

SOLEIMANI NO EASY SOLUTION Alert no 34.

No doubt you have read or heard the news about the US assassination, on January 3, of Iran's military chief, Qasem Soleimani.

Shock waves went across the world. While many Iranians and Iraqies "celebrated" the despatching of this mastermind, the Iranian leadership and reportedly, a million Iranians were up in arms, calling for, "Death to America."

Iran offered a reward of \$80 million to anyone who would assassinate President Trump.

On Jan 8, the **Iranian Air Force launched an operation** called *Operation Martyr Soleimani*, by firing about two dozen ground-to-ground missiles at the base of what they called, "the terrorist and invasive U.S. forces"

A U.S. official confirmed to ABC News that ballistic missiles have been fired from **inside Iran** at multiple U.S. military facilities inside Iraq on Wednesday morning. The facilities include Erbil in northern Iraq and Al Asad Air Base in western Iraq.

Now we await the American response.

In the meantime, read these comments by well-known prophecy writer, HAL LINDSEY . . .

For a minute, forget politics. That's not easy these days, but in this case it's important to try. People across the country tend to look at the US drone attack on Qasem Soleimani as if it were a referendum on Donald Trump's presidency. For a moment, forget who made the decision and just look at the decision.

We do not yet know the repercussions of Soleimani's death. But we can look at it in the context of history. We know Soleimani was a bad man. While doing The Hal Lindsey Report, I talked about him on several occasions. Iran is considered the world's number one state sponsor of terrorism. And Soleimani led their terrorist efforts.

He tortured and murdered his own people. He destabilized nations. He destabilized the Middle East. His actions led to civil war and severe famine in Yemen and in Syria. He propped up evil dictators and did his best to destroy emerging democracies. Hundreds and probably thousands of members of the US military were killed or injured due to his actions.

But will his death do more harm than his life? Regarding the future, we only know what God has chosen to show us in His word. When the Ezekiel 38 and 39 war begins against Israel, Iran will still be a nation with influence and power. That probably means that this will not provoke an all-out war

with the United States. In other words, don't expect Iran to attack the US power grid or water supplies.

Sometimes leaders must choose between several bad alternatives. While running for office, politicians can tell us everything is clear, obvious, and easy. But actual leadership means making choices even when none of the alternatives are completely safe. I believe President Trump was in that position regarding the attack on Soleimani.

To kill him meant at least a temporary ratcheting up of Middle East tensions. And that's not good. It means reprisals against the United States or Israel. We don't know what form those reprisals may take. They could be face-saving token strikes. Or they could be severe.

But doing nothing would also have been risky. Through the decades of its existence, Israel has learned that they must deal with radical Muslims from a position of strength. And make no mistake, Iran is run by radical Muslims - terrorists. These are not the nice Muslim neighbours you may say "hello" to every morning on your way to work. Generally speaking, the Iranian people are not radical. But their leaders are. Any time you let those leaders get away with military escalation, it encourages them to do more.

We've seen it repeatedly. The Iran nuclear deal was supposed to turn the Iranians into friends. Instead, it seemed to encourage them to increase their exportation of terrorism. Iran has attacked and seized oil tankers, attacked Saudi oil fields, continued their nuclear and ballistic missile development, continued to ship massive numbers of missiles to Hezbollah terrorists in Lebanon and Syria, and to Houthi terrorists in Yemen. And Soleimani stood at the center of all that.

Last summer, after Iran shot down a US surveillance drone, several news outlets reported that President Trump had ordered a retaliatory strike. Minutes before the operation was to begin, he reversed his decision. No American lives had been lost, so he chose not to kill Iranians in response.

But Iran seemed to take the President's restraint as a license to kill. In late December, a Shiite militia supported and directed by Iran, sent a barrage of 30 rockets into the K-1 Air Base in Iraq. It killed one American contractor and wounded several other Americans. The US retaliated with an attack on the militia involved. Iran then directed an attack and siege of the US embassy in Iraq. In other words, it was an attack on sovereign US soil.

American intelligence discovered that Soleimani and some of his cohorts had landed in Iraq, and they were planning a major attack on US forces. In 2015, the United Nations banned Soleimani from any travel outside of Iran. He regularly ignored the ban. To me, it's easy to believe that Soleimani was planning something deadly for Americans in Iraq because that's the kind of

man he was and the kind of thing he did. If he wasn't up to no good, then what was he doing in Iraq?

I don't know of any Americans who want war with Iran or more troops in the Middle East. I certainly do not. It's a lot easier to get into such wars than it is to get out. But that's part of the dilemma. Iran has missiles that can hit Israel and other parts of that region. They are fast developing the ability to strike Europe and will soon have missiles that can reach the United States. Meanwhile, their nuclear program marches forward. As technology makes the world smaller, it brings Iranian weapons of mass destruction closer to us every day.

This is exactly the situation prophesied in the Bible. Conflict in the Middle East will be like a tar baby to the nations of the world. Turmoil there will eventually engulf them all. Bringing a brief peace to the region will catapult the Antichrist from a regional leader to a global one. Much more could be said here. But the bottom line is that Bible prophecies written thousands of years ago are still proving true. And we are coming closer and closer to the return of Jesus. – Hal Linsey Report

IRAN LAUNCHES MISSILE BARRAGE AT US FORCES. Ayatollah says it's just the beginning. Is all-out war really coming, or is Tehran all talk? Here's the latest.

BY JOEL ROSENBERG

(Jerusalem, Israel) -- In the early hours of Wednesday morning, the Iranian regime fired 22 missiles at two military bases in Iraq where U.S. forces are stationed.

The attacks were in direct response to the killing of Qassem Soleimani -- the head of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps and the most dangerous terrorist in the world -- by a U.S. drone strike on January 3.

Fortunately, there were no American casualties in the strikes. But tensions are spiking and big questions remain.

1. Are the U.S. and Iran heading for all-out war?
2. Will President Trump order retaliation in response to the missile strikes, or pocket his successful take-down of Iran's top terrorist leader and de-escalate?
3. Are Iran's mounting and furious threats just bluster, or is Tehran serious about unleashing attacks on Americans and Western allies all over the world?

"The fierce revenge by the Revolutionary Guards has begun," the Iranian military declared, according to a report by the *New York Times*.

"Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said his country delivered a 'slap in the face' to American forces, but added that the missile attack alone was 'not enough' and called for the US to be 'uprooted' from the region," **reported** the *U.K. Daily Mail*.

“This region will not tolerate the U.S. presence -- the nations in the region will not accept that and the governments backed by their people will not accept it,” Iran's Grand Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on Wednesday, reported the *Financial Times*.

Such language suggests much more is coming. The leading Democratic presidential candidates -- and numerous pundits and commentators in the U.S. and Europe -- are warning that President Trump's decision to take out Soleimani will lead to "anarchy" and that a full-blown war with Iran is now **"inevitable."**

- **Former Vice President Joe Biden warned:** "[T]his is a hugely escalatory move in an already dangerous region. The administration's statement says that its goal is to deter future attacks by Iran, but this action almost certainly will have the opposite effect. President Trump just tossed a stick of dynamite into a tinderbox."
- **Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders warned:** "When you go around assassinating a government official, you unleash international anarchy and all the rules are gone....I get very nervous about it. Not only for the potential loss of life in endless wars, but right now in this country, we have massive, massive domestic needs."
- **Massachusetts U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren said:** the job of the president is to keep America safe and yet Mr. Trump has "taken us in exactly the opposite direction."

U.S., Israeli and Arab forces throughout the Epicenter are on high alert -- and **the U.S. is flowing in more troops into the region**, including 2,800 members of the 82nd Airborne's Immediate Response Force -- in case Iran's threats to escalate prove legit.

But the President's action could cause Iran to actually think twice about embarking on a full-scale war. A major conflict is possible, but it's not inevitable.

Consider the recent Israeli model:

- In 2019 alone, Israel launched **54 airstrikes** against targets in Syria.
- Many of these strikes were against Iranian forces and sophisticated Iranian weapons bound for Hezbollah, Tehran's main terrorist proxy in the region.
- Yet, Israel's on-going military actions to defend itself from Iranian aggression has not led to a full-scale war between the Jewish State and the Islamic Republic of Iran.
- Rather, Israel's willingness to use force, and use it repeatedly, has actually had a deterrent effect on Iran because Iran's regime is coming to realize that Israel is both willing and able to use force with devastating consequences if necessary.
- Indeed, the Ayatollah Khamenei knows that Israel has German-built submarines lurking under the murky waters of the Persian Gulf, right off of Iran's coast.
- Khamenei knows that each of those subs is equipped with powerful ballistic missiles that could annihilate Iran's capital and other bases and cities, if need be.
- That's why Khamenei is, so far, reluctant to intensify his conflict with Israel -- he knows Prime Minister Netanyahu and IDF generals will not hesitate to push the button if they deem there is no other choice.

Right now, Iran's regime is testing Trump. The mullahs know the U.S. has a massive military arsenal -- far larger and far more lethal than Israel's. What they don't is whether the American President "all hat and no cattle," or whether he is truly willing to unleash American force against Iran if he has to. Thus, there is a case that by using firm, decisive

force against Iranian aggression in the near-term, the U.S. may actually prevent a larger war in the future.

For now, let us pray for peace, even as we prepare for war.