



WIND EAST

ONNESS

RAY BRUBAKER

MIDEAST MADNESS

by Ray Brubaker



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REMEMBERING THE HOLOCAUST



In April, 1985, the emigration of Jews from the Soviet Union reached its highest level in two years, according to the U.S. State Department. A total of 166 Jews left the Soviet Union which has led some officials to call this "an improvement in human rights."

According to the NEAR EAST REPORT, only 896 exit-visas were given Jews, enabling them to leave the Soviet Union in 1984.

NEWS FROM ISRAEL comments, "In some ways, the Brezhnev years were a time of hope for Soviet Jews. It was during his rule that some 235,000 Jews were permitted—after great international protest—to leave the Soviet Union for the West, and particularly Israel." Then it is noted, "It was also under Brezhnev that the Soviet Union returned to a virulent anti-Semitism, unseen since Stalin's day."

THE JERUSALEM POST states, "It was throughout the Andropov era, short as it was, Soviet Jews suffered in ways unknown for more than a decade." This is surprising, for it was reported that Andropov had a Jewish grandfather. Only 1,300 Jews were allowed to leave the Soviet Union in 1983, and only 88 in the last full month of Andropov's rule.

The sufferings of the Jews might best be described as occurring during the time of the Holocaust. As his writings in MEIN KAMPF attest, Hitler's desire, from the day he took power in 1933 until the day of his suicide 12 years later, was to wipe out European Jewry.

He wrote, "If at the beginning of the war 12,000 or 15,000 of these Hebrew corrupters (as he called them) . . . had been held under poison gas, as happened to hundreds of thousands of our very best German workers in the field, the sacrifice of millions at the front would not have been in vain."

How Hitler's mind became warped so that he would seek to destroy upwards to 10 million "undesirables" cannot be imagined.

Think of hundreds, sometimes thousands, herded into chambers, told they were going to be "deloused." Then the doors would slam shut. Above them a German SS Sergeant would drop cyanide gas below and within 10 to 15 minutes the people were dead, packed too tight to fall down.

In the first years of the war, some two million Jews were either shot in mass graves or put in special vans or buses and gassed.

Just what was the motive behind this most hideous mass murder of all time?

In the last recorded words of Adolph Hitler, before his cyanide-

induced suicide, he referred to the Jews as "the universal poisoners of all peoples."

His S.S. Chief, Heinrich Himmler, also said, "Anti-Semitism is exactly the same as delousing. Getting rid of lice isn't a question of ideology. It is a matter of cleanliness."

Ralph Rundquist, a radioman with Company LL of the 222nd Infantry, tells how they came upon one of the death camps during the war. He notes, "When we entered Dachau, the crematories were still operating. I saw piles of bodies as high as the ceiling. So they kept the crematories going. They kept this going day and night. The bodies that they were cremating were just skin and bones."

The late George E. Sokolsky, news commentator, wrote of Soviet anti-Semitism. He comments on Karl Marx, a Jew, who helped found communism.

He notes: "Karl Marx descended from a rabbinical family, but his father, Herschel Marx, accepted Christianity in 1816 in order to practice law in Prussia, a state in which no Jews could then practice law. In a word, Marx's father was converted to Christianity for economic reasons." He adds, "Karl Marx, although born of Jews, was himself a vicious anti-Semite, a hater of his own people."

It is reported by George F. Will of the WASHINGTON POST, that the Soviet Union became the "world's foremost anti-Semitic regime," by using police and KGB agents to seal off a stretch of woods near Moscow to prevent Jews from meeting there to commemorate the Holocaust several years ago.

On June 14, 1941, the Soviet Union began mass deportation of innocent persons from the Baltic States—Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania—to the frigid wastes of Siberia.

Many thousands of persons from all walks of life were arrested without trial and taken away.

Whole families, including children and babies, were rudely awakened during the night of June 14 and 15, 1941, by the Soviet secret police. Given only a brief time to gather up their belongings, they were packed into railway cattle cars enroute to their northern and eastern destinations. Many died from thirst, hunger and suffocation. They died, not in gas chambers, but from extreme cold, malnutrition, lack of housing and medicine, and especially from inhumane treatment while working as slave laborers.

Approximately 600,000 persons, or 10 percent of the total population of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, were victims of mass deportations.

The winter temperature got as low as 40 below zero; yet men and women were expected to put in long days of backbreaking work in Soviet coal mines.

It is reported there are still more than 100,000 who are still subject to involuntary exile in the Soviet Union.

The Baltic states are under Soviet control. They still need protection from persecution for expressing their basic human rights. Even believers were arrested and sent to camps because of their faith. These are in need of our help.

At the top of our prayer list should be our persecuted brethren behind the iron curtain.

As the Apostle Paul writes: "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men; for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."

In Canada, Ernst Zundel was sentenced to 15 months imprisonment and three years probation by a federal judge for spreading the lie that the Holocaust did not occur.

Zundel, a citizen of West Germany, because of his booklet, DID SIX MILLION REALLY DIE?, was convicted under the Canadian criminal code forbidding dissemination of false information.

Historians continue to ponder how perpetrators of the Holocaust—Adolph Hitler, Heinrich Himmler and other top Nazis—were able to perform these mass murders without the rest of the world stopping it. Citizens of the world in the '40s refused to believe that a civilized country like Germany would ever consider such an atrocity . . . that is until the evidence began to surface.

President Reagan, during his trip to Europe, spent an hour at one of the concentration camps where 50,000 Jews and Gentiles were put to death by Hitler's men. Said Reagan, out of respect to those who gave their lives here, "The horror cannot outlast the hope."

To the survivors of the Holocaust, Reagan said, "Your terrible suffering has made you ever vigilant against evil. Many of you are worried that reconciliation means forgetting. I promise you," said the President, "we will never forget."

Billy Graham sought to be conciliatory in his remarks about the President's visit abroad that included the laying of a wreath at Bitburg.

Graham said, "Strong emotions about the Nazi Holocaust, like the American Civil War, will fade in time . . . but not yet." Noted Graham, "I think that time will someday come, but it may be too early and wounds too deep, and it was such a horrible experience."

There are times when we must learn to forgive and forget. It was Peter who questioned Jesus as to how many times to forgive. Our Lord replied that we should forgive, not seven times, as Peter wondered, but "seventy times seven." (Matthew 18:22)

It was the Apostle Paul who spoke of "forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before . . ." Said Paul, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." And he added, "Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded . . ."

Concluded President Reagan of the Nazi era, "We cannot undo the crimes and wars of yesterday, nor call the millions back to life. But we can give meaning to the past by learning its lessons and making a better future. We can let our pain drive us to greater efforts to heal humanity's sufferings."

Declared Reagan, "Beyond the anguish, the pain and the suffering and for all time, we can and must pledge: never again!"

He added, "Out of this overwhelming sadness, there must be some purpose. And there is. It comes to us through the transforming love of God."

We would add, it takes the love of God to forgive and forget. How

many marriages could be saved . . . how many homes could be spared from breaking up . . . if only, as Paul declares, "the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." (Romans 5:5)

Walter Laqueur wrote a book entitled, **THE TERRIBLE SECRET: THE SUPPRESSION OF THE TRUTH ABOUT HITLER'S FINAL SOLUTION.**

He writes, "From an early date the Soviet press published much general information about Nazi atrocities in the occupied areas but only rarely revealed that Jews were singled out for extermination."

He notes, "Even Jews had a hard time believing the monstrous truths about Nazi atrocities, 'Afer all,' they said, 'this is Europe, not the jungle.'"

The question arises, why would civilized man create a jungle in which to live?

In **MEIN KAMPF**, Hitler spoke of himself as the leader of an apocalyptic race war between the superior "Aryan Race" of Germany, other blond, blue-eyed Nordics, and the Jewish "race" as well as other subhumans whom he saw corrupting the nations.

Harry Rimmer, in his book, **PALESTINE—THE COMING STORM CENTER**, writes: "All that Hitler has accomplished by his European-wide persecution may be summed up in a sentence: he has accelerated the return of Israel to Palestine, thus apparently hastening his own doom!"

Says Rimmer, "By driving the 'preserved people' back into the preserved land, Hitler, who does not believe the Bible and who sneers at the Word of God, is helping to fulfill its most outstanding prophecy! Thus does the wrath of men sometimes serve the purposes of God."

The truth is that the Holocaust may have helped fulfill the prophecy that found Israel returning to her land. Turn to Jeremiah, Chapter 30.

We read, "For lo, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will bring again the captivity of my people Israel and Judah, saith the Lord: and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it."

We have seen this happen in our day. Israel has returned and is flourishing. However, the Prophet Jeremiah goes on to link that day to some of the most terrible atrocities this world has ever seen. Look at Jeremiah 30:7, where we read: "Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it."

Beloved, this is a day that is ahead for the world. While we speak of the Holocaust, (and it was indeed terrible) this day of which Jeremiah has spoken will be far worse than any holocaust.

Still ahead is a time of unparalleled persecution for Israel. Look at what Daniel writes: In chapter 12, verse 1, we read: "And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time."

Did you hear it?

Our Lord also referred to this saying, "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be." We continue to read, "And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened." (Matthew 24:21-22)

What is God's purpose in all of this except to bring all who are of the true Israel back into their own land in preparation for the reign of the coming Messiah?

In Ezekiel 30:25-28, we read: "Therefore thus saith the Lord God; Now will I bring again the captivity of Jacob, and have mercy upon the whole house of Israel, and will be jealous for my holy name: After that they have borne their shame, and all their trespasses whereby they have trespassed against me, when they dwelt safely in their land, and none made them afraid. When I have brought them again from the people, and gathered them out of their enemies' lands, and am sanctified in them in the sight of many nations; Then shall they know that I am the Lord their God, which caused them to be led into captivity among the heathen: but I have gathered them unto their own land, and have left none of them any more there."

As Wim Malgo comments: "It is the Lord who will gather them and none will be left in a foreign country."

He adds, "Paul emphasized that at the moment when the Lord appears for Israel, that is, after the fullness of the Gentiles has come in, so all Israel shall be saved." (Romans 11:26) "This will be the world's only national conversion. The nation will be saved in one day," says Malgo.

Billy Graham, when interviewed by a reporter for the NATIONAL JEWISH POST AND OPINION, referred to the Jews as "The chosen people with a glorious future." However," said Graham, "I believe that in the near future the Israelis will find the going very difficult. They will find themselves in dire straits. Then, when everything looks beyond hope, the Messiah will appear."

The tribulation will become a time of purging and purifying in preparation for the coming of Messiah.

Writes Malachi, "Who may abide the day of his coming? And who shall stand when he appeareth? For he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers soap. And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness." (Malachi 3:2-3)

Knowing the coming of our Lord hastens, we would ask, Are you ready?

All of us, including believers, need to give heed to this question.

As we read in I John 3:2-3, "We know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure."

Are we pure? Have we received the forgiveness offered freely through Jesus Christ our Lord?

He reminds us, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (I John 1:9)

Pray this prayer: "Lord Jesus, I receive you as my Savior and Lord. Cleanse me from all my sin. Make me yours to do your will. I will love and serve you. Fill me with your Holy Spirit. Keep me pure and keep me ready for your coming, I pray. Amen."

Pray that prayer and mean it.

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

Are We Approaching **ARMAGEDDON?**



Before leaving Lebanon, Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin met with United Nations officials to request UNIFIL (United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon) to fill the vacuum created by Israel's departure.

Testified an Israeli official, "For the sake of preventing bloodshed in southern Lebanon, we think it is a good thing that they (UNIFIL) take over." He added, "We think it would be better to have law and order rather than anarchy."

Anarchy, apparently, is taking its toll. So many factions are fighting for control of Lebanon it's difficult to keep them straight.

It would appear that until the coming of Messiah, our Lord Jesus Christ, there cannot come peace to this troubled area. Only He who is the Prince of Peace can bring everlasting peace.

The kind of peace men look for is too often political; whereas, the peace man needs and longs for is spiritual

Our Lord could say, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, NEITHER LET IT BE AFRAID." (John 14:27)

One of Arafat's political advisers repeated that in the PLO's view "peace means the establishment of a democratic state on all of the Palestinian territories."

And, in an interview on Radio Monte Carlo, Arafat said, "War is the

loud voice of political action." Stated Arafat, "I fight to reach a political aim. My aim is to establish our Palestinian state on Palestinian soil . . . our land is Palestine and our capital is Jerusalem."

Well, Biblical scholars know where that will lead us. Zechariah describes the day when all nations will be gathered to Jerusalem.

In Zechariah 14:2 the Lord says, "For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle."

And, 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." 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?

This warning applies to the PLO, to Khomeini and even to the United States that is taking a position counter to the Word of God which firmly establishes Israel in the land God gave to her.

Some see the reason for the nations gathering to Jerusalem is due to the large deposits of oil to be found in that part of the world.

Others would see the vast mineral wealth of the Dead Sea, valued at over 12 trillions of dollars, as attracting nations to Jerusalem.

The Dead Sea Works has announced a substantial profit which is up 650% over a year ago. There was potash production of 746,000 tons with table salt of 21,400 tons.

But it will not be a search for oil, nor will it be the Dead Sea that brings on this invasion.

Rather, it will be God's plan at the end of the age, and preceding the millennial reign of our Lord Jesus Christ, to destroy all resistance of men who would hinder that plan and purpose.

Our Lord came the first time as the Saviour of the world to provide salvation to all who will receive Him as their Lord.

He is coming again to rule this earth as we sing in the Hallelujah Chorus, as "King of kings and Lord of lords."

As we read in I Cor.15:25, "For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet."

Shmuel Tal, Israeli military correspondent, warned that when the IDF (Israel Defense Forces) withdraw from Lebanon, "The demons will be set loose . . ." He predicted, "The terrorists will struggle to return to Sidon. There will undoubtedly be a fierce battle between Arafat's supporters and the pro-Syrian followers of Abu Musa and Ahmad Gibril (for control of two refugee camps). We have just seen this happen."

He also wrote, "The Sunnis will try to occupy areas inside the town; the Shi'ites will take control of the area south of the city and the Christians will try to keep their hold on a chain of villages to the east."

It would appear that in that part of the world the demons have been let loose. For wherever Satan dwells, there is destruction.

What brings the nations to Jerusalem to battle?

Look at Rev. 16:14-16 where we read, "For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty."

Did you notice, it is "demons" that attract the armies of earth to Jerusalem.

Then we read, "Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon."

As we see it, Armageddon is ahead for the world. The President, nearly a dozen times in speeches he has made, has referred to Armageddon.

The only hope of escape is for those who are not led by demons but who are led by our Lord Jesus Christ and directed by Him.

To the world our Lord is coming as a thief. No one knows when a thief will come. However, the Apostle Paul, in writing to believers, says, "But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober." (I Thes. 5:4-6)

Is this not the call of God to each one of us?

We are called to watchfulness. That doesn't mean looking out the window every day to see if our Lord is coming. Rather, it means making absolutely sure that we are ready to meet the Lord when He comes.

We are told, "Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame." (Rev. 16-15)

When you receive Christ, you receive His righteousness. For we read, "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." (II Cor. 5:21)

But what happens after we receive Christ's righteousness? What if we become careless, our garments spotted with sin, stained by worldliness?

Some have the mistaken idea that they can live carelessly and still be ready when Jesus comes. But this is not taught in the Scriptures.

Rather in I John 3:3 we read, "And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure."

If looking for the coming of the Lord, we will want to be living in obedience to His Word and in purity.

In I John 1:7 we read, "But 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."

What a wonderful way to live—knowing Christ as our Saviour and then living for Him a life of obedience to His Word, doing His will.

It's when we refuse to walk in the light of God's Word that we're in trouble. For we read, "The wrath of God (cometh) upon the children of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them." (Eph. 5:6b-7)

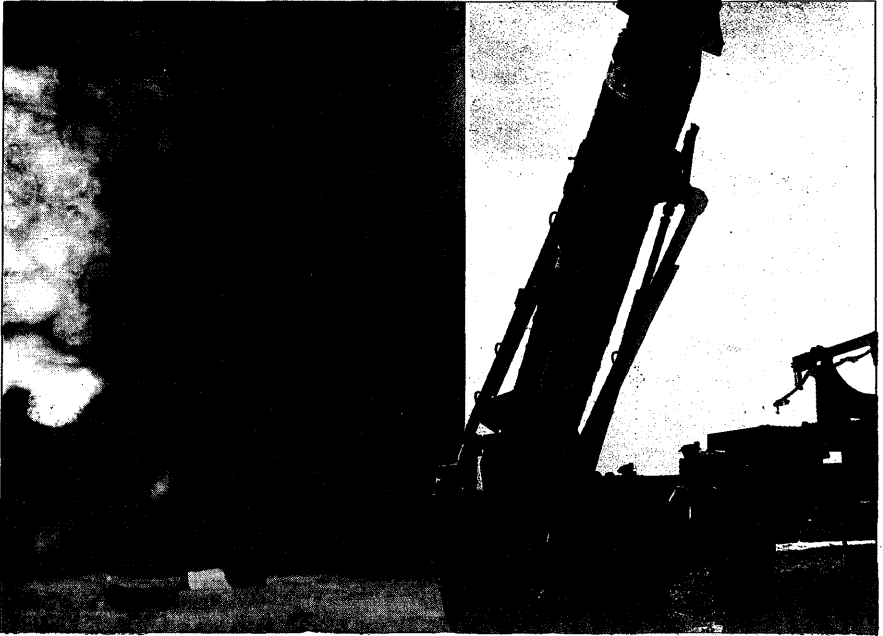
The choice is clear. Accept Christ as your Saviour and with his help live for Him and be ready when Christ will come for His own. Or, refuse to heed this message and face the wrath of Almighty God.

We realize we don't have to pray. We must believe with all our heart. But by praying we are sealing our decision.

Pray this prayer: "Lord Jesus, I here and now receive you as my Saviour and Lord, to serve you, live for you, and do your will until you come. Keep me ready for your coming, I pray. Amen."

Pray that prayer and mean it. And, "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."

The Quest for Peace



Israel was charged recently with deploying nuclear missiles in the occupied Golan Heights and in the Negev Desert by the Libyan Foreign Minister. The accusations came in a letter to the president of the United Nations Security Council and inferred the U.S. was behind it.

The results could be additional complications in the already delicate peace-making efforts in the Mideast.

Perhaps there is no greater attempt to find peace than in the Middle East.

Washington's envoy, Richard Murphy, had been in the Middle East to see if the region is ready for new attempts to solve its problems.

He's not the only traveler. Israel and Egypt have been exchanging emissaries as well.

Among the Israeli officials in Cairo has been Ezer Weizmann, Minister responsible for Arab Affairs. It's all evidence that we are seeing new attempts to bring peace to the Middle East.

The quest for a permanent Middle East peace has been a tricky and often frustrating quest. Thus far all hopes for peace have only been temporary.

John Walvoord, in the book, **ARMAGEDDON OIL AND THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS**, in chapter 9, "The Coming Middle East Peace," says: "A peace settlement in the Middle East is one of the most important events predicted for the end time. The signing of this peace treaty will start the final countdown leading to Armageddon and then introduce the new world leader who will be destined to become the world dictator—the infamous Antichrist."

Already such leaders as President Reagan have spoken out their desires to achieve peace in the Middle East.

The "Reagan Plan" calls upon Israel to give up the West Bank and Gaza so as to allow the creation of a Palestinian entity, federated with Jordan.

The plan was strongly rejected by Israel; yet it remains a cornerstone of American Middle East policy.



Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak spoke of the need of the United States and the European Community to be involved in the peace process as it relates to the Middle East.

Walvoord says: "According to Daniel 9:27, the last seven years leading up to the second coming of Christ will begin with just such a peace settlement. The same passage describes a covenant to be made between the nation of Israel and the prince who will rise to power." (Daniel 9:26)

Daniel 9:26 refers to "The people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary." We know that people to be the Romans who destroyed Jerusalem and the holy temple in AD 70. So, the prince, or the Antichrist, is believed to come out of the Roman Empire.

Verse 27 says, "And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week." So this is what we must expect eventually to take place. There must come a covenant that will be made between nations within the sphere of the Old Roman Empire and the state of Israel.

Walvoord notes: "In Daniel 7:7, 24 this is symbolized by ten horns on a beast that represents the last world empire, the Roman Empire in its final and revised form."

Comments Walvoord, "Many interpreters of Biblical prophecy have felt that the Common Market of Europe will be a fulfillment of this

predicted alignment of ten nations. Whether the Common Market is the preliminary form of this ten-nation group or whether it is the forerunner of another confederacy of nations is difficult to predict."

And, says Walvoord: "While the details of the covenant are not given, it will be an attempt to settle the Arab-Israeli controversy which has focused world attention on the Middle East. It may take the form of a forced peace settlement in which Israel returns much of the land through war in exchange for strong international guarantees for Israel's safety and prosperity."

There are over a million Arabs living in the territories occupied by Israel in 1967, and the number is increasing rapidly. Egypt, along with the rest of the world, believes that no plan for peace in the Middle East can have any hope of succeeding unless it meets the Palestinians' demand for a homeland. Ever since Camp David, however, it's difficult to see how Cairo and Jerusalem can ever agree on this crucial issue.

The problem is: who will speak for the Palestinians?

Since the early Arab-Israeli negotiations, Israel has refused to allow the Palestine Liberation Organization to function as representative for the Palestinians who live in the occupied Israeli territories.

President Mubarak and King Hussein of Jordan want a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation. The Americans would accept that, and so would Israel, providing it didn't contain officials of P.L.O.

King Hussein, on his visit to Washington, was quoted in the NEW YORK TIMES as saying: "I've done my utmost to move towards peace." Said Hussein, "This is the last chance."

King Hussein also met with President Mubarak. Back in 1979, the King had broken off diplomatic relations when Egypt signed the peace treaty with Israel. Later, he restored the links—the first Arab leader to do so.

Hussein reported to the TIMES that the P.L.O. has renounced the use of force and had accepted United Nations Security Council Resolution 242, despite Yasir Arafat's denial that he has done any such thing.

Arafat has agreed, however, to work towards peace with Israel in exchange for the return of all occupied Arab lands.

One man who isn't taking part in the current drive for peace is Syria's President Assad. He's totally opposed to any negotiations with Israel, and he's vowed to smash the initiative set up by Arafat and King Hussein.

Meanwhile, Israel continues to do business as usual. On the West Bank, for example, the building of Israeli settlements goes on. For some Israelis, this is part of Greater Israel, never to be given up. For others, it is land that must be yielded to the Palestinians in return for peace.

As concerns the West Bank, which in reality is Judea and Samaria, Prime Minister Peres would probably settle for some kind of trade-off in return for peace.

When a journalist asked Prime Minister Begin, "What do you think should happen to the 'West Bank'?" Begin replied, "I do not know what you call 'West Bank.'" Said Begin, "You probably mean Judea and Samaria." He added, "This was our land originally. We have not occupied it but liberated it."

John Walvoord says, "Rumors from Arab conferences have indicated that any form of peace settlement now would only be a temporary position of advantage in preparation for a possible later war with Israel . . . The peace settlement will be destined to be broken, bringing devastating consequences for the world and terrible persecution for Israel. This breaking of the covenant will mark what Christ calls the "Great Tribulation."

"And so it will be," says Walvoord, "that no permanent peace can ever come until the Prince of Peace, the Lord Jesus Christ, returns in power and glory to reign over the earth."

Hallelujah.

However, before our Lord returns upon this earth, He comes to rapture the saints—those who are ready to meet Him.

Says Walvoord, "International events in the Middle East thus make the rapture of the church a matter of immediate expectation.

Beloved, if there is a sign of Christ's soon return for His own, it is this attempt to bring peace to the Middle East. All should awaken to the reality of the lateness of the hour. It is time for all true believers to arise and trim their lamps and to make sure they have oil in their vessels with their lamps.

Many today profess to be saved and on their way to Heaven but do not know of the empowerment of the Holy Spirit in their lives. If oil is representative of the Holy Spirit, then it is imperative we have the Holy Spirit dwelling in fullness in our lives. After all, we are commanded in Scripture to "be filled with the Spirit." (Eph. 5:18)

An article by Eugene A. Erny in the magazine, **OUTREACH**, publication of the Oriental Missionary Society, made this startling declaration: "Eighty percent of all mission work today is being done without the Holy Spirit."

Did you hear it?

Says Erny: "This shocking charge could be more comfortably dismissed were it not an echo of the growing concern expressed by perceptive Christian leaders everywhere."

He notes, "One leader wrote, 'The doctrine of the Holy Spirit is the lost dynamic of the church, without which no missionary work can endure..'"

Asks Erny: "What do we think of the Holy Spirit today? To some He is an impersonal 'it' or at best a vague 'influence.' Others carefully avoid the doctrine for fear of being branded as radicals or 'holy rollers.' Still others frankly confess that for them the matter is irrelevant. They have casually discarded the Holy Spirit along with other so-called outmoded teachings such as the virgin birth and inspiration of the Scriptures. The Holy Spirit's place in the church has been usurped by a panel of executives; His ministry taken over by a computer."

If the parable of the ten virgins tells us anything, it reminds us that only half of those looking for the coming bridegroom were ready, and that their readiness depended upon the oil in their vessels with their lamps. In addition to our lamp—our testimony—we need to know we have received and are filled with the Holy Spirit.

This was the message that Moody and Torrey preached in their day which is sadly lacking in fundamental evangelical circles today. And by this we do not mean that these men were charismatic, whatever that

term may be, but they were "baptized with the Holy Ghost" and urged their hearers to receive of that baptism.

Billy Graham, in addressing missionaries, said, "It is time to be filled with the Holy Spirit." Said Graham, "We have too many people who profess to be servants of Christ that have never known what it means to be filled with the Spirit of God. Call it anything you like. Whatever the terminology, I mean does the Holy Spirit have all of you? Are you His? Are you filled with the Holy Spirit? "

We need a Pentecost that will destroy the Laodicean lukewarmness and fire us up with the zeal that makes us ready for the coming of our blessed Lord.

Samuel Chadwick wrote, "Pentecost turned anemic believers into exuberant saints. People said they were drunk, and so they were, but not with wine. They were vivacious and abounding with vitality. Pentecost wakes people up. It vitalizes talent and makes the utmost of every faculty and gift."

Have you had this encounter with the Holy Spirit? If you've never done so, ask Christ to come into your heart and life. Then surrender all to Him as Lord and Master of your life, and the Spirit of God will fill you with His presence.

C. H. Spurgeon, a Baptist, said: "I see no reason why we should not have a greater Pentecost than Peter saw, and a Reformation deeper in its foundations, and truer in its upbuildings than all the reforms which Luther or Calvin achieved.

"We have the same Christ, remember that." Said Spurgeon, "The times are altered, but Jesus is the Eternal, and time touches Him not . . ."

He noted, "Our laziness puts off the work of conquest, our self-indulgence procrastinates, our cowardice and want of faith makes us dote upon the millennium instead of hearing the Spirit's voice today."

Said Spurgeon, "Happy days would begin from this hour if the Church would but awake and put on her strength, for in her Lord all fullness dwells."

Then he prays, "Oh! Spirit of God, bring back thy Church to a belief in the Gospel! Bring back her ministries to preach it once again with the Holy Ghost, and not striving after wit and learning. Then shall we see thine arm made bare, O God, in the eyes of all the people, and the myriads shall be brought to rally round the throne of God and the Lamb."

In a note of triumph he declares, "The Gospel must succeed; it shall succeed; it cannot be prevented from succeeding; a multitude that no man can number must be saved."

Pray this prayer: "Dear Lord, I want to be saved. I believe you died on the cross for my sins, was buried and rose again. You died to save me from my sins. You shed your blood that my sins may be cleansed away. I thank you for saving me.

"Now fill me with your Holy Spirit. Take control of my life. Sanctify me, spirit, soul, and body, and preserve me until your coming, I pray. Amen."

Pray that prayer and mean it.

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



The Plight of the Jews



An article in NEWS FROM ISRAEL states, "Israel is beset with many problems – the PLO, the West Bank Arabs, the unresolved state of war with Arab nations, her political isolation, spiraling inflation, etc."

However, according to newsman Matti Golan, the gravest problem is the demographic situation. He contends that Israel might have been spared a number of wars, including the latest one in Lebanon, had there been a Jewish population of five million instead of the 3.5 million now

living there.

It is noted, "A concentration of five million Jews would have demolished the lingering belief and hope of the Arab world, that time works in their favor; that sooner or later it would be possible to liquidate the Jewish state."

We might ask – How is it possible to get more Jews back to Israel?

In END-TIME NEWS it is stated, "Scores of prophecies in both the Old and New Testaments predict a re-gathering of the Jews back to Israel in the last days."

Isaiah 11:11 is quoted where we read, "And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of His people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea." And verse 12, "And He shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth."

Did you hear it?

Blackstone comments concerning the Jews: "In the first restoration only those who were minded came back from Babylon (Ezra 7:13); but in the future, or second restoration, not one will be left."

Notice the locations from which Jews shall return to their homeland.

Mention is made of Assyria. The last king of Assyria mentioned in Scripture was Nebuchadnezzar. So the area of his kingdom is referred to which was the land of Babylon.

When Nimrod founded the city of Babel, we remember it as the land where man attempted to build to Heaven and where God caused the confusion of languages.

From Assyria, Jews have returned to their homeland.

Then mention is made of Egypt and Pathros. (Pathros is Upper Egypt.)

During the regime of Gamal Abdel Nasser, 967 Jews, the largest exodus of Jews from Egypt since the days of Moses, were enroute to begin a new life in Israel.

At the time of Moses there were multitudes of Jews serving the Pharaohs in the land of the Nile. At last report, only several hundred Jews may be in Egypt.

An estimated 40 to 45 thousand Jews of different nationalities sought to flee what they called "Nasser Terror." Jews from Egypt once suffered greatly under Nasser, who spoke of driving the Jews into the sea because of his fierce hatred for Israel.

Jews born in the Land of the Pyramids were unable to obtain citizenship because of their religion. Although allowed to own property, much of which was seized, some were allowed to sell part of their belongings – but for a fraction of their real value.

Upon Nasser's death in 1970, Anwar Sadat came to power. It was Sadat who initiated a dialogue with Israel, culminating in the signing of the Camp David peace treaty which resulted in the return of the Sinai to Egypt.

Although more friendly relations were established, Sadat paid with his life for his stand. He was assassinated by a group of Moslem

fundamentalists.

Cush is also mentioned as a place from which Jews will return to Israel. How significant in our time to see thousands of Jews coming from Ethiopia, the land in which the descendants of Cush dwelt. Incidentally, the word Cush means "black."

"Operation Moses" saw an estimated 7,000 to 10,000 Ethiopian Jews airlifted to Israel. Following this exodus, the Marxist Government of Ethiopia ordered the Jews to return – a reminder of the days of the Pharaohs who would not hear Moses cry when he said, "Let my people go!"

The Falashas, as these black Jews are called, say that they and their ancestors have believed, since time immemorial, that God would assuredly bring them back to their Promised Land.

These Jews see themselves as the offspring of the ten lost tribes, descendants of Menelik, son of Solomon and the Queen of Sheba.

The priests like to quote the Prophet Amos who said, "Are ye not as the children of the Ethiopians unto me, O children of Israel? saith the Lord."

The Ethiopian Government issued a statement, saying there is "No historical, archaeological or anthropological basis for the claim that these Ethiopian Jews are descended from the lost tribes."

The Falashas, or Black Jews, began their exodus from Ethiopia through craggy, snake-infested brush and empty desert, much of it on foot, via Sudan to Israel, nearly 2,000 miles away. They would walk at night and hide from army patrols and police units during the day. Then they were flown the rest of the way – a reminder of what we read in Isaiah 11:14 where it is said of the Jews, "They shall fly upon the shoulders of the Philistines."

At one time, in the 15th century, it was reported there were some 200,000 Falashas. During the Middle Ages, parts of Ethiopia were said to be governed by Falasha kings.

It was King Haile Selassie, who bore the title, "The Lion of the Tribe of Judah." He was overthrown by the present Marxist Government in 1974.

In a press conference, Shimon Peres said of the return of the Ethiopian Jews, "We are one people, there are no black Jews, and no white Jews. There are Jews. History and faith bind us together."

Rabbi Yosef says, "The Falashas are Jews, whom it is our duty to redeem from assimilations, to hasten their immigration to Israel."

It is believed some 25,000 Jews lived in Ethiopia before the mass exodus to Israel. They called themselves "Beta-Israel," meaning the "House of Israel."

It is said that the Ethiopian Jews observe the sprinkling of the ashes of the red heifer and other Jewish rites. And, it is believed by some that the original ark of the covenant may be in an Ethiopian synagogue preserved for such a time when it may be used again.

Ethiopian Jews strictly observe the Sabbath. No work of any kind is done in accordance with the Torah, and they rely on the authority of the Bible.

Finally, commenting on these Ethiopian Jews returning to Israel, the JERUSALEM POST observes: "Two prominent questions emerge from this brief analysis of this current event. One, is this return of a 'lost

tribe' just a quirk of history, an exception, or is it the beginning of a new wave of Jews coming back home from previously unknown areas of the world?

"Two, will their primitive adherence to the law influence the religious establishment in Israel, or will they gradually be brought into the mainstream of traditional Judaism?"

Time will tell.

We are commenting today on the return of the Jews to Israel a "second time" as recorded in Isaiah 11:11 where mention is made of Assyria, Egypt, Pathros, and Cush, which we noted is Ethiopia.

Then reference is made to Flam, or Persia, or Iran.

According to the JEWISH PRESS it was once reported that 45,000 Jews still live in Iran.

It is doubtful that Jews will survive the revolution of the Ayatollah Khomeini who declared the Islamic revolution does not stop at international boundaries.

Hundreds of arrests and executions, which include members of ethnic and religious minorities, are occurring. And the martyrs' graveyard is overflowing with tens of thousands who have died.

Iranian soldiers believe they are fighting for a cause – their country, Islam, and ultimately Jerusalem. The young men are told of a special reward of a special place in heaven if they die on the battlefield.

Faith, a Holy War, and martyrdom . . . The Iranians see their cause as a battle between right and wrong, good and evil; hence, a Holy War. Iranians believe Allah is on their side, so Iran must never lose, and Jerusalem will one day be theirs. Until then, soldiers will continue to die. And, Jews will remain the targets of revenge.

In Isaiah 11, mention is made of Jews returning to Israel from Shinar, which is another application that takes in Babylon.

And there is Hamath, located in Upper Syria. Less than 5,000 Jews can be found in Syria.

Syria is closely linked to Iran and is in the path of any invading force from the north. Islam is the common factor that binds Syria with Iran.

George F. Will, of the WASHINGTON POST, tells of seeing a taped television broadcast from Syria. It showed girls in uniform standing in a row holding live snakes. Suddenly the girls began killing the snakes by biting off their heads.

Then young soldiers are seen tumbling out of moving trucks. They pounce on puppies and stab them repeatedly. One soldier seems to drink a puppy's blood, perhaps symbolizing the drinking of an enemy's blood.

Jews in Syria desire to cross the border into friendly territory if at all possible. Thus far, Syria has proven NOT to be a friend of Israel, and not likely to change that position any time soon.

In Isaiah 11 we have Jews seen coming from the islands of the sea as well as from the four corners of the earth.

Gibraltar is another strategic location when it comes to a Jewish community.

Jews have lived in Gibraltar since the 14th century. The city has four beautiful synagogues which are in use every Sabbath.

There is no anti-Semitism there, so some Jews will have to be forced to go to Israel. However, God has a way of getting His people

back to their land.

Wim Malgo, of MIDNIGHT CALL magazine, has an unusual explanation of how Jews will be drawn back into Israel from around the world. He writes: "In the very moment when Jesus Christ comes for the nations in the great power and glory, He will send His angels to all parts of the world with the clear command to gather all the Jews to the land of Israel." Says Malgo, "This will be a rapture of the Jews to Israel according to Matthew 24:31."

Matthew 24:31 says, "And he shall send his angels with great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of Heaven to the other."

Well, God has His chariots. When Elijah was transported into Heaven, there appeared a chariot of fire . . . and we read, "Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven." (II Kings 2:11)

When Elisha saw it, he said, "My father, my father, the chariot of Israel." Did you notice – Elisha linked the chariot to Israel?

So if God could come for Elijah with one of His chariots He could also come for the remnant and transport them to the place prepared for them where they will be protected during Satan's onslaught against them.

It has been pointed out that some UFO's came into prominence the same time that Israel became a nation. They also appeared during the Arabs' attack upon the Jewish state in 1948, and again in 1956, 1967, and 1973.

One cannot read of some of these UFO's without comparing them with the vision of Ezekiel who described wheels which went on their sides, and together with the living creatures "ran and returned as the appearance of a flash of lightning." (Ezekiel 1:14)

We realize there are those who relate all UFO's to Satan. But you can't have the counterfeit activity without the genuine.

Again, Ezekiel links these wheels with Israel. In Ezekiel 11:22 we read, "Then did the cherubims lift up their wings, and the wheels beside them; and the glory of the God of Israel was over them above."

How many chariots does God have? In Psalm 68:17 we read, "The chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thousands of angels; the Lord is among them . . ."

What about Jews in Turkey?

It is believed 20,000 Jews live in Turkey; about 18,000 in Morocco, and about 6,000 in Tunisia.

Turkey and the Soviet Union recently signed a five-year trade pact and a 10-year economic and technical cooperation agreement.

Turkey is a sprawling country of 45 million people, which has borders with the Soviet Union, Western and Eastern Europe, and the Arab world.

Turkey will be one of the countries to descend upon Israel in the days when Gog of the land of Magog leads an army of allies from the Soviet Union.

In Turkey, in contrast to the worship of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, so traditional to the Jews, you find a religious sect whose main concern is the mystical fulfillment and union with Allah. Each disciple – the Dervish – devotes his life to this pursuit. And learning is achieved under the guidance of a master who teaches him the path through rigid

discipline. The main ritual emphasizes the dependence on the unseen world and the emotional aspect of religion. The aim is to achieve absolute purity. To do this, the Dervishes propel themselves into an ecstatic trance.

How different for the believer who knows absolute purity is possible only through the blood of Christ.

As in Old Testament times there was the offering of sacrifices that looked forward to Him that was the perfect sacrifice, so it can be declared as we read in I John 1:7, "The blood of Jesus Christ (God's) Son cleanseth us from all sin."

Watching this performance to achieve purity, we would wonder about the multitudes which are deceived, thinking good works can achieve for them salvation. Whereas, the Bible says, "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost." (Titus 3:5)

The Dervish's path is a long one and lasts a lifetime. It begins with repentance under the guidance of the master to whom the disciple is bound by oath. The succeeding stages are patience, gratitude and consent. All of these expressions of the loving acceptance of affliction are for the purpose of realizing that there is no God but Allah.

The final stage is for the disciple who finds the secret of inner knowledge. At this stage, his personality becomes extinguished only to revive as that of a master. From there, the Dervish goes on to higher and higher stages until he himself becomes one reality – united with his god.

We show this panorama of those who would gain perfection by these exercises to express again the truth of Scripture – which reminds us, "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." (Eph. 2:8-9).

Did you hear it?

Many seek to find peace from performance of a ritual, handling of charms, or repeating prayers.

How wonderful that ours is a finished redemption. Salvation is a gift to receive. It is a life to live as we are in union with Him.

We would yet repeat verse 10, "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

What some people won't do to find peace, but it is a false peace. Whereas, we read: "Being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." (Romans 5:1)

We would ask – do you have this peace?

How many through acts of penance seek to find peace. Others through war and bloodshed seek for peace. Whereas, peace is in a person – our Lord Jesus Christ.

Receive Him as your Lord and Saviour and you can find peace.

Pray this prayer: "Lord Jesus, I do receive you as my Saviour and Lord. I believe you died on the cross for my sins, and rose again, and that you're coming again for all who know you and love and serve you. Help me to live for you, I pray, Amen."

Pray that prayer and mean it. And, "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."

MIDEAST MADNESS



When three airliners were hijacked in four days, it "thrust the Middle East into center stage," so stated Christopher Dickey of the WASHINGTON POST.

The Islamic fundamentalist group attempted to use the hijacking of T.W.A. flight 847 as leverage to remove U.S. involvement from Lebanon. As Americans prayed for the safe return of the hostages, they were faced with the stark reality that the U.S. is a vital participant in the peace-making process of the Middle East and of "Mideast Madness."

King Hussein of Jordan proposed an international peace conference with negotiations between Israel and a mixed Palestinian-Jordanian delegation under the supervision of the five permanent members of the U.S. Security Council — the United States, the Soviet Union, China, Britain, and France.

In Washington, a State Department spokesman (Edward P. Djerejian) said the Russians would have to meet some demanding requirements for such a meeting, including the resumption of diplomatic relations with Israel, easing of restrictions of emigration, and cessation of "anti-Semitic propaganda."

Wilbur G. Landrey, news correspondent, notes: "Americans, Israelis, moderate Arabs, even Palestinians, may be fiddling away furiously, while Islamic fundamentalism smolders underground toward the day when its flames consume leaders like Hussein, Arafat, and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt who are still trying for some accommodation. A similar fanaticism could burn away the Pereses in Israel." Asks Landrey, "How would the Old Testament wars be fought in a nuclear age?"

That there will be war before all of the negotiating is over is clearly indicated.

Joseph Kraft, Los Angeles Times Syndicated writer, calls it "A War against Peace," in reflecting upon all the fighting presently going on in the Middle East.

Says Kraft, "The fighting pits a group of Arabs who want to come to terms with Israel against several groups of Arabs, including Syria, who don't. It is, literally, a war against peace."

The Bible clearly predicts what will eventually happen. In Zechariah 14 we read, "Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city."

That is the picture from the human standpoint. What we are seeing is the nations of the world being drawn into the affray.

However, from the divine standpoint we see God ultimately intervening. We read, "Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. (Zech. 14:3)

What is happening in international affairs we have come to call "Mideast Madness." And we see this as the road to Armageddon.

Arab-Israeli problems date back to the time of Abraham and hasty relationships that were not 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."

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

A German daily newspaper sent a journalist to inquire of Prime Minister Begin, "What do you think should happen to the 'West Bank'?" Begin replied, "I do not know what you call 'West Bank.'" He went on to explain, "You probably mean Judea and Samaria." Said Begin, "That was our land originally. We have not occupied it but liberated it."

After taking this region in the 1967 war, the Israelis have consistently resisted international pressure to return its control to any Arab interest.

In the August issue of **READER'S DIGEST**, (1984) a map of the Middle East revealed a most important omission.

According to the **PROPHETIC WITNESS**, a British publication, "Syria was shown, Jordan was shown, even the USSR was shown, but, whether by design or inadvertence, Israel did not appear. Its site was indicated but not identified."

This journal wondered why a magazine with a circulation of 31,000,000 copies would eliminate Israel from its map of the Middle East.

President Nasser of Egypt once boasted that he would wipe Israel off the maps of the world. But he never succeeded.

The **MIDNIGHT CALL** magazine features a conversation with Jim Anderson of United Press International who interviewed Dean Fischer, a State Department spokesman, during a visit of King Hussein of Jordan to the State Department.

Anderson asks, "Downstairs in the lobby on the Hussein exhibit there's a map of Jordan and the surrounding countries." He notes, "All the surrounding countries are identified except that the area west of Jerusalem remains unnamed. Can you tell us what territory that is?"

Following laughter, Dean Fischer of our State Department replied, "Well, I'd have to look at the map. It's a map in the State Department?" he asks.

Anderson: "Yeah, in the lobby. What country lies west of Jerusalem?"

Fischer: "What country lies west of Jerusalem?"

Anderson: "Think! I'll give you a hint. Between Jerusalem and the Mediterranean."

Fischer: "You want me to say Israel? I'll say Israel lies between Jerusalem and the Mediterranean."

Anderson: "Can you explain why it is not identified on the map?"

Then Marvin Kalb of NBC asks, "Is that a State Department map?"

Fischer: "I don't know."

Question: "Well, did the Embassy of Jordan put up the map?"

Fischer: "I just don't know, Marvin."

Jordan, too, insists on the non-existence of Israel. The offending map was removed and replaced by one that has on it the nation of Israel.

Comments the **PROPHETIC WITNESS**: "Israel will never be wiped off God's map. We have the warrant of His Word for that." In Genesis 48:4, "Behold I will make thee (Jacob) fruitful, and multiply thee, and I will make of thee a multitude of people; and will give this land to thy seed after thee for an everlasting possession." And a third scripture quoted is Ezekial 37:25 where God has said, "I have given unto Jacob my servant, the land wherein your fathers have dwelt; and they shall dwell therein, even they, and their children, and their children's children for ever."

Did you hear it?

Today we would ask: Will these prophecies be fulfilled? What's

ahead for Israel?

Richard DeHaan, in his book, **ISRAEL AND THE NATIONS IN PROPHECY**, points out, "There is only one promise in the entire Abrahamic covenant that has not been literally fulfilled beyond question. This one exception is found in the words of Genesis 17:8 where the Lord says, "And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God."

Why should Israel think she is entitled to the land of Palestine?

It was David Ben Gurion, first Israeli Prime Minister, who formed a government in 1948, who testified before the British Royal Commission on Palestine to declare: "The Bible is our mandate."

Who constitutes the legitimate heirs of promises God made to Abraham? In Genesis 21:12 we read, "For in Isaac shall thy seed be called."

So Israel has taken the bold position that the land is rightfully hers by a title deed given by God to Abraham.

A very interesting discussion occurred between Rabbi Fischman, who was then Chief Rabbi of Jerusalem, and members of the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine on July 9, 1947.

During the conversation Sir Abdur Rahman asked the Rabbi concerning his belief in a covenant, saying: "When was the promise made by God?"

Replied Rabbi Fischman, "The promise was given to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob about four thousand years ago."

Asked Sir Rahman: "Was it confirmed by God?"

Declared the Rabbi: "It was reaffirmed to Moses."

Again Sir Rahman: "Did God also promise that ten tribes would arise out of Ishmael, son of Hagar and Abraham?"

Replied Fischman: "He did not. Twelve tribes would arise only out of Jacob, the son of Isaac."

Then Sir Rahman asked the question, "According to the Jews, was not their return to this country to take place with the appearance of the Messiah?"

Rabbi Fischman: "No, in accordance with the Jewish tradition, the Jews should return to Palestine before the Messiah comes, and Jerusalem should be a part of Palestine. Only then, after the return of the Jews to Palestine in accordance with the tradition, the Messiah will arrive."

Sir Rahman: "How long after the return of the Jews to Palestine will the Messiah arrive, according to you?"

Rabbi Fischman: "This is a thing nobody can tell."

To the question as to when the Messiah of Israel will return, we would quote Psalms 102:16 where we read, "When the Lord shall build up Zion, he shall appear in His glory."

Today Zion is being rebuilt; Israel is in her land. Messiah must soon come.

Keil, the Biblical scholar, has commented, "The true return to the Lord cannot take place without a return to David their king, since God has promised the kingdom of David and his seed forever." Says Keil: "This King David, however, is none other than the Messiah."

Israel's national anthem is the HATIKVAH (meaning "The Hope").

And as one writer expresses it, "As the great trumpet is inseparably linked with Hatikvah, 'The Hope,' and with Israel's regathering, so the trump of God is indivisibly joined to the blessed hope of Christ's return . . ."

The words of the Hatikvah go like this:

"As long as within his innermost heart
Life does throb in a Jew,
And turned eastward, straining,
His eye looks to Zion.
Still unfaded is our hope,
Our age-old hope,
To return to the land of our fathers,
To the City in which David dwelt."

David Ben Gurion, former Israeli Prime Minister at the time of Israel's rebirth, said: "The land of Israel was the birthplace of the Jewish people. Exiled from the land, they remained faithful to it in all the countries of their dispersion, never ceasing to pray and hope for their return."

Today Israel is returning, and devout Jews have been praying three times daily for many centuries, saying: "Sound the great trumpet for our freedom, raise the banner for gathering our exiles, and gather us together from the four corners of the earth into our land. Blessed be thou, O Lord, who surely will gather in the scattered ones of His people of Israel."

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There's much more we'd like to say, but may we conclude by referring to Jesus' words following His discourse on the fig tree.

Then said Jesus, "Take ye heed, watch and pray; for ye know not when the time is. For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning, Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch." (Mark 13:33-37)

Oh, hear me, my beloved friend, if you are looking for Christ's coming, there is going to be a devotion to His return. Referring to His coming, John writes: "And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure." (1 John 3:3)

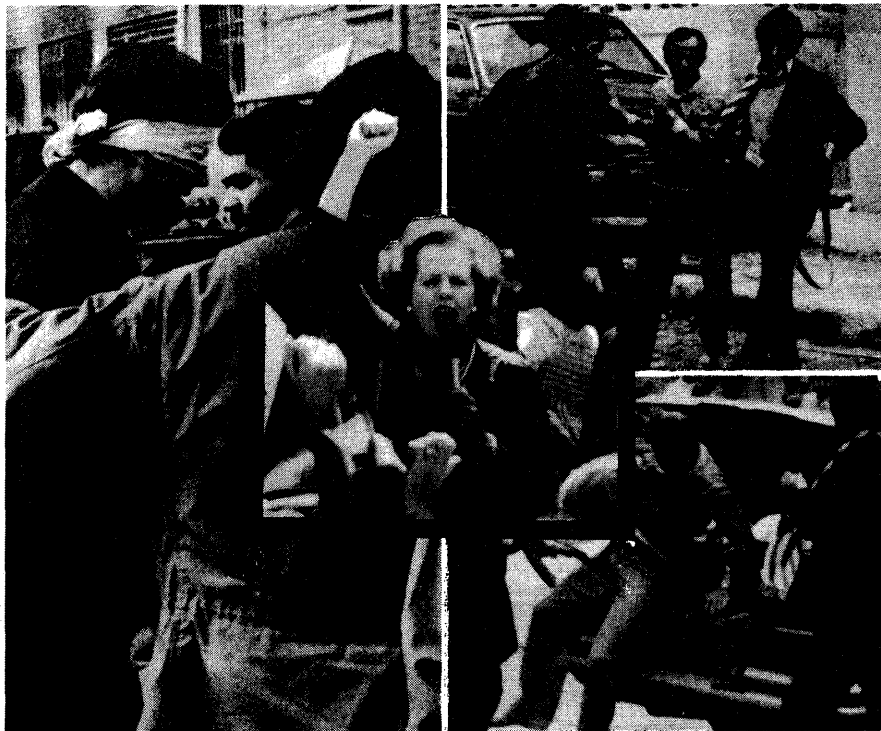
If today you call yourself a Christian and yet are living in known wilful sin, it would appear that the chastening fires of great tribulation are ahead for all whose lives are tainted with impurity. On the other hand, "Every man that hath this hope purifieth himself."

How important to receive Christ as Saviour and Lord, and then seek the help of the Holy Spirit to seal our determination to live pure and holy in view of Christ's coming.

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



Israel - TARGET OF TERRORISM



Margaret Thatcher, British Prime Minister, addressing the opening session of the American Bar Association in London, called on the news media to deny terrorists access to the world's newspapers and news broadcasts.

"We must not play into their hands . . . The hijacker and the terrorist thrive on publicity," she said. "Without it, their activities and their influence are greatly curtailed."

More than 100 countries including Lebanon, have signed the Hague Treaty of 1970, which calls for punishing or extraditing hijackers, but many countries fail to observe it.

President Reagan identified some of the countries which he said helped to promote terrorism such as Iran, Libya, North Korea, Cuba and Nicaragua.

It has been pointed out that when Fidel Castro started sending people back to the United States, hijackings to Cuba stopped.

Israel, on the other hand, has proved to be virtually free of hijackings.

If the nations adopted Israel's and Japan's security measures, it could lessen or even nullify the threat to safety in the air today.

In Jerusalem a three-judge tribunal convicted 15 Jewish settlers of waging an underground campaign of terror against Arabs in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Golan Heights.

All 15 of the religious, skull-capped settlers sat expressionless and unmoved as the tribunal read out the verdicts convicting them of forming a terrorist organization.



Ten of the defendants were found guilty of conspiring to blow up the Temple Mount, a site said to be holy to three faiths, because they thought it had been desecrated by the Moslems.

Yitzhak Shamir, Israeli Foreign Minister, said the defendants would not be equated with "murderers and terrorists."

Here again is proof that Israel does deal with its own people when it comes to what we would label terrorist activity.

Israel remains the target of much of the terrorism in the Middle East. According to a WASHINGTON POST-ABC News Poll, 42 per cent of 555 Americans polled agree with the statement that "the United States should reduce its ties to Israel in order to lessen the acts of terrorism against us in the Middle East."

During the hijacking of a TWA Flight 847 jet plane, Israel was the primary object of attack and revenge along with the United States. Arab hijackers wanted to see the release of 766 prisoners held in an Israeli prison. Israel had announced their intention of releasing the prisoners but did not want to tie in their release to any hijacker's demand.

Testified Clinton Baily, a Tel Aviv University professor: "Where do you stop once you begin making concessions? What if the next time the hijackers demand immediate Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank, or a halt in U.S. aid to Israel? Do you give in then, too?"

Hostages aboard the plane were quizzed to see if they had any

zionist connections.

Robert Trautmann of Laredo, Texas, was asked if he were a Jew. He replied, "No," and related that he was a Catholic.

A TWA stewardess, Uli Derickson, was also asked about names on the hostage list as to whether there might be connections with the state of Israel.

Hatred for Israel was expressed by Sheik Muhammed Hussein Fadlallah who asserted in an interview that "we will not recognize Israel under any circumstances." Fadlallah is said to be the leader of Hezbollah – the party of God.

Was the Israeli invasion of Lebanon to blame for the hijacking and for the death of Navy diver Robert Stethem? Hyman Bookbinder of the American Jewish Committee said he objected to an NBC report that linked the killing to the Mideast invasion.

When it looked like Israel held the key to the freedom of the hostages, Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin insisted the problem of the hostages was an American problem.

Columnist James J. Kilpatrick urged that nations adopt the Biblical edict of an "eye for an eye" to avenge the death of Stethem.

Others might adopt the more moderate New Testament approach found in Romans 12:19 where we read, "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord."

It's interesting to note that our Lord promised there would come a day when He would take vengeance on the enemies of Israel. He spoke of a time when the Middle East would be the scene of great conflict, saying: "And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh." (Luke 21:20)

Then look at verse 22, "For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled."

Ezekiel, too, writes of a time of terror coming to the land of Palestine, saying, "Cry and howl, son of man: for it shall be upon all the princes of Israel; terrors by reason of the sword shall be upon my people." (Ezekiel 21:12)

This is what we are seeing today. Israel has become a land of terror.

Author Albert Parry has written on terrorism, saying, "In today's terror, the innocent suffer far more than any other people." Think especially of the women and children who were brutally murdered when a gang of terrorists seized a school in what became known as the Ma'alot massacre of mid-May 1974.

Political demands rather than money were the reason for the Maalot massacre that shocked the world with particular force.

Three Arab guerrillas crossed the border from Lebanon into Israel, where at Maalot they seized a schoolhouse and some 90 teen-age hostages. The demand was to free the guerrilla captives then in Israeli jails.

The Jerusalem Government, concerned about the youthfulness of the hostages, reluctantly yielded and took the prisoners out of their cells, preparing to exchange them for the captive children. But the negotiations suddenly miscarried, and the Israeli troops opened fire. The guerrillas then began to kill the youngsters and were themselves slain. Twenty-six hostages died, most of them school children.

In contrast, the Arab Shi-ite hijackers, who on June 14, 1985, commandeered TWA Flight 847, eventually freed more than 100 of their captives. But they kept 39 men — after hideously torturing and shooting to death an American sailor. Says Parry: "Modern terrorists say there are no innocents — our whole society is sick and has to be canceled rather than cured."

Walter Mears, vice president and executive editor of the Associated Press, told the WASHINGTON POST, in referring to the TWA hijackers, "These guys are so sophisticated about the way they are getting through to the American viewer. When Amal understands the pool system, that blows my mind."

The "pool system" that Mears refers to is the procedure by which the networks work together on a story. If the networks "pool" a story, it means that all three networks can use the film that was actually made by one. The others need not share credit. If they "share" a story, the maker of the film must be given credit.

The POST notes that the distinction between a "pool" and a "share" has long been important in the television trade. However, until now, terrorists and hijackers didn't indicate any awareness of it.

As the NEAR EAST REPORT notes: "Things have changed. The Amal militants in Beirut said just prior to the hostages' release that they would prefer it if ABC, CBS, and NBC would share rather than pool."

To the average viewer who watches the news he could care less as to how the news is gathered. But to the terrorists seeking publicity they have become public relations experts.

U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT concludes, "The press must not let the hostage story push other national concerns, such as the budget, taxes and Central America, from the airwaves and the front pages."

Testifies Ernest Evans of Catholic University in Washington, D.C., "That's what hijackers want, to have government and the press stop dead in their tracks."

While we're talking about being held hostage and the influence of the media, we can't help thinking of how many today are captivated by other influences of television and the printed page. We are a nation held hostage by the TV screen.

When Vladimir Zworykin, the father of television, was asked a few years ago what he thought of the current use of his invention, he replied, rather angrily: "Too much violence, too much crime. People are hypnotized by it. They look at it all the time. It is contaminating our society."

Testifies the Rev. Samuel Gordon in the PROPHETIC WITNESS, "The portrayal of violence on the silver screens in our living rooms is a lamentable fact of life! TV has become freighted down with the almost nightly showing of guerrilla war, skyjackings, bombings, rape, and picketings and protesting that engage violence and murders."

David Wilkerson relates in his book, SET THE TRUMPET TO THY MOUTH, how as he was preparing to write, he heard in his spiritual ears, "The Sodomites are in the house! The Sodomites are in the house!"

Says Wilkerson, "I knew it was God speaking to me about the wickedness of television. I remembered the story of Lot and the visiting angels he entertained overnight. The Sodomites from all over Sodom

surrounded Lot's house, trying to break down the door, get in, and attack the visiting angels. But the angelic men blinded the Sodomites and they never did get in."

"But," says Wilkerson, "the Sodomites are in now — in our homes. And we are now the blinded ones. Homosexual writers, actors, and producers flaunt their evil ways right before our eyes; and admit it or not, you and all in your home are under a demonic Sodomite attack."

Did you hear it?

Wilkerson notes, "Some imply that violence on television is not a key issue — but I say it is. God hates violence; He once destroyed the earth because of it." We read, "And God said unto Noah, the end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth." (Genesis 6:13)

Wilkerson predicts, "There is coming soon to this nation an unbelievable outbreak of violence that no one would dare believe could be so wild, wicked and widespread." And he expresses alarm, saying: "The addiction of Christians to television really alarms me. Truly dedicated believers will agree with all I say about impending judgment, about the music of devils in God's house, about adultery in the church, and about spiritual deadness among the Lord's people. But no one dares touch their beloved television."

Even people of the world are concerned about what's happening on our TV screens. Lucille Ball says both television and Hollywood have deteriorated into nothing but "blood and guts and violence, terror in the streets, and four-letter words."

Says Ball, "I know a lot of actresses who just won't work any more, who'll read scripts and say, "I can't be in a script like that."

May God help us.

One authority calculates that by the time a child is 14 years old, he or she has seen — on the average — fifteen thousand killings on television.

No one should allow their minds to be filled with the sin and violence promoted by porno magazines and the TV screen.

As we read in Proverbs 23:7, "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he."

If necessary, rather than to become addicted to the satisfaction of one's lustful appetite, make sure you have surrendered your life to Jesus Christ. Then follow the formula suggested by the Apostle Paul in Philippians 4:8 when he writes: "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely . . . think on these things."

The GOOD NEWS BROADCASTER notes; "X-rated films, once confined to the adult movie theatre, have quietly moved out of society's gutters and into the shopping centers and suburban living rooms of middle-class America."

A recent NEWSWEEK survey indicated that nine percent of all Americans — nearly 40 percent of all VCR owners — bought or rented an X-rated cassette within the last year.

Watching hostages that were torn from loved ones sweat it out day after day until their release is nothing compared to those who are taken hostage by sin and Satan. After all, there are those who used their time

that they had on their hands to read the Bible and pray and have testified to having their lives enriched by the experience.

What about you?

Are you taken hostage? Is your mind occupied with thoughts which if projected on a screen would prove embarrassing? If you were to give an account of every idle word and thought that comes to mind, would you be ashamed of what you are thinking?

The message of God's Word is that you need not to be enslaved by sin and Satan.

You ask — What's the secret? How can I be delivered?

First of all, make sure you have given your heart and life to Jesus Christ. Call upon His name. For we read, "Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." (Acts 2:21) Actually, these were the words of Peter at Pentecost taken from Joel where we read, "Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered." (Joel 2:32)

If victimized by lust and perverted thinking, you need deliverance through faith in Jesus Christ.

Then heed the admonition in Romans 6 where we read, "Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God . . ."

Did you hear it?

Jesus taught, if your hand offend you, cut it off; if your eye offend you, pluck it out. Said Jesus, "It is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire." (Mark 9:47)

We must realize the seriousness of that which affects our future — where we will spend eternity. And, if necessary, do all we can to sever relationships that will damn our soul forever.

That may sound difficult, but with Christ all things are possible to them that believe. Remind the devil that he is a defeated foe, and through Christ you can be victorious.

Really, the Lord doesn't want you to cut off your hand or pluck out an eye. Instead, dedicate these members of your body to Him and ask the Holy Spirit to keep you from sin and evil.

We would yet quote Romans 12:1 where we read, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

Tell me, if you call yourself a Christian, isn't it "reasonable" to live like one? Isn't it hypocritical not to live for the Lord if we're saved?

We continue to read, "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable, and perfect will of God." (Romans 12:2)

This is the call of God to you and me — to accept Christ as your Saviour, surrender your all to Him, and then to be ready when He comes.

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

Are You Held.... Hostage?



Brian Jenkins, connected with a "think tank" program of the Rand Corporation, says, "Terrorism functions as an avenue of political expression for extremists, whether they are motivated by ideology, ethnicity or religion."

Jenkins expressed his concern for international terrorism, saying: "I think we're on the edge of a new era of conflict in which limited conventional combat, classic guerrilla war and international terrorism coexist side by side on the international plane."

Some see terrorism as another sign that we are living in the endtime.

The ultimate terror-tactic was expressed by C. L. Sulzberger. Writing in the NEW YORK TIMES, he said, "It seems inevitable that some terrorist group may soon manufacture or steal a small nuclear warhead to blackmail or paralyze governments."

William Casey, serving as CIA director, told a Senate Committee, "We are in the midst of an undeclared war." And he referred to the TWA plane that was hijacked as "only the beginning."

Apparently he was right, for nine days after the TWA jet was seized, a Canadian Pacific plane landed at Tokyo when a bomb exploded, killing two baggage handlers and injuring four others.

Meanwhile, an Air India jumbo jet was enroute from Montreal and Toronto to London. But it never got there. The reason — the plane plunged out of the sky from a height of 31,000 feet into the Atlantic Ocean, off the Irish coast.

All 329 people aboard were killed in the worst air tragedy to occur over the sea. It was also the third worst crash ever in the terms of loss of life. Speculation was high that a terrorist bomb had been placed aboard the craft.

The investigations into the Air India disaster were made difficult because of the main wreckage a mile deep in the Atlantic. Even the discovery of the vital "black box" flight recorders left much uncertainty concerning the reason for the plane's sudden disappearance.

The screening of passengers and their baggage is now routine at most airports. Passing through the metal detector with carry-on luggage usually examined by an X-ray machine is a reminder of what we read in I Samuel 16:7, "For man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart."

Indeed, the Lord has X-ray vision and knows what is in the heart of man. What he finds is often embarrassing as we read in Matthew 15:19, "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies."

How grateful we can be that we don't have to remain victims of these evils in our heart.

Writing to the Corinthians, Paul asks, "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God?" He goes on to say, "Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God."

You see, we don't have to stay this way. We can be changed, converted, saved . . . whatever term you wish to use.

Writes Paul, "And such were some of you; but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God." (I Cor. 6:9-11)

When the hostages that were hijacked on board the TWA Flight 847 jet were released, it brought great joy to relatives and friends and to our government as well.

So the Bible says there is joy in heaven when a person is released from sin. Said Jesus: "Likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance." (Luke 15:7)

The release of the hostages was greeted with widespread relief, but the affair had not been settled to the entire satisfaction of President Reagan. With seven other Americans still held in Lebanon by militant groups, Mr. Reagan called for their release.

As the President spoke of Americans still held captive, we couldn't help but think of those who are hostages to sin.

We would like to make the following comparisons:

First, we become hostages to sin by yielding to sin and Satan.

In Romans 6 we read: "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?" The answer Paul gives is, "God forbid!" In the Greek there is a forceful "No." One version suggests, "May it never be." Another says, "By no means." A third states, "Heaven forbid."

Then we're reminded that when we receive Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, we are dead to sin even as He died for our sin.

Asks Paul, "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey, whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?"

The choice is clear. We can yield to Christ in a life of obedience, or we can yield to the devil. We do have a choice in the matter. But to yield to sin is to yield to death.

Sometimes we blame the devil when we ourselves are at fault. Some even blame God for their predicament.

Writes James, "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Do not err, my beloved

brethren." (James 1:13-16)

In NBC's episode of CHEERS, you'll find Carla is the bar's unmarried and pregnant barmaid. The bar owner asks her why she's in a bad mood. She answers: "Oh I don't know — everything. You know, this morning I was thinking. I'm not married. I'm carrying my sixth kid." Then she asks, "Would a just God be putting me through this?"

You see, God is not responsible for a person living in sin. Rather, we read how God is "not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9)

We become hostages to sin because we want to sin. It's that simple.

Among those who believe we should take a hard-line against hijacking and terrorism is Henry Kissinger, who suggests, "No concessions, no negotiations . . ."

Likewise, this must be our position when it comes to sin, no concessions. "Neither yield your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin; but yield yourselves unto God." (Romans 6:13a).

In the second place, we need to realize that Satan does take men hostage. In fact, in II Timothy 2:26 we read, "And that they may recover themselves out of any snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will."

Did you hear it?

It's best not to mess around with the devil. As we read in Ephesians 4:27, "Neither give place to the devil."

Someone wrote Wim Malgo of the Midnight Call ministries. She writes, "A question concerning Satan has bothered me for a long time. Am I permitted to pray, "In the name of Jesus, I command Satan to depart?"

Malgo answers, "There is indeed a certain element of danger in addressing Satan directly. May I remind you that Michael the archangel "durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, the Lord rebuke thee." (Jude 9) Another translation says, "Dared not presume to bring an abusive condemnation against him."

Malgo gives another illustration, saying: "The Lord, who revealed Himself as the angel of the Lord in Zechariah 3:2, did not use the direct approach either, but said, "And the Lord rebuke thee, O Satan."

Our Lord, too, did not answer Satan directly but said, "It is written." (Matthew 4:4)

Notes Malgo, "If the archangel Michael, the angel of the Lord, and even the Lord Himself did not address Satan directly, we, as pardoned sinners, depending on the grace of God, should beware of addressing the prince of darkness directly."

An example of what can happen is given in Acts 19:13-15 where one of the seven sons of Sceva, a Jew and chief of the priests, took it upon himself to cast out the evil spirit in the name of the Lord Jesus, saying: "We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth." We read, "And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded."

This is just one of many examples of how Satan can attack the individual.

The verse we quoted earlier stated there are those who are taken captive by Satan "at his will."

The Weymouth translation says, "Though they are now entrapped by him to do his will."

I think of the man who brought his son to Jesus, saying, "Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is lunatick, and sore vexed: for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water." We read, "And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour." (Matthew 17:14-18)

Finally, we would like to point out that if we are born again and living for the Lord, the devil absolutely, positively has no recourse to take any advantage over us.

Look at 1 John 5:18 where we read, "We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not (does not make sin a practice) but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not." Or, as one version puts it, "And the evil one cannot get his hands on him."

It is as though God has a "no trespassing" sign around you.

How many write letters similar to this one which reads: "I am a person in a terrible shape. I can't even go to church. Sometimes I wish I were dead."

Analyze this letter and you can easily see this is the work of Satan. If he can't get you to sin, he will get you to become discouraged.

He wants to keep you from church — from fellowship with God's people and from hearing the Word of the Lord. Yes, you say you can hear the Word on radio and television. But the Scriptures command that you neglect not the assembling of yourselves in the house of God and much the more as the day of His coming hastens.

This man speaks of wishing he were dead. Suicide is the number one target of Satan for you and me.

However, in Hebrews 2:14-15 we are reminded our Lord defeated the devil when He died on the cross and rose again. We read: "Through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage."

ACTION magazine of the National Association of Evangelicals says, "Suicide is a major cause of death in this country." And mention is made of a rising tide of suicide even among the clergy. About 5,000 teenagers will kill themselves each year in this country.

This is the work of Satan who does not want you to see the abundant life that we have in Christ.

Like those on board the TWA Flight 847 who were taken hostage, there are those today who are similarly bound and need deliverance — need to be set free. In reality, all you need to do is to take your rightful authority as a believer and rebuke the devil in Jesus' name.

It is not improper or out of place to turn to that unknown force or being who follows you and say out loud, "Satan, I rebuke you in Jesus' name." You are not using your own name but the name of Jesus. For Jesus said, "In my name shall they cast out devils." (Mark 16:17)

Remember how Jesus gave authority to His disciples, saying, "Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you." (Luke 10:19)

We can claim that promise. This is not an invitation to play with snakes as some would wrongfully suppose, but in the case of the Apostle Paul when bitten by a viper and should have died, he simply shook the snake into the fire and he lived. Why? Because he believed that Christ has greater power than the devil.

Jesus could say, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth."

Friend, believe it. Christ has power over sickness. He has power over disease. He has power over lust and evil habits. He has all power to bring to you freedom and deliverance.

Now if you want to believe the devil's lie that you are ordained to be sick, you can stay sick. But in Acts 10:38 we read: "How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him."

Here, Luke, a physician, writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, says Jesus healed all that were "oppressed of the devil." When you recognize your sickness as oppression of the devil, you can come to experience your healing if you will believe God's Word and that your sickness is not unto death.

What are we saying? We are saying that many are being held hostage who could be set free.

In other areas many are held hostage — to alcohol and tobacco and to lustful desires. Letters to Donald E. Wildmon, Executive Director of the National Federation of Decency, reveal how many tell of picking up some porno magazine and been taken captive.

As this letter relates, the books that can be found in stores today can ruin one's entire life apart from the grace of God. This man writes, "Don, when my eye hit those pictures, something snapped in my head. It was as if a switch was being thrown. I feel I developed a 'pornographic mind' through this experience." He adds, "From that day, and for several years after becoming a Christian, I have fought a battle with temptation in that area. My mind was affected, and except for the transforming power of the Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ, I am sure I would have been driven to some deeper involvement by now. Today God has delivered me from a pornographic mind and I am thankful. But I fear we have many who are sick in this area with no one to share it with."

Is this your condition? Many men claim to be victimized by this pornographic craze and need deliverance.

Today if you are held hostage to sin and Satan, join me in praying this prayer: "Dear Jesus, I come to you in the promise that he that cometh to you will in no wise be cast out. I come boldly to receive help in time of need. I do need you today and believe you have all power in heaven and in earth. I ask you to save me, heal me, to deliver me from whatever binds me, for I want to be set free. I accept your forgiveness and claim the power of the Holy Spirit to control my life and keep me free from binding lusts and the power of Satan. For your Word declares, "Whom the Son maketh free shall be free indeed. Amen."

Pray that prayer and mean it. With the help of the Holy Spirit you can live for Jesus every day and be ready when He comes.

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