



# **Epicenter: Why the Current Rumbblings in the Middle East Will Change Your Future**

*Joel C. Rosenberg*

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With over one million novels in print, *New York Times* best-selling author Joel C. Rosenberg has been called "eerily prophetic" and a "modern Nostradamus" for his uncanny ability to write political thrillers that come true. In his first *nonfiction* book, this evangelical Christian from an Orthodox Jewish heritage takes readers on an unforgettable journey through prophecy and current events into the future of Iraq after Saddam, Russia after Communism, Israel after Arafat, and Christianity after radical Islam. You won't want to miss Joel's exclusive interviews with Israeli, Palestinian, and Russian leaders, and previously classified CIA and White House documents. Similar to the approach Joel takes in his novels, his desire is to draw readers into stories, anecdotes, and predictions in a way that builds confidence that allows Joel to share his faith in Jesus Christ and the reliability of Scripture as a guide to understanding the past and the future.

Drawing on his experience in Washington, his own exclusive interviews with world leaders, and his astute political acumen, Joel makes sense of the events surrounding the Middle East. He connects information in a way that will make you understand and really care about the world's most important events and how they impact your life--from gas prices to your bank account.

*Epicenter* is about:

**Change**--big changes, dramatic changes, changes that will transform the world as we know it

**Answers**--what the changes are underway in the world's most important countries

**Insight**--readers will understand the trajectory of world events by being taken inside the governments of Iran, Iraq, Russia, China, and more

**Accessibility**--aimed for a wide audience in both the general and Christian markets

**Faith**--Joel shares his faith in Jesus Christ and the reliability of Scripture

*Epicenter* will answer questions like:

Will Iraq go from bad to worse? Will Israel and her Arab neighbors find peace, or is another major Middle East war just around the corner? If the new, post-Soviet Russia is our friend, why is the Kremlin creating a new class of thermonuclear weapons and building an alliance with radical Islam?

## **Epicenter: Why the Current Rumbblings in the Middle East Will Change Your Future Details**

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# **From Reader Review Epicenter: Why the Current Rumbblings in the Middle East Will Change Your Future for online ebook**

**Leib Lurie says**

**Best book yet by Joel**

End of times is near for sure. Iran will be the catalyst and Israel will be the target. Amen to ALL.

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**Brent Soderstrum says**

This is a great book which ties all that is taking place in the Middle East today with what the prophet Ezekiel predicted would happen. Much of what Rosenberg sets out in his book has already happened, is in the process of happening or will happen soon.

Some of what is set out seems hard to believe but we can see the rumbblings beginning to take place. Israel will be attacked by Russia, Iran and other Middle East countries while no one comes to her defense. I would think the US would come to Israel's defense but the current administration and the current belief that the US should stay out of the Middle East mess make it easy to see the US sitting on the sidelines. I can see Israel finally bombing Iran to eliminate Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons. The Russians and others attack Israel in retaliation and the rest of the world shakes their finger at Israel "the aggressor".

My men's Bible study group recently did this study. We used the Epicenter study guide for questions. Even though it is now 7 years after Epicenter was written this book is timely in that we continue to march on towards the War of Gog and Magog.

I agree with Rosenberg that we are living in the end of times. I pray for the leaders of all the Middle East countries and the people of those countries. I also pray that my lord Jesus comes soon.

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**Anna says**

Interesting to find out that Russia has already come close to directly attacking Israel before. Iran will not back down. I expect Israel will have to go it alone and bomb them. No one comes to their aid so we either won't, or are out of commission. Would rearrrange status quo of ME and put Israel and Iraq (Babylon) on top and set the stage for anti-christ making peace pact with Israel. How long before Iran has the bomb? It is very interesting to see events predicted in the bible playing out. We know not one word will pass away!

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## **Eugene says**

I enjoy the fiction thrillers by Rosenberg. He seems to spend a lot of time in the near East and knows it as well as any of the other writers in his venue. However, this is nonfiction book and I learned a lot that was new to me. His face to face interviews with the people in the area are very interesting. We read all sorts of thing in the public media but not all seems to be true(or even most of it). It is educational to hear from authors who have been there and don't have to report their impressions the next day.

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## **Michelle says**

This is the most compelling nonfiction book I have ever read. Joel Rosenberg offers amazing insights into the prophecies of Ezekiel 38-39 in relation to the "end times". I couldn't put it down, and I am not usually a big nonfiction reader. For those of you who are skeptical of these kinds of books, I think the author himself explains it best when he says, "...no, I am not a psychic and I don't have access to secret government information. But I do have access to the Jewish prophets...and so do you. God has told us what the future holds for Israel, for the world, and for you as Biblical events continue to unfold. It's all in the book...not mine, but His." This book will leave no doubt in your mind that we are currently living in the end times. I found it a fascinating exploration of our world, the Middle East, and both Islam and the Jewish faith. Please, please read this book!!

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## **Antti says**

Based on the blurb and the information quickly available about the book, I was hoping for a well-researched, factual point of view on Middle East - recent history, key players, likely future scenarios.

This is not what the book is about. You only start figuring this out at about four chapters in, way after you bought/loaned it.

The Epicenter is written by a religious fanatic, and rather than talking about the Middle East region and looking at the situation via the "third lens of scripture" - my initial hope after chapter four - it insteads starts on with the premise that a specific biblical prophecy is true and then finds events to support that claim, offending several regions, countries and most reader's stamina for stupidity in the process.

Add on to this the author's hilarious use of "trendlines" to predict growth of christianity in a country with data points of two followers and eighty-thousand followers at different times, and I can guarantee your eyes will be rolling for a good half an hour even after you put down Epicenter.

It is also incredibly disturbing that the author can write such opinionated, fanatically narrowminded crap and still be called to advise on the region's events.

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## **Jerome says**

The political/geopolitical conclusions were shallow, but then again, most Christians have little to no grasp on that subject and only rely on "easy" dumbed-down conclusions like this. Although a Christian myself, we should be relying on more in-depth sources than this. It's sad that Rosenberg has to explain such simple

things in so much detail to account for Christians' lack of knowledge on the subject.

I cringe when my parishioners or my seminarians pick up a book like Rosenbergs and laud it as the "definitive" work on the Middle East. God help them. Books like this make me want to "flee to the mountains" and avoid such journalistic tribulation. Avoid this work at any cost. Please.

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### **Joe Oaster says**

I liked this book and I love everything by Joel Rosenberg but there was a recurring theme of his validation of his novels and how prophetic they were. I cant tell you how many times he referred to his previous non fiction works. That being said, this book is well researched and gives a lot of evidence of what is to come.

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### **Tricia says**

This is an incredible read. We need to be aware of what is happening in this world, particularly in the Middle East. Joel C. Rosenberg has used the prophecies found in Ezekiel 38-39 in relation to the end of times, and what is happening in our world today. The author explains it best when he says, "...no, I am not a psychic and I don't have access to secret government information. But I do have access to the Jewish prophets...and so do you. God has told us what the futures holds for Israel, for the world, and for you as Biblical events continue to unfold. It's all in the book...not mine, but His."

I love learning about Christ's second coming and Biblical prophesy. This book helped me understand prophetic scripture and helped me be more informed about current world events. I highly recommend this book.

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### **Kristen says**

I was watching MSNBC about a month ago when I suddenly saw Putin (on a visit to Iran) shaking hands with Ahmadinejad, as if they were old friends. The image alarmed me, and I immediately got this book out of the library to learn more about how this might tie into some bits and pieces of Biblical prophesy I'd heard before.

As I read this book, the image I saw on the news made complete sense. I was so excited by the collection of political insights filtered through the "lens of scripture." It was like having a Bible expert next to me explaining the events of the modern day news. I could see why the events are happening and what consequences could be imminent. I was impressed by the intensive research, interviews, and realistic (rather than ultra-dramatic) approach to this topic.

I've always loved learning about Christ's second coming and am passionate about recognizing Biblical prophesy coming true. This book helped me understand prophetic scripture with much greater depth and helped me be a more informed Christian and citizen.

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## **M says**

Does an excellent job of integrating real world events into prophecy scriptures. Lots of facts, lots of back-up, and lots of proof.

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## **Ger says**

Joel Rosenberg explains the background of his "prophetic" novels with a heavy emphasis on Ezekiel chapters 38 & 39. It is amazing to view what is now showing up in the news today in the context of these prophecies. The events predicted by Ezekiel, as highly unlikely they have seemed for centuries, are now unfolding before us. The end approaches . . .

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## **Ray says**

Rosenberg writes about the status and changes in the Middle East, and explains these changes based on selected Biblical passages as his source. Believers who are convinced that the Bible contains all the answers may find his arguments convincing, but those who believe that one can find Biblical passages to support any argument will find this book short on facts and long on cherry-picked quotes from religious Prophets.

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## **Heather says**

The author provides some thoughtful and rather frightening proposals about future events in the Middle East. Even if the reader does not believe in the Bible (one context which the author heavily relies on, but certainly not the only context for his research), I think his arguments are compelling and warrant attention and discussion.

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## **Jillaire says**

After writing some prescient political thrillers based on Old Testament prophecy, Joel Rosenberg writes the book behind the novels to explain his reading of Ezekiel 38-39 and the War of Gog and Magog. This is some pretty mind-boggling stuff. We read it for my book group and the discussion leader used the Church Old Testament study guide (from seminary?) to compare a lot of Rosenberg's conclusions with our own teaching's and latter-day prophecy; he is spot-on. There are some things he overlooked, but overall this was a really interesting and compelling read. It made me wish I'd been paying more attention to the current events in the Mid-East. Time to do that.

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## **Jenna Leigh says**

I've always enjoyed reading books on eschatology and theology, so I thought this was a good book. Many

authors of end-time prophecy literature focus on the dramatic nature and the hype that the apocalyptic genre can create; the "scare factor", if you will. Joel C. Rosenberg didn't do that; he just honed in on facts, and how they relate to biblical prophecy. I read this when it first came out, and then when I read it again a few years later, of course some of the politics didn't exactly line up the way he'd predicted, but it's still very interesting to read.

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## **Clark Goble says**

Joel Rosenberg was recommended to me by a fiend at church and being the Amazon.com junkie I am, I immediately checked him out. I am incredibly glad I did! In one simple word, this guy is amazing. Rosenberg has written a series of highly acclaimed political thrillers that have an uncanny way of predicting real life occurrences. I am not sure how I missed him because his books are so unnervingly prophetic that he is constantly being interviewed on television. He has conducted high level briefings for people in our government as well as other countries and has worked for such notables as Benjamin Netanyahu and Steve Forbes. In reality though, Mister Rosenberg is not a prophet. He simply reads the Bible and writes fiction stories that fit into the prophecy revealed in Scripture. His books will freak you out a little.

Epicenter is Rosenberg's first nonfiction work. In this book, he details the meaning of such prophetic passages as Ezekiel Chapters 38 and 39 and illustrates how these prophecies are playing out in the world around us. Rosenberg also spells out some of the headlines we can expect to see in the future as these prophecies come to pass. It is incredible just how knowledgeable Rosenberg is.

I'll be honest, Bible prophecy is one of those things that I have always felt some people focus on too much. I have always preferred to know that God is in control and that He has a plan for us all. The only Bible prophecy I have ever spent much time meditating on is that Jesus will return someday. I always thought the details were best left to God. After reading this book and spending some time studying the Scriptures that Rosenberg references, I am completely convinced that God has spelled out in amazing detail the way in which He will bring about the end times. I am also further convinced that we are watching it come to pass right now. I realize that Christians have been saying the end is near for 2000 years now. I also realize that saying I believe the end is really near is liable to get me labeled as some kind of zealot of something, but I don't really care. I can't tell you if it will happen in my lifetime or not, but Jesus Christ is coming back ... this I know for sure. Rosenberg's work has served to convince me of this.

This book should be read by everyone. If you are a Christian, you will be very happy you have decided to believe in Scripture after reading this. If you are not a Christian, this book may very well give you reason to reconsider.

At the risk of sounding blunt and offensive, if you read this book, study the Scriptures that Rosenberg references, and then can't admit the Bible is a special text that is inspired by God ... you are a fool.

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## **Jon says**

Nothing what I anticipated. The cover is dubious. I really thought this book was a current affairs analysis, it ended up being evangelical zealotry. Rosenberg may be a renowned prognosticator of events to come. Interesting that he uses as he refers to as the third lens which is to interpret events through scripture,



particularly Ezekial which speaks about the end of days. He initially peaked my interest despite my misunderstanding of what this book was really about. However, I found as the book progressed that Rosenberg is rather radical in his views, loves to name drop, makes you question his research methods and his facts, as well as was generally vague about the "true end of days" and when that will be. We've all heard this before. Heck, the world will end at some point that is an obvious conclusion. This book was written five years ago and I think some of what he was saying was obvious mixed in with some items that have come to fruition, such as Iraq becoming more peaceful. At the time this book was written, Iraq was on the verge of civil war, so this was clearly prophetic he sensed this. However ultimately the book began to deviate into evangelism and that we all should have Jesus in our lives to make our existence complete and right. I have a real hard time with that assertion because there are many excellent, peaceful and spiritual religions out there (Buddhism, Hinduism) that do not subscribe to Jesus as Savior of mankind and therefore find it presumptuous and arrogant by Rosenberg that Christianity is better.

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### **Deirdre says**

There is little to this book except the belief that everything in the Bible will come to pass and that the one true God, Jesus Christ, will rule the world above all other beliefs of other Gods.

This is the same sort of stuff that all religions preach.....that their God is the only true God. In this case, Jesus Christ.

Lots of speculation in this book. I struggled to finish it.

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### **Ebookwormy1 says**

As a Bible believing Christian, I have to confess, I didn't WANT to like this book. I was predisposed to think it would be fanatical, emotional or off-base. But as I read along, it was compelling and I was interested in where the author was going. In the end, I developed a surprising respect for Joel Rosenberg. This guy is a Washington/ political/ communications expert who has put it all on the line by making his wrestling with Biblical prophecy public - first in his fiction (which I haven't read, but it created an interest in how he could write things that came true so quickly) and now, even more in this book.

In many ways, while Rosenberg explains his study of the Scripture to us, this book is more of a memoir, detailing his diligence research, the astonishing success of his (fiction) books, the press of the media to understand the source of his prescient insights, and his own surprise at the whole thing. Rosenberg is not claiming to be a prophet, nor is he trying to establish a movement, per se - his just trying to figure out Biblical prophecy with the rest of us. And he's trying to act in obedience to what he understands and wait on that which is not yet clear - a level headed approach.

The only annoyance that remained by the end was the packaging. There must be at least three bios (back cover, back pages and fly leaves) on a book that explains the man's bio. OKAY, I GOT IT. Too much hype! If I had saw this book in a bookstore, i'd probably pass on it. All the pushing publicity takes away from the logical, systematic, even humble explanations provided in the book. The earlier chapters, where we are given a glimpse into Rosenberg's own surprise at his success can be a little tedious and a wise editor might have cut some of it out in order to avoid the appearance of self-congratulation - though I don't think that is Rosenberg's intention and the tone of the work is good.

The book of Ezekiel has always been a challenge to me. The symbolism is thick, and the reference points between ancient history and Israelite culture are not well known to me. While I think Rosenberg's theories become more hypothetical as the work progresses, I learned a TON and his framework appears to me to be valid. I will be reading the news and following the Middle East with a different perspective, i might check out some of his fiction, and I'll take another crack at the book of Ezekiel. Surprisingly, highly recommended.

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