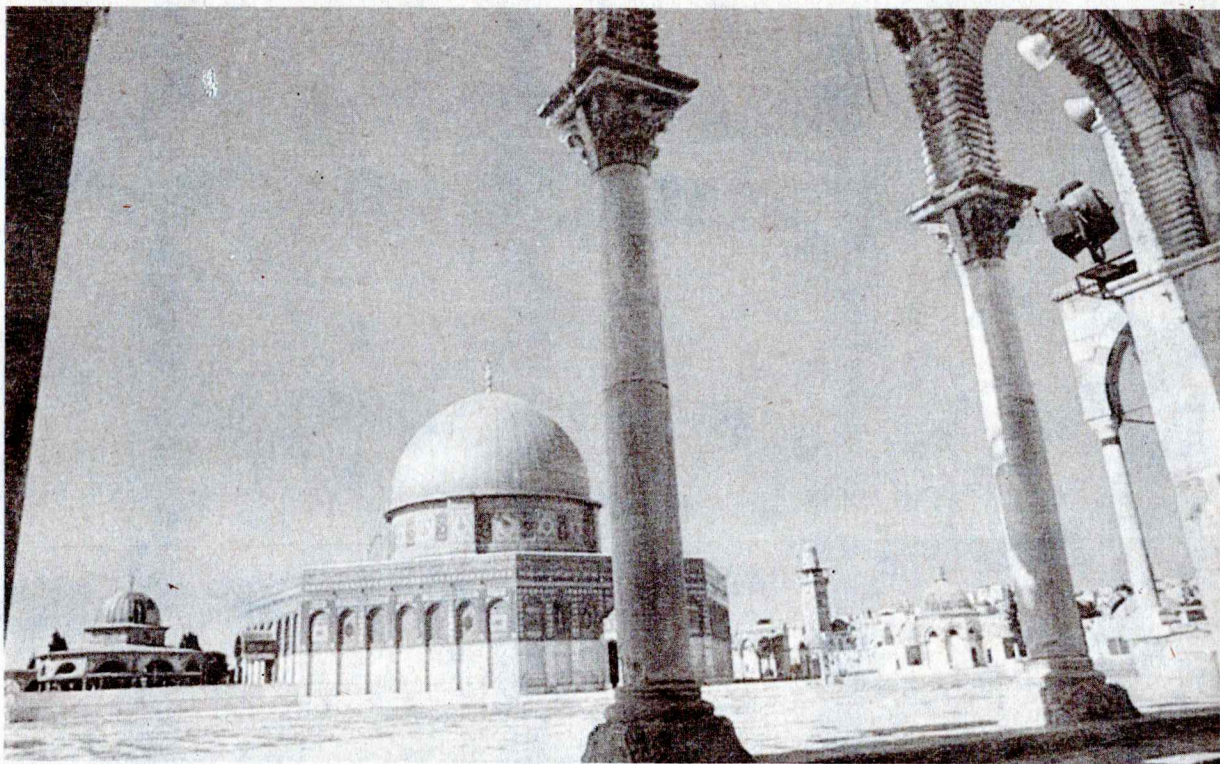


# Jesus, Prophecy & Middle East

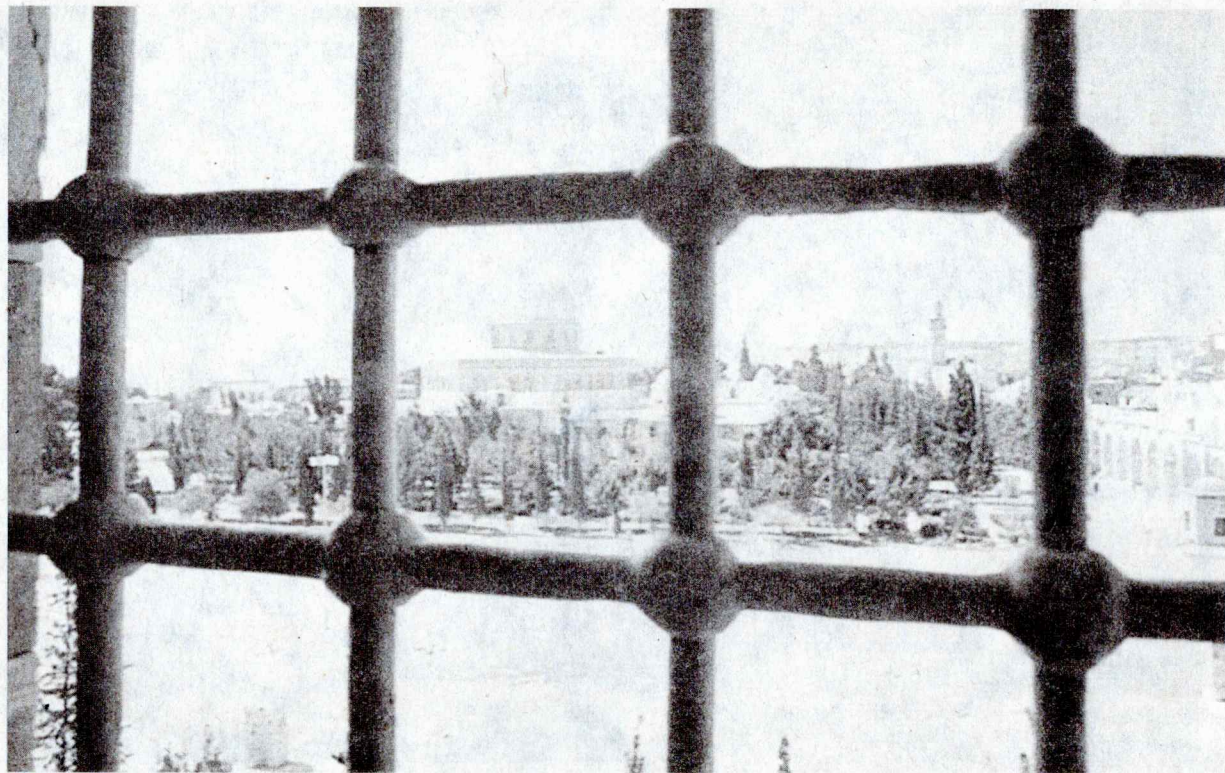


*Dr. Anis A. Shorrosh*





The incredibly beautiful Dome of the Rock in the midst of the ancient Temple area.



Will this sacred mosque have to go before the rebuilt temple takes shape? Read Rev. 11:1-2.

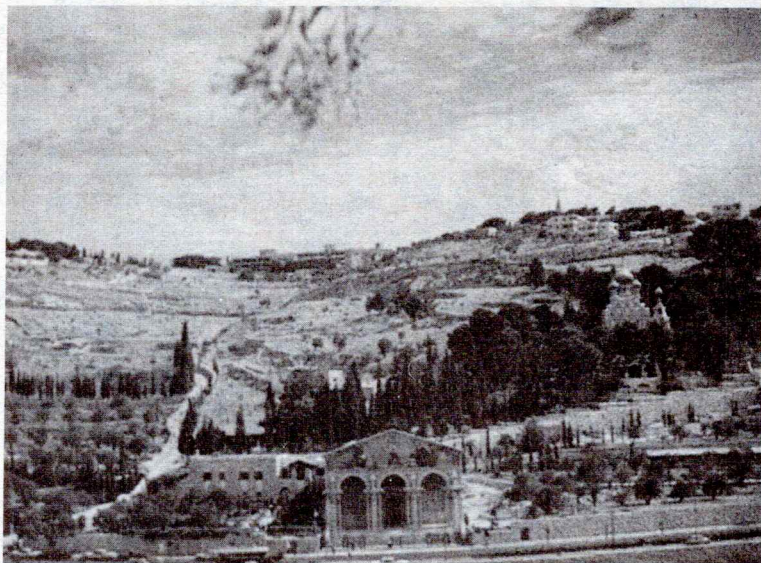


!!!

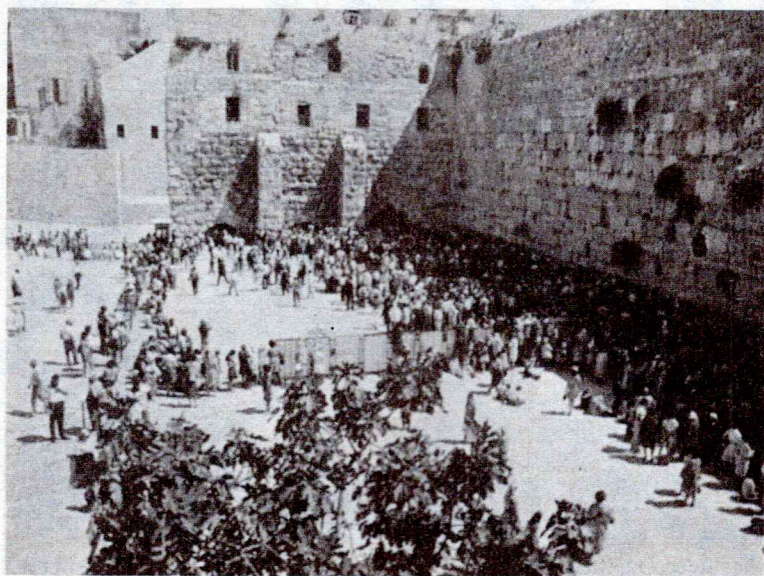
In spite of danger from commando activities on buses and airplanes, tourists keep pouring in to see the Land of the Bible. This is one of our groups on a tour bus near Nazareth.



Our Holy Land Pilgrims of January, 1977, stand on the Mount of Olives, where Jesus will descend. In the background is the ancient city of Jerusalem with the Dome of the Rock Mosque standing in the midst of it so majestically close to where the Temple will be rebuilt soon. Zech. 14:4.



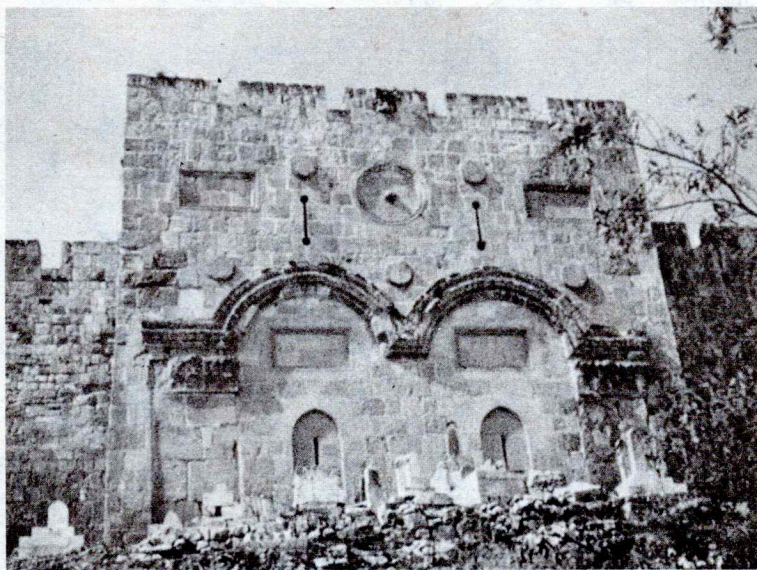
Mt. Olives with Garden of Gethsemane as seen from the Eastern Gate—Joel 3:2.



The Western Wall of Herod's Temple, formerly called "The Wailing Wall." The author believes the new temple will be rebuilt in this area very soon.



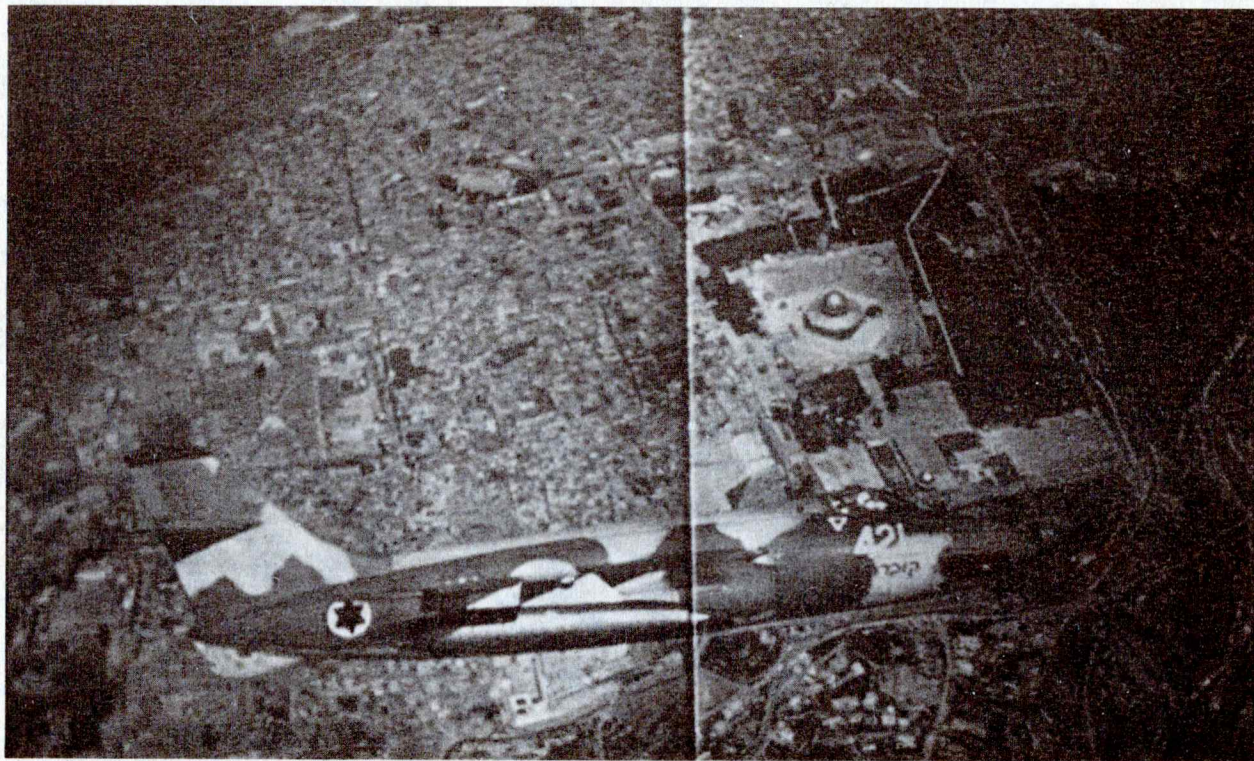
The other side of the important Golden Gate in the Eastern Wall of Jerusalem.



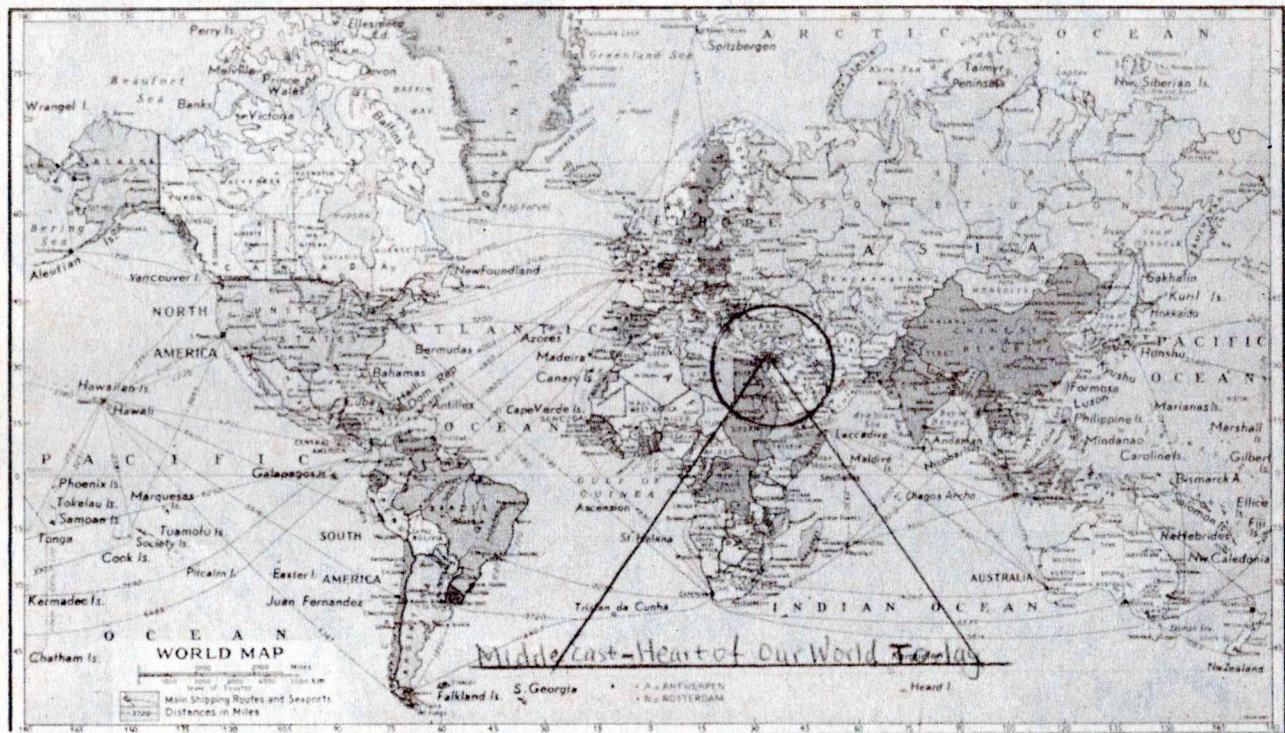
The lovely Golden Gate, also called The Eastern Gate. The order to reopen it in 1966, by Jordan, caused the author to reexamine his position on prophecy. Read Ezekiel 44:1-2.



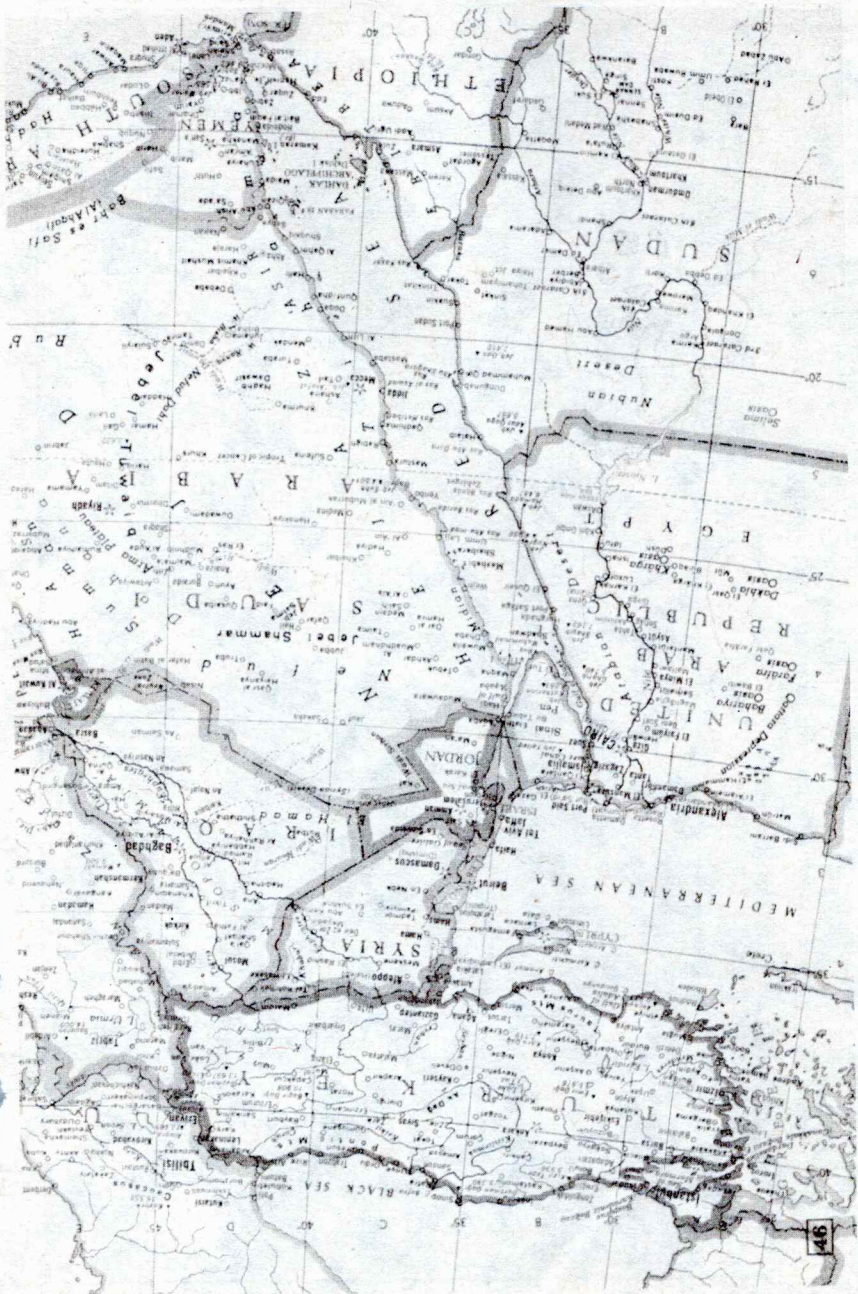
View of the Plains of Megiddo at sunset. I was on top of Mt. Tabor when I took the picture. Rev. 16:16.



The fascinating and famed city of Jerusalem as an Air Force jet fighter sees it from 10,000 feet high.



The Middle-East - Heart of the Whole World.



55° 60° 65° 70°  
G H J  
CONTEMPORARY MAPS AND CO. N. Y.

**SOUTHWEST ASIA**

CONIC PROJECTION  
SCALE OF MILES  
SCALE OF KILOMETERS

Capitals of Countries  
--- International Boundaries  
--- Outer Capitals





Relics of the 1948 war near Megiddo.



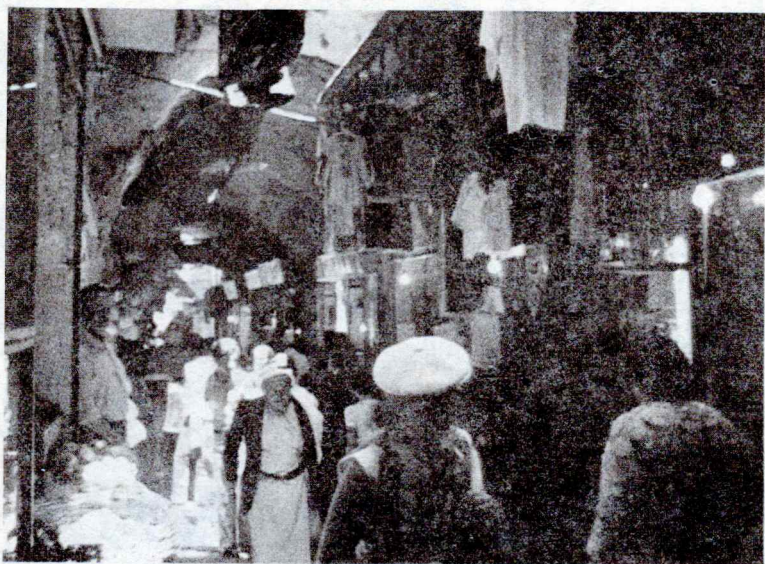
On the spot check by Israeli armed forces on a Jericho road.



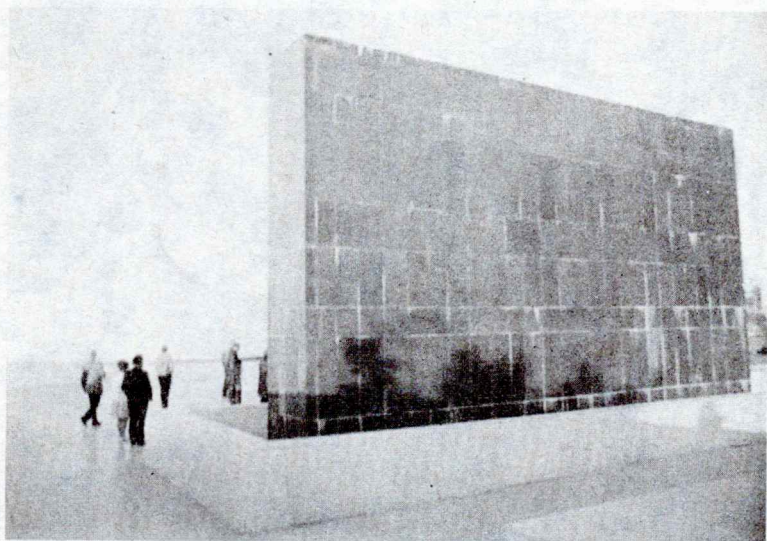
The modern City of Haifa is called "The San Francisco of the Holy Land." The lovely seaport on the Mediterranean hugs and even climbs Mt. Carmel.



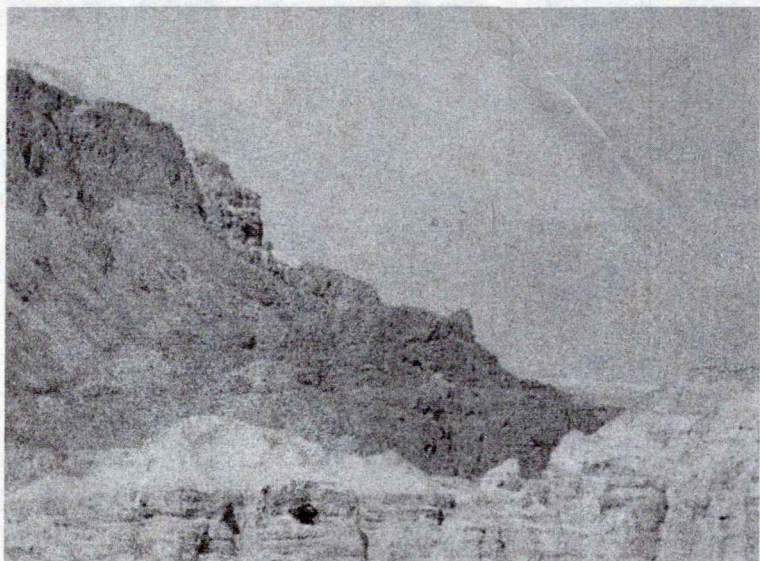
The striking modern buildings of West Jerusalem.



The world famous Jerusalem Bazaars are a shopper's paradise.



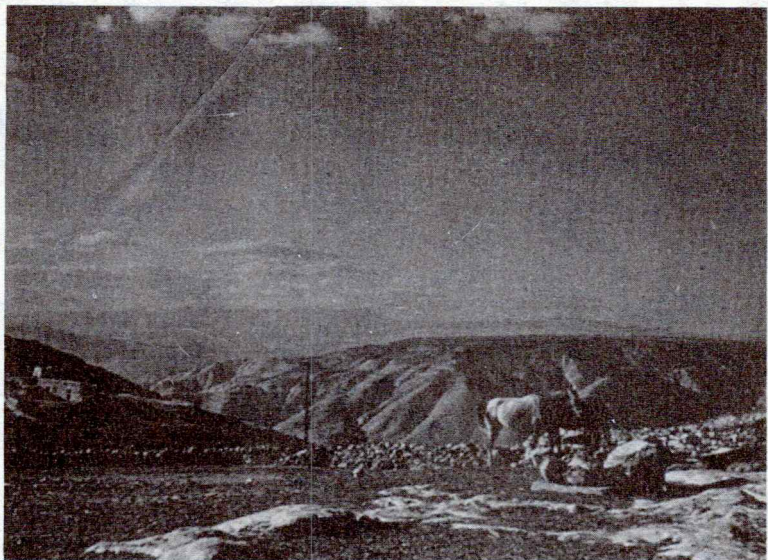
Shrine of the Book Museum is where the Dead Sea Scrolls and other artifacts are preserved in West Jerusalem.



The forbidding Dead Sea area where the ancient scrolls were discovered between 1947-1956.



Nazareth, hometown of Jesus, with Church of Annunciation rising majestically from the center of town. The author of this book and photographer of all the pictures in it except No. 1 and No. 6, was born and raised in Nazareth.



The spectacular view of Galilee from Jordan's city of Um Qais, ancient Gadara. Notice the threshing floor.



The calm, cool and charming Jordan River is a paradox. It has become a bloody barrier between the waving Sons of Abraham. It separates Jordan from Israel.

# **JESUS, Prophecy & Middle East**

BY

ANIS A. SHORROSH

**Incredible insights into the unique subject of the Second Coming by a native of the hometown of JESUS.**

distributed by  
**ACCLAIMED BOOKS**

**Box 18186, Dallas, TX 75218**

**phone (214) 494-2304**

**All Scripture Verses are taken from the American Standard Version, unless otherwise noted.**

**Jesus, Prophecy and The Middle East**

**Copyright (c) 1979 by Anis Shorrosh Evangelistic Association  
All rights reserved**

**Printed in the United States of America  
Library of Congress Catalog Card No. 79-53306  
Anis Shorrosh Evangelistic Association  
Mobile, Alabama, 36608**

## Dedication

*To my dearest friend, wise counselor, capable colleague, my faithful wife, Nell; and to my wonderful Children, Salam, Paul, Stevie, and Victoria, whose abiding love, real understanding, and consistment praying continues to sustain me as we serve Jesus at home and away from home; and to the members of our Association whose faithful and prayerful support enables our ministry to reach the entire world with the Gospel.*

# Table of Contents

## Jesus, Prophecy and The Middle East

### Titles of Chapters

PAGES

<i>Chapter One</i>	
<b>PROPHECY FEVER</b> .....	23
<i>Chapter Two</i>	
<b>JESUS IN PROPHECY</b> .....	30
<i>Chapter Three</i>	
<b>SIGNS OF THE RETURN-FULFILLED</b> .....	42
<i>Chapter Four</i>	
<b>SIGNS OF THE RETURN-BEING FULFILLED</b> .....	53
<i>Chapter Five</i>	
<b>THE ARABS IN PROPHECY</b> .....	67
<i>Chapter Six</i>	
<b>WAR OVER JORDAN</b> .....	79
<i>Chapter Seven</i>	
<b>MYSTERY OF THE WITHERED FIG TREE SOLVED</b>	89
<i>Chapter Eight</i>	
<b>THE RAPTURE-WHAT A WAY TO GO!</b> .....	101

<i>Chapter Nine</i>	
<b>WHO IS THE ANTI-CHRIST? .....</b>	<b>109</b>
<i>Chapter Ten</i>	
<b>DANIEL'S SEVENTIETH WEEK .....</b>	<b>120</b>
<i>Chapter Eleven</i>	
<b>THREE ARMAGEDDONS! .....</b>	<b>131</b>
<i>Chapter Twelve</i>	
<b>THE MYSTIFYING MILLENNIUM .....</b>	<b>141</b>

# Introduction

Because of my deep interest in my native land of Palestine, and the tremendous world-wide concern in what is happening in the Middle East, I have diligently endeavored to bring about this work to the public. Much reading, research, and preparation has gone into it with a special prayer that God will use it to illuminate the issues and inspire the readers to seek the Lord Jesus whose coming again will make order out of chaos and clarity out of confusion.

However, one must humbly acknowledge several facts whenever he presents such a product.

First, no author, great or small, can ever bring out a book without consulting numerous other books. Although a sincere effort is made at giving credit to whom credit is due by listing every source in the bibliography, I realize it is not by any means an exhaustive list.

Secondly, several church secretaries assisted in typing original chapters again and again. Because my travels took me across the nation and around the world in the course of laboring on this project, no one typist could type the manuscript in its entirety. To them, whose names God knows and whose efforts He will reward, I say, "THANKS".

Thirdly, a very special word of appreciation goes to Elaine Hedgepath, a God-sent personal secretary. Her sincere love for Jesus, knowledge of His Word, and extraordinary typing talent made this endeavor a dream come true.

Finally, I do praise God for providing the opportunity to be a guest at Dr. Hal D. Bennett's home in Graceville, Florida, February, 1979. Through this providential encounter, Dr. Bennett filled the needed position of an Editor. HALLELUJAH, is very expressive in stating my delight at the way God has nurtured my dream of writing a book on prophecy ever since the first message was delivered at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Chapel on December 16th, 1966.

February, 1979  
Daphne, Alabama

Maranatha,

Anis A. Shorrosh, D. Min.

# Prophecy Fever

# 1

---

## II Peter 3:9-13

*The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, on account of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.*

In 1969, an overzealous Australian decided he would help God fulfill prophecy. So, he set fire to the El-Aqsa Mosque in

Jerusalem, where I was a pastor and lived until 1967. Consequently, the young man was judged to be a psychopathic person. Therefore, he was imprisoned in an Israeli hospital to serve a ten-year sentence.

For the next three years after the fire we non-Moslems were not allowed to enter the damaged Aqsa Mosque. Later, when they let us in again, even so small a thing as opening ones purse for a napkin would bring a guard running. He would poke around inside the purse to see what it was you had there, fearful that you may have had a bomb.

The Muslem population became very enraged. They accused Israeli fire fighters of not moving fast enough with the equipment, thus the delay caused more extensive damage to the building.

Nevertheless the building has been renovated; it can still accommodate 10,000 people. Both the Aqsa Mosque and the Mosque of Omar, which is really the Dome of the Rock, are situated on the area familiar to N.T. days as the Temple Mount. Many believe that either of the buildings, especially the Dome of the Rock, has to be destroyed or removed before a new Jewish Temple is rebuilt. We will discuss this later.

Moreover, if I understand Ezekiel and Revelation correctly, these scriptures seem to indicate that the whole area will be in the hands of the Gentiles until Jesus comes again.

## **I. GREAT INTEREST IN PROPHECY**

In 1966, Times magazine quoted the Chief Rabbi in Jerusalem as hoping for an earthquake which would demolish the Dome of the Rock and make room for the rebuilt temple. But I believe that the most beautiful building in the Middle East will not have to be destroyed.

While on my eighth preaching mission to India, a dear old man from Poona handed me a piece of paper with twenty-one questions concerning the return of Christ. He was

positive that since I was from Jerusalem and was born in Nazareth, I would be qualified to answer the questions, such as: "When will Jesus come?" "Where will He come first?" "Will He be on the clouds?" "Will He land in Jerusalem or Damascus as the Moslems affirm?" I quickly told him that I appreciated his confidence, yet the Lord did not put me on the time committee, only on the preparation committee!

In December, 1973, Carl McIntyre, who is a famous Presbyterian preacher, associated comet Kahoutek, with signs and wonders of Luke 21:11, Jesus had testified such signs would precede and preclude His coming the second time.

In Montgomery, Alabama, a man was handing out stenciled papers announcing that he had seen a divine vision. IT was a revelation from God concerning the prophecy of Daniel. He emphasized that the Dome of the Rock would be destroyed in 1973.

"To be exact," he said, "it will happen in September and to be more exact, it would be the 23rd of September.

"Then, after elaborate explanations of these, he put, "P.S. If these prophecies will not come to pass as I indicated, you all will know that I misunderstood the prophecy." One can laugh and say, "What an easy way to get out."

North Hollywood, California, First Assembly of God has drawn up a set of contingency by-laws to become effective immediately after the rapture of the Christians from the earth. The church usually demands three years of membership before one is qualified for election in a church leadership position. With this, only six months of membership is required, then one is qualified to be elected as a leader.

## II. BOOKS ON PROPHECY

Sweeping forms of this preoccupation with future events is found in the nation's bookstores, religious and otherwise. Prophecy titles are snapped up by the millions. My friend, Hal Lindsey's book, **The Late Great Planet Earth**, has moved

closer to the 20 million mark this year in paperback and hardback. It is published by Zondervan. This book in a great measure started this tremendous prophecy fever. I should like to commend it to you because this is one of the few books on the subject which has been used by God to lead people to Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord. He has written other related books too.

**Re-entry**, by John Wesley White, has passed the 1 million mark and I guess some of you know that he is an associate of Billy Graham. **Re-entry** is a good book.

**The Beginning of the End**, by Tim LaHaye is another stimulating book published by Tyndale. **Satan in the Sanctuary**, was published by Moody Press; Levitt and McCall put it together. It is very exciting. Incidentally, I had an encounter with Zola Levitt in Dallas. I thought Zola Levitt was a woman. Waiting for a lady interviewer on the radio station, lo and behold, a bearded man walks in! He is a Jew and I am an Arab, but we had a glorious time! **Guide to Survival, I Predict, 666, The Day Israel Dies** and numerous others are authored by Salem Kirban. I met him in Atlantic City three years ago and learned that his parents immigrated to the U.S. from Lebanon. Kirban does not speak Arabic though.

My own little book, **The Fig Tree**, has found a tremendous reception, so much so that we have had to print it twice.

### III. FILMS WITH PROPHETIC THEMES

Films began with Billy Graham's, "His Land." This was the first film which intrigued people with fulfilled prophecy in Palestine and with the Jews' return to Palestine and becoming Israel. There are other evangelical films, "The Return", "The Rapture", "Thief in the Night," "Distant Thunder," "The Temple," "The Road to Armageddon", "The Vision", by David Wilkerson, came out first as a book. Lindsey's, "The Great Planet Earth", is the newest book. The secular media has presented two movies related to the Anti-christ entitled,

“Omen”, and “Omen, Two”.

#### **IV. CASSETTE RECORDINGS ARE ALSO ON THE MARKET.**

We have a new denomination among Christians called “cassette Christians”. I am personally a member of this new unorganized group. We cannot always travel the great distances up and down the country to hear all the eloquent preachers, prophecy teachers and conference speakers. Subsequently, we order a tape for a few dollars and listen to these men of God in the privacy of our car or home with the option of turning them off any moment we choose. Our own cassette ministry includes over 50 different titles dealing with doctrine, prayer, evangelism, the Holy Spirit and prophecy.

#### **V. THE LATEST OF ALL IS PROPHECY CONFERENCES AND PROPHECY BANQUETS.**

I should like to underline that every Christian should contemplate Christ’s return with joyful expectation saying with the Apostle, “even so, come, Lord Jesus.”

However, I’m afraid that some people do get hung up on subjects instead of Jesus. I have encountered a lot of people who are hung up on the Holy Spirit. Others who are hung up on prophecy. Others are hung up on doctrine.

I think it’s of utmost importance to remind each other that we ought to keep our faith in balance. Are we candid enough to admit that there may be some biblical support for views other than our own? Will we be disappointed if ours don’t come to pass? If our predictions don’t come through, are we setting ourselves up, needlessly, for embarrassment and for disillusionment? You can answer that for yourself. In any case, we run the risk of discrediting the gospel writers and their witness, plus seriously shaking the faith of the evangelicals themselves, particularly those who are not mature enough to understand these matters. Sensationalism is

unnecessary. Judgment is coming, but Peter motivates us to repentance and godly living. We should not be overly excited like the people at Thessalonica. Paul had to write them a second letter to calm them down.

## VII. OTHER IDEAS

The Millerite movement in the 1840's dashed hopes of ill-founded anticipation. Also you may know of Rev. M. Baxter's work, **40 Future Wonders of Scripture Prophecy**. He promised in this book that Christ would descend on the Mountain of Olives, May 2, 1929 or April 9, 1931, at 3:00 p.m. Jesus did not come!

I. R. Dean, wrote, **The Time of the End**. He instructed prophecy buffs to expect the rapture in 1922. Still nothing happened. Today, we protect ourselves with qualifying expressions. Our predictions have, "maybe", "possibly", "perhaps."

Most prophecy students accept Lindsey's book as the ultimate to the understanding of prophecy. May I suggest that our friend Hal may not be so right after all. He expects the coming of the Lord to be 1988, some people thought 1978. Others are convinced it will happen in our generation. My prediction is perhaps, 1998 will be the year! Surprised? The Rapture may happen in 1988. Well, I really don't know. We shall discuss this later.

For the moment, I would like to emphasize that the key puzzle piece which has put things into better perspective came into the picture in 1948, when Israel came into existence. Are we living in the time of the end? I believe we definitely are. Yet, no one knows. The scripture declares, "Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God..."

In other words, our responsibility is not to really track down the time or to figure the precise date. No. It is to live a life that will glorify God, to point people to Christ, to be

faithful witnesses to him.

J. Marcellus Kigg, argues in **Eschatology of Prophecy** that the Matthew 24 signs deal with Jerusalem only, in 70 A.D. Kigg also says that from verse 26 onward to chapter 25 delves into the coming of Jesus the second time. He feels Jesus seems to be teaching the unexpectedness of His coming. The circumstances preceding and concurrent with His return are very phenomenal indeed. Someone will ask the question, "Will the Rapture come first?" or "Are we to experience the millennium or do we have to go through the tribulation?" "Do we have mid-tribulation, post tribulation, or pre-tribulation Rapture?" There are many questions I don't believe anyone can answer. Let us, therefore, praise God for what we do understand and use it to God's glory and man's salvation.

# Jesus In Prophecy

## 2

---

### **I. BIBLICAL PROPHECY IS THE MIGHTY FORTRESS THAT HAS HELD DESPITE ALL ATTACKS OF THE ENEMIES OF GOD.**

Much of the prophetic scriptures were written a long time—even centuries—before they were to take place.

Even so, modernists and liberal scholars who do not believe in the authenticity and inerrancy of the scriptures declare that there was no way such events could have been foretold. They affirm that somebody else must have written them at a later date. Many of these critics have been steadfast concerning the multiple authors of the book of Isaiah. Some claiming as many as four writers for the book of Isaiah. But in 1947 a stunning discovery refuted their views.

It happened this way: a Bedouin lad named Muhammad adh-Dhib was trying to flush out a stray goat. So he tossed a stone into a small opening in the dead sea, terraced caves. To his amazement, he heard the distinct shattering of pottery. Now, all of us kids over there, in the Holy Land, dream about

finding treasures hidden in caves. So, with great excitement he squeezed himself in and found some clay jars. It was too dark to see anything else and he was scared. At the camp, he confided to his uncle what had transpired.

The two came back the next morning and crawled into the cave. They discovered twelve pottery jars. Only one of those jars contained a leather scroll wrapped with worn-out linen. They took the 28 foot scroll to Bethlehem to a shoe cobbler, because it was leather. The man was also somewhat of a small antique dealer. He gave them a few dollars for it, saying he would be able to use it in patching shoes and sandals. He knew enough to carry it secretly to the American School of Oriental Research in Jerusalem.

Dr. John C. Trever, the Professor who was in charge, could not believe his eyes. He requested to keep it over-night for study. His hands trembled as he looked at ancient Hebrew far beyond any known ancient scrolls available at that time. All night long he took pictures of it. It was the oldest manuscript of Isaiah, dating between B.C. 250-75 A.D.!

Before long the whole world heard about the famous Dead Sea Scrolls. By now, as you probably know, we have practically every portion of the old Testament in manuscript form except the book of Esther. One Scroll was discovered to be in Aramaic. Commentaries on most of the Old Testament were also found in subsequent cave searches. Up until this time the oldest Hebrew manuscript was only from the ninth century A.D. Because of the dryness in that part of the Holy Land, and the fact scrolls were hidden in earthen jars tucked away in secret caves high in the mountains where there is little dampness, no appreciable damage was evident.

The Isaiah scroll can be viewed today in Jerusalem at the "Shrine of the Book" Museum. The shock to numerous liberal scholars was overwhelming. This particular scroll appeared intact, being one piece and indeed dating to 250 B.C. Therefore the conclusion was obvious: Isaiah must have been written by one author, not four as they had supposed. Biblical criticism suffered a major blow. Jesus said: "Heaven

and earth shall pass away, but my Word shall stand forever.”

One may recall that the books, written by the Essenes, involved prophecies very similar to the predictions concerning Jesus the Messiah. Consequently they referred to him as “Teacher of Righteousness” in anticipating Him to come. Their teachings stressed cleansing from sin by baptism. I counted 27 pools of water at Qumran, their reconstructed community. Hence water was not collected just for domestic use but also for places to baptize. The Essenes believed that whenever you sin, you must wash away your sins. Knowing human nature, one can imagine how often they had to be baptized; that’s why they had so many pools.

Early in the 1950’s Bible critics were convinced that Jesus and John the Baptist were products of Qumran. Yet neither Jesus, nor John before him, were recluses, or even referred to as Essenes. Of course, the theories have been abandoned as more facts emerged from the Dead Sea Scrolls. However, let me affirm that if they ever came from there, Jesus and John knew better than to follow the Essenes’ ideas. They followed the leadership of God in a public ministry, not in a withdrawn self-righteousness.

Throughout museums of the world one can discover scrolls, manuscripts, and potsherds that authenticate the veracity of the scriptures, both Old and New Testaments. These evidences may be found in Jerusalem’s churches and museums, the Vatican’s Library, the famed British Museum, Leningrad’s Museum, the Louvre, Notre Dame Cathedral, and the unique Monastery of St. Cathren at Mount Sinai.

There are numerous passages which deal with the coming of Jesus our Lord the first time, in the Old Testament scripture. So many, in fact, that I must share only the highlights of such predictions.

## **II. PROPHECIES OF JESUS IN THE HISTORICAL BOOKS**

A. Genesis 3:15 records the first statement in the scripture concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God spoke

to the serpent after Adam and Eve sinned.

*“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel.”*

Notice, He did not say, “his seed”, but also “her seed”. When Jesus our Lord came He conquered sin and Satan on Calvary. Sin was represented by the serpent. The serpent “bruised his heel,” only meaning, that it was a minor injury. Thus, Jesus died for only three days then came back to life. Therefore Satan’s victory was temporal and temporary. But Jesus’ victory was permanent and eternal.

B. In Genesis 49:10, we find another intriguing statement. As Jacob was nearing death he foretold the future of each of his sons. Concerning Judah, he declared,

*“The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, until Shiloh comes, and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.”*

A far-reaching impact is the statement denoting that the obedience is neither of Judah by itself, nor of Israel by themselves, but of the peoples. Again the word “Shiloh” is very similar to “Shalom”, “Jerusalem”, as well as “Solomon”. All these are derivatives of the word Salem, which is peace. “Shalom” in Hebrew is equivalent to “Salam” in Arabic. When Jesus was born, the announcement from heaven echoed across the Judean Hills. “Glory to God in the Highest and on earth...” what? “Peace.” Now “peace”, in this context, referred to Jesus himself as the embodiment of peace, fulfilling Genesis 49:10.

C. In Deuteronomy 18:18, we find another peculiar passage given by the greatest lawgiver who ever lived, Moses the prophet.

*“I will raise up a prophet from among their*

*countrymen (brothers) like you, and I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. And it shall come about whoever will not listen to My words which he shall speak in My name, I myself will require it of him."*

The Israelites did not "listen" to Jesus; consequently they continue to be under God's hand of judgment.

### III. THE PSALMS

#### A. Psalms 2:1-6

*"Why are the nations in an uproar, and the peoples devising a vain thing? The kings of the earth take their stand, and the rulers take counsel together against the Lord and against His Anointed: "Let us tear their fetters apart, and cast away their cords from us!" He who sits in the heavens laughs, The Lord scoffs at them. Then He will speak to them in His anger and terrify them in His fury: "But as for Me, I have installed My King upon Zion, My holy mountain."*

B. Psalms 16:8-11 is recognized as fulfilled in Acts 2:22-28.

*"I have set the Lord continually before me; Because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will dwell securely. For Thou wilt not abandon my soul to Sheol; Neither wilt Thou allow Thy Holy One to undergo decay. Thou wilt make known to me the path of life; In Thy presence is fulness of joy; In Thy right hand there are pleasures forever."*

C. Psalm 22. I was quite amazed that most Christians do not even realize that this Psalm is in the Bible! The entire

Psalm is a prediction concerning Christ's suffering. The fulfillment is recognized in the record of the New Testament a thousand years after this Psalm was written.

*"My God, my God, why has Thou forsaken me? Far from my deliverance are the words of my groaning. O my God, I cry by day, but Thou dost not answer, and by night, but I have no rest. Yet Thou art holy, O Thou who art enthroned upon the praises of Israel. In Thee our fathers trusted; They trusted, and Thou didst deliver them. To Thee they cried out, and were delivered; In Thee they trusted, and were not disappointed. But I am a worm, and not a man, a reproach of men, and despised by the people. All who see me sneer at me; They separate with the lip, they wag the head, saying, "Commit yourself to the Lord; let Him deliver him; let Him rescue him, because he delights in him." Yet Thou art He who didst bring me forth from the womb; Thou didst make me trust when upon my mother's breasts. Upon Thee I was cast from birth; Thou hast been my God from my mother's womb. Be not far from me, for trouble is near; for there is none to help. Many bulls have surrounded me; strong bulls of Bashan have encircled me. They open wide their mouth at me, as a ravening and a roaring lion. I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; My heart is like wax; it is melted within me. My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue cleaves to my jaws; and Thou dost lay me in the dust of death. For dogs have surrounded me; a band of evildoers has encompassed me; they pierced my hands and my feet. I can count all my bones. They look, they stare at me; they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots." (Ps. 22)*

There are three basic and powerful statements that shine through this wonderful Psalm and were fulfilled precisely at

the death of Jesus. The first verse was a prayer which Jesus uttered while on the cross. "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken Me?" Then verse 16b predicts "...they pierced my hands and my feet", John 20:27. Lastly, "They divide my garments among them and for my clothing they cast lots", verse 18. In the Gospel of Mark 15:24, the record proves that the thousand year prophecy was fulfilled.

D. Psalms 69:21 is fulfilled in Matthew 27:34

*"They also gave me gall for my food, and for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink."*

#### IV. THE PROPHET ISAIAH

Isaiah is called "prince of prophets". He is one of the most extraordinary and remarkable men who ever lived on planet earth. In his revealing statements again and again, he sounds much like one of the apostles of Jesus. One cannot calculate the scholars who rightfully call his prophecy "the fifth gospel."

A. Isaiah 7:14, reads:

*"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel."*

May I suggest how we ought to read this verse? "Therefore the Lord HIMSELF shall give you a sign." In other words, God Himself will be the sign. Thus, Jesus, who was born from a virgin is the Lord Himself exactly as John affirms in the Gospel, 1:1-2, 14.

B. In Isaiah 9:6-7, we are astounded at these words:

*"For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no*

*end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore."*

No man can ever fit into this concept except the Son of Man, Jesus of Nazareth. Need I point out to you that the titles of esteem and wonder given about the virgin-born child are nothing less than divine. Jesus was indeed: "The Mighty God!" I Tim. 1:17, He truly demonstrated that he was: "The Eternal Father!" John 14:9. He in fact was: "Prince of Peace!" Eph. 2:14.

C. In Isaiah 53 we come to one of the most powerful prophecies in the entire Bible concerning Jesus Himself. Comments are superflous indeed. I will only quote the passage in its entirety.

*"Who has believed our message? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of parched ground; He has no stately form or majesty that we should look upon Him, nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him. He was despised and forsaken of men, a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and like one from whom men hide their face, He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely our griefs He Himself bore, and our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God and afflicted. But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him and by His scourging we are healed. All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him. He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth; like a lamb that is led to slaughter, and like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, so He did not*

*open His mouth. By oppression and judgment He was taken away; and as for His generation, who considered that He was cut off out of the land of the living, for the transgression of my people to whom the stroke was due? His grave was assigned to be with wicked men, yet with a rich man in His death; although He had done no violence nor was there any deceit in His mouth. But the Lord was pleased to crush Him, putting Him to grief; if He would render Himself as a guilt offering, He will see His offspring, He will prolong His days, and the good pleasure of the Lord will prosper in His hand. As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see it and be satisfied; By His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, as He will bear their iniquities. Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, and He will divide the booty with the strong; because He poured out Himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet He Himself bore the sin of many, and interceded for the transgressors."*

D. I rejoice in remembering how Jesus, my Lord, came into the synagogue, in my hometown of Nazareth. The request was made that He read the Scripture. Was it by divine appointment or only a coincidence that he read Isaiah 61:1-3;

*"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives, and freedom to prisoners; to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn, to grant those who mourn in Zion, giving them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a spirit of fainting. So they will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be*

*glorified."*

Seven centuries passed before Jesus appeared in the Nazareth Sabbath Service, read the passage, and identified Himself. Then He closed the book, handed it to the Rabbi, and said, "These words have been fulfilled before your eyes this day." Luke 4:21.

## V. THE MINOR PROPHETS

### A. Zechariah

1. In Zechariah 11:12-12 the prophet predicts unthinkable events concerning the plot and betrayal of our Lord.

*"And I said to them, 'If it is good in your sight, give me my wages; but if not, never mind!' So they weighed out thirty shekels of silver as my wages. Then the Lord said to me, 'Throw it to the potter, that magnificent price at which I was valued by them.'" So I took the thirty shekels of silver and threw them to the potter in the house of the Lord."*

That was precisely what the infamous Judas did. He betrayed the Messiah, then cast the money before the priest in the house of the Lord. They in turn bought the potter field. Matt. 26:15.

2. Moreover, in Chapter 12:10, we discover the most fantastic verse in all the scriptures dealing with the trinity. The divinity of Jesus is declared in no uncertain terms, which the Jews themselves do not seem to understand.

*"And I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced, and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him, like the bitter weeping over a first-born."*

We must be intellectually honest and biblically accurate. First, God says through Zechariah, "And I will pour...the Spirit of Grace and supplication." The Holy Spirit is identified exactly as Jesus promised - Acts 1:4-8; John 14:16. God continues, "So that they will look on Me whom they have pierced." Whom did they pierce on the cross? A man named Jesus of Nazareth! Who was he? He was God Almighty. The Lord of Glory.

Therefore, we find here, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The Triune God speaks here of his first coming to earth. Then He goes beyond that to the future when one day the Jews will come back to Jerusalem after the dispersion. They came to Jerusalem in 1967. Patiently we wait for the coming event when Jews will believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. I am convinced it can happen in your lifetime and mine. But beyond any doubt it will happen. It is necessary to add that since the new law was approved by the Knesset in December, 1977, one has to recognize that the Jews will not be saved through either missionary zealots or by Christian dedication. The law forbids proselyting. One accused of such faces three years in prison and \$5,000 in fines.

#### B. Micah

Chapter 5, verse 2 identifies the geographical location of the birthplace of the Messiah centuries before Jesus was born.

*"But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity."*

Dr. Luke records the fulfillment of this prediction in his documentary biography of Jesus (Lk. 2:4). The wise men of the East were able to find their way to the newborn King by consulting Herod's Rabbis - (Matt. 2:1-9).

#### C. Malachi

1. The last book in the Old Testament is Malachi. In 3:1, God announces,

*"Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming," says the Lord of hosts."*

The Gospel writer sees this fulfilled in Jesus' coming. Mark 1:2.

2. Another passage is found in Chapter 4, verse 5.

*"Behold I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the Lord."*

Of course, you remember who was the second Elijah. He was John the Baptist. And that is precisely what Jesus declared and how the disciples understood it to mean. Paul affirms in the concluding portion of his first letter to the Corinthians 15... "...He was raised on the third day according to the Scripture." This is a reference to the fact of a scriptural prophecy, its fulfillment, and its culmination to minute detail in the person of Jesus of Nazareth.

## Signs of the Return-Fulfilled

# 3

---

“Maranatha” is an Aramaic expression used by the Apostle Paul. It is found in the First Epistle to the Corinthians 16:22, and means, “Our Lord is Coming”, or “The Lord is returning.” The Lord’s return has been the Ultimate Hope for every Christian believer across the centuries. The Old Testament looked for His coming in redemption. The New Testament anticipates His return to reign and rule forever. Interestingly enough, for every verse in the Bible which deals with His first coming, three deal with His second coming.

It must be said that there has been more concern about the return of Jesus-generated among the millions of Christians and non-Christians—in our time than any other in history. Much of this is due to the amazing developments in the Middle East.

## **I. THE BIBLE IS THE MOST REMARKABLE BOOK IN ALL OF MAN'S LITERATURE**

Divine inspiration is reflected on every page. It tells the story of redemption from Genesis to Revelation. There is no other book like the Bible, for it records God's love. It contains law, history, and poetry. It deals with biography and instruction. Out of 66 books, seventeen in the Old Testament and one in the New Testament are given almost exclusively to prophecy, while many more contain prophetic passages.

A. The prophets were God's messengers, hurling fiery warnings against the evils of their age and admonishing people to flee from the wrath to come. They foretold the movements of men and nations, often centuries before the events took place. Only God could have known of these things. The fact that history records their fulfillment, exactly and completely, is the seal of authenticity of the whole Bible. Prophecy is the indestructible fortress that all the hosts of the enemy have never been able to conquer.

B. Nevertheless, prophecy is neglected by the majority of Christians these days. Why? I believe it is due to three simple reasons.

1. There is the belief that there is a mystery about it that defies reasonable interpretation. Some feel it cannot be understood with any degree of certainty. So they neither heed its message nor claim its blessings.

2. Some of the theologians deny anything in the Scriptures that cannot be explained away on materialistic basis without the supernatural.

3. Because of the time setting, some misguided but conscientious persons have placed the end of the world at various dates.

C. Yet Jesus and the disciples emphasized the importance of prophecy by having made use of it. Matthew, gives many instances of its fulfillment, saying again and again, "Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled by the prophet" (Matt. 1:22). The Apostle Peter writes: "For no prophecy

was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God" (II Peter 1:21). Peter himself preached the first Gospel sermon from the prophecies of Joel and David which, as he preached, were being fulfilled—Joel 2:28-32. Philip used the prophet Isaiah to preach Christ to the Ethiopian—Isaiah 53:7, 8. The Apostle Paul in Ephesians declares the next in importance to "Apostles; is the office or call of "Prophets". "And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers...." (Eph. 4:11).

D. Dr. Vance Havner, the famous writer and able minister, wrote me a letter, after the Lord opened the first television opportunity for me in America. Among other things, he wrote: "I have travelled over the country for many years endeavoring to call the Church to repentance in these tragic days. We have pastors, teachers, and evangelists, but prophets have always been few." And he further stated: "I have encouraged young ministers all over the land to consider the field of the prophet, but of course there have never been many who will undertake such a difficult and thankless task."

The numerous new translations of the Bible are concrete proofs that modern man realizes that it has something to say to us of great value. The Bible is the best seller every year. No book has ever influenced mankind as much as the Bible.

## **II. GREAT EVENTS WERE FORETOLD LONG BEFORE THEY EVER OCCURRED.**

A. Through NOAH, God warned of the flood (Heb. 11:7).

*"By faith Noah, being warned by God about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world, and became the heir of the righteousness which is according to faith."*

Although no one heeded, undaunted, Noah preached for an estimated 120 years. By modern church statistical systems, Noah could be considered a failure. But God is more interested in quality than quantity. Faithfulness is of greater importance than fruitfulness. Yet, one should complement the other.

B. Yahweh God reasoned, concerning the judgment of Sodom and Gomorrah, "Shall I hide from ABRAHAM what I am about to do?" (Gen. 18:19). Pompeii, in Italy, illustrates Sodom's judgment. I visited the city a few years ago and for the first time realized why the volcano buried it in lava and ashes. It was a city of unbelievable moral decadence. Moses knew God's ways, but the children of Israel only knew His works! Get close to God, brother, so you will not be a spectator on the bleachers. Be a part of the team that knows what is going on. Yet, whenever one stays long enough before the Lord, the puzzle is put together and forms an amazing and meaningful picture.

C. Let us look at JEREMIAH 25:11-12,

*"And this whole land shall be a desolation and a horror, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years. Then it will be when seventy years are completed I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation, declares the Lord, 'for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans; and I will make it an everlasting desolation."*

The Prophet predicted that after 70 years in Babylon the captives would return. Cyrus, King of Persia, was only doing his appointed task in proclaiming their return 70 years later. Even his name was foretold by Isaiah 44:28-45:1-4. So astonishing is this prophecy that some Biblical commentators find it hard to believe that Jeremiah wrote it.

D. OBADIAH foretold the utter destruction of Petra, the stronghold of Esau, in the Sixth Century B.C. Today one can

visit the former queen city of Edom and see for himself the fantastic truth. Four hours of hard driving south of Amman, Jordan, Petra is carved out of living rock and testifies to God's terrible judgment and Obadiah's prophecy comes alive. The city which accommodated 100,000 people is only a ghost-city today forgotten by man and civilization. Similar prophecies were foretold and fulfilled concerning Babylon, Sidon, Tyre, Nineveh, and others.

E. However, the birth of JESUS in Bethlehem, His escape to Egypt, His living in my hometown of Nazareth, His atoning death on Calvary's cross, His resurrection and ascension, were foretold in such minute detail that the truth of prophecy overwhelms us. Yet unbelieving modernists and liberal Biblical scholars do not have enough faith in a GREAT GOD—such as the Bible reveals to us—to believe these could be done.

F. Nevertheless, the Lord God announced the birth of the Redeemer from a virgin (Isaiah 7:14) seven centuries before the miracle took place. So fantastic is this in our sex-crazed society, that it does seem impossible to us, but not to the God of the Cosmos. He found only three groups of people waiting for His first coming. I wonder if you, therefore, think it is out of the ordinary that few are looking for His Second Coming? Only Hanna and Simeon at Jerusalem's temple, the shepherds of Bethlehem's hills, and the wise men, were waiting. I am not at all surprised that our scholars and religious leaders of today are as unconcerned and indifferent toward His Second Coming as they are. That's the way it was when He came the first time.

G. However, inasmuch as His first coming was according to prophecy and fulfilled minutely and completely; so it is only natural that the prophecies in connection with His Second Coming will also be fulfilled. Just as, scientifically speaking, when HCL produces hydrochloric acid, every time the formula is used, we will have the same result. More than 90 per cent of the verses that foretell the return of Christ have been fulfilled. Every day is bringing us closer to the Ultimate

### III. SIGNS OF CHRIST'S RETURN-FULFILLED

Numerous signs are given concerning this intriguing and frequently confusing subject. We neither know the day nor the hour which Jesus emphasized--(Matt. 24:36). This fact causes many people to shy away from giving serious study to the Second Coming. Yet His statement was only a warning against those who keep trying to give God a timetable.

#### A. The State of The People of Israel

1. Israel plays a very remarkable role in this thrilling event. The prophet ZECHARIAH records,

*"Thus saith the Lord of hosts: "Behold, I am going to save My people from the land of the east and from the land of the west; and I will bring them back, and they will live in the midst of Jerusalem, and they will be My people and I will be their God in truth and righteousness" (8:7-8).*

This is an unequivocal, certain, and clear promise of the Jews returning to ancient Palestine and becoming a nation.

May 15, 1948, saw that part fulfilled. Former American President Harry S. Truman was the first to recognize it. Do you notice some similarity between what King Cyrus of Persia did and Mr. Truman? At the time of the return of the Babylonian captivity Cyrus was leader of the mightiest military power in the ancient world. So was Mr. Truman of the modern world.

Here is an up-to-date timetable on Palestine.

In 1917, British Foreign Secretary Lord Balfour approves a plan for a "national home" for the Jewish people in Palestine. The United States endorsed the plans.

In 1923, Britain takes over Palestine for the League of

Nations and promises the Jews to create a "national home" in Palestine.

In 1947, the United National Assembly adopts a plan to partition Palestine.

On May 15, 1948, the Jews create the State of Israel and fight armies of five Arab nations. June 1, 1948, Jews and Arabs accept the U.N. resolution for a truce in Palestine.

On June 4, 1967, the Six Day War begins with Israel winning against the Arab armies in a stunning victory.

On October 1, 1973, Egypt and Syria make a powerful surprise attack on Israel and almost overwhelm the non-suspecting and unprepared Israeli.

In March, 1977, Israel attacks Palestinian Commando positions in Southern Lebanon with forces by land, sea and from the air.

On September 20, 1978, Camp David peace accord is signed by President Anwar Sadat of Egypt, Menachem Begin, Prime Minister of Israel, and The President of the United States, Mr. Jimmy Carter.

March 26, 1979, the Peace Treaty between Egypt and Israel is signed at the White House in Washington with the U.S. as a full partner in the effort.

As a lad growing up in Nazareth, in 1948, I heard much concerning our neighboring Arab states who were to help us keep Palestine Arab. Strange enough at the turn of the century, there were only 50,000 Jews in Palestine. So many had immigrated that they composed one-third of Palestine's population. The war came at the heel of the close of the school year.

At the outset, the Arab forces seemed to have the upper hand. Then the situation was turned. The intervention of the United Nations later brought an uneasy truce. Nonetheless my hometown of Nazareth was already in Israeli hands. So was most of Palestine. Almost one million Arabs became refugees. With my family, we fled on camel-back hoping to return in a few weeks. Now 23 years later, we have never

returned to our home to live in Nazareth. The crises of the Mid-East never meant much until I began to look with diligence at the amazing connection of these events to Biblical prophecies. Of course, everyone knows how the rest of Palestine fell into the hands of Israel in June of 1967.

2. Furthermore, JEREMIAH the prophet affirmed in 31:23, "Thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel; As yet they shall use this speech in the land of Judah and in the cities thereof, when I shall bring again their captivity..." KJV. Today Hebrew is the official language after being dead for 2400 years. Fantastic! Yes, but true.

3. Ezekiel foretold that the desolate land will become like the Garden of Eden. Ezekiel 36:34-35:

*"And the desolate land will be cultivated instead of being a desolation in the sight of everyone who passed by. And they will say, 'This desolate land has become like the garden of Eden; and the waste, desolate, and ruined cities are fortified and inhabited.'"*

Today one can see that through irrigation, from the Jordan River, the Negaev desert has truly become a blossoming Garden of Eden. This achievement is unparalleled in the long history of the land of Palestine.

## B. JERUSALEM

1. Dr. Luke records Jesus as saying that Jerusalem (God's dial on His prophetic timetable) will be with the Gentiles UNTIL the time of the Gentiles is fulfilled (21:24). In 1948, the Israelis failed to conquer Jerusalem, although it was not for their lack of trying.

But in June of 1967, Jerusalem was taken over in a bloody and bitter battle. "The Israelis will never relinquish their control of Jerusalem", declared Mr. Moshe Dayan, the

conquering hero of the Six-Day War. This is their stated position despite the United Nations' decision which ordered Israel to give Jerusalem back to Jordan.

This writer and his family were living in Jerusalem when, under the leadership of the Lord, we moved to America only four months before the battle. In fact, while in Cape Kennedy area on Sunday, June 4th, 1967, I told several congregations that if the explosive situation did not cool off, Israel will open three fronts and win the war with its Arab Neighbors. The very next day the world shook as Israel did exactly that! Many reminded me of this later. My only surprise was that it took six days. It could have been much briefer. Peace will never come to the Bible lands until the Prince of Peace comes. Arabs and Jews will never be reconciled apart from the cross of Jesus and His redeeming love. I have just returned from another visit in June, 1978, and Arab-Jewish relations do not seem any better!

2. Zechariah, who deals with the Messianic promises in vivid description, presenting both the first and second coming, has a frightening prophecy about Jerusalem (Zech. 14:1-3).

*"Behold a day is coming for the Lord when the spoil taken from you will be divided among you. For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city will be captured, the houses plundered, the women ravished, and half of the city exiled, but the rest of the people will not be cut off from the city. Then the Lord will go forth and fight against those nations, as when He fights on a day of battle."*

### C. THE SOCIAL SIGN

We find the scripture in the Gospel according to Matthew 24:38-39,

*"For as in those days which were before the flood they were eating and drinking, they were marrying and giving*

*in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the Ark, and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away, so shall the coming of the Son of Man be."*

We are now a world blinded by our material and physical needs, plagued by political intrigue and pride. Our living is much like it was in the days of Noah.

Corruption is now prevalent, immorality is called new morality, and mammon rules the earth. Whoredom and alcoholic drink are taking over both east and west, and the rest of the world as well. Drugs, murder, stealing, divorce, and other such maladies spell out the impending doom of God's righteous judgment.

We shall not escape! Pleasure madness, materialism, and the preoccupation with sex have been discovered as the main evils that brought decadence to every great world power in history. But since these are now no longer limited to a single nation or culture, but actually world-wide, one does not have to be a genius or prophet to know the consequences.

#### D. COMMUNICATION, TRANSPORTATION AND KNOWLEDGE

1. Daniel foretold in 12:4b that the end will be preceded by an acceleration of transportation. The steam engine, gasoline and diesel motor, electricity and jet power have combined to help man run to and fro. The moon-landings have made all of us aware of the impact of these words. In this space age one is amazed how communication has been developing with the same speed as the jet and rocket technology.

2. Increase in Knowledge is predicted as a significant sign, too (Dan. 12:40). Did you know that one-half of man's knowledge has been acquired in the past sixteen years? Moreover it is a fact known to many that 95% of all the scientists that ever lived are living and working today. Mathematics, medicine, marketing, astronomy, biology, farming, archeology, space technology and electronic

communication are almost new fields because of recent advancements and brilliant discoveries. However did you notice that it is only knowledge, not wisdom, which is predicted to precede the Ultimate Hope, Christ's Return?

#### E. THE SPIRITUAL SIGNS

The Apostle Paul writes to Timothy concerning the spiritual climate of the Second Coming in such detail one would think he is living in our age. Here are a few statements from II Tim. 3:1-5:

*"But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God; holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power, and avoid such men as these."*

Has your love for God and souls waxed cold? Have your eyes been blinded to His ways by the material and physical needs of our time? Do you remember the first verse in the Bible, "In the beginning God...", Gen. 1:1. Is He first in your life? Are you aware that the last verse in the Bible heralds the Good News, "Yes, come Lord Jesus," Rev. 22:20.

# Signs of the Return Being Fulfilled

## 4

---

Everytime I lead a group of pilgrims to the Holy Land, I search and watch for new developments related to prophecy. The signs are numerous. Their fulfillment is unmistakable. On my twelfth visit since 1967, I have been baffled at the building explosion, the agricultural advances, the military strength, the archaeological digging, and the intense zeal for Israel by the new citizens.

### I. THE TEMPLE

On June 16, 1977, an article appeared in the Mobile Press, as well as many newspapers across the country. *"A grandiose plan to turn the Wailing Wall area in the old city of Jerusalem into a great palaza and synagogue for hundreds of thousands of Jewish worshippers has been approved by a government - appointed committees and presented to Justice Minister Haim Zadok.*

*The minister said the plan would be passed on to the incoming Likud government for consideration.*

*If carried out, the plan would transform the precincts within the old walls of the city into an impressive monumental plaza rivaling that of St. Peter's in Rome or the one facing the Moslem shrine of the Dome of the Rock just north of the Wailing Wall.*

*The ambitious plan elaborated by architect Moshe Safdi, the conceiver of the "habitat" structures, provides for the landscaping of the present area of the holiest Jewish shrine. It contains the remains of the western wall of King Herod's Biblical temple of Jerusalem built some 2,000 years ago and destroyed by the Roman legions of Titus when they captured Jerusalem in 70 A.D."*

*"The Safdi plan calls for the lowering of the existing prayer area in front of the Wailing Wall. This would permit reaching the original Herodian level and reveal a few more rows of the great granite square blocks that make up the wall and before which Jews have been praying for 2,000 years, lamenting the loss of Jerusalem."*

*"The lowered area would be turned into a synagogue and open only to those taking part in services."*

*"Rising from the foot of the Wall to the south would be a series of terraces reaching the ancient Jewish quarter. These terraces would have access to the old city walls and gates."*

*"There are no Arab holy sites within the Wailing Wall area and apparently no new Arab property would be affected as far as the preliminary plans are known."*

*"Some old Arab houses that used to face the Wailing Wall when the Israelis entered the old city in 1967 were razed in the very first weeks of Israeli control. Their Arab residents were provided with other housing."*

It is my personal conviction that seven Temples will be built before the end of the world.

1. Abraham attempts to sacrifice Isaac on Mt. Moriah, the first prototype of the Temple, (Gen. 22).
2. The tabernacle is erected on Mt. Moriah by King David, (II Sam. 24:18-25; 7:1-29).
3. Solomon builds the great Temple-I Kings 8, but

Nebuchadnezzar destroys in B.C. 583.

4. Zerubbabel rebuilds the destroyed Temple on a small scale--Ezra 3, (B.C. 408).

5. Herod the Great constructs the magnificent temple of Jesus' day - John 20:10. Titus destroyed in 70 A.D.

6. The sixth will be the Tribulation Temple soon to be erected.

7. The perfect, seventh Temple will be built when Jesus returns to earth. Please, remember the importance of the Hebrew numeric system--3 Trinity + 4 earth, which perfects God and His creation. Ezekiel's extensive plans of this Temple can be found in chapters 40-48.

Having discovered the Biblical weights and measures in the diggings of 1970's one no longer wonders about them as part of the necessary knowledge in Temple worship. Furthermore, such discovered information is now incorporated in the curriculum of the schools, thus educating the people about temple worship.

Paul declares that the anti-christ will occupy the Temple; II Thess. 2:4. Therefore a Temple of national importance must be built soon to provide such a stage before the return of our Lord. Jerusalem is getting ready to build it, too.

Rev. 11:1-2 affirms,

*"Rise and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and those who worship in it...And leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the nations..."*

Thus, the Dome of the Rock with its magnificent beauty, ancient history, and remarkable position as a world-famous monument, will neither be dismantled nor destroyed to make room for the new Temple. Recent excavations also have demonstrated that the Muslim edifice is located in the "court which is outside the temple". In other words, it does not occupy the site of the Solomonic or the Herodian Temples.

Three years ago, Israeli archaeologists announced their

discovery of the secret underground stairway which the High Priest used for his annual appearance at the Holy Place. The tremendous crowds and the fear of being defiled dictated his use of the secret passage to go into God's presence. We can go under the ground today and see much of the excavations near the Wall. However, very few are allowed beyond the rooms, street, and chambers which have been opened to the public since 1973. Yet, the sensation of walking on a street which Jesus and the disciples walked upon is really overwhelming.

As one who resided in Jerusalem for three years, I must admit that I have never seen more diggings take place in my life. Is it possible that the Ark of the Covenant will be found before the Temple is finished? Will any temple become The Temple without the Ark of the Lord? Surely such a building will be no more than a Synagogue. The glory of Israel was the Temple which had in it seven objects symbolizing Jehovah's relationship to Israel: the Ark, the Candlestick, the Table of Shewbread, the Altar of Incense, the Altar of Sacrifice, the Laver, and the Two Cherubim. All these objects can be reconstructed or remade except the Ark. You see, the Ark can never be replaced since it contained the tablets of the Ten Commandments and the Rod of Aaron. It was three feet nine inches long, and two feet three inches in width and height. The Shittim wooden chest was lined and covered with gold.

One may remind me of the Vision of John in Rev. 11:19. He saw the Ark there. But it was not the same. Exodus 25:9 states, "According to all that I am going to show you, as the pattern..." My conclusion is very clear. There was the pattern of the Ark in Heaven which God revealed to Moses. The only other one is what they made in Sinai and later placed in the Temple. But have you ever wondered about the location of the remains of the tabernacle?

Jewish tradition has it that the Prophet Jeremiah, took the Ark and the remnant of the sacred Tabernacle and hid them in Mt. Nebo. It is further stated that he announced to his helpers that no one will find this hiding place until the nation

of Israel is restored. The Tut Ankh Amon treasures will fade into oblivion once the Ark of God is found and the entire world will be stirred to seek God. Nothing will bring more devotion and revival to Israel like the finding of the Ark of the Covenant. An experience similar to the New Testament Pentecost among Judaism definitely will take place (Isaiah 32:15). The fascinating discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls created sensational interest throughout the intellectual and religious circles of the world. So did the discovery of the remnants of Noah's Ark. What will happen when the Ark of God surfaces soon?

In December of 1977, I received a call from Jordan. A Mr. Cummings asked me on the overseas call, if I had further information about this. He added, "I am going Mt. Nebo this morning to dig for the Ark and Col. James Irwin is with me on this trip". I could hardly believe my ears.

Connected very closely with the Temple worship is the "ashes of the Red Heifer." In Numbers 19, we are told that this sacrifice was to be burned completely. The Priest was to add cedar wood, hyssop, and scarlet into the burning of the heifer. With the addition of water, this became the water of separation for the purification from sin. This particular offering was an annual one. Therefore, a pot of the ashes would be preserved for mixing with the following year's offering so as to keep the idea of continuation. Some Jewish sources believe that the "Pot of Ashes of the red heifer" is hidden in the Valley of Qumran and will be found soon.

Daniel 9:27 speaks of the stopping of the daily sacrifice in the Temple by the Anti-christ. The intriguing question is how do you stop the offering of a daily sacrifice when it is not even initiated? So, there will be a Temple one day and animal sacrifices will be reinstated. Amos, the prophet, predicted in 9:11, that God will... "raise up the fallen tabernacle of David..."

## II. THE GOLDEN GATE

God's prophet Ezekiel, in 44:1-3, told of a unique GATE

in Jerusalem's wall which will be opened, only when Jesus returns:

*"Then He brought me back by the way of the outer gate of the sanctuary, which faces the east; and it was shut. And the Lord said to me, "This gate shall be shut; it shall not be opened, and no one shall enter by it, for the Lord God of Israel has entered by it; therefore it shall be shut. As for the prince, He shall sit in it as prince to eat bread before the Lord, he shall enter by way of the porch of the gate, and shall go out by the same way."*

It is the same Gate which Christ, the King, entered on Palm Sunday 1946 years ago. Once an order was given to open it 500 years ago, but it was never opened. Because of some unknown reason the ruler changed the order. Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany tried a similar course. However, the gate was never opened. He entered through an opening on the opposite side which is called now, the New Gate. When Jordan attempted to open it, they lost control of Jerusalem in 1967. If Israel tries to open it, they too, may lose Jerusalem.

### III. THE MOUNTAIN OF OLIVES

It is of tremendous interest to note that Jesus entered Jerusalem as the King, coming from the Mountain of Olives on that memorable Sunday. Zechariah is quoted by Matthew when this was fulfilled (21:9). Then He ascended to glory from the Mountain of Olives, too.

Now, we look for Him to descend on it when He returns. Geographical changes will take place according to Zech. 14:4,

*"And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the*

*mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south."*

Standing on the Temple grounds, near the Eastern Wall, one can, even now, see a small depression in the mountain. Due to too many new buildings over the mountain, some engineers announced in 1970, that it is unsafe as a construction site for a new large chain hotel. Even a minor earthquake can split the unstable mountain that looks like two humps of a camel.

Apparently as a result of the above miracle that will take place at the descent of Christ, another geographical change will take place (Zech. 14:8).

*"And it will come about in that day that living waters will flow out of Jerusalem half of them toward the eastern sea and the other half toward the western sea; it will be in summer as well as in winter."*

Of course, I believe the supernatural intervention of God in the geographical changes will accomplish this. However, I was extremely intrigued a few months ago to hear over the radio a report from Israel connected with this. A group of Israeli engineers presented a plan to dig a canal from the Mediterranean into the Dead Sea. Replenishing its waters, which are diminishing due to extracting potash and other minerals, is one purpose. Another is to provide Israel, and Jordan as well, an inland waterway for maritime shipping.

Yet, even more sensational is the scientific pictures from outer space which have revealed an ocean being formed at the Gulf of Aqaba, Eilat, and the Red Sea. In as much as the City of Jerusalem is to become a seaport, one wonders if within a few decades an earthquake could create a crevice which can cause the Mediterranean to flow into the Jordan Valley? If that happens, the entire valley could be flooded and the water would reach half-way from Jericho to Jerusalem. Since Jerusalem is 2,000 feet high and the Dead Sea is 1298 feet below sea level, it will take a few days to

accomplish this miracle!

#### IV. THE POLITICAL STATE OF THE WORLD

A very great hunger for peace will become world-wide according to I Thess. 5:3, "While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will come upon them suddenly, like birth pangs upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape."

Jesus said in Mark 13:19, that our world will experience a terrible time of affliction or pressure, "For those days will be a time of tribulation such as has not occurred since the beginning of the creation which God created, until now, and never shall." Mankind is experiencing this politically, economically, and physically as well as mentally these days.

World government also seems to appeal to the people of the world through the pseudo christ - II Thess. 2:3, "Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction."

#### V. THE CATAclysmic SIGNS

Famine, war, earthquake, floods, and the like will plague mankind - Mark 13:7-8, "And when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be frightened; those things must take place; but that is not the end."

Then, in II Peter 3:12, we read these words, "Looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, on account of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!"

The solar system will be visibly affected - Mark 13:24-25:

*"But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers that are in the heavens will be shaken."*

There will be marks on the sun, moon, and stars, according to Luke 22:25. Could it be that the recent marks of man's footprints and machines on the moon is what He meant?

## VI. THE TWO WITNESSES

In Rev. 11:3-12, the text presents a fascinating description of the two witnesses in Jerusalem. Seemingly, these two men will appear at the middle of the seventieth week of Daniel. Since Malachi 4:5 indicates that God will send Elijah before the terrible day of the Lord. One can safely expect either Elijah who never died or someone typifying him. The other may be Enoch who also disappeared without dying like Moses. After their unparalleled testimony, they will be killed by the beast. Yet, to the shock of the world's celebrating people, the corpses of the two which were not even buried, will come alive and go up into the sky on a cloud, while the world watches in disbelief.

## VII. ARMAGEDDON

Armageddon is mentioned in Revelation 16:16 and was thought by many scholars and numerous theologians to be a myth. Now we are on its threshold. Volumes have been produced to explain and expound upon it. The geographical location is between Nazareth and the Mediterranean. It is called today, the plains of Megiddo.

At the height of the mid-east crisis, Red China detonated a major hydrogen bomb. The crisis, however, muffled the news. Nonetheless the New York Times emphasized at that time, "The world is stunned at the atomic and hydrogen capability of Red China."

Rev. 9:16 reads: "And the number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them." This tells of an army sweeping over the Middle East 200,000,000 strong. But the terrifying end of verse 15 tells that this army will destroy one third of mankind. China is the only nation capable of mobilizing

200,000,000 fighting men for its army.

China and America, since January 1979, are getting as close as brothers. They may be fighting together against the Soviets in the Middle East within this decade with devastation, destruction and death covering the globe.

In Zechariah 14:12, one can see a very definite picture of the result of an atomic blast:

*"Now this will be the plague with which the Lord will strike all the peoples who have gone to war against Jerusalem; their flesh will rot while they stand on their feet, and their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongue will rot in their mouth."*

After laborious research and observation at Hiroshima, and Nagasaki, and elsewhere, scientists reported exactly what Zechariah already knew in 500 B.C., and Peter revealed 1900 years ago.

## VIII. THE GOSPEL SIGN

Jesus announced, "This Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations: and then shall the end come" (Matt. 24:14). Why do we have 48,000 missionaries today? Why are the Berlin World Congress on Evangelism in 1966, Luusanne in 1976, and numerous such conferences throughout the world being held? What is the goal of Campus Crusade for Christ by 1988? What does the largest denomination in America hope to accomplish in its "Bold Mission Thrust"? World evangelization before the year 2000!

Why is Monte Carlo proclaiming the Gospel in over 40 languages using the powerful transmitters of 500,000 watts? Did you know that the same complex of buildings were once designated by Hitler for radio-propaganda for the Nazis? Christian businessmen bought the buildings years after the end of World War II and now use them for God's glory. Such

tremendous radio projects are utilized successfully in Monrovia, Liberia; Manila, Philippines; Seychelles Islands; Cyprus; and numerous other locations. In fact, in America itself one can find a Christian radio station in every major city.

Why did the American astronauts read the Bible on their journey to the moon? The whole world listened to God's Word from space.

I declared everywhere I went, back in 1964, "We must have an orbiting satellite sending the message of the Gospel to the millions in China and Russia." Last year, the 700 Club and now the PTL Club have their T.V. Programs by Satellites. The first time the gospel was beamed by satellite took place during the glorious Easter week, 1971. Glory to God!

Jesus will not return until every nation has had a chance to hear the Good News. The strange and baffling movement of tongues and the flood of Bible translations fit perfectly with God's prophetic passages, "...For a witness unto all nations."

## IX. FUTURE SALVATION OF ISRAEL

A. In the amazing prophecy of Zechariah, we are told 500 years before the birth of Jesus of their repentance (12:10),

*"And I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him, like the bitter weeping over a first-born."*

Other similar passages can be found in Hosea, Amos, Micah and others.

B. At the moment Israel is riding high. Yet, Zechariah 13:8-9 says:

*"And it will come about in all the land, declares the Lord,*

*that two parts in it will be cut off and perish; but the third will be left in it. And I will bring the third part through the fire, refine them as silver is refined, and test them as gold is tested. They will call on My Name, and I will answer them; I will say, 'They are My people,' and they will say, 'The Lord is my God'."*

C. Ezekiel the Prophet asserts that they will be changed by God's own intervention.

*"For I will take you from the nations, gather you from the lands, and bring you into your own land, then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh."*

D. Later, as a result of their Discovery of Jesus as the true and only Messiah, who will rescue them and save them, they will become the new world missionaries. We read in Revelation 7:4, "And I heard the number of those who were sealed, one hundred and forty-four thousand sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel." I believe there will be 144,000 Jewish missionaries going throughout the world to testify for a last chance to humanity before the coming of judgment.

God speaks today as clearly as in the days of Abraham or Paul. He spoke to me when tragedy struck my home. Deborah was born. I was giving candy to friends (as our custom is) when the missionary nurse at Ajloun Baptist Hospital in Jordan told me, "Deborah is dead". This took place only an hour later. I cried to God, "Why, why?" I did not even cry when my own father was killed in the Jordan River back in 1948! Well, God spoke to me through sorrow, heartache, and the book of Jonah.

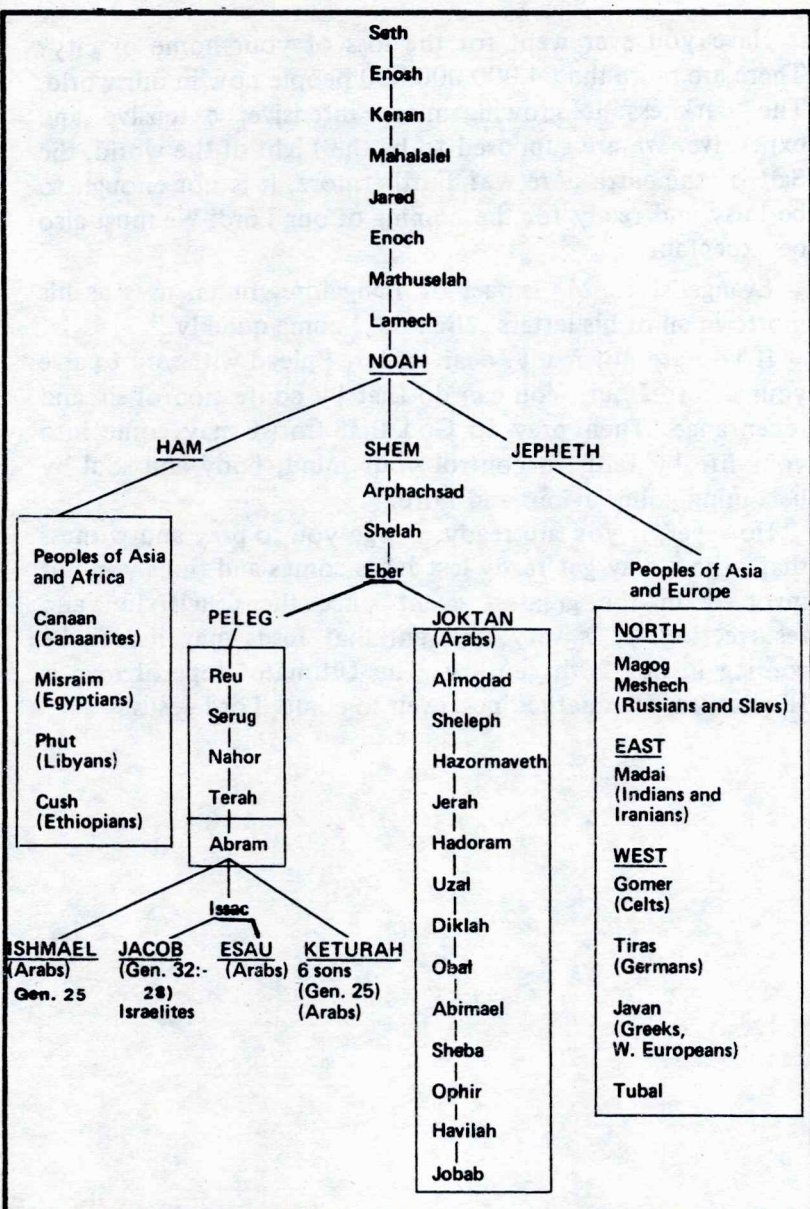
"Why don't you shed tears, Anis, for those dead in sin all around you?"

Have you ever wept for the loss of your home or city? There are more than 4,000,000,000 people now in our world. The darkness is growing more intensive, extensive and expensive. We are supposed to be the Light of the world, the Salt of the earth. Are we? Furthermore, it is not enough to be busy and ready for the coming of our Lord. We must also be expectant.

Evangelist E. M. Ismael of Bangalore, India, uses as his motto in all of his letters, "Behold, I come quickly."

If you are not ready, dear reader, I plead with you to give your life to Jesus. You can do that by confession of sin and repentance. Then pray to God that Christ may come into your life by faith to control your mind, body and soul by becoming your Saviour and Lord.

However, if you are ready, I urge you to pray and witness that others may get ready lest Jesus comes and finds you not involved in the greatest event since the crucifixion and resurrection. It is very apparent that Jesus may indeed be coming in our 20th century. The Ultimate Hope of man is His Return. Maranatha! Yes, even so come, Lord Jesus.



# The Arabs in Prophecy

## 5

---

### I. HISTORICAL - BIBLICAL BACKGROUND

#### A. The Arabs Claim Descendency from Joktan

Upon searching the Scriptures, we discover that Joktan is the second son of Eber and a direct descendant of Shem (Gen. 10:21-30). Please note the chart of the Nations at the beginning of the chapter. But who is Eber?

It is fascinating to any student of history to realize that "Eber" as a word is the fundamental root for the term Hebrew! In numerous other passages of the Old Testament, the term is used in identifying the Israelites as an ethnic group. In Gen. 14:13, we have the first reference to Abraham as a Hebrew:

*"Then a fugitive came and told Abram the Hebrew. Now he was living by the oaks of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol and brother of Aner, and these were allies with Abram."*

**B. The second relationship of Arab and Jew is connected with Abram. I am using Abram because God did not change his name to Abraham until Genesis 17:6 after the birth of Ishmael. This is also true of Sarai who become Sarah. At age 80 Sarai discovered that she must provide a handmaid for her husband to produce children. The marriage contract of those days demanded such action. Abram did accept Hagar, the Egyptian handmaid of Sarai, and she conceived. Her pride caused so much friction that Sarai dealt with her so harshly that Hagar fled into the wilderness (Gen. 16:6).**

**C. The Angel of the Lord appeared to Hagar in her hour of desperation and instructed her to return to her mistress. Then he promised, "I will greatly multiply your descendants so that they shall be too many to count" (Gen. 16:10).**

**Furthermore, he named the child, "Behold, you are with child, and you shall bear a son; and you shall call his name Ishmael, because the Lord has given heed to your affliction" (Gen. 16:11).**

**Yet, the startling revelation of this son's future is incredible. "...he will be a wild man; his hand will be against every man, and every man's hand against him; and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren" (Gen. 16:12 KJV). Incidentally, Ishmael is the first human being in history whose name was given before his birth, by divine direction. Ishmael and Samuel have the same root-verb, meaning to hear. So the name actually means God hears or God answers. To most people, Ishmael became the progenitor of the Arab people. I say he is not the sole progenitor. There were Arabs even before Abraham arrived on the horizon of history.**

**D. Moreover, the promise God made to Abram concerning Isaac involved a little bit more than the promise He made concerning Ishmael. In fact, when Ishmael was about thirteen, Isaac was born. Yet, before his birth Abram must have thought Ishmael would be the heir. "...Oh, that Ishmael might live before thee..." (Gen. 17:18). So now God, who had already made a strong promise to Hagar concerning Ishmael, makes even a stronger one to Abram (Gen. 17:20).**

*“And as for Ishmael, I have heard you; behold, I will bless him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly. He shall become the father of twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation.”*

Additionally, God changed his name from Abram, father of height to Abraham, father of a multitude. Abraham would fit his position more appropriately.

Though Abraham was somewhat bewildered and astonished at God’s response, yet he was informed that the Divine Covenant was to be through Isaac, not Ishmael.

## **II. GOD’S EXTRAORDINARY PROMISES TO ISHMAEL.**

As one examines the prophetic blessings which God declared to Ishmael he is overwhelmed at the detailed fulfillment even in our age, approximately 4,000 years later.

A. God declared that He will multiply Ishmael and make him fruitful.

135,000,000 are thought of as Arabs in our world today. Compare this with 16,000,000 Jews. One begins to think that God’s blessings to the Arabs far exceed that of the Jews, especially since both consider that the greater the number of descendants, the greater the divine blessing.

B. God added in His promise of Gen. 17:20 that Ishmael will bring forth 12 nations. We have that today:

- |            |                 |             |
|------------|-----------------|-------------|
| 1. Algeria | 5. Lebanon      | 9. Sudan    |
| 2. Egypt   | 6. Libya        | 10. Syria   |
| 3. Iraq    | 7. Morocco      | 11. Tunisia |
| 4. Jordan  | 8. Saudi Arabia | 12. Yemen   |

C. God announced to Abraham that “...I will make him a great nation.” One day the Arab countries hope to have a United States of Arabia much like the U.S.A. It has been a dream of millions taught to me when I was a lad in Palestine and Jordan. At any rate, the Arabs as a nation have many

reasons to feel that this particular promise of God is fulfilled.

1. The Arabs have 3,000,000 square miles of territory.
2. They have 2/3 of the world's proven oil resources.
3. They are becoming the wealthiest countries in the world.

D. God's prophetic words to Hagar that Ishmael "...will be a wild man and his hand will be against every man and every man's hand against him..." is also fulfilled. By and large the Arab people have managed to be free, keeping their independence for most of the past 4,000 years of recorded history. Yet, the wars, uprising, and rebellions that have plagued the Arab world is definitely a fulfillment of God's Word, too.

Ishmael died at age 137 with a legacy of 12 sons and one daughter—exactly the same number as Jacob's descendants. The daughter married Esau, Jacob's twin brother. Practically every Bible student is familiar with Jacob's twelve sons but none is familiar with Ishmael's sons. In reading Gen. 25:13-15, we discover them to be:

- |             |           |             |
|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| 1. Nebajoth | 5. Mishma | 9. Tema     |
| 2. Kedar    | 6. Dumah  | 10. Jetur   |
| 3. Abdeel   | 7. Massa  | 11. Naphish |
| 4. Mibsam   | 8. Hadar  | 12. Kedemeh |

Even stranger than not being cognizant of Ishmael's having twelve sons, is the startling discovery that Abraham married another woman called Keturah. She gave Abraham six more sons (Gen. 25:1). Thus he had a total of eight sons, not two. Whatever happened to them? Now let me give you my conclusion. The Arabs had three progenitors, not one. Some came from as early a descendant of Noah as Joktan. Another group came through Esau, a third group calls Ishmael their

father. And a fourth group descended from Keturah, Abraham's third wife (Gen. 25:1-2). Moses' wife, Zipporah, was a descendant of that relationship. It is refreshing indeed to recognize that Arabs were among those who experienced the Pentecost in Jerusalem in 34 A.D. (Acts 2:11).

### **III. EGYPTS ROLE IN PROPHECY**

#### **A. Arabs and Egyptians.**

Not only do we find the close relationship of Arabs and Egyptians through Hagar, the Egyptian wife of Abraham and the mother of Ishmael, but also that Ishmael himself married an Egyptian (Gen. 21:21).

#### **B. Egypt's Ancient Role**

Egypt is considered in the Bible as both a place of escape as well as an experience of backsliding.

1. Abraham went there but got himself in trouble (Gen. 12:10).
2. Jacob's sons traveled there to find food (Gen. 42:3).
3. Jeroboam, who became Israel's first king later, rebelled and fled to Egypt from Solomon (I Kings 11:40).
4. Jeremiah was forced to go there with the remnant during the captivity (Jer. 43:6-7).
5. Joseph and Mary traveled there to escape Herod's sword (Matt. 2:13).

Of course, many wars took place between Israel and Egypt across the years. But in more pleasant days, King Solomon married Pharaoh's daughter. Even prior to this, Joseph married Asenath, daughter of Potipherah, the High Priest of On in Egypt. How can today's Israeli not see how closely related they are to the Egyptians when two of the original Fathers of the twelve tribes, Manasseh and Ephraim, were half Egyptians.

#### **C. Egypt's Future Role**

According to Isaiah 19:19-25, numerous predictions of

incalculable proportion are promised. We are seeing some of them being fulfilled in 1979. In fact the most remarkable of all is that Egypt, despite its former animosity towards Israel, is never mentioned as a partner in the Armageddon war against Israel. "...Blessed is Egypt My people, and Assyria the work of My hands, and Israel My inheritance."

When Mr. Carter, Sadat, and Begin signed the Camp David agreement, a friend called me long distance. I was in Texas seeking revival with First Baptist Church of Daingerfield. Only one hour after the historic agreement was signed on September 17, 1978, the voice was urging me to go to Egypt and start a revival effort. My friend, on the other side of the phone, was serious because he felt Isaiah 19:21 is now coming to pass:

*"Thus the Lord will make Himself known to Egypt, and the Egyptians will know the Lord in that day. They will even worship with sacrifice and offering, and will make a vow to the Lord and perform it."*

Of course, now that the Peace Treaty has been signed on March 26, 1979, by the same three leaders, more validity is given to Isaiah's prophecy.

#### D. How Much Land?

The strangest thing in the world of today's politics is the fact that the Arab's control 3,000,000 square miles of territory, but cannot let Israel, their kinfolk, have 10,000 square miles. The hallowed parcel of land, called Palestine, has actually been in the hands of the Arabs longer than the descendants of Jacob. Yet God promised it to the Israelites.

*"And the Lord said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, "Now lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward; for all the land which you see, I will give it to you and to your descendants forever. And I will make your descendants as the dust of*

*the earth; so that if anyone can number the dust of the earth, then your descendants can also be numbered."* (Gen. 13:14-16).

He confirmed it to Isaac in Gen. 26:3-4:

*"Sojourn in this land and I will be with you and bless you, for to you and to your descendants I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath which I swore to your father Abraham. And I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven, and will give your descendants all these lands; and by your descendants all the nations of the earth shall be blessed."*

In fact, according to Gen. 15:18 and Jeremiah 23:7-8, the promise will eventually cover 180,000 square miles from Egypt's River to the Euphrates. Personally, I believe this will possibly be fulfilled soon, either within this decade or in the Millennium.

#### **IV. THE ARABS YESTERDAY**

##### **A. Why don't we know much about the Arabs?**

The basic reasons why the West is unfamiliar with the Arabs history, culture and contributions to mankind are these. First, when the Arab world was at its zenith, Europe was under the burden of the Dark Ages. The west did not realize that while Baghdad and Damascus had palaces and city drainage systems, they themselves lived in mud huts and had open drainage in their cities. It was ignorance. The second reason was the refusal of the papacy, which was in control, to believe that anybody else beside "Christians" are capable of making advances in anything of importance, be it literature, medicine, or philosophy. The third was a total disregard for anything related to the sciences because of the hierarchy felt threatened by such knowledge and the Arabs were making incredible advances during the 7-12 centuries.

##### **B. What Did They Give The Ancient World?**

1. Alphabet is itself an Arabic word. It begins the Arabic letters with "Aleph" which is A. The prolific, colorful, descriptive Arabic vocabulary is so beautiful that a camel has 350 different names and fire has 150. It is such a wonderful language that Moslems feel that that is why God gave the Holy Koran to the prophet Mohammad in Arabic—the language of Heaven. Of course, the Jews say the same thing about their Hebrew language. Yet, since we have more Arabs than Jews in the world, we may end up speaking Arabic in heaven, too!!

2. Family relationships are perhaps the strongest among the Arabs that any racial group and very similar to the Japanese and Koreans. When they ruled the world from Spain to India, they promulgated this trait which still persists in North Africa and Spain.

3. Godliness became a very important part of their lives especially after they accepted Islam. It began with monotheism and involved loyalty to God and obedience to His commands. Startling as it is, the Arabs seem to have succeeded where the Jews had failed, namely, in teaching the world's people about the one true God. We have over 600,000,000 who claim Islam and only 16,000,000, who claim Judaism. Of course if one considers the Christians as an offshoot of Judaism then we end up with over one billion followers. Yet, since Ishmael, too, was a descendant of Abraham, it is no wonder that the two, Jacob and Ishmael, were responsible for spreading monotheism throughout the earth.

4. Health and medicine became a tremendous field of study and practice. Medical formulas, surgical instruments, and methods of treatment improved so much that experts concede that Arab doctors, during the middle ages, were the best in their age and time. Avicenna is still mentioned in medical textbooks and encyclopedias as a famous astronomer, poet, philosopher and physician of the tenth century. He wrote **Canon of Medicine** which was used for 600 years as a medical textbook. A prolific writer, Ibn-Sina

authored 68 books on theology and philosophy, 11 on astronomy, 16 on medicine, and 4 of poetry.

Alchemy is actually an arabic word like alcohol, and alkali. Hayyan, the accomplished chemist of the eight century, may have been the man who discovered nitric and sulphuric acids. Even sugar and syrup came from Arabic. The Arabs taught Europeans how to extract sugar from sugar cane and how to make syrup. Al-Haythum of Cairo founded the science of Optics. He also described the structures of the eye, optical illusions, binocular visions, mirages, comets, and the camera.

5. History and literature hold a great place of honor among the Arabs. Dr. Arnold Toynbe, the foremost historian of the 20th century affirmed that Ibin Khaldun's philosophy of history is "...the greatest work of its kind that has ever yet been created by any mind any time." Ibin Khaldun proved that events were shaped by religious beliefs, customs, climates and racial backgrounds, not in a vacuum of dates, rulers, and empires. Omar Khayyam is still studied in universities after all these centuries have passed since his classical prose and poetry was written. Edward Fitzgerald was only a poet. The truth is, he was more known as a mathematician in his age than a poet.

Who can ever forget **The Arabian Nights**, which undoubtedly influenced Jonathan Edward's **Gulliver's Travels**. It is attested by many that the first true novel was written by Yaqzan; **Alive Son of Awake**. It is very likely that Daniel Defoe read this 12th century novel while visiting Morocco and was inspired to write his English story, **Robinson Crusoe**.

6. Mathematics and Astronomy were among their great specialities. In 833 A.D., Khwarizmi utilized concepts of algebra developed earlier by Greeks, Hindus, and Arab scholars. He, along with other Arab scholars used positive + and negative - signs and developed fractions much as we use now. Algebra, meaning reduction is an Arabic word itself. But, as a science developed by the Arabs, this was not known in Europe until the sixteenth century. Of course, one of the

most famous Arab contributions is the Arabic-Hindu numerals and the zero. James and Marti Hefley, who authored my biography, **The Liberated Palestinian**, have just published a very informative and challenging work, **Arabs, Christians and Jews**. Without the work of the Arabs, the Hefleys emphasize, mathematicians Kepler and Newton could not have laid the foundation for space travel in the twentieth century even though they both were geniuses.

Six centuries before Galileo, the Italian Astronomer, proposed the theory, Biruni, the Arab astronomer, declared that the earth rotated on its axis. Yunus used the pendulum at Cairo centuries before Galileo was born. Al-Zarkali prepared planetary tables calling them **Tables of Toledo**, after the city of Toledo, Spain, where he lived and worked. For many centuries astronomers utilized them in determining the position of the planets. Even Copernicus, the Pole, could not have been able to prove that the sun was the center of the solar system without the Arabs' information on astronomy. The sixteenth century scientists read their works which were translated from Arabic into Latin.

Idris prepared **Roger's Book** for King Roger II of Normandy, with seventy maps, thus producing the first world Atlas. A forerunner of our modern encyclopedia was a book compiled by Yagut of Baghdad, which arranged geographical, biographical, and scientific information in alphabetical order.

7. Philosophy advanced magnificently in the Ancient Arab world. When the Arabs began to rule the world in the seventh century, they had to mind the knowledge of previous civilizations. The Greeks provided them with tremendous treasures. The Arab scholars helped the Nestorian Monks, who fled Catholic persecution to Persia, to translate the valuable writings which the Monks carried with them.

Caliph Mamoun established the House of Wisdom in Baghdad in 803 A.D. For the following three centuries it became the world's greatest centre of learning. There Arab scholars translated and commented on the works of Socrates, Aristotle, Plato, Pythagoras, Euclid and Hippocrates. The

truth is, without the Arabic translations the great Greek philosophers would have been lost to the world.

When Catholic armies conquered Muslim Spain in the twelfth century, Arabic reading Europeans were astounded at what they found in the abandoned cities and libraries. Archbishop Raymond did much like Caliph Mamoun of Baghdad by establishing an academy for translation in Toledo. The Latin translation was first since the literary and religious language of Europe was Latin. This was followed by national languages. This in turn influenced the desire for Bible translations which eventually brought the Renaissance and the Reformation and later the discovery of America.

## V. THE ARABS TODAY

Mr. Anwar Sadat is the most visible popular Arab political leader in the world. But King Hussein has been on the shaky Jordanian throne longer than any Arab head of State, barring none. Mr. Yaser Arafat, though popular among the Arabs, is quite the opposite in western countries. The bold trip of Mr. Sadat changed Arab political fortunes of popularity in the United States by a huge margin. In fact, a poll taken in December of 1977 showed that 86 per cent of Americans believed that his peace initiative had increased the prospects of peace. And 40 per cent of those surveyed declared that their impressions of Egypt had improved.

Due to the Arabs anger over the support Israel received from other western countries, the oil embargo was initiated in 1973. Then, when the flow of precious liquid resumed, the price kept going up until it is now twelve times over the 1970 price. That in turn unleashed the most terrible inflation in modern times. Saudi Arabia alone receives \$6,800,000 more each hour than it can spend. They can purchase all the Rockefeller holdings, at this rate, in six days and all the companies of the world's stock exchanges in fifteen years. The Saudi's now own \$30 billion in American bonds.

Approximately 2,000,000 Arabs reside in the United

States with the majority having obtained American citizenship. The Arab-American entertainer, Danny Thomas, is well known in television. South Dakota's Senator James Abouresk is another Arab-American outsidng in Politics. Dr. Sami Hamarni of the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C., Dr. Kamal Mansour of Emory University Medical School, Atlanta, Georgia, and the famed Dr. Charles DeBakey of Baylor University, Waco, Texas, have made immense contributions in the medical field in the United States. Interestingly enough, Dr. Hamarni is Jordanian, Dr. Mansour is from Egypt, and Dr. DeBakey is from a Lebanese background.

Among Christian Arabs of renown in the U.S.A. is Dr. John Haggai, whose parents emigrated from Syria in the early 1900's. Thomas Nelson, Inc., an evangelical publishing concern, is owned by Mr. Sam Moore, who is a Lebanese Arab.

The geography of the Arab world is a unifying factor. Culture is such, too. So is religion. But the strongest common denominator and unifying force in the complexities of the Arab world is by far, the Arabic language. The dialects are numerous. However, classical or literary Arabic is exactly the same whether one hears it in Amman, Beirut, Cairo, or Jerusalem.

Arab and Jewish enmity can end. It ended for me when I truly surrendered my life to Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord. From Him I learned,

*"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor, and hate your enemy.' But I say to you love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you in order that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven..."* (Matt. 5:43-45).

# War Over Jordan

## 6

---

### I. THE BIBLICAL RECORD: Jeremiah 49:1-6

*“What is this you are doing? Why are you living in the cities of the Jews? Aren't the Jews enough to fill them up? Didn't they inherit them from me? Why then have you, who worship Milcom, taken over Gad and all its cities? I will punish you for this, the Lord declares, by destroying your city of Rabboth. It shall become a desolate heap, and the neighboring town shall be burned. Then Israel shall come and take back her land from you again. She shall dispossess those who dispossessed her, says the Lord.”*

*“Cry out, O Heshbon, for Ai is destroyed! Weep, daughter of Rabbath! Put on garments of mourning; weep and wail, hiding in the hedges, for your God Milcom shall be exiled along with his princes and priests. You are proud of your fertile valleys, but they will soon be ruined. O wicked daughter, you trusted in your wealth and though no one could ever harm you. But see,*

*I will bring terror upon you, says the Lord God of Hosts. For all your neighbors shall drive you from your land and none shall help your exiles as they flee. But afterward I will restore the fortunes of Ammonites, says the Lord.*" (Living Bible)

In Chapter 49 of Jeremiah, one finds one of the most intriguing passages in the scriptures concerning Jordan. The Living Bible elucidates and facilitates the study of this passage better than other translations. Prophecy has been emphasized by preachers and biblical scholars mainly as related to the Jews and Israel. Many people, lately, have been asking questions concerning prophecies in connection with America, England, Arabia, etc.

We limit ourselves to one fascinating study concerning Jordan. In one of the Hebrew methods of Biblical interpretation, the student begins with the last verse and goes back to the first. Let us follow this method in dealing with Jeremiah 49:1-6.

## II. ANCIENT HISTORY OF JORDAN AND THE AREA

Jordan was part of that country in the Middle East called Syria. For many centuries, Syria was a province under the rulership of the Emperors of Rome. In the 7th century, Moslems gained control of it. Then the Turks overran and controlled it in the 9th century through 1918. With the exception of the Crusaders period of less than 200 years—1099 A.D. until General Saladin recaptured the area—the Arabs have been in control.

### A. First World War

At the conclusion of the First World War, in which the Turks were defeated, the entire Middle East was partitioned. There was an agreement between the allies and the Emirs of Arabia, Feisal Al Hussein of Syria, and Aziz Ibn Saud from Nejd, a small kingdom in central Arabia. If these Arabs would enter the fight against the Turkish forces, thereby helping the

allies win the war, the Emirs and their kingdoms would receive their independence. This came to pass when the military victory guaranteed political autonomy.

A very accurate and beautiful motion picture depicting the Arabs' revolt against the Turks documents the events. "Lawrence of Arabia", is now a classic among war movies of the early twentieth century. The British soldier, Lawrence, succeeded in bringing the Arab armies of 25,000 together as supportive forces of the allies. Using camels and horses, he raided desert trains, blew up supply routes and railroad stations, and inflicted heavy damages upon the Turkish forces.

1. Arabia, which is a peninsula, was given to Aziz Ibn Saud for all his efforts. His tribal name is the cause for the nation of Saudi Arabia. Several decades passed before the world recognized it as one of the richest countries on earth because of the "black gold" buried beneath the sand. We refer to it as oil. When the allies gave this land to King Aziz, they felt it was a worthless piece of desert sands.

2. Egypt was the first to gain its independence, achieving this in 1922, but the British reserved the privilege of keeping military troops in Egypt to protect the Suez Canal.

### 3. Iraq

King Feisal was given a large portion of ancient Mesopotamia, and called it Iraq. The British also promised Syria, Palestine, Jordan and Lebanon to King Feisal. However, the British, Russians, and French had made a secret agreement with each other. The document is called Sykes-Picot agreement. Iraq never received its independence until 1932.

### 4. Syria

When the Syrian area was parcelled off to the French in 1920, the French language was taught in schools, along with French customs and culture. King Abdullah had to persuade his brother to leave Syria because he gave the French too many political problems.

### 5. Lebanon

Lebanon was to be under French rule for the same 40 years as Syria. Lebanon, due to its marvelous location and aggressive population modernized its culture, schools, shipping, banking and trade. (Archaeologists believe that the early Phoenicians introduced the alphabet to the world.) Many Lebanese are descendants of the famed Phoenicians. The most tragic chapter in the history of the Middle East is the recent horrible destruction of Lebanon, the Switzerland of the Middle East.

#### 6. Palestine

Palestine came under the control of the British and retained the ancient name until the partition of 1948. The author grew up with the British legal system, and with English as our second language.

Palestine occupied the geographical area of Biblical Israel under David and Solomon. However, for about twelve centuries, until the beginning of the twentieth century, or ever since the Moslems conquered Jerusalem, Palestine was populated by Arabs.

#### 7. Jordan

King Feisal, who had ruled Syria earlier, had to accept Iraq while his brother Abdullah was given Trans-Jordan in order to keep the peace in the region. Ninety per cent of Trans-Jordan was desert. Because it was across the Jordan River, it was given this name since "trans" in Latin means across. Most of the people were Bedouins—desert nomads.

Nevertheless, the Sykes-Picot agreement included half of Palestine as a reward to King Abdullah besides Trans-Jordan. Sure enough, first came Jordan's independence in 1941 and in 1948 Samaria, Jericho, Ramallah, Jerusalem and Bethlehem, fell into the hands of Jordan.

### III. ISRAEL AND JORDAN 1948-67

#### A. Israel's Rebirth

1948 heralds the birth of the most unusual nation on earth, Israel. God's dealing with the Jews is amazing. A

matter of fact, it is rumored that King James of England asked the scholars who were translating the Bible in early 1600, "How do you know this book is authentic and it is God's Word?" They replied, "Look at the Jews, look at the Jews." Whatever prophecy has been written of the Jews, it has taken place.

#### B. Jordan's Rebirth

The land of the biblical Ammonites was called Trans-Jordan until 1945 when Prince Abdullah became King. His military forces were brilliantly trained by British General Glubb Pasha. Arabs thought that the valiant Army was able to retain most of the Arab portion of Palestine in the 1948. Most of the Arabs had not known of the Sykes-Picot Agreement. The portion of that land was to be for the Arabs according to 1947 U.N. decision.

#### C. Division of Palestine - 1948

Popular history has a milder view to cover up the dishonesty of the Allies of 1918. In 1948 the United Nations divided Palestine into two sections. One would be Israel and one would be Palestine. The Arabs of Palestine did not have any government. The King of Jordan, Abdullah, being militarily the strongest and closest to the border, eventually annexed the area calling it the West Bank. He also changed the name of the Kingdom of Trans-Jordan (across Jordan) to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The Hashemite is the royal family name.

#### D. King Abdullah Assassinated

The king was assassinated in 1951 as he came to worship in the Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. A Palestinian terrorist who learned of the wheeling and dealing behind the international diplomatic doors, hid behind the gigantic gate. The assassin stepped right in front of the king shooting him at point blank. The rumor was already spreading that the king was dealing directly with Israel and many felt avenged at his death. Prince Talal, his son, had a nervous condition and his grandson Hussein became king.

Today, his name is well known as King Hussein. He is 5

feet 4 inches tall and is 45 years old. Hussein has been recognized as one of the most able rulers in the troubled Middle East. Furthermore, he has outlived practically every ruler in the entire Arab World. His escape from over twenty assassination attempts are legendary and really miraculous. Many believe God is protecting him because if this ruler is killed, there will definitely be nothing but chaos over there.

#### **IV. THE PROPHECY OF JEREMIAH FULFILLED**

##### **A. Ammonites are Jordanians**

The ancient Ammonites are today's Jordanians who were, in 1967, in control of many of the cities that were considered part of the promised land to the Jews:

*"The Ammonites. What is this you are doing? Why are you living in the cities of the Jews? Aren't the Jews enough to fill them up? Didn't they inherit them from me? Why then have you, who worship Milcom, taken over Gad and all its cities?"* (Jeremiah 49:1). Living Bible

Please remember first that verse 6 of Jeremiah 49 predicts that the Ammonites will be restored, then trouble will come.

*"For all your neighbors shall drive you from your land and none shall help your exiles as they flee. But afterward I will restore the fortunes of the Ammonites, says the Lord."*

The greatest interest in fulfilled prophecy is indeed involved with Israel. Yet, here is a very significant prophecy which has been fulfilled simultaneously with Israel's. The Ammonites were a dead nation as Israel was, yet God's Word declared they will both rise, and they both did!

The U.S. began to support Jordan more substantially than the British were doing. The Jordan River Valley Authority

was one of the most auspicious and far reaching projects the U.S. Aid Program ever presented in the region. The plan was designed to build dams on the Yarmouk River whose water emptied into the beautiful Jordan only a few miles southeast of the Sea of Galilee. The \$32,000,000 project succeeded. Irrigation of arid lands helped to produce three crops a year. Produce was shipped all over the Middle East by truck to nearby cities, and by air to Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and England. Jordan Valley is a natural hot house because it is more than 700 feet below sea level.

God speaks, "What is this you are doing? Why are you living in the cities of the Jews?" The Jordanians controlled over one-third of old Palestine which is known as Israel in 1948. "Aren't the Jews enough to fill them up?" The absolute truth is that in 1948, the Jews were indeed not enough to fill them up. There were hardly 650,000 Jews when Israel was established. Jordan took over the other part of Palestine and between 1948 and 1967, the population of Palestine changed drastically. In twenty years over 3 million Jews were in Israel and now, in 1979, there are close to 4 million.

"Didn't they inherit them from me? Why then have you, who worship Milcom, taken over Gad and all its cities?"

B. Amman, Jordan's Capital is "Rabbath" of Biblical Fame.

And now the warning, "I will punish you for this, the Lord declares, by destroying your city of Rabbah." Today, the capital city of Jordan is called Amman from the ancient term Rabbah Ammon. It is the ancient title of the capital city of the Ammonites. Even today one can still see an ancient amphitheater which the Romans built 1600 years ago in the very heart of Amman. The capital is a very modern city, which in 1948 was no more than a tiny desert town with one paved street.

In 1979, Amman is a modern city of international renown. Due to the fortunate and terrible destruction of Beirut by the Civil War, Aman has just about become a haven for the

refugees, businessmen, the wealthy, and the economists. If you ever go there, you will see it sprawling over miles of hills and valleys. Since I go every six months to the Bible lands, I can see the tremendous strides in buildings and progress throughout the tiny Kingdom whose peoples play an important role in prophecy.

#### C. Jordan Will Lose The West Bank

The scriptures say:

*"Therefore behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, that I shall cause a trumpet blast of war to be heard against Rabbath of the sons of Ammon; and it will become a desolate heap, and her town will be set on fire. Then Israel will take possession of his possessors," says the Lord."*

They did that in 1967, when Israel took over the entire west bank from Jordan in the now famed six-day war. "Then Israel will take possession of his possessors, says the Lord."

Despite the Sykes and Picot agreement, one realizes that there is a more ancient and binding document that has to be followed—The Bible.

#### D. Ai and Hesbon

Now, the rest of that prophecy:

*"Wail, O Hesbon, for Ai has been destroyed! Cry out, O daughters of Rabbah, Gird yourselves with sackcloth and lament, and rush back and forth inside the walls; for Malcam will go into exile together with his priests and his princes."*

The scripture seems to utilize symbolic terminology. "Ai" was the ancient capital of Palestine. Recent archaeological discoveries, which I personally investigated when I lived in Jerusalem, have shown us that the capital of the land of Palestine was not Jerusalem. But many years later Jerusalem became the famed capital. The Israelites were defeated at Ai

after they conquered Jericho. Aside from the spiritual implications of the defeat, archaeologists are no longer surprised that Joshua and his forces were defeated at Ai. Excavations have revealed double walls, so thick that two chariots could ride side by side on top of it. Furthermore, architectural designs show that long before Jerusalem became prominent, the rulers of Egypt had built Ai with pharaonic architecture, and had made it the capital of their Palestine province.

#### E. War Over Jordan

Jeremiah's prophecy announces in 49:3:

*"Wail, O Heshbon, for Ai has been destroyed! Cry out, O daughters of Rabbath, gird yourselves with sackcloth and lament, and rush back and forth inside the walls; for Malcam will go into exile together with his priests and his princes."*

Ai was symbolic of ancient Palestine. Ai and all of Palestine were taken over by the Israelis in 1967. Neither Ai nor Palestine are a part of the West Bank which was controlled by Jordan. Therefore, since Hesbon is symbolic of ancient Jordan, the next thing will be Jordan's fall. We ask, "When will this war take place?" No one knows. It may take place before this year is over or maybe years from now. Rev. Vyndal Jones, who assisted me very ably in understanding this prophecy, feels it will happen soon.

It is quite likely that the King of Jordan, in a very real major revolution, finally will leave the country like the Shah of Iran had to do a few weeks ago. He will not be killed. The scripture is explicit. It seems that more than likely he will abandon the throne and will flee with his top aides. The Palestinian refugees who have been a people without a country, defeated in Jordan in 1971, and who succeeded in Lebanon just months ago, perhaps will take over Jordan. Since at least half of the population are Palestinians, that should not be too difficult. The result may spell out a major

attack upon Israel who can retaliate with vengeance. In this case, both sides will be devastated. Furthermore, the prospects of such a showdown is becoming more pronounced as we hear of statements by Yasser Arafat in Iran a few weeks ago: "Today Iran, tomorrow Palestine." With American-made, sophisticated, military equipment being made available to the P.L.O.'s and possible persuasion of an Iranian Islamic government for the P.L.O. to attack Israel, we could have a big war very soon.

There is an amazing truth which must be pointed out. The restoration of the Ammonites in the land of Jordan has been prophesied, just like the restoration of the Israelites. To a great measure fulfillment has taken place in our lifetime for both peoples.

# Mystery of the Withered Fig Tree Solved

7

---

**Matthew 24:1-3,**

*"And Jesus came out from the temple and was going away when His disciples came up to point out the temple buildings to Him. And He answered and said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here shall be left upon another, which will not be torn down. And as He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately saying, "Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of Your coming and of the end of the age?"*

## **I. THE COMING OF JESUS**

The Bible foretold the coming of Jesus the first time in minute detail. Everything that was predicted about Him was fulfilled from His birth in Bethlehem to His death and resurrection.

However the most mystifying prophecies in the world are

actually the ones which concern themselves with His Second Coming. Incidentally, why did the Jews reject Jesus? He was a Jew, His disciples were Jews, the first church members were Jews. We can sing the song "Wasted Years" and find that it fits the Jews better than any race of people in the whole world! They have wasted approximately 2000 years waiting for a Messiah who has already come! The day is near at hand when they will find out that Jesus is indeed the Messiah. They rejected Him in 33 A.D., not because they were looking for the coming of Jesus Christ, my dear friends, as we looked for Him the first time as a suffering servant, the Redeemer, nor as the one who was to come and proclaim liberty unto us who were imprisoned by the bondage of sin. They were looking for Him in His first Coming as one to be King over all the earth. This is why they were disappointed. They were looking for one who would come and act as the King, as the Liberator, as the Power that would indeed break the shackles of the Roman Empire. Enthusiastically we praise God that Jesus will come and will break all the powers of Satan and the world that shackle us. Our Lord Jesus Christ spoke about the destruction of the Temple. Then He gave little details just brief enough to whet their appetite and to raise their curiosity. Now we are on the Mountain of Olives.

Hear me as an individual who lived and was a pastor there, spending many a night on that mount, praying in the Garden of Gethsemane at its slopes with tears, tears for Jerusalem, my city. Once the night watchman spotted me in the middle of the night. Wondering what I was doing he shouted, "What are you doing down there?" My reply was to turn that flashlight off. He blurted out, "I know who you are—I know! You picked me up just the other day on the highway. I didn't have money to buy gas for the borrowed car I was driving. But you bought the gas for me and drove me back, then told me about Jesus! Pointing to Jerusalem I pleaded, "Look at our city". Jerusalem was divided then, in 1966. "I'm praying for Jerusalem", was my answer. The night watchman told me, "You know, you are a strange man—I've never seen

anybody do that before.”

I often wonder if this is the reason and cause for the lack of miracles in Jerusalem and in your hometown? Not many are shedding tears for our cities, for our states, and for the countries of this world which are frustrated, fearful, and famished. Perhaps the spot where I sat was the same one where Jesus sat. We believe this traditionally. Looking and facing the city of Jerusalem, the disciples came around Him curious and intrigued, like most Christians are today, and asking the question. Nevertheless, the question is not one—it is three! This dispels some of the confusion. For as they came privately they asked Him three questions, one one.

(1) When will the destruction of Jerusalem be?

(2) What will be the sign of His Second Coming?

(3) When will the end of the world take place?

## II. WHEN WILL JERUSALEM BE DESTROYED?

For years upon years, I grouped them together as one. Most of the Christians may find two but not three. Yet a most mystifying thing is the answer found in Luke 21:24 as Jesus give the details: “And they will fall by the edge of the sword and will be led captive into all the nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.”

One of the most fascinating rewards that can advance our entire understanding of the Scriptures is the discovery that the Hebrew Alphabet has numerical value attached to each letter. Since Hebrew has 24 letters, the numbers begin with 1 and end with 400. When you add the value of certain letters in a word or a phrase you can find a total numerical value which can denote a given year or number in an army, or an amount of hidden gold. Jesus said, “Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles until...”

Jesus actually announced to the disciples the answer to their question, giving the exact year when this would happen! For the terminology in the Hebrew language of the phrase

“trampled underfoot by the Gentiles” is “Yerushalam Tel” - “Jerusalem will become a heap”. Remember your studies in archaeology? “Tel” means a manmade mound, usually formed as a result of an attack upon a city which is destroyed or abandoned. After years and centuries of drenching rain, blowing sand, and natural deterioration the city begins to look like a little hill.

Now when Jesus said that the Gentiles will make a heap of Jerusalem, a “Tel of Jerusalem”, the equivalent of these letters in figures comes to exactly 3830, reduced to the Hebrew calendar, then to the Gregorian calendar, the figure becomes exactly the year 70 A.D. Thus Jesus provided us with the precise year of Jerusalem’s destruction and the Jewish dispersion. History and Biblical prophecy complement each other because history is actually His story!

Assuming these conclusions to be correct, they prove to us that Jesus was as interested in answering the disciples’ questions as they were in asking them. Now then, let us find out the rest of His answers.

### III. WHAT IS THE SIGN OF HIS COMING?

Our Lord Jesus Christ in trying to answer their questions gave them many details. However, listen to the reading of Matthew 24:3 again, “And as he was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, *when* will these things be, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age? ” The first question was when will Jerusalem be a heap. The next question is, “What will the sign of Your coming be?” There is only one basic sign. Did you know that? In reality, my dear friends, all that we have been preaching about has been signs such as increase in crime, knowledge, transportation, wars, famines, divorces, decline of civilization, etc. Yet the sign of the coming of the Lord is one sign.

Now, I want you to look down to verse 32. From verse 4 until verse 31 are more specific and general details. They had

inquired about *The Sign*. What He gave them between verses 4-31 was only details prior to His return, He affirmed, "But that is not yet the end," vs. 6, and "But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs" vs. 8.

Nevertheless, let us examine Matthew 24:32, "Now learn the parable from the fig tree." I stop here to ask you, "What fig tree? What is Jesus trying to tell us? Turn with me to Chapter 21. It is so helpful to us to remember that what is written here was written consecutively, following a certain chronological order, not as we look at it across a long distance of 7000 miles and about 1900 years! Let us find this fig tree. In Chapter 21, verse 19 of Matthew we read, "And seeing a lone fig tree by the road, He came to it, "No longer shall there ever be any fruit from you." And at once the fig tree withered." No dear friend, I'm not only suggesting to you—I'm urging you to recognize what Jesus was trying to say. In verse 32 He declared, "Now learn the parable from the fig tree." In Jeremiah chapter 24:1-10, the Jewish nation is not recognized as a cedar, or as an olive tree, but a fig tree. What Jesus was trying to demonstrate to the disciples around Him was how quick and how swift the destruction of the Jewish nation will take place. Indeed, it was hardly 37 years after He had spoken these profound and prophetic words when it became a historical fact! Remember please, that the fig tree's purpose is to have fruits. Yet it was barren. Indeed the Jewish nation who should have been bringing forth fruits for the glory of God rejected even the creator of the tree and the very one who came to give it life.

So Jesus judged the tree to be unworthy of existence because He found no fruit. But, it was not the season for figs. Therefore I propose and urge you to recognize the premeditated plan of Jesus in using the tree for his parable the next day. You will remember that He entered Jerusalem as the King of Israel on Sunday. Now it is Monday, when the tree is cursed. Today is Tuesday. Jesus speaks, "Learn the parable from the fig tree." He did not say "a fig tree" but "*the* fig tree." Then he added, "when its branch has already

become tender, and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near.”

Dead the nation would get, the dead it would stay, until the Living God moved in history and performed a miracle that baffles the world. Other trees may come to life after they are cut off such as the oak, the cedar, the olive but not a fig tree! Therefore to the bafflement of both politicians and and diplomats, historians and sociologists, Jews and Arabs, Israel rose from the dead in 1948. There is no way in the world that Israel can be interpreted apart from the prophetic Biblical, and eschatological view. As a former Palestinian Arab, now a grateful American citizen, I'd like to tell you that indeed when you follow the terminology you will find that the real countdown for the coming of Jesus began in 1948. The disciples wanted to know what was the most significant and specific sign which would trigger the countdown. Jesus told them that the re-establishment of Israel as a nation in the land of Palestine is that sign.

#### A. Birth and Early Years

In 1917, God prepared the land of Palestine for the Jews through the Balfour Declaration. But the Jews were making too much money in the Gentile world. They didn't care about going to the Holy Land. In 1939 the horrors of the holocaust of Germany prepared the heart of the Jew for their return. It took God's timing—from 1900 the Jewish population in Palestine increased from 52,000 to 650,000 by 1948. Despite a superior force and a numerically larger foe, Israel won the 1948 war.

Now we come to another marvelous piece of information. “Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.” The term “this generation” in the Hebrew text means “This newborn one.”

I was a boy of 14 years old in 1948 when Israel came into existence. Palestine, my former homeland, was divided. I could not understand until years of study and prayer the prophetic implication in all of that. “This newborn one” is the Jewish nation and the same time is the fig tree! Amazing,

mystifying, fascinating, new life in the dead fig tree did take place. One of the most interesting coins ever minted by the nation of Israel was a 1958 commemorative one. On one side there is a Roman soldier holding a sword over a woman who is on her knees. This was to symbolize the destruction of Israel by Titus. The year etched on the edge is 3,830 in Hebrew letters "GDDL" which is equivalent to 70 A.D., plus the words Jerusalem a tel. But that is not all. On the reverse, commemorating the tenth Anniversary of the nation, one can see an old man planting a tree. Guess what kind! It is not coincidental that it is a fig tree. Across him is a woman lifting up a baby in her arms unto the Lord, no longer in servitude and humiliation. The baby is symbolic of the newborn nation of Israel.

As you follow the Jewish custom of figuring ages, you'll come upon a very interesting thing. There are five phases of growth or five stages of ages. When a baby is born he is called a child of blood, because he is born through blood and is circumcised on the eighth day. The most critical week in the entire life of Israel was the week of May 14-21, 1948, where thousands were killed and wounded. Even General Marshall declared that, "There will be no Jews in Israel in six weeks!" Yet the miracle happened and Israel was born.

#### B. Bar Mitzvah Experience

Interestingly enough, the next phase is the boy's Bar Mitzvah experience at age 13. In 1961, the State of Israel as a nation was recognized for the first time as part of the nations of the world, as a result of the strange event called the "Eichman Affair." I suppose a good number of you remember that Eichman was one of the most cruel men that history has ever known. He was one of the henchmen of Hitler who, because of his particular ability in the field of mass killings, was appointed as the overlord in exterminating between 3-6 million Jewish people. There were many other nationalities in that holocaust but the greatest percentage was Jewish people.

This man was captured in South America, brought to

Israel, and the world was up in arms. Jurisprudence does not permit Israel to bring a man to trial who acted as a follower of his boss and whose crimes were against a nation that was non-existent at the time of the crimes. The United Nations had a puzzle on its hands. Eventually, Mrs. Meir, who was at the time the United Nations Ambassador for Israel, declared that the U.N. cannot censure Israel because the U.N. considers Israel an under-developed nation.

Nonetheless, Eichman was electrocuted. His ashes were distributed over the seven seas of the world. The strange thing was this—the United Nations in the process of censuring Israel for its illegal act against Eichman recognized Israel as a nation equal with the nations of the world—in order to pass the court decision. Mrs. Meir declared immediately, “How can you judge Israel for a crime that she committed when Israel was not a recognized nation?” Israel got away with it. The year was 1961 which makes it the Bar Mitzvah year of Israel at age 13!

### C. A Decade of War 1967-1978

Notice please, the first phase was Birth, 1948. The second phase, Bar Mitzvah in 1961, and now we discover the third phase of the fig tree which is a “man of war.” God told Moses to count only those men who were 20 years old or more giving them the title “Men of War” (Numbers 1:3).

Interestingly enough, a friend of mine by the name of Vyndal Jones, who helped me understand much of what I am sharing with you, had written an essay in 1959 interpreting some prophecies. He affirmed in the paper that there would be a war in 1967 or 1968 over the land of Israel, detailing some of it. People thought he was jumping to conclusions and just going too far. Incredible as it sounds, Mr. Jones was there in the war himself as the only American who participated in the “Six-Day War” as an observer. Because of his color-blindness he was able to detect bunkers, tanks, and snipers which ordinarily you cannot distinguish from the surroundings because of camouflage. In 1967 Israel would become 20 years old, “A Man of War”. Sure enough

the war did come, June 6th, 1967.

Incredible as it seems the decade of war began in 1967—when Israel became 20 years old. I shared with many that the war would come in 1967. The prediction denoted that Israel would win the war in a very short time. Of course, what amazed every one was the fact that it took only six days! The years 20-30 the military power of the individual is recognized in the Scripture. Thus, the years of expansion have put Israel in a position of acquiring almost six times as much land as it had before 1967. The Yom Kippur war of 1973 took Israel by total surprise. Yet, I was not completely convinced of its being the end of Arab-Jewish conflict. The war years will extend until 1978. Even while writing this book Israel invaded Southern Lebanon in March of 1978 with terrible results of destruction and blood shed. This may not be the end of war for a decade.

Can we forget the daring 1975 Entebbe Rescue in Uganda, Africa? It was one of the most astonishing rescue missions in the annals of history. Israel's crack units flew 2500 miles avoiding Radar detection, landing in Uganda, killing the terrorists and bringing home the 91 hostages.

#### D. A Decade of Religious Revival and Peace

Now, of course, we come to the year 30. This fig tree, "this newborn one", will be arriving at phase four, "The religious life."

Why did Jesus wait to start preaching until he was 30 years of age? You see, the individual is not allowed to serve the Lord until he is a mature 30 year old man. Jesus, therefore, began preaching at age 30 and preached for 3 years. Now, when will this be? Jesus urged us in John 5:39, "Search the Scriptures; because you think in them you have eternal life. He meant full, purposeful and meaningful life. 1978 has made Israel 30 years old! While working on this book we had the peace accord signed in Washington, D.C. on September 20, 1978, after Egyptian President Sadat made his historic trip to Jerusalem in November, 1977. Then, on March 26, 1979, the miracle happened when Begin of Israel, Sadat of Egypt, Carter

of the U.S.A. signed the Peace Treaty in Washington, D.C., concluding Mr. Carter's personal diplomacy and crucial trip to the Middle East.

Could the 15-year guarantee by the U.S.A. of oil, military support and security for Israel constitute the beginning of the seven year tribulation? Would America dump Israel in 3½ years when Arab oil embargo will force the United States to either support the Palestinians and receive oil or be strangulated with our 230,000,000 citizens for backing 4,000,000 Israeli in far away Isarel? Will the Antichrist emerge as our own brilliant and powerful U.S. President who signed the Peace Treaty? Time will reveal the answers. I do not know.

Many ask "Anis, how come the Jews have not built the Temple, now that they have Jerusalem?" Many preachers, who since 1967 have been telling us that Israel has ordered the stones from Indiana, or they have them ready in Rome, don't know that we don't need stones in Jerusalem! We have so many rocks and stones that we can ship stones around the world for a sizeable profit. It is not stones we need. It's something else! The *time* is not right. Israel is not of age to begin the religious life with building the Temple. Sometime after 1977 the Temple will be rebuilt!

#### E. Declention Years

We're living in one of the most exciting days in the history of the world since the death and the resurrection of our Lord. From year 30-40 we have the years of religious service and ministry. Then from 40-50 we have the years of Maturity. "This generation," as far as the term is concerned means "This newborn one", who serves until he is fifty years old. At fifty he is released from the army or from the Temple service, to retire for the rest of his life.

### V. THE END OF THE WORLD

Now, therefore, I would like to announce a word of warning. Do not conclude, "Dr. Anis Shorosh, declares the Lord Jesus is coming in 1988 of the year 2000." He did warn us. "But of that day and hour no one knows." He did

not say we will not know the signs of the times! He did not say we would not get the idea from the fig tree! He was answering their questions and it would be unrealistic for us to consider that Jesus was answering the disciples with riddles and mysteries which can never be understood. On the contrary, He gave them clear answers which time distance and language seems to cause our misunderstanding. The end of this world order may indeed take place before the year 2,000 when Jesus comes. Yet, to tell the truth no one really knows.

I would like to urge you to remember that the coming of our Lord is very soon. He is Coming! The King is Coming! The question is, "if the King is coming, what are you as a Christian going to do about it?" Are you being involved in this world of materialism? Or have you surrendered your life to do His will? Have you sold your soul to the Almighty Dollar? Have you been involved in skin flicks, drugs, occult, amusement, of even God's word? Have we made an idol of the church of God? Have we made an idol of the charismatic movement a God? Have we made an idol of our church music and great achievements? Are we guilty of getting our eyes on the low lands rather than on the Lord Jesus Christ?

What are we going to do? I suggest first that if you are a Christian you will get more concerned in spending time with God and His Word. Some of us who consider ourselves to be saved, baptized, sanctified and pastorized spend more time in one day reading the newspaper or a magazine than we spend reading the Word of God in a whole month! We expect to be mighty giants in the things of the Lord, but we discover that we are nothing but midgets. Some of us are environmental Christians. If we ever get out of the church environment, great preaching and dynamic fellowship we will shrink slowly and wither away, won't we? Environmental Christians need to be thermostats. God through Jesus the Christ has reconciled the world unto Himself. This begins with you as a Christian wanting to let God live in you. Loving Him, understanding His Word, sharing His Good News.

Secondly, and even more importantly, the fact that some of

us who think we are converted, are not. Some of us belong to the Moose club, Goose club, and Mickey Mouse Club. I've never seen a country where everybody is a member of something or another like our United States. You've got to belong to Jesus Christ, and it does not come by any other method, but by a deep vital, transforming and dynamic experience with Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit will make you aware of the change. Like the people in Ephesus, "they showed forth their deeds" not just their words and a handshake. Christ must be welcomed by you into your life as your Saviour and your Lord in sincere repentant prayer. Then total surrender and obedience must take place in your life.

Brother, sister, friend, and foe, let me warn you; You *must* be born again! Jesus affirmed, "Unless you are born again you shall in no wise enter the Kingdom of God." To you who consider yourself a child of Abraham, listen to Jesus, "For God is able to make out of these stones children for Abraham." The days are upon us. Jesus is coming again! Are you ready?

# The Rapture-What A Way To Go!

## 8

---

I Thess. 4:14-18,

*"For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, and remain until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the arch angel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words."*

### A. MEANING AND PHASES

#### A. Meaning of the Rapture

I arrived in Orlando, Florida, about four years ago to preach at First Baptist Church of Pinehills. I saw a huge blue colored billboard on the highway. It had a little cloud and the big word, "The Rapture", superimposed on it. Then in smaller letters at the bottom, "What a Way to Go!"

Several ideas are considered theologically acceptable among Christians. However, the word "rapture" comes to us from Latin meaning, to snatch. The rapture refers to an experience in time and space, when believing Christians who are dead will rise from their graves and join those who are alive to meet the Lord Jesus in the air.

#### B. Phases of the Rapture

The coming of Jesus Christ Himself is to take place in two phases. Phase 1 concerns itself with His coming from heaven on the clouds to meet the believers both dead and alive. Phase 2 is concurrent with Christ's descent in the cloud of glory. It is the miraculous rising of the dead in Christ and their molecular change into a glorified body as they ascend to meet Jesus. The living believers will experience the same phenomenal and supernatural biological transformation at the instant of their defying gravity in their ascension to the great meeting in the air!

The rapture! What a way to go! The Return of Christ has been the hope of believers across the centuries. You can visualize how the disciples were leaping into the air; imagine, getting to follow Jesus as he was going up, up, and away!

Acts 1:10-11 describes what happened:

*"And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was departing, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them; and they also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven."*

## **II. THE POST-TRIBULATION RAPTURE**

References are found in I Thessalonians 4:13-18 and in the book of Daniel 12:1-3. At the end of the tribulation period, the believers—both dead and alive—will be caught up to be with the Lord.

Immediately after the seven years of tribulation are over, the Lord descends to set up His Kingdom for His Millennial reign on earth.

## **III. THE MID-TRIBULATION RAPTURE**

Basically, the idea presents the Christian believers as going through only the first three and a half years of the seven year tribulation on earth. Mid-point during the terrible, cataclysmic horrifying tribulation Jesus will return on the clouds, believers, both dead and alive, will rise to meet Him in the air. Three and a half years later, they will come back with Jesus to planet earth itself to reign and rule with Christ for a thousand years.

## **IV. PRE-TRIBULATION RAPTURE**

Remember please, our salvation does not depend on any particular view of the rapture.

Nevertheless, simply explained, the Christian believers dead and alive will rise to meet Jesus in the air before the tribulation begins.

Why should the Christian believers go through the Tribulation? There is much scripture to support this view.

A. For instance, what happened when God brought judgment upon the earth the first time through the flood? He planned and preserved the life of one man and his family (Gen. 6-8).

B. Centuries later, when righteous Lot was sent to Sodom and Gomorrah, he became involved in their immorality, sinful affairs, and wickedness. After the terrible judgment, his

two daughters slept with him having made him drunk in order to produce babies because there were no other men around. Nevertheless, the fantastic truth is revealing. Although he was a carnal, fleshly, lustful believer, God would not allow the destruction of the cities of the plains until Lot was safely out of Sodom and Gomorrah. Then, and only then did God's judgment come upon the cities of the plains! (Gen. 19).

C. Thirdly, when the judgment of God began to fall on the land of Egypt, not one time do you read that His chosen people were ever touched, whether it was the animals or human beings. Even when there was no light, the Bible denotes that there was light in the homes of the Israelites. Ex. 10:2-3. The first-born of the Egyptians were killed, yet, the first born of the Israelites were spared (Ex. 12). God reminds us again and again that he preserves us and gets us out of trouble because of His Grace.

## V. WHY THE DIFFERENCE OF VIEWS?

Now, therefore, I ask a question. If the above is true, why then do some believers follow the view that we ought to go through the Tribulation?

A. Well, it is affirmed that in Matthew and other passages, the concept seems clear enough as to our experiencing the tribulation. For example: "Except the days be shortened, there should be no flesh saved." Matthew 24:22. Follow this with verse 24b "...but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened." But, who are the elect? Jehovah Witnesses say they are the ones and the "144,000" mentioned in Revelation 14 identifies them.

B. However, a closer look at the scripture reveals that the 144,000 are in reality Jews from the twelve tribes of Israel. You will also find that the word "elect" can refer to the elected ones during the seven year tribulation period, not before nor after. So, my position, clearly stated, is I believe that the terminology of the "elect" refers to the ones who

are saved during the tribulation.

"The days being shortened" refers to the fact that since God has never left Himself without a witness, they will witness for Him during the seven year tribulation period. During that time, there will be multitudes saved. Rev. 7:9, 14:

*"After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands; And I said to him, "My Lord, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."*

Need I add anything else? It is for their sake that the great tribulation is not too long.

## **VI. THE PARTIAL-TRIBULATION RAPTURE**

This is a somewhat recent doctrine. It is maintained that if one is not spiritual, he will be left behind when the rapture occurs. If one is only a believer in theology and theory, head knowledge but not heart-felt faith, the Lord is going to leave him here. Why? Because this will be a method of purifying a back-slider from his sins and cleansing him from his wicked ways. Millions now adhere to the partial tribulation. Those who must go through this mess are the carnal believers. So the Rapture ends up being only for the spiritual Christians. We hasten to ask, "Who is the judge of who is or who is not spiritual?"

Of course, this brings about one of the basic reasons why the Charismatic movement is appealing. A segment of them, unfortunately, perceive themselves better than the regulars of the faith. Furthermore, if one speaks in tongues, heals the

sick or demonstrates other "gifts of the Spirit," that is a substantiation to their reasoning that they are more spiritual.

Billy Graham affirmed "every true Christian is charismatic." He meant that we all believe in the gifts of the Holy Spirit. But, woe unto you and me if we ever imagine that just because God has given us a gift we become better than anyone else. If there is anything which can identify one as a Spirit-filled Christian, it is one word, LOVE. If we are filled with the Spirit, it will be revealed not by what we say but by what we do. We are judged not only by our orthodoxy of theology but also by our daily demonstrations of compassion, or the lack of it.

VII. Before I conclude this brief chapter, I would like to list some of the numbers and their definite meanings from the Hebrew or Jewish Biblical interpretation.

## NUMBERS

Numbers in the Bible have a definite meaning:

1. Sovereignty, absolute unity of the Godhead
2. Division and trouble
3. Divine Completeness
4. Number of the earth
5. Number of grace
6. Man
7. Divine perfection
8. New beginnings
9. Judgment
10. Number of testimony
11. Number of apostasy
12. Nation of Israel
13. Number of rebellion

The chapter divisions in the Bible are neither inspired nor in the original manuscripts. However, it is a striking coincidence that Revelation 13 is the chapter which describes the political and religious beasts who are the greatest rebels

## VIII. THE HEBREW ALPHABET

The Hebrew alphabet consists of 22 consonants. They are:

<i>Form</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Transliteration</i>	<i>Numerical Value</i>
𐤀 <sup>Finale</sup>	'Āleph	'	1
ב ב	Bêth, Bhêth	b, bh	2
ג ג	Gímel, Ghímel	g, gh	3
ד ד	Dáleth, Dháleth	d, dh	4
ה	Hē	h	5
ו	Wāw	w	6
ז	Záyin	z	7
ח	Hêth	h̄	8
ט	Ṭêth	ṭ	9
י	Yôdh	y	10
כ כ ך	Kaph, Khaph	k, kh	20
ל	Lámedh	l	30
מ ם	Mém	m	40
נ ן	Nún	n	50
ס	Sámeekh	s	60
ע	'Áyin	'	70
פ פ ף	Pē, Phē	p, ph	80
צ ץ	Sádhē	ṣ	90
ק	Qôph	q	100
ר	Rēs	r	200
ש ך	Śin, Šin	ś	300
ת ת	Tāw, Thāw	t, th	400

of all history.

#### **IX. Number Of The Anti-Christ**

Rev. 13:8 informs us that 666 is the number of the man. Six is the number of man and Three is the number of divinity. Therefore, the Beast will be a man who claims to be God. Three sixes imply that he is a false-god and a deceiver. Since seven is the number of divine perfection, 666 will indicate that the beast will be one numeral short of seven. Thus he will achieve the highest peak of wisdom and power. Yet, he will still be a mere man.

It must be pointed out, with great emphasis, that what happened on Mt. Tabor is related to this doctrine. I believe that Moses represents the risen-dead who will meet Jesus in the air. Elijah's appearance with Jesus and Moses is a reminder of those believers who will be alive when Jesus comes again.

In conclusion, the Rapture is a phenomenal experience taking place in time and space. The believers—dead and alive—will rise to meet the Lord Jesus in the air. The possibilities are that He will come before the seven years of tribulation, in the middle of them, or after that period. No one knows definitely. My personal conviction concerning this important doctrine today is a pre-Tribulation Rapture.

# Who Is The Anti-Christ

## 9

---

Thousands of prophecy students through the world are embracing the view that the former Secretary of State for the United States of America, Mr. Henry Kissinger, is none other than the Anti-christ of whom the Bible speaks.

A comprehensive and brief coverage of this topic will be handled here.

Consequently, the various candidates of historical, Biblical, religious, political, and modern nature will be investigated. Let me explain quickly, that the Anti-christ is the title given to the false messiah who appears at the end-time before the Real Messiah, Jesus the Christ, returns to earth.

It is also a satanic movement to replace Christ by such as communism, socialism, humanism, scientism, and even satanic music. Read I John 2:18-24.

For one's edification and information, the following passages must be consulted also: Rev. 13:1-18; Dan. 11:35-45; Matt. 24:24.

Moreover, one finds in II Thess. -2, the most revealing disclosure in the entire New Testament scriptures concerning

the Anti-christ.

## **I. HISTORICAL CANDIDATE - Antiochus Epiphanes, IV**

### **A. His Background**

Of course, if one has ever studied this topic, he may remember a most famous historical figure whose name is Antiochus Epiphanes. He was an interbiblical character, meaning he appeared on the horizon of history between the Old and New Testament in the Second Century B.C. It was the general practice for the Seleucid kings to take to themselves a second name. In scorn for his outrageous deeds, some of the subjects of Antiochus IV, later altered the name to the nickname "Epimanes", which means "Mad"! Prior to the New Testament scripture, Antiochus IV as the candidate for the anti-christ would more fit the predictions in Daniel than those in the New Testament.

### **B. Antiochus Forbade Jehovah's Worship**

1. It is well documented that Antiochus forbade Jehovah's worship in the Temple within the city of Jerusalem.

#### **2. Desecrated the Jerusalem Temple**

He erected in the Temple, the figure of Jupiter Capitolina, who was his god. The statue was placed in the very center of the Temple of God.

#### **3. Antiochus Defiled the Temple Precincts**

Antiochus horrified the Jews by bringing a sow and sacrificing it on the altar of God in 168 B.C. Then he boiled it, took the broth and sprinkled it over the Holy place of God's Temple. One can imagine how such an atrocity would be repulsive and sickening to the Orthodox Jews. No wonder they nicknamed him "Epimanes", the "Mad".

### **C. Antiochus Desregarded Women**

It is believed that Antiochus fits the mold because he had no respect for women. The Bible predicts that the Anti-christ will have no desire, or respect for women - (Dan. 11:37). Antiochus attacked and sacked the temple of Venus at Elymais. Venus was the goddess of women and his

dishonoring her was dishonoring all women.

## **II. BIBLICAL CANDIDATE - Judas Iscariot**

### **A. Judas Was Called a Devil**

In John 6:70, the Lord Jesus called this person by a very strange name. Jesus called him a "devil." No other individuals has ever been called by that name in the scriptures. There is a popular belief that since Judas is the only human being called by that name, he is the Anti-christ.

### **B. Judas Was Called "Son of Perdition"**

One will find in John 17:12 that he is called by Jesus, "the son of perdition". According to Paul's writings (II Thess. 2:30), this is the same expression mentioned concerning the Anti-christ.

### **C. Judas will make a Return Trip to Earth**

In Rev. 13:3, we discover that the "Anti-christ's" arrival on planet earth may indeed be a return trip to this planet. Therefore, Judas would fit the picture perfectly.

### **D. Judas Had a Mortal Wound**

Rev. 13:3, reveals that this particular person, the "Anti-christ," would have had a fatal wound, which resulted in instant death. Consequently, it is believed that Judas fell off from where he hung himself and burst open as he hit a jagged rock, spilling his bowels. This caused his death. Therefore, Judas is the man who will be coming back to life to deceive the world, before Jesus returns.

## **III. THE POLITICAL CANDIDATE - Caesar Nero**

Several political figures of the Roman Empire fit the picture. Emperors Nero, Diocletian, Hadrian, and others are good candidates. But among the Roman Emperors, Nero stands out as the best candidates for this despicable and despised office.

### **A. Nero Accused Christians of Burning Rome**

Caesar Nero, as everybody knows, did indeed play the

fiddle perhaps while his men set fire to Rome and watched it burn. He wanted a renovated Rome. So the neurotic Nero killed two birds with one stone. To him, the only method for a new city was "burn the old one". Then, to get rid of the growing menace and political power of the Christians, he accused them of burning Rome. A terrifying persecution took place in 65 A.D. The greatest missionary alive, St. Paul, was beheaded by an order of Nero during the upheaval.

#### B. Nero's Name

Caesar August Nero would solve the figure puzzle in Rev. 13:18. According to the Jewish numerical-alphabet, Nero is calculated at 666.

#### C. Nero's Wound

Nero also was wounded fatally. He committed suicide by falling on his sword. This is a historical fact with one missing link. Nero did not come back to life after inflicting himself with self-destruction.

### IV. THE RELIGIOUS CANDIDATES

#### A. Mohammed, The Prophet

##### 1. Misleading People

In the fourteenth century, Pope Paul, the Innocent, introduced to the world what he believed to be the real Anti-christ. Although we were not aware of the Pope's position until recently, we have always held the conviction that Mohammed, the prophet of our Arab people, is a candidate. The Moslems number over 500,000,000. They were told enough truth to immunize them against Jesus; the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

##### 2. Assimilation of the Bible.

If one studies the Koran, the Holy book, which is smaller than the New Testament, one will be fascinated to find it is a summary of the Old and New Testament put together by Mohammed.

##### 3. Historical Mistakes

Gross mistakes are found. Miriam, the sister of Moses, is

said to be Miriam, the mother of Jesus. Another case is Judas being crucified, not Jesus! "Prophet Jesus", he believed, was so good, God never let him be killed. Rather than dying on a cross, Jesus simply went straight to Heaven!

#### 4. Denial of the Trinity

Mohammed was convinced that Christians are "shirkers", believers in more than one God. A triune God is not acceptable in Islam.

#### 5. Rejection of the Atoning Death of Christ.

Mohammed also affirmed that the divinity of Jesus Christ is a heresy. It is the result of the Christian's overemphasis on the goodness of Christ. Nevertheless, Moslems misunderstand the Bible truth.

Jesus is not God in the sense that he was a great man who eventually achieved divinity through his goodness. It is exactly the other way around. God is Jesus. Thus, the divine God became man, for man can never become God. When one understands this and can explain it, one has achieved much in comprehending the nature of the divinity of Jesus.

#### B. The Pope

Any Pope can fit the mold. Non-Catholic commentators give more teachings concerning the Pope as being the Anti-christ than any other candidate.

1. In Daniel 11:36, we discover that he will do according to his will. The Pope is not responsible to any earthly authority.

2. We find that the Pope is above civil rulers who call themselves gods. The Emperor of Japan and lesser figures, for many years have been considered Divine. An attempt is being made to restore that position to the Emperor. When General McArthur over-ran Japan, the Japanese signed the Treaty of Peace, accepting a condition in which the Emperor was to declare that he was not Divine. When a Pope is enthroned, the Church's hierarchy recite Psalms 95, which refers only to the Lord Jesus Christ.

3. Daniel 11:37, tells that the Anti-christ is above all gods. The Pope considers himself above all other gods and even the

Word of God.

4. Heathenism is incorporated in worship. To signify consecration, holy water is sprinkled over people or things. Buddhist and Hindus alike did that in their temple. The title of the Pope himself is borrowed from the ancient Roman "Pontific", a title used by the high Priest in ancient Roman heathen religions.

5. One will also find the man of sin is a person who will have no regard or desire for women. If any priest wants to be a Pope, he cannot marry. While serving in the Holy Land, we learned that Catholic priests can get married. Yet, they can never rise above the position of Priest in the Church's hierarchy. Celibacy is, of course, contrary to the scripture as recorded in I Timothy 4:3.

6. The Anti-christ, states Dan. 11:38, will "honor the god of forces". Instead of "god of forces," the term can be translated "god protector." Catholics have the Virgin Mary and many saints who are reputed as "protectors". The Pope, across the centuries has been authorized to assign "sainthood" to any one he deems deserving. Thus the Pope become a "Saint protector" or a "god protector." Since only God is worthy of adoration and prayer, the saints, in a practical sense, are lesser gods.

7. The man of sin is to also have control of...gold, and silver, and with precious stones and pleasant things. (Dan. 11:38b). The Catholic Church is actually the richest organization in the entire world, controlling more gold, silver, precious stones, and such valuable relics, than anybody. In Jerusalem, Rome, and thousands of cities around the world, the figures of the Virgin Mary and Jesus are covered with gold, silver, and diamonds.

8. This person, according to Dan. 11:39, is to divide the land. Across the centuries, the choicest lands the world over have been acquired by the Catholic Church. However, if the Pope is truly the Anti-christ, why then has not Jesus appeared? Consequently, the Pope cannot be the Anti-christ.

## V. THE MODERN CANDIDATES

### 1. Adolph Hitler

Hilter's beast-like warfare mentality makes him accountable to a great measure for the 20 million war deaths between 1939-1945. In addition, his persecution and extermination of the Jews has never been equalled in the annals of civilization. Three to six million Jews lost their lives in the torture chambers, horrible concentration camps, gas chambers, slave camps, and electric ovens, due directly to his orders. He called it the Final Solution.

### 2. Joseph Stalin

Stalin of Russia was quite a mass killer. In Rev. 13:15, the Anti-christ will be a terrible killer. Robert Conquest, in his book, **The Great Terror**, documented at least 20,000,000 deaths. He declared that even this figure is too low.

Stalin's daughter, Svytlyna Olivia, has written a book called, **Letters**. If the reader has never read it, he should. One will discover to his dismay how horrible a life her father lived. The chilling, awful, and repulsive way he died in her presence is described with vivid details.

### 3. John F. Kennedy

His candidacy stems from his astonishing popularity worldwide, which would fulfill Revelation 11:8. There is practically no U.S. President in the country who captivated the hearts of the world's people as Mr. J. F. Kennedy.

The wound in his head was fatal. Some people adhered to the conviction that he was the Anti-christ, so much so that many were waiting for him to come up out of his casket alive.

### 4. Henry Kissinger

Kissinger has been celebrated as the man on a white horse - a man of peace. He did achieve great successes in concluding the Viet Nam War and calming some of the Middle East hostilities. Add to that, Kissinger's race, a Jew.

Furthermore, his name in Hebrew letters adds up to 111. When it is multiplied by man's number of 6, it becomes 666,

## the Sign of the Beast.

Now to solve the problem of identifying the personality of such a man who would qualify as an Anti-christ. We would point out a very simple fact which will eliminate much confusion. The word "Anti-christ", means a false Christ. A Christ or the Messiah must be a Jew in order to be accepted by the Jews as their Christ.

The word, Christ, means the anointed one. Therefore, such a person must be a Jew to qualify. To millions, Henry Kissinger fits the picture perfectly because he is a Jew. Sooner or later, those people prophesy, he will make a comeback into world politics. In 1975, Kissinger arranged to send 900 American technicians to Sinai. Situated between the Egyptians and the Israelies, after the military disengagement, the Americans were to monitor the electronic surveillance equipment. He holds an eminent position in world opinion, plus a brilliant mind.

### 5. Moshe Dayan

The celebrated Hero of the wars between the Arabs and the Jews is another candidate. Because he is a Jew, popular and the wound in his head, his position as an Anti-christ is strong. As to the head wound, he was looking through a pair of binoculars across the battlefield into Lebanon from Northern Israeli positions. A stray bullet went through the binoculars and right into his eye. Normally, such a hit would have killed the hapless victim. Amazing enough, Mr. Dayan, only lost his eye and the wound in the head was healed. That is why he wears a patch over it now.

Many prophecy students regard him as the one. Within a few years, they forecast, he will become the Prime Minister of Israel instead of his position now as Defense Minister.

### 6. Sun Myung Moon

Sun Myung Moon was born January 6, 1920, the second son of eight children. His farmer father was a member of the Presbyterian church in Kwanglu Sangsa Ri, a village in North Korea. He was influenced greatly by the Pentecostal church in Seoul when he was sent for his high school education.

Moon declares that on Easter of 1936, while in prayer, Jesus appeared to him telling him he was chosen to finish the work Jesus had begun. Since many underground Pentecostals were expecting a Korean Messiah, it was most appropriate for Moon to announce his calling.

During World War II, he attended Waseda University in Tokyo, where he studied electrical engineering. In 1944, he went back to Korea and gathered some followers. Perhaps because of his affiliation with Paik Moon Kim, who declared publicly he is the fulfillment of the Korean Messianic expectations, the Presbyterian Church excommunicated him in 1948. It is probable that his establishing the "Broad Sea Church", and publishing **Divine Principles** was the main cause for the excommunication.

Nevertheless, he changed his name to Sun Myung Moon. Yung means "dragon", Myung means "Shining." Moon means "letter." Sun signifies "propriety". Therefore Moon has gone by a name which means "Shining Proper Letter" since 1946.

During 1946-50, he was in prison for a time in North Korea. Some say it was due to adultery and bigamy, while Moon himself claims it was because of his anti-communist activities.

Between 1950-54, Moon settled in Pusan with several followers. He established his Unification Church in 1954. In 1957 **The Divine Principle**, which he claimed was the new revelation from God, was published. Revised in 1966, the book was released in English in the United States that same year and again in 1973.

In 1954, Moon's wife of ten years left him. Surprisingly the police imprisoned Moon and his chief members for adultery. He claims that he was married only twice while Koreans declare he was married at least four times. Moon's last wife brought him eight children, having married him when she was only 18.

On January 1, 1972, God, says Moon, instructed him to go to America. His estate is worth close to \$1,000,000 while his

net financial worth is reported at over \$15,000,000. Dr. Moon claims to be the second Adam and the real Christ. He teaches that Jesus failed in establishing the new race by getting crucified. But, Moon himself will establish the new race with Hak Ja Han, his young wife.

Rabbi Maurice Davis of White Plains, N.Y., compared the Unification Church of Sun Myung Moon to the Nazi Youth movement and the infamous People's Temple.

#### 7. The Electronic Beast

Finally, we come to deal with the electronic Anti-christ. The majority of the information appeared in "The Moody Monthly, March issue, 1974.

*The Beast is a gigantic computer that takes up three floors at the Administrative Building of the Common Market Headquarters. This "Monster" is a self-programming unit that has over one hundred sensing input sources. Computer experts have been working on a plan to computerize all world trade. This master plan involved a digital numbering system for every human on earth. The computer would assign each citizen of the world a number to use for all buying and selling to avoid the problems of ordinary credit cards. The number would be invisibly "laser-tattooed" on the forehead or back of the hand. It would provide a walking credit card system. The number would show up under infrared scanners to be placed at all check-out counters and places of business. Dr. Randrick Eldeman, Chief Analyst of the Common Market Confederacy, suggested that using three six digital units, the entire world could be assigned a working credit card number. Other Common Market officials believe that the present chaos and disorder caused by the "Mystery" points to the end of a world currency—perhaps an international mark that would do away with all currency and coin. Instead, credit notes would be exchanged through a world bank clearing center. No member could buy or sell without having an assignment of a digital mark. Market directors are now convinced that world order depends on allegiance to an international program of peace and politics, as well as a new*

*world trade and numbering system. One man could have at his finger tips the number of any man on earth. It could provide the most powerful lever known to mankind. He could have a solution for world problems. It could be a tool for peace, or a dictator's weapon.*

*When one of the Market Leaders was asked what would happen if any person objected to the system and refused to cooperate, he replied rather pointedly, "We would have to use force to make him conform to requirements."*

In the light of happenings such as this we should by all means "watch and pray that we may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass and stand before the Son of Man." Luke 21:36.

This we can affirm. One is to watch and occupy as we try to study and observe. It is important to understand 666. But is more important to witness to a world that is sick, sick, sick. We are under orders to carry the message of the Gospel.

It is important to understand the meaning of the ten toes of the beast's feet in the book of Revelation. But it is far better to use ones own good feet, including yours and mine, to go tell the story of Jesus our Lord and his love for a lost humanity. Unfortunately, some are so occupied with the business at hand, they do not think of the "Blessed Hope"! My earnest appeal is for a balanced Christian life until His appearing.

## The Seventieth Week Of Daniel

# 10

---

*“Now while I was speaking and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the Lord my God in behalf of the holy mountain of my God, while I was still speaking in prayer, then the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision previously, came to me in my extreme weariness about the time of the evening offering. And he gave me instruction and talked with me, and said, “O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you insight with understanding. At the beginning of your supplications the command was issued, and I have come to tell you, for you are highly esteemed; so give heed to the message and gain understanding of the vision. Seventy weeks have been decreed that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress. Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the*

*prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined. And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate” (Daniel 9:20-27).*

## **I. DANIEL'S DISCOVERY**

Jeremiah, the prophet of God who lived in the seventh century B.C. in Jerusalem, was truly a remarkable seer. He predicted accurately the downfall of Judah and its subsequent captivity by the Babylonians. (Jer. 25:11-12; 29:10-14).

A. Approximately seventy years later, Daniel discovered this truth. Daniel's book records the fact. "...Daniel observed in the books the number of years which was revealed as the word of the Lord to Jeremiah the prophet for the completion of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years."

While fasting, praying and contemplating, God revealed to him, through the Angel Gabriel, a vision of an historical nature stretching over a period of seventy weeks, or 490 years (Dan. 9:20-27).

The vision included a restoration to the land under Daniel's contemporary, Zerubbabel. It further dealt with a future restoration when the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

*“And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate.” Daniel 9:27.*

Jeremiah 31:31-40 has the same prophecy:

*"Behold days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house-of Judah, not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them," declares the Lord."*

Paul refers to this as a mystery in Romans 11:25:

*"For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery, lest you be wise in your own estimation, that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fulness of the Gentiles has come in."*

#### B. Weeks and The Meaning

Practically every Biblical scholar agrees that the seventy weeks of Daniel 9 are in reality coded as week of years, not weeks of days. "Shabua", in Hebrew, means seven. It has no reference to days neither to years. Interestingly enough, the word seven, in Pharaoh's dream, is interpreted by Joseph as seven years: "The seven good cows are seven years; and the seven good ears are seven years..." (Gen. 41:26).

Daniel prayed about years, yet he is answered about periods of seven years.

The Babylonian and Jewish reckoning involved a lunisolar year of 360 days. Thirty days made up a lunar month. Twelve lunar months produced a year. And that is where the ecliptic of 360 degrees came into being.

Daniel's vision must have taken place in the year 538 B.C. and at the close of the period of the Babylonian captivity. This is true due to the fact that Daniel apparently figures B.C. 606 as the beginning of the exile because it was the year he himself was taken captive by Nebuchadnezzar.

The vision took place at three o'clock in the afternoon

which is the time of the afternoon sacrifice. "...while I was still speaking in prayer, then the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision previously, came to me in my extreme weariness about the time of the evening offering."

#### C. The Exact Date Can Be Determined.

Of course, the Big Question is, when did this period of 490 years begin? Verse 25 says, "...from the issuing of a decree..." The decree or commandment refers to a particular royal decree.

Four decrees were issued. One and only one must date the seventy weeks.

1. B.C. 536, Cyrus' decree. Ezra 6:14; Isaiah 44:28
2. B.C. 519, Darius Hystaspis' decree. Ezra 6:12
3. B.C. 457, Artexerxes' decree. Ezra 7:1; 8:11
4. B.C. 445, in Artexerxes' second decree. Neh. 2:1, 7.

## II. THREE INTERPRETATIONS

The extraordinary passage of Daniel 9:20-27 has been interpreted in three major ways.

#### A. The Prophecy Was Fulfilled Historically

1. Antiochus Epiphanes is accepted as the man who fulfilled the prophecy completely in the second century B.C. He stopped the sacrifices in Jerusalem by decree and persecuted the Jews severely. Antiochus, moreover, erected a statue to his god in the Temple and demanded that the Jews sacrifice and worship the marble statue of the Jupiter.

2. Onias III is considered the "anointed one cut off" as mentioned in verse 26. He was murdered in B.C. 171. But by counting back from B.C. 171, the Cyrus date is missed by 69 years.

3. Alexander the Great, is thought to be the "anointed one cut off". Yet, he died at age 33 in B.C. 323, too far from Cyrus' date of 536.

It seems that the historical interpretation of this vision is not justifiable. Antiochus, who is the most likely person to fit the mold, aimed at suppressing the worship of Jehovah.

However, he neither left the sanctuary and the city in ruins nor did his date of arrival on the horizon of history fit the prophetic calendar. He misses the date by two centuries.

**B. The Prophecy Was Fulfilled Biblically - In Jesus Himself**

The following interpretation is quite convincing.

1. King Antaxerxes declared his intention to rebuild Jerusalem in B.C. 457 (Ezra 7:11-26). Forty-nine years later the building project was accomplished. Therefore, the first section of the "seven weeks" or 49 years is fulfilled.

2. Next we have the three score and two weeks or  $60 \times 7 + 14 + 434$ . If we subtract 434 from 408, the year the rebuilding was finished, we end up with 27 A.D., the year Jesus of Nazareth began his public ministry as "The Messiah, the Prince." Matt. 3:13-17 tells of the baptism as the time of the anointing. "Messiah" means anointed one. John 1:41 records that Andrew excitedly told his brother, Simon, "...we have found the Messiah..." Even Peter preached to Cornelius, a gentile in Caesarea that "...God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power..." (Acts 10:38).

3. Daniel 9:27 predicts: "And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering..." Jesus, it is believed, confirmed God's Everlasting Covenant for three and one half years. First, the confirmation was demonstrated by His teaching and preaching, then ratified by His death. His death brought to an end the entire sacrificial system of Moses and the Old Testament. A New Testament is now in effect. After all, the elaborate sacrificial system was a shadow of what is to come..." (Col. 2:17). Jesus was the fulfillment and substance of that type of shadow.

4. Jesus was crucified in the middle of the seventieth week—31 A.D. Naturally one must ask, "What about the remaining three and one half years?"

Believers in this interpretation declare that the preaching of the Gospel of Grace in Jerusalem brought multitudes to the Lord. This alarmed the Jewish leaders. Stephen, a gifted preacher and outspoken leader of the early church was called

before the Council. His incredible defense of his faith is one of the high-water marks of the New Testament record. The Council's defiance caused Stephen to accuse them of resisting the Holy Spirit and rejecting the Messiah who alone can bring their nation salvation.

The Sanhedrin, in a fury of hate, snatched him out of the city and stoned him to death. Stephen became the first martyr of Christianity. The tragic event took place precisely three and one-half years after the crucifixion, or 34 A.D. Thus, this singular event terminated the 490 years allotted to the Jewish nation. We can call it "The Times of the Jews."

#### 5. Time of the Gentiles.

Saul of Tarsus, who had been in charge of Stephen's execution was gloriously saved in that same year—A.D. 34. The persecutor and the murderer of Christians became the champion of the Church and the Apostle to the Gentiles. This brings us to the question of, "What is the time of the Gentiles?"

In Antioch of Pisidia, Paul and Barnabas found a rich harvest. Instead of seeing the Jews excited about the Gentiles response to the Gospel, they became angry, even contradicting and blaspheming. Acts 13:45-46 states how Paul and Barnabas announced, "...since you repudiate it, and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles."

Then again in Acts 18:6, we read that Paul "...he shook out his garments and said to them, "Your blood be upon your own heads! I am clean. From now on I shall go to the Gentiles."

A number of prophecy students believe that the beginning of the time of the Gentiles was either at this time, 34 A.D. or 70 A.D. when Titus destroyed Jerusalem. Furthermore, it is also affirmed that 1967 was the year, "the time of the Gentiles" was fulfilled (Luke 21:24).

Furthermore, the explanation that Jesus is the one referred to in Daniel 9:26 says, "his people" as the ones who will destroy the city and the sanctuary. Neither Jesus nor His

followers destroy Jerusalem. Yet, another translation of this passage allows us to say, "...they shall no more be his people." Curiously enough the Jews did not only reject Jesus as their Messiah, their Messiah also rejected them.

Finally, a fundamental fact emerges. Jesus did not make a covenant for one week with anybody. Jesus the Christ made an everlasting covenant of grace and salvation with everyone who believes in Him.

### C. The Prophecy Is To Be Fulfilled Eschatologically

1. Titus, who destroyed both Temple and city in 70 A.D. may indeed fulfill the prophecy of verse 26. Notwithstanding, verse 27 cannot be true of Titus. With this fact and others mentioned above, one must determine that the whole passage refers to none other than a future Anti-Christ. This ungodly prince will actually impose upon the Jewish people a very unyielding agreement demanding that they follow him as their God. II Thess. 2:3-4 tells of the same person:

*"...the man of lawlessness is revealed the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God."*

Because the agreement is made with "the many", more than likely, the expression has to do with the many Jews who will succumb in the last days and become subservient to the Anti-christ. The expression alludes also to the fact that not all Jews will worship this false messiah.

Furthermore, it is important to recognize that he will not be the one who will destroy, but "his people."

"...in the middle of the week he..." deals with the breaking of the agreement, thus fulfilling Daniel 12:11 and II Thess. 2:3-4. The entire church age falls between the sixty-ninth week, after the Messiah is killed and the little horn of Daniel 7.

## 2. The Seven Future Years

Verse 27 includes the last three and one half years of the seven year period. This span seems to be identical with the hour of temptation in Rev. 3:10; the time of trouble, Dan. 12:1; and the great tribulation of Matt. 24:15-28.

We now look into another statement. "...on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate..." The term "abominations" can mean horrible things or abominable idolatries. When Jesus used this verse, we read it in Mark 13:14, "ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION." The Maccabean's Book, the Septuagint, and the Vulgate translations agree on a literal reading of this significant passage in the following manner. "Upon the temple shall come the abominations of desolation."

When we compare Revelation 13:15 with Daniel's prophecy, it becomes quite obvious that the Anti-christ's image in the temple at Jerusalem is actually the horrible thing or the abominable idol. True, Antiochus Epiphanes did erect a statue of his god, Jupiter Capitolinus in the Temple in Jerusalem, but it was not his own image. Consequently, it seems to me that the Anti-christ is yet to come, and the Rapture would have taken place before his arrival. The earth's people will apparently agree to the Anti-christ's control and rule. Those who do not accept the mark will be killed. I am convinced that the terrifying tribulation is intended for the Jews, specifically, and the unbelieving world generally. However, the Rapture is aimed at rescuing God's own before the diabolical, destructive, and despicable character arrives on the horizon of a sin-sick, selfish, self-righteous, scared, and fainthearted world.

The accuracy of Daniel's prophecy influenced multitudes of Jews of that generation to be saved and trust Jesus. Later, Jews were discouraged from studying this passage. "May his bones and his memory rot who shall attempt to number the 70 weeks", is a curse placed on Jews who should try to ascertain this prophetic chronology. **Unfolding The Revelation**, pp. 100-101.

### 3. Possible Shape of Things to Come

Many Bible believers consider the Anti-christ to be the coming director of the Common Market who will make a peace treaty with the Jews of Israel after the Rapture. But he will abrogate it in the middle of the seven years because of OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries). The political pressure of the Arab countries who control the majority vote in the organization will demand either the abandonment of Israel so the Palestinian Arabs can take over Palestine again, or oil, the life blood of Europe will be cut off.

Another group interprets the coming events to take place with the U.S.A. as the friend who makes peace for Israel then turns foe to save her own skin. In the light of what chaos and havoc the Arab oil embargo of 1973 brought, the world in general and the United States in particular, one does not have to think too hard to recognize the real feasibility of such a view. When the final showdown takes place, they say, America would rather give up the relationship with 3,500,000 Israeli 7,000 miles away than cause suffering and total economic chaos among its 230,000,000 citizens. This singular terrifying event may indeed cause the Jews to fulfill Zech. 12:9-10:

*"And it will come about in that day that I will set about to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. And I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced, and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him, like the bitter weeping over a first-born."*

Revelation 16:12 must be consulted now.

*"And the sixth Angel poured out his bowl upon the great river, the Euphrates; and its water was dried up,*

*that the way might be prepared for the kings from the east."*

Because the Shah of Iran has been dethroned and an Islamic government is now in charge of Iran, any observer can see the writing on the wall. You see, while the Shah was ruling the mighty Iranian Military machine posed no threat to Israel. In fact, the Iranians sold oil to Israel and even exchanged diplomats at the consular level. What of now? Since the entire Moslem world sides with the Palestinian Arabs claim to Palestine and the Israeli refuse to give the land back, the Iranians can easily be the Kings of the East descending upon Israel with Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Libya, Ethiopia, and Saudi Arabia joining for battle. The most startling event of the Iranian revolution took place when Yaser Arafat, the Chairman of P.L.O. was welcomed as the first International guest in Tehran after the Shah's government collapsed. Mr. Arafat was given the Israeli Consulate building while the Israeli diplomats were still at the Tehran Airport fleeing for home.

Yet an interesting possibility remains and warrants our attention. Russia could come down with the nations mentioned above only to be attacked along with its allies by none other than the Chinese Giants who can be called Kings of the East. As I write this very chapter, the eyes of the world are on the meeting between President Carter and Premier Begin concerning the peace in the Middle East. Can Mr. Carter turn out to be the Anti-christ? I heartily hope not!

John Denver's famous song says: "Thank God, I am a Country Boy." I like to rephrase it: "Thank God, I am a Jesus Boy." I praise Him because he has made all the reservations for the meeting in the sky as well as the supersonic travel arrangements long ago on the hill of Calvary. Please, don't take a chance on being left behind. He wants to take you, too, if you are willing to turn away from your sins, selfishness, and indifference, then make him Saviour and Lord of your life, we can meet on the clouds

with Him. The famed Star Trek T.V. Series, and new Battle Star Galactica series, along with Star Wars and Encounters of the Third Kind movies have acclimatized us to possible extraterrestrial life forms and interplanetary travel. The most fantastic truth that impresses me is how the time of all of these coincides with the fascinating Biblical prophecies of the Rapture and the Second Coming of Jesus The Christ! I am ready for the Spectacular Encounter. Are you?

# The Three Armageddons

## 11

---

Revelation 16:16:

*“And they gathered them together to the place which in Hebrew is called Har-Magedon.”*

### I. MEANING

#### A. Geographical Location

When I was growing up in the city of Nazareth, a visit to the plains of Megeddo was a favorite trip. The major produce in the valley was wheat. For miles upon miles, waves of beautiful oceans of wheat spread before our eyes. They still plant wheat today. But, apples, bananas, radishes, onions, oranges, lemon and orange trees are raised plus, of all things, cotton.

For centuries, the plains have been called “the bread basket of Palestine”. Along with the Jordan valley, it is exactly that today.

#### B. Meaning of the word itself

The word itself has a very interesting meaning. Armageddon comes from Hebrew, "har" and "Mageddo". "Har" means hill and "mageddo" means cut off or slaughter. So the literal meaning of Armageddon is "the hill of the slaughter" or "the hill of the cut off." Military generals use the term, "Armageddon" as a reference to a world-wide holocaust; a major confrontation involving the entire world.

## **II. HISTORICAL FACTS**

A. As far as the scripture record is concerned, the first time Mageddo is mentioned is in Judges 5:19. It is in connection with General Barak and the prophetess Deborah. He and Deborah vanquished the Canaanites led by Sisera, their General. Read Judges 4 and 5 to enjoy the full extent of this extraordinary battle.

B. Other major battles took place across the centuries of time. In fact, Ahab was killed there, according to the prophecy of Elijah - I Kings 22:34-35. Moreover, in Oct. 31, 1918. General Allenby routed the Turkish forces at Mageddo. He was Knighted as "The Earl of Mageddo".

## **III. PROPHETICALLY**

Now, as far as prophecy is concerned, chapters 37-39 of Ezekiel, indicate three battles. Therefore, Armageddon will not be a single battle, rather it will be the war of Armageddon.

### **A. Ezekiel 37**

Chapter 37 deals with the restoration of Israel to the land. The dry bones is not material for revival preaching only. It is fundamentally a prophecy concerning Israel as a nation. Her spiritual restoration will be later. In fact, Ezekiel 37:10 tells how Israel will be a mighty military army. Thus Israel is now the seventh most powerful military force in the world. They can practically mobilize one million militia men in twenty-four hours.

### **B. Death and Destruction**

Verse 11:

*"Then He said to me, "Son of man, these bones are*

*the whole house of Israel; behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope has perished. We are completely cut off.' "*

What did Hitler do to them? Where did the American forces find them when they liberated Germany? If you have ever visited the museum near the Hill of Zion in Jerusalem, you can't help but weep and wonder how human beings can be so dispicable, diabolical and debased toward their kind.

C. Future Salvation from Death

The Word of God says in verse 14:

*"And I will put My Spirit within you, and you will come to life, and I will place you on your own land. Then you will know that I, 'the Lord, have spoken and done it,' declares the Lord."*

As an Arab, who loves the Lord Jesus, I can tell you this prophecy has been fulfilled today. But most Arabs neither know nor do they believe such prophecies.

D. Return to the Land

Verse 21 declares:

*"And say to them 'Thus says the Lord God, Behold, I will take the sons of Israel from among the nations where they have gone, and I will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land',"*

#### **IV. THE THREE BATTLES OF ARMAGEDDON**

A. Ezekiel 38 deals with the first battle of Mageddo.

*"And the word of the Lord came to me saying, "Son of man, set your face toward Gog of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him," (Ezekiel 38:1-2).*

1. "Gog" is a reference to the modern country of Russia.

“Meschech” is a reference to Moscow. The reference can be to two leading cities and to two tribes in that part of the Asian Continent.

2. Now we find in verse 3-6 the first battle as involving a coalition of the forces of North Africa and Russia.

*“And say, ‘Thus says the Lord God, ‘Behold, I am against you, O Gog, prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal. And I will turn you about, and put hooks into your jaws, and I will bring you out, and all your army, horses and horsemen, all of them splendidly attired, a great company with buckler and shield, all of them wielding swords; Persia, Ethiopia, and put with them, all of them with shield and helmet; Gomer with all its troops; Beth-togarmah from the remote parts of the north with all its troops—many peoples with you.’”*

3. To know before hand what will happen, we need to read verses 7-8:

*“Be prepared, and prepare yourself, you and all your companies that are assembled about you, and be a guard for them. After many days you will be summoned; in the latter years you will come into the land that is restored from the sword, whose inhabitants have been gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel which had been a continual waste; but its people were brought out from the nations, and they are living securely, all of them.”*

“In the latter years”, this expression is repeated again and again. Ezekiel prophesied, approximately six centuries before Jesus was born. The expression “in the latter years you will come into the land that is restored from the sword, whose inhabitants have been gathered from many nations”, has another additional phrase. It is “to the mountains of Israel.”

4. Furthermore, the prophet foretells that: They shall “live

securely, all of them". In other words, Armageddon will not take place any time soon. Because, first, there must be peace between the Arabs and the Jews, whereby Israel will feel they "are living securely".

Verse 9 reads:

*"And you will go up, you will come like a storm; you will be like a cloud covering the land, you and all your troops, and many peoples with you."*

Verse 10-11:

*"Thus says the Lord God, "It will come about on that day, that thoughts will come into your mind, and you will devise an evil plan, and you will say, 'I will go up against the land of unwalled villages.' I will go against those who are at rest, that live securely, all of them living without walls, and having no bars or gates."*

Right now Israel does not only have bars and gates, but also electronic surveillance equipment and mines all over its borders. There is no peace.

Verse 12 tells us why the battle:

*"...against the people who are gathered from the nations, who have acquired cattle and goods, who live at the center of the world."*

5. Armageddon will not take place now because Israel does not have many cattle. About eight years ago, a famous cattleman from Arizona, sent some beautiful heifers to the land of Israel. They are now raising them in the Golan Heights and I have seen them. There will be a land of cattle before long.

6. Interpreters conjecture that verse 20 is a reference to a thermo-nuclear war with an exchange of missiles:

*“And the fish of the sea, the birds of the heavens, the beasts of the field, all the creeping things that creep on the earth, and all the men who are on the face of the earth will shake at My presence; the mountains also will be thrown down, the steep pathways will collapse, and every wall will fall to the ground.”*

Verse 21 continues:

*“And I shall call for a sword against him on all My mountains” declares the Lord God. “Every man’s sword will be against his brother.”*

Perhaps we shall see this fulfilled in the first battle.

#### B. The Second Battle - 39

*“And you, son of man, prophesy against Gog, and say, ‘Thus says the Lord God, “Behold, I am against you, O God, prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal: and I shall turn you around.”’*

1. Apparently, there is a regrouping of forces. Maybe within the same year or else verse 9 will not be chronologically feasible.

In verse 2,

*“And I shall turn you around, drive you on, take you up from the remotest parts of the north, and bring you against the mountains of Israel.”*

Apparently now, Russia alone will come, without the others. The other allies were defeated in the first battle. There is no power in them, but Russia is still strong. Verse 3, “And I shall strike your bow from your left hand, and dash down your arrows from your right hand.”

2. It is possibly that between this battle and the first battle, the sophisticated military equipment and fighting material

would have been eliminated. Subsequently, this battle may indeed involve primitive weapons such as bows and arrows, horses and horsemen. In other words, what we refer to as "world disarmament" may become a reality between the first and second battle of Armageddon.

Now we read verses 4-6:

*"You shall fall on the mountains of Israel, you and all your troops, and the peoples who are with you; I shall give you as food to every kind of predatory bird and beast of the field. You will fall on the open field; for it is I who have spoken," declares the Lord God. And I shall send fire upon Magog and those who inhabit the coastlands in safety; and they will know that I am the Lord, the Holy One in Israel."*

3. Innumerable prophecy students claim that the entire verse speaks of an exchange of missiles between Russia and the United States.

Some prophecy experts believe the expression, "coastlands" is a reference to the United States of America. True, no nation in the world lives more "safely" and carefree than we do. Besides, in a real geographic sense, North America is an island.

We look now at verse 9:

*"Then those who inhabit the cities of Israel will go out and make fires with the weapons and burn them, both shields and bucklers, bows and arrows, war clubs and spears and for seven years they will make fires of them."*

4. One can be confused here about a time-lapse. Nonetheless, prophecy scholars consider that the seven years of tribulation detailed in Revelation with discrepancy of time is true only if the first and second battle are within 12 months of each other.

Therefore, we will have to conclude that the tribulation will be initiated at the first battle of Armageddon.

Verse 11 is outstanding as it sheds more light on details of the battle:

*“And it will come about on that day that I shall give Gog a burial ground there in Israel, the valley of those who pass by east of the sea, and it will block off the passers-by. So they will bury Gog there with all his multitude, and they will call it the valley of Hamon-gog. For seven months the house of Israel will be burying them in order to cleanse the land.”*

5. The purpose of God's intervention is enunciated in 39:28-29:

*“Then they will know that I am the Lord their God because I made them go into exile among the nations, and then gathered them again to their own land; and I will leave none of them there any longer. And I will not hide My face from them any longer, for I shall have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel, declares the Lord God.”*

The spiritual awakening must be preceded by the restoration to the land. Since that is what took place 1948, 1967, we eagerly await the fulfillment of the rest of this prophecy soon.

6. Hosea, the prophet foresaw the outcome of this second battle which ushers the millennium:

*“In that day I will also make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, the birds of the sky, and the creeping things of the ground. And I will abolish the bow, the sword, and war from the land, and will make them lie down in safety. And I will betroth you to Me forever; Yes, I will betroth you to Me in righteousness*

*and in justice, in lovingkindness and in compassion, and I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness. Then you will know the Lord. And it will come about in that day that I will respond, declares the Lord. I will respond to the heavens, and they will respond to the earth, and the earth will respond to the grain, to the new wine, and to the oil, and they will respond to Jezreel. And I will sow her for Myself in the land. I will also have compassion on her who had not obtained compassion, and I will say to those who were not My people, you are My people! And they will say, 'Thou art my God!' "* Hosea 2:18-23.

### C. The Third Battle

1. According to Revelation 20:14, 10, the concluding battle of Armageddon over the land of Israel will take place now. "And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue, Armageddon." Apparently, that is the involvement of the demonic and diabolical satanic forces against the forces of our Lord Jesus when the Millennium is concluded.

At that instant God's Son, Jesus, the Christ, will intervene in this battle of battles, bringing to pass the ultimate hope of mankind. How grateful we are to the Lord Jesus for such love and power.

2. Ezekiel speaks of Gog before the Millennium, while John writes of Gog after the Millennium. The following contrasts should clarify this point:

#### Before Millennium

#### After Millennium

Ezekiel 39:20  
38:15  
38:7  
38:21-22

Rev. 20:9  
20:8  
20:7-8  
20:10, 14

3. II Peter 3:1-10 must be accepted as the evidence for the third and final battle of Armageddon.

*"This is now, beloved, the second letter I am writing to you which I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, that you should remember the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken by your apostles. Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation. For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water, through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water. But the present heavens and earth by His word are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up."*

It is at this juncture in God's eternal plan that the wheel of time ceases and eternity-future begins. (Rev. 20:7-15; 21:1-4).

Will you be with Jesus forever?

## The Mystifying Millennium

# 12

---

Revelation 20:1-7:

*“And I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, and threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he should not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.”*

*“And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of the testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshipped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark upon their forehead and upon their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for*

*a thousand years."*

*"The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years. And when the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison."*

## **I. THE MEANING**

### **A. Latin Origin**

Revelation 20 contains that intriguing part of the Scripture where a thousand years' reign of Christ on earth is recorded. Theologically the term is "millennium". However, it does not appear as such in the Bible. It is rather a Latin word.

### **B. Difficult Questions**

1. Of course, numerous questions come to mind. One is, "Why will heaven on earth be only for a Thousand years instead of forever?" Another is: "Will the millennium usher heaven on earth, or is it somewhere else?" There are many more questions which neither I nor anybody else can ever answer. But, I trust the Word of God and from it I will answer what I can.

2. Revelation 20 has phrases such as "...he must be released for a short time." "Why would the devil be inactive for a thousand years, then released at the end of a thousand years?" I do not know.

## **II. TERTULLIAN'S VIEW OF THE MILLENNIUM**

### **A. His Battle with Marcian**

One of the most famous church fathers, Tertullian, delved into eschatology and the idea of the millennium in the second century. He was a prolific writer. The most

voluminous of his writings was a book called **Against Marcian**. Marcian finally was judged to be a heretic and was excommunicated by the church fathers. But Tertullian's book contained for us what we could call the first real and clear statement of the belief of the second coming.

#### B. His Division of Revelation

1. Natural history which includes the self revelation of God through nature.

2. The self revelation of God through history.

#### D. His Division of History

Tertullian divided history into three periods:

1. The Law and the Prophets

2. The Gospels

3. The Holy Spirit, ending with the visible return of Jesus Christ.

It is obvious, therefore, that the belief of the early church concerning the return of the Lord is solid.

### III. AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO'S VIEW CONCERNING THE MILLENNIUM

#### A. His background

His mother was a praying woman who loved the Lord dearly. Augustine was a professor of Philosophy, immoral, independent, libertine, living with a woman from whom he had a baby. They were never married.

#### B. His mother's influence in His salvation

Nevertheless, his godly mother prayed for him earnestly and loved him sincerely. One day, there was a church building dedication. So he went with her and told her, "Mother, since you like to pray so much, why don't you spend the night in the building and pray for me?" She replied, "On one condition, if I do, you will still be here in the morning." She had heard about his ideas. He wanted to leave town for a far away place. There was on ship at the port that day for Hippo was a sea coast town in North Africa.

#### C. Ambrose's Influence

In the morning the godly, praying, old mother missed her son. The only ship which was at the port was gone. But wait and see the effects of the prayers of a devoted mother. Augustine, the aggressive young rebel took off on the boat and sailed to Milan, Italy. Even before he sailed he had heard about Ambrose, who was an eloquent, articulate, and brilliant pastor and orator.

Augustine was also extremely intrigued with literature and speech because he was a professor of both. So he went in to hear Ambrose at the famous church. Captivated by Ambrose's eloquence, Augustine came back again and again. You can imagine what happened. Augustine was moved by God's spirit through Ambrose and opened his heart to Jesus Christ in a glorious experience becoming a follower of the Lord.

#### D. The Drastic Conversion

He even came back home to his mother in Hippo as a changed man. This brilliant man, for whom his mother prayed for over thirty years, became one of the most eloquent philosophers of Christianity. A drastic change had taken place in his life. One day he was walking down the street. His former paramour followed him hollering, "Augustine, Augustine, don't you remember me? Don't you remember me?" He turned to look at her affirming: "The Augustine you knew has died and is buried. You are looking at another Augustine."

Later declaring to her friends, she honestly confessed that what he said was literally true. For he was a different man! He even looked different! You know the grace of God—it can produce such impossibilities.

#### E. His View

Now, what does he say? Augustine, as a foremost theologian of the tenth century, believed that the Millennium is only symbolic. The time span of a thousand years covers the period between the first coming and His return. Jesus will come in his own time and therefore the millennium is

symbolic.

#### **IV. THE PAST MILLENNIUM VIEW**

Most Christians are not aware of this, but the past millennium is believed to have begun at 400 A.D., when Constantine declared that Christianity was the religion of the Roman Empire. From the 4th century A.D. through the 14th, we have what is called The Thousand Year Reign of the Church. The Church was above rulers and reigned as the Supreme force in human affairs.

To me, the whole era was a tragedy because, this so-called millennium, is also called in secular history, "The Dark Ages." Surely, if this were the church of Jesus Christ, the period would have been called: "The Age of Enlightenment", would it not?

The Pope was one who opposed, deposed, or appointed Kings and rulers at will. The Bible was chained to podiums and desks, read only by priests and no common people were allowed to even touch it. This, so called "Millennium" ended when the Ottoman Turks overran the Middle East, controlling the whole area for 400 turbulent years.

#### **V. THE POST-MILLENNIUM VIEW**

After a thousand years of tranquility and peace achieved by Man's improvement and advances in all fields of society, Jesus will come. At that time the end of everything takes place. Therefore, Jesus comes for judgment upon the earth, ending time and beginning eternity, subsequent to Man's 1,000 years of peace.

#### **VI. A - MILLENNIUM VIEW**

When Jesus comes, no Millennium is intended here, that is the end. There will be neither one thousand years before He comes nor one thousand years after. Whenever Christ comes,

that is the end of civilization, mankind, time and the world.

Of course, we have people with funny ideas who say there is a "Pan-Millennium." They declare that this whole doctrine will "pan out". Others announce: "I am Pro-Millennium." What they mean is, "I'm for it, whatever it is."

## VIII. PRE-MILLENNIUM VIEW

As far as I am able to discern, graduates of our famous seminaries are indoctrinated in the Theological position of A-Millennialism. Nevertheless, as one's own Bible study increases, he discovers the Pre-Millennialism view to be the strongest. So was my personal experience after my study of the Word of God.

I remember that, Adrian Rogers asked me about 12 years ago, when I arrived in America, what I believed about the second coming of Christ. I confided: "I am an A-Millennial one day, and a Pre-Millennial the next."

Now I am convinced, in my mind and heart, that the Word of God teaches that Jesus will come in person. He will reign here on earth for one thousand years. The destruction of the world will take place at the third and last battle of Armageddon when the thousand years are over. Then the new heaven and the new earth will appear out of the chaos of Armageddon.

In the office of Dr. Washington Watts, a former New Orleans Seminary professor, who died a few years ago, I have always admired a particular large picture. It was very unusual because it depicted an artist's understanding of exactly what the vision of Prophet Isaiah foretold in 11:6-9:

*"And the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the kid, and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little boy will lead them. Also the cow and the bear will graze; their young will lie down together; and the lion will eat straw like the ox. And the nursing child will play by the hole*

*of the cobra, and the weaned child will put his hand on the viper's den. They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea."*

The thousand years reign of Jesus, I believe, will take place soon. Our Lord will descend bodily on the Mount of Olives as Zechariah announced 2400 years ago in Chapter 14:4:

*"And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south."*

Meanwhile, we praise the Lord that Jesus is coming again. Whether He comes for you and me in death or comes for all of His true followers in the rapture let us heed His admonition. "Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming" (Matt. 24:42).

## VIII. THE MILLENNIAL REIGN

Numerous passages give substantive material concerning this magnificent time in God's Supernatural plan of the ages.

### A. Universal Peace

*"And He will judge between many peoples and render decisions for mighty, distant nations. Then they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they train for war."* (Micah 4:3).

### B. Righteousness Will Prevail

#### 1. Isaiah 9:7:

*"There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this."*

2. Isaiah 11:5:

*"Also righteousness will be the belt about His loins, and faithfulness the belt about His waist."*

3. Isaiah 32:16-17:

*"Then justice will dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness will abide in the fertile field. And the work of righteousness will be peace, and the service of righteousness, quietness and confidence forever."*

C. Holiness Will Characterize The Land And The People  
Zechariah 14:20-21:

*"In that day there will be inscribed on the bells of the horses, "HOLY TO THE LORD." And the cooking pots in the Lord's house will be like the bowls before the altar. And every cooking pot in Jerusalem and in Judah will be holy to the Lord of hosts; and all who sacrifice will come and take of them and boil in them. And there will no longer be a merchant in the house of the Lord of hosts in that day."*

D. Sickness Will Disappear

1. Isaiah 29:18:

*"And on that day the deaf shall hear words of a book, and out of their gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind shall see."*

2. Isaiah 33:34:

*"And no resident will say, 'I am sick'; The people who dwell there will be forgiven their iniquity."*

3. Isaiah 35:5-6:

*"Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, and the ears of the deaf will be unstopped. Then the lame will leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb will shout for joy. For waters will break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert."*

E. Longevity is the By-product

Isaiah 65:20:

*"No longer will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does live out his days; for the youth will die at the age of one hundred and the one who does not reach the age of one hundred shall be thought accursed."*

F. Adam's Curse is Lifted

1. Isaiah 35:1-2:

*"The wilderness and the desert will be glad, and the desert will rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it will blossom profusely and rejoice with rejoicing and shout of joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They will see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God."*

2. Isaiah 30:23-24:

*"Then He will give you rain for the seed which you will sow in the ground, and bread from the yield of the ground, and it will be rich and plenteous; on that day your livestock will graze in a roomy pasture. Also the oxen and the donkeys which work the ground, will eat*

*salted fodder, which has been winnowed with shovel and fork."*

3. Amos 9:13:

*"Behold, days are coming," declares the Lord, when the plowman will overtake the reaper and the treader of grapes him who sows seed; when the mountains will drip sweet wine, and all the hills will be dissolved."*

4. Isaiah 65:25:

*"The wolf and the lamb shall graze together, and the lion shall eat straw like the ox; and dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall do no evil or harm in all My holy mountain," says the Lord."*

G. The Universe is Under the Reign of Christ  
Philippians 2:9-11:

*"Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."*

**AMEN!**

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

### A. PERIODICALS

The Alabama Baptist, Alabama Baptist Convention, Birmingham, Alabama, February 14, 1979.

Christian Life, Christian Life Inc., Wheaton, Illinois, May, 1974 Issue; February, 1976 Issue.

The Commission, The Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, Richmond, Virginia, 1970 through February, 1979.

Eternity, Evangelical Ministries, Inc., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, May, 1974 Issue.

Moody Monthly, Moody Bible Institute, Chicago, Illinois, March, 1974.

New York Times, Times, Inc., New York, New York, October 2, 1970 Issue.

Time, Time Inc., New York, New York, Selected issues from 1967 through 1977.

### B. BOOKS

Roy Allan Anderson and Jay Milton Hoffman, All Eyes on Israel. Fort Worth, Texas: Harvest Press, Inc., 1976.

Atlas of the Bible Lands, Hammond Inc., Maplewood, New Jersey

Avi-Yonah, Michael, et al., Archaeology. Jerusalem, Israel: Keter Publishing House, 1974.

Avi-Yonah, Michael, The Holy Land. London: Thames and Hudson, 1972.

Avi Yonah, Michael, et al., Views of the Biblical World. 5 vols. Jerusalem-Ramat Gan, Israel: International Publishing Company, Ltd., 1961.

Biederwolf, William E., The Second Coming Bible. Grand Rapids Michigan: Baker Book House, 1972.

Bishko, Herbert, Look at Jerusalem. Jerusalem, Israel: Palphot, Ltd. n.d.

Cragg, Kenneth, Sandals at the Mosque. New York, New York: Oxford University Press, 1959.

Cribb, C. C., Armageddon Dead Ahead. Raleigh, North Carolina: Manhattan, Ltd. Publishers, 1977.

- DeHaan, Richard W., Israel and the Nations in Prophecy. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1968.
- Dehan, Emmanuel, Our Visit to Israel. Tel Aviv, Israel: Emmanuel Dehan, 1973.
- Duncan, Alistair, The Noble Sanctuary. London: Longman Group Limited, 1972.
- Eddleman, H. Leo, Last Things. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1969.
- Eddleman, H. Leo, The Second Coming. Nashville, Tennessee: Broadman Press, 1963.
- Fehr, Dr. Edward, Prophetic Bible Course. Hoisington, Kansas: Prophetic Conference Bureau, 1950.
- Fodor, Eugene, Fodor's Israel 1973. New York: David McKay Company, Inc., 1973.
- Fried, Ralph, Reaching Arabs for Christ. Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1947.
- Gaster, Theodor H., The Dead Sea Scriptures. Garden City, New York, 1956.
- Halley, Henry H., Halley's Bible Handbook, 23rd Edition, Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1962.
- Harding, G. Lankester, The Antiquities of Jordan. London: Lutterworth Press, 1959.
- James Hefley and Marti Hefley, Arabs, Christians, and Jews. Plainfield, New Jersey: Logos International, 1978.
- James Hefley and Marti Hefley, The Liberated Palestinian. Wheaton, Illinois: Victor Books, 1975.
- Hussein, King of Jordan, Uneasy Lies the Head. New York: Bernard Geis Associates, 1962.
- Kirban, Salem, The Beginning of Sorrows. Chicago, Illinois: Moody Press, 1972.
- Lambert, Lance, Israel: A Secret Documentary. Wheaton, Illinois: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1975.
- Lindsay, Gordon, The Miracle of Israel. Dallas, Texas: Christ for the Nations Publishing Company, 1970.

Lindsey, Hal, The Late Great Planet Earth. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1970.

Lindsey, Hal, et al, When is Jesus Coming Again. Carol Stream, Illinois: Creation House, 1974.

Logson, S. Franklin, Is the U.S. in Prophecy? Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1968.

Thomas S. McCall and Zola Levitt, Satan in the Sanctuary. Chicago, Illinois: Moody Press, 1972.

Newman, Paul S., Land of the Bible. Norwalk, Connecticut: C. R. Gibson Company, 1974.

Odle, Joe T., The Coming of the King. Nashville, Tennessee: Broadman Press, 1974.

Roger, Jean, The Land of Jesus. Tel Aviv, Israel: Sadan Publishing House, 1974.

Shorosh, Anis, The Fig Tree. Mobile, Alabama: Anis Shorosh Evangelistic Association, 1973.

Shorosh, Anis, The Ultimate Reality. Mobile, Alabama: Anis Shorosh Evangelistic Association, 1971.

Shorosh, Anis, Where Jesus Walked: A Pilgrim's Guidebook. Mobile, Alabama: Anis Shorosh Evangelistic Association, 1978.

Signs and Wonders in Rabbath-Ammon, Privately published by S. B. Kawar, Amman, Jordah, n.d.

Strauss, Lehman, The End of This Present World. Grand Rapids Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1967.

Summers, Ray, Worthy is the Lamb, Nashville, Tennessee: Broadman Press, 1951.

Tatford, Frederick A., The Climax of the Ages: Studies in the Prophecy of Daniel, Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1953.

Tatford, Frederick A. God's Program of the Ages. Grand Rapids Michigan: Kregel Publication, 1967.

The Koran, Translated by J. M. Rodwell, Everyman's Library, Dutton, New York, New York, 1909.

Wilkerson, David, The Vision. New York: Pyramid Communications, Inc., 1974

Witty, Robert G., Signs of the Second Coming. Nashville, Tennessee: Broadman Press, 1969.

The World Book Encyclopedia, Field Enterprises Educational Corporation, Chicago, Illinois, 1976.

Yamamoto, The Moon Doctrine. Madison, Wisconsin: Inter-Varsity, 1977.

#### C. BIBLES

Holy Bible, Arabic Translation. Beirut, Lebanon, Near East Bible Society, 1962.

The Living Bible, Paraphrased. Wheaton, Illinois: Tyndale House Publishers, 1971.

Holy Bible, King James Version. A. J. Holman Co. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: J. B. Lippincott, 1942.

Holy Bible, Prophecy Edition. Westwood, New Jersey: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1957.

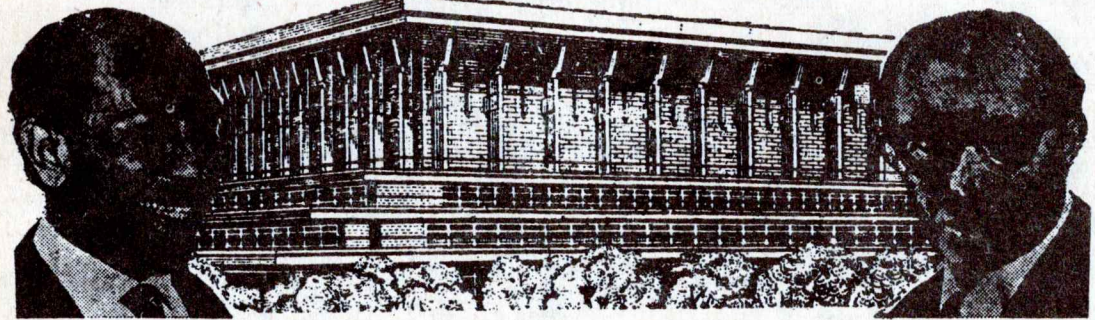
Holy Bible, New American Standard, La Habra, California: The Lockman Foundation, 1973.

The Second Coming Bible, William E. Biederwolf. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Dickinson Brothers, Inc., 1972.

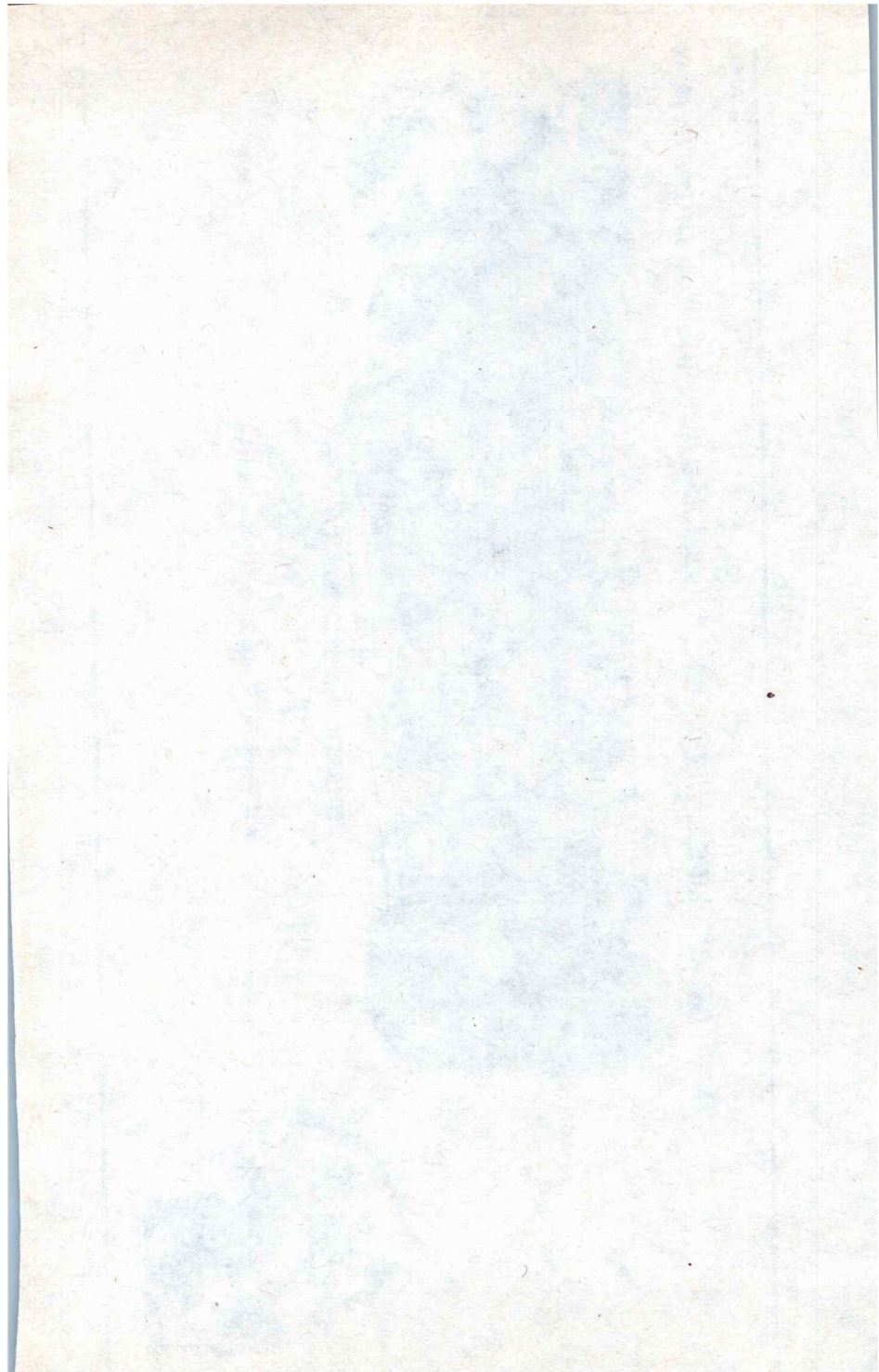
שים שלום טובה וברכה... (מתוך התפילה)

افنمنا السلام اکنز والبرکة

BRING PEACE GOODNESS AND BLESSING



ANWAR SADAT IN JERUSALM, 19-21/11/1977 \* בכסלו תשל"ח. יי אנואר סאדאת בירושלים.



ORDER BLANK

BOOKS

_____	Islam Revealed: A Christian Arab's View of Islam . . .	15.00
_____	The Exciting Discovery of the Ark of the Covenant . . .	5.00
_____	Precious Bible Promises . . . . .	12.00
_____	Dialogue with Muslims, Dr. Ray Register . . . . .	5.00
_____	Arabic Bible. . . . .	10.00
_____	Arabic New Testament. . . . .	5.00
_____	The Liberated Palestinian (Available July 91) . . . . .	7.00
_____	Jesus, Prophecy & the Middle East (Available July 91) . . .	8.00

AUDIO CASSETTE TAPES

_____	With Love From Russia . . . . .	5.00
_____	The Liberated Palestinian narrated by Dr. Shorrosh. . .	5.00
_____	The Exciting Discovery of the Ark of the Covenant . . .	5.00
_____	2 hr. London debate, "Is Jesus God," (Shorrosh, Deedat). .	10.00
_____	"The Quran and the Bible, Which is God's Word?" Birmingham, England, 1988, Shorrosh and Deedat debate . . . . .	15.00
_____	Islam Revealed: A Christian Arab's View of Islam, 6-cassette tape album narrated by Dr. Shorrosh. . . . .	20.00
_____	Jesus, Prophecy & the Middle East. 4-cassette tape album narrated by Dr. Shorrosh. . . . .	15.00
_____	National T.V. Christian and Muslim discussion between Chris- tian and Muslim scholars, 2 hrs. (Available July 91). .	10.00
_____	Specially for Muslims (3 Arabic and English messages) . .	20.00
_____	The Quran, Word of God or Muhammed, Badawi & Shorrosh .	10.00
_____	Divinity of Jesus -- Christian & Muslim Perspective . .	10.00
_____	Issues Christians Raise with Muslims (Arabic only). . .	10.00

VIDEOS

_____	National T.V. Christian and Muslim discussion between Christian and Muslim scholars 2 hrs. (Available July 91)	20.00
_____	The Quran, Word of God or Muhammad Dr. Badawi & Dr. Shorrosh, 2 hours . . . . .	20.00
_____	Divinity of Jesus -- Christian & Muslim Perspective . .	20.00
_____	Issues Christians Raise with Muslims (Arabic only). . .	20.00
_____	Heritage U.S.A., Interview, Testimony, Islam Challenge.	20.00
_____	2 hr. London debate, "Is Jesus God," (Shorrosh, Deedat)	20.00
_____	"The Quran and the Bible, Which is God's Word?" Birmingham, England, 1988, Shorrosh and Deedat debate . . . . .	20.00
_____	Where Jesus Walked," a 1 hr. Holy Land presentation . .	20.00
_____	Specially for Muslims, 1 hr. (Arabic and English) . . .	20.00
_____	The Dangerous Encounter of Capetown S. Africa debate. .	20.00

Sub-Total \_\_\_\_\_

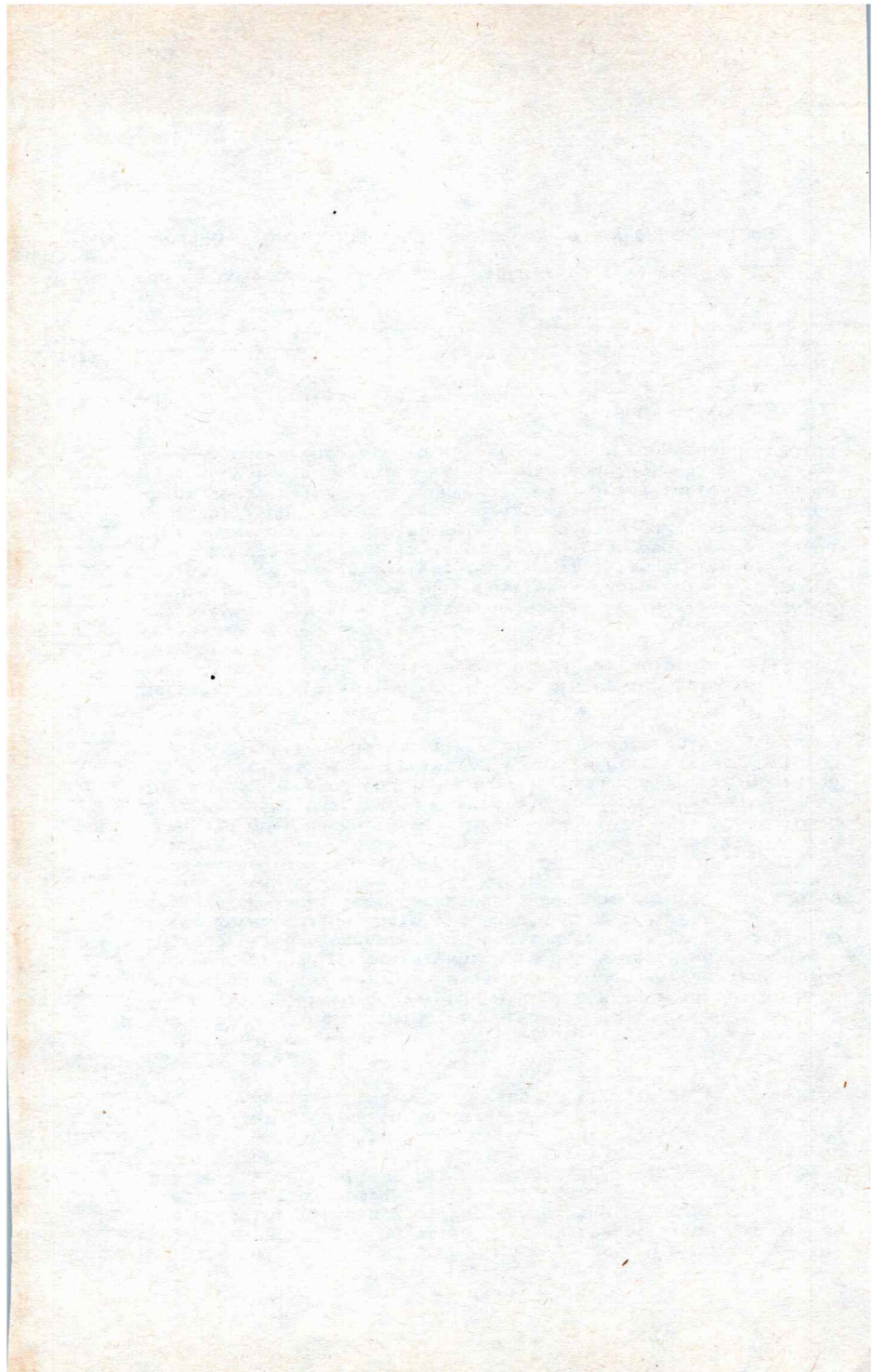
Please Add 10% For Postage (20% for overseas)

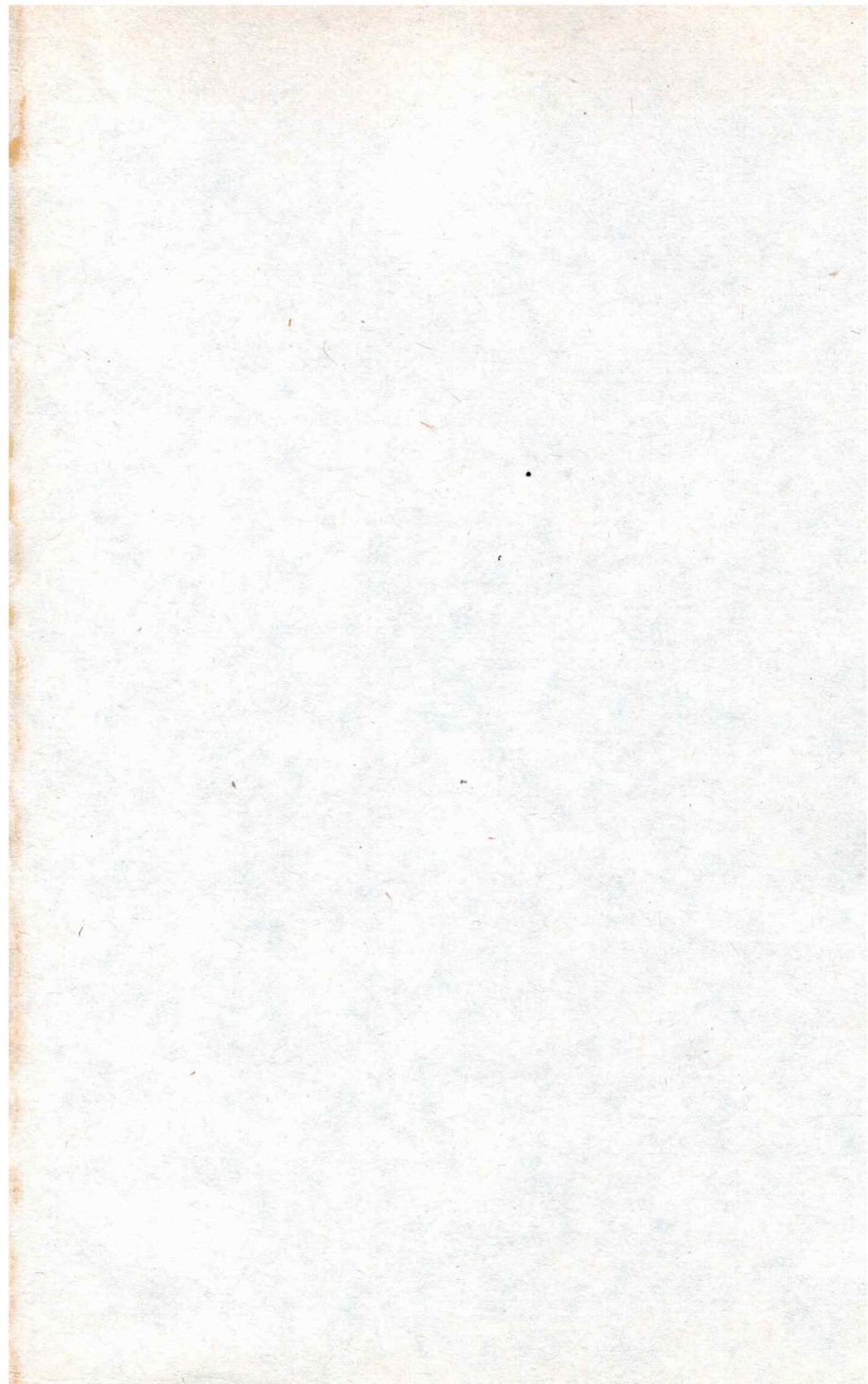
TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

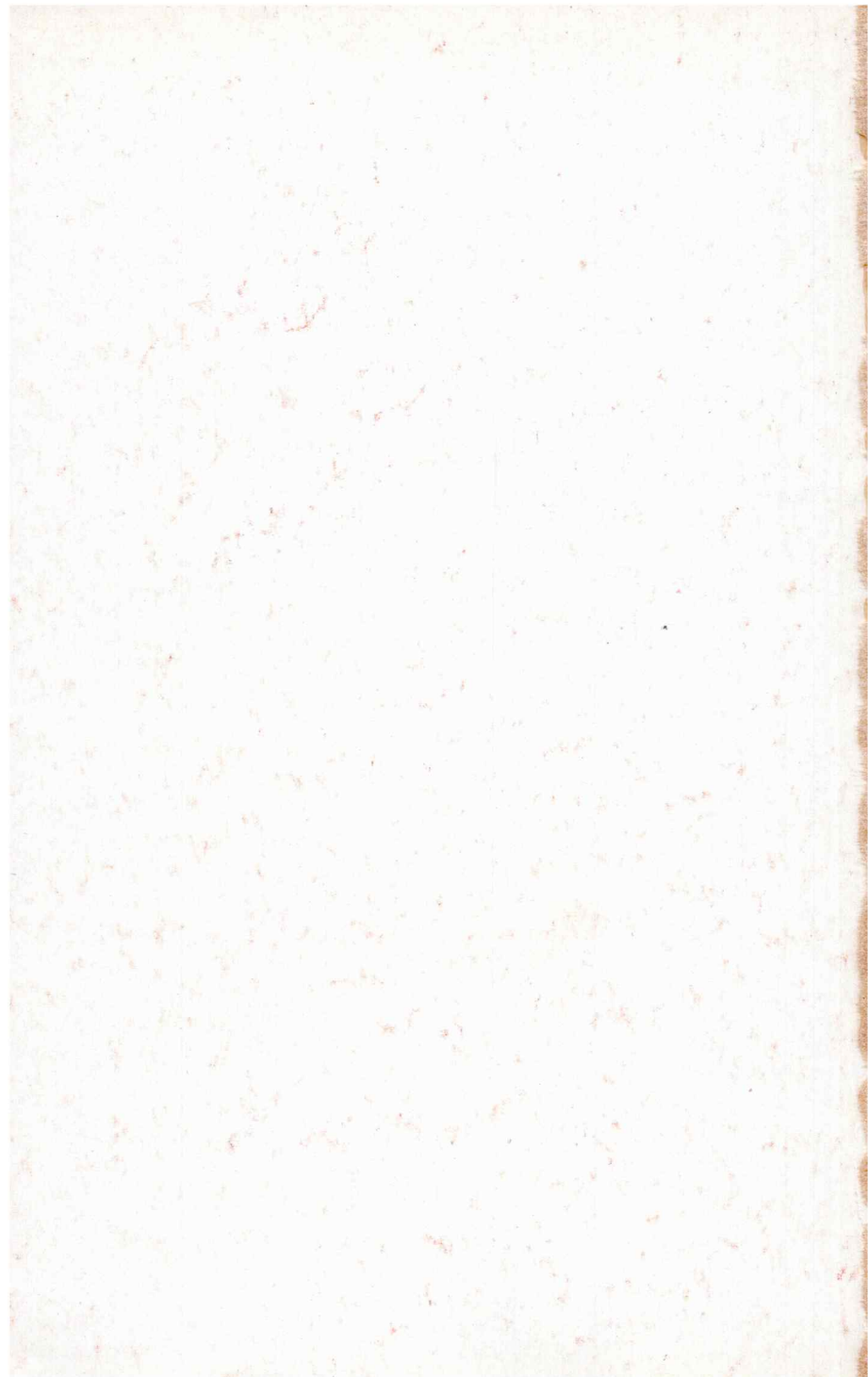
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Country \_\_\_\_\_

Please add me to your mailing list: Monthly \_\_\_\_\_ Quarterly \_\_\_\_\_

(ALL PAYMENTS IN U.S. DOLLARS, CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS, THANKS!)









Dr. Anis A. Shorrosh

## About The Author

Dr. Anis A. Shorrosh is a native of Nazareth, the hometown of Jesus, the Christ. He leads a semi-annual pilgrimage to his home land, and this keeps him up with developments first hand.

Graduate of Clarke Jr. College and Mississippi College. His Master of Divinity was earned at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Doctor of Ministry at Luther Rice Seminary.

Served as pastor and evangelist in the Middle East from 1959-1966. For three years, he was also pastor of the Baptist Church in East Jerusalem.

1966, responded to God's definite call to world evangelism while at Emmaus, near Jerusalem. Now, through the Shorrosh Evangelistic Association, supports National evangelists in India, Nepal, and the Holy Land.

Author of several books, such as: *The Ultimate Reality; An Ambassador for Jesus; Where Jesus Walked; A Pilgrim's Guidebook.*

Subject of a best-seller, *The Liberated Palestinian*, published by Victor Books and written by James and Marti Hefley.

Producer of 16mm documentary, "*Where Jesus Walked*". Each has been presented as T.V. specials.

Selected to appear in *Who's Who in Religion; Who's Who in the South* and *Dictionary of International Biography.*

Is married to the former Nell Martz, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. A. O. Martz of Enterprise, Alabama. Anis and Nell live in Mobile Metropolitan area and are parents of four children, Salam, Paul, Steve and Victoria.

## About the Book

This small volume on prophecy is full of dynamic truth, different approaches to prophecy, and dramatic predictions of things to come.

The author, a native of Nazareth, and a former pastor in Jerusalem brings fresh insight into the most explosive subjects of our time, the Middle East and Prophecy.

His no-nonsense approach is biblical, historical, logical. Current information comes through in readable, descriptive, and graphic English.

He solves the Mystery of the Fig Tree and also indicates the time-table Jesus gave to the disciples concerning His Return.

The chapter dealing with "Who is the Anti-Christ?", delves into the inter-biblical, the Roman, and the Christian periods, even coming right up to this very hour.

"Three Armageddons" may sound fantastic. If so, it is because it may make more sense than any previous prophetic approach.

The chapter on "The Arabs in Prophecy" is informative and inspiring. Even the recent Carter, Begin and Sadat meetings are dealt with in the light of prophetic scripture.

Also, one will really enjoy the informative chapters on "The Rapture" and "The Mystifying Millennium". Their depth, and the dramatic narration of these exciting and approaching events is apt to cause the reader to cry out: "Even so, come Lord Jesus."