



ISRAEL

IN PROPHECY

INTRODUCTION



A newspaper in Great Britain has paid tribute to Israel, asking: "Which nation is going to exercise the greatest influence on AFRICA?" It continued, "The answer is not Britain, Russia, or America but ISRAEL!" This paper went on to relate how "Israel has emerged as the biggest single factor in civilizing the Middle East, and indeed, the whole African continent."

It is well known that wherever Israel has taken possession of the land they have improved it. Even the Arabs found living in Israeli territory have found a better standard of living as a result of Jewish technology.

By 1970, Israel hopes to have enough land under irrigation to meet the growing demands of its increased population. By 1971, additional water should result from desalination of the waters of the Mediterranean Sea.

Already the desert is blossoming as the rose.

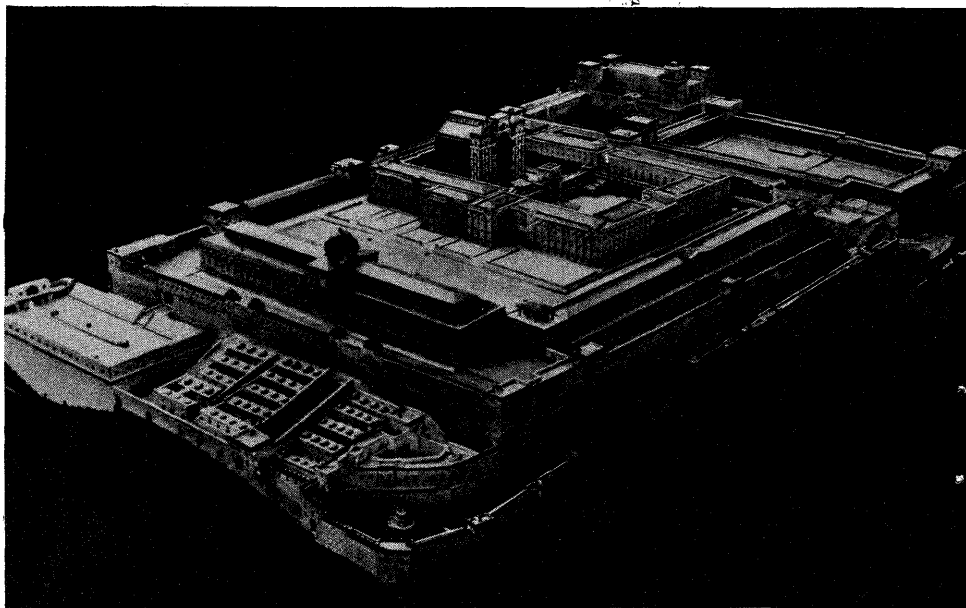
John W. Bradbury, commenting on these dramatic changes taking place in Palestine today writes: "God's Word is being literally fulfilled. Such changes are taking place as never happened to any other nation. Prophecies made centuries before Christ are now coming to pass."

What tremendous days in which to live. Indeed, these are days when momentarily we should expect the coming of our Blessed Lord. For it was in view of events taking place such as we are describing that our Lord hath said, "when ye see these things come to pass, look up, and lift up your heads, for your redemption draweth nigh."

Be ye therefore ready, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh!"

Note: The following messages are from a series of radio broadcasts featured on God's News Behind The News.

GOD'S NEWS ..BEHIND THE NEWS
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A reconstruction of Herod's Temple

ARE THE JEWS PLANNING TO REBUILD THE TEMPLE ?

(# 728)

In Israel, tragedy struck the noted former Episcopal Bishop, James A. Pike, who was visiting the wilderness area surrounding the Dead Sea where it is believed Jesus was tempted by the devil for 40 days and nights. Mrs. Pike, the third wife of the controversial bishop, described her escape as 'miraculous.'



Israel has indicted Michael Denis Rohan, accusing him of setting fire to one of the holiest shrines in all Islam... the Al Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem.

At first, Arabs accused the Jews of setting fire to their mosque and threatened 'holy' war. But the Israelis maintained that the fire was accidental, started perhaps by a welding torch being used to repair the roof.

But, having seen a young man fleeing the scene shortly before the fire, a search was made, and Michael Denis Rohan was apprehended. Rohan, it was reported, spoke of wanting to help clear the area of its mosque to make room for a Jewish temple. Rohan is said to be from Australia.



Pictorial Parade

That the Jews are anxious to see their temple rebuilt is a known fact, but not at the expense of provoking a holy war of all Islam with its 465 million people.

For two millenniums now orthodox Jews have prayed three times a day, "May it be Thy Will, O Lord our God, the God of our fathers, that the Temple be speedily built in our days...There we will serve Thee with awe, as in the days of old, as in ancient years."

Well, it may not be too far distant when Jews may again attempt to rebuild their ancestral Temple.

Israeli officials flatly deny any such plans, but rumors persist. A favorite topic of discussion these days is - How long will it be before plans get underway for the rebuilding of the Temple.

There are several obstacles or hindrances to the rebuilding of the temple at Jerusalem.

First, the Law requires the Temple be administered by priests who are descendents of Moses' brother Aaron, yet it is nigh to impossible to trace the lineage of those today who might be in line for such an assignment.

Then, too, the Torah specifies that Temple ritual include daily animal sacrifices - a concept alien to most modern Jews.

Finally, the temple must be constructed on its original site and this could only be done by demolishing the Dome of the Rock held sacred by Islam. Historian Israel Eldad says that perhaps an earthquake will bring this about as the Israelis would be reluctant to destroy the shrine of another faith.

As Theodore Epp of Back To The Bible Broadcast suggests: "There are obstacles to such a program at the present time, but undoubtedly these will be taken care of when the time comes." For the Bible speaks of a time that is coming when the temple will be rebuilt in Jerusalem, and blood sacrifices offered once again.

In the Washington Post a large advertisement appeared a couple of years ago (June 10, 1967) addressed to persons of the Jewish faith all over the world, appealing to them to rebuild "the temple of God."

In Miami, Rabbi Nathan H. Zwitman has suggested that Jews "resolve today to fulfil a promise made to God," pointing out - "For centuries we have repeated 'bring us back to our land and we will build your house again.'"

When Teddy Kalleck, Mayor of Jerusalem, was asked about plans to rebuild the temple his answer was, "We have no such plans at the present. When Messiah comes, He will build the Temple."

This is the view held by some, including MAIMONIDES, who believe Messiah would appear to rule over Israel in "the end of days."

And so, there is expectancy and great anticipation on the part of those who await the coming of their 'anointed king' - the Messiah, whom we know to be the Lord Jesus Christ.

However, when the temple is finally built, the Bible tells us of one who should arise - the ANTICHRIST, who will pose as Israel's benefactor and protector. The anti-christ will make a 7-year covenant with Israel, but then in the middle of this period will break the covenant. Sacrifices which will have been restored in the newly-built temple would again cease, and Antichrist himself will move into the temple and make it his headquarters. In fact, he makes himself the object of the world's worship.

Incidentally, Newsweek (Sept. 30, 1968) relates such plans. According to this report, "Israel and the Vatican are working on an agreement to internationalize the holy places in the Jerusalem area. With the Arab-Israeli situation still in turmoil, the Pope is anxious to put through his long-standing plan to protect such holy places as the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and the Garden of Gethsemane from possible destruction."

D.M.Panton, one of the more recent prophetic English writers states: "Antichrist in the temple is not only the crowning iniquity, but the crowning deception of all history..."

As the Bible states, "he as God, sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God." (2 Thess. 2:4)

My friends, there is coming a day when a man will actually be worshipped by the whole world, and as Panton asserts: "all other worship round the globe is rendered illegal." Sounds unbelievable that mankind would be so deceived, but a union of the world's religions will bring this about.

How close we must be to the coming of our Lord for those who are looking for His return. As the editor of CHRISTIAN VICTORY magazine writes: "It is our belief that Israel will rebuild its temple when Antichrist makes a league with Israel, which will be after the rapture of the church."

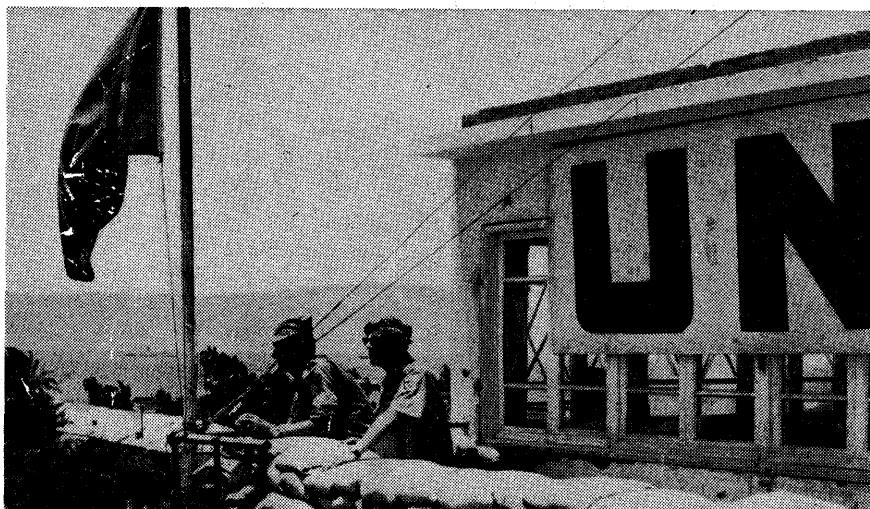
So the next event many anticipate throughout Christendom is the rapture...or the coming of Christ for His own.

For the Scripture would remind us, "To those who look for Him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation." Heb. 9:28.

Let me ask you, Are you looking for Christ's Return? Have you made such preparation as to be ready for this glorious event? Have you trusted Christ as your Saviour and Lord and are you today found living for Him?

Indeed, seeing these events take place in Israel we would agree with Dr. J.F. Walvoord of Dallas Theological Seminary when in discussing plans for the rebuilding of the temple he writes: "The stage is set precisely for such a move and, if so, the end of the age may be very near."

How wonderful to be listening for the sound of the trumpet, and looking for our Lord's appearing. For he hath said, "Be ye therefore ready, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."



—United Nations Photo

At U. N. outpost, unarmed observers try to enforce peace.

PROPHECIES CONCERNING ISRAEL (# 730)

The Arab-Israeli crisis continues to be the number one topic of discussion at the United Nations as tensions mount in the Middle East.

David Ben Gurion, former Israeli Prime Minister, blames Russia for keeping the Mideast in the shadow of war. "Without Russian interference there would be no Mideast War," he noted.

On the other hand, Soviet Premier Kosygin blames Israel for increased unrest, stating it is clear that "Israel has decided to keep the territories that it has occupied by force."

Roaming the Mediterranean is a record number of Soviet ships, the greatest fleet of Russian vessels ever to assemble in that strategic area.

What will happen? What does the future hold? Will war soon break out again in the Middle East? What does the Bible have to say?

Israel's return to her land is one of the greatest prophecies of the Bible, proving again that God's Word is being literally fulfilled.

For instance, in Jeremiah 30 we read: "For, lo, the

days come, saith the Lord, that I will bring again the captivity of my people Israel...and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it." (v. 3)

Well, this we have seen happen before our very eyes. Israel has returned to her land in fulfilment of Bible prophecy.

George T. B. Davis, missionary statesman has said: "The wondrous way in which the Lord is leading the Jews back to their ancient homeland was predicted, not once, but many times, by the Old Testament prophets twenty-five hundred years ago. This fulfilment of prophecy today, before the eyes of the entire world," notes Davis, "is proof positive of the supernatural inspiration of the Word of God."

Now, it is in view of Israel's return to her land that Jeremiah also sees a time of terrible trouble, saying: "Alas, for that day is great, so that none is like it; it is even the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it." (v 7)

So, we are seeing Israel going through her pangs of rebirth, with the nations around her pledging to fight for her annihilation.

During the recent attempted burning of the Al Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem Arab leaders called for a holy war, declaring Israel must be destroyed. Immediately foreign ministers of 14 Arab League nations met in Cairo to chart a unified military strategy.

Howard Estep says in his prophetic newsletter - "What we see prevailing in the Middle East between the State of Israel and the Arab World is a clear-cut, predetermined collision course! The Middle East.." he observes, "will emerge as the world's number one trouble spot!"

Roaming the Mediterranean are about 75 Soviet naval vessels, including nearly 20 submarines, said to be the largest Russian fleet ever to assemble in that part of the world.

Rear Admiral Allan F. Fleming, NATO commander of maritime air forces, calls this Soviet buildup of 'vital concern'.

Also, overhead are Russian-made bombers which bear Egyptian markers, but are being flown by Russian pilots. Some 10,000 Russians are now in Egypt, including around 4,000 military advisors.

Christian Victory magazine, commenting on the presence of the Russians in the Mediterranean area, notes: "We think that this is of startling interest when considered in the light of the prophetic Word, for it will be in the Mediterranean area that the Russians will come to their defeat, and the greatest funeral and burial in all of history

will take place.” Reference is then made to Ezekiel, chapters 38 - 39, which relate to invading armies from the North descending on Palestine. The names Gog, Magog, Meschech and Tubal are used to identify this invading host and Bible scholars largely agree that this has reference to Russia and nations allied with her. As to the time this will take place, when these armies will meet their doom on the mountains of Israel, the Bible simply states - “it shall be in the latter days.” (Ezek. 38:16) Destruction from heaven - rain, hail, pestilence, blood, fire and earthquakes shall be visited upon this invading army in that day.

Here is a prediction that has never been fulfilled. Thus prophecy awaits fulfilment in the Middle East.

Ultimately the Scriptures see all nations being drawn into the affray. For we read in Zechariah 14:2 where the Lord says: “For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle.”

Israel is already the prime topic of discussion at the United Nations.

Zechariah warns, however, that the nations that involve themselves with Israel’s problems will themselves face destruction.

In chapter 12 we read, “Behold I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about... in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people.” And then we have this warning: “All that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it.”

Did you hear it?

It is well known that the Middle East is valued for its rich oil reserves along with its vast mineral wealth. The Dead Sea alone is valued at well over 12 trillions of dollars, which is more than all the wealth of the world combined.

So we can expect this area to become a prime target of consideration for the nations, and ultimately Armageddon will be fought in this strategic section of the world.

That Battle is vividly described in Revelation 16 where we read of the kings of the earth and the whole world gathered together to battle. (14-16)

Indeed, how close that day must be as we see events transpiring in the Middle East, which would indicate that day is near. So that in the very next verse the Lord is saying: “Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.”

The fashions of the day are emphasizing more and more the ‘nude’ look. Similarly, the tendency is for Christians and the churches to become careless and complacent con-

cerning spiritual attire. It was to the Laodiceans that our Lord is heard saying, "I counsel thee to buy of me...white raiment that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear!"

Today are we clothed with Christ's righteousness? Have we truly trusted him as our Saviour, or are we trusting in our good works to save us? The Bible specifically states: "Not by works of righteousness that we have done but alone through his mercy he saves us." And again, "By grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast."

Now, we receive the robes of Christ's righteousness the moment we turn to Christ and receive his pardon and forgiveness. But it is expected of us to walk in obedience to his will, keeping his commandments, in order that our garments do not become spotted with sin, stained by worldliness. For at his coming we read of a 'great multitude, which no man could number' who during the tribulation are seen washing their robes, and making them white, in the blood of Christ.

Some have the mistaken idea that they can live carelessly and all will be well when Jesus comes. This is not conveyed anywhere in the Scriptures, my friends. Nearly every reference to the coming of the Lord is cloaked in words of warning to be ready for that glorious event. In view of our Lord's Return, the emphasis of the Bible is that we live a holy life and at all times live in peace and harmony one with the other, and in fellowship with God in the keeping of His Word.

It is concerning the coming of the Lord that we read, "And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure." (1 John 3:3)

Do you have the joy of anticipating Christ's return at any moment? Then you will be living for Him, and looking for his appearing.

The way to be ready for our Lord's coming is - first, to receive him as our Saviour, and then, to walk in daily fellowship and obedience to His Word. For we're told,

"If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son, cleanseth us from all sin." (Or as the Greek construction indicates - He keeps on cleansing us from all sin.)

Did you hear it?

What a wonderful way to live, knowing Christ, and seeking every moment to be doing His will. For this is the way of constant blessing and ever-readiness.

For remember he hath said, "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."

PROPHECIES CONCERNING ISRAEL (# 731)

Intelligence Digest has noted: "There is cause for great concern about the strategic situation in the Mediterranean. Not only is the Middle East in a constant state of potential explosion, but the formidable Russian naval presence has altered the whole balance of power..."

What will be Moscow's reaction to the continued Israeli raids? Actually the blitzkrieg type of war being waged by Israel is proving embarrassing both to the Arabs and the Russians.

The question is being raised, Will the Soviet Union be forced to take a more firm hand in Middle Eastern affairs. With scores of Russian ships now patrolling the Mediterranean, what will keep these ships from landing, and invading forces from intervening?



SOVIET-SUPPLIED T-54 TANKS ON PARADE IN KABUL

DAN COGGIN

Andrei Gromyko, addressing the United Nations, has called for Israeli withdrawal from Arab territories. As the U.S. intervened in Viet Nam, will the Russians ultimately invade Israel? Under the pretense of seeking to drive back the Israelis will she usher her forces into Palestine for the real purpose of conquest and control of the Middle East?

This is what the Bible indicates will ultimately happen, and this is why we watch developments with intense interest. In Ezekiel, chapter 38 and verse 12, we read of this coming invasion of Israel by Russia... "to take a spoil, and to take a prey, to turn thine hand upon the desolate places that are now inhabited, and upon the people that are gathered out of the nations..."

God's purpose in bringing this northern confederacy of nations, headed by Russia, against Israel is for the purpose

of revealing there is a God in heaven, a God who is interested in the affairs of men and nations.

It will be as a result of this tremendous victory, when God defeats Gog in the land of Israel, that we read: "the house of Israel shall know that I am the Lord their God from that day and forward." (39:32)

Indeed, what tremendous days in which to live. And a world waits breathlessly for each development.

As mentioned a moment ago...the Bible forecasts a day when nations from the North, believed to be headed up by Russia, will launch an invasion of Israel.

Specific mention of this is made in Ezekiel 38 - 39, where GOG, the leader of a confederation of nations will descend as a troop - their destination being Israel.

Here's what we read: "Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say unto GOG, thus saith the Lord God; In that day when my people of Israel dwelleth safely, shalt thou not know it? And thou shalt come from thy place out of the north parts, thou, and many people with thee, all of them riding upon horses, a great company, and a mighty army. And thou shalt come up against my people of Israel as a cloud to cover the land: IT SHALL BE IN THE LATTER DAYS." Ezekiel 38: 14-16a)

Now, it is as a result of this event - this invasion of Israel, that we read: "And it shall come to pass at the same time when Gog shall come against the land of Israel, saith the Lord God, that my fury shall come up in my face."

Here we see God becoming angry. Some think only of God as a loving Heavenly Father, without realizing he is also a God of wrath. He hates sin. Though he loves the sinner we read he is angry with the wicked every day.

And on this occasion when armies from the North flood the land of Israel, like a great cloud - there are so many, then the Lord becomes angry. And we read how he sends fire, and pestilence, and great hail, and an earthquake so that destruction is rained down upon these armies. Fire, probably in the form of devastating atomic bombs or nuclear missiles will also fall upon Magog and them that dwell carelessly in the isles: and they shall know that I am the Lord." (39:6) Magog, according to the Scofield Bible refers to the land of Russia. And the Isles refer to a land with great coastlines which could very well represent the United States.

You know, more and more news commentators are pointing out that the Middle East battleground is not only a conflict between the Arabs and Israel, but is also becoming a confrontation between Russia and the United States.

So, ultimately we might expect the Middle East situation to become the fuse, which when ignited, could lead to a nuclear holocaust between the two great powers.

A report has just been released by Britain's respected

Institute for Strategic Studies entitled - "The Military Balance - 1969" And, according to this report the Russians now possess 1,050 Inter-continental Ballistic missiles, while America's matching strength stands at 1,054.

As a result of this endtime invasion, when armies from the north will be destroyed on the mountains of Israel, and fire will engulf the nations, possibly Russia and the United States, we read: "and they shall know that I am the Lord."

Too long there are those who try to say that God is dead, or that he is unconcerned about men and nations. But when Israel is invaded you can certainly be sure that God is concerned. We read, "He that keepeth Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps." For God's purpose, ultimately, is to establish Israel again as the kingdom of the Messiah, and Jerusalem as the city from which he shall reign over all the earth.

Israel has a glorious future, but her days of trouble are just beginning. As the Scriptures would remind us of a coming time of tribulation such as the world has never seen nor ever shall see again. Time magazine has commented: "...the world has yet to hear an answer to Isaiah's anguished prayer: 'Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended'."

Dr. J. Dwight Pentecost believes prophecies relating to the establishment of the state of Israel are more fully dependent upon the removal of the Church in the event we call the Rapture. He writes: "God will not move toward the fulfilment of these prophecies for Israel until the Church, which is His present Age program, has been removed by translation."

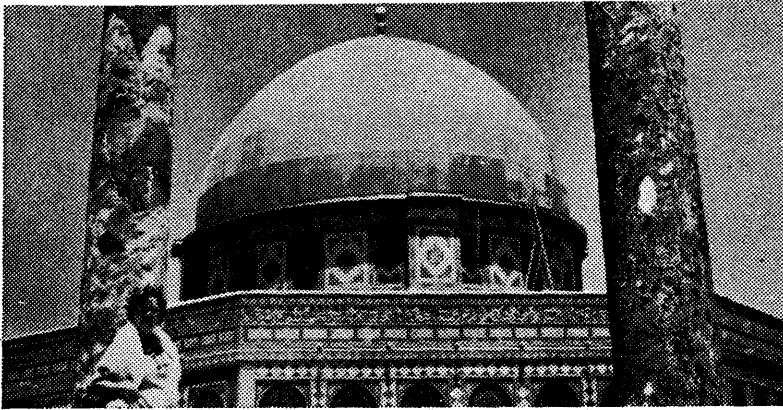
So, this is what many are referring to when they speak of the coming of the Lord. For the Bible speaks of a day when the Lord shall return, with the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of the archangel. And the dead in Christ shall rise first, and we who are alive and remain shall be caught up to meet the Lord in the air, and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore, comfort one another with these words.

What a wonderful hope to have. In the midst of "wars and rumors of wars" to look behind the clouds to see the silver lining - the shining rays of the return of our Lord for his own.

The important question we again leave with you today... Are you ready for Christ's Return? Do you have this blessed hope of being removed from off this earth at the coming of the Lord - caught up' to be forever with Him?

For this is His promise to those who know him as Lord and Saviour, and who look for His soon appearing.

Indeed, he hath said, "Be ye therefore ready...for in such an hour that ye think not, the Son of man cometh."



—Jay Walz - The New York Times
Pictured above is the Dome of the Rock, which is built around the rock from which Mohammed supposedly rode to heaven on horseback in 632 A.D.

PROPHECIES CONCERNING ISRAEL (# 732)

The United Nations is making a desperate attempt to solve the Middle East crisis as border clashes and military skirmishes continue to darken the outlook as it relates to World Peace.

Michael Browne notes: "Recent Jew-Arab clashes in the Middle East are an outgrowth of a conflict going back to the dawn of Jewish and Arab national histories." (Flame magazine)

To trace the history of the Jews and Arabs one must go back to the time of Abraham. God promised to Abraham and Sarah that they would have a son even in their old age. Abraham, thinking he would hasten the blessed event, sought out Hagar, the handmaid of Sarah, and the son born to her was named Ishmael.

But this was not God's intended purpose. He planned that Sarah would have a son to whom all the land of Canaan would come and to his posterity as an "everlasting possession." Finally, at ninety years of age, Sarah miraculously conceived and Isaac was born according to the promise of God. God gave specific orders that Ishmael should not inherit the promised land, for said the Lord, "In Isaac shall thy seed be called." (Gen. 21:12) However, God declared he would not forget Ishmael but would make of him a great nation.

Let me point out here that it always pays to obey God. Abraham reasoned that it was all right to follow the custom of that day and have a son through Sarah's handmaid, but this was not God's plan. So all the trouble we are seeing today dates back to a wrong relationship, a hasty decision on the part of Abraham to try to work out God's will and purpose, when it was not God's plan at all.

That's the way in marriage today. Some mistake infatuation for love, thinking physical attraction alone makes for a happy relationship. And so they hasten into a marriage that wasn't planned by God at all. That's why it is so important to pray and ask the Lord to direct us to life's partner, and then be patient until that one comes along.

So Arab-Israeli problems date back to Abraham and a hasty relationship that wasn't planned by God at all. As J. Anthony Lukas, writing in the NEW YORK TIMES, observes: "This tangled, emotion-laden dispute can perhaps best be understood as a rivalry between peoples who once regarded themselves as close cousins, if not brothers." Lukas further points out: "According to one historian, there was a time, not so long ago, when there was no such thing as Arab-Jewish problems, when relationships between the two people were as normal as those between any cousins."

Well, it was the establishment of a homeland in Palestine for Jewish refugees that brought on much of the present antagonism.

The late Dr. M.R.DeHaan has placed the blame for Arab-Israeli hostilities on this partitioning of the land of Palestine. He calls the failure to set aside all of the land of Palestine as the exclusive national home for Israel, in accordance with the Balfour Declaration, "probably the greatest mistake of all history..."

Quoting from his writings he notes: "The Word of God is definitely clear in stating that to divide the land of Palestine is to commit a crime which God will not permit to go unjudged."

And then he quotes from Joel, chapter three, where we read: "For, behold, in those days, and in that time, when I shall bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem, I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, WHOM THEY HAVE SCATTERED AMONG THE NATIONS, AND PARTED MY LAND." (Joel 3:1-2)

Did you notice - the nations are accused of two gross sins. First, they scattered the Jews, and then, they parted or divided, the land.

God's judgment is also pronounced upon Antichrist - the man of sin, of whom it is also said that he "SHALL DIVIDE THE LAND FOR GAIN."

Wrote the late M.R.DeHaan: "When the antichrist stretches out his hand to touch that which is HOLY, that which God has called, 'My land' it will be the occasion for the coming of God's judgment upon the man of sin, upon his armies, and upon his entire program."

**Mt. Zion
in
Jerusalem**



Zion in the Hebrew, means "Castle." It was an ancient stronghold and associated in Scripture with Davidic royalty, both historically and prophetically (Psalm 2:6; Isa. 2:3).

Palestine today is referred to as the Holy Land. Many suppose it is 'holy' because of the shrines that are there, but God declares it is 'his' land and that's why we consider it to be holy.

Theologians have debated whether a land, its people, and its shrines should be called 'holy', or whether or not this term is proper only when applied to God alone.

For instance, Dean F. Thomas Trotter of California's School of Theology says: "Any suggestion that God is a shrine or in some carving is idolatry." He goes on to declare: "What is holy is the presence of God."

Other theologians like the Roman Catholic Scholar, Joerg Splett of Germany, thinks the ancient shrines can be revered as symbols "where God's holiness touches man's soul," as he put it. Thus, the land of Palestine is made holy because of its past associations as the "manifestation of God's divine being." We are led to assume it is Christ's presence in Palestine that has made this land sacred in its memory and in its present honor.

Anglican Theologian Henry Chadwick of Oxford School comments: "A place is not in itself holy, but by its association through history."

Lutheran Theologian Martin Marty predicts the Holy Land with its shrines will become even more valuable, and seemingly more precious in future days - as symbols of spiritual meaning.

Already, according to NEWSWEEK magazine, "Israel and the Vatican are working on an agreement to internationalize the holy places in the Jerusalem area." Quoting from this magazine: "With the Arab-Israeli situation still in turmoil, the Pope is anxious to put through his long-standing plan to protect such holy places as the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and the Garden of Gethsemane from possible destruction." (Newsweek - Sept.30,1968)

So, we watch each new development with interest knowing prophecy is being fulfilled, and our Lord's return hastens.

Eventually a covenant of some kind will be made with Israel for a period of seven years, as forecast by Daniel. (9:27) This will no doubt be a covenant of peace, of protection and preservation guaranteeing the safety of holy places held sacred to many. It will also permit the offering of sacrifices which were discontinued at the time of the dispersion.

According to the Word of God, the making of this covenant is most significant. It will be the identifying mark to usher in the period known as the tribulation. So, keep your eyes open for such an announcement, and your ears glued to reports that such a covenant is near.

For it is believed that the Rapture will occur before this covenant is made. As M.R. DeHaan wrote before he went to be with the Lord: "According to the clear teaching of the Word of God, the next event in God's program will be the catching away of the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ."

Indeed, this is the glorious event to which all believers refer when they speak of the coming of Christ for His own. For he comes to catch away his Bride, those who are in love with Him.

The question we would leave with you again today is this - Are you in love with Jesus? This is not a sentimental question. The Scripture does remind us, "We love him, because he first loved us." (1 John 4:19)

Having loved us, the Lord Jesus came to give his life a ransom for many, to take our place in paying the penalty for sin, that we might go free. That's why we love him today. And as two in love await the day of their wedding, so true believers look forward eagerly and anxiously for the day when they will be united with their Lord.

So we're reminded: "Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation." (Heb. 9:28)

Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh!

PROPHECIES CONCERNING ISRAEL (# 733)

Here are some late news developments of Interest...

The U-N Security Council by a vote of 11 to 0 has censured Israel for her failure to obey previous United Nations injunctions not to annex Arab Jerusalem.

And at a meeting in Morocco, a summit 'religious' conference of the World's Moslems, supposedly representing half a billion people, met to show sympathy for the Arab cause against Israel.

The Jordanian government has protested to the United Nations certain excavations being carried out by the Israelies in Jerusalem. The protest charges the Jews with digging along the base of the southwestern walls, adjacent to the Wailing Wall, in their search for traces of Solomon's Temple. As a result of these excavations the Israelies are threatening the silver-domed Aksa Mosque, held sacred by the Moslem world.



Govt. Press Office

Archeological excavations being carried out at the south-western wall of the Temple Mount.

The New York Times reports controversy now raging on whether to rebuild a new synagogue to replace the old main synagogue in a section of the city of Jerusalem undergoing tremendous change.

Referring to a monumental plan drafted by the American architect, Louis Kahn, the Times remarks: "It could be a third temple."

Now this is something to watch for it is certain that Israel will one day announce plans for the rebuilding of such a temple. It is stated in the Code of Jewish Law: "every generation of Jews was obliged to rebuild the Temple if its site was retaken, and a lineal descendent of David could be found."

Lawrence Langner, playwright and philanthropist, has proposed that Jerusalem be made the spiritual capital of the world. And Langner has declared he would like to see erected in the Holy City the most elegant synagogue to take its place alongside the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and the Great Mosque.

Many in Israel believe the time has come to erect their temple which the Bible indicates will be standing during the days of the coming great awful tribulation.

Whatever temple is built, though it surpass in grandeur all of the shrines in Palestine, will not rival the magnificence of Solomon's ancient temple. Nor will it surpass the grandeur of the coming great Millennial temple which will excel in beauty every previous temple built before it when Messiah reigns in his kingdom.

Concerning Solomon's temple, according to an estimate given in the bulletin of the Illinois Society of Architects, the edifice if it were to be built today would cost well over \$87,000,000,000 according to present day values. Solomon's temple with its internal finishings and decorations was one of the great marvels of the ancient world. According to Villaparadus, the talents of gold, silver and brass used in the construction of Solomon's temple would reach the enormous figure of \$34,399,110,000.

Disraeli, the great statesman, was once sneered at for being a Jew. "Sir," he retorted, addressing his antagonist, "When your fathers walked as naked savages in the wilds of Germany, my fathers worshipped God in a golden temple at Jerusalem"

And what a glorious temple it was!

Jochanen Ben Zacchai, president of the Sanhedrin about the time Herod's Temple was destroyed, was visited by his disciples at the time of his death. Ben Zacchi was probably the one who sat in judgment of our Lord at the time of his crucifixion.

Here is what we read in the ancient writings (Talmud -

Tract Barachoth 28-B). "When seized with his last illness, his disciples came to visit him. On seeing them the tears rushed into his eyes, and he cried bitterly."

"Rabbi", exclaimed the astonished visitors, "dost thou cry; thou the light of Israel, the right-hand pillar of Judaism, and the mighty analyzer of the law?"

"Ah, my children," replies this dignitary, the president of the Sanhedrin, "You ask me why I weep, when I am being led into the presence of the King of kings, who lives forever, whose anger therefore, and the punishment he may inflict must last forever."

Then he noted: "There are two ways before me, one leading to Paradise, the other to Gehenna and I know not where I am going."

How sad for those who like this great religious leader do not know where they are going. On the other hand, the Apostle Paul being struck down by a great light from heaven, could come to the end of his life declaring: "I know in whom I have believed and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day."

I think of another noted doctor who in the agony of soul cries out: "Where is the way...where is salvation?" (S. Hurvitz)

O, that many might hear the voice of Jesus Christ as He proclaims, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." And "he that believeth in me shall never perish, but have everlasting life."

Had I the time, I wish I could read some of the testimonies of those who have made this great discovery. As Dr. Max Wertheimer, noted Jewish Scholar with degrees in his study of Hebrew, has testified saying: "There is but one source of eternal life; that is God's Son, the Messiah of Israel."

In the book of Zechariah we read of a day that is coming when the eyes of many shall be opened, and they will behold the king in his beauty. We read where God says: "I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplication; and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son... In that day shall there be great mourning in Jerusalem."

There is much weeping in Israel with tears of past sadness mingled with tears of future gladness. The great day is coming when Israel will truly know her Messiah--the one pierced, the crucified Saviour.

Vassilios Tzaferis, a Greek archaeologist working for the Israeli government, reports that during construction of a new housing development in the northeast section of Jerusalem they have come upon the ancient bones of one who was crucified as was common in Roman times. These

bones, according to this report, were the first ever to be identified as those of a crucified man. The ankles still had spikes about 6 inches long in them, and studies showed that spikes had also been driven into the hands as well.

Well, there is one who is coming who will be recognized by the wounds in his hands and feet. As Zechariah goes on to relate: "And one will say unto him, 'What are these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.'" (3:6) This is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ.

In John 1:11-12 we read, "He came unto his own and his own received him not, but to as many as receive him, to them gives he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name!"

Ah, today, you who listen can believe in him...believe that he is indeed the Christ, the Son of the Living God; believe that he was the sacrifice slain upon a cross - the Lamb of God whose blood was shed for the sins of the whole world! Believe that he arose again and ascended to the Father's right hand from whence he is coming again to judge the world, and appear as King of kings, and Lord of lords.

Yes, you can receive him now as Lord of your life, as master of your destiny, as Saviour of your soul.

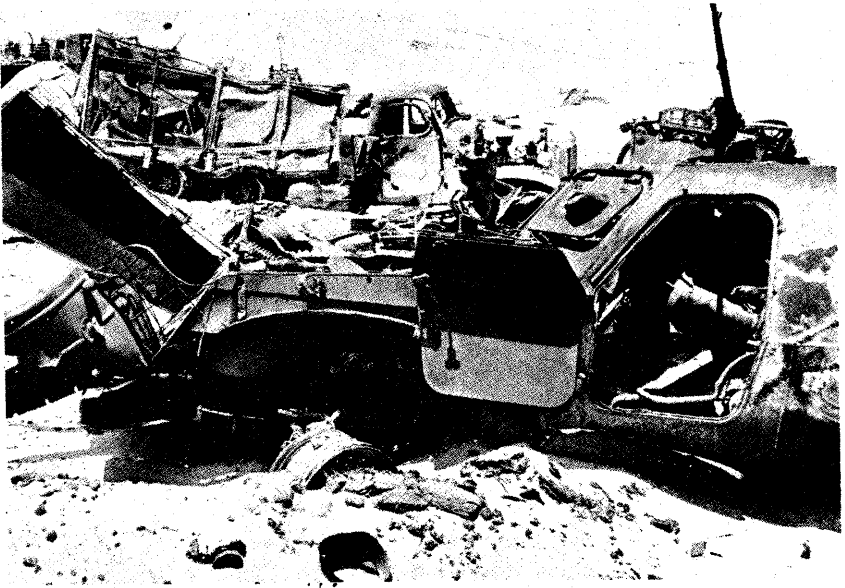
Just remember - He is the way, the truth and the life. No man cometh unto the Father but through Him. And he that cometh unto Him He will in no wise cast out.

You can receive Christ now as your Saviour if you will simply pray this prayer. "Lord Jesus, come into my heart and life by your spirit. I believe you died on the cross for me. And I now receive you as my Saviour and Lord to live for you 'til you come! Amen!"

Pray that prayer and mean it and I'll meet you in heaven. Yes, Jesus saves. And he will save you! And he will come again for you if you know him as your Saviour and Lord.

For remember he hath said, "Be ye therefore ready, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh!"





Russian-supplied Egyptian armor in the Sinai desert.

Richard Booth, an expert on Mideast military affairs, writes in the SUNDAY TIMES of London, saying "the months just ahead on into early 1970 could be the best time--from Egypt's point of view--for Egypt to undertake a major military operation against Israel." He concludes, however, it was his conviction, that "Egypt is not going to war against Israel in the next few weeks."

This is also the conclusion of Dr. Hyman Appleman, Russian-born Jew, who said recently: "There will not be another Israeli War for some time." Dr. Appleman says the reason no war is imminent in the Middle East is "because Russia cannot afford to lose another \$2 billion in money and equipment..."

James Michener, author of the best-seller, "THE SOURCE", was in Israel before the six-day war and he relates the threats that were made. Says Michener: "Almost every week, and often three or four times a week,

my morning paper carried the news that one or another leading Arab politician, and not infrequently a head of state of one of the neighboring Arab countries, had announced his intention of leading an army that would "push the Jews of Israel into the sea", or that would "wipe them off the face of the earth" or perhaps, "strangle them forever."

"The history of Israel," notes Michener, "is the history of ordinary people living ordinary lives under the incessant repetition of that threat, backed up by just enough Arab military activity to prove that the threat might be put into action at any moment."

When the Syrians attempted to invade Israel back in May, 1948, they found Israeli forces led by a general who was a Bible scholar as well as a soldier.

Gen. Yizael Yadin found in the Bible where the armies of Israel were victorious over her enemies 2,800 years before in a similar battle being fought. He read from this passage in the Bible to the Israeli Army and noted the fact that the ancient Jews had won.

This was the needed encouragement to the morale of these men and they won just as had their ancestors.

Later, Gen. Yadin turned to the Bible with even more spectacular results. It seems the Egyptians were harrasing the Negev. Again while reading the Bible the General noted a road should go directly to the Egyptian garrison. He investigated and found only boulders at the place where the Bible said the road should begin. Bulldozing these boulders aside he found it was easy to trace the course of the road which had been forgotten for centuries.

By opening this highway, Israeli troops were able to rout the Egyptians in the dead of night. Fourteen days later the war ended - a result of this garrison being routed.

Blake Clark, writing in the American Weekly, has noted Israel's return to her land was in fulfillment of prophecies made 2500 years ago.

For instance, he quoted Isa. 43:5-6 where we read: "Fear not," saith the Lord, "for I am with thee. I will bring thy seed from the east and gather thee from the west. I will say to the north "Give up" and to the south "Keep not back..."

Blake noted: "from 74 different countries of all five continents" Jews began returning to their homeland. The north "gave up" and the south "kept not back."

Then he relates how the 40,000 Yemenite Jews hesitated to return to Palestine. They feared to follow lest this was to them another false Messiah. But when a representative of the Jewish Agency told them they would be transported by airplane, the Yemenites cried - "the wings of the eagle."

They remembered how the Lord reminded Moses of

having borne the Israelites on eagles' wings. (Ex. 19:4) Isaiah, too, reminds us: "They that wait upon the Lord... shall mount up with wings as eagles."

These backward folk who normally would not even trust themselves to a wagonride, eagerly crowded into the DC-4 for the ride to Israel...yes, they returned on eagle's wings.

It is a well-known fact that wherever Israel has taken possession of the land they have improved it. Taking over Jerusalem the Jews began to clean up the debris, enlarge the water supply, and modernize the city.

Back in the year 1917, there were only 15,000 trees in all of Palestine. Most of these were the terebinth, oak and thorn. Now the trees number in the millions. The mountains of Israel are mantled with over twenty million trees, mostly conifers.

There are those who point to this planting of trees as a sign of prophetic fulfillment. For Isaiah declared a day would come when "Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree," And we are told, "it shall be to the Lord for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off."

In other words, Israel's return to her land, her agricultural developments and cultural pursuits, are a sign that having been established as a nation Israel is there to stay.

Now, there are those who see Israel's return to her land as only a preview of what's ahead. There are those who claim that not until Christ the Messiah appears will there be the actual bestowal of divine favor and blessing, and that this depends largely on Israel's repentance and acceptance of her Messiah.

Dr. A.C.Gabbelein, for instance, has stated: "There will be no full restoration of Israel, no national blessing, no fulfillment of the many unfulfilled prophecies of glory, till He whom the nation despised and rejected comes the second time."

What Dr. Gabbelein is asserting is that Israel's future blessing largely depends upon the acknowledgement of her transgressions. In his book on "ISRAEL AND THE JEWS TODAY IN THE LIGHT OF PROPHECY" he writes: "Already we see signs of the nation's regathering, but only acknowledgement of transgression is made the condition upon which the final regathering and blessing of Israel depends."

He quotes from Jeremiah where we read: (God speaking to Israel) "Only acknowledge thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against the Lord thy God...AND I WILL BRING YOU TO ZION." (Jer. 3:13-17)

Here we have God's promise of Israel's restoration based upon her repentance. For God's promises are often conditional.

Serious days are indeed ahead for Israel and for the whole world. For before our Lord returns to this earth to establish his kingdom he must purge the land of iniquity, and purify his people. This is the clear teaching of God's Word. Our Lord cannot rule where there is insurrection and insubordination to divine authority.

In Isaiah 13:9 we read: "Behold the day of the Lord cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate; and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it."

We read further: "And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity."

Ah, my friends, let us not think we can get away with our disregard for the laws of God. This rebellion against authority that we are witnessing today is bringing us under the judgment of Almighty God. And we had better repent of our promiscuous attitudes and perverted ways and return back to clean, pure, honest and holy relationships if we are to be spared God's judgments.

When the Beatles, who symbolize our deteriorating generation, wanted to visit Israel, Golda Meir refused them permission. She did not want Israeli youth corrupted by their culture.

Witnessing the present degeneracy with many turning to dope, drugs and drunkenness, it is heartwarming to know there is not this problem in Israel. Delinquency is practically unknown as the nation is young and vigorous and alive.

Recently I was sent a tape recording of Israel's celebration of her national song festival. As I listened to it my heart was stirred and I thought what a contrast to much of the jungle rhythms that characterize our fallen generation.

Why don't we wake up and see where we are heading! When I read recently of 400,000 young people attending a music festival of rock-n-roll, I couldn't believe it. The NATIONAL OBSERVER reported "marijuana smoke hung over the place like an invisible smog."

May God help us! Why would anyone throw his life away in dissipation, and disease which often results from these hippy-type flings.

Real peace and happiness comes only from living for Christ. As the Scripture declares: "In thy presence is fulness of joy, and at thy right hand are pleasures forever more."

I dare you. Try it and see. Trust Christ as your Saviour and find real purpose in living, and enjoy the prospect of being ready for our Lord's soon return.

For he hath said, "Be ye therefore ready, for in such an hour as ye think not, the son of man cometh."