



LAMPLIGHTER

"Prophecy is like a lamp shining in a dark place." - II Peter 1:19

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**The
Middle East Crisis
in Biblical Perspective**



Observations by the Editor

Praising God for Supporters

The Lamplighter

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The Lamplighter is free of charge to anyone requesting it. Lamb & Lion Ministries is a non-denominational ministry whose purpose is to proclaim to as many people as possible as quickly as possible that Jesus is returning soon.

When I recently spoke at a church in the Los Angeles area, I began with the following comment: "It's always interesting to me to come to southern California because it gives me an opportunity to see what we will be wearing in Texas five years from now!"

A few weeks later a couple who was at that church came to our Prophecy Partner Conference (page 18), and in the middle of the conference, they presented me with the shirt I am wearing in the adjacent photo. They said they didn't want me to have to wait five years.

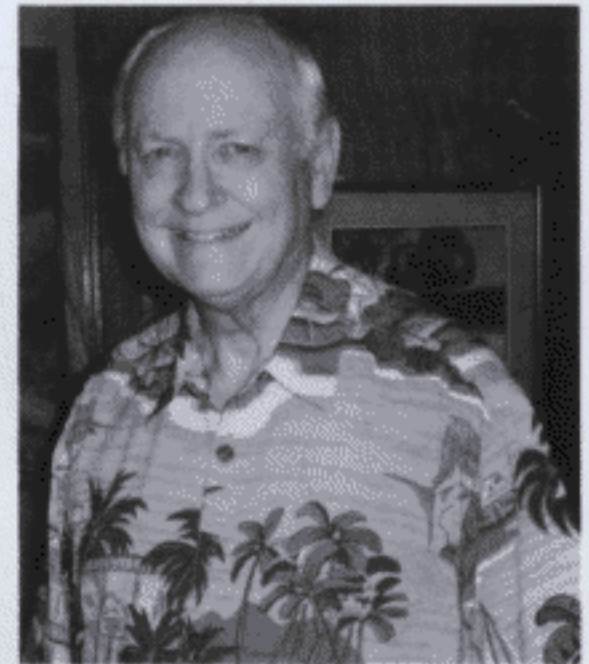
I love supporters like that. We are always being blessed by special gifts of one kind or another from both Prophecy Partners and other supporters. For example, we have quite a collection of lamb and lion figurines. But even more precious are the phone calls, letters, and email messages that we receive daily from people who take the time to tell us how this ministry is blessing them.

Important too are the generous financial gifts that we receive each day that make it possible for us to reach multitudes of people with the message of the Lord's soon return.

In this issue, in the Ministry News section (page 19), we tell about the generous responses we have received to recent fund-raising campaigns, both for this ministry's needs and the needs of others. In that regard, let me say that I am always thrilled when God uses Lamb & Lion as a channel of blessings to other ministries, families and persons.

A New Challenge

We are currently facing the biggest fund-raising challenge in the ministry's history. We need to raise approximately \$100,000 in the next few months to pay for the launching of a weekly television program. Such a program would enable us to expand our outreach from hundreds of thousands to millions.



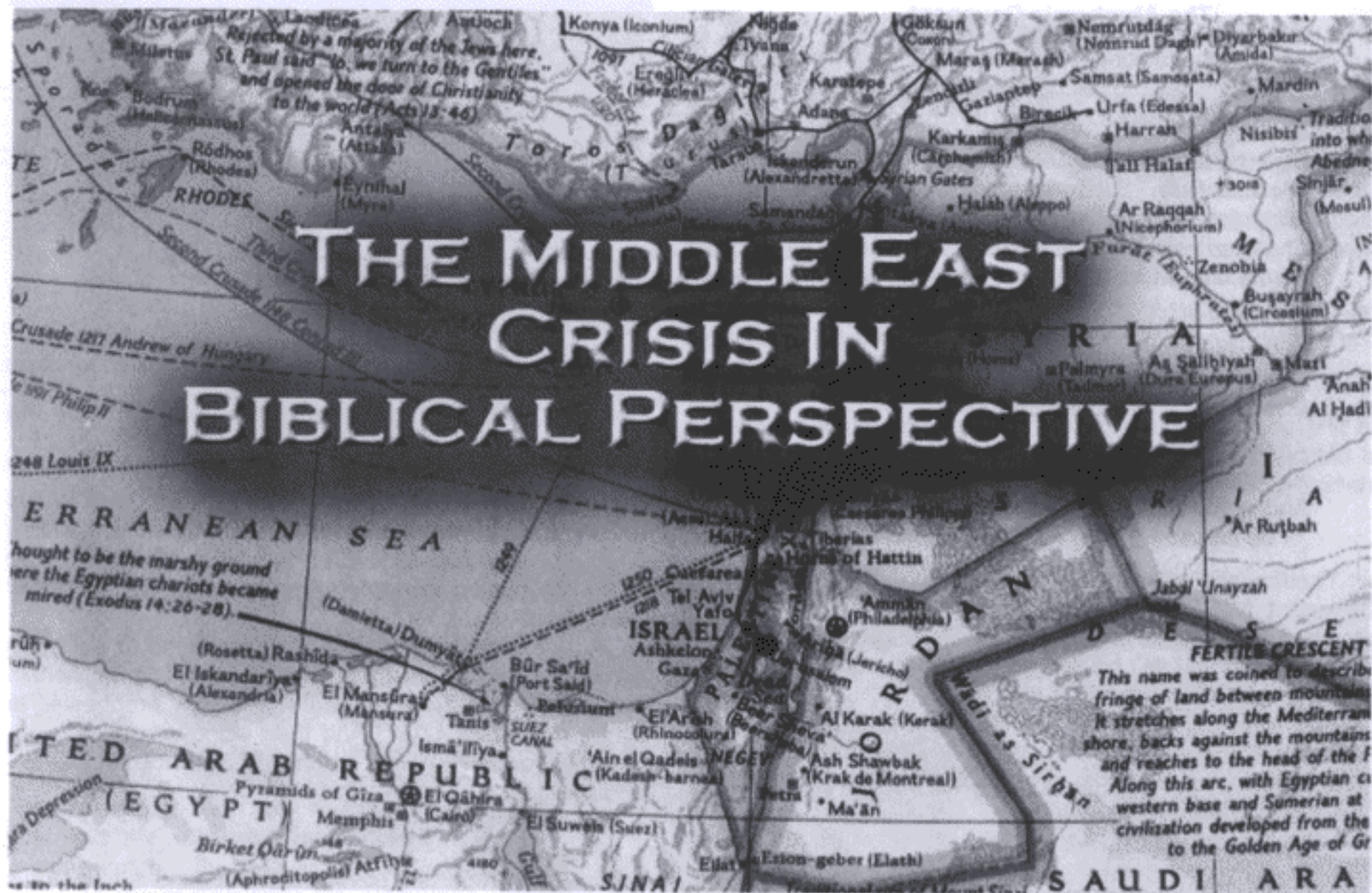
Dr. David Reagan

We began to feel the Lord's leading to get on television about five years ago. We responded by producing two pilot programs, but in the process, we were overwhelmed by the costs. Each program cost almost \$15,000 to produce, leaving us with no funds for broadcast.

That's when we decided to build our own production facility. Through your generosity, the Lord provided us with all the funds we needed to build a video studio and equip it with state-of-the-art equipment. The Lord also led us to a wonderful media director, Don Gordon.

Last spring we produced a new pilot program which is now being evaluated by a major Christian network. Copies of the program were sent to all our Prophecy Partners. If you would like to see a copy, call our office at 1-800-705-8316 and ask for the "TV Pilot Program." We will send you a copy for \$5, including the cost of mailing. Then, after you watch it, give us your feedback.

And in the meantime, pray about helping us to raise the \$100,000 we need to produce and broadcast a first class program that will truly honor the Lord and touch millions of lives with the message that Jesus is returning soon. Thank you! ✝



Thoughts by Dr. David R. Reagan

“Why don't those stubborn Jews just give the Arabs the West Bank so that there can be peace in the Middle East?”

The question was directed to me by a grumpy man I was sitting next to on an airplane.

Suspecting that the man did not have the foggiest idea what he was talking about, I responded with a question: “Where is the West Bank?”

“You know,” he said.

“Yes, I know, but do you?”

“Well, of course I know!” he snapped.

“Okay then, where is it?” I asked again, insisting that he answer.

“Well . . . well . . .” he sputtered, “the West Bank is the west bank of the Nile!”

It was all I could do to refrain from laughing out loud. Yet, it really wasn't a laughing matter. Here was a man demanding the Israelis surrender the West Bank when he had no idea where the West Bank was even located. He was embarrassed when I explained that the west bank of the Nile belongs to Egypt, not Israel. And he was astounded when I pointed out that if Israel were to surrender the real West Bank, the nation would be left in an indefensible position, being only 9 miles wide at its narrowest point.

My conversation with this man was a typical one concerning the complexities of Middle East politics. Most people know little, if anything, about the area except the

anti-Israel propaganda they have heard through biased media sources. Yet, they are willing to sit in their comfortable homes halfway around the world and pontificate about how the Israelis need to stop being so stubborn and start surrendering land for peace.

Much has been written about the Middle East crisis from a political perspective, but it will never be understood apart from its spiritual roots, for it is, from start to finish, a spiritual conflict — which is why it will never be settled politically.



The Abrahamic Covenant

The controlling factor spiritually is a promise which God made to Abraham almost 4,000 years ago. That promise is contained in Genesis 12:1-3:

1. Now the Lord said to Abram,
"Go forth from your country,
And from your relatives
And from your father's house
To the land which I will show you;
2. And I will make you a great nation,
And I will bless you,
And make your name great;
And so you shall be a blessing;
3. And I will bless those who bless you,
And the one who curses you I will curse.
And in you all the families of the earth shall
be blessed."

Theologians refer to this passage as the Abrahamic Covenant. Note that it contains a series of unconditional promises. Never once does God say, "If you will do so-and-so . . ." or "If you will be faithful . . ." The promises are absolute and unconditional.

And what glorious promises they are! God promises Abraham a land, a nation, a great name, protection, and — most important of all — that through him all nations will be blessed. The latter promise referred, of course, to the fact that the Messiah, the Savior of the world, would come through Abraham's lineage.

The Lord appeared to Abraham six additional times to reaffirm this covenant (Genesis 12:7; 13:14-16; 15:1-6; 15:8-21; 17:1-8; and 22:15-18). In these subsequent appearances, God declared that the covenant was an "everlasting" one (Genesis 17:7-8), and He spelled out the boundaries of the land in detail as encompassing most of what is referred to today as the Middle East (Genesis 15:18-21). The covenant was reaffirmed to Abraham's son, Isaac (Genesis 26:1-5), and to Isaac's son, Jacob (Genesis 28:3-4, 13-14 and 35:10-12).

A thousand years later, King David affirmed the continuing validity of the Abrahamic Covenant in Psalm 105:

8. He [God] has remembered His covenant
forever,
The word which He commanded to a thousand
generations,
9. The covenant which He made with Abraham,
And His oath to Isaac.
10. Then He confirmed it to Jacob for a statute,
To Israel as an everlasting covenant,
11. Saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan
As the portion of your inheritance."

The Abrahamic Covenant establishes title to the land in the Middle East. That title belongs to the Jewish people forever — with no ands, ifs, or buts.

Their use and enjoyment of the land is, however, conditional upon their obedience to God. This fact was established by a second covenant given through Moses right before the Children of Israel entered the land of

"God's gift of the land was unconditional. The Jews were given an irrevokable, eternal title. But the use and enjoyment of the land was conditional upon their obedience."

Canaan. This covenant, often referred to as the Land Covenant, is recorded in Deuteronomy 28-30.

In the Land Covenant, God made it clear that the Jews' enjoyment of the land would depend upon their faithfulness to Him. If they were faithful, they would be richly blessed (Deuteronomy 28:1-14). But if they were unfaithful, they would be cursed in many different ways (Deuteronomy 28:15-46).

The greatest curse which God promised to put upon them was their displacement from the land. The Babylonian captivity, which lasted 70 years, is clearly prophesied in Deuteronomy 28:47-57. And their worldwide dispersion, which began in 70 AD, is graphically described in Deuteronomy 28:58-67.

The Critical Point

Now, the important point to keep in mind is that God's gift of the land was unconditional. The Jews were given an irrevokable, eternal title. But the use and enjoyment of the land was conditional upon their obedience.

Let me illustrate the point to you with a modern day example. Let's say you have a teenage son who has just turned 16 and has acquired his driver's license. You decide to bless him by buying him a new car and putting the title in his name. The car belongs to him, but you make it clear to him that his use of the car will depend upon his obedience to the law. If he gets a speeding ticket, the car will be locked up in the garage for a week. It will still belong to him, but he will not be able to use it.

The Ejection of the Jews

The Children of Israel entered the Promised Land under the leadership of Joshua, Moses' successor. They proceeded to occupy the land for the next 750 years (400 under the Judges and 350 under the Kings). But in violation of God's law, they intermarried with the Canaanites, and ended up worshiping their false gods.

God sent prophets like Elijah and Elisha to call them out of idolatry, but they persisted. Finally, God raised up foreign armies as His sword of discipline and allowed them to conquer the Jews and take them into captivity. The Assyrians dispersed the ten Jewish tribes living in the northern kingdom of Israel. When the remaining two tribes in the southern kingdom of Judah failed to get the message, God allowed the Babylonians to capture and exile them.

Seventy years later, in His grace and mercy, God allowed the Jews of Judah to return to their land and

rebuild both Jerusalem and their sacred temple. But the Jewish people persisted in rebellion for the next 400 years, and when they rejected their Messiah, God allowed the Romans to conquer and disperse them worldwide, in fulfillment of prophecy.

But again, the crucial point to keep in mind is that the Jews did not lose their title to the land. They lost only their use and enjoyment of it, as a punishment for their disobedience. To this day, the Jews have remained under discipline. They may be back in a portion of their land, but their enjoyment of it is being deterred by constant Arab attacks.

The Promise of Regathering

The modern day return of the Jews to their land is one of the greatest miracles of history. It is also a fulfillment of Bible prophecy.

In the Land Covenant itself, God promised that if the Jews were ever dispersed from their land due to disobedience, they would one day be regathered (Deuteronomy 30:1-9). This promise of restoration to the land is the most prolific prophecy in the Hebrew Scriptures, mentioned more times than any other prophecy.

When you study these regathering prophecies carefully, you will find that they fall into three categories. A few relate to the return from Babylonian captivity (Jeremiah 25:10-12 and 29:1-10). Most, however, are prophecies concerning two great end time regatherings from all over the world — one in unbelief **before** the Lord returns (Isaiah 11:10-12 and Ezekiel 36:22-28) and the other in belief **after** the Lord returns (Deuteronomy 30:1-10 and Ezekiel 37:19-28).

The Regathering in Unbelief

Regarding the end time regathering in unbelief, God set it in motion in the late 19th Century when He began to raise up prophetic voices among the Jews in Europe, calling them to return to their homeland. God knew the Holocaust was coming, so He called the Jewish people to return to their roots.



Theodore Herzl

When Herzl arrived at the courthouse, he was astonished to see tens of thousands of sophisticated Parisians standing in the streets shouting, "Death to the Jews!"

His eyes were opened to the fact that Jews had not been assimilated and never would be. He responded by writing a pamphlet called "The Jewish State." In it, he called for Jews worldwide to return to their homeland, which at

The key individual He used to spread this warning message was a Viennese journalist named Theodore Herzl. Like most European Jews, Herzl believed the Jews had been assimilated into European culture and would never again suffer from outbreaks of Anti-Semitism. But in 1894 he went to Paris to cover the trial of a French Army officer named Alfred Dreyfus. This man had been accused of treason, primarily because he was a Jew.

When Herzl arrived at the

that time was called Palestine. In 1897 he convened the first international Zionist Congress in Basel, Switzerland. At that conference, he proclaimed his belief that a Jewish state would come into existence within 50 years.

Herzl's vision motivated waves of immigrants to return to Palestine. These waves were dubbed "aliyas" — after the Hebrew word, aliya, which means "to go up." This word was used because the immigrants were viewed as "going up to Jerusalem."

By 1900 there were 40,000 Jews in Palestine. During the years immediately preceding World War II, and during the war itself, many barriers were placed in the way of Jewish immigration, but even so, by the end of the war, the Jewish population had swelled to over 700,000. Today there are over 6 million Jews in Israel who have come — as prophesied — from the four corners of the world (Isaiah 11:12).

The two world wars were the key events that led to the return of the Jews to their homeland, proving once again that God can bring good out of any calamity. World War I prepared the land for the people; World War II prepared the people for the land.

The Impact of World War I

During World War I the Turks sided with the Germans. Their realm, called the Ottoman Empire, included most of the lands of the Middle East, including Palestine. When the Germans lost the war, the Turks did also, and their empire was divided up among the Allied victors. In a secret pact signed in 1916 (called the Sykes-Picot Agreement), the British and French agreed to divide the Middle East between themselves when the war ended. Britain received Palestine while the French were given Syria.

In November 1917 the British announced that they intended to create a homeland for the Jews within the territory of Palestine that had been allotted to them. At that time Palestine consisted of all of modern day Israel and Jordan — an area of 45,000 square miles.



Jews worldwide were elated over the Balfour Declaration. But the ink was hardly dry before the British government changed its mind. To placate Arab animosity, they decided in 1922 to give two-thirds of Palestine to the Arabs, creating a Palestinian state called Transjordan.



Jewish leaders were terribly disappointed by this decision, and many felt betrayed by the British. But they still looked forward to establishing a Jewish state within the part of Palestine that was left — a sliver of land only 10,000 square miles in size, smaller than Lake Michigan or the state of New Jersey.

The Impact of World War II

Even after God had miraculously produced a homeland for the Jews out of the horrors of World War I, the Jewish people did not return in great numbers. Most felt comfortable in Europe and simply could not believe the rising chorus of prophetic voices who warned of an approaching time of widespread persecution.

World War II produced the Holocaust which, in turn, provided the motivation for the Jews to return home. They came out of the war saying, "Never again! Never again! Never again will we live under a Hitler. We are going to have our own land, our own government, our own state." This feeling produced a flood of refugees.

In November of 1947 (50 years after Herzl's proclamation), Jews worldwide were elated when the United Nations voted to allow the establishment of a Jewish state. But they were severely disappointed when the United Nations decided at the same time to divide the remaining portion of Palestine once again. Half was apportioned to the Jews for the creation of a Jewish state. The other half was assigned to the Arabs for the establishment of a second Palestinian state.

Despite their disappointment, the Jews accepted the UN resolution and proceeded to declare the existence of their new state on May 14, 1948. The Arabs rejected the UN vote and declared war on Israel.

The United Nations Partition Plan of 1947

The plan provided for the establishment of two states, one for the Jews, the other for the Arabs. The Jewish state was to consist of the Galilee, the Mediterranean coastal plain, and the Negev Desert. The Arab state was made up mainly of the heartland of ancient Israel (Samaria and Judea). The Arab state also included the Gaza Strip and a portion of the Galilee.



The Choice of War

Please note carefully that the Arabs could have peacefully and legally established a second Palestinian state in 1948. They chose war instead, because they were unwilling to tolerate a Jewish state in the Middle East — even a minuscule one of only 5,000 square miles. This action on the part of the Arabs — and many like it since that time — is what prompted one of Israel's most eloquent spokesmen, Abba Eban, to say, "The Palestinians have never missed an opportunity to miss an opportunity."

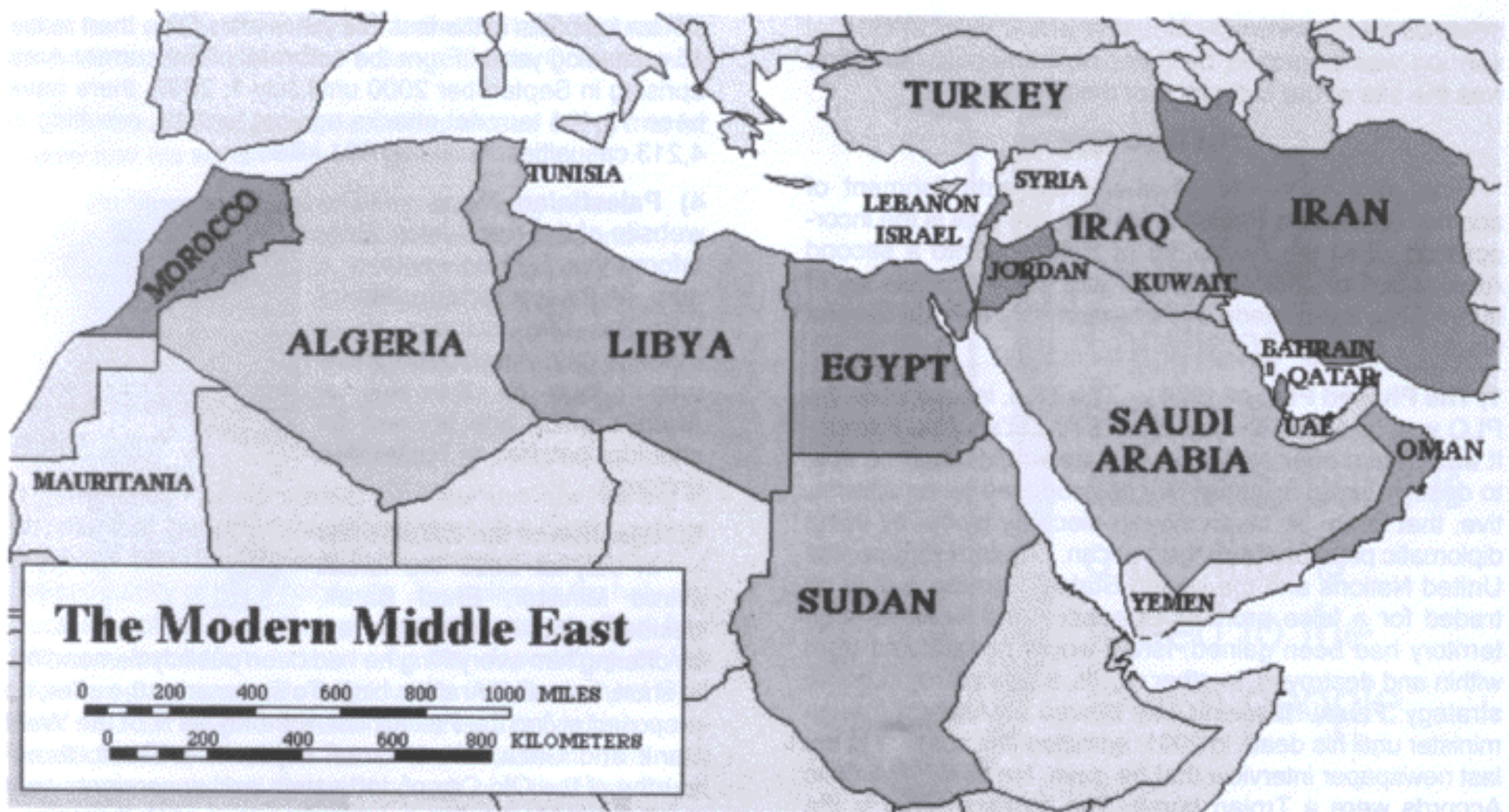
Since 1948 there has been war after war in the Middle East as the Arabs have tried repeatedly to destroy Israel — the Suez War of 1956, the Six Day War of 1967, the Yom Kippur War of 1973, the Lebanese War of 1982, the Gulf War of 1991, and the current Arab Uprising War which started in September of 2001.

For those who support the return of the Jews to their homeland, it is comforting to know that all efforts to destroy the Jewish state are doomed to failure. The reason this can be asserted with certainty is because of a promise contained in the book of Amos. In this passage, God says that when He re-establishes the Jews in their homeland in the end times, "they will not again be rooted out from their land which I have given them" (Amos 9:15).

The Arab Position

Let's switch our attention for a moment to the Arabs. Just as God made a covenant with Abraham's heirs through Isaac, He also made promises to Abraham's descendants through Ishmael, the father of the Arab nations (Genesis 16:10-12 and 17:20). Here is a list of the remarkable promises God made to the Arab peoples:

- 1) The descendants of Ishmael will be multiplied "exceedingly" (Genesis 16:10 and 17:20).
- 2) They will become a great nation (Genesis 17:20).
- 3) They will be given all the land east of Canaan (Genesis 16:12).
- 4) They will be given a personality like a "wild



donkey," and because of this, "their hand will be against everyone" (Genesis 16:12).

God has faithfully fulfilled all these promises:

- * There are 200 million Arabs today.
- * They constitute a great nation composed of 21 states.
- * They occupy 5.3 million square miles of oil rich land.
- * They are characterized by an inability to get along with anyone, including themselves.

In contrast, there is only one Jewish state with a population of 6 million squeezed into an area of only 8,000 square miles. That's a population ratio of 33 to 1 and a land ratio of 662 to 1! And yet, the Arabs greedily demand the creation of another Arab state at the expense of the one Jewish state.

The Palestinian Myth

Regarding the Palestinians, during the nearly 1,900 years that the Jews were dispossessed of their land:

- * There was never a Palestinian state.
- * Jerusalem was never the capital of any Arab state.
- * The Arabs who lived in the area considered themselves to be Syrians.
- * There was no Palestinian identity, culture, or language.

The concept of a Palestinian claim on the land is a propaganda gimmick developed after the Six Day War in 1967 when Jordan lost the West Bank to Israel.

The Arab Claim on Jerusalem

The same is true of the Arab claim on Jerusalem. The Arabs contend that Jerusalem is the third most holy place behind Mecca and Medina. But again, all this emphasis on the significance of Jerusalem has developed in recent years.

There is no mention of Jerusalem in the Koran, whereas it is mentioned 667 times by name in the Hebrew Scriptures. Although the Arabs claim that Mohammed came to Jerusalem and from there ascended into heaven, there is no historical evidence whatsoever that Mohammed ever even came close to Jerusalem. The real geographical focus of Islam is the city of Mecca. Muslims pray toward this city, and it is to this city that they are required to make a pilgrimage once in their lifetime.

The real claim of the Arabs is based upon a portion of the Koran that states that once a land has been conquered for Allah, it must remain an Islamic land. The Arabs conquered the land and city in the Middle Ages when they drove the Crusaders out. They now feel compelled by the Koran to reconquer it.

There are two other motivations for the Arab desire to retake both Israel and Jerusalem. The first is rooted in the fact that the re-establishment of the state of Israel is viewed by Muslim clerics as a judgment of God upon the Arab peoples for their lack of faithfulness to Islam. They must redeem themselves from this judgment by returning to the fundamentals of Islam and then, having been spiritually revived, Allah will empower them to regain both the land and the city.

The second factor is that the Arabs believe that their control of Jerusalem and its Temple Mount will certify their superiority over both Judaism and Christianity. The Temple Mount was the focal point of the Jewish faith for centuries because it was where the Temple was located. And it is

believed that the Temple Mount is where the first Gospel sermon was preached by Peter on Pentecost, and thus was the site of the birthplace of the Church.

The Arab Aim

The goal of the Arabs is not the establishment of another state within Palestine. Rather, the goal is the incorporation of all the remainder of Palestine into a second Arab state. In other words, the goal is the annihilation of Israel. They have made this intention very clear in several ways:

1) The Phased Plan of 1974 — This plan, issued while the PLO was headquartered in Libya, is Arafat's "Mein Kampf." It was issued after Arafat realized he would never be able to destroy Israel militarily. So, he proposed as an alternative, that Israel be taken slowly, piece by piece, by using diplomatic pressure from the Vatican, Western Europe, the United Nations and the United States. Territory would be traded for a false promise of peace. And when enough territory had been gained, Israel would be attacked from within and destroyed. In other words, it was a Trojan horse strategy. Feisal Hussein, who served as Arafat's foreign minister until his death in 2001, admitted this strategy in the last newspaper interview that he gave. He said, "The Oslo Accords were a Trojan horse. The strategic goal is the liberation of Palestine from the [Jordan] river to the [Mediterranean] sea . . ."

2) Arafat's Speeches — In May of 1994, just eight months after signing the Oslo Accords at the White House, Arafat gave a speech in Johannesburg, South Africa in which he called for a "holy jihad" to liberate Jerusalem. He also mocked the Oslo agreement as nothing but a strategic ploy to gain time. He likened it to Mohammed's treaty with the tribe of Koraish. That was a treaty in which Mohammed agreed to peace with the tribe of Koraish if they would allow him to pray in Mecca. Within two years, when Mohammed felt he had grown strong enough militarily, he abrogated the agreement, slaughtered the tribe of Koraish, and conquered Mecca for Allah. The Johannesburg speech was only one of many similar ones that Arafat has given all over the Arab world to assure the Arab masses that the Oslo Accords are meaningless.

3) Continued Terrorism — Even though the land-for-peace process initiated by the Oslo Accords has resulted in 97% of Palestinians being placed under the control of the Palestinian Authority, the violence against Israel continues to escalate. In the year following the signing of the Oslo Accords (September 1993 to September 1994), there were over twice as many Israeli terror fatalities than during the preceding year. Overall, Israel suffered 73% more terror fatalities in the two years after the 1993 deal than in the two years before it. And more Israelis were killed by Pale-



Yasser Arafat

stinian terrorists in the first five years after Oslo than in the 15 preceding years! From the outbreak of the current Arab uprising in September 2000 until July 1, 2002, there have been 13,494 terrorist attacks against Israelis, resulting in 4,213 casualties, including 561 killed.

4) Palestinian Maps — The website of the Palestinian State Information Service contains a map of the projected state of Palestine that includes all of modern day Israel. This same map hangs on the wall of Arafat's office and is used on shoulder patches of Palestinian uniforms.



5) Rejection of the Barak Offer — In July of 2000 the Israeli Prime Minister, Ehud Barak, decided to put Arafat to the test by offering him everything he had been publicly demanding. In short, he called Arafat's bluff. To summarize the offer, he proposed giving the Palestinian Authority 96% of the West Bank and Gaza, 4% of Israel adjacent to Gaza, three-fourths of the Old City of Jerusalem and sovereignty over the Temple Mount, five neighborhoods in east Jerusalem, and the right of return for 50,000 Palestinians. Arafat got up, walked out of the room, and never returned. He did not even make a counter offer. Instead, he launched the current uprising.

The Jewish Position

With Arab intentions so clear, why has Israel staked its future on a hope that it can secure peace by trading land? There are at least three key reasons.

1) Humanistic Leadership — Menachem Begin is the only Prime Minister of Israel who has been an observant Jew. All others have been marginal believers, if not atheists or agnostics. Accordingly, the prevailing philosophy among Israeli leaders has been humanism, with its faith in the goodness of Man. This philosophy has entrapped the leaders in self-deception, convincing them that if they will only be kind and gracious toward their enemy, then their enemy will reciprocate. It was this type of muddle-headed thinking that prompted Yitzak Rabin and Shimon Peres to believe they could charm and placate the Arabs through a policy of appeasement.

2) Desire for Acceptance — Throughout their long history, the Jewish people have had a desire for acceptance. When they demanded that Samuel provide them with a king, he warned them that a king would abuse and exploit them. But they refused to listen to Samuel's warnings because, as they put it, "we want to be like all the other nations" (1 Samuel 8:20). God set the Jewish people apart to be a witness of Him (Isaiah 43:10-12), and they have never liked that role. Again, the Jewish leadership has deceived itself into believing that if it will only give in to world pressure regarding the establishment of a Palestinian state, then the world will accept Israel. The truth is that no matter what Israel does, the world will continue to hate the Jews and their state.

3) American Pressure — Because the United States is Israel's only ally in the world, they are particularly responsive to pressure from us. We may be their only ally, but we have been unwilling to come down decisively on their side because of our interest in procuring Arab oil and our desire to build an Arab coalition against terrorism. We are the ones, in fact, who forced them to the negotiating table to trade land for peace. It all occurred in 1991 when the Soviet Union collapsed and a flood of Jewish refugees began to return to Israel. For over a year, 2,000 to 3,000 refugees arrived each day! The Israeli government was swamped by the demands for food and housing and jobs. They appealed to the world bank for a \$5 billion loan. The bank responded by saying they would provide the loan only if it were guaranteed by the United States. The Bush Administration dug in its heels and demanded that the Israelis start trading land for peace in order to get the loan guarantee. That is how the Israelis got started down the self-destructive road of appeasement.

The Folly of Appeasement

History makes it clear that a policy of appeasement always leads to war because it merely whets the appetite of the aggressor. But from 1991 to 2000, the Israeli leadership ignored the lessons of history and fervently pursued its policy of trading land for peace.

The turning point came in the summer of 2000 when Ehud Barak caved in to Palestinian terror and offered Arafat everything except the keys to the Knesset. When Arafat refused even to consider the offer, the eyes of the Israeli people were opened to the truth that Arafat was not interested in peace. They finally realized that he was determined to take all of Israel.



Ehud Barak

That realization produced an earthquake in Israeli public opinion. The voters decided to wash their hands of Barak and his party of equivocators. They turned to Ariel Sharon, a strong leader who had never been deceived by Arab intentions. Sharon was elected Prime Minister in February of 2001, and his determination to draw the line on what Israel is willing to surrender for peace has resulted in all the world coming together against Israel over the



Ariel Sharon

issue of Jerusalem, just as prophesied by Zechariah.

Crucial Questions

Why has God regathered the Jews to their homeland? What is the likely future of Israel? What does it all mean to the Church?

The Regathering

God has regathered the Jews from the four corners of the earth because He has a plan of redemption for a great remnant of them. His plan is to gather them to their homeland and bring all the nations of the world together against them over the issue of the control of Jerusalem. This will ultimately lead to another holocaust that will be worse than the one perpetrated by the Nazis. Zechariah says that two-thirds of the Jews will die (Zechariah 13:8). But out of that horrible experience, the Jews will be brought to the end of themselves, with no one to turn to for help except God. That's when the remnant will repent of their rejection of the Messiah and will accept Him as their Savior (Zechariah 12:10 and 13:1). The apostle Paul taught this concept in the New Testament in Romans 9-11. He argues that a great remnant of the Jews (Romans 9:27) will turn to the Lord and be saved (Romans 11:25-26).

The Likely Future

There are some tough days ahead for the Jews of Israel. I believe the most likely scenario is a major war that will result in Arab missile attacks on Tel Aviv and Haifa. To survive, the Israelis will have to respond with nuclear weapons. This is probably the reason the Bible teaches that Damascus will cease to exist in the end times (Isaiah 17:1-14 and Jeremiah 49:23-27).



With the destruction of Damascus, the Arab world will be thrown into a panic. That's when they will call for help from their natural ally, the Russians. The Russians will then send a great army to destroy Israel. The Russians will be motivated not only by their ingrained anti-Semitism, but also by their desire to seize all the Arab oil fields in the Middle East.

The Bible says the Russian army will be destroyed supernaturally on the hills of Israel in such a way that even the Israelis will know that they were not responsible for it (Ezekiel 38:17-23 and 39:1-6). At that point the whole world will be thrown into a panic, and that atmosphere of hysteria will provide the perfect opportunity for the Antichrist to step forward with the "perfect" plan for peace in the Middle East.

The Meaning for the Church

Why should Gentiles in the Church of the 21st Century be concerned about what is happening among the Jewish people in the Middle East today? Why should we be following the events in that part of the world with bated breath? Why should we be concerned about the survival of Israel? Why should we be searching the Scriptures daily concerning prophecies about the Middle East? Why should we be praying daily for the peace of Jerusalem? There are three reasons.

ISRAEL IN THE LONG RUN



✓ **The events in the Middle East are proof that God is faithful to His promises.** God is fulfilling in detail promises that He made to the Jewish people 2,500 years ago. And as we see each of these promises fulfilled, we can likewise be assured that God is going to fulfill every promise He has made to the Church.

God has promised that one day soon, Jesus will appear in the heavens, the dead in Christ will be resurrected, the living believers will be caught up to meet the Lord in the sky, and both the living and dead will be given new, glorified bodies. We will return to heaven with Jesus where we will be judged of our works to determine our degrees of reward. We will also celebrate our union with Jesus in a great feast that will symbolize the union of the Bride (the Church) with her Bridegroom (Jesus).

We will then return to earth with Jesus to see Him crowned as King of kings and Lord of lords. He will reign over all the world from Jerusalem. We will be scattered all over the world to assist Him in His reign, serving as mayors, governors, presidents, judges, and teachers. We will see the earth flooded with peace, righteousness, and justice — as the waters cover the sea.

At the end of His reign, we will be transferred to the new Jerusalem He is preparing now. From that vantage point, we will watch as the earth is superheated with fire, and the pollution of Satan's last revolt is burned away. Out of that fiery inferno will come a new earth. We will then be lowered down to that new earth inside the new Jerusalem, and God Himself will descend to the new earth to live in our presence forever.

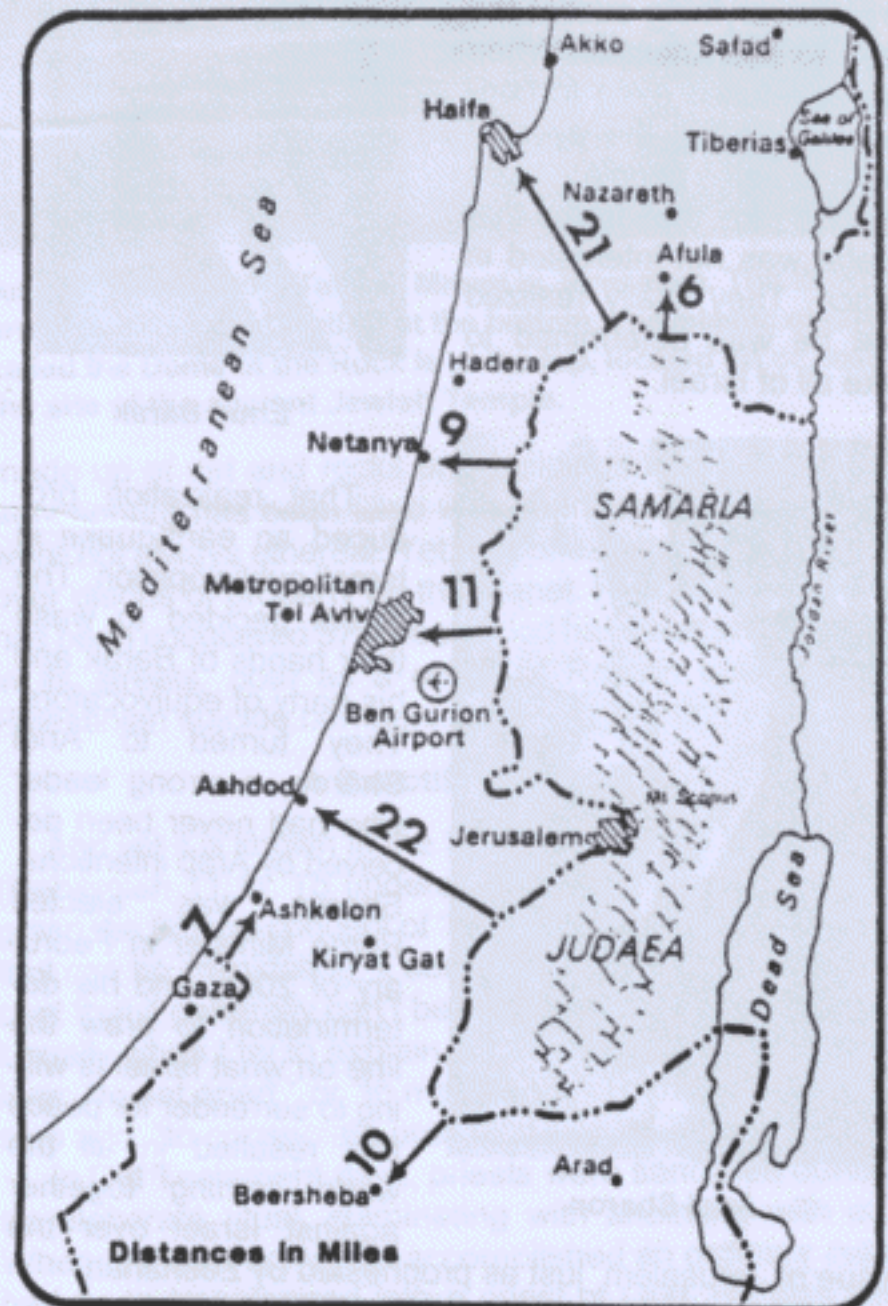
Those are the marvelous promises that have been made to what the Bible calls "overcomers" (Revelation 21: 1-7) — that is, to those who have placed their faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior (1 John 5:1-5). As I witness God ful-

filling His promises to the Jews, my hope soars concerning the promises God has made to the Church. I know He will fulfill every one of them.

✓ **The events in the Middle East are a testimony to God's unfathomable grace.** Think about it for a moment — any god created by the mind of Man would have annihilated the Jews a long time ago. Only a God of grace would have put up with the Jews and continued to love them. Their own prophets refer to them as "stiff-necked," "stubborn," and "rebellious." Yet, despite their rejection of God as king of their nation, and their rejection of His Son as king of their hearts, God continues to love them and pursue them with the intention of bringing a great remnant to salvation. That's grace.

When I first started preaching about the Jews, my wife came to me and said, "When you emphasize how much God loves the Jews, you make me want to be a Jew." I made two points in response. First, I told her that she really didn't want to be a Jew because if she were one, the overwhelming odds are that she would have a spiritual veil over her eyes that would keep her from recognizing Jesus as her Messiah. Then I made an even more important point. I stated that God is not doing one thing for the Jews that He is not willing to do for everyone.

The Jews continue to this day to be witnesses of God. Their history shows what it means to have a relationship with God. When they are faithful, He blesses. When they are rebellious, He disciplines. When they repent, He for-



gives and forgets and starts blessing again. And so it is with any person or nation.

The Jews are currently under discipline. They have not yet repented, and they therefore do not deserve to be re-gathered to their homeland. They do not merit God's love and care. But neither do you or I. The only thing any of us deserve is death. We have hope only because our God is a God of grace.

✓ **The events in the Middle East are evidence that Jesus is returning soon.** The Bible says that Jesus will return when the Jews are back in their homeland and their capital city. It also says that it will be a time when all the world has come together against Israel over the issue of the control of Jerusalem. The Jewish state was re-established on May 14, 1948. The Jews re-occupied the city of Jerusalem on June 7, 1967. Since 1991, all the world has been pressuring the Israeli government to surrender all or part of Jerusalem. The fulfillment of these prophecies makes it clear that we are on the threshold of the Tribulation. That means the Rapture of the Church is imminent. Jesus is at the very gates of Heaven, waiting for His Father's command to return. We are living on borrowed time.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6), and remember, that when you do so, you are really praying for the return of Jesus, for Jerusalem will not enjoy true peace until the Prince of Peace returns.✱

The Miracle of Sharon's Election

In 1995 I started writing a prayer in my prayer journal that read as follows: "Lord, please raise up a Winston Churchill for Israel. Raise up a leader like Ariel Sharon." I prayed that prayer many times.

I never prayed for Ariel Sharon to be the man because I considered that to be impossible. He was too old and too controversial. He was viewed as the ultimate hard-liner.

But I learned once again that with God, all things are possible. When Ehud Barak called a snap election in February 2001, Israelis (and the rest of the world) discovered that there was a quirk in the election law which stated that when there is an election only for Prime Minister, and not for the whole Knesset, a person must be a member of the Knesset in order to be a candidate.

The leader of the opposition party, Benjamin Netanyahu, had resigned from the Knesset after his defeat by Barak in 1999. That meant he could not run for the office. The party had no one else to turn to except Ariel Sharon, and his election was guaranteed by Arafat's rejection of the Barak Plan.

Isn't it amazing how God works out His purposes in history?

HATIKVA

The National Anthem of Israel

As long as deep in the heart,
The soul of a Jew yearns,
And toward the East
An eye looks to Zion,
Our hope is not yet lost,
The hope of two thousand years,
To be a free people in our land,
The land of Zion and Jerusalem.

תפלה שלום ירושלים ירד עליך
Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee.

Psalm 122:6



Dry Bones



It's All About JERUSALEM

Dennis Pollock

Songs about cities have always seemed strange to me. I know I'm dating myself, but I grew up hearing songs like, "Chicago, Chicago, That toddlin' town . . ." (Don't ask me what a toddlin' town is!), and "New York, New York, what a wonderful town . . ."

Amazingly we see something very similar in the Scriptures. Throughout God's Word, in both Old and New Testaments, we read the praises of the city of Jerusalem over and over again.

An Exalted City

God calls Jerusalem: "the city where I have chosen for Myself to put My name." (1 Kings 11:36)

Jeremiah predicts the time will come when Jerusalem shall be called "The Throne of the Lord." (Jeremiah 3:17)

Jesus refers to this special city as "the city of the great King." (Matthew 5:35)

In the Psalms Jerusalem is spoken of with a reverence that few Gentiles can understand: "If I forget you, O Jerusalem, may my right hand forget her skill. May my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth if I do not remember you, if I do not exalt Jerusalem above my chief joy." (Psalm 137:5,6)

God Himself declares Jerusalem to be His favorite city in all the earth: "The Lord loves the gates of Zion more than all the other dwelling places of Jacob." (Psalm 87:2)

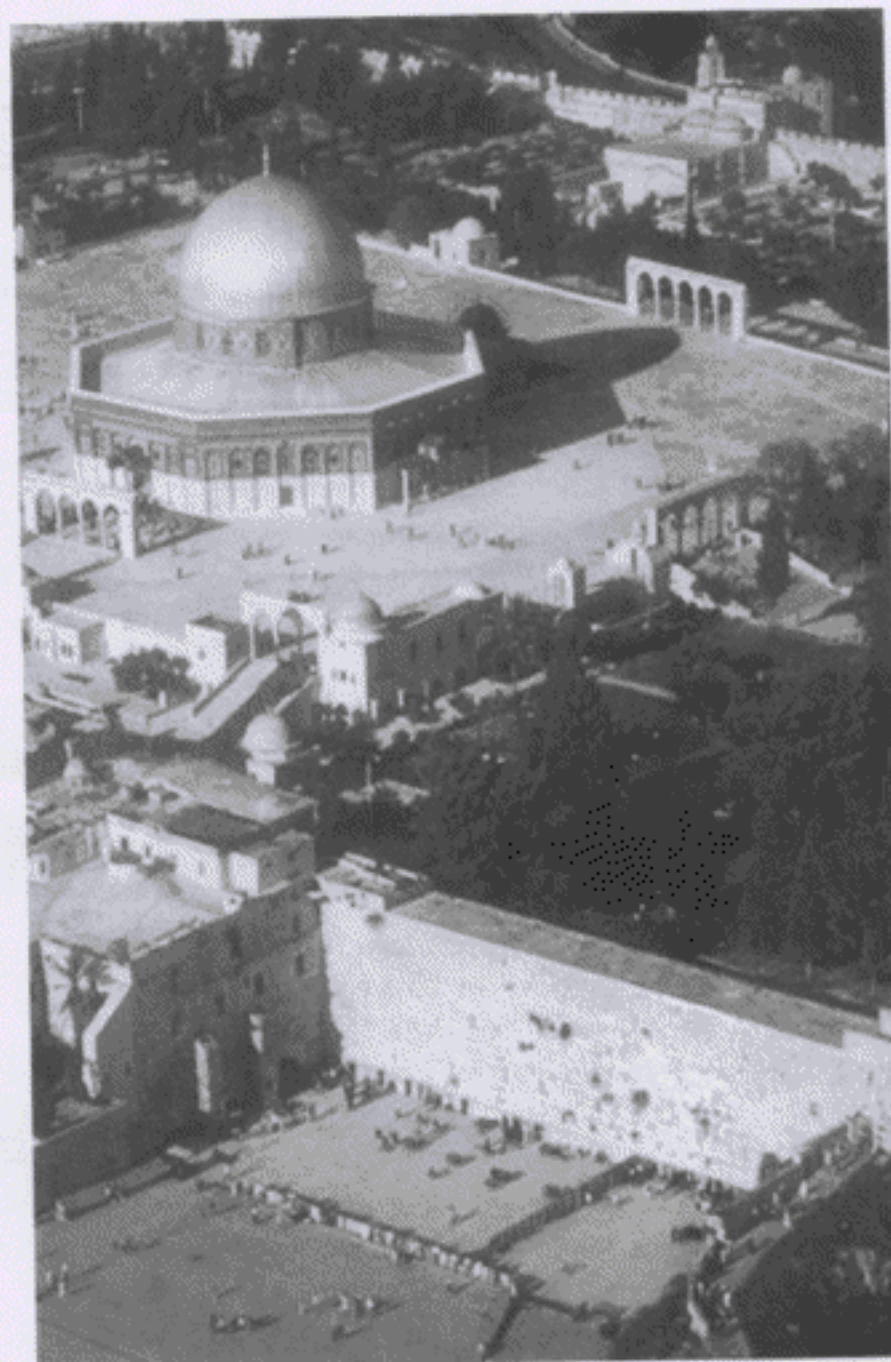
An Unusual City

Jerusalem never had any of the distinct advantages that most of the world's influential cities enjoy. She was not situated on any of the ancient highways, nor was she located near the sea as a port city. In her early days she did not even have a major internal water supply, until King Hezekiah built a tunnel to bring the Gihon Spring within the city walls.

Jerusalem has never had any inherent significance, other than what was assigned her by David, Israel, and most importantly, by God. In one of God's many mysteries, Jerusalem was chosen because she was chosen. In the Psalms we read:

For the Lord has chosen Zion; He has desired it for His habitation. "This is My resting place forever; here I will dwell, for I have desired it." (Psalm 132:13,14)

It is amazing to consider all the praises and adulation associated with this city in the Scriptures. After all, we are not talking about God, or even a beautiful woman; we are talking about a city. Like all cities, Jerusalem was and is



An aerial view of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. The Western Wall, or Wailing Wall, is at the bottom. The Islamic shrine called the Dome of the Rock is at the top, located on or near the site of the ancient Jewish Temple.

made up of dirt and rocks and buildings and people. Its atmosphere has been filled with sounds and smells that were not always ethereal. Yet, it is one of the most fought over pieces of property on the planet. Historians tell us it has been conquered 37 times. Blood has been shed freely in its streets, both as a result of Roman spears and Palestinian suicide bombers.

A Sanctified City

And yet it is known in the Scriptures as the "Holy City" (Nehemiah 11:1). To understand this, it is necessary to grasp the Biblical concept of "sanctification." This is a term that can be intimidating. It describes such a complex concept that it generally can't be defined in a simple phrase. Usually when I try to explain it, I give two different meanings: "to set apart," or "to make holy." To these we could also add: "to consecrate unto God."

In Old Testament days, priests were sanctified during an elaborate ritual, culminating with anointing with oil. When the ceremony was accomplished an ordinary man had been transformed into a priest of God. He was set

apart from all other men by the anointing; he could not live as ordinary men did — he belonged unto God. He was holy.

The book of Leviticus describes Moses doing this for Aaron and his sons:

So Moses took some of the anointing oil and some of the blood which was on the altar and sprinkled it on Aaron, on his garments, on his sons, and on the garments of his sons with him; and he sanctified Aaron, his garments, and his sons, and the garments of his sons with him. (Leviticus 8:30)

A Unique City

The reason for Jerusalem's uniqueness has nothing to do with her geographical features or the beauty of her buildings. Nor does it relate to the present or past state of the spirituality of her inhabitants. Jerusalem is the holy city because, of all the cities on our little planet, **God has chosen Jerusalem to serve as the depository of His glorious presence.** Throughout the Old Testament God was said to "dwell between the cherubim" which were located on the lid of the Ark of the Covenant. This was where one could find God. (Of course only the High Priest was allowed to get near Him, and that but once a year, when the priest entered the Holy of Holies to sprinkle blood on the mercy seat of the Ark.)

Solomon and others recognized that God could not be contained in a wooden box or in a city. Solomon declared "Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You" (1 Kings 8:27). God's presence was associated with the Ark, and because of that, the city of Jerusalem served as a touchpoint between heaven and earth.

Ever since God revealed that the city where the ark was to be placed was Jerusalem, it has been accorded a status like no other city on earth. Here the eternal I AM would make Himself known. Here was God's "base of operations." Here God would place His name (Deuteronomy 12:5). Jerusalem was sanctified (set apart, made holy, consecrated unto God) by God's Shekinah Glory.

A Loved City

Jerusalem has always had a special place in the heart of the Jews. It became their national capital after David conquered the Jebusites. When the Romans destroyed the temple and the Jews were scattered all over the globe, they never forgot the holy city.

A Russian Jewish writer, Elhanan Levinski, tried to capture the mystery of Jewish affection for a city most had never seen when he wrote:

The land of Israel without Jerusalem is like a body without a soul. In the very name "Jerusalem" there lies concealed something powerful, unknown and mysterious that draws the Jewish heart.

Century after century observant Jews included Jerusalem in the heart of their traditions and ceremonies:

A patch of wall in every orthodox household went un

Jerusalem may be important to Christians and special to Moslems, but it is a city that is sacred to the Jewish people.

attended in Jerusalem's name.

The bridegroom at weddings would crush a glass under foot to show grief at the destruction of the temple, and would pray that his marriage would provoke joy and dancing in the streets of Jerusalem.

At the end of each Passover feast, for generations Jewish families would pledge to each other, "Next year in Jerusalem."

A Disputed City

The enemies of God and His people have always taken a great interest in Jerusalem, but for vastly different reasons. When God moved on Nehemiah's heart to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, their neighbors first began to ridicule their efforts, claiming that even the weight of a fox would bring the whole thing down. When it became evident that the wall was getting near completion, and would hold back much tougher critters than foxes, they made plans to attack the city and wipe out the project altogether.

In modern times those who oppose God's prophetic purposes have likewise expressed a powerful interest in this ancient city. When Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat was promised nearly everything he had been demanding out of Israel (seems kind of funny for the losers of wars to be making demands, doesn't it?) he balked over the issue of Jerusalem. Though he had been offered most of East Jerusalem, along with control of the Temple Mount, with 95% of the West Bank and the Gaza strip thrown in for good measure, it wasn't enough. Though Barak's offer was so generous (foolish) it would cost him his job, Arafat

Dry Bones



felt that when it came to Jerusalem, he could not compromise. He wanted full sovereignty in all of East Jerusalem or nothing at all.

When one of Barak's key men suggested they delay the discussion on Jerusalem for two years, Arafat held up two fingers and retorted, "Not even for two hours."

This issue goes much deeper than a stubborn old terrorist who doesn't have enough sense to recognize the opportunity of a lifetime. Behind the cameras and the politicians, behind the pressures and the promises, there are malicious spirits that fervently oppose the very existence of the city God calls "the joy of the whole earth." The chief of these spirits (Satan) knows full well that the restoration and the prosperity of Jerusalem spell the end of his reign as "god of this world." He is doing everything he can to divide and ultimately destroy the city.

A City in Prophecy

During the time of Babylonian captivity, Daniel received a revelation that "from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem" until the time of the Messiah's appearance would be a period of 69 weeks of years (493 years — see Daniel 9:25). Just as predicted, "when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law" (Galatians 4:4). *The beginning of Jerusalem's rebuilding and restoration set off a prophetic timer which culminated in the glorious appearing of Israel's Messiah!*

As it was with the First Coming, so it will be with the Second. Jesus tells us that the surest sign of the end of the age once again has to do with the city of David: "And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led captive into all the nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled under

foot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled" (Luke 21:24).

In June 1967 the Israeli army conquered the old city of Jerusalem. The period of Gentile dominion, lasting 1,897 years, had come to an end. At that point a heavenly timer was set in motion. Jesus' return is at the doors!

At his First Coming, the exact number of years was given that Israel must wait for her Messiah. Israel had no excuse not to recognize Jesus as God's Anointed One. The "fullness of the time" had come. But this time around we are not told how many years must pass. "Of that day and hour no one knows" (Matthew 24:36). We do know the time is near. Jesus tells us, "So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near, at the very doors" (Matthew 24:33). The timer is counting down.

A City with a Future

Does Jerusalem have any further prophetic future? Absolutely! Yasser Arafat has been calling for the United Nations to send an armed force into Israel to help his cause. He may not be around to see it, but there will indeed be a multinational force that will invade Jerusalem at the time of the end. The prophet Joel declares:

Let the nations be aroused and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat, for there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations. Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, tread, for the winepress is full; the vats overflow, for their wickedness is great. Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision. (Joel 3:12-14)

In the midst of this united attack upon Jerusalem, Jesus shall appear for her defense. "Then the Lord will go forth and fight against those nations, as when He fights on a day of battle" (Zechariah 14:3).

Jesus will establish His glorious throne there, and He will "reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem and His glory will be before His elders" (Isaiah 24:23).

Jerusalem shall become one city, under God (through Jesus Christ), indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. For one thousand years she will stand as a testimony to God's faithfulness to His word, His people, and His covenants. Finally she will be replaced by her heavenly counterpart, the New Jerusalem, home of the redeemed of God forever and ever, world without end. Maranatha! ✨



An Outstanding New Translation of the Bible



The English Standard Version

Dr. David R. Reagan

I highly recommend a new translation of the Bible that has just been published by Good News Publishers. It is called "The

English Standard Version."

My favorite translation up to this point has been The New American Standard Version which first came out in 1960 and which was updated in 1995. Until the ESV came on the market late last year, the NASV was the most literal of all modern translations. One thing in particular that I like about the NASV, in addition to its literalness, is the fact that every word the translators have added for the sake of understanding is presented in *italics*.

The Advantage of the Literal Approach

I prefer literal translations like the NASV and the New King James Version because they present the best English text for any serious study of Scripture. Dynamic translations, like the New International Version, are good for devotional reading, but they are inadequate for serious study because they engage in extensive paraphrasing, and that always opens the door for the insertion of doctrinal bias.

Of course, there is always a limitation to how literal a translation can be. Exact literalness is impossible since it would produce an English version that was unreadable. Languages have their own distinctive word orders, and idioms, literally translated, are usually unintelligible. The challenge is to produce a translation that is as literal as possible but which is highly readable in English. I believe the new English Standard Version accomplishes this goal.

The Origin of the New Translation

The translation was produced by a committee of 14 world class language scholars who were assisted by a translation review committee of 50 biblical experts and an advisory committee composed of 50 evangelical leaders. All were people committed "to the authority and sufficiency of the inerrant Scriptures."

The publisher describes the new translation in the following way:

The ESV is an "essentially literal" translation that seeks as far as possible to capture the precise wording of the original text and the personal style of each Bible writer. As such, its emphasis is on "word-for-word" correspondence, at the same time taking into account differences of grammar, syntax, and idiom between current literary English and the original languages. Thus it seeks to be transparent to the original text, letting the reader see as directly as possible the structure and meaning of the original.

As an "essentially literal" translation, the ESV seeks to carry over every possible nuance of meaning in the original words of Scripture into modern English. As such, it is ideally suited for in-depth study of the Bible.

Dealing with the Gender Issue

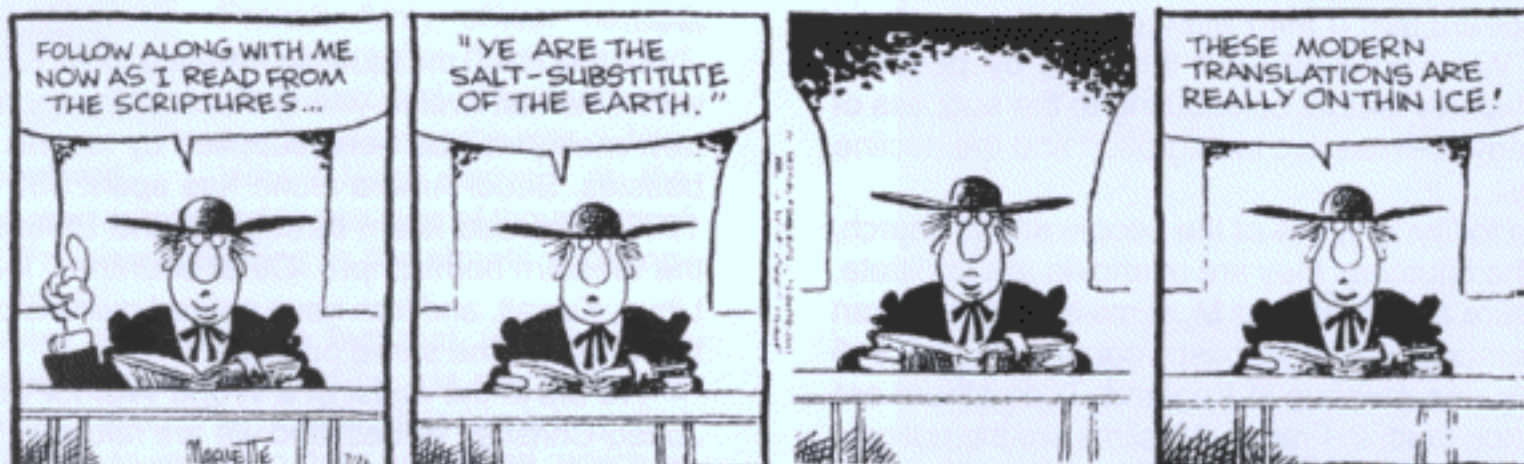
With regard to the highly controversial area of gender language, the goal of the ESV is to render literally what is in the original. For example, "anyone" replaces "any man" where there is no word corresponding to "man" in the original languages, and "people" rather than "men" is regularly used where the original languages refer to both men and women. But the words "man" and "men" are retained where a male meaning component is part of the original Greek or Hebrew. Similarly, the English word "brothers" (translating from the Greek word *adelphoi*) is retained as an important familial form of address between fellow-Jews and fellow-Christians in the First Century.

The inclusive use of the generic "he" has also regularly been retained, because this is consistent with similar usage in the original languages and because an essentially literal translation would be impossible without it.

Further Information

For more detailed information about The English Standard Version, including translation samples, go to the Good News Publishers website at www.gnpceb.org. You can also order copies of the Bible through that site. ✦

Kudzu



A Tribute to a Christian Martyr

Martin Burnham, 42, was murdered for Christ in a shootout between Philippine government troops and Muslim separatists on June 7 of this year. His wife, Gracia, was wounded but survived.

Martin grew up in the Philippines as the eldest son of Christian missionaries. His wife is the daughter of a pastor in Arkansas. Their three children, Jeff, 15, Mindy, 12, and Zach, 11, were all born in the Philippines.

Martin was born in Wichita, Kansas, in 1959 and graduated from Calvary Bible College and Wichita Aviation Education Center. He and his wife were serving the Lord in the Philippines under the auspices of New Tribe Missions. Martin was serving as director of NTM Aviation for



the Philippines at the time of his capture.

The Burnhams were kidnaped on May 27, 2001, while celebrating their 18th wedding anniversary at a resort on Palawan Island. Rebels from the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) seized them and several more guests, including another American whom they later beheaded.

During the ensuing months, all the hostages were either killed or released except the Burnhams and a Filipina nurse named Deborah Yap. The nurse also died in the final shootout with the Philippine army.

In November 2001 a video clip was released showing the Burnhams in a very deteriorated condition. Despite their poor condition, released hostages reported that the faith of both continued to be evident and encouraging.

Islamic guerillas in the Philippines appear to have profiled the Burnhams. They were kidnaped because they were Christians and Americans. They were held hostage because their captors hoped to win political concessions that would lead to the establishment of a Muslim state.

"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord" (Revelation 14:13). ✦



The Burnhams after six months of captivity.

The Expansion of Islam in the West

Two times in the past, the forces of Islam have tried to conquer the Western world by military force. The first attempt occurred in 710 A.D. when Islamic armies crossed the Straits of Gibraltar and quickly conquered nearly all of Spain and Portugal. They proceeded to take one-third of France before they were defeated only 125 miles from Paris in the Battle of Tours in 732 A.D.

The second attempt occurred 900 years later in the 17th Century when the Turks began to expand their Ottoman Empire. They conquered all the Balkan nations before their troops reached the gates of Vienna in 1683. Once again, the Western forces won a miraculous victory.

Now it appears that a third attempt is being made to conquer the West for Allah, but this time by peaceful means. The two key factors contributing to the success of the new strategy are massive immigration and the decline of Christianity.

In England today, only 7% of the people attend church, and most of the churches they are attending are apostate. In contrast, there are now more Muslims in England than there are Methodists and Baptists combined! In 1945 there was only one mosque in England. Today there are more than a thousand. In France, Muslims are the nation's second-largest religious group and have more adherents

than all Protestant denominations put together. They aim to make France an Islamic Republic by the year 2015, and Britain by the year 2025, through conversions, immigration and high Muslim birth rates.

There are approximately six million Muslims in the United States today. Islam has now become the fastest growing religion in America. Muslims will soon outnumber Jews in the United States, if this is not already the case.

New York City is a mecca of Muslim believers. Entire neighborhoods in Brooklyn and the Bronx are populated by Muslims. According to the Islamic Mission of America, there are 2.5 million Muslims in the New York metropolitan area.

Of the 1,100 mosques in America, 80% have been built within the last twelve years. Much of the money for these new mosques has been supplied by Islamic foreign embassies. Saudi Arabia alone has spent \$87 billion since 1973 to spread Islam throughout the United States and the Western hemisphere. Other countries, including Iraq, Libya, Kuwait, and Iran have poured millions of dollars into the West for the same purpose.

We are in the midst of a World War for the survival of Judeo-Christian values, and we are reluctant to recognize it or admit it. We need to wake up, **now!** ✦



Darlene Cates with Dave Reagan

The Story Behind the Darlene Cates Video

In October of last year Dr. Reagan was flipping through TV channels when he ran across a movie about a reclusive, obese woman and her four children. He saw only the ending, but it was so powerful, that it motivated him to see the entire film. The only problem was that he did not know the name of the movie.

The next morning at the ministry's daily staff meeting, Dave mentioned the film, and when he described the ending, one of the staff members identified the movie as "What's Eating Gilbert Grape."

Dave rented a copy of the film the next day, and he and his wife watched it together. They were both greatly impacted by the story and by the performance of the leading lady, Darlene Cates.

Dave bought a number of copies of the film and gave them to friends for Christmas. One of those friends called Dave a few days later and said, "Did you know that Darlene Cates lives in my hometown?" Dave asked for her address, and when he received it, he wrote her a letter and told her how much he had enjoyed the film and her outstanding performance.

A couple of days later, Dave's secretary told him he had a call from a Mrs. Cates. "I asked who she was with, and she said she spends most of her time with the Lord!" That was Dave's first clue that Darlene was a Christian.

During their telephone conversation, Darlene shared her Christian testimony with Dave, and he found it so powerful that he decided to write and ask her permission to video tape it.

She called again, this time in tears,



Darlene is pictured above at her home in central Texas with the Lamb & Lion video crew. Sitting next to her on the left is Larry Watts, camera operator. On her right is Don Gordoni, director. Standing behind her, from left to right, are George Collich, audio controller, Rachel Houck, camera operator, Trey Collich, equipment handler, Lori Gordoni, assistant to the director, and Dave Reagan.

and said that Dave's request was an answer to prayer. She explained that she had been interviewed many times on television, but she had never been given an opportunity to share her Christian witness.

Darlene shares that powerful testimony in the ministry's new video program entitled, "The Darlene Cates Story." She tells how she felt God had abandoned her — only to discover that He had been preparing her all along to touch the lives of millions through a career in acting that she had never even imagined.

The ministry's Prophecy Partners were given a sneak preview of the video on June 29th. A public premiere was held in the Dallas area on July 13th, with Darlene and her family present.

The video is now ready for distribution. It is priced at \$10 plus \$2 for mailing. You can order a copy by calling 1-800-705-8316. ✚



Darlene and her husband, Bob, have been married for 40 years.

Prophecy Partner Conference is a blessing once again.

Lamb & Lion held its second Prophecy Partner Conference the last weekend in June. Fifty partners attended from all over the nation.

The couple traveling the farthest was Mike and Sharon Johnson from Coupeville, Washington. Coupeville is located on Whidby Island in the Puget Sound. Michael is a landscape painter who presented the ministry with a very symbolic painting entitled, "The Rose of Sharon." It shows a rose nailed to a cross. The painting hangs in the ministry's board room.

The guest speaker this year was Al Gist, founder and director of Maranatha Evangelistic Ministry, located near DeRidder, Louisiana. Al spoke on the Mark of the Beast. Dave Reagan also made a presentation about Europe in Bible Prophecy. And Dennis Pollock joined both Dave and Al for an open forum in response to audience questions.

The staff of the ministry presented an hilarious talent show, which also included two of the ministry's trustees. The person who stole the show was Don Gordoni, the ministry's media minister. He appeared repeatedly in the role of Thelma Fogey (wife of Old Fogey) to gripe about everything that was going on.



Michael Johnson with his painting, "The Rose of Sharon."

The ministry's Prophecy Partners are composed of those people who make a commitment of \$15 or more per month for one year. The ministry currently has 1,300 Partners. If you are interested in becoming a Partner, please call 1-800-705-8316.

All the presentations given at the conference will be made available to the public. Dr. Reagan's analysis of the European Union is already available on video tape. It sells for \$10 plus \$2 for mailing. ♣



Pledge Decision Outrages Nation

Americans finally stood up and vented their outrage when a three judge panel from the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in California ruled that it is unconstitutional to lead school

children in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

The decision was one more attempt by Humanists to cram their godless philosophy down the throats of the American people.

Both Republicans and Democrats denounced the decision. The Democrat leader of the Senate characterized it as "nutty."

The public outcry was so great that the judge who wrote the decision decided to stay its impact until it could be reconsidered by all nine justices of the Ninth Circuit Appeals Court. The decision runs counter to all decisions that the Supreme Court has made on the subject of civil religion pertaining to prayers before sessions of Congress and the Court, and the motto of "In God We Trust" on coins.

The decision of the three judge panel was 2-1. The dissenting judge was one of the few that the Senate has allowed President Bush to appoint. The judge who wrote the decision relied heavily on the argument that saying the pledge might hurt the feelings of some students. Columnists asked, "What about the feelings of the overwhelming majority who want to say the Pledge?"

Fox News featured a 1967 segment from the Red



From the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel

Skelton television program in which he talked about the meaning of the Pledge, and then ended his comments by saying: "Wouldn't it be a pity if someone said that the words, 'under God,' makes the Pledge a prayer, and that it would have to be eliminated from our schools?" You can get a copy of Red Skelton's remarks on the Internet at www.usflag.org/skeltons.pledge.html. If you would like to hear an audio clip of his remarks, go to the following website: <http://home.att.net/~poofcatt/july.html>.

Two years ago while holding a meeting in Philadelphia, Dr. Reagan learned that some schools in that area had already amended the Pledge to read: "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands." (Period!) God help us! ♣

Ministry News

Donations — The ministry received its 200,000th gift in May, and it happened to come from one of the ministry's founding couples, Ed and Bettysu Bennett, who live in Big Sandy, Texas. We praise God for this great milestone in the ministry's history.

Fund-Raising — We rejoice to report great success in four recent fund-raising campaigns. The first was our effort to help **Jack & Sally Hollingsworth** of Acts 29 Ministries to pay off their newly acquired motor home. The Lord really blessed our appeal and your response. They needed about \$60,000, and their remaining balance is only \$13,000!



Missions — We regret to report that both of our proposed mission trips for the year had to be postponed. The Australia outreach, which was set for July, ran into scheduling problems. Our September conference in New Delhi, India had to be postponed until next year because of the political unrest in that part of the world. Approximately \$3,000 had been donated to help us with our India outreach. That money will be sent to the sponsoring ministry in India — Revival Literature Fellowship. Some of it will be used to continue publishing our materials in the main languages of India. In that regard, Dennis Pollock's article on the Harry Potter books and movie was recently published in India and has received a very enthusiastic response.

Meetings — The ministry's meeting schedule is very full for the fall months. In **September**, Dave will speak in the Reno area at Summit Christian Church in Sparks, NV (28-29). Dennis is scheduled on the same dates to speak at Crossroads Christian Church in Hutchinson, KS. Dave will begin **October** speaking at First Baptist Church in Joelton, TN (5-6). The same weekend Dennis will be at Linwood Church of Christ in Lafayette, IN. On the 12th Dave will speak at a prophecy conference sponsored by Midwest Hebrew Ministries. It will be held in the Minneapolis, MN area. The next weekend Dave will be at Mulhall Christian Church in Mulhall, OK (18-20). Dennis will conclude the month speaking at Highland Church in Pampa, TX (25-27). That same weekend, Dave will be at Yucaipa Christian Church in Yucaipa, CA.

Conference — Al Gist, the founder and director of Maranatha Evangelistic Ministry, has organized a major prophecy conference to be held at Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center located in central Louisiana. The dates are November 22-23. The theme will be "Perilous Times." The speakers, in addition to Al, will be Dave Reagan, Dennis Pollock, and Gary Fisher of Lion of Judah Ministries. For more detailed information, give us a call, and we will send you a detailed brochure (972-736-3567). ✚



Hani with Joe Moore, a pilgrim in 1999.

Our second campaign was one that was restricted to people who have gone on a Holy Land pilgrimage with us when we used a wonderful Christian Arab driver by the name of Hani Kalil Saba. Hani and his wife and their six sons live in Nazareth. We informed the pilgrimage groups that Hani has had no work since September 2000 because of the Arab uprising in Israel. The pilgrims opened their hearts and their pocketbooks and contributed a total of \$3,700. Hani and his family were literally overwhelmed by this very generous and totally unexpected gift.

Our other two campaigns were to raise funds to enable us to purchase a new software system for the ministry (\$15,000) and a very much needed new cargo van (\$20,000). Both were purchased in the month of May, thanks to the generosity of our supporters.



Leo Houck and his dog, Bingo, with the ministry's new cargo van.

Darlene Cates Video Ready for Release

The ministry's newest video program, "The Darlene Cates Story," has been released for distribution. It presents the powerful Christian witness of a 500 pound woman from a small town in central Texas who was transformed from a recluse into a movie star through the power of God.

Darlene bares her soul in this program as she tells how she was moved to desperation by the feeling that God had abandoned her. While contemplating suicide, she called her doctor and said, "Isn't there anything you can do for me? They shoot horses that are in better shape than I am!"

A God Who Cares

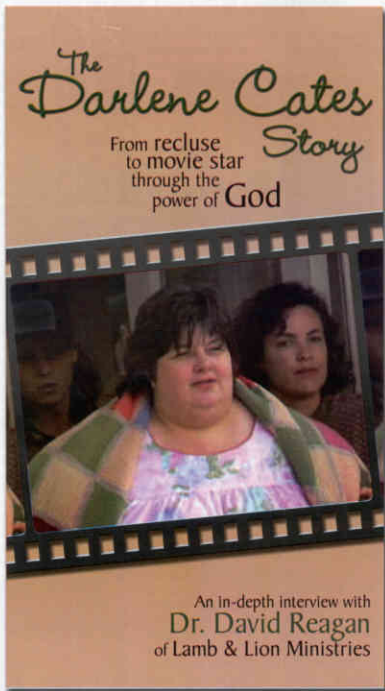
What Darlene did not recognize at the time was that God had not abandoned her. He had a purpose for her life that was beyond anything she could imagine. Through a bizarre series of God-incidences, Darlene suddenly found herself in the starring role of a major Hollywood production entitled, "What's Eating Gilbert Grape?" In that film she established herself as a gifted actress and has since appeared in many television programs, including the leading role in a segment of "Touched by an Angel" that was written especially for her.

In moving words Darlene describes how God gave her a sense of self-worth by enabling her to touch the lives of millions of people through television and film. The video is imaginatively edited by Don Gordoni and includes several very emotional scenes from the Gilbert Grape movie.

A Program for the Heart

This program will have you laughing one moment and crying the next. When it concludes, you will truly understand the meaning of 1 Peter 5:7 which encourages us to cast all our anxieties on God "because He cares for you." The program is appropriate for showing to congregations, Bible study classes, youth groups, and secular organizations.

The video runs 45 minutes. It sells for \$10 plus \$2 for shipping. To order, call 1-800-705-8316.



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