

PROPHECY AGAINST ELAM

S.L.H.
Soli Deo Gloria!

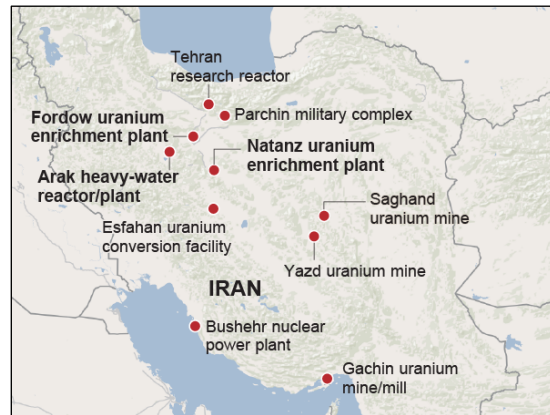
JEREMIAH 49

Jeremiah 49:34-39 gives an intriguing prophecy concerning Elam (i.e., Iran) that is yet to be fulfilled. Thus, it must occur sometime during the end times chronology that follows the Rapture of the Church.

- [34] This prophecy is "against Elam"; thus, it is a judgment upon Elam. It was given by Jeremiah "in the beginning of the reign of Zedekiah, king of Judah (c. 598 BC). Some consider "Elam" (cf. Gen10:22) to be the more ancient name of Persia, which does not occur in the Table of Nations (Genesis 10). However, since Ezekiel refers to both Elam (Ezek32:24-25) and Persia (e.g., Ezek38:5) in eschatological contexts, they are not identical. Persia is generally identified with modern day Iran, but the southwest portion of Iran was the historical location of "Elam". Eschatologically, "Elam" is Iran, or at least a portion of it. The ancient capital of Elam was Shushan (cf. Neh1:1; Esth1:5; Dan8:2); the tomb of the prophet Daniel is in the modern city of Susa, Iran.



Elam = Central to Southwest Iran.



Iran's Nuclear Facilities.

- [35] The warriors of "Elam" were renowned archers (Isa22:6). The judgment of "the LORD" will be to "break the bow of Elam". Eschatologically, the "bow" could be a symbol for missiles. Today, Iran has aggressive missile and nuclear weapons development programs, with the objective of deploying missiles that could strike Israel. A nuclear-armed ballistic missile could well be considered "the chief of their might".
- [36] This judgment of the LORD "upon Elam" will not destroy it, but it will "scatter" her inhabitants, making them "outcasts" (i.e., refugees) who are dispersed into all "nation[s]". What causes the inhabitants of this region of Iran to "scatter"? It has been noted that the Bushehr nuclear power plant (VVER-1000), as well as most of the uranium mining, conversion, and enrichment facilities associated with Iran's nuclear weapons program, are located in this region (i.e., central to southwest Iran). Either a nuclear accident at the power plant (akin to Chernobyl) or a nuclear strike by Israel against Iran's nuclear infrastructure could be the reason for an evacuation of this region.

- [37] The LORD is angry with Elam (Iran). His judgment upon them will cause them to be "dismayed" (i.e., shamed) "before their enemies" (Israel, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, USA?).
- [38] Unexpectedly, "the LORD" promises to "set [His] throne in Elam", presumably during the Millennial Kingdom. In an eschatological context, the LORD is said to set His throne in only two locations: Jerusalem (Jer3:17) and Elam. Here, the LORD "will destroy from there the king and the princes" may be analogous to Messiah's dictatorial rule (cf. Ps2:8-9; Rev19:15) during the Millennial Kingdom. Is Elam to be a secondary capital for Messiah (cf. Zech14:9)?
- [39] The people of "Elam" will return to live in the region from which they were scattered "in the latter days". Presumably this refers to a restoration of the nation during the Millennial Kingdom. Thus, there must be many genuine believers in the Lord Jesus Christ from Elam/Iran.

Discussion of Timing. The Gog and Magog invasion of Israel (Ezekiel 38-39), which occurs during the first half of the 7-year Tribulation, includes Persia as a participant (Ezek38:5), although no mention is made of Elam. While this judgment upon Elam could be implicitly included in that event, it does not seem to be a natural reading of it. Since Ezekiel references, Persia and Elam separately, it is better to see the judgment of Elam and Persia as separate events.

Since Iran's acquisition of a nuclear weapon is today quite imminent, it could be that immediately following the Rapture of the Church the nation of Israel will act to destroy Iran's nuclear infrastructure; either a nuclear strike by Israel, or simply the radioactive contamination associated with the destruction of Iran's nuclear facilities, could explain the needed evacuation of this region of Iran. Such a prior strike on Iran by Israel could also explain Iran's motivation to subsequently join Russia in an all-out attack on Israel (Ezekiel 38-39) a few years later. Thus, it is easy to see this event occurring during the brief gap between the Rapture and the start of the Tribulation.