

LAMPLIGHTER

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

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Celebrating
70 Years



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Observations by the Editor

A Special Place

Dr. David R. Reagan

To me, one of the most important places to visit in Israel is Independence Hall in Tel Aviv. That's where David Ben-Gurion read the Israeli Declaration of Independence on May 14, 1948. When you go there, you realize that you are in a place where Bible prophecy was fulfilled. And in my opinion, from a biblical perspective, it is the site of the most important event of the 20th Century — more significant than the detonation of the first atomic bomb or the first walk on the moon.

It is a tragedy that 90 percent of the pilgrimage groups do not visit this site. The reason is that most churches ignore Bible prophecy, and their members have no idea of the significance of the re-establishment of the state of Israel. And so, after landing in Tel Aviv, nearly all groups board a bus and drive immediately to Tiberias on the Sea of Galilee.

Tel Aviv was founded in 1909 on the beach just north of the ancient port of Jaffa. Thus, one of the oldest cities of Israel is located adjacent to one of the newest. Independence Hall was built shortly after the establishment of the city. Originally, it was the home of Meir Dizengoff, an early Zionist and businessman. He became the first mayor of Tel Aviv. When his wife died in 1930, he gave the



Independence Hall in Tel Aviv

building to the city, and it was converted into an art museum.

One of the highlights of my life occurred in 1987 when I went to Israel to shoot our first video album about Israel in Bible prophecy. I was granted permission to stand in the exact spot in Independence Hall where David Ben-Gurion stood in 1948. As I stood there, I read portions of the Declaration of Independence. That's me in the photograph below. ☆

The cover photo was supplied by shutterstock.com. The scene was photographed by Robert Hoetink.



ISRAEL'S 70TH ANNIVERSARY

Dr. David R. Reagan

Israel declared its independence on May 14, 1948, but it was celebrated this year (2018) in Israel on April 19th. That's because the date on the Hebrew lunar-solar calendar is the 5th of Iyar.

The first nation to recognize the new state was the United States. President Harry S. Truman issued the recognition statement only 11 minutes after the declaration went into effect. American recognition proved to be one of the crucial keys to the survival of Israel.

What prompted President Truman to act so quickly and so decisively? It's only in recent years that the full story has emerged.

Relevant Bible Prophecies

But first, some background. The Hebrew prophets were given many prophecies concerning the Jewish people. It was prophesied that their disobedience would lead to their worldwide dispersion from their homeland of Israel and that they would be persecuted wherever they went (Deuteronomy 28:58-67). But the Lord promised that a remnant would be preserved (Jeremiah 30:11) and that one day they would be regathered in unbelief to their homeland (Isaiah 11:10-12) where their state would be re-established (Isaiah 66:7-8).

The dispersion prophecies had been completely fulfilled by the beginning of the 20th Century. As that century dawned, the Jewish people were scattered worldwide. And just as prophesied, everywhere the Jews had roamed for the past two thousand years, they had been persecuted. But, amazingly, they had kept their identity, unlike any other nation that had become so scattered.

God Begins to Move



Theodore Herzl

In the late 19th Century God raised up a visionary by the name of Theodore Herzl. He was a Hungarian Jew who lived in Vienna. In 1896 he published a booklet in which he called for the Jewish people to return to their homeland. The booklet sparked the imagination of the Jewish people worldwide and led to the First Zionist Congress which was held in Basel, Switzerland in 1897. After this historic assembly had adjourned, Herzl wrote in his diary these prophetic words:¹

At Basel I founded the Jewish State. If I said this out loud today, I would be greeted by universal laughter. In five years perhaps, and certainly in fifty years, everyone will perceive it.



David Ben-Gurion reads the Israeli Declaration of Independence on May 14, 1948 in Tel Aviv.

The next great milestone came in 1917 as a result of World War I. During that war the Turks sided with the Germans. Their realm, called the Ottoman Empire, included most of the lands of the Middle East, including Palestine which they had ruled for 400 years. When the Germans lost the war, the Turks went down with them, and their empire was divided up among the Allied victors. Britain received Palestine while the French were given Syria, Lebanon, and a part of Iraq.

In November of 1917 the British issued the Balfour Declaration in which they announced their intention to create a homeland for the Jewish people within the territory of Palestine. At that time, Palestine consisted of all of modern day Israel and Jordan — an area of 45,000 square miles (see the map below).

But hardly had the ink dried on the Balfour Declaration before the British decided in 1922 to give two-thirds of Palestine to the Arabs in order to secure their access to Arab oil. This led to the creation of a Palestinian state called Transjordan (see the map on the next page).

This British action to placate the Arabs left a small area of land for the promised Jewish state — a sliver of land only 10,000 square miles in size, smaller than Lake Michigan or the state of New Jersey.



Palestine in 1917



Palestine in 1922

The League of Nations Mandate

Immediately thereafter, the League of Nations entrusted what was left of Palestine to Britain as a Mandate, and the British began to rule the land with the ultimate goal of guiding it to self-government. But the British soon found themselves in the middle of a bloody Jewish-Arab struggle for the land.

As the struggle intensified and more and more British soldiers were killed, the British people began to pressure the government to look for a way to extricate themselves from the bloodbath. The pressure mounted in late 1946 when Winston Churchill, leader of the opposition to the Labor Government, began publicly urging an end to the Mandate. He declared, "If we cannot fulfill our promises to the Zionists, we should, without delay, place our Mandate for Palestine at the feet of the United Nations, and give them due notice of our impending evacuation from the country."²



Clement Attlee

Clement Attlee (British Prime Minister from 1945 to 1951) reluctantly gave ground to the mounting pressure. On February 18, 1947, Attlee's spokesman announced: "His Majesty's Government have of themselves no power under the terms of the Mandate to award the country to the Arabs or the Jews, or even to partition it between them ... We have, therefore, reached the conclusion that the only course open to us is to submit the problem

to the judgment of the United Nations."³

This action by the British government was most likely a ruse to satisfy public opinion, for no one in the government believed that there were enough votes in the United Nations to end the

Mandate. The Russians and their allies were staunchly pro-Arab, and their bloc, together with the Arab states, represented enough votes to prevent a British withdrawal that might lead to a partition of the land which the Arabs wanted all to themselves.

The British announcement led to the calling of a special session of the General Assembly of the United Nations to deal with what was dubbed as "The Palestine Question." The session was held at Flushing Meadows, New York, from April 28th to May 15th of 1947.

Two significant developments came out of this special session. First, the General Assembly decided to set up an eleven member investigating committee called The United Nations Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP). Its purpose was to study the problem of Palestine and propose a solution.⁴



Andrei Gromyko

The second development was a diplomatic bombshell in the form of a surprise announcement by the Soviet Ambassador, Andrei Gromyko. He attacked what he called the "bankruptcy of the mandatory system of Palestine" and then went on to endorse "the aspirations of the Jews to establish their own state."⁵

Why the Russians pulled this about-face is still a mystery to this day. Most likely, they were motivated by a desire to force the British to withdraw from the Middle East, believing that the much more numerous Arabs could fill the resulting political vacuum, ending up with a weak Arab state that would be dependent on the Soviets. Whatever the reason, the Russian move caught the British flat-footed. They were suddenly faced with the reality that the process had gone too far for them to put the brakes on it.

The United Nations Solution

In late August the UNSCOP report was released. The Committee agreed unanimously to recommend ending the mandate as soon as possible. The majority (7 to 3, with one abstention) recommended partition of Palestine into Arab and Jewish states. The minority called for a federation with Arab and Jewish cantons.⁶ The Jews reluctantly accepted the report. The Arabs passionately rejected it and threatened war should the United Nations approve partition.

The UNSCOP proposal proposed an Arab state composed of three areas: the Gaza Strip, the Central Highlands of Judea and Samaria, and the Western Galilee. These areas were intertwined serpent-like with the areas allotted to Israel: the Eastern Galilee, the Coastal Plain, and the Negev Desert. The Arab state would embrace 4,500 square miles, with 840,000 Arabs and 10,000 Jews. The Jewish state would encompass 5,500 square miles, with 538,000 Jews and 397,000 Arabs. Jerusalem and Bethlehem were to be internationalized. These cities contained a combined total of 100,000 Jews and the same number of Arabs.⁷

On November 29, 1947, the United Nations voted to adopt the UNSCOP recommendations to partition Palestine and create both Jewish and Arab states. The vote in favor totaled 33 and included the United States and Russia. Thirteen voted against, including all eleven Muslim states. There were ten abstentions,

including Britain. The resolution required a two-thirds vote of those voting, so it passed with votes to spare. The deciding bloc turned out to be the nations of Latin America. All of them, with the exception of Cuba, voted in favor of the resolution.⁸

Jews all over the world broke out in rejoicing, but the Jewish leaders knew that the fight was not over. As the Arabs rattled their sabers, the Jews launched a massive public relations campaign aimed at keeping the United States committed to partition.

The Response to the United Nations Vote

In December of 1947 the White House received more than 100,000 letters and telegrams concerning Palestine.⁹ In the midst of the escalating and conflicting pressure, President Truman wrote to one of his assistants: "I surely wish God Almighty would give the Children of Israel an Isaiah, the Christians a St. Paul, and the Sons of Ishmael a peep at the Golden Rule."¹⁰

On December 3rd the British announced they would terminate their League of Nations Mandate for Palestine on May 15, 1948. That same day the Arabs announced they would "defend their rights."¹¹

The British announcement and the hostile Arab response to it prompted a reconsideration of the American position in support of partition. The speed at which the process was moving seemed to spook the State and Defense Departments.

James Forrestal, the Secretary of Defense, together with the Joint Chiefs of Staff, reminded President Truman of the critical need for Saudi Arabian oil. The President responded by saying he would "handle the situation in light of justice, not oil."¹² Forrestal also told the President that in his opinion, "the Arabs would push the Jews into the sea."¹³

The pressure from the State Department was even more intense because its career bureaucrats were all pro-Arab. They began to develop an alternative to the partition plan. Their idea was to replace the League of Nations Mandate with a United Nations Trusteeship.¹⁴ As the new year of 1948 arrived, extreme tension mounted between the White House and what President Truman called "the striped pants boys" at the State Department.¹⁵

The President's contempt for the State Department did not apply to his Secretary of State, General George C. Marshall, even though Marshall was the strongest opponent to the establishment of the Jewish state. Truman greatly admired Marshall, and Marshall had the highest degree of public respect of anyone in the Truman Administration. The Secretary's "Marshall Plan" for the reconstruction of Europe had caught the public imagination and had been hailed as a lifesaver throughout Europe. Marshall's outstanding leadership resulted in his being selected as *Time* magazine's "Man of the Year" for 1947. Regarding Palestine, Marshall favored a "unitary state under a United Nations Trusteeship."¹⁶

There were only two people in the Truman Administration



Headlines of the *Palestine Post* on May 14, 1948.

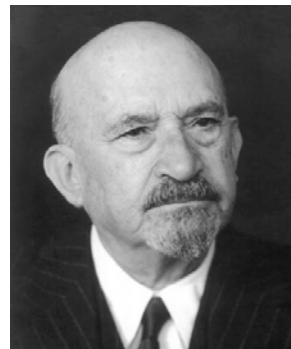
who strongly supported the partition plan, and both of them were presidential advisers — David Niles and Clark Clifford. Clifford was Truman's White House Counsel and confidant. Niles, who was Jewish, was one of only two Roosevelt aides who were retained by Truman when he became President. Niles was the President's counselor regarding minority issues and patronage.

As a Jew, Niles had a natural sympathy for the terrible plight of the Jewish people who had survived the Holocaust. Clifford, on the other hand, based his support of Israel on

his reading of ancient history and the Bible. He firmly believed the Jewish people were entitled to their homeland.¹⁷ Niles kept the key Zionist leaders informed of what was going on in Washington and within the White House. Clifford served to encourage the President to hold firm to his commitment to a Jewish state.

When the Zionist leaders learned of the strong opposition within the Truman Administration to the establishment of a Jewish state, they decided to send their foremost statesman and spokesman to Washington, D.C., to confer with the President. He was Chaim Weizmann (1874 - 1952).¹⁸

Two Crucial Jewish Voices

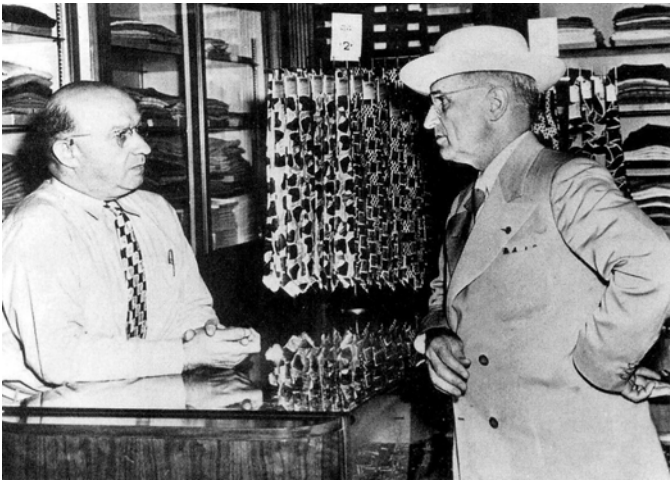


Dr. Chaim Weizmann
World Zionist Organization (1920-1931 and 1935-1946).

Despite his immense prestige, when Weizmann arrived in Washington, D.C., in March 1948, President Truman refused to see him. This was because the President had become irritated over all the Jewish pressure that was being applied to the White House, particularly by some American rabbis who had been very tactless. Besides, the President had already met with Dr. Weizmann the previous November, and during that meeting, the President had assured him of his support for a Jewish state.¹⁹

It was at this critical point in time that President Truman's dear friend and former business partner, Eddie Jacobson, decided to intervene. The two had been partners in a clothing store business in Kansas City from 1919 to 1922. In his memoirs, Truman wrote that he never had a "truer friend."²⁰

Jacobson was Jewish. He was not a Zionist, but he had a great compassion for the sufferings of the Jewish people. When he learned that Truman was refusing to see Weizmann, he



Eddie Jacobson with Harry Truman.

traveled to Washington, D.C., to urge his old business partner to change his mind. Truman was impressed: "In all my years in Washington," he wrote, "he had never asked me for anything for himself."²¹

In response to Jacobson's fervent personal plea, President Truman agreed to see Dr. Weizmann off-the-record on March 18th. They talked for almost an hour, and once again, the President assured Weizmann of his support for a Jewish state.²²

The Final Show-Down

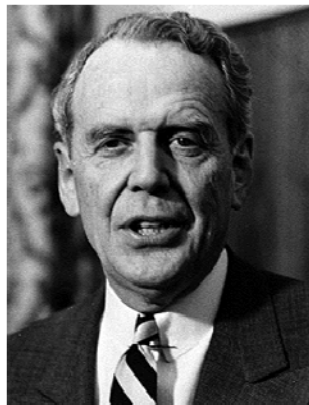
But the opponents of partition within the Administration were determined to change the President's mind. Their all-out effort occurred on May 12th when Secretary of State Marshall and several of his aides went to the White House to meet with the President. To their surprise, President Truman had several of his aides present, including David Niles and Clark Clifford.

The meeting began with a presentation by one of Secretary Marshall's aides, Robert Lovett. He presented the State Department's case for a United Nations Trusteeship.

The President then called on Clark Clifford to read a paper he had prepared. In that paper Clifford argued that the recognition of the state of Israel would be "an act of humanity" in response to the Holocaust. He quoted the promise of the Balfour Declaration and he cited verses from Deuteronomy to verify the Jewish claim to the land.²³



Robert Lovett



Clark Clifford

Marshall became incensed. He considered Clifford to be nothing more than a political operative, and he believed his arguments were politically motivated, designed to guarantee the

Jewish vote for the President in the upcoming election. Marshall finally became so agitated that he interrupted Clifford and said, "This is just straight politics. I don't even understand why Clifford is here!" Truman answered softly, "General, he is here because I asked him to be here."

Clifford continued. When he finished, Lovett spoke again in rebuttal. He argued that recognition of the Jewish state would be disastrous to American prestige at the United Nations because it would appear only as "a transparent bid" for Jewish votes in the upcoming presidential election in November.

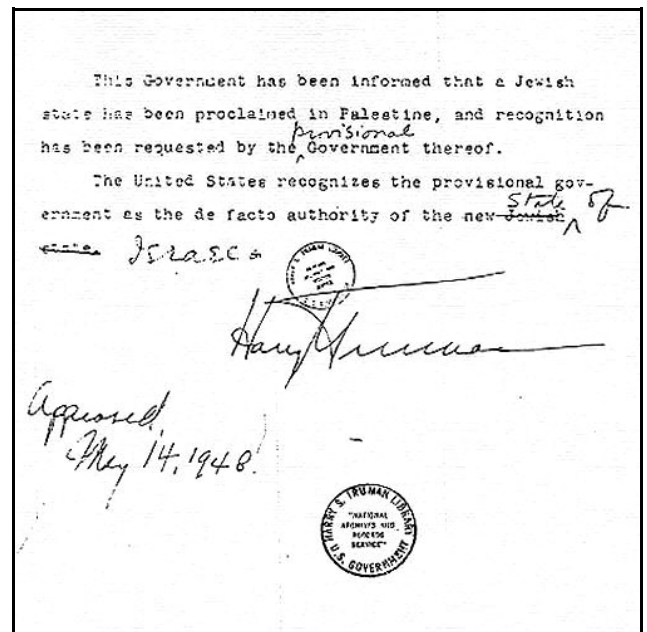
At this point, Marshall spoke again. Looking directly at Truman, he said that if the President were to follow Clifford's advice, he would vote against the President in the election!

It was an incredible rebuke of the President in front of witnesses. The room fell silent. All sat in shock. Clifford later called it an "awful, total silence." Truman showed no sign of emotion. Finally, he said he thought it would be best for everyone to "sleep on the matter."²⁴

The Final Decision

Two days later, on Friday, May 14th, the day of the Declaration of Independence, Secretary of State Marshall called the President and told him that while he could not personally support recognition, he would not oppose it publicly.²⁵

The Declaration was scheduled to take effect at 6:00 pm Washington time. Eleven minutes after the effective time, one of the President's aides, Charlie Ross, announced that the United States was granting *de facto* recognition to the new state of Israel. The United States thus became the very first nation to recognize Israel.



The American delegation to the United Nations was flabbergasted. Marshall dispatched his head of UN affairs, Dean Acheson, by plane to New York to keep the whole delegation from resigning. Many in the State Department urged Marshall to resign, but he refused. He said the President had the constitutional right to make the decision. However, he refused ever again to speak to Clark Clifford.²⁶

The Aftermath

On May 15th the British High Commissioner in Palestine said his farewells and departed Jerusalem. On May 16th the Provisional Government of Israel met and elected Dr. Chaim Weizmann to serve as Israel's first president.

Meanwhile the fledgling Jewish state had come under immediate attack from five Arab armies who were determined to destroy the nation at its birth. Attacking from three sides, the armies came from Egypt, Transjordan, Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon.

This invasion fulfilled a symbolic prophecy given by Isaiah in which he said that the future Jewish state would be born "in one day" and that the labor pains would come *after* the birth (Isaiah 66:7-8). And so they did, and those labor pains have continued to this day as Israel has experienced one war after another for its survival.

In May 1951, David Ben-Gurion, the Prime Minister of Israel, visited the President at the White House to thank him for his support. His last meeting with the President occurred in 1952 at a hotel in New York. In an interview which he gave years later, he said:²⁷

I told him [Truman] that as a foreigner I could not judge what would be his place in American history; but his helpfulness to us, his constant sympathy with our aims in Israel, his courageous decision to recognize our new state so quickly, and his steadfast support since then had given him an immortal place in Jewish history. As I said that, tears suddenly sprang to his eyes. And his eyes were still wet when he bade me goodbye . . . A little later . . . a correspondent came up to me and asked, "Why was President Truman in tears when he left you?"



President Truman with David Ben-Gurion at the White House in May 1951. Looking on from behind is Abba Eban, the Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations.

Concluding Thoughts

Was Secretary of State Marshall correct in his assessment of President Truman's motivations? Was the President's decision concerning Palestine motivated by politics?

On the surface, this would be easy to believe. After all, New

York state had more Jews than the state of Israel, and the President was facing what seemed to be impossible odds. His popularity rating was low and his party was split three ways.

Senator Strom Thurmond of South Carolina was pulling out to run as the candidate of the Dixiecrat Party, a move that threatened to take the Southern states away from the President. And FDR's former Secretary of Agriculture and Vice President, Henry Wallace, was determined to run on the Progressive Party ticket. This move threatened to attract the liberal wing of the Democrats.

But the historical record seems to indicate that Truman's decision was deeply rooted in his personal values and his Christian faith. All his life he was a voracious reader. He always claimed that he had read the Bible twice before he even started to school! He knew the history of the Jews by heart, and he understood their biblical claim to the land.²⁸

His heart was revealed early on in April of 1943 when he was serving in the Congress as a Senator from Missouri. He flew to Chicago to speak at a huge rally that was held at Chicago Stadium to urge help for the doomed Jews of Europe. There was no political gain to be made from such an appearance, but Truman went anyway, and he spoke with great passion.

He referred to Hitler as a "mad man," and he boldly implied criticism of President Roosevelt for not doing enough to help the Jews. Referring to FDR's "Four Freedoms" speech, Truman observed:²⁹

Merely talking about the Four Freedoms is not enough. This is the time for action. No one can any longer doubt the horrible intentions of the Nazi beasts. We know they plan the systematic slaughter throughout all of Europe, not only of the Jews, but of vast numbers of other innocent peoples.

Supernatural Preparation

Proverbs 21:1 states that the hearts of rulers are like "channels of water in the hand of the Lord." The passage goes on to state that God can turn their hearts "wherever He wishes."

The story of Harry Truman's decision to support the establishment of a Jewish state and grant it immediate recognition is a story about how God prepares a man to make an historic decision that would fulfill Bible prophecy.

First, Truman was grounded in the Scriptures and was well-acquainted with the history of the Jews. Then, a Jewish man he met in the military during World War I became his best friend and business partner. He was deeply impacted by the suffering of the Jewish people during the Holocaust. And when the time came for his momentous decision regarding Palestine, two of his closest advisors were staunch supporters of Israel.

The Lord even touched the heart of Israel's greatest opponent within the Administration — Secretary of State George Marshall — and at the very last moment, he consented to the President's course of action.

How else can the pivotal role of Eddie Jacobson be explained, except supernaturally? He was a simple store clerk whom God positioned in the center of Truman's life, ready to take action at just the right moment.

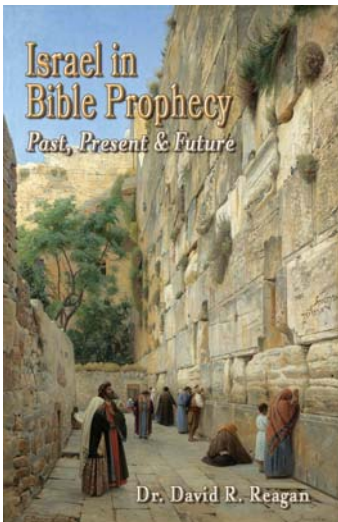
The Bible says that God made a promise to Abraham that He would bless those who bless the Jews and curse those who curse them (Genesis 12:3). God has been faithful to that promise throughout history.



The Chicago Tribune was so confident of Truman's defeat in 1948 that they printed a headline to that effect before the ballots were counted!

In May of 1948, President Harry S. Truman greatly blessed the Jewish people. In November, God returned the blessing to him as he won re-election in one of the most astounding victories in American history. ✨

For More Details . . .



The article above is condensed from Dr. Reagan's book, *Israel in Bible Prophecy*.

The book covers four end time Bible prophecies fulfilled among the Jewish people before the beginning of the 20th Century, seven fulfilled in whole or in part during the 20th Century, and the many prophecies that are yet to be fulfilled in Jewish history, mainly during the period of the Tribulation. All the reference notes contained in the article above can be found in this book.

The book is the product of 40 years of study and 45 trips to Israel. End time Bible prophecy focuses on the Jewish people and God's determination to bring a great remnant of them to faith in Yeshua (Jesus) as their Messiah. There is simply no way to understand what is going on in the Middle East today without any knowledge of the biblical prophecies concerning the nation of Israel.

The book runs 250 pages in length. It sells for \$20, including the cost of shipping. You can place your order through our website at lamblion.com, or you can call our office at 972-736-3567, Monday thru Friday between 8am and 5pm Central time.

Personal Observations

The Miracle of Israel

Spiritual Blindness

The great scientist, Sir Isaac Newton, who was a diligent student of Bible prophecy, once wrote: "About the time of the end, a body of men will be raised up who will turn their attention to the prophecies, and insist upon literal interpretation, in the midst of much clamor and opposition."



Dr. David R. Reagan

Newton proved to be right on target with this prediction. Once the Bible became accessible in printed

form and in national languages, people began to interpret it for its plain sense meaning. Four hundred years ago, in the late 16th Century, the Puritans began to apply literal interpretation to the Bible's prophecies, resulting in the conclusion that in the end times, God will regather the Jewish people in unbelief and re-establish the state of Israel. One of the greatest of the English Puritan theologians was John Owen (1616–1683) who wrote, "The Jews shall be gathered from all parts of the earth where they are scattered, and brought home into their homeland."

Literal or plain sense interpretation became a cornerstone of the Dispensational Movement that arose in England in the early 19th Century. Its advocates made a clear distinction between Israel and the Church. They rejected the idea that the Church had replaced Israel and that all the unfulfilled prophecies about Israel would be fulfilled symbolically or spiritually in the Church. Instead, they maintained that all the prophecies concerning the end time regathering of the Jewish people and the re-establishment of Israel would be literally fulfilled.

The first best-selling prophecy book in history was *Jesus is Coming* by William E. Blackstone. It was published in 1878. In his chapter titled, "Israel to be Restored," Blackstone wrote, "Surely nothing is more plainly stated in the Scriptures." The best-selling Study Bible of all times is the one that was produced by C. I. Scofield in 1909, titled, *The Scofield Reference Bible*. In his notes on Ezekiel 37, he stated that the vision of the valley of the dry bones in verses 1-14 was a prophecy about the regathering of the Jewish people to their homeland in the end times. And he asserted that chapters 38 and 39 were about an end time invasion of Israel by a Russian coalition.

The Christian leaders of the mainline denominations laughed at these literal interpretations and boldly asserted that Israel would never exist again. Once the state of Israel became a reality in 1948, these same Christian leaders began to argue that it was just an "accident of history" and not a fulfillment of prophecy!

This is spiritual blindness, and it is very sad since it has resulted in the average Christian knowing nothing about the significance of the re-establishment of Israel as a miraculous fulfillment of Bible prophecy and a sure sign of the Lord's soon return.

A Witnessing Generation



Colonel Tim Moore

This year my parents each celebrated their 75th birthday. My entire family rejoiced over God's bountiful blessings poured into and through them. Reflecting back on the span of their lives, I am amazed at the events and advances they have witnessed.

Matthew 24:32-35 says that the generation that witnesses the budding of the fig tree (a biblical symbol of Israel) will be the one that witnesses the return of Jesus.

Well, the fig tree re-blossomed on May 14, 1948. Aside from a few students of Bible prophecy, most Christians were oblivious of the importance of this singular event. People like my parents who grew up in the Church had never heard about the significance of the Jewish people, or God's clear promise to preserve and gather them in the end times, or the relevance of modern Israel to the prophetic time clock.

The Bible clearly teaches in Romans 9-11 that God is not finished with the Jewish people. He has promised that He will bring a great remnant of them to faith in Jesus (Zechariah 12:10). He has also promised a glorious future for their nation (Isaiah 60-62). Jeremiah tells us that by the time their regathering is complete, they will see it as even more miraculous than their delivery from Egyptian captivity (Jeremiah 16:14-15). That means we are currently witnessing one of the greatest miracles of history!

Have you considered how blessed you are to be living right now — able to witness the fulfillment of Bible prophecy in your own day and age? Every time the news focuses to events in Israel and the Middle East, do you realize that God's plan for human history is approaching its great climax? Even as Satan inspires increased hatred toward the Jews and toward Israel, do you recognize that he realizes his final defeat is at hand?

The signs of the times are indeed multiplying all around us. They point to the reality that God's Word is true and that at any moment the Father will tell Jesus Christ to go and collect His Bride. There are many signs of the times today, but the greatest of all the manifest signs is the existence of the nation of Israel. Those who take for granted its very existence underappreciate its significance on God's prophetic timeline.

Like my parents, if you have been alive since 1948, your life has witnessed more fulfillment of Bible prophecy than any generation since those who walked with Jesus 2,000 years ago. I daresay that countless generations will thrill to hear your testimony in glory — before we all witness Jesus Christ's glorious return together.

If you have never joined us on a Lamb & Lion pilgrimage to Israel, I want to personally invite you to come and see with your own eyes what God is doing in this remarkable nation. See what the Lord has done — and what He is doing still. You'll come home praising Him, bearing witness to His fulfilled promises, and eager for Jesus Christ to come quickly.

The Mustard Seed

Modern-day Israel is now miraculously 70 years old! But, did you know that Israel has already experienced another miraculous 70? From the destruction of their Temple by the Babylonians in 586 BC to a remnant's first return under Zerubbabel was 50 years. Another 20 years elapsed before the Jews finished rebuilding their Temple in 516 BC, making a total of 70 years between the two Temples. In reverse parallel, Israel was re-born in 1948, recaptured Jerusalem nearly 20 years later, and some 50 years after that has reached its 70th birthday.



Nathan Jones

Because Israel has fulfilled not just one but two miraculous returns from exile and reached two stunning 70s, I cannot help but wonder what a monumental year this will be for Israel prophetically. Something major must happen soon, for all the splendor Israel has achieved in its rebirth, I cannot help but look at the Israel of today as a mere mustard seed yet to sprout the future glory God has in store for this covenant nation.

God blessed the prophet Zechariah with significant glimpses into a great and glorious future for His People Israel. That far, far distant future would revolve around one key event — the coming of the Messiah. When the Savior comes, "the Lord shall be King over all the earth" (Zechariah 14:9).

Zechariah's mission was to energize the defeated exiles who struggled against insurmountable obstacles within and without, much like today's nation. Zechariah probably looked around at the tumbled down ruins of Jerusalem which surrounded him and wondered when God would restore her to her former glory. But, God wasn't interested in the city's former glory, for He instead shared with Zechariah an epiphany about its future glory.

That future depends on a people who obey God not just externally, but from the heart. If Jerusalem is to be that great and shining capital city over the world, obedience towards God must be the defining characteristic. When the people obtain the right kind of heart, God will then unleash His splendor upon His city and its people.

Zechariah gazed past the ruins to behold a distant future when Jerusalem will be shining in full glory. Yahweh will return with great zeal to His city (Zechariah 2:10). Jerusalem will be renamed "The City of Truth" (Zechariah 8:3). Not a tiny remnant, but a great throng of believing Jews, both young and old, will be regathered from around the world. Truth and righteousness will define its peoples. Peace will be its eternal condition. The once despised and defeated Jew will become the new global celebrity (Zechariah 8:23).

Jesus desires to fulfill His promises to the Jewish people, if only they would embrace Him as Messiah. Once Israel finally does that at His Second Coming (Zechariah 12:10), the nation will grow from the mustard seed that it is today into the mighty inheritor of that glorious future. That's the Israel I'm looking forward to. ✠

Thanks Again, Mr. President!

Dr. David R. Reagan

In the March-April edition of this magazine this year, I praised President Trump for finally doing what previous presidents have promised to do but have failed to do — namely, recognize Jerusalem as the legitimate capital of Israel.

In this article I want to thank President Trump for having the courage to withdraw from the wretched deal that President Obama made with Iran (called “The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action,” or JCPOA). The deal included China, Britain, Russia, France and Germany — all of whom tried to pressure Trump into staying with the pact.

The Nature of the Deal

The deal, which was put together by Israel haters, was supposedly designed to prevent Iran from gaining nuclear weapons in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions. It was a classic “Chamberlain Deal” from the get-go. Just as Neville Chamberlain stupidly put his faith in Hitler in 1939 when he made the infamous Munich Deal to give Hitler the Sudetenland in exchange for a promise of peace, the signatories to the Iran Deal decided they could trust the world’s leading sponsor of terrorism to keep its word.

So, President Obama agreed to lift our economic sanctions on Iran, provide them a payoff with billions of assets we had frozen and allow them to basically self-enforce their agreement to put their nuclear development on hold. It was an insane agreement that saved the Iranian economy, provided them with funding for their terrorist activities and paved the way for them to continue with their development of nuclear weapons and ballistic missile delivery systems.

The Iranians must have enjoyed a big laugh over the naiveté of the Western powers.

The Motivation for the Deal

Or, were the Western leaders really all that naive? I doubt it. I suspect instead that it was simply their way of allowing the Iranians to continue developing nuclear weapons and their delivery systems behind the scenes, with the hope that the ultimate result would be the annihilation of Israel.

Evidence of this can be found in their reaction to the incredible Israeli espionage raid that produced 11,000 documents detailing Iran’s secret nuclear weapons program. Despite the fact that these records clearly showed that the Iranian leaders had been lying all along, the Western leaders declared there was no “smoking gun”!

President Obama knew he could never get the sordid deal approved by the Congress, so he backed off from packaging it as a treaty. Instead, he decided to make it just an executive agreement. Fortunately, that decision made it easy for President Trump to toss it aside.

Critics of Trump

The two architects of what amounted to a stab in the back of Israel were Obama and his Secretary of State, John Kerry. And, as you can imagine, both threw a fit over Trump’s decision. Obama declared that “walking away from the JCPOA turns our back on America’s closest allies.” Interesting. China, Russia, Germany and France are America’s closest allies? Since when? Surely he wasn’t speaking of Iran whose leaders mindlessly chant, “Death to America!” Even Britain pales as an ally compared to the nation that is truly our greatest ally — Israel.

John Kerry issued the strongest denunciation, claiming that Trump’s decision “empowers Iran’s hardliners.” Incredible! Is he saying that the current fanatical religious leaders of Iran are not hardliners? It was the JCPOA deal that enhanced the power of the hardliners, making it easier for them to increase their totalitarian control over their people.

Looking to the Future

It is refreshing to have a President who keeps his campaign promises, who is willing to face the stark realities of international politics and who is determined to put the national interests of the United States first. Even more important from a biblical viewpoint, Christians should be rejoicing that President Trump is willing to support the only nation that is our true ally, for those who bless Israel will be blessed in return (Genesis 12:3).

Let us pray earnestly for the overthrow of the corrupt and heartless Iranian regime. And let us pray for God’s supernatural protection of Israel.

Meanwhile, keep in mind the words of Psalm 2 which says that while all the nations of the world conspire against God and His Anointed One, our Heavenly Father sits in Heaven and laughs — not because he does not care, but because He has the wisdom and power to orchestrate all the evil of Man and Satan to the triumph of His Son. Hallelujah! ✠



Cartoon by Mark Lane
(www.politicalcartoons.com)

Remembering a Glorious Day in the History of Israel



51 years ago, on June 7, 1967, Israeli soldiers broke into the Old City of Jerusalem and made their way to the Western Wall where the photograph on the left above was taken by David Rubinger. It has become one of the iconic pictures of modern day Israeli history.

Last year, on the 50th anniversary of the event, the three men in the photograph came back to the Western Wall to be photographed together. They are, from left to right, Zion Karasenti, Yitzhak Yifat and Chaim Oshri. At the celebration ceremonies, Zion Karasenti, now 74, proclaimed, “We will never give back Jerusalem.” He added, “If anyone tries to capture it again, the three of us will be in the front line!”

Jewish access to the Western Wall had been cut off after the War of Independence (1948-1949). At the end of that war, the Old City of Jerusalem was in the hands of the Jordanians, and although the Jews were promised access to the wall, the Jordanians never allowed it. Instead, they proceeded to blow up the entire Jewish Quarter and deny Jewish access to any of the Old City.

When the young Jewish soldiers broke into the Old City through the Lion’s Gate, they found themselves in the Arab Quarter, and they had no idea how to get to the Western Wall. But they were determined. While dodging bullets from snipers, they made their way through the labyrinth of confusing streets until they found the Wall.

At that time the space in front of the wall was like a narrow alleyway, only about 12 feet wide. The wall itself stretched 90 feet in length.

People often ask, “What is the Wall and why is it considered so sacred?” The Wall is part of a retaining wall that was built around the Temple Mount by Herod the Great. The reason it became sacred is because it is the closest place that the Jews can get to where the Temple was located on the mound at the top of the Wall.



The Western Wall in the 1890s.

After the liberation of Jerusalem in 1967, the area in front of the Wall was cleared of buildings, producing a huge plaza that will hold thousands of people. The Wall was also divided into male and female sections since it is considered to be a place of worship, and the Orthodox require separate seating for men and women in their synagogues.

On the day of its liberation, the chief rabbi of the Israeli army, Shlomo Goren, blew a shofar and announced, “We have taken the City of God. We have entered the Messianic era!” ☆

Is Israel Threatened by a Population Bomb?

Dr. David R. Reagan

In March 1898, the leading Jewish demographer and historian, Simon Dubnov, ridiculed the Zionist vision, claiming that by 1998 there would be no more than 500,000 Jews in the land of Israel. In October of 1944, the prime Jewish demographer, Roberto Bachi, contended that under the best-case-scenario, there might be as many as 2.3 million Jews in Palestine by the year 2001.

Bible Prophecies

These men either had not read the prophecies of the Hebrew prophets or else they did not believe them. Those prophecies make it clear that in the end times God will regather the Jewish people in unbelief from the four corners of the earth. You can find those prophecies in my book, *Israel in Bible Prophecy*.

The prophet Jeremiah was so insistent about the regathering of the Jewish people that he wrote two times that when history is over and done, the Jewish people will look back and consider their regathering to their homeland in the end times to be a greater miracle than their deliverance from Egyptian captivity (Jeremiah 19:14-15 and 23:7-8).

Current Population

As of January 2018, Israel had a population of 8.8 million, of which 75 percent, or 6.6 million, are Jews. This compares to a Jewish population of 600,000 in 1948. Three and a half million Jews have made Aliyah (immigration to Israel) since 1948. These immigrants currently make up 42 percent of the total population of the nation.

The largest Jewish population in the world now lives in Israel, representing 43 percent of all Jews in the world (estimated at about 15 million). The second largest group of Jews are the ones residing in the United States.

In 1948, when the nation of Israel was established, there was only one city that had more than 100,000 residents, and that was Tel Aviv (founded in 1909). Today, 70 years later, there are 14 cities with populations above 100,000, and eight of those have more than 200,000. Israel's capital city, Jerusalem, is the largest, with a population in excess of 800,000.

In 1948, Israel had only 500 cities and towns. Today there are more than 1,200. There were only two academic institutions when the state was established. Today there are 63.

Dire Predictions

From the time of the state's foundation in 1948, demographers have predicted that the nation would ultimately lose its

Jewish identity due to the exponential growth of its Arab population. In other words, demographers have always argued that Israel would one day be destroyed by an Arab fertility bomb.

But those dire predictions have not come true. The current number of Arab citizens of Israel totals 1.8 million, or about 20 percent of the total population.

The Arab time bomb has never detonated due to the fact that the Arabs have experienced a plunging fertility rate over the years. For example, in 1960, Arabs in Israel had a fertility rate of 9.5 births per woman. As of 2016 it had dropped dramatically to a rate of 3.1 per woman!

Changing Values

This is due to the Westernization of Arab culture. More

Arab women than ever before are getting higher educations and are being incorporated into the work force. This has resulted in the increased use of contraceptives, and it has significantly delayed wedding-age.

Meanwhile, there has been an unprecedented increase in the rate of Jewish fertility, especially in the secular sector. A high fertility rate has always characterized the Orthodox

Jews, but they constitute only about 15 percent of the Jewish population.

Demographers are not certain why there has been a totally unexpected increase in the fertility rate of the Jewish secular population. Some theorize that it is due to a high level of patriotism and optimism about the future. The current Jewish birth rate per woman is 3.16 compared to 3.11 among the Israeli Arabs. That Jewish birth rate is the highest among all the Western democracies with advanced economies! America's birth rate is currently at 1.84, Canada is at 1.6, Germany 1.5 and Japan 1.46. China's rate is only 1.57.

Additionally, Israel enjoys a demographic tailwind of immigration from around the world. Again, since 1948, 3.5 million Jews have immigrated to Israel from over 100 nations, and they are still coming. Immigration is likely to increase in future years due to the current worldwide resurgence of anti-Semitism. ☆

The statistics in this article are based on reports contained in the following articles:

- 1) *Israel Today* magazine, "Despite the Challenges, Israel Keeps Growing," February 2017, page 9; "Israel in Numbers," May 2018, page 7 (www.israeltoday.co.il).
- 2) *The Ettinger Report*, "The Jewish-Arab demographic about-face," November 11, 2017 (<http://bit.ly/2m7zVmR>).
- 3) United with Israel Staff, "On its 70th Independence Day, Israel can be proud of its booming population and thriving economy," April 16, 2018 (unitedwithisrael.org).



(<https://cleanpowerexchange.org>)_

Will Modern Day Israel Survive?

Dr. David R. Reagan

A recent edition of *Israel Today* magazine featured an article by its editor, Ariel Schneider, titled, "How Long Will Israel's Third Kingdom Survive?"



While thinking about modern day Israel's 70th anniversary, it occurred to Schneider that "in its 3,500 year history, the nation of Israel has only three times been able to live free, united, sovereign and independent. And only for very short periods of time."

The First United Kingdom

He argues that the very first time Israel truly existed as a sovereign, united nation state was during the kingships of David and Solomon — a period of 82 years, from 1010 to 928 BC. King David ruled a united Israel for 40 years (1010 to 970 BC). He was followed by his son, Solomon, who also reigned for 40 years (970 to 930 BC).

But two years into the reign of Solomon's son, Rehoboam, a civil war broke out over excessive taxation, and the kingdom split between 10 tribes in the north and two in the south. The northern area became known as the state of Israel, with its capital at Samaria. The two tribes in the south called their state Judah, and its capital was in Jerusalem.

The Divided Kingdoms

The northern kingdom of Israel was apostate from the beginning. Never once in its 208 year history (930 to 722 BC) did it have a king who, in God's eyes, was considered to be righteous. Its hard-boiled rebellion against God and His Word resulted in the kingdom's destruction by the Assyrians in 722 BC.

The southern kingdom of Judah was blessed with great kings like Jehoshaphat, Uzziah, Hezekiah and Josiah. The kingdom was also blessed with prosperity. But its greatest blessing was spiritual, for the Shekinah Glory of God resided in the nation's temple in Jerusalem.

But the Judeans gradually fell into apostasy as they intermarried with the Caananites and ended up worshiping their gods. The Lord sent remedial judgments to call them to repentance. But they persisted in their rebellion. God also sent many prophetic voices to call them to repentance and to warn them of impending judgment, but they had deaf ears.

Finally, God allowed the Babylonians to conquer them and take them into captivity. After Babylon fell to the Persians, the Jews were allowed to return to their homeland, but they remained under Persian domination until the nation was conquered by Alexander the Great in 332 BC. After his death, the Jews came under the rule of the Greek Seleucid Kingdom.

The Second United Kingdom

It would be 800 years after the United Kingdom of David and Solomon before the Jews would once again experience a united, independent kingdom. It was the product of the Hasmonean revolt against the Seleucid Greek occupiers that began in 164 BC. Eleven years later, in 153 BC, Jerusalem was conquered and the Temple was cleansed. In 135 BC John Hycranus was crowned King of Israel, and six years later, in 129 BC, he proclaimed Israel's full independence. This sovereign state lasted 66 years, until 63 BC when the Romans conquered Jerusalem.

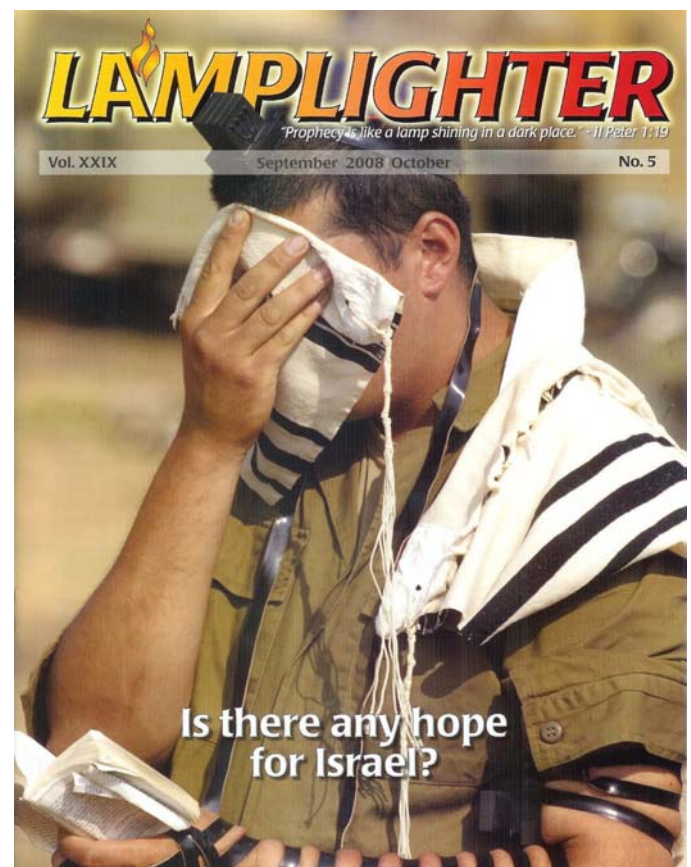
Brief Sovereignty

This means that all three of Israel's united sovereignties added together equal only 218 years (David-Solomon, 82 years; Hasmonean, 66 years; and Modern Israel, 70 years).

If you count the existence of Israel as a state in one form or another from the time of King Saul (1030 BC) to its destruction under the Romans in 70 AD, you have a total of 960 years. During that time, the Jewish people lived under a unified, sovereign government for only 148 years (David-Solomon, 82 years and Hasmonean, 66 years), totaling only 15 percent of the time.

Some historians would add the period when Judah existed alone, from 722 to 586 BC, a period of 136 years. But during those years, the nation was often under the domination of foreign powers like the Assyrians and the Egyptians, requiring it to pay tribute as a vassal state.

The point is that Israel has never been able to exist for very long as an independent, unified sovereign nation.



And, for that reason and others, most modern experts on the Middle East suggest that the current state of Israel (the Third United Kingdom) will also have a short life. On the surface that estimation seems valid. After all, Israel's seven million Jews are surrounded by 22 hostile Arab nations with more than 400 million people. Israel's survival appears to be hopeless.

But, "He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep" (Psalm 121:4). Israel has been engaged in constant, never-ending warfare ever since the modern state was established, and Israel has miraculously survived. This is in fulfillment of Bible prophecy which says that in the end times, Israel will be like David against Goliath (Zechariah 12:8) and that Israel will consume its adversaries like a raging fire in the midst of a woodpile (Zechariah 12:6).



The Bible also promises supernatural protection of Israel when the nation is invaded in the end times by a mighty coalition of enemies led by Russia (Ezekiel 38 & 39). This overwhelming army will be destroyed by God with battlefield confusion, earthquakes, pestilence, torrential rain, hailstones, fire and brimstone (Ezekiel 38:20-22 and Ezekiel 39:6).

But the Bible also prophesies that the current state of Israel will be overthrown by the Antichrist in the middle of the Tribulation when the Jews reject him as their Messiah (Revelation 12:13-17). During the last half of the Tribulation (3½ years), the Antichrist will become obsessed with annihilating the Jewish people, and they will scatter to other nations, including modern day Jordan where they will be supernaturally protected (Daniel 11:41).

At the end of the Tribulation, we are told that the remnant of surviving Jews worldwide will put their faith in Yeshua (Jesus) as their Messiah (Zechariah 12:10 and 13:1).

When Jesus returns to this earth at the end of the Tribulation, He will regather all believing Jews back to their homeland and establish them as the prime nation of the world, and they "will never be uprooted again" (Amos 9:15).

Maranatha!

Arab Praise of Israel

Israel Today magazine has recently been reporting some sane comments about Israel that have been made by Arab spokesmen. The Arabs certainly have not fallen in love with Israel, but at long last, they are beginning to admit that there are things about Israel's government and society that are positive in nature, especially as compared to Arab states. Below are some examples:

A former provincial governor of Egypt, Reda Abd Al-Salam, wrote an article for *Nile Press* in which he said, "The Arab and Muslim peoples live under regimes that for decades have engaged not in developing their peoples and establishing themselves in economy, society, science and democracy, but in establishing their own rule." He observed that the very people the Arabs denounce as "the sons of apes and pigs" [the Jews] "have engaged in real building. They have focused on education, health, economy and technology, and of course on the democratic process." He concluded by urging the Arab world to "stop lying to ourselves," and instead emulate Israel.

Jordanian politician, Rahil Ghorayba, writing in the nation's *Al-Dustour* daily newspaper, said that "Israel's commitment to justice is the envy of the Arab world."

Palestinian columnist, Suhail Kiwan, wrote an article for the London-based *Al-Quids Al-Arabi* in which he said that although he considers Israel to be a "barbaric state," he can't help but feel jealousy over the fact that at least Israel cares for its own, the Jews. He pointed out that the same can't be said of most Arab regimes. A writer for Dubai's *Al-Hayat* newspaper made the same point, stating that the source of Israel's strength is that it rules for the good of the Jewish people. Conversely, he observed that most Arab regimes are only looking out for themselves.

On the Kuwaiti TV channel *Alrai*, a prominent Arab journalist named Abdallah Al-Hadlaq explained that Jerusalem and the land of Israel belong to the Jews. As proof, he pointed to Sura 5:21 in the Quran which states that when the children of Israel entered the Promised Land, Moses told them that Allah has given the land to them. He concluded by saying, "If Allah has given them the land, then they have not stolen the land."

The Saudi Crown Prince, Mohammed bin Salman, recently stated: "For the past 40 years, the Palestinian leadership has missed opportunities again and again, and rejected all the offers it was given. It's about time that the Palestinians accept the offers and agree to come to the negotiating table — or they should shut up and stop complaining." In a subsequent interview, he acknowledged Israel's right to exist.



Mohammed bin Salman

Editor's note: You can subscribe to *Israel Today* magazine at www.israeltoday.com.il. ☆

The Bible's Strangest Book

Dennis Pollock

In my opinion, Ecclesiastes has to be the strangest book in the Bible. It begins with an evaluation of life with which no Christian today would ever agree: that life is vain and purposeless. Solomon begins his strange thesis about life on earth with the words: “Vanity of vanities, all is vanity.” In using the word vanity, Solomon is not talking about ego. He is declaring that life is vain — all life, all our lives, all our activities and all that happens “under the sun” (one of his favorite expressions) is in vain and without any real purpose.

This is hardly a Christian worldview. We who are in Christ see life as incredibly significant and purposeful. We must wonder, “How is it that Solomon could be so gloomy?” The general tenor of the book of Ecclesiastes seems more philosophical than theological, and it is a pretty gloomy philosophy at that.

We must understand that during the days of the Old Testament, there was no widespread revelation of eternal life. In fact, the Old Testament says very, very little about the afterlife — so little that there was a major theological group existing in Jesus’ day who firmly insisted that there was no afterlife. Once you died, that was it, so if God was pleased with you, you could be sure you would be blessed in this life — since there were no blessings and indeed no life at all after death. This group was known as the Sadducees. Their main argument for believing as they did was by reason of omission — you just couldn’t find plain, clear references to Heaven or any life after death in the writings of Moses (Genesis through Deuteronomy).

Early Sadducee

Solomon seemed to be of this persuasion, long before the Sadducees appeared on the scene. He had a great life for the present. He was the king of Israel, and the wealthiest and wisest man on earth. He had all his heart could want, in possessions, wives, concubines, entertainers, gold, silver and just about anything and everything a man of his times could ever desire. He was a royal and he lived royally.

But as Solomon aged, something began to bother him. The reality of his own eventual death became more and more depressing to him. Sure, he had it all for now. And he would probably enjoy these blessings for a while. But sooner or later, he would do as all the rest of the world did. He would age, he would weaken, and he would finally die and leave everything. Every bit of his gold and silver, all his wives, all his servants, all his fancy robes and crowns, everything he possessed, all he had accomplished and all which gave him such pride and satisfaction would remain, but he would be gone.

Throughout the twelve chapters of the little book of Ecclesiastes, the gloomy king complains again and again about this inevitable and irresistible conclusion to human life. Let’s consider a few of his ramblings on this subject. In chapter one we read (Ecclesiastes 1:3-4 - NKJV):

What profit has a man from all his labor in which he toils under the sun? One generation passes away, and another generation comes.

Solomon was a hard worker. Throughout his life he was constantly building, creating, and improving Jerusalem. He took much pride in his accomplishments, but it just didn’t sit well with him that one day he would die and all his labor, all his efforts, and all his accomplishments would fall into the hands of others. He uses a phrase here that we will see repeated throughout the book. That phrase is: “What profit . . .?” He might have said, “What good does it do?” Regardless of how skilled we are and how hard we work, and all that we manage to accumulate, it will all at some point be unceremoniously ripped from our cold, dead hands. So what is the point?

No Remembrance

Later in the first chapter, Solomon laments the fact that the day will probably come when he will be entirely forgotten and

receive no credit by future generations for all he has done. He states: “There is no remembrance of former things, nor will there be any remembrance of things that are to come by those who will come after” (Ecclesiastes 1:11). Not only will he die and have to leave everything behind, but in future generations everything he has done, all his labors and triumphs and sorrows and

memories will be forgotten. What’s the use?

In the second chapter Solomon carries this theme further still. He writes (Ecclesiastes 2:14-16):

The wise man’s eyes are in his head, but the fool walks in darkness. Yet I myself perceived that the same event happens to them all. So I said in my heart, “As it happens to the fool, It also happens to me, and why was I then more wise?” Then I said in my heart, “This also is vanity.” For there is no more remembrance of the wise than of the fool forever, since all that now is will be forgotten in the days to come. And how does a wise man die? As the fool!

Solomon feels it would be acceptable if only fools and wicked people died, while the wise and righteous people live on. But to his consternation, it doesn’t happen this way. Wise men die as well as fools, godly people die right along with the wicked. And to make matters worse, wise men are forgotten just about as quickly as the fools! No matter how much you accomplish, no matter how many people you help, no matter how high you may rise in this life, you will die right alongside the village idiot and both of you will eventually be forgotten. It just isn’t fair!

What Solomon was saying and seeing was not something



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particularly novel or brilliant. Everybody knew that death was both real and inevitable, from the peasant farmer to the highly educated scholar. But Solomon felt it far more keenly than most. Perhaps this was partly because he had so much to lose.

But another reason was simply the very nature of the man. Solomon was by temperament a philosopher. He didn't just observe life; he thought about it, analyzed it, pondered its meaning and desperately tried to make sense of it all. But he could never get around the immovable, impenetrable, distasteful reality of death — particularly the thought of his own death.

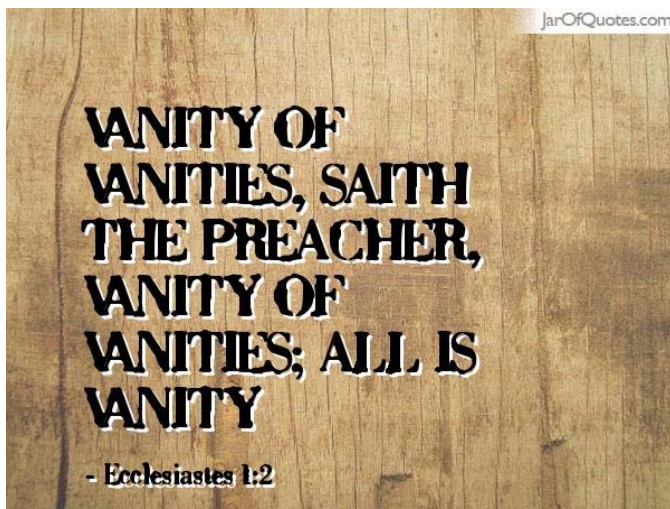
Dead Like a Dog

As the gloomy king observed life and death, he came to a miserable conclusion: the deaths of men and women aren't all that different from the deaths of animals, which made him wonder if we are all that superior to the beasts. He wrote (Ecclesiastes 3:18-20):

I said in my heart, "Concerning the condition of the sons of men, God tests them, that they may see that they themselves are like animals." For what happens to the sons of men also happens to animals; one thing befalls them: as one dies, so dies the other. Surely, they all have one breath; man has no advantage over animals, for all is vanity. All go to one place: all are from the dust, and all return to dust.

Who is wiser: a dead man or a dead dog? Who is happier: a dead lady or a dead mouse? As Solomon pondered these questions — questions which few men and women ever paused to consider — he came to some unhappy conclusions. Although men and women may be smarter and cleverer and accomplish far more than the animals, we all die the same way. We all appear to go into a state of eternal unconsciousness where we see nothing, do nothing, say nothing, enjoy nothing and are, in effect, non-existent.

It was not a pleasant thought, especially for the philosophically-minded king who had so much to lose at life's end, and had so much time to think about it while he still lived. And as he wrote this little book we call Ecclesiastes, these kinds of melancholy thoughts and meditations were freely distributed throughout his essay.



A Severe Evil

As we move through the book, we find more of the same (Ecclesiastes 5:15-16):

As he came from his mother's womb, naked
shall he return . . .
And he shall take nothing from his labor . . .
And this also is a severe evil —
Just exactly as he came, so shall he go.

This idea of dying, and being unable to take even the smallest possession or accomplishment with you seems to Solomon a great tragedy. He does not call it evil; he declares it is a "severe evil." It is strange that what billions of men and women have accepted without much thought (the idea of our eventual death) throughout earth's history, is to Solomon a huge problem. This is not some small thing; this is a big, big deal!

And of course he is right, if you subtract God and Christ, and the promise of eternal life through Christ, from life's equation. Without the hope Jesus gives, life becomes a cruel joke, a terrible Shakespearian tragedy foisted upon billions of people who live out their lives, and work and sweat, and attempt great things, as though life has some purpose, which in fact it surely does not — if there is nothing beyond the grave.

If the soil and the worms and a permanent state of extinction and non-existence are the destiny awaiting every one of us, what does it matter whether we live nobly or poorly, whether we achieve much good or no good at all, whether we try with all our might to "make our lives count" or live selfishly and foolishly all our days? Eventually even our earth itself will cease to be and all the struggles and accomplishments and the collective memories of billions of people and families and nations will be erased with a permanent, cosmic deletion. No one will be left to know or care or remember anything any one of us ever did or said or wrote or achieved.

Solomon concluded that in light of all of this, the only thing we can do is to try to enjoy our vain lives while we still live: "So I commended enjoyment, because a man has nothing better under the sun than to eat, drink, and be merry . . ." (Ecclesiastes 8:15). Paul recalled this statement as he wrote in his epistle to the Corinthians about the resurrection from the dead. He made the point that apart from a hope of eternal life through Jesus Christ, "If the dead do not rise, 'Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!'" (1 Corinthians 15:32).

Vivid Contrast

We may be tempted to wonder why God would include this pessimistic, melancholy little book in the Holy Scriptures, particularly since its tone entirely contradicts the writings of the Apostles, and the teachings of our Lord Jesus. Does God really want His children going around spouting: "It's all vanity. Life has no purpose. We might as well eat and drink it up, for we'll all soon be dead!"

I am convinced that God wanted to give us a vivid picture of what life would be like apart from the hope that springs through the Cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Solomon had no such hope. In his mind the grave was a place of total cessation: all joy and work and consciousness end when we take our last breath. Solomon wrote: "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in

the grave where you are going” (Ecclesiastes 9:10).

This is the polar opposite of the theology espoused by the Apostle Paul, who wrote: “But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better” (Philippians 1:22, 23).

What a contrast! Solomon sees death as the ultimate enemy; Paul sees it as a doorway to a greater life with His Savior, Jesus Christ. Solomon sees it as loss; Paul sees it as gain. This sure and joyous expectation of a life after this life in the presence of Jesus is known biblically as our “Blessed Hope” (Titus 2:13).

But this idea of hope is more than wishful thinking. It is a glorious looking forward to a wonderful future that Jesus has promised us. And with this hope, we can endure all things, counting them, as Paul did: a “light affliction, which works for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.” ❖

Afterthoughts by Dr. Reagan

I’m sure many of you must be thinking at this point, “How could one of the wisest men who ever lived end up with such a pessimistic, unbiblical view of life?”

Not only was Solomon gifted with great wisdom (1 Kings 3:5-14 and 4:29), he was also a man who believed in God and who greatly honored his Creator when he dedicated the Temple in Jerusalem. On that occasion, he offered a sacrifice to the Lord of 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep (1 Kings 8:63). He also led the priests and the people in a magnificent prayer that began with these words: “O LORD, the God of Israel, there is no God like You in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and showing lovingkindness to Your servants . . .”

Solomon is also the one who wrote the following words, recorded in Psalm 72 (NASB):

18) Blessed be the LORD God, the God of Israel, Who alone works wonders.

19) And blessed be His glorious name forever; and may the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen, and Amen.

Why the Depression?

So, why all his despair in the book of Ecclesiastes? Well, as Dennis Pollock so well points out in his article, Solomon did not have a clear concept of life after death. And so, as he approached death, he began to wallow in self-pity over the seeming meaninglessness of life. He was wrestling with the idea that “we are here today and gone tomorrow,” soon to be forgotten like a dead dog.

But there is more to it than that. Despite his wisdom and his spirituality, there came a point in Solomon’s life when he got his eyes off God and strayed significantly from the center of God’s will for his life. There were problems from the beginning. He was hardly coronated as king when he decided to engage in a political marriage with one of the daughters of the Egyptian Pharaoh (1 Kings 3:1). This act constituted a severe violation of God’s command against marriages with non-Hebrew women (Deuteronomy 7:3-4). He also burned incense on high places that were dedicated to false gods (1 Kings 3:3).



An artist’s conception of King Solomon contemplating the meaning of life.

The Descent into Apostasy

The turning point in Solomon’s life occurred in the year that he received 666 talents of gold (1 Kings 10:14). From that point on, almost to the end of his life, he was obsessed with money, horses and women (1 Kings 11:1-8 and 2 Chronicles 1:14-15).

In the process, he became deeply involved in idolatry, paying tribute to Ashtoreth (the goddess of the Sidonians), Milcom (the god of the Ammorites), Chemosh (the god of Moab) and Molech (the god of Ammon). As the Scriptures put it, “his heart turned away from the Lord, the God of Israel” (1 Kings 11:9).

Looking back at this turning point in Solomon’s life, is it any wonder that the number, 666, came to symbolize apostasy? Undoubtedly, it is the reason the number is used in Revelation 13:16-17 to signify the coded name of the Antichrist.

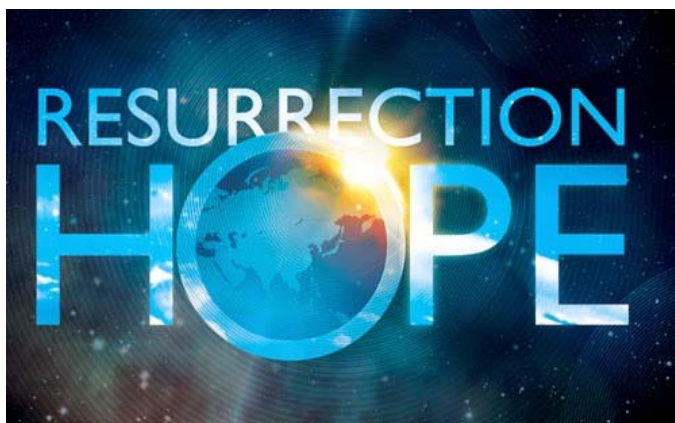
I believe Solomon wrote the book of Ecclesiastes while he was caught up in his spiritual apostasy, and it is therefore an expression of the emptiness of a life being lived in rebellion against God.

The Revival

But the good news is that Solomon must have repented before his death and was reconciled in his relationship with God. This is reflected in the final chapter of Ecclesiastes which begins with his admonition to young people: “Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near when you will say, ‘I have no delight in them’” (Ecclesiastes 12:1). It’s pretty obvious that he is speaking of his own experience.

Further, in verse 5 he refers to the dead going to their “eternal home.” He declares that the body will return to dust, but “the spirit will return to God who gave it” (verse 7). He even refers to judgment after death (verse 14), and judgment by God certainly gives meaning to how we live here and now.

This last chapter of Ecclesiastes clearly indicates that Solomon got his eyes back on God, either by special revelation about the reality of life after death, or else through the Holy Spirit directing him to relevant passages in the portions of God’s Word that existed at that time.



(www.parkbaptist.org)

Resurrection Scriptures

One of those passages is contained in what scholars consider to be the oldest book of the Bible — the book of Job. In Job 19:25-27 the author affirms that a day will come when he will be resurrected and stand before his Redeemer here on earth.

Resurrection to eternal life for believers can also be found in the writing of Solomon's father, David. In Psalm 16:10, David says he is confident that his soul will not be abandoned in Sheol (the holding place of the spirits of the dead). And in the next psalm, David declares that he will one day "behold the Lord's face" when he awakens from the dead (Psalm 17:15).

In Psalm 133:3, David speaks of "life forever." And in his most famous psalm, David proclaims that believers "will dwell in the house of the LORD forever" (Psalm 23:6).

The sons of Korah, a priestly choral group from the time of David, affirmed the resurrection of the soul in Psalm 49:15 where they wrote: "God will redeem my soul from the power of Sheol, for He will receive me." The prophet Asaph, also a contemporary of David, wrote in Psalm 73:24 that a day will come when believers will be "received to glory."

In the Hebrew Scriptures, there are many other references to resurrection and eternal life for believers, but the ones cited above should have been available to King Solomon.

Conclusion

As he read these passages from his father and his contemporaries, King Solomon must have begun to understand that life really does have meaning and so does the way we live it. This resulted in his ending his maudlin book in chapter 12 with these glorious words of triumph:

13) The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person.

14) For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.

His declaration that all of us will face judgment before God for the way we live gives meaning to life. So, as Solomon faced death, he must have ceased his repetitious muttering of "vanity, vanity, vanity!" Instead, his heart must have been filled with rejoicing that he would see his God. ☆

Devotional

The Bible's Saddest Verse

Wayne Gaylord



Wayne Gaylord

On Easter Sunday morning, I passed out slips of paper to my Bible class and asked them to write the saddest or cruelest verse in the Bible. Many different answers were given. One said it was when Samson's power left him. Another said it had to be when the crowd rejected Jesus and chose to free a murderer.

Then I read to them Matthew 27:27-36 and we began to focus on the last days of Jesus. I asked: "What hurt Jesus the most? The emotional goodbye to His friends in the Upper Room? His agonizing in prayer with the Father? Being betrayed by His make-believe friend? Being arrested and dragged from one place to another all night? Being beaten bloody? Being hit on the head? Being mocked and spit upon? How about when He heard Peter say, 'I don't even know Him?'"

Which of these things were the cruelest? What hurt Jesus the most? Then I read verse 36 again. "And sitting down, they watched Him [as He was crucified]." There were two classes of people there that day. First, there were the unbelievers. What were they doing? Watching Him. Then there were the believers. Did they try to rescue Him? What were they doing? Watching Him.

Sadly, the Church hasn't changed much in 2,000 years. What is the Church's mission today? Its mission hasn't changed — it is to take the Gospel to every creature. But how many church members are content to just sit on the sideline — watching?

What was the cruelest blow of all? Was it when they mocked Him? I don't think so because He knew one day every knee would bow to Him. Was it when they crucified Him? I don't think so because He knew He would rise on the third day.

The saddest and cruelest blow of all was this: "And sitting down, they watched Him." I challenge you from this day forward, that you will promise not to be one of those who just sits on the sideline and watches. That you'll say, "Jesus, you can count on me to do whatever I can to advance your kingdom and hasten your return."

There is watching in a good sense — such as watching the eastern sky and saying in your heart, "Maybe today." And there is an indifferent kind of watching, such as "Que sera, sera" ("Whatever will be, will be").

But, remember, Jesus is always watching us! ✚

Wayne Gaylord is one of Lamb & Lion Ministries' 22 trustees. He is a retired banker and attends First Baptist Church in Forney, Texas.

Christian Labels

Dr. David R. Reagan

I recently received a message from a man who strongly suggested that I be more subtle when expressing my doctrinal views. He warned that I am coming across as a “literal fundamentalist.”

I found that amusing because I am a “literal fundamentalist,” and I make no excuses for being one. I explained to the man that if I was coming across as a “literal fundamentalist,” then I was expressing myself truthfully. I further told him that I did not believe in “tip-toeing through the tulips” when expressing what I believe the Bible teaches.

The Origin of Fundamentalism

The concept of being a Fundamentalist Christian goes back to the early 20th Century when the German School of Higher Criticism hit our Christian seminaries in America like a bomb. This form of liberal theology taught that the Bible is a product of Man and not God, and that it is therefore full of myth, legend and superstition. Those who responded the strongest against this nonsense were labeled “Fundamentalists.”



This illustration was taken from an Internet article titled, “The New ‘F’ Word.” The author’s point is that the term is now used in a derogatory manner to insult Bible-believing Christians.

(www.rforh.com/resources/live-it/random-thoughts/new-f-word)

Unfortunately, over the years, Fundamentalists took on a very strident tone. Instead of just standing for the fundamentals of the faith, they began to draw lines of fellowship over doctrinal issues that were a matter of opinion. Even worse, they began condemning anyone who differed with them on anything. For example, many Fundamentalists started condemning to Hell anyone who would have the audacity to use any version of the Bible other than the King James.

Their liberal opponents began to characterize Fundamentalists as “redneck hicks from the sticks” who were too unsophisticated to understand the true meaning of the Bible. These attacks only motivated the Fundamentalists to become even more abusive in their counter-attacks.

The Middle Ground

That’s where Billy Graham entered the picture in the late 1940s. He decided to carve out a middle ground that would stand against both Liberalism and Fundamentalism. His position came to be called the Evangelical Movement. It provided a much more intellectual and reasoned response to the Liberals. It also avoided

the pejorative language of the Fundamentalists.

Evangelicals distinguished between the essentials of the faith and the areas where there should be freedom of opinion. The essentials are usually defined as:

- 1) The Virgin Birth of Jesus
- 2) The Divinity of Jesus
- 3) The Atoning Death of Jesus
- 4) The Resurrection of Jesus
- 5) The Promise of Jesus to Return

When a Christian leader denies one or more of these fundamentals, his ministry should not be respected or supported, and it can be legitimately considered as apostate. Disagreements over other points of doctrine are important, but they should never serve to disrupt our fellowship in the Lord. Truth is important, but not all truth is equally important. So, for example, whatever the truth may be about the Millennium, it is nothing compared to THE TRUTH that Jesus is Lord.

The Erosion of Evangelicalism

Unfortunately, over the past 20 years, the term, Evangelical, has lost its meaning. That’s because there are people now who call themselves Evangelicals who are denying the fundamentals of the faith. For example there are leaders in what is called the Emergent Church Movement who deny that Jesus is the only way to God. Yet these leaders refer to themselves as Evangelicals!

Some of these same leaders no longer look to the Bible as the source of their beliefs, something that has always been a hallmark of Evangelicalism. The result is that we now have Evangelicals who are denying the existence of Hell, who are endorsing homosexuality and same-sex marriage and who are questioning the inerrancy of the Scriptures.

My Moniker

Because the word, Evangelical, has lost its meaning, I no longer use that word to refer to my theological position within Christianity. Instead, I call myself a “Bible-believing Christian.”

Tragically, the number of Bible-believing Christians in America has receded to abysmal numbers. The latest Barna polls show that, only 9% of American adults have a biblical worldview, and only 19% of those who claim to be born-again Christians have such a viewpoint. That means that 80% of those who claim to be born again do not have a biblical worldview!

This, of course, is due to the fact that so many of our churches are more interested in entertaining people than in grounding them in the faith.

Yes, I am a “literal fundamentalist” but I avoid the term because it connotes a person who thinks he knows it all, who is dogmatic about his views, and who draws lines of fellowship over matters that are not essentials of the faith.

I will just settle with being a Bible-believing Christian. What about you? ✚

Is Dispensationalism Anti-Semitic in Nature?

Dr. David R. Reagan

For those of you who may not be familiar with the term, Dispensationalism, let me begin by defining it. Basically, it is a form of theology that crystallized in the early 1800s in England. One of its distinguishing features is that it makes a clear differentiation between Israel and the Church.

Whereas other forms of Christian theology tend to dismiss the Jewish people by making the claim that the Church has replaced Israel, Dispensationalism argues that God still loves the Jewish people and is determined to bring a great remnant of them to salvation. Further, Dispensationalists believe that God will ultimately fulfill all the promises He has made to Israel during the Lord's millennial reign. Other forms of Christian theology usually argue that all the promises made to Israel have been transferred to the Church, and they deny that there will be any future Jewish kingdom.

There are two aspects of the Dispensational view of the end times that have come under attack by many Jewish believers, who are referred to as Messianics. Specifically, the two Dispensational teachings that some Messianics have labeled anti-Semitic are the Pre-Tribulation Rapture and the Two-Thirds Massacre.

The Pre-Trib Rapture is the concept that the Church will be taken out of the world before the beginning of the Tribulation, when the wrath of God and the terror of the Antichrist will afflict all of humanity. The Two-Thirds Massacre refers to the teaching that two-thirds of the Jewish people will die during the Tribulation before they come to the end of themselves and turn their hearts to Jesus and receive Him as their Messiah.

Messianic Judaism

Messianic Judaism as a distinctive manifestation of Christianity developed in the late 1960s and early 70s following the Six Day War in 1967. It was a part of what Church historians call "The Jesus Movement." There was a great movement of the Holy Spirit nationwide, and it touched the lives of many young Jews who gave their lives to Yeshua (Jesus' Hebrew name).

Those of you who are familiar with this ministry are well aware of the fact that we have always been very supportive of the Messianic Jewish Movement. In fact, there are few things that excite me as much as meeting a Jew who has discovered that Yeshua is his Messiah. Messianic believers are filled with the joy of the Lord, and they love to celebrate their Messiah in exceedingly joyous worship. About the only people I have found who are equally happy are Catholics who have discovered the grace of God!

In recent years as I have experienced increasing fellowship with Jewish believers, I have discovered to my consternation that

many of them believe that Dispensationalism is an expression of anti-Semitism! If you mention either the Rapture or the Two-Thirds Massacre, many Messianics are likely to respond, "Here we go again, Gentiles hoping that Jews will be persecuted and killed."

With regard to the Pre-Trib Rapture, many Messianics have the idea that believing Gentiles will be taken out in the Rapture and all Jews will be left behind to suffer the terrors of the Antichrist. What those with this view fail to understand is that all true believers will be taken out in the Rapture, and that includes Orthodox, Catholic, Protestant, Pentecostal and Messianics. Of course, many who fall into these groups who are not true believers will be left behind. But all true believers, regardless of their label, are members of the Church and are therefore a part of the Bride of Christ. When Jesus appears in the heavens in the Rapture, he will be coming as a Bridegroom to snatch His Bride out of this world — and that definitely includes Messianics.

As for the Two-Thirds Massacre of the Jewish people, this teaching is based upon a prophecy found in Zechariah 13:7-9 where the prophet says that during the end times, two-thirds of the Jewish people will die.

This terrible persecution is affirmed in the New Testament in Revelation 12:13-17 where we are told that during the second half of the Tribulation the Antichrist will focus his fury on the Jewish people and try to annihilate them. This is the reason that Jesus referred to the second half of the Tribulation as the "great tribulation" (Matthew 24:21), because at the time, He was speaking to an audience of Jews. It is also the reason why both Jeremiah and Daniel referred to the same period as a time of "distress" for the Jewish people (Jeremiah 30:7 and Daniel 12:1).

There are a couple of things that Messianics forget when they get upset with this teaching.

First, God's wrath is going to be poured out on the Gentile nations during the first half of the Tribulation, resulting in the death of one-half of all the Gentiles on earth. We are talking here about more than three billion Gentiles! So, the Tribulation is not just a time of Jewish suffering.

As for the Jewish people during the second half of the Tribulation, their persecution is motivated by God's love for them. He is determined to bring a great remnant of them to salvation, and He is going to do that by bringing them to the end of themselves. Unfortunately, that is going to require intense suffering because, as the Hebrew prophets affirm over and over in their writings, there are no people as stubborn and stiff-necked as the Jewish people.

Some Messianics try to dismiss Zechariah's prophecy by claiming it was fulfilled during the Holocaust. But that horror resulted in the deaths of about one-third of the Jews, not two-thirds.

Dispensationalists love the Jewish people and are among the strongest supporters of the nation of Israel. They do not desire to see the death of a single Jew, but they must teach what the Scriptures say. ✕



Christianity in Europe —

In the 1850s, Europe was the center of worldwide Christianity. Today, the continent has become overwhelmingly pagan as Christianity is rapidly dying.

Although 65% of the **French** claim to be Christian — mainly Roman Catholic — only 5% attend weekly mass. Only about 3% of the French claim to be Protestants. The number of mosques in France has increased sharply since the turn of the century. Today it is estimated that there are more than 2,000.

Among the **British**, membership in the Church of England is declining so rapidly that it can be characterized as a “death spiral.” Only 15% of Britains claim to be Anglican, down from 30% in the year 2000. But the more chilling fact is that only 3% of those between 18 and 24 identify as Anglicans. The percentage of those overall who claim “no religion” is 53%. The Muslim population has doubled during the past ten years.

Among the **Germans**, one expert recently declared, “Christianity is approaching lights out.” He pointed out, for example, that “Germans have been leaving the Catholic Church in droves.” In 2015, nearly 200,000 Germans formally left the church. That same year, there were only 2,605 conversions to Catholicism. And the number of baby baptisms decreased by a third between 1995 and 2015. One researcher recently characterized Germany as “a society without God.” Meanwhile, Germany has opened its doors to an invasion of Muslim refugees.

A recent survey revealed that among Millennials (18-28 years), the **Czech Republic** is the least religious country in Europe, with 91% of that age group saying they have no religious affiliation. Between 70% and 80% of young adults in **Estonia, Sweden** and the **Netherlands** also classify themselves as “non-religious.” The most religious nation in Europe today is **Poland**, where only 17% of young adults define themselves “non-religious.”

Interestingly, Richard Dawkins, one of the most prominent atheists and evolutionary biologists in the world, recently warned that people should not celebrate the demise of Christianity in Europe. He pointed out that Christianity has been a bulwark against the spread of Islam, which he characterized as “the most evil religion in the world.” It is ironic that because of his unabashed criticism of Islam, a speaking event he had scheduled at the University of California at Berkley was cancelled.

Apostasy —



In April, the Italian newspaper, *La Repubblica*, reported that Pope Francis told the paper’s founder, Eugenio Scalfari, that “those who do not repent, and so cannot be forgiven, disappear. There is no Hell; there is the disappearance of sinful souls.” It was just one more example of the Pope’s acute hoof-in-mouth disease. Since that time he has also indicated that he believes homosexuality is an acceptable lifestyle. The Pope’s comments on

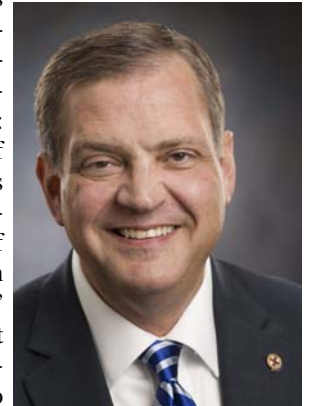


Church doctrine have become almost laughable — but not to the Vatican. It seems that every time the Pope speaks about doctrinal matters, the Vatican immediately calls a press conference to explain that he really didn’t mean what he said.

Christianity Under Attack —

Dr. Albert Mohler, Jr., president of The Southern Baptist Seminary in Louisville,

Kentucky, continues to speak out as one of America’s strongest prophetic voices. At this year’s National Religious Broadcasters’ Convention in May, he proclaimed: “Religious freedom, freedom of speech and the freedom of the press — along with other rights recognized and respected with the Bill of Rights — are all threatened, even as other rights are marginalized.” He proceeded to point out that “even more distressing, a new regime of invented rights threaten to replace the rights that are clearly enumerated within the text of the Constitution.” Mohler warned that sexual rights are being elevated over religious liberty. He pointed to a 2016 report from the U.S. Commission on Civil rights in which the chairman, Martin R. Castro (an Obama appointee), wrote: “The phrases, ‘religious liberty’ and ‘religious freedom’ will stand for nothing except hypocrisy so long as they remain code words for discrimination, intolerance, racism, sexism, homophobia, Islamophobia, Christian supremacy or any form of intolerance.”



Dr. Albert Mohler, Jr.

Boy Scouts —

The Boy Scout oath states: “On my honor I will do my best . . . to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight.” In violation of that oath, the Boy Scouts of America caved in to the Sexual Perversion Movement in 2014 by agreeing to allow both homosexual boys and scout leaders to participate in the organization. Then it opened the Scouts to transgender girls! Next, it opened up to all girls. The result is that the organization has been hemorrhaging members, dropping from four million to 2.3 million. Now, they have announced that they will no longer use the name, Boy Scouts. Instead, they will be called Scouts BSA. One of their largest remaining membership groups, the Mormon Church, immediately announced that they would be withdrawing all their troops from the organization over the next year. In short, the depraved thinking of the Boy Scouts’ leadership has resulted in the organization committing suicide. Thankfully, a new organization called Trail Life USA is providing an alternative scouting experience that is “a Christ-centered outdoor adventure, leadership and character development ministry.” And they have a parallel organization for girls, which is much needed, since the Girl Scouts have also gone off the deep end. You can find out more about Trail Life USA at www.traillifeusa.com. ❖



Words Worth Consideration —

“When people stop believing in God, they don’t believe in nothing; they believe in anything.” — G. K. Chesterton (1874-1936), an English writer, poet, philosopher, dramatist, journalist, orator and theologian.

“A foolish man has far more options than a wise man.” — Dennis Pollock, founder of Spirit of Grace Ministries in McKinney, Texas.

“Spiritual disciplines are like calling home to speak to your parents. They keep you in touch with your Heavenly Father.” — Glenn Meredith, pastor of the Brookhaven Church in McKinney, Texas.

“Evolution is the substance of fossils hoped for, the evidence of links not seen.” — Duane Gish (1921-2013), American biochemist and Creationist.

“In the 18th Century, the Bible was killed by unwarranted destructive criticism; in the 10th Century, God was killed; and in the 20th Century, inevitably, Mankind was killed.” — John Warwick Montgomery, an American lawyer, professor, Lutheran theologian, and prolific author who lives in France.

“God is neither a Republican or Democrat. When the cross is wrapped in the flag of a political party, it is always distorted or diminished.” — Erwin Lutzer, pastor emeritus of The Moody Church in Chicago, Illinois.

“The fundamental problem with Bible prophecy ministries is that they tend to degenerate into purveyors of sensationalism. In like manner, there is a tendency among discernment ministries to morph into legalistic, judgmental scalp-hunters, convinced that there is a bogeyman under every rock.” — David Reagan, founder of Lamb & Lion Ministries in McKinney, Texas.

“The radical secularization of the West is a catastrophe. This is the first generation in human history raised godless. It has never happened before. Pagans had gods. Everybody had gods. We are in the midst of one of the great intellectual and moral gambles of history — that society can continue without any transcendent belief.” — Dennis Prager, an American nationally syndicated conservative radio talk show host and writer.

“Any student of the Bible, and especially of Bible prophecy, knows there will be no national revival in America, or any other nation for that matter, in these end times.” — Don McGee, Christian evangelist and author.

“Israel is the gift that keeps on giving.” — Andy Woods, Houston area pastor and president of the Chafer Theological Seminary in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

“99.6% of the Middle East is composed of Arab nations. Yet, Israel is accused of occupying Arab land!” — Tom Hughes, pastor of the 412 Church in San Jacinto, California.

“The ‘Day of the Lord’ is when God intervenes in history — either negatively (wrath) or positively (the Millennium).” — Mark Hitchcock, pastor and author in Edmond, Oklahoma.

“The five scariest words in the Bible are, ‘. . . and God gave them over . . .’” (Romans 1:24,26,28). — John Stonestreet, president of The Chuck Colson Center and co-host of the BreakPoint Radio program.

Food for Thought



Lion and the Lamb

(Music and lyrics by the Big Daddy Weave Band)

He’s coming on the clouds,
Kings and kingdoms will bow down.
Every chain will break
As broken hearts declare His praise.
For who can stop the Lord Almighty?

Our God is the Lion,
The Lion of Judah.
He’s roaring with power
And fighting our battles.

Our God is the Lamb,
The Lamb that was slain
For the sins of the world.
His blood breaks the chains.

Every knee will bow before
The Lion and the Lamb.
Every knee will bow before Him.

Open up the gates,
Make way before the King of kings.
The God who comes to save
Is here to set the captives free.
For who can stop the Lord Almighty?

John Newton (1725-1807) —



John Newton

Newton is the slave trader who became a Christian pastor and who wrote the hymn, “Amazing Grace.”

“I am not what I ought to be.
I am not what I want to be.
I am not what I hope to be in another world.
But still, I am not what I once used to be.
And by the grace of God I am what I am.”

The Irony of Jewish History —

Every time Satan tries to wipe out the Jews, the Jewish people end up with a day to celebrate:

The Attempted Genocide of Pharaoh — Passover

Haman’s Attempted Genocide — Purim

The Genocide of Antiochus Epiphanes — Hanukkah

Hitler’s Genocide — May 14, 1948

The final genocide of the Jewish people will occur during the Tribulation when the Antichrist will succeed in killing two-thirds of them. But it will be concluded with the Second Coming of Jesus and the salvation of the Jewish remnant. Further, it will produce a Jewish nation that will be blessed more than any other nation in history.

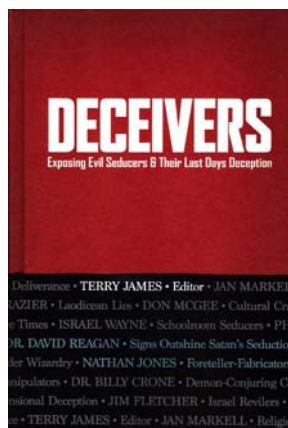
Time —

“Do not be in too big a hurry. There is time for everything that has to be done” — F. B. Meyer (1847-1929). ✚

New Station & Book

Dr. David R. Reagan

On July 1st, we began broadcasting on KCEN-TV, which covers the Waco/Temple area in central Texas. This is personally exciting for me, since I grew up in Waco. I can remember back in the mid-1950s when this station started broadcasting. In those days, there was hardly any national programming, so the station filled its air time primarily with country and western bands! It also signed off in the evening and resumed broadcasting the next morning.



We recently shot a TV program about the new book, *Deceivers*. The book was edited by Terry James and features fascinating chapters by 14 different authors, including Nathan Jones and me. The subtitle of the book is “Exposing Evil Seducers and Their Last Days Deception.”

Our guests for the program included Terry James and two of the authors, Mile Hile and Todd Strandberg. Todd is the founder of the Rapture Ready website, and Terry is his assistant.



Left to right: Dave Reagan, Terry James, Mike Hile, Todd Strandberg and Nathan Jones.

Television Broadcast Schedules

National Networks:

Daystar — Wed. 6:00pm CT, DirecTV 369, Dish 263, AT&T U-verse, cable, broadcast stations, satellites and web streaming (daystar.com).

Word — Tues. 12:30pm CT, DirecTV 373, Cable, AT&T U-verse, cable, satellites and web streaming (thewordnetwork.org).

Angel One — Mon. 8:00am CT, DISH 262 (www.angelone.tv).

CTN — Wed. & Fri. 12:30pm CT, DirecTV 376, Dish 267 and web streaming (ctnonline.com).

CTVN — Sun. 8pm CT. The network has 44 full-power stations and 57 low-power affiliate stations. Glorystar satellite service and web streaming (www.ctvn.org).

GEB — Sat. 5:00pm CT, DirecTV 363 and web streaming (geb

america.com).

GodTV — Thurs. 8:30am CT, DirecTV 365 and web streaming (god.tv).

NRB — Sun. 4:00pm CT, DirecTV 378 and web streaming (nrbtv.org).

TCT — Sun. 7:30pm CT, DirecTV 377, ten broadcast stations in the Midwest, and web streaming (tct.tv).

Upliftv — Mon. & Fri. 9:30am CT, DirecTV 379 (upliftv.com).

WHT — Sat. 7:00pm CT, DirecTV 367 and web streaming (lesea.com/wht).

Regional Networks & Area Stations:

CFNT — Wichita Falls, TX broadcast station, Fri. 3:00pm CT. (cfnt.org).

FVN — Southern Louisiana broadcast stations and cable, Sun. 12:30am CT, Mon. 8:30am, and Wed. 7:00pm, (familyvisiontv.com).

KCEN — Waco & Temple, TX broadcast station, Sun. 6:30am CT, channel 9 (kcentv.com). **NEW!**

KDAF — Dallas-Ft. Worth area broadcast station, Sun. 8:00am CT, channel 33 (cw33.com).

KFJX — Joplin, MO, Sun. 7:30am, CT, channel 14 (fox14tv.com).

KMCI — Kansas City, Sun. 7:30am, CT, channel 38 (www.kshb.com/38-the-spot). **NEW!**

KSCE — El Paso broadcast station, Sun. 10:30am MT, DirecTV & DISH Local 38, AT&T U-verse 38, (kscetv.com).

KUBE — Houston, TX, Sun. 8am CT, AT&T U-verse 57, Comcast cable 53, DirecTV & DISH local 57 (http://kub57.com).

VTN (The Victory Television Network) — Covering the state of Arkansas., Tues. 10:30am CT, Sat. at 2:30pm, and Sun. at 10:00pm (vntv.com).

WATC — Atlanta, GA, Sun. 8:30am ET, channel 57 (http://watc.tv).

WBNA — Louisville, KY, Sun. 8:30am ET, channel 21 (www.wbna21.com).

WCCB — Charlotte, NC, Sun. 7:00am ET, channel 18 (ccbcharlotte.com).

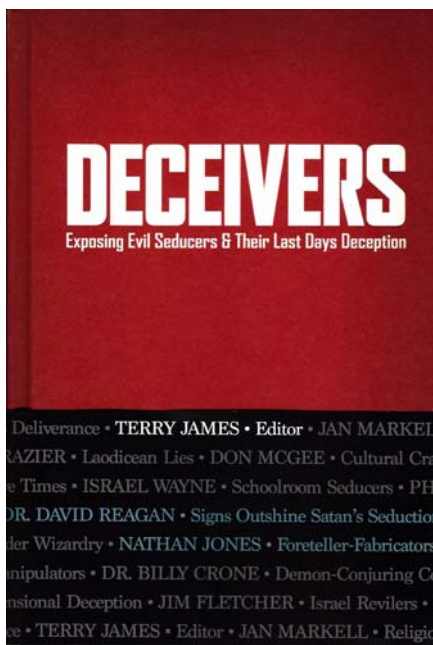
WTOG-TV — Tampa and St. Petersburg, FL, Sun. 8:30am ET, channel 44 (cwtampa.cbslocal.com).

Internet Networks:

Our programs are available on demand on these websites.

HisChannel	— hischannel.com
YouTube	— youtube.com/user/ChristinProphecy
GodTube	— godtube.com
Truli	— truli.com
Vimeo	— vimeo.com
DailyMotion	— dailymotion.com/us
Roku	— roku.com
Lamb & Lion	— lamblion.com

New Bible Prophecy Study Resources



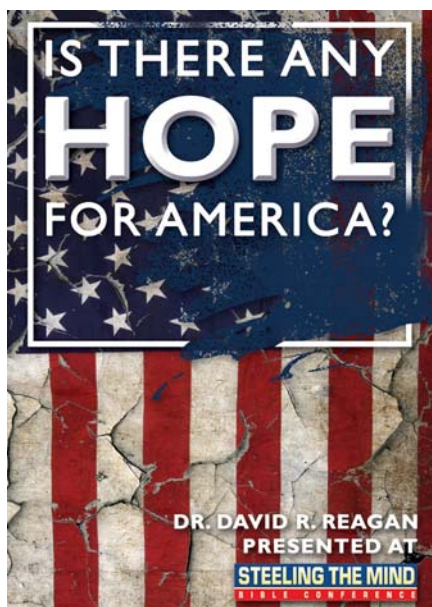
Indoctrination disguised as education. The religion of climate change enshrined. Witchcraft and the occult made mainstream. Fake news. We live in a world where deception is rampant and true agendas are rarely revealed.

Jesus foretold of this time as He answered His disciples' question: "What will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?" He responded by warning that there would be deceivers who would come as wolves dressed in sheep's clothing.

Bible prophecy experts present analyses of today's issues and events in *Deceivers*, revealing that Christ's prophecy is literally unfolding before us today.

The book contains essays by 14 leading experts. The authors include, among others, Gary Frazier, Michael Hile, Jim Fletcher, Gary Stearman, Philip Goodman, Daymond Duck, Billy Crone and Jan Markell. Dr. Reagan and Nathan Jones also contributed chapters to the book.

The book is a hardback that runs 335 pages in length. It sells for \$25, including the cost of shipping.



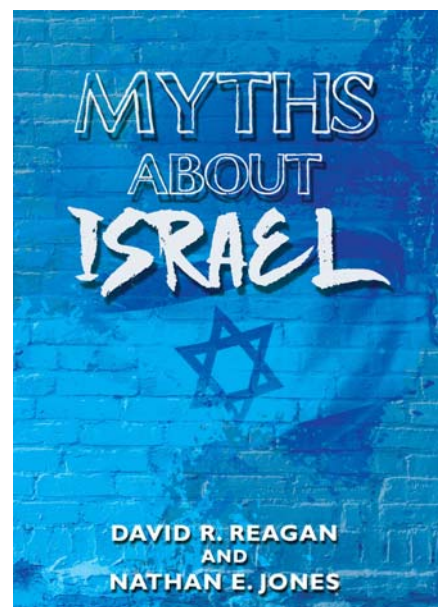
This video album was recorded as Dr. Reagan spoke to a Stealing the Mind Conference in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

It begins with an in-depth analysis of America's number one enemy — namely, the religious philosophy of Humanism. Dr. Reagan demonstrates how this philosophy has been the religion of Satan from the beginning and continues to be so today. He also shows how it has generated the American culture war.

Dr. Reagan then turns to a survey of the prophetic voices that God has raised up in this nation since 1974 to speak out against the ungodly philosophy of Humanism and to warn of its impending dangers. He covers four of those voices in the past and nine on the scene today.

He concludes his presentation by addressing his remarks to the title of the album. He asserts that God has given the nation a window of grace through the election of President Trump, but he strongly warns that the future destruction of this nation has been sealed by its overwhelming rebellion against God.

The DVD runs 48 minutes in length. It sells for \$20, including the cost of shipping.



In this hard-hitting video program, Dr. Reagan and Nathan Jones refute some of the most common myths that are proclaimed by the enemies of Israel:

- The Jewish people have no historical claim to the land of Palestine.
- The Jews stole the land of Palestine from the Arabs.
- The state of Israel exists in violation of international law.
- The state of Israel practices the abominable policy of Apartheid.
- Arab citizens of Israel are denied fundamental rights.
- The Jews have no historical claim to the city of Jerusalem.

Dave and Nathan clearly show that all these allegations are completely false. As evidence, they use biblical verses to prove that God has given the Jews an eternal title to the land of Israel. They present historical evidence to show that the Jewish people have historical ties to both the land and Jerusalem that date back 3,000 years. And they demonstrate through video testimonies of Arabs that Israel does not discriminate against them.

The DVD runs 50 minutes in length. It sells for \$20, including the cost of shipping.

Special Offer: You can purchase all three of the items above for \$45, including the cost of shipping. To order, call our office at 972-736-3567, Monday thru Friday between 8am and 5pm CT. Ask for offer #475. Hurry! This offer expires August 31st.

Friday & Saturday October 26-27

AL GIST • NATHAN JONES • TIM MOORE • DAVID REAGAN • RYAN RUSH

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FALL REGIONAL CONFERENCE 2018



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TIM MOORE

EXPERIENCE THE
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DEEPEN YOUR FAITH
LIKE NEVER BEFORE!

Lamb & Lion Ministries is excited to announce that dates have been confirmed for our Fall 2018 Holy Land Pilgrimage, hosted by our Associate Evangelist, Tim Moore. A Colonel in the U.S. Air Force, Tim has over 33 years of military experience. He is also a commercial pilot and an elected member of the Kentucky State Legislature. Tim is an expert in Bible prophecy and an experienced host of Israel pilgrimages.

This exciting tour in the Holy Land builds on the foundation of the spiritual pilgrimage designed by Dr. David Reagan, Founder and Director of Lamb & Lion Ministries.

Pilgrims will be visiting major sites throughout Israel related to the First and Second Comings of Jesus, and will be presented from a spiritual viewpoint.

The cost of this 12-day tour is \$4,155 per person. This includes airfare, bus transportation within Israel, hotels, all entrance fees and three meals each day. The only extra cost is a fee for tips. For a detailed brochure or to sign up and join the group, contact us at:

(972) 736-3567, Mon-Fri, 8a-5p CT

www.lamblion.com

This experience will bring the Bible alive to you and draw you into a closer relationship with the Lord - the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob who protects and preserves those who are His. Join us for this life-changing journey!



TIM MOORE, HOST
ASSOCIATE EVANGELIST
LAMB & LION MINISTRIES

Holy Land Pilgrimage October 13-24

Ministry News

Schedule of Activities —

July:

Vic Batista & Nathan Jones radio program in Miami, FL at 5:30pm ET on 102.3 FM. Also streamed on Facebook & Twitter (4,11,18,25).

Lamb & Lion Annual Bible Conference at the Marriott Courtyard Conference Center in Allen, TX (13-14).

The Brookhaven Church in McKinney, TX [Reagan] (29 - evening only).

August:

Vic Batista & Nathan Jones radio program (1,18,15,22, 29).

David Hocking Prophecy Conference at Calvary Chapel Tustin in Santa Anna, CA [Reagan] (3-4).

Lamb & Lion Board of Trustees meeting in Allen, TX (11).

September:

Vic Batista & Nathan Jones radio program (5,12,19,26).

East Ridge Baptist Church in Lake Charles, LA [Jones] (26).

Maranatha Ministry's Louisiana Bible Prophecy Conference at Trinity Baptist Church in Lake Charles, LA [Reagan] (28-29).

The Brookhaven Church in McKinney, TX [Reagan] (30).

October:

Vic Batista & Nathan Jones radio program.(3,10,17,24,31).

Steeling the Mind Conference at the Doubletree Hotel in Denver, CO [Reagan] (6).

Prophecy Watchers Prophecy Conference at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Norman, OK [Reagan] (12-14).

Holy Land Pilgrimage [Moore] (13-24).

Lamb & Lion Regional Conference at Kingsland Baptist Church in Katy, TX (Houston area) [Reagan, Jones, Moore] (26-28).

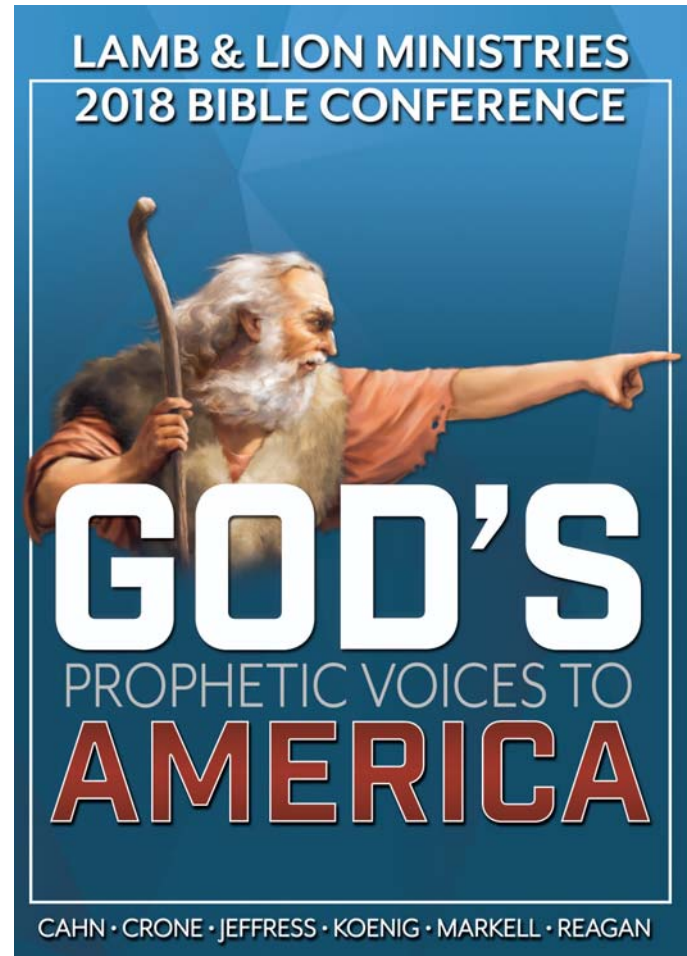
Missions —

Please put two of the foreign missionaries we support on your prayer list. They are Standfast Oyinna in Nigeria and Donald Dolmus in Nicaragua.

Standfast is currently caring for a total of 406 Christian refugees from Muslim violence. This number includes 112 orphans. They are currently being housed in abandoned schools, houses and public buildings, as well as tents. They sleep on foam or mats. All are being trained in skills like welding and carpentry. And all are being taught the Word of God. We send only donations that are specified for Nigerian Relief Aid. Pray for God to protect these dear people. They need a minimum of \$4,000 per month to supply them with food, clothing and medicine.

Donald is the person who translates all our materials into Spanish and then posts them on the Internet. He lives only a couple of blocks from the center of the revolutionary activities taking place in Nicaragua. Many of the college students involved in the revolution have been arrested and then have simply "disappeared." Motorcycle gangs have been hired by the Communist government to do drive-by shootings in order to eliminate those who have spoken out against the government.

Annual Conference Album —



The video album featuring the six presentations at our annual conference in mid-July will be available for distribution September 1st. You can pre-order a copy now, either through our website at www.lamblion.com, or by calling 972-736-3567 Monday thru Friday, 8am to 5pm Central time. Each presentation will run about 50 minutes. The album will contain three DVD discs. The cost is \$25, including the cost of shipping. The speakers featured will be Jonathan Cahn, Billy Crone, Robert Jeffress, Bill Koenig, Jan Markell and Dave Reagan.

Prophecy Partners —

Our goal is 3,000 Prophecy Partners. We are currently approaching 2,800. If you believe our message that we are living in the season of the Lord's return, please consider helping us proclaim that message worldwide by becoming one of our Prophecy Partners. You can find detailed information about our Prophecy Partner Program on our website at lamblion.com. If you would like to talk to one of our staff members about the program, call 972-736-3567 and ask to speak to Todd Hutchinson, our Finance Associate in charge of donor relations. Just ask for "Hutch."

Magazine Subscribers —

Another of our goals this year is 100,000 magazine subscribers. We currently have 75,000. Help us reach our goal by telling people about the magazine and urging them to subscribe free of charge at our website (www.lamblion.com). ✚



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New Prophecy Study Book!

Dr. Reagan has teamed up with one of Lamb & Lion's trustees, Darryl Nunnelley, to produce a new book that is designed to be used by Bible study groups.

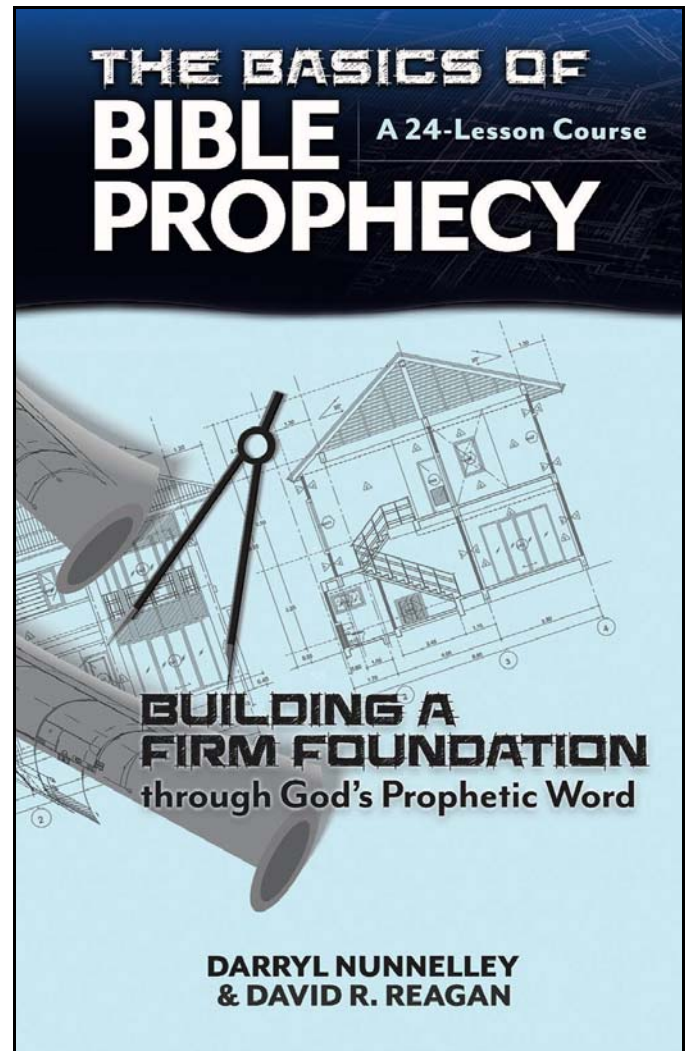


Darryl Nunnelley and Dave Reagan

Darryl Nunnelley is a businessman from Winchester, Kentucky. He is a lifelong Bible teacher with a zeal to teach the fundamentals of God's Word. He approached Dr. Reagan with the idea of publishing a book that could be used to teach the basics of Bible prophecy. Dr. Reagan liked the idea, and so they put their heads together and collaborated to produce this new book.

The book contains 24 lessons regarding the basic concepts of Bible prophecy. Each lesson is short and to the point and concludes with study questions. Some of the lessons are illustrated with charts and diagrams. Using this book, a teacher can easily put together a class to study Bible prophecy.

The book's approach is based on the assumption that all of Bible prophecy is to be interpreted for its plain sense meaning. The authors point out that since all the First Coming prophecies were fulfilled literally, we should expect that the prophecies related to the Second Coming will also be fulfilled literally.



The book runs 120 pages and sells for \$15, including the cost of shipping. For orders of ten or more, the cost is \$10 per book, including the cost of shipping. The book comes 58 to a box. For churches or Bible study groups wanting to order a full box, the price is \$7 each plus the cost of shipping.

You can place your order through our website at lamblion.com, or you can order by phone by calling 972-736-3567 Monday thru Friday, 8am to 5pm Central time. ✚