

LAMPLIGHTER

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

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Israel in Prophecy:
Reclamation of the Land



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Observations by the Editor

Living on Borrowed Time

For those of you who are over 55, do you remember the first time you ever received a Senior Citizen discount? I do. I remember it vividly — probably because it was so unexpected.

I was only 50 at the time. I was in Florida holding a meeting at a church. I decided to stop at a pharmacy to purchase several items. At the checkout register was a young girl who looked like she was about 16. She quickly rang up my items, and then she looked up at me and said, "Your total is . . . Oh! I can see by looking that you are eligible for our Senior Citizen discount." She then pushed a button, and my total dropped by \$1.50.

I was stunned. I didn't know whether to weep over being called a Senior Citizen or celebrate over the generous discount. I just stood there speechless.

Well, I had a similar encounter recently at the DFW International Airport. I was checking in for a flight to Los Angeles. I handed my boarding pass and driver's license to the TSA agent. She looked it over, made a few check marks on the boarding pass, and then looked at me with a big smile and said, "Congratulations!"

"For what?" I asked.

"Well, according to your driver's license, you turned 75 four days ago, and that means you no longer have to take off your shoes."

Again, I didn't know whether to rejoice or weep. I don't know how many more of these unexpected milestones may lie ahead of me. I had already been notified at age 70 that I was no longer eligible for jury duty. I feel like I am rapidly being put out to pasture.

But I rejoice that the Lord has given me the clarity of mind and the physical strength to continue proclaiming His Prophetic Word — at least for the present.

The theme of our Bible conference this year was "Living on Borrowed Time." That is also the title of my latest book. That title applies to me personally more than ever before. Consider the



Dr. David R. Reagan

words of Psalm 90:10, "As for the days of our life, they contain seventy years, or if due to strength, eighty years . . ."

Of course, there is a sense in which all of us are living on borrowed time, for none of us have the promise of tomorrow. There is always the threat of a heart attack or stroke, and then, there is the danger of many forms of accidental death.

I am reminded of a dear friend who was pastor of a church in Tucson, Arizona. He was invited to preach on a Sunday morning and evening at the largest church in Washington State.

As he was driving to the evening service, his car suddenly veered off the highway and he ran into a wall at high speed. He was killed instantly.

They found his Bible on the floorboard, and in it was his sermon. The first sentence of the sermon read, "I can say with confidence that there is not one person here this evening who can be certain of being alive in the morning."

There is another sense in which all of us are living on borrowed time. It relates to the fact that the Bible gives us a great number of signs to watch for which will alert us to the season of Jesus' return. For the first time in history, all those signs have converged — without exception. That means Jesus is at the very gates of Heaven awaiting His Father's command to return for His Church.

Not one prophecy has to be fulfilled for this event to occur. It could occur any moment. In fact, it is going to occur any moment, and the crucial question is, "Are you ready?" ❖

Israel in Bible Prophecy:

The Reclamation of the Land

Dr. David R. Reagan

Before the children of Israel entered the Promised Land, God spoke a series of stern warnings to them through Moses, their leader and prophet. The warnings are recorded in Deuteronomy 28 and 29.

These chapters constitute God's Land Covenant with the Jewish people. In this covenant, God made it clear that although He had given the Jewish people an everlasting title to the land, their enjoyment of it would depend on their obedience to the laws He had given them in the Mosaic Covenant.

The Hope of Blessings

The Land Covenant begins with promises of blessings if they are obedient (Deuteronomy 28:1-2):

Now it shall be, if you diligently obey the LORD your God, being careful to do all His commandments which I command you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. All these blessings will come upon you and overtake you if you obey the LORD your God . . .

Moses then proceeded to enumerate the blessing in detail. They included such things as agricultural abundance, defeat of enemies, financial prosperity and abundant rain (Deuteronomy 1:3-13).

The Warning of Curses

But then, Moses started issuing warnings about curses that would come upon them if they were disobedient to the Lord (Deuteronomy 1:15ff). The variety of these curses was breathtaking — cities in chaos, youth in rebellion, an epidemic of divorce, confusing governmental policies, defeats by their enemies, rampant disease, drought leading to crop failures, foreign domination and even exile to a foreign land.

Moses concluded the list with a detailed explanation of what would be the ultimate judgment of God should they become entrenched in rebellion and refuse to repent (Deuteronomy 28:64-67):

Moreover, the LORD will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other end of the earth; and there you shall serve other gods, wood and stone, which you or your fathers have not known. Among those nations you shall find no rest, and there will be no resting place for the sole of your foot; but there the LORD will give you a trembling heart, failing of eyes, and despair of soul. So your life shall hang in doubt before you; and you will be in dread night and day, and shall have no assurance of your life. In the morning



The barren outskirts of Jerusalem in 1938.

(Source: www.ishitech.co.il)

you shall say, "Would that it were evening!" And at evening you shall say, "Would that it were morning!" because of the dread of your heart which you dread, and for the sight of your eyes which you will see.

In summary, the ultimate punishment the Jewish people would receive for willful and unrepentant rebellion against God's Word would be ejection from their land, their scattering worldwide and their persecution wherever they went.

The Curse on the Land

Nor would that be all. Moses further stated that God would put a curse on their land, and as a result of that curse, the land would become filled with diseases and plagues (Deuteronomy 29:22), and the land itself would become "a burning waste, unsown and unproductive, and no grass [growing] in it . . ." (Deuteronomy 29:23).

The curse would be so terrible that when foreigners came to visit the land, they would cry out, "Why has the LORD done this to the land? Why this great outburst of anger?" (Deuteronomy 29:24). And the answer will be: "Because they forsook the covenant of the LORD, the God of their fathers . . . [and] they went and served other gods and worshiped them . . . Therefore, the anger of the LORD burned against that land, to bring upon it

every curse which is written in this book; and the LORD uprooted them from their land in anger and in fury and in great wrath . . ." (Deuteronomy 29:25-28).

The Promise of Hope

Fortunately for the Jewish people, Moses did not leave it there. He continued on to speak some words of hope. He assured them that if they were ever scattered all over the world, a day would come when God in His compassion would "restore them from captivity" by regathering them to their homeland (Deuteronomy 30:3). "If your outcasts are at the ends of the earth, from there the LORD your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you back" (Deuteronomy 30:4).

The prophet Ezekiel picked it up from there, prophesying what would happen to the land when the Jewish people were regathered to it (Ezekiel 36:34-35):

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

Prophetic Fulfillment

What an incredible panorama of future events that have been fulfilled precisely in detail!

After the Jewish people occupied their Promised Land under the leadership of Joshua, they immediately began to stray from God's Word. They violated God's command not to intermarry with the pagan peoples of the land. As they did so, they began to worship the false gods of these peoples.

God responded by sending prophets to call them to repentance. When they refused to repent, God began to afflict them with the very curses that Moses had outlined in his warnings. Finally, just as Moses had prophesied, they were taken into exile. After God allowed them to return, they persisted in their rebellion, consummating with the rejection of the Messiah God sent to them.

It was at that point that God allowed the Romans to destroy Jerusalem in 70 AD, including the Jewish Temple. This began the process of their ejection from the land and their worldwide scattering, a process that was accelerated after the Second Jewish Revolt in 132-136 AD.

Over the next 1800 years the Jews were literally scattered to the four corners of the earth, in fulfillment of Moses' prophecy. And in further fulfillment of prophecy, they were persecuted wherever they went, and their homeland became utterly desolate.

The Nature of the Promised Land

Keep in mind that their homeland was one of great abundance when the Jewish people entered it some 1400 years before the time of Jesus. Here's how it was described by Moses (Deuteronomy 8:7-9):

. . . the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing forth in valleys and hills; a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of

olive oil and honey; a land where you will eat food without scarcity, in which you will not lack anything; a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you can dig copper.

Moses further characterized the land as being very different from the arid land of Egypt because it "drinks from the rain of heaven" (Deuteronomy 11:10-11). Moses also described it as "a land for which the LORD your God cares; the eyes of the LORD your God are always on it, from the beginning even to the end of the year" (Deuteronomy 11:12). Ezekiel affirmed this evaluation of the land many years later when he wrote that God swore to the Jewish people that He would bring them out of the land of Egypt into a land "flowing with milk and honey, which is the glory of all lands" (Ezekiel 20:6-7,15).

The Desolation of the Land

Yet, just as prophesied, this glorious land became "a haunt of jackals" and "a heap of ruins" (Jeremiah 9:11).



Plowing in Palestine in 1890 with a mismatched cow and donkey.

Rainfall diminished, trees were cut down, top soil eroded and excessive sedimentation in the valleys resulted in water-logging and the creation of swamps. With swamps came an outbreak of malaria which weakened the population and led to the abandonment of villages and formerly cultivated land.¹

The land became repugnant, and during the 1800 years the Jews were exiled from it, no one really desired it. It became a deserted wasteland, and Jerusalem became an incubator of disease. By the beginning of the 19th Century, it was a place people avoided, except for the most fanatical Christian pilgrims — like the Russians who would walk all the way to the Holy Land and die there.

In my library I have a number of books written in the 19th Century by Western explorers who wrote graphic descriptions of the land. Following are some examples.

1855

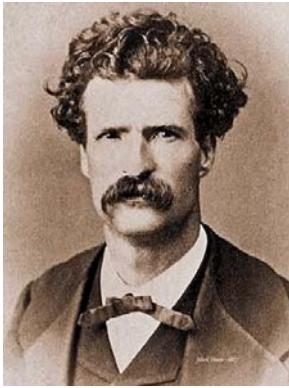
In 1855 an American medical doctor, Jonathan Miesse, traveled to the Holy Land and published his recollections in 1859 in a book titled *A Journey to Egypt and Palestine*.² (Israel had been renamed Palestine by the Romans and was still called by that name in the 19th Century.)

. . . at present, nearly three thousand years after David, the country is a prey to the wild

beasts, and to the wilder Bedouins; and of the inhabitants, each plants just enough to satisfy his greatest bodily wants, all surplus the Bedouin will take, and what he leaves behind, the ruling Turk will confiscate.³

His reference to the Turks pointed to another curse on the land. The Ottoman Empire of the Turks had taken control of the land in 1516, and they quickly established a reputation for administrative incompetence and corruption.

1867



Mark Twain in 1867.

Twelve years later, an American journalist named Mark Twain made a trip to Palestine. He published his impressions in 1869 in a book titled *The Innocents Abroad*.⁴ It was the book that made Twain famous. He described Palestine as a “blistering, naked, treeless land.”⁵

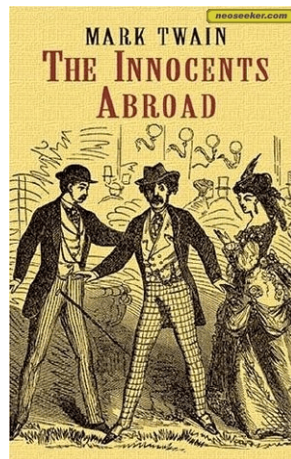
Regarding the Sea of Galilee area, in particular, Twain wrote, “There is not a solitary village . . . There are two or three small clusters of Bedouin tents, but not a single permanent habitation. One may ride ten miles, hereabouts, and not see ten human beings.” Then, referring to Bible prophecy, he wrote, “To this region, the prophecies apply: ‘I will bring the land into desolation; and your enemies which dwell therein shall be astonished at it’” (Leviticus 26:32).⁶

A reference to fulfilled prophecy in this passage is remarkable since Mark Twain was not a believer. Even more so when you consider that he added this statement: “No man can stand here [in this deserted area] and say the prophecy has not been fulfilled.”⁷

Concerning the Valley of Jezreel (or the Valley of Armageddon, as Christians call it), Twain observed, “A desolation is here that not even imagination can grace with the pomp of life and action.”⁸ He described the central highlands of Samaria by stating, “There was hardly a tree or a shrub anywhere. Even the olive and the cactus, those fast friends of a worthless soil, had almost deserted the country.”⁹ Continuing with his description of Samaria, he wrote: “No landscape exists that is more tiresome to the eye than that which bounds the approaches to Jerusalem.”¹⁰

Twain’s summary description of the land was a dismal one: “. . . it truly is monotonous and uninviting . . . It is a hopeless, dreary, heart-broken land.”¹¹

Twain concluded his observations about Palestine in the mid-19th Century with these poignant words: “Palestine sits in sackcloth and ashes . . . and why should it be otherwise? Can the curse of the Deity beautify a land?”¹²



1884

Another American tourist, Henry M. Field, published a book about his trip to Palestine in 1884. He wrote about the treeless, desolate landscape as follows:¹³

The country seemed deserted of human habitations . . . Its appearance was made still more desolate by being without trees. While riding among the hills, I did not see a single tree. Whether this be owing to the government tax on trees, or the wastefulness of the people in cutting for fuel every young tree almost as soon as it shows its head above the ground, I know not; I only state the fact, that the landscape was absolutely treeless.



Plowing in 1900 with a mismatched team of a cow and a camel.

1912

As the 20th Century began and the Jews started to return to their homeland, the condition of the land had not improved. In 1912 a British traveler by the name of Sir Frederick Treves, published a book appropriately titled, *The Land That Is Desolate*.¹⁴

Describing the approach to Jerusalem, Treves wrote:¹⁵

[The area] is practically treeless. Such hedges as exist are mostly of prickly cactus . . . The villages passed are secretive-looking clumps of flat-topped huts made, it would seem, of a chocolate-coloured mud and decorated with litter and refuse.

Speaking of the area surrounding Jerusalem, Treves observed that “the hills are bare, save for some hectic grass and starveling scrub.”¹⁶ As for Jerusalem, he wrote:¹⁷

. . . the city itself is as the shadow of a rock in a weary land. With the exception of a few pallid olive trees, a patch here and there of indefinite green, and a melancholy cypress, the environs of Jerusalem are a dusty, ungenial limestone waste.

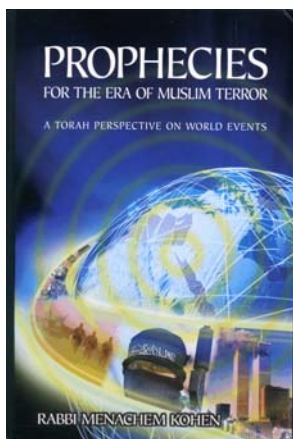
Treves described Bethlehem as “a drab city of drab houses on a drab ridge, as monotonous in colour and as cheerless looking as a pile of dry bones.”¹⁸ Likewise, he wrote about the

Nazareth area as being “a sorry country, for the land is bare, harsh, and treeless . . . Here is assuredly to be seen the poverty of the earth.”¹⁹ Regarding the Galilee area, he described it as “abandoned.”²⁰ Concerning the “wholly dirty town of Tiberias,” he stated that it was “a wretched and stinking place” with “sturdy vermin.”²¹

1924

Even as late as the mid-1920s, Palestine was still being described as “a barren, rocky and forbidding land” by Oliver C. Dalby in his book, *Rambles in Scriptural Lands*.²² He characterized Jerusalem as a place where the streets were “narrow and dirty,” and where “the buildings are austere and unattractive.”²³

A Strange Miracle



In a book published in 2007, an American Orthodox Jewish Rabbi named Menachem Kohen, asserted that the greatest miracle performed by God during the past 1800 years was one that occurred daily in the land of Palestine — namely, little or no rain.²⁴ He refers to it as a “reoccurring miracle.”²⁵ And he asserts that this miracle of drought was for the purpose of fulfilling prophecies in Deuteronomy 28 which read: “The LORD will make the rain of your land powder and dust . . .” (Deuteronomy 28:24). He also

points to other prophecies:

You shall bring out much seed to the field but you will gather in little, for the locust will consume it (Deuteronomy 28:38).

The locust shall possess all your trees and the produce of your ground (Deuteronomy 28:42).

Additionally, Rabbi Kohen contends that this reoccurring miracle of God was for the purpose of protecting the Jewish homeland from occupation by foreign Gentiles. In other words, God purposefully made the land desolate so that it could be preserved for the Jews when He would regather them in the end times — at which time the land would be reclaimed.²⁶

The Return of the Jews

So, when the Jews started returning to their homeland in the 1890s, they did not find a land “flowing with milk and honey.” Instead, they were faced with trying to eke out a living in a desolate wasteland plagued with malaria-infested swamps. They paid exorbitant prices for the land, and the Muslims who lived there (people who considered themselves to be either Syrians or Turks) laughed all the way to the



Draining swamps in Israel in the 1920s.

(Source: www.jnf.co.uk)

bank.

The Jews organized themselves into fortress-like communities called either a kibbutz or a moshav.²⁷ These were collective farms that provided mutual help to their members and protection from Arab attacks.



Kibbutz workers in the early 1900s.

(Source: http://israelvets.com/pictorialhist_nation_reborn.html)

Reclaiming the Land

The pioneers went to work immediately, attempting to drain the swamps and get rid of the malaria-infested mosquitos. Eucalyptus trees were imported from Australia and planted around the perimeters of the swamps.²⁸ They were selected because of their reputation for absorbing large amounts of water. When these proved insufficient, canals were dug to drain the swamps to the sea.²⁹

At the same time, the pioneers began replanting the forests of Israel. This was a very serious need. From the Sea of Galilee to the south, all the trees had been cut down. In the Galilee area in the north, there were only 15,000 trees left.³⁰ They had been cut for firewood and military use, and some forests had been burned for hunting purposes.³¹ The last sizeable remnants of forests had been cut down in modern times to fire Turkish railway engines.³² I think it is also interesting to note that the Turks taxed trees, so there was an incentive to cut down trees to alleviate the tax burden!³³

As the trees were being planted and the land cleared of rocks so that it could be recultivated, the rainfall began to increase miraculously. During the 20th Century, it increased 10 percent every decade, for a total increase of over 100 percent!³⁴

The JNF

The key to the reclamation of the land of Israel proved to be an amazing organization called The Jewish National Fund.³⁵ It was established at the Fifth Zionist Congress in Basel, Switzerland in 1901. Its sole purpose was to acquire and develop land for Jewish occupation.

In addition to relying on wealthy donors, the JNF raised money in a down-to-earth way by distributing collection boxes

to Jewish homes. These came to be known as “The Blue Boxes.” During the period between the two world wars, about one million of these tin collection boxes were distributed to Jewish homes throughout the world.³⁶ From 1902 to the late 1940s, the JNF also sold colorful stamps to raise money.³⁷

The JNF bought its first parcel of land in 1903. It consisted of 50 acres in Hadera, located on the Mediterranean coast, about 30 miles north of Tel Aviv.³⁸ The organization played a central role in the establishment of the first modern Jewish city — Tel Aviv in 1909.³⁹ By 1927, the JNF had purchased a total of over 50,000 acres of land on which 50 communities stood.⁴⁰ By the eve of statehood in May 1948, the JNF had acquired 231,290 acres of land.⁴¹

The record of accomplishments of the JNF by the beginning of the 21st Century was truly remarkable. The organization owned 13 percent of the total land in Israel, and it had planted over 250 million trees. It had also built 180 dams and reservoirs, developed 25,000 acres of land and established more than 1,000 parks.⁴²

Reforestation



Tree planting in the Galilee in the 1960s.
(Source: www.pikiwiki.org.il)

One of the major projects of the JNF throughout its history has been reforestation. The Bible itself has often served as the guide. For example, one of Israel’s foremost authorities on reforestation remembered that Abraham planted tamarisk trees in Beersheba, located in the southern Negev Desert area. Following Abraham’s lead, over 2 million of the trees were planted in the same area, and the discovery was made that the tamarisk thrives in areas of scanty rainfall.⁴³



Blue Box from the 1940s.

As pointed out before, over 250 million trees were planted in Israel during the 20th Century (and I personally planted at least 100 of them!). Israel was the only nation in the world to enter the 21st Century with a net gain of trees.⁴⁴

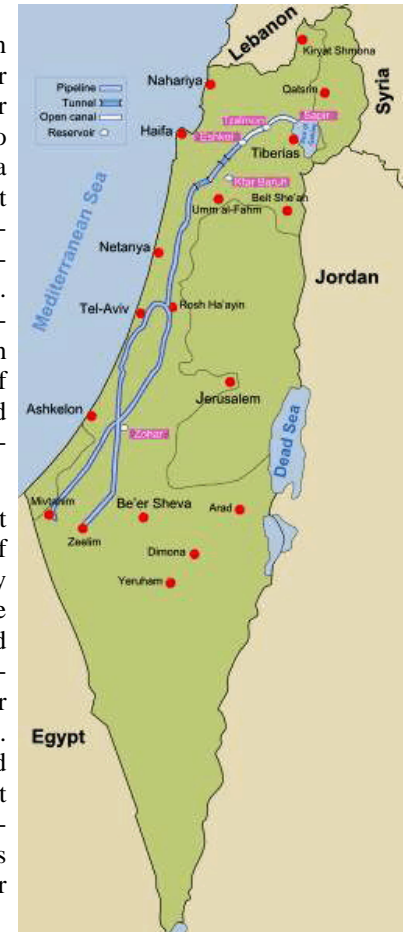
Water Conservation

The conservation and distribution of water has also played a key role in Israel’s reclamation of its land. The major need was to devise a method to transfer water from the Sea of Galilee in the north to the major cities in the south and to the Negev Desert in the extreme south.

In 1953 construction began on a water carrier that would transport water from the Sea of Galilee to the Negev Desert in a complex system of giant pipes, open canals, tunnels, reservoirs and mammoth pumping stations. The National Water Carrier was inaugurated in 1964, with 80 percent of its water being allocated to agriculture and 20 percent for drinking water.⁴⁵

Another key element was the development of drip irrigation whereby flexible water pipes were spread out on the ground with holes in them to distribute the precious water at the base of each plant. This innovation stopped the waste of water that occurred through evaporation when irrigation was done by spraying water into the air.⁴⁶

As immigrants have continued to flood into Israel over the years, the demand for water has greatly increased. The latest innovation to meet those needs is the desalination of sea water. Desalination plants are being constructed all along the Mediterranean coast of Israel. Desalination already provides 300 million cubic meters of water per year — almost 40 percent of the nation’s water needs.⁴⁷ A new plant near Tel Aviv that will open this summer will produce 7 million gallons of potable water every hour.⁴⁸



Map of Israel’s National Water Carrier

(Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org>)

Agriculture

The result of all these reclamation efforts has been phenomenal. The land that was desolate at the beginning of the 20th Century is now the bread basket of the Middle East. The nation is now more than self-sufficient. It exports agricultural products to both the Arab countries of the Middle East and to the nations of Europe.

When people think of Jews, they normally think of people

who have excelled in the area of finance. But modern Jews in Israel have made their mark in agricultural production, military prowess and, in more recent years, high-tech innovations.

Due to the diversity of the land and climate across the country, and all the efforts at reclamation, Israel is able to grow a wide range of crops. Field crops include wheat, sorghum, corn and cotton. Fruit and vegetables grown include citrus, avocados, kiwi fruit, guavas, mangoes and grapes. Additionally, tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, zucchini and melons are commonly grown throughout the country. Subtropical areas produce bananas and dates, while in the northern hills, apples, pears and cherries are grown.⁴⁹

The dairies of Israel produce the highest amounts of milk per animal in the world.⁵⁰ Israel is one of the world's leading fresh citrus producers and exporters, including oranges, grapefruit and tangerines.⁵¹ The Israelis have developed the world's first long shelf-life commercial tomato varieties.⁵² Israel grows vast quantities of flowers for export.⁵³ And Israel is the world's leader in agricultural research and development.⁵⁴



Desalination plant on the Israeli Mediterranean coast, near the city of Ashdod. (Source: www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org)

Today, Israel is focusing on the greening of the Negev Desert which constitutes 55 percent of the nation's land. They have devised water conservation techniques to save the one inch of rainfall per year in the Negev. They have also genetically engineered plants to grow on the brackish water reservoirs that exist below the surface of the desert.

As a result of these efforts, half a million Jews now live in the desert, in 250 thriving agricultural settlements.⁵⁵ The American Society for Horticultural Sciences recently stated that Israel's desert agricultural technology is "one of the most significant advances in food production in the past 1000 years."⁵⁶ Today,



Tree planting continues in Israel today.

(Source: <http://erinamsili.blogspot.ca/2011/07/plant-tree-in-israel.html>)

over 10,000 Israeli brackish water specialists are training agronomists and villages in 54 countries around the world.⁵⁷

Perhaps the most amazing thing that can be said about the reclamation of the land and the agriculture it has produced is that the United Nations, which normally specializes in condemning Israel, has declared that Israel is "the most agriculturally efficient land on earth."⁵⁸

Prophecy Fulfilled

Can there be any doubt that Ezekiel's astounding prophecy about the reclamation of the land of Israel in the end

times has been fulfilled? Read it again (Ezekiel 36:34-35):

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

Or consider this prophecy of Isaiah (Isaiah 51:3):

Indeed, the LORD will comfort Zion;
He will comfort all her waste places.
And her wilderness He will make like Eden,
And her desert like the garden of the LORD;
Joy and gladness will be found in her,
Thanksgiving and sound of a melody.

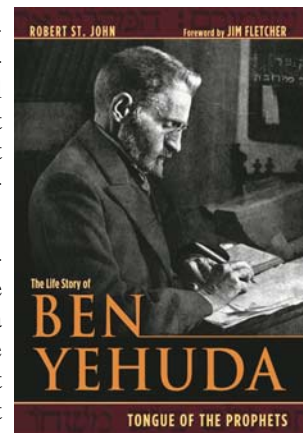
In like manner, can there be any doubt that the fulfillment of these prophecies indicates that we are living in the season of the Lord's return? Maranatha! ☆

Note: The reference notes for this article are posted with the copy of the article that can be found on our website at www.lamblion.com.

Another Miracle of Israel

The revival of the Hebrew language that has resulted in modern day Israelis speaking biblical Hebrew is surely one of the greatest miracles of the 20th Century, and it is also a fulfillment of Bible prophecy.

The fascinating story of that remarkable achievement is told in the biography of Eliezer Ben Yehuda by Robert St. John, now available in a beautiful new edition. Soft bound, 386 pages. \$20 plus the cost of shipping. Call 972-736-3567. ☆



Reasons to Smile in Israel

Daniel Pipes

(Editor's note: This article originally appeared in the *Washington Times* on June 5, 2013. It is being reprinted here with permission of the author. Daniel Pipes, born in 1949, is an American historian, writer, and political commentator. He is the founder and director of the Middle East Forum and its Campus Watch project, and editor of its *Middle East Quarterly* journal. His writing focuses on American foreign policy, the Middle East, and Islam.)

In a typically maladroitness statement, U.S. secretary of state John F. Kerry recently complained that Israelis are too contented to end their conflict with the Palestinians: "People in Israel aren't waking up every day and wondering if tomorrow there will be peace because there is a sense of security and a sense of accomplishment and of prosperity."

While Mr. Kerry misunderstands Israelis (Palestinian rejectionism, not prosperity, caused them to give up on diplomacy), he is right that Israelis have a "sense of security and . . . of prosperity." They are generally a happy lot. A recent poll found that 93 percent of Jewish Israelis are proud of being Israeli. Yes, Iranian nuclear weapons loom and confrontation with Moscow is possible, but things have never been so good. With thanks to Efraim Inbar of Bar-Ilan University for some of the following information, let us count the ways.

- Women need to give birth to 2.1 children each, on average, to sustain a country's population. Israel has a birth rate of 2.65, making it the only advanced country to exceed replacement. (The next highest is France at 2.08; the lowest is Singapore at 0.79.) While Haredis (ultra-Orthodox) and Arabs account for some of this robust rate, secular Jews are the key.
- Israel enjoyed a 14.5 percent growth of gross domestic product during the 2008-12 recession, giving it the highest economic-growth rate of any member country of the Organization for Economic Co-operation. (In contrast, the advanced economies as a whole had a 2.3 percent growth rate, with the United States weighing in at 2.9 percent and the euro zone at minus 0.4 percent.) Israel invests 4.5 percent of GDP in research and development, the highest percentage of any country.
- Due to major gas and oil finds, Walter Russell Mead observes, "the Promised Land, from a natural resource point of view, could be . . . inch for inch the most valuable and energy rich country anywhere in the world." These resources enhance Israel's position in the world.
- With Syria and Egypt consumed by internal problems, the existential threat they once posed to Israel has, for the moment, nearly disappeared. Thanks to innovative tactics, terror attacks have been nearly eliminated. The IDF has outstanding human resources and stands at the forefront of military technologies, and Israeli society has proven its readiness to fight a protracted conflict. Mr. Inbar, a strategist, concludes that "the power differential between Israel and its Arab neighbors is continuously growing."



Ultra-Orthodox Jews dance during the Jewish holiday of Simchat Torah or "Rejoicing of the Torah" at a synagogue in Jerusalem.

(Source: <http://wodumedia.com>)

- The Palestinian diplomatic focus that dominated the country's politics for decades after 1967 has receded, and now only 10 percent of Jewish Israelis consider negotiations the top priority. Mr. Kerry may obsess over this issue but, in the acerbic words of one politico, "debating the peace process to most Israelis is the equivalent of debating the color of the shirt you will wear when landing on Mars."
- Even the Iranian nuclear issue may be less dire than it appears. Between the vastly greater destructive power of Israel's nuclear arsenal and its growing missile-defense system, military analyst Anthony Cordesman predicts that an exchange of nuclear weapons would leave Israel badly damaged but Iranian civilization destroyed. "Iranian recovery is not possible in the normal sense of the term." Maniacal as the Iranian leadership is, will it really risk all?
- The successes of the "boycott, divestment, and sanctions" movement are pretty meager. Israel has diplomatic relations with 156 out of the United Nations' 193 members. Looking at multiple indices, Mr. Inbar finds that, globally, "Israel is rather well integrated."
- In public-opinion surveys in the United States, the world's most important country and Israel's main ally, Israel regularly beats the Palestinians by a four-to-one ratio. And while universities are indeed hostile, I ask hand-wringers this question: Where would you rather be strong, in the U.S. Congress or on campuses? To ask that question is to answer it.
- Ashkenazi-Sephardi tensions have diminished over time due to a combination of intermarriage and cultural cross-pollination. The issue of Haredi nonparticipation is finally being addressed [by requiring them to serve in the military].
- Israelis have made impressive cultural contributions, especially to classical music, leading one critic, David Goldman, to call Israel a "pocket superpower in the arts."

Listen up, anti-Zionists and anti-Semites, Palestinian terrorists and Islamists, extreme right- and left-wingers: You are fighting a losing battle; the Jewish state is prevailing. As Mr. Inbar rightly concludes, "Time seems to be on Israel's side." Give up and find some other country to torment. ☆

Turmoil in Egypt — Is it Prophetic?

Nathan Jones

Egypt has torn itself apart as their people riot and their military topples one government after another. What started out as the Arab Spring uprising has turned into a dark winter for Egypt. Hope naively is in the air that democracy and freedom will replace the old order, but fear is also tangible as the specter of Islamic Sharia Law rises to choke Egypt in its militaristic submission to Allah.

Delving below the politics, students of Bible prophecy are deep in discussion over whether Egypt is engaged in some kind of prophetic fulfillment.

A recent “Christ in Prophecy Journal” blog poll of 354 people looked to see where people believed Egypt stood in the prophetic light. As expected, 170 respondents (48%) wisely chose that it was too early to tell. Still, 71 respondents (20%) believe Egypt is experiencing Isaiah 19, and 63 respondents (17%) believe we are witnessing the beginning of the Psalm 83 prophecy. To a lesser degree, some believe Ezekiel 38-39 or Daniel 11:40-45 are in order. Some even, after the close of the poll, suggested Ezekiel 29:12 is beginning.

What do each of those prophecies mean, and are they truly being fulfilled today? Let’s take a look.

Isaiah 19

I [God] will stir up Egyptian against Egyptian . . . I will hand the Egyptians over to the power of a cruel master, and a fierce king will rule over them, declares the Lord. — Isaiah 19:2a,4

While Isaiah’s oracle against Egypt certainly sounds relevant to today with Egyptian rising up against Egyptian for or against the latest government, it is still up in the air whether they will be given this cruel tyrant to rule over them. It is indeed possible that the Muslim Brotherhood will regain power among the turmoil and place the people under strict Islamic law. Or, this could ultimately be talking about the coming Antichrist.

Clearly other parts of this oracle haven’t occurred yet. Verse 5 tells of the Nile drying up and the canals (Suez?) stinking. Verse 18 tells of five of Egypt’s cities being taken over so they “will speak the language of Canaan.” Even more amazingly, the people will turn from their idols and “swear allegiance to the LORD Almighty” and “he will respond to their pleas and heal them” (verse 21-22). God will even go as far as building a road from Assyria (modern day Iraq) through Israel to Egypt and proclaim “Blessed be Egypt my people, Assyria my handiwork,

and Israel my inheritance” (verses 23-25).

Prophetically, it could be that Egypt has started on the path of Isaiah 19’s prophecy which starts with Egypt’s fall, but without a shadow of a doubt Isaiah 19 describes Egypt’s final future in Christ’s Millennial Kingdom. Along with Jeremiah 12:14-17, it is revealed that Egypt as a nation will make it into Jesus’ Millennial Kingdom, though populated by believers, and not living under any judgment.

So, is Isaiah 19 happening today? No, most likely not. This prophecy has all the markings of a yet future fulfillment happening during the Tribulation with its blessings ending up in Christ’s Millennial Kingdom.

Ezekiel 29:12

I [God] will make the land of Egypt desolate among devastated lands, and her cities will lie desolate forty years among ruined cities. And I will disperse the Egyptians among the nations and scatter them through the countries.

— Ezekiel 29:12



Supporters of the Muslim Brotherhood and ousted President Morsi demonstrate outside a mosque in Cairo.

(Source: <http://blogs.wsj.com>)

Are the Egyptians facing a desolation and scattering of its people for 40 long years? One would think so until they read on to Ezekiel 29:19 and 30:10 which shows that the Lord promised that He would “put an end to the hordes of Egypt by the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon.” Historically then, although there’s no archaeological record of this happening, we can take the Bible at its word that this event happened over 2,500 years ago.

A slim possibility exists that there may be a future fulfillment of Ezekiel 29 as well. During the coming

Millennial Kingdom, if any nation doesn’t send representatives to Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles, they will then suffer drought (Zech. 14:16-19). The Egyptians are singled out in this warning, which suggests they could also see a 40-year exile during that period if they persist in their stubbornness, making Ezekiel 29:12 also yet future. I give this only a very slight nod of the head, though, because God’s praise for Egypt during the Millennium recorded in Isaiah 19:23-25 would seem to rule out the harshness of exile.

Psalm 83 and Ezekiel 38-39

With one mind they plot together; they form an alliance against you . . . the Hagrites [Egyptians]. — Psalm 83:5-6

Psalm 83 is a prayer calling down judgment and justice upon Israel’s neighboring enemies. In Psalm 83, all the nations that are listed have modern equivalents to the nations that today surround Israel: Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Gaza and Egypt. Israel has never fully subjugated those lands as the prayer calls, especially since they became a nation once again in 1948.

Ezekiel 38-39, called the Gog-Magog prophecy, foretells a coalition of Russia, Iran, Turkey, Libya, the Sudan and a number

of other Islamic nations uniting together to try to destroy Israel and carry off her wealth. God stepping in to defeat this overwhelming army is nothing short of miraculous and would change the face of world politics as we know it. The Ezekiel 38-39 Gog-Magog Battle creates three main results: 1) The world knows God exists and protects Israel, 2) all of Israel's hostile Muslim enemy countries are defeated, and 3) Israel leaves its secular humanism to accept God (though not His Son until the end of the Tribulation).



An artist's depiction of the Gog & Magog threat to Israel.
(Source: The Internet)

Psalms 83 and Ezekiel 38-39 are bundled together here because noticeably absent from the Gog-Magog coalition are the countries that directly border Israel. It would appear Israel would have to deal with their hostile neighbors, possibly subjugating them, for the requirements of Ezekiel 38-39 to fall into place.

If anything happening in the Middle East today is fulfilling Bible prophecy, it is that we are witnessing this very day the formation of these coalitions. Iran has set up proxy states through Hamas and Hezbollah and no matter who comes to power in Egypt they still seethe to wipe Israel off the map. Israel has the world's most effective army which could easily subjugate those neighbors. Israel could not defeat Russia along with Iran and Turkey coming from multiple fronts, and so God will have to step in, just as He told Ezekiel He would.

The fall of these Middle Eastern governments today is endangering any peace treaties made with Israel and solidifying the relationships between these Islamic nations against Israel. The danger level towards Israel is being kicked up to maximum and it is possible that any day soon we could see a Psalm 83 scenario unfold.

Daniel 11:40-45

He will extend his power over many countries; Egypt will not escape. He will gain control of the treasures of gold and silver and all the riches of

Egypt. — Daniel 11:42-43a

Earlier in Daniel 11 we get a stunning play-by-play of the ongoing battle between the dynasties of Alexander the Great's generals. These kings are consecutively labeled the "King of the North" (Syrian Seleucids) and the "King of the South" (Egyptian Ptolemies). This portion of prophecy was fulfilled in such jaw-dropping accuracy in the decades following Alexander the Great that it's led some to claim that Daniel was written after their fulfillments.

Starting with Daniel 11:36, the picture clearly becomes a prophecy about the future and describes the military campaign of the Antichrist in the Middle East that occurs at the end of the Tribulation. The Antichrist's preoccupation with persecuting the Jews and Tribulation Saints emboldens some of the nations under his control to rebel, and he's forced to deal with the King of the North (possibly Syria or one of the regions controlled by one of his 10 Kings) and the King of the South (possibly Egypt or another of his 10 Kings).

Egypt is certainly wrapped up in this prophecy, but it's very much a Tribulation-centric prophecy and not something we are seeing in today's headlines.

Summary

No matter who rules Egypt, the peace treaties with Israel are coming to an end. Unbounded by treaties, armed by Iran, and united by Islamic hatred of all things Jewish, all prophetic indications reveal that the nations surrounding Israel will attack in a Psalm 83 scenario. Following sometime soon after, an outer ring of Muslim nations will attempt to destroy Israel based on Ezekiel 38-39's Gog-Magog Battle. We are very close. ✚

Nathan Jones is Lamb & Lion's Media Minister and also serves as an Evangelist for the ministry. He is available on our website each weekday (www.lamblion.com), and he is also available for speaking engagements.



Adly Mansour, the head of the Egypt's Supreme Constitutional Court, is shown above speaking after he had been sworn in as Egypt's temporary head of state, following the military ouster of President Mohammed Morsi. (Source: www.dw.de)

Thoughts About The Bible

Charlie Daniels

(Editor's note: Charlie Daniels is a singer who specializes in country and southern rock music. He has been an active entertainer since the 1950s. He was inducted into the Grand Ole Opry in 2008 and the Musicians Hall of Fame and Museum in 2009. He is a Christian who has written many Christian songs. He maintains a blog on the Internet where he comments on national and international affairs from a biblical perspective. This article appeared on his blog on April 5, 2013. It is reprinted by permission. His articles can be found at <http://www.charlie-daniels.com/soapbox.htm>.)



The miniseries “The Bible” has broken some new ground for the cable television outlets, racking up heretofore unheard of ratings for almost anything other than the major networks.

I dare say it also partially opened the eyes of some powerful media people who probably thought that the American public's interest in biblical history and the things of God had waned to an ebb too low to make such an undertaking so wildly successful.

It also brought about a lot of discussion about authenticity, fact or myth, actual or allegory. The problem being that more than likely the people who were doing most of the questioning probably know about as much about the Bible as a mule knows about the theory of relativity and only got involved to try and discredit the Bible in any way they can.

What a futile undertaking! People have been trying to do that for thousands of years, and that blessed old book just keeps on keeping on, its prophecies being fulfilled and its timeless message of salvation continuously being accepted by millions around the world.

One of the things that seems to bother people is some of the fantastic things God did. They wonder if He really did it or is it only an allegorical description to illustrate a point or a happening.

Well, speaking just for me, I have absolutely no problem with that premise, I believe that a big fish actually swallowed Jonah, that the waters of the Red Sea were parted, that the sun did go backward as a sign to Hezekiah, that Moses struck a rock in the desert and water flowed out, that manna did fall from the sky to feed the Children of Israel on their journey to the Promised Land.

I also believe the prophecies that have and will be fulfilled — the coming of the Antichrist, the One World Government, the mark of the beast and the Battle of Armageddon when an army numbering in the millions will gather in the Jezreel Valley near Megiddo with the intention of completely destroying Israel. Roughly 85% of them will be destroyed by the Hand of Israel's Protector, Jehovah, The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, whose name God changed to “Israel.”

I believe in the New Covenant, the virgin birth, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ, that He was seen by over 500 people between the time He rose from the dead and ascended to heaven.

I believe that He is the way the truth and the life, God in the flesh and I believe that He will return to earth one day to claim His rightful place as King of kings and Lords of lords when He will rule over a thousand years of peace known as the Millennium.

Some people will tell you there are contradictions in the Bible but are unable to point them out.

The four Gospels — Matthew, Mark, Luke and John — are written by four different men; two were Jesus' disciples and two weren't and their accounts differ, not in substance, but in point of reference and observation. One may feature a more insightful and elaborate description of the nativity and another a more detailed account of the trial, crucifixion and resurrection of Christ or site different incidents that happened in the every day life of Jesus.



The Charlie Daniels Band

(Source: <http://newsroom.drury.edu>)

But they all come to the same conclusion: Jesus Christ was born of a virgin and came to His earthly ministry when He was about 30 years old. He healed the sick, raised the dead, gave sight to the blind, and made the lame walk.

The really incredible part is that His ministry only lasted around three years, after which he was condemned by the religious leaders of His day who coerced the Romans into crucifying Him.

Why did the religious leaders, or Sanhedrin do this? My personal belief is that He was stealing their thunder. The Sanhedrin (comprised of Pharisees and Sadducees) were righteous men who lived to the letter of the law, who tithed down to the herbs in their gardens — but it was an intellectual religion, not a spiritual one. The Law didn't specifically say, “Thou shalt not take away the property of widows and orphans,” so they felt it was in their purview to do it.

Jesus called them a “brood of vipers,” “whitewashed tombs full of the bones of the dead” and soundly condemned them for

their perversion of The Law of Moses, and they didn't like it. They were among the most honored and respected men in Israel, many of them rich and powerful with the influence to excommunicate people from the Synagogues.

As my pastor puts it, "Jesus was messing up their thing." The crowds were going to Him to hear about living by conscience, the real meaning of The Law, the New Covenant of love, compassion and forgiveness.

Jesus was known in Jerusalem as a Nazarene, coming from the town of Nazareth close to the Sea of Galilee in the Judean hills where He had lived since his boyhood days. One of the Sanhedrin's main cases against Jesus being the Messiah, or Promised One foretold about in the Holy Scriptures, was that He was from Galilee. One famous quote from one of the Sanhedrin members was, "Search the scriptures, no prophet comes from Galilee."

The truth of the matter is that though Jesus lived in Nazareth, He was born in Bethlehem, the City of David, right where the Scripture said He would be. But they didn't even dig deep enough to discover this and had Him crucified between two criminals on a cross in Jerusalem where the first convert under the New Covenant was the thief being crucified on the cross next to Him who asked Jesus to remember him when He came into His Kingdom. Jesus told him that day he would be with Him in Paradise.

I believe the Holy Bible from front cover to back, I believe it literally not figuratively, I believe it all, Old and New Testaments. I believe it is The Word of Almighty God.

What do you think?

Pray for our troops and the peace of Jerusalem.

God bless America.

It's Happening Now

Song by Charlie Daniels

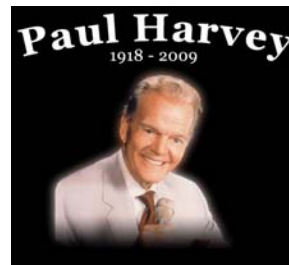
All of my life I've been hearing • That Jesus is coming back some day • For two thousand years the world's been waiting • He just told us to watch and pray • We don't know the minute or the hour • But the signs that the Bible speaks about • All point to the day of His returning • It's happening now • We may be the raptured generation • Rumors of war are in the air • Nation is rising against nation • False messiahs are appearing everywhere • The Word's being preached to all the nations • There's famine and flood, earthquakes and drought • The Jews have gone back to claim Jerusalem • It's happening now • Let the righteous rejoice at the sound of His voice • Let the message be sent to receive and repent • For He's coming again • The hands on the clock are moving faster • Humanity's sun is going down • With each passing day the time grows shorter • And shorter and shorter • It's happening now • It's happening now

From the album, *Steel Witness*, by The Charlie Daniels Band, an entire album of Bible-based songs (1996).

If I Were The Devil

Paul Harvey

(Broadcast on April 3, 1965)



If I were the Devil — if I were the Prince of Darkness, I'd want to engulf the whole world in darkness . . . but I wouldn't be happy until I had seized the ripest apple on the tree — the United States.

I'd subvert the churches first. I'd begin with a campaign of whispers. With the wisdom of a serpent, I would whisper to you as I whispered to Eve: "Do as you please."

To the young, I would whisper that "The Bible is a myth." I would convince them that man created God instead of the other way around. I would confide that what's bad is good, and what's good is "square." And the elderly, I would teach to pray, after me, "Our Father, which art in Washington . . ."

And then I'd get organized. I'd educate authors in how to make lurid literature exciting, so that anything else would appear dull and uninteresting. I'd threaten TV with dirtier movies and vice versa. I'd pedal narcotics to whom I could. I'd sell alcohol to ladies and gentlemen of distinction. I'd tranquilize the rest with pills.

If I were the Devil I'd soon have families that war with themselves, churches at war with themselves, and nations at war with themselves; until each in its turn was consumed. And with promises of higher ratings I'd have mesmerizing media fanning the flames.

If I were the Devil I would encourage schools to refine young intellects, but neglect to discipline emotions — just let those run wild, until before you know it, you'd have to have drug sniffing dogs and metal detectors at every schoolhouse door.

Within a decade I'd have prisons overflowing, I'd have judges promoting pornography. Soon I could evict God from the courthouse, then from the schoolhouse, and then from the houses of Congress. And in His own churches I would substitute psychology for religion, and deify science. I would lure priests and pastors into misusing boys and girls, and church money. If I were the Devil I'd make the symbols of Easter an egg and the symbol of Christmas a bottle.

If I were the Devil I'd take from those who have and give to those wanted until I had killed the incentive of the ambitious. And what do you bet? I could get whole states to promote gambling as the way to get rich. I would caution against extremes and hard work, in patriotism, in moral conduct. I would convince the young that marriage is old-fashioned, that swinging is more fun, that what you see on the TV is the way to be.

And thus I could undress you in public, and I could lure you into bed with diseases for which there is no cure. In other words, if I were the Devil I'd just keep right on doing on what he's doing today. Paul Harvey, good day. ✚

A Country on Another Planet

Lee Duigon



(Editor's note: Lee Duigon is a former newspaper editor and reporter who lives in Metuchen, New Jersey. He serves as a contributing editor with the Chalcedon Foundation. He is also a novelist. You can

find his insightful and hard-hitting articles at <http://leeduigon.com>. This article was published by NewsWithViews.com on May 10, 2012. It is reprinted with the author's permission.)

I had a birthday yesterday—one of many. How many? Enough to allow me to look back on an America that might as well have been a foreign country: maybe even a country on another planet.

Since my childhood, vast changes have been imposed on us. By whom? By people who supposedly knew better than the rest of us — politicians, academics, editorial writers, judges, movie stars, daft clergymen, and pill-heads. They said these changes would make America a better place.

They were wrong.

Fateful Changes for America

Let's look back on some of the most drastic of those changes. The first three on the list were part of the Sexual Revolution, which, we were told, would make us happy.

- Abortion has become a casual means of birth control and a ritual of feminism. Tens of millions of babies have been killed; and our . . . president celebrates it as some bizarre species of “freedom.” But God will judge our nation for those killings.
- Having babies out of wedlock has lost all its stigma and become morally acceptable. In my neighborhood, they give parties to celebrate out-of-wedlock births—about 40% of all the babies that elude the abortionist, nationwide. Fatherlessness remains the single most reliable predictor of poverty, gang membership, crime, and a host of social and psychological pathologies—but so what? It's “freedom.”
- We now call homosexuality “good,” and adherence to biblical morality “evil” or “hateful.” Our schools teach this to our children. This is the beginning of total sexual anarchy. It will destroy the family. It is supposed to make us “free.” God will judge us for this, too.
- Unrestrained vulgarity is part of daily life. Once upon a time, the f-bomb was a bomb; now it's just a string of firecrackers. Nothing is too vile to be posted as a comment on a website, sent in an email to a perfect stranger, or included in a movie script. People say things to each other, and about each other, that once would have been seen as evidence of mental illness. And at some point, filthy language will become so ordinary as to lose its bite—and what will be left for some of these people to say? They'll still have all their anger, but no way to express it verbally. Then what?

- Somewhere along the way, our illustrious leaders thought it would be cool if our money weren't worth much anymore. We certainly can't buy much gasoline with it. They tax us without mercy, always demanding more, and then throw the money around like confetti. Our national debt now exceeds our Gross Domestic Product—that is, the total monetary value of all the goods and services produced in the United States in one year. And they want to go deeper in the hole than that! What will happen when the money runs out?
- Rabid anti-Christianity has become thoroughly acceptable. Celebrities are applauded for it. Academics are rewarded for it. Any atheist can stroll into any town meeting in America and silence the opening prayer. Any “teacher” in America can deride Christianity in the classroom and call the Bible “hate speech,” and Christian parents will take it lying down. Any “gay” activist can publicly and profanely denounce the Christian faith—and if he does it loud enough, he gets a dinner at the White House and access to the president. He might even be appointed Tolerance Czar or something.

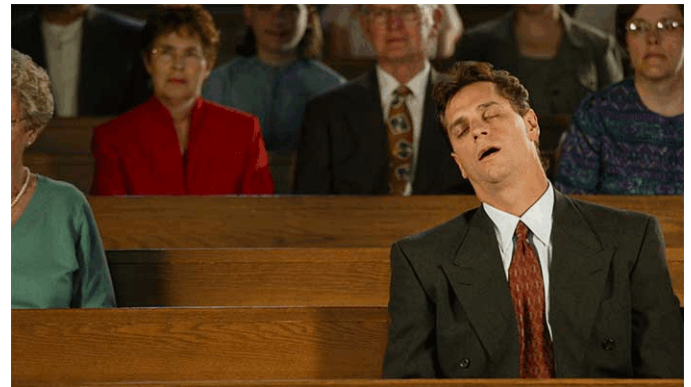
With what do these people propose to replace Christianity as the moral, spiritual, and legal basis of all of Western civilization?

God will judge us for that, too.

Personally, I don't like these changes. I daresay a lot of you don't, either. So how were they put over on us?

Why the Changes Occurred

America's churches were asleep on sentry duty. It was their duty to call attention to these changes and rally opposition to them. They didn't.



(Source: <http://acts29today.com>)

Some of the churches wanted to be hip, modern, and socially relevant. . . In other churches, the pastor judged it wiser and safer to tell funny stories from the pulpit rather than say anything that might alarm or offend the congregation.

And so the churches slept, and we slept, while our culture was turned inside-out and public funds were spent to slaughter babies, instruct small children in sexual practices formerly discussed only in the Kama Sutra, and dull, coarsen, and pervert the conscience of America.

For which the Lord will surely judge us. ✚

A Miracle of the Transforming Power of Jesus

Dr. David R. Reagan

I grew up in a church that believed God retired in the First Century. To us, the Great I Am had become the Great I Was. We were Cessationists but not Deists.

Cessationists believe that all aspects of the supernatural (gifts of the Spirit and miracles) ceased with the death of the last apostle. Deists go much further, arguing that God has always been an impersonal God and that the miracles recorded in the Bible are simply myths.

Both views are totally unbiblical. In the book of Malachi, God assures us that “I, the LORD, do not change” (Malachi 3:6). In 1 Corinthians we are told that the supernatural gifts of the Spirit will continue until Jesus returns (1 Corinthians 1:7). And Hebrews 13:8 proclaims that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today, yes and forever.”

One of the most encouraging scriptures in the Bible for me personally is the one in 1 Peter 5:6-7 which states that the Creator God of this universe is a personal God who cares earnestly about every detail of our lives. Here’s how it reads:

... humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.

Isn’t that wonderful? Unlike the aloof, distant and arbitrary false god of Islam, the one and only true God is a personal God who hears prayers and answers them and who still performs miracles.

Miracles Today

Most of the miracles God performs today are miracles of timing. A man in desperate need of cash to pay his rent prays earnestly for God’s help. On the day the rent is due, he opens a desk drawer and discovers some mail he had placed there a month earlier and had forgotten about. In the mail is a birthday card from his parents, and in the card is a check that more than covers his rent. The world calls this a “coincidence.” I call it a “God-incidence.”

Of course, God can still perform miracles that violate laws of nature, and He does so from time to time. People come back from the dead, others are healed instantly and dramatically, some may pray for protection from a serious storm and then witness it veer away at the last moment. Again, the world cries out, “Coincidence!” And in the process, God is not given credit for a miracle.

One of the greatest examples of this tendency can be seen in the response to the regathering of the Jewish people and the re-establishment of the state of Israel on May 14, 1948. The Bible prophesied this would happen in many places (see, for example: Isaiah 11:10-12, Isaiah 66:7-8, Ezekiel 37:21-22, and Zechariah 12:1-9). Based on these prophecies, and others, Bible prophecy experts predicted 500 years ago that the day would come when God would regather the Jews and re-establish their state. The world laughed, including Christian leaders who did not believe in the Bible prophecies. And when these prophecies were miraculously fulfilled in detail in the 20th Century, the unbelievers, together with many Christian leaders, shouted, “Coincidence!”

A Daily, Recurring Miracle

One recurring miracle of God that has occurred every day since the Cross is the miraculous transformation of people

through their faith in Jesus as their Lord and Savior. When a person puts their faith in Jesus, the Holy Spirit takes up residence inside of them and starts shaping them into the image of Jesus. This transformation process — as in the case of the Apostle Paul — can sometimes be sudden and dramatic.

We here at Lamb & Lion Ministries recently experienced such a transformation. In the summer of 2012 we were notified by a law firm in Illinois that we had been named as a beneficiary in a man’s

will. He was one of our Prophecy Partners.

The Testimony of a Will

With the letter of notification came a copy of the will. It was dated August 14, 2006. The will stated that the man had no legal heirs. He specified monetary gifts for three friends. The rest of his estate was to be divided up among Catholic charities and a list of liberal organizations in America, like The Harvard Stem Cell Institute. And to top it off, he specified that \$2,000 dollars was to be spent for a party in his memory at a local bar, with drinks on the house.

At this point in reading the will, I was in a state of shock and was wondering how in the world it applied to us. The next page made that clear.

Three years later, on November 20, 2009, he had revised the will. The gifts to the three friends were still there. The party had been canceled. And the estate was to be divided among three evangelical organizations — Lamb & Lion and two Messianic ministries!

This will is a clear testimony of the transforming power of Jesus. It is obvious that sometime between 2006 and 2009 this man had encountered Jesus, had been born again, and had experienced a complete change in his values.

Now, that’s what I call a genuine, certified, bonafide miracle! Praise God! ❖



A Blessed Conference

Our annual Bible conference, held during the last weekend in June, was greatly blessed by the Lord. We had nearly 1,000 people present and the six speakers did an outstanding job of covering various aspects of the theme: “Living on Borrowed Time: The Imminent Return of Jesus.”



The conference was held at the beautiful new Allen Performing Arts Center in north Dallas. The picture above was taken while the conference’s featured musical group was singing — The X-Alt Quartet.

One of our featured speakers was Alan Franklin, a newspaper editor from London, England who is an expert on the European Union. He spoke about how the European Union is a fulfillment of Daniel’s prophecy that the Roman Empire will be resurrected in the end times.



Alan Franklin

A speaker who proved to be exciting and challenging was Robert Jeffress, pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas. He talked about the coming implosion of our nation due to its rebellion against God and its refusal to repent. He is shown to the right with the conference director, Rachel Houck. Rachel is wearing the official conference tee shirt featuring the theme, “Living on Borrowed Time.” This shirt is still available in some sizes. Call the ministry for more information.

A new feature of the conference is that it was streamed live over the Internet, and approximately



Robert Jeffress & Rachel Houck

900 people were watching worldwide at any given time. We even received a donation of \$500 from a lady who watched the conference on her computer in New Zealand!

Our three other featured speakers, Don McGee, Ron Rhodes and Nathan Jones, each did an outstanding job of covering their topics in detail. Don spoke on the cornerstone end time sign of Israel. Ron covered the rapidly spreading growth of apostasy in the Church, and Nathan talked about the significance of modern technology as an end time sign.



Don McGee



Ron Rhodes



Nathan Jones

Dr. Reagan opened the conference with an overview of the Signs of the Times that point to the Lord’s soon return, and in doing so, he laid the foundation for the other presentations. He also closed the conference when he spoke to the banquet that was attended by 450 of the conference participants. His topic was “Israel in Bible Prophecy: The Resurgence of the Military.”

The conference video album, containing three DVDs with the six presentations made during the conference, is available for a cost of \$25. You can obtain a copy of Dr. Reagan’s banquet presentation for an additional \$5. To order the album and/or Dr. Reagan’s banquet presentation, call 972-736-3567 between 8am and 5pm, Central time, Monday thru Friday. Or you can place your order online at our website (www.lambdion.com). ❖



Teaching Bible Prophecy on the Island of Cuba

Dr. David R. Reagan

In late July I traveled to Cuba to teach at a seminary located in Havana. It was not my first visit to a Communist country. I have been to Russia and many of the countries of Eastern Europe when they were controlled by Communists. I have seen first-hand how Communism can literally destroy an economy, enslave the people, and rob them of all hope.

But Cuba still shocked me. The place is frozen in time. To go there is like getting into a time machine and traveling back to the 1950s. Fidel Castro's revolution succeeded in 1959, 54 years ago, and all progress was stopped dead in its tracks at that time. Castro confiscated everything — homes, cars, businesses, plantations and bank accounts. Then everything was 're-distributed' to the masses. The result was the destruction of the middle class. Today, a small Communist elite rules with an iron hand over a population that is wallowing in abject poverty.

In classic Communist fashion, every city and town has neighborhood watch committees that are called "Committees to Defend the Revolution." These committees keep watch on everything that is going on in their assigned area, and they make reports to the government concerning anything they consider to be suspicious, for which they are given rewards.

The average income is \$30 per person per month. No one owns anything. Houses and cars are just passed down from generation to generation, and they can be taken away at a moment's notice if someone in the family steps out of line.

Very few new vehicles have been imported into the country since 1959. The curious result is that everywhere you look you see Chevrolet Bel Airs and Ford Fairlanes from the 1950s. I concluded that Cuba must be the "heaven" where 1950 Chevrolets and Fords go when they die! It's amazing to think that these cars are still chugging along after 50 years. Every one that I got into was stripped inside of its door and roof panels. They were just metal shells with a motor that sounded like a McCormick Reaper.



A 1950s vintage Chevrolet converted into a taxi. Notice all the old cars in the background. Photographed in central Havana.

The staple food is rice with black beans, which may be served at every meal. They do have access to a variety of tropical fruits, many of which they grow in their yards. For special occasions, they may have chicken.

The people have no access to the Internet. I suppose the idea behind this is to keep them ignorant about how the rest of the world lives.

My only surprising discovery was the degree of religious freedom the people of Cuba are granted. House churches are allowed and seminaries are tolerated, unlike in China where Christians are persecuted, churches are severely limited in number and seminaries are closely guarded, allowing only a handful of graduates each year. Still, no religious group in Cuba can broadcast on radio or television or run an advertisement in a newspaper. Speaking of the media, I was told that there are only four TV networks in Cuba, and when I asked what they were, I was told, "Castro, Castro, Castro, and more Castro!" One of the Cuban Christian leaders told me that the government leaves the churches alone unless there is a report that the pastor has spoken out against some government policy.



Dave and Don Ott with their Spanish translator, Tamara.

I had a group of 42 students in my seminary class on the fundamentals of Bible prophecy. Nearly all were pastors. There were a few elders and a few women. They were very cordial, and I enjoyed sharing God's Word with them and answering their many questions. I taught for four full days in a room that could comfortably hold only about 30 people. So, we were crammed into a small space with no air conditioning during days when the temperature reached 100 degrees and the humidity felt like it was 95 percent. It was the hardest mission work I have ever done.

My wonderful host was a great man of God named Don Ott. Don is a clinical psychologist who lives in Arkansas. In his "spare time" he pastors a church, teaches at a Bible college, and makes mission trips all over the world. He was a perfect host.

I arrived back home totally exhausted and ill. I have since been praying that I was able to accomplish what God had in mind for this outreach. ✚



Headquarters of a neighborhood watchdog committee.

A New TV Network!

Dr. David R. Reagan

We are very happy to announce the addition of a new television network — the TCT Network that operates out of Marion, Illinois. The acronym, TCT, stands for Treasuring Christ Together.

Beginning with one Christian television station in the Cincinnati, Ohio area in 1977, TCT has exploded into becoming a world-wide network of Christian broadcast stations. The network was founded by Garth and Tina Coonce who left the security of the business world and stepped out in obedience to the leading of the Spirit. Many trials and tests would come through the years, but their obedience, commitment, and confidence in God has secured and stabilized TCT as a powerful voice for the Gospel.



TCT is currently airing four channels and reaching over 60 million homes through satellite, multisystem cable services, on-air broadcast, mobile applications and the internet. TCT programming is live streaming 24/7 at www.tct.tv. Plus visitors to the website will find “Video on Demand” for convenience of their viewing schedules, streaming all four TCT channels, 24/7. TCT Mobile is a free application that allows you to take TCT with you wherever you are by iPhone/iPad and Android applications. Download yours today from iTunes or the Google Play Store and take TCT with you anywhere. ✚

Regional Networks



“Christ in Prophecy” is broadcast throughout southern Louisiana on the **Family Vision Network** at various times. See: www.kajn.com/familyvision.



New Mexico Family Stations is a network consisting of two stations in Albuquerque. Our program is broadcast on Thursday at 11:00pm.



KSCE Life! is located in El Paso, Texas and broadcasts our program on Sundays at 10:30am Mountain time. Also carried on DirecTV Channel 38.

“Christ in Prophecy” Broadcast Schedule

National Networks

Daystar Network DirecTV Channel 369 DISH Channel 263 Also on cable networks throughout the nation.				
Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day Time	Wed. 4:00pm	Wed. 5:00pm	Wed. 6:00pm	Wed. 7:00pm

The Church Channel DirecTV Channel 371 DISH Channel 258 Also on cable networks throughout the nation.				
Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day Time	Sat. 6:30pm	Sat. 7:30pm	Sat. 8:30pm	Sat. 9:30pm

National Religious Broadcasters Network DirecTV Channel 378				
Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day Time	Sun. 2:00pm	Sun. 3:00pm	Sun. 4:00pm	Sun. 5:00pm

Golden Eagle Broadcasting Network DirecTV Channel 363				
Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day Time	Tues. 4:00pm	Tues. 5:00pm	Tues. 6:00pm	Tues. 7:00pm

The TCT Network DirecTV Channel 377				
Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day Time	Sun 4:00pm	Sun. 5:00pm	Sun. 6:00pm	Sun. 7:00pm

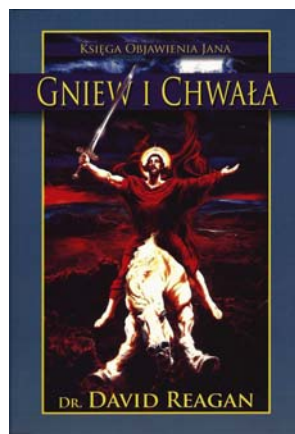
Please continue to pray with us that the Lord will enable us to get a broadcast slot on the TBN Network. This is the largest Christian television network in the world. Keep in mind that our goal from the beginning of this ministry has been “to reach as many people as possible, as quickly as possible, with the message of the Lord’s soon return.” Thanks! ✚

Ministry News

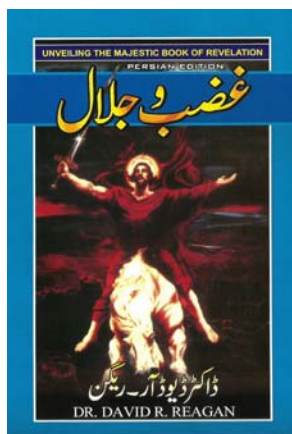
Schedule — Dr. Reagan is scheduled to begin the month of **September** speaking at the Ninevah Christian Church in Lawrenceburg, KY (7-8). In **October** he will be at the Northside Christian Church in Clovis, CA (5-6) and then will be one of the featured speakers at the Atlantic Coast International Prophecy Conference in Myrtle Beach, SC (19-21). In **November** he will be speaking at the Eastview Christian Church in Martinsville, IN (23-24).

Israel Pilgrimage — The ministry's next Holy Land pilgrimage will be in the Spring of 2014. The exact dates have not yet been determined. If you are interested, contact the ministry, and you will be put on a notification list. You will then be contacted as soon as the details of the trip are wrapped up.

Foreign Publications — Dr. Reagan's commentary on the book of Revelation, titled "Wrath & Glory," continues to be translated and published in a variety of languages. The two most recent are Polish and Persian. Hindi and Bengali editions are currently in



Polish Edition



Persian Edition

progress. A Spanish edition is available for the cost of shipping. To order, call 972-736-3567 Monday thru Friday, 8am to 5pm Central time.

Prophecy Partners — *We need your support as a Prophecy Partner!* Our Prophecy Partners serve as our prayer warriors and provide the financial base of the ministry. To become a Prophecy Partner all you have to do is make a commitment to pray daily for the ministry and provide \$25 or more per month for one year. As a Prophecy Partner, you will receive a monthly update letter from Dr. Reagan concerning all aspects of the ministry. You will also receive a monthly gift. Every other month that gift will be



Prophecy Partners Bill & Patty McCommons from Erie, PA.

a copy of our magazine. In the intervening months, you will receive a DVD program on some aspect of Bible prophecy. Prophecy Partners also receive discounts on materials produced by this ministry. To sign up for this program, give us a call at 972-736-3567. Thanks!

Missions — We are trying to put together a special financial gift for our fellow Bible prophecy teacher, Ken Humphries, who is based in Northern Ireland. His ministry, Treasured Truth Today, reaches out to all of England and the former Communist countries of Eastern Europe. The people of England are not accustomed to supporting parachurch organizations, so Ken finds it very difficult to support his ministry without being on the road constantly preaching, which is difficult at his age. Let's provide him with a substantial monetary gift that will enable him and his wife to be relieved of constant financial pressure.



Ken Humphries

New Videos — We recently broadcast two television programs with Carl Gallups, the author of the best-selling book, *The Magic Man in the Sky*. We received such a tremendous response to the programs that we decided to combine them into a DVD album entitled "The Existence of God." The two programs run a total of 57 minutes. Carl is a master communicator who knows how to defend the integrity of the Bible and its Creation story. He also knows how to pick apart the false "scientific base" of Evolution. The album sells for \$12 plus the cost of shipping. To order, call 972-736-3567 Monday thru Friday, between 8am and 5pm Central time. You can also order his book from us for \$20 plus shipping.



Another new video album contains three of our most popular programs shot in Jerusalem. It is titled, "Insights from Jerusalem." The first program focuses on the prophetic and archaeological significance of the Eastern Gate. The second presents the fascinating story of the revival of the Hebrew language from the dead. And the third presents a panoramic overview of the Old City of Jerusalem as the camera follows Dr. Reagan on a walk thru the city. These are programs that can be used for either individual or group study. The album sells for \$15 plus the cost of mailing.

For a complete listing of all our video programs, check our website at lamblion.com.✚



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Dr. Reagan's New Book!

- Did Jesus really promise to return?
- Did He promise to establish a worldwide reign?
- Can we know the date when Jesus will return?
- Can we know the season of His return?
- What is meant by "Signs of the Times"?
- What are examples of Signs of the Times?
- What is the most important Sign of the Times?
- Are there signs on the scene today that have never existed before?
- Is the Lord's return really imminent?

These and many other questions concerning the return of Jesus are addressed by Dr. Reagan in his newest book about end time Bible prophecy. This is a book he has been working on for years. It contains insights he has gained over 35 years of study and teaching.

An additional feature of the book is a section devoted to a prophetic forum featuring the responses of 22 Bible prophecy experts to 11 questions concerning the return of Jesus. The participants include Tim LaHaye, Mark Hitchcock, Jack Kinsella, David Hocking, Jan Markell, Ron Rhodes, Gary Fisher and Bill Salus, among others. You will be fascinated with their insights and their areas of agreement and disagreement.

The book also contains nine in-depth chapters about the signs that Dr. Reagan considers to be the most significant. These include such things as the re-establishment of Israel, the revival of the Roman Empire, the proliferation of cults, the convulsion of nature, the growth of apostasy, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the impact of technological change, the



significance of the accelerator principle, and the decay of society.

The book is softbound and runs 310 pages in length. It sells for \$15 plus the cost of shipping. To order a copy, call 972-736-3567 Monday thru Friday, 8am to 5pm Central time. Or place your order through our website at www.lamblion.com. ❖

