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**Vatican City Meets
with
Middle East
Leaders for Peace**

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Vatican City Meets with Middle East Leaders for Peace.

In 2018 Pope Francis invited leaders of all Christian denominations in the Middle East to join him in Italy on the 7th July to discuss how they can help bring peace to the region. The meeting took place in the southern Adriatic port city of Bari Italy. This site was chosen because it is home to the relics of St. Nicholas, a figure venerated in both the Western and Eastern branches of the Catholic Church.

Nicholas, who lived about 1,700 years ago in what is today Turkey, is particularly honoured by Christian Orthodox Churches in countries such as Syria, Iraq, Egypt, and Lebanon in the Middle East. He is also widely venerated among Orthodox Christians in Russia, which is Syria's ally. The Vatican said the encounter would be an "ecumenical meeting for peace" where the religious leaders would discuss "the dramatic situation of the Middle East that afflicts so many brothers and sisters in the faith."

This daylong ecumenical service and gathering of Orthodox patriarchs and Catholic leaders, was the first of its kind, gathering most of the Middle East's Orthodox patriarchs with the head of the 1.2 billion-strong Catholic Church as well as Lutheran leaders and their Christian representatives in the Holy Land.

Pope Francis in his opening prayer, said, "the Middle East represented the source of Christianity, where ancient Christian rites and heritage are preserved and where "our very souls are rooted, and yet, in recent years the region has been covered by dark clouds of war, violence and destruction and varieties of fundamentalism, have forced multitude to migrate to other lands."

- He greeted the patriarchs outside the Basilica of St. Nicholas, and they descended together to the crypt to pray before the relics and light a flame for peace symbolizing the unity of Christians divided by over 1,000 years of schism.
- He urged global powers to stop their "thirst for profit that underhandedly exploits oil and gas fields without regard for the people well-being and common home, and stated, our desire is to lift-up our voices in opposition to this thirst for profit, for the Middle East today is weeping, suffering and silent as others trample upon their lands in search of power or riches."
- He denounced the "murderous indifference" that has allowed violence to consume the Middle East and drive tens of thousands of Christians from their homes, and called out global powers for seeking power and profit at the expense of the region's people.
- He stated the Vatican has long sought an internationally guaranteed status for Jerusalem that safeguards its sacred character for Jews, Muslims, and Christians.
- He renewed his appeal for a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian

At the end of the gathering children released doves of peace, while Pope Francis prayed, saying, "We commit ourselves to walking, praying and working together, in the hope that the art of encounter will prevail over strategies of conflict."

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.

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