar. These drones were fabricated from Czech L-29 jet trainers that were purchased legally years earlier.

In spite of all the inspection teams, it was not until mid-1995 that the U.S. learned about Saddam's biological weapons program. In that year, his son-in-law Hussein Kamal fled to the West and told about the secret buried labs. (Saddam lured the young man back to Iraq with the promises of warm friendship and many rewards; then he murdered him upon arrival.)

Iraq later admitted that it had made batches of anthrax bacteria, carcinogenic aflatoxin, agricultural toxins (which ruin crops), and paralyzing poison *botulinum*. It also said that it had loaded 191 bombs, including 25 missile warheads, with the poison for use in the Gulf War; but that all this had been destroyed afterward. But no evidence that the materials were destroyed was ever presented.

We know that Saddam Hussein has had four years to produce a variety of dangerous weapons, with no

interference of any kind. He employs 200 nuclear Ph.D.s and 7,000 other workers at a secret location near Baghdad.

One would think that, if Saddam would permit the inspectors back in, the war could be averted. But as soon as Saddam said that the inspections could be resumed, Bush announced that the Iraqi dictator must be removed from power. It is clear that Bush fully intends to do it. And that could lead to a great slaughter.

Iraq sent 39 Scuds against Israel in the Gulf War; and, under urgent U.S. demands, the Israelis agreed not to respond. Back then, the argument was that if Israel entered the war, the Arab coalition would pull out. But matters may well be different next time. Israeli leaders have repeatedly stated that, next time, if Scud missiles arrive from Iraq, Israeli forces will respond.

Saddam has about 430,000 soldiers (far less than the 1.2 million soldiers he had in the Gulf War), but most are poorly trained and may be reluctant to fight. Most of his 2,000 tanks are obsolete. His newest tanks, 30-year-old T-7s, are no match for U.S. equipment.

His air defense radar system is far better than during the Gulf War, but the U.S. now has satellite-guided bombs which would enable pilots to hit targets from very high altitudes, above range of Saddam's surface-to-air missiles.

His most capable forces are the 70,000- to 80,000-man Republican Guard and Special Republican Guard divisions. Aside from the royal family and the scientists, they are the only ones in the entire nation who are well-paid. It is to their advantage to take good care of Saddam.

It is believed that it would take thousands of troops and a very large number of planes, tanks, and bombs to enable allied forces to get to Saddam.

Many experts say the man should be left alone. He does not dare attack or bomb any neighbor, because the U.S. would immediately bomb him in return. Yet he could secretly send suitcase bombs to foreign countries, including the U.S., for explosion in our cities. But, to date, there seems no evidence that Saddam has ever shared his terrible weapons with any third party. He seems intent on keeping them to himself.

Also, as mentioned earlier, Saddam does not seem to have any connection with al-Qaeda.

One thing seems certain; our leaders expect that he will throw his lethal toxins and gases at our troops when they arrive to oust him.

Some experts fear that, during the U.S. buildup

for an Iraqi war, Saddam might begin giving his chemical and biological materials to al-Qaeda and other Islamic terrorists, so they could unleash them in America and Europe.

A key question is whether, using stealth and high-precision bombs, we could isolate Saddam and paralyze his military with a sudden strike on key Baghdad facilities. If we could not do this, our troops would face a lengthy battle in Baghdad, an immense city of 1,600 square miles, with more than 4 million people.

The Gulf War cost us \$79 billion; one administration official estimated that the Iraq War will cost us \$200 billion.

At the present time, only Britain, Australia, and Israel support the U.S. plan for an attack on Iraq.

Looking beyond the horrors of war, what happens after it is ended? Analysts are generally agreed that we would have to maintain troops in Baghdad for years, perhaps decades. That does not sound very good. The U.S. Army has estimated that just one year of "peacekeeping" in Iraq after the war would require 80,000 troops at a cost of \$20 billion. Just one year.

All of this—the attacks, the poisons, the deaths of large numbers of Iraqi citizens and perhaps many in neighboring Muslim nations—and the occupation of Iraq for years could greatly intensify Arab hatred of America and provide terrorist organizations with many willing recruits.

Incredibly, it now appears that both houses of Congress may vote to give the president what he wants: authorization to attack Iraq.

The present writer considers it unlikely that we, here in America, have much to fear from Saddam—especially if we live outside the cities, where the Spirit of Prophecy said we should be.

But it may well be that a terrible killing could occur in the Near East if America attacks Iraq. It may also affect some Americans in our largest cities. I surely hope I am incorrect.

It appears that the whole world is nearing a tremendous end-time climax. We are here viewing only part of it. The stockpiling of guns continues in nearly every nation on earth. Just as Ellen White predicted years ago, something tremendous is going to happen.

The National Sunday Law will trigger end-time events. Especially during the period after the loud cry ends, the time between the general close of probation and when the voice of God delivers the saints, a great deal of this pent-up fury and explosives of various kinds will be triggered.

— *vf*