



PROPHECIES ABOUT 'AKKÁ AND THE HOLY LAND FROM BAHÁ'U'LLÁH, THE OLD TESTAMENT AND SHAYKH IBNU'L-'ARABÍ

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Introduction and references

When Bahá'u'lláh set foot in 'Akká, He set foot on sacred soil. A Manifestation of God had once again graced the Holy Land, promised by God to Abraham, the land that had borne the Revelation of Moses, seen the birth, ministry and crucifixion of Jesus Christ, and was the cradle of Christianity, where Zoroaster had spoken with the prophets of Israel, which the Prophet Muḥammad had visited during His Night-Journey in 621.

Bahá'u'lláh would spend a third of His life in the Holy Land, which He named "the nest of all the Prophets of God," and "the Vale of God's unsearchable Decree, the snow-white Spot, the Land of unfading splendor."

This compilation came about as I was writing *The Blessed Beauty: The Illustrated chronology of the life of Bahá'u'lláh (1817-1892)*. I was researching material to place Bahá'u'lláh's arrival in the Holy Land in proper spiritual and historical context while writing *Part VII: The Most Great Prison*, and the wealth of prophecies I found went beyond the scope of a chronology, so I am offering it here as supplementary material.

In compiling these prophecies, I referred to following websites and books:

Shoghi Effendi, [God Passes By](#).

Encyclopedia Britannica: [Isrá'](#).

Wikipedia: [Isra and Miraj](#).

Wikipedia: [Ibn Arabi](#).

Wikipedia: [Al-Futuhāt al-Makkiyya](#).

William Sears, [Thief in the Night or the Strange Case of the Missing Millennium](#), PDF pages 123, 124, 128, 154, 159, and 164.

Violetta Zein
Pointe-Noire, Republic of Congo, 17 May 2022.

Prophecies from Bahá'u'lláh

According to Nabil, Bahá'u'lláh had already alluded to 'Akká in the early years of His banishment to Adrianople, before 1865, in the *Lawḥ-i-Sayyáh*, referring to it as the **"Vale of Nabil."** This is an obscure allusion, as both the words "Nabil" and "Akká" have the same numerical value — in Arabic each letter of the alphabet has a numerical value, and a word is the sum of the letters, such as Bahá = B (2) + A (1) + H (5) + A (1) = 9.

And in an unpublished Tablet, revealed shortly before His banishment from Adrianople, Bahá'u'lláh predicts a new wave of calamities that would soon assail Him in the fortress of 'Akká. In this Tablet, Bahá'u'lláh describes 'Akká in much the same terms as in the *Lawḥ-i-Sultán*, but adds that the city's climate would soon improve, because its Builder would enter it and adorn it with the ornament of His Greatest Name.

A few years prior to His arrival in 'Akká, Bahá'u'lláh had prophesied His own arrival in the **"Metropolis of the Owl"** in the *Lawḥ-i-Sayyáh*, with the following momentous pronouncement of the spiritual reality of His arrival, a stark contrast with the outward way in which Bahá'u'lláh was welcomed to the prison-city:

"Upon Our arrival We were welcomed with banners of light, whereupon the Voice of the Spirit cried out saying: "Soon will all that dwell on earth be enlisted under these banners.""

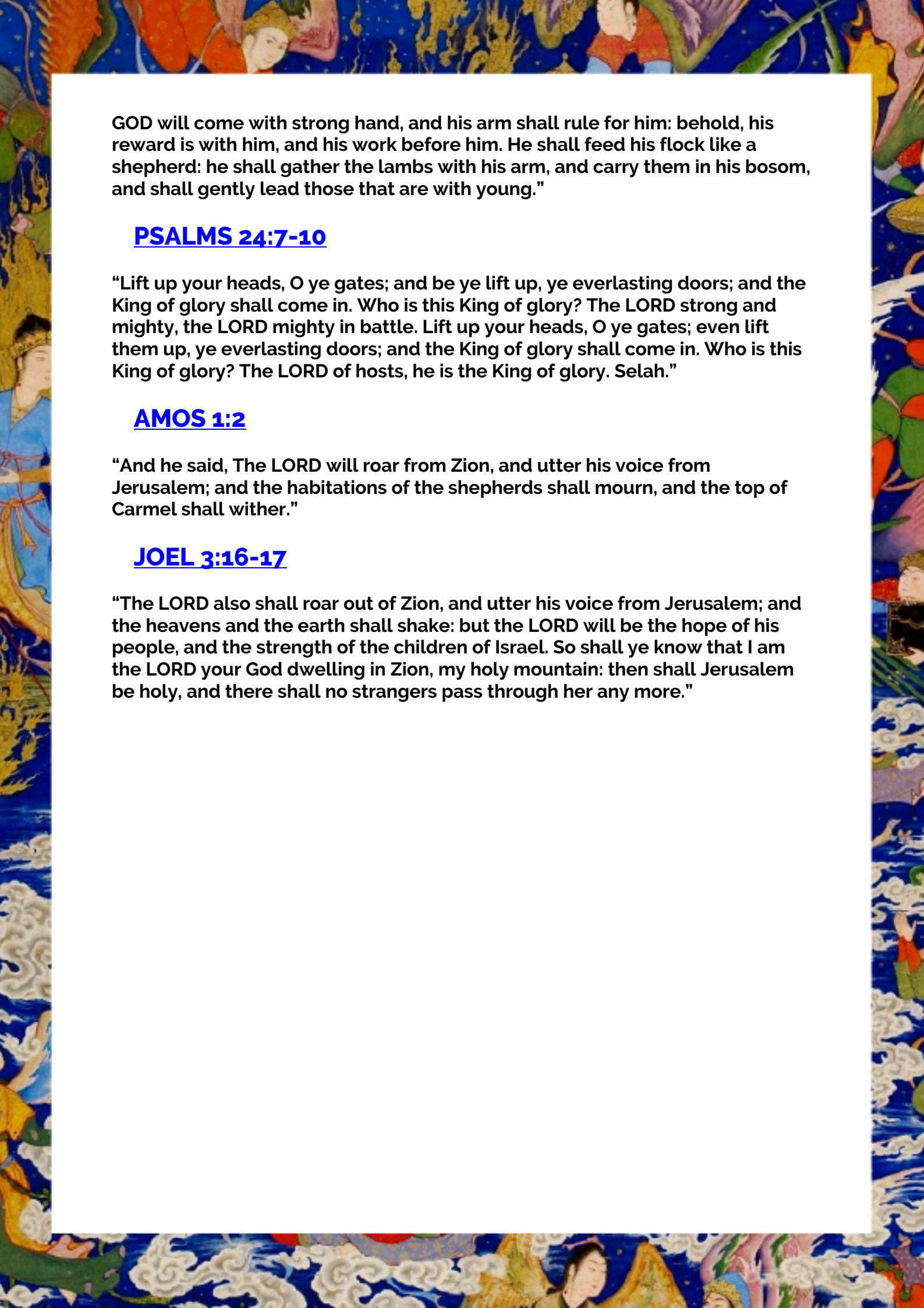
In the *Lawḥ-i-Sultán* addressed to Naṣiri'd-Dín Sháh and revealed in early 1868, Bahá'u'lláh describes in detail the actual conditions of 'Akká, a city He had never set foot in, describing not only its weather and climate but the quality of its water:

"Erelong shall the exponents of wealth and power banish Us from the land of Adrianople to the city of 'Akká. According to what they say, it is the most desolate of the cities of the world, the most unsightly of them in appearance, the most detestable in climate, and the foulest in water. It is as though it were the metropolis of the owl, within whose precincts naught can be heard save the echo of its cry. Therein have they resolved to imprison this Youth, to shut against our faces the doors of ease and comfort, and to deprive us of every worldly benefit throughout the remainder of our days."

Prophecies from the Old Testament

[**ISAIAH 40:9-11**](#)

"O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God! Behold, the Lord



GOD will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him. He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young."

PSALMS 24:7-10

"Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory. Selah."

AMOS 1:2

"And he said, The LORD will roar from Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the habitations of the shepherds shall mourn, and the top of Carmel shall wither."

JOEL 3:16-17

"The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the LORD will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel. So shall ye know that I am the LORD your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her any more."

Ákká in the Old Testament

The “strong city” ([Isaiah 26:1](#), [Psalms 60:9](#), [Psalms 108:10](#))

The “door of hope” ([Hosea 2:15](#))

The “glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the LORD, and the excellency of our God.” ([Isaiah 35:2](#))

“The glory of Lebanon shall come unto thee, the fir tree, the pine tree, and the box together, to beautify the place of my sanctuary...” ([Isaiah 60:13](#))

“the gate that looketh toward the east” and “the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east: and his voice was like a noise of many waters: and the earth shined with his glory.” ([Ezekiel 43:1-2](#))

“For out of prison he cometh to reign ...” ([Ecclesiastes 4:14](#))

“In that day also he shall come even to thee from Assyria, and from the fortified cities, and from the fortress even to the river, and from sea to sea, and from mountain to mountain. Notwithstanding the land shall be desolate because of them that dwell therein, for the fruit of their doings.” ([Micah 7:12-13](#))

The Prophecy of Shaykh Ibnu'l-'Arabí

One of the most extraordinary prophecies in how literal it is, comes from Sunni Şúfí thinker and poet, philosopher Shaykh Ibnu'l-'Arabí, whose masterwork is [Futúhát-i-Makkiyyih](#) (*Meccan Illuminations or Meccan Revelations*). In this highly-influential 13th century work, well-regarded by Shi'áh as well as Sunni, Ibnu'l-'Arabí unfolds his spiritual journey, theology, beliefs, metaphysics and mysticism in a blend of poetry and prose, and its content ranges from accounts of encounters, events, and spiritual experiences, or illuminations.

The hadith below is excerpted from comes from *Futúhát-i-Makkiyyih* and, according to Shoghi Effendi, is recognized as an authentic utterance of the Prophet Muḥammad:

“All of them (the companions of the Herald of the Messiah) shall be slain except One, Who shall reach the plain of 'Ákká, the Banquet-Hall of God.”

Shoghi Effendi, [God Passes By](#)

Eight Shí'ah prophecies about 'Akká in *Epistle to the Son of the Wolf*

In *Epistle to the Son of the Wolf* (1891), the last book Bahá'u'lláh ever revealed, He quotes eight Shí'ah prophecies about 'Akká attributed to Prophet Muḥammad:

"The following hath been recorded concerning the merits of 'Akká, and of the sea, and of Aynu'l-Baqár (The Spring of the Cow) which is in 'Akká: 'Abdu'l-'Aziz, son of 'Abdu'-Salám, hath related unto us that the Prophet—may the blessings of God and His salutations be upon him—hath said: "Akká is a city in Syria to which God hath shown His special mercy."

Bahá'u'lláh, [Epistle to the Son of the Wolf](#)

"Ibn-i-Mas'úd—may God be pleased with him—hath stated: 'The Prophet—may the blessings of God and His salutations be upon Him—hath said: 'Of all shores the best is the shore of Askelon, and 'Akká is, verily, better than Askelon, and the merit of 'Akká above that of Askelon and all other shores is as the merit of Muḥammad above that of all other Prophets. I bring you tidings of a city betwixt two mountains in Syria, in the middle of a meadow, which is called 'Akká. Verily, he that entereth therein, longing for it and eager to visit it, God will forgive his sins, both of the past and of the future. And he that departeth from it, other than as a pilgrim, God will not bless his departure. In it is a spring called the Spring of the Cow. Whoso drinketh a draught therefrom, God will fill his heart with light, and will protect him from the most great terror on the Day of Resurrection."

Bahá'u'lláh, [Epistle to the Son of the Wolf](#)

"Anas, son of Malík—may God be pleased with him—hath said: 'The Apostle of God—may the blessings of God and His salutations be upon Him—hath said: 'By the shore of the sea is a city, suspended beneath the Throne, and named 'Akká. He that dwelleth therein, firm and expecting a reward from God—exalted be He—God will write down for him, until the Day of Resurrection, the recompense of such as have been patient, and have stood up, and knelt down, and prostrated themselves, before Him."

Bahá'u'lláh, [Epistle to the Son of the Wolf](#)

"And He—may the blessings of God and His salutations be upon Him—hath said: 'I announce unto you a city, on the shores of the sea, white, whose whiteness is pleasing unto God—exalted be He! It is called 'Akká. He that hath been bitten by one of its fleas is better, in the estimation of God, than he who hath received a grievous blow in the path of God. And he that raiseth therein the call to prayer, his voice will be lifted up unto Paradise. And he that remaineth therein for seven days in the face of the enemy, God will gather him with Khidr—peace be upon Him—and God will protect him from the most great terror on the Day of Resurrection.' And He—may the blessings of God,—



exalted be He—and His salutations be upon Him—hath said: 'There are kings and princes in Paradise. The poor of 'Akká are the kings of Paradise and the princes thereof. A month in 'Akká is better than a thousand years elsewhere.'"

Bahá'u'lláh, [Epistle to the Son of the Wolf](#)

"The Apostle of God—may the blessings of God and His salutations be upon Him—is reported to have said: 'Blessed the man that hath visited 'Akká, and blessed he that hath visited the visitor of 'Akká. Blessed the one that hath drunk from the Spring of the Cow and washed in its waters, for the black-eyed damsels quaff the camphor in Paradise, which hath come from the Spring of the Cow, and from the Spring of Salván (Siloam), and the Well of Zamzam. Well is it with him that hath drunk from these springs, and washed in their waters, for God hath forbidden the fire of hell to touch him and his body on the Day of Resurrection.'"

Bahá'u'lláh, [Epistle to the Son of the Wolf](#)

"The Prophet—may the blessings of God and His salutations be upon Him—is stated to have said: 'In 'Akká are works of supererogation and acts which are beneficial, which God vouchsafed specially unto whomsoever He pleaseth. And he that saith in 'Akká: 'Glorified be God, and praise be unto God, and there is none other God but God, and most great is God, and there is no power nor strength except in God, the Exalted, the Mighty,' God will write down for him a thousand good deeds, and blot out from him a thousand evil deeds, and will uplift him a thousand grades in Paradise, and will forgive him his transgressions. And whoso saith in 'Akká: 'I beg forgiveness of God,' God will forgive all his trespasses. And he that remembereth God in 'Akká at morn and at eventide, in the night-season and at dawn, is better in the sight of God than he who beareth swords, spears and arms in the path of God—exalted be He!'"

Bahá'u'lláh [Epistle to the Son of the Wolf](#)

"The Apostle of God—may the blessings of God and His salutations be upon Him—hath also said: 'He that looketh upon the sea at eventide, and saith: 'God is Most Great!' at sunset, God will forgive his sins, though they be heaped as piles of sand. And he that counteth forty waves, while repeating: 'God is Most Great!'—exalted be He—God will forgive his sins, both past and future.'"

Bahá'u'lláh, [Epistle to the Son of the Wolf](#)

"The Apostle of God—may the blessings of God and His salutations be upon Him—hath said: 'He that looketh upon the sea a full night is better than he who passeth two whole months betwixt the Rukn and the Maqám. And he that hath been brought up on the shores of the sea is better than he that hath been brought up elsewhere. And he that lieth on the shore is as he that standeth elsewhere.' Verily, the Apostle of God—may the blessings of God, exalted be He, and His salutations be upon Him—hath spoken the truth."

Bahá'u'lláh, [Epistle to the Son of the Wolf](#)