

There is much being made these days by some Christians about the Israel-Hamas-Hezbollah-Iran war as being a signal of **“the end time” (Jude 18 HCSB)**. (For more detailed background information on this subject, please take a look at the Category headings: **“End of the World,”** and **“Israel,”** on this site.)



However, the Bible indicates that **“old covenant” (2 Corinthians 3:14)** with **“Israel according to the flesh” (1 Corinthians 6:18 NKJV)** was **“cancelled” (Ephesians 2:14 NLT)**, and **“replaced” (2 Corinthians 3:11 NLT)** by his **“new covenant” (Hebrews 9:15)** with the Christian **“Israel of God” (Galatians 6:15,16 NIV)**, which has Jesus Christ as its **“high priest”** and **“mediator” (Hebrews 9:11,15)**. Indeed, according to the scriptures, **“the kingdom of God”** was **“taken away from”** fleshly Israel, **“and given to a people, producing the fruit of it” (Matthew 21:43 NASB)**, that is, to Christians in the **“new covenant” (2 Corinthians 3:6)**.

This means that modern Israel does not fulfill Bible prophecy. How about Old Testament restoration prophecies concerning **“Israel,” (Ezekiel 37)**, and prophecies about **“Jerusalem”** defeating its enemies **(Zechariah 12)? “Israel” (Revelation 7:1-8)** represents the **“vast crowd too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language,”** who are Christians led by **“the Lamb,”** Jesus Christ (Revelation 7:9-15 NLT). **“Jerusalem”** represents **“the heavenly Jerusalem” (Hebrews 12:22)**, **“the Jerusalem above” (Galatians 4:26)** that Christians have **“approached,”** and live under, not earthly Jerusalem.

Nevertheless, how about a “sign” that the end is near? That is not going to happen, because, as Jesus told the people of his day: **“A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a sign! But no sign will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah” (Matthew 12:39 NIV)**. The same is true today!

The **“sign”** that Jesus’ apostles asked for will not be seen until the very end, when **“the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky” (Matthew 24:3,30 NASB)**. At that future time when Jesus comes unexpectedly **(Matthew 24:36,42,44; Revelation 16:15)**, everyone on earth will know it **(Matthew 24:27)**.

So, no, war with Israel does not signal the end is near. Jesus said that **“wars” (Matthew 24:6-8; Luke 21:9)** would be business as usual for this world until the end. Jesus even warned that **“many will come in my name . . . saying, ‘The time has come!’ But don’t believe them” (Luke 21:8 NLT)**. Modern day *Israel does not fulfill Bible prophecy!*

What we should keep uppermost in mind is that we **“must be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected” (Matthew 24:44 NLT)**.