

Ray Brubaker

**SIGNS
OF
CHRIST'S
SOON
RETURN**

SIGNS
of
Christ's
Soon Return

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RAY BRUBAKER - COMMENTATOR
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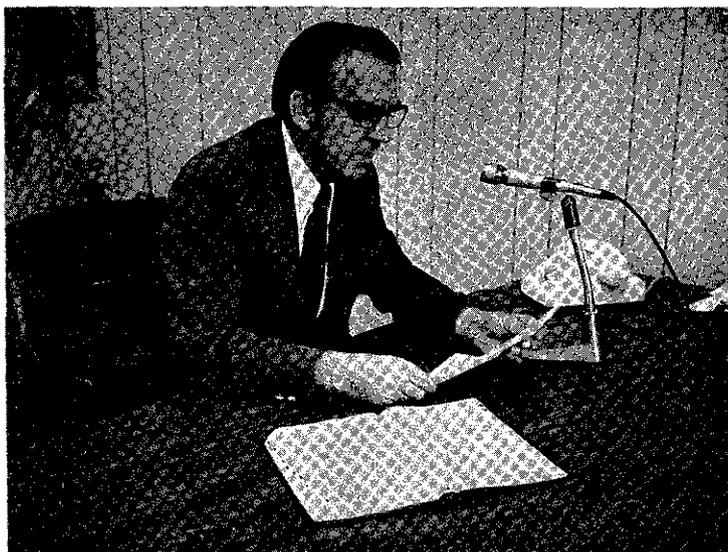
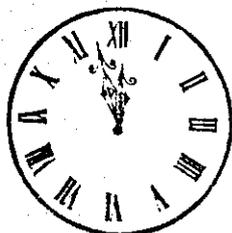


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Signs of the Endtime and Lord's Return



Some of the early church fathers who lived and wrote of the coming Day of the Lord emphasized that Christ could not return until 6000 years of human history came to an end.

Among these devout men was Barnabas, mentioned 29 times in the New Testament. Barnabas wrote an epistle wherein it was stated that as God created the world in six days and rested the seventh day, so the world would continue on for 6000 years followed by the millennium of 1000 years.

Irenaeus, a disciple of Polycarp, likewise asserted: "For in as many days as this world was made, in so many thousand years will it be concluded."

According to some Bible chronologists, 6000 years of man's history should end by the year 1975.

If Adam and Eve were created in 4026 BCE, as some believe, then adding 1974 years to this, you get the sum total of 6000.

While there is no assurance of accuracy for calendar-dating, it does give you an idea as to how close our Lord's coming might be if reliance on this theory is correct.

A letter from a Jewish listener states: "My uncle was an orthodox Rabbi, and he always taught us that the world was made till 6,000 years for the coming time of the Messiah."

John Douglas writes: "Six thousand years of human government is coming to an end--Time is running out!" Notes Douglas in his magazine WORLD EVANGELISM: "Our calendar could vary a few years one way or the other, but.... if it is correct between now and two thousand A.D. the rapture must take place; the tribulation period--which will last for a period of seven years, the revelation of the Antichrist, and the return of Christ in great glory."

Says Douglas: "I am not setting a date for the return of Christ....Jesus said; 'No man knows the day or the hour.' But remember, He did say, 'When ye see these things (that is, the signs of the times--the Jews' return to their homeland) that the Gentile age has come to a close.'"

Did you hear it?

GOD'S PRINCIPAL SIGN.

Hal Lindsey, author of the LATE GREAT PLANET EARTH, lists seven prophetic signs that would indicate our Lord's return is very near.

The first sign: ISRAEL TO BECOME A NATION.

The second sign: JEWS RETURN TO OLD JERUSALEM.

The third sign: REBUILDING OF THE TEMPLE.

The fourth sign: A RUSSIAN ATTACK ON ISRAEL.

The fifth sign: A FINAL ARAB-ISRAELI WAR.

The sixth sign: CHINA WILL ENTER THE MID-EAST CONFLICT.

The seventh sign: A NEW EUROPEAN CONFEDERACY AND WORLD DICTATOR WILL APPEAR.

These are prophetic signs which have occurred or are about to occur, thus revealing that the coming of the Lord is at hand.

When it comes to Israel's return to her land, Lindsey notes: "If this sign were not present in the world today, nothing else would be relevant. Every generation has had some of the signs of the return of the Messiah...but there never has been a time before this generation when this first sign has appeared."

Dr. Walvoord of Dallas Theological Seminary, likewise has stated: "Israel, re-established in their ancient land and situated as prophesied for the end of the age, is God's principal sign of the approaching advent of Christ."

Israel is likened in Scripture to a fig tree. So in Matt. 24:34, it is believed that our Lord testified to the fact that the generation that sees Israel's re-establishment as a nation will also see His coming. As we read the Amplified version: "Truly, I tell you, this generation--that is, the whole multitude of people living at the same time, in a definite, given period--will not pass away till all these things taken together take place."

Rev. Elmer A. Josephson, president of Bible Light ministry with headquarters in Israel, says: "All evangelicals believe the return of the Jews to the land is the fulfillment of biblical prophecy."

So the principal sign indicating that our Lord's return is near, is Israel's return to her land.

A NEW SIGN.

Then there is what we refer to as a new sign. It's the sign of a definite revival taking place in Israel with thousands reported to have been converted since the Six Day War.

The MT. ZION REPORTER relates how Arthur Rubinstein, well-known as the world's greatest concert pianist, visited Israel. Golda Meier, the Prime Minister held a television interview with Mr. Rubinstein in which she asked him, "What has been the greatest event of your long life?"

The noted concert artist replied: "The greatest event of my life was when I received Yahshua ha-Mashia (the Lord Jesus) into my heart."

As the Israeli Prime Minister leaned back in her chair with an expression of surprise, the great Rubinstein went on: "Since that my life was changed. I have experienced joy and peace ever since."

As one prominent evangelical magazine declares: "The movement of Jews toward the Messiah is no passing fad. Students of prophecy expect it to increase!"

Indeed, what thrilling days in which to live.

An American newspaper carried this headline: BIBLE, ISRAEL'S CHIEF PASTIME! The writer was commenting on the Bible-quizzing that is for many in Israel a pastime comparable to baseball in the United States.

A reporter in Israel relates how lessons on the life of Jesus are being taught in Israeli schools. A 35-page textbook recommended by the Education Ministry tells the story of Jesus tersely. It describes Roman oppression in the Holy Land and the profusion of self-styled messiahs promising a better after-life. Then it continues: "Into this reality, Jesus was born. Little is known of his life, and less of his childhood." The textbook portrays Joseph and Mary as observant Jews who always spent the Passover festival in Jerusalem, "and it is easy to imagine how the holy places in Jerusalem were impressed upon the mind of the Galilean boy from Nazareth."

A writer who surveyed ten Israeli history books, reported in the CHRISTIAN CENTURY magazine that Jesus was portrayed favorably in almost every way.

One of the text books, for example, reported on the early beginnings of Christianity saying.... "A messianic sect was the group from which the Christian religion later issued. Its adherents believed in a Messiah, named Jeshu'a, who appeared in the land of Israel, was arrested and crucified by the Romans, but rose on the third day after his burial...Hereupon he ascended to Heaven, whence he would return..."

Concerning the return of Christ, the text commented how "Members of the sect were thus waiting for the return of their Messiah, and only in this yearning were they different from the rest of the people of Israel...The messianic hope was at that time deeply rooted in the hearts of the entire people. Small wonder, therefore, that there were Jews who thought that he had already come."

Tremendous!

As CHRISTIAN VICTORY magazine observes: "God's Word is being sown in a heretofore unprecedented measure among Jewish people today, and Jews are turning to Christ in proportions to arouse great consternation among the rabbinical establishment and to attract worldwide attention."

Some Jewish officials have condemned noted evangelicals for their world-evangelism emphasis that would include other religious groups. Responding to the criticism, the Rev. John Streeter, a close friend of Graham, declared: "A Jew is just like everyone else. If he does not accept Jesus as his Saviour, he cannot be right with God."

The Apostle Paul was firm in his declaration that Christ's death and resurrection was for both Jew and Gentile in effecting salvation. Declared the Apostle: "For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." Rom. 1:12

Even as at Pentecost the converts were Jews, so we read in Romans 9:27, "Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a remnant shall be saved; For he will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness; because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth."

What will be the end result?

No doubt opposition to the Jews for Jesus movement will bring persecution in the days ahead. Nevertheless, our Lord asserted that when persecuted in one city, then flee to another city. "For verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come."

So the preaching of Jesus Christ in Israel is not only a new sign but a tremendous sign to indicate our Lord's coming is near. Notes in the Scofield Bible on this verse call attention to the fact that these events are to transpire immediately preceding the return of Christ in glory.

What we are seeing today is a wonderful fulfilment of Bible Prophecy leading us to believe our Lord's coming is very near.

THE GREATEST SIGN.

Finally, there is what Dr. Alva J. McClain of Winona Lake Seminary has called the GREATEST sign to indicate our Lord's return is at hand. The greatest sign, says McClain is "the emergence of all major signs appearing at the same time." This, declares McClain, "is the GREATEST sign revealing that the coming of the Lord is near!"

One of the signs to characterize this age to its very end, is the unsettled state of the world with "wars and rumors of wars" to continue until Christ appears!

What are the possibilities of peace?

The North Vietnamese peace negotiator, Le Duc Tho, when asked in Paris about the Cease-Fire Agreement, and what the prospects for peace were, replied; "I am a Communist and, according to Marxist-Leninist theory, so long as Imperialism exists, there will be war."

Did you hear it?

War is part of the communist strategy so we can expect more conflicts like Korea and Viet Nam.

Other signs we might mention include those reported to have been witnessed in a vision by Dave Wilkerson, who told of seeing tremendous earthquakes coming to America where earthquakes had never before appeared. He also saw the ecumenical movement taking complete control and all church property subject to taxation. He witnessed the complete financial collapse in this country. And he saw crazed bands of homosexuals roaming our streets as in the days of Sodom. All this was to take place by 1975, according to this report.

Well, in summary we would have to admit that these days have been forecast with sin abounding on every hand, evil men waxing worse and worse, perilous times with men loving pleasure more than God. Nevertheless, in the midst of that kind of environment and amidst an atmosphere of lethargy and lukewarmness of people who profess to know God....yes, in the midst of all of this, our Lord will come!

Signs all around us indicate Christ's return is near, for we remember how our Lord declared: "When ye see these things begin to come to pass, lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh."

For the believer, awaiting the rapture when Christ is seen coming for His own, these are thrilling and exciting days. But for anyone who does not know Christ in the forgiveness of sins and in acceptance of Him as Saviour, these are petrifying days. Our Lord told of coming awful great tribulation such as the world has never seen, no, nor ever shall see again. These days are just ahead! We also read how "men's hearts will fail them for fear for those things seen coming upon the earth."

So fearful, awesome days are ahead. And the only hope, my friends, is seen in the coming of Jesus Christ for His own--when we shall be caught up to meet our Lord in the air and so shall forever be with our Blessed Lord.

Why not make certain you are among that group of saints. By repenting of sin to trust the Saviour, you can be ready for His coming.

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

SIGNS of Christ's Soon Return

(OIL AND WHEAT CRISIS)

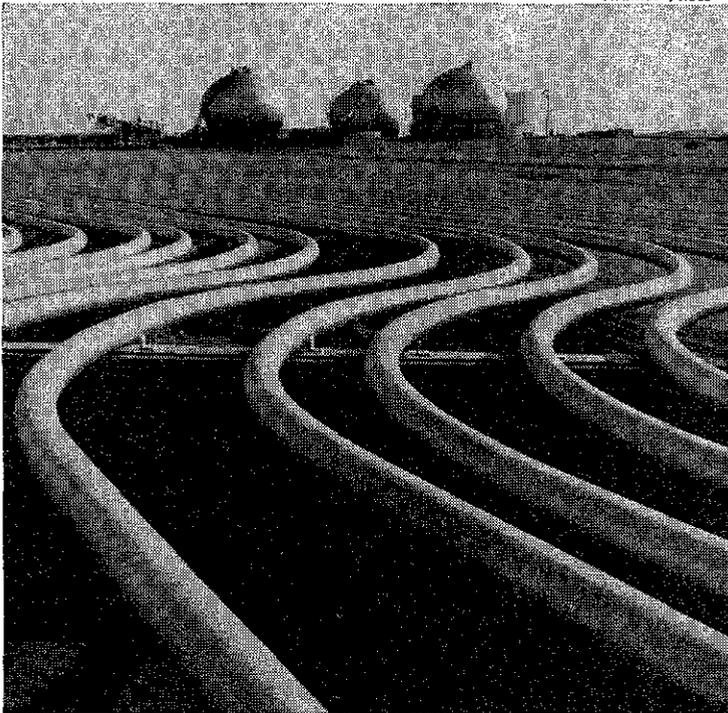
“Like it or not,” says the NATIONAL OBSERVER, “during the next decade or so the United States will have to import a lot of Arab oil--or face a national energy catastrophe.”

Why must we depend on Middle East oil?

Reasons given might include the fact that Venezuela, long a major supplier of oil to America, is running down. Canada, the leading single foreign source of oil threatens to cut its exports to the United States by 50 per cent within three years.

So the threatened oil crisis is a real one. And the Middle East is a focal target for future demands for oil. As one expert described it, the prospects point to “a mad, mad scramble for Arab oil.”

—Aramco Photo



Because of America's support of Israel, the squeeze play is on to prevent the United States from obtaining Middle East oil. Not only has Libya, for example, attempted to take over the oil industry but has raised the price of oil again and again. What's more, dollars are no longer acceptable as payment for oil; all bills have to be paid in other hard currency or gold.

How come? What's the reason for the Arab Oil Squeeze?

Is it perhaps because the United States vetoed a Security Council resolution on July 26, 1973 condemning Israel's "continuing occupation" of Arab lands taken during the Six-Day War in 1967? The resolution received the support of 13 members of the council. Aside from the United States, only China did not vote for the resolution. China explained she did not participate in the vote because the resolution failed to "strongly condemn the Israeli Zionists for their prolonged aggression against the Arabs." The reason the United States rejected the proposed resolution was because it "would have done irrevocable and permanent damage" to the "only agreed basis for a peaceful solution" in the Middle East, according to John Scali, the U.S. representative.

Or has the Arab Oil Squeeze come at a time when the President selected Henry Kissinger as his Secretary of State? Kissinger has heretofore not dealt with Middle-Eastern affairs. Because of his Jewish background, he may be severely hampered from negotiating with the Arabs. In fact, it may have been the selection of Kissinger that was the "last straw" to ruffle Arabs into outward opposition to what they refer to as "Nixon and his gang!"

The Arab Oil Squeeze also comes at a time when the Communist Party in the United States, having operated virtually underground, is now again out in the open and claiming new strength. Whereas, in the Middle East the opposite is quite true. As one Egyptian official comments: "By this time, the Americans should know that we Arabs have no use for Communism. Virtually everywhere in the Arab world, Communist parties are illegal--although we note that the Communists do operate in Israel. We do accept aid from the Soviets, but only because we cannot get it elsewhere. I think the fact that we expelled 15,000 Soviet advisers from Egypt last year should have indicated that there is no Soviet domination of Egypt," says this Egyptian official.

Could it be that the United States, once a bastion of defense against Communism, is by its example paving the way for Arab alignment and allegiance to Communism? King Faisal of Saudi Arabia has expressed repeatedly his desire to be a friend of the United States, but that U.S. policy will ultimately drive all Arabs into the Communist camp.

What is the solution to the threatened oil crisis?

The President, in a meeting to discuss the energy crisis, declared that the United States must retreat from its clean-air standards to avoid a fuel shortage this winter.

This is not a pleasant report for environmentalists and pollution-conscious Americans who have been pushing for more stringent measures to halt fumes and smoke resulting from burning fuels.

By 1980, according to U.S. State Department estimates, the demand for oil may reach 85 million barrels a day--with Europe needing 28 million, America needing 24 million, Japan needing 14 million, and the remainder going to other countries.

What will happen if the Arab nations refuse to sell oil to the United States? The President hopes we can achieve independence from reliance upon Middle East oil within five years. But if the Arabs refuse to sell oil now, then the crisis may be felt immediately and rationing could be the result.

Whatever our own evaluation of the oil situation, we are conscious of hard times ahead. The horsemen of the apocalypse may soon be on the march. It is the rider on the black horse who is seen holding a pair of balances in his hand and a voice is heard saying: "A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine." (Rev. 6:5-6)

Will grain become a scarcity with a quart measure equal to a day's wages? And what about oil? Will it, too, become a scarce commodity on the world board of trade?

All you have to do is to read the newspapers of the scarcity of grains abroad resulting in purchases from the United States, decreasing our own supply and increasing prices. And now there is the possibility of an oil crisis with pressure being placed upon the United States because of its policies concerning Israel. The United States refuses to be pressured or intimidated and there's no question but that a crisis exists and is due to become worse.

What of the future?

Well, all you have to do is to refer to the words of Jesus who mentioned, among other things, famines and pestilences, as another one of the signs of His coming and of the end of the world.

Just now this prophecy is coming into stark fulfilment.

A report from Rome says: "The world is on the brink of a serious famine as a result of continued crop failures and international financial instability." This report was issued by no less an authority than Addeke Boerma, director-general of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization.

Declares Boerma: "Production of wheat and other food staples, including rice, is still not keeping up with world demand, largely because of droughts and other adverse climatic conditions over the past two years...."

There are many other signs which would indicate that our Lord's return is near.

For instance, our Lord gave "deception" as one of the great signs. When asked concerning the sign of His coming and of the end of the age, our Lord replied, "Take heed that no man deceive you!"

How absolutely important to know that we're saved and not simply following a traditional belief, or a code of ethics, or a religious philosophy. The Bible says: "There is none other name under heaven, given among men, whereby we must be saved." Only Jesus saves!

How the devil would like to sidetrack people into diversionary beliefs....or cults, but we are safe only as we allow the Word of God to be our only true guide.

There was a popular song a few years ago which depicted a thirsty cowboy riding across the burning desert. The blazing sun reflecting on the sand gave the appearance of cool, clear water up ahead, and the cowboy is saying to his horse: "Keep a-movin', Dan; Don't you listen to him, Dan! He's a devil, not a man, that paints the burning sand, With water--cool, clear, water!"

How many mirages the devil puts in people's pathway. By getting religion, they think they have salvation. "So long as you believe in something, or you are sincere, you'll get to Heaven" is the devil's mirage!

But Jesus says: "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man cometh unto the Father but by me."

Another sign of our Lord's return is that of earthquakes in divers places.

No place on earth is really immune to earthquakes. New York City, for instance, suffered a quake in 1884; Charleston, S.C. in 1888, and Boston in 1755. Yes, according to the records at 4:11 a.m. on November 18, 1755, the residents of colonial Boston heard a sound like distant thunder. The ground shook, and trees along the streets swept wildly back and forth across the darkened sky.

Why haven't there been more quakes in the eastern part of the United States? We're told it's because the earth's crust is rigid in contrast with the heavily-fractured crust of the western states.

Japan is the most likely location for a most devastating quake. It was fifty years ago on September 1 that one of the most destructive earthquakes known to history leveled and burned Tokyo with the loss of 143,000 lives.

Can you imagine Tokyo today with 11.5 million jam-packed people....the world's second most populous city? And did you know Japan has recently experienced unusual earthquake activity? Tokyo itself has felt 29 minor jolts this year according to our latest record.

The Soviet Union anticipates earthquakes to strike during the next two years that will cause huge tidal waves that will travel at speeds of 250 to 500 miles per hour and reach heights up to 100 feet by the time they hit the coast.

Planning is underway to relocate towns and industrial plants along the Pacific Coast of the U.S.S.R. to avoid destruction predicted from the giant tidal waves. Such waves caused by earthquakes can penetrate far into the interior of the mainland and cause massive destruction according to scientists.

It is noted that just before a major temblor rocked the Hawaiian Islands last April, a mysterious occurrence took place that smacks of science-fiction. 'It's too much like Buck Rogers,' notes Dr. Augustine Furumoto of the University of Hawaii. Just an hour before the strongest quake in more than a century struck the Hawaiian Islands, something happened to the radiowave reflecting layer of the ionosphere located some fifty miles above the earth. Actually, what happened is that it suddenly disappeared. But then, right after the earthquake, the ionosphere began reflecting again..

Now the way this could be detected was in the sending out of long-wave radio signals employed to guide ships far at sea. Somehow, these radio waves began drifting and not making any sense. The maximum drift occurred exactly at the time of the quake and then began to recover.

During the tremor, which registered 6.2 on the Richter scale, buildings shook as far as 200 miles away in Honolulu. Incidentally, that was the same reading recorded for the temblor that virtually leveled the Nicaraguan capital of Managua some months earlier.

Another peculiarity concerning the Hawaiian quake was, as Dr. Furumoto explains: "Our seismographic instruments... in Oahu....kept on vibrating....The ground vibrated for about two hours....after the quake was first registered....whereas it should have died off in about one half hour or 45 minutes."

Mystery of mysteries! "We're still trying to figure out the reason for this," exclaims Furumoto who hopes research of this kind will help enable scientists to forecast earthquakes in the future.

Again we're reminded that our Lord said, "Earthquakes in divers places" would be one of the signs to describe His imminent return.

Finally, as time permits for a discussion of these signs, we would remember that our Lord said "Wars and rumors of wars" would characterize the time of the end.

H.G. Wells, English historian has pointed out that in 6,000 years of earth's history there have been only 226 years of peace. That's less than four years of peace for each century of 100 years.

World War I and II ushered in a new era of warfare. As LIFE magazine once noted...World War I "killed more men than any previous war, and it was the first war to suck in whole nations, including civilians."

Following the second World War, Justice Jackson at the Nuremberg trials, declared: "Two World Wars have left a legacy of dead which number more than all the armies engaged in any war that made ancient or medieval history. No half-century ever witnessed slaughter on such a scale, such cruelties and inhumanities, such wholesale deportations of people into slavery, such annihilation of minorities."

And to think, the worst is still ahead.

Revelation 6 and 9 reveal that one-half of the world's population will die as a result of future wars, famines, pestilence and death. What tragedy awaits an unrepentant, unbelieving world?

All we have to do is accept Lenin's philosophy that Communism and Democracy cannot exist side by side in the world. Inevitably, said Lenin, one must perish!

Again, we might ask -- Is destruction our destiny? Is Russia's plan to move their cities from coastal areas due to threat of earthquakes or the threat of war?

We realize these are sober, serious questions that we ask. And the most important question perhaps is this--Are you ready for our Lord's return?

Hebrews 9:28 says: "...unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation."

Are you really looking for Jesus to come? Are you paid up, prayed up, and ready to go up? Seriously, in view of the lateness of the hour, it is our responsibility to act on this information. We know not what a day may bring forth. We need to be ever ready for the unannounced return of our blessed Lord.

By receiving Christ as our Saviour in a definite prayer that He come into our heart and life, and then living daily for Him, we can be found ready for His return.

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

Future Earthquakes



The U.S.GEOLOGICAL SURVEY has warned that sometime soon an earthquake will hit the central coast of California that will be felt as far away as San Francisco.

Speaking concerning this coming earthquake, Dr. Robert E. Wallace, chief of the Survey's national center for earthquake research in Menlo Park, California, says: "We know where it's going to let go, but we don't know exactly when."

The ability to predict earthquakes in advance is one of the major goals of the Survey's earthquake branch. "We don't want to alarm anyone," says Wallace, who emphasizes the need of being rational in approaching the problem of future earthquakes. The idea is to warn residents as is done by the weather bureau or the hurricane forecasting service.

The survey would try to encourage residents in the area of the predicted quake to take precautions which might include the taking down of heavy objects from shelves, tying down water tanks and having medical supplies on hand.

We repeat--the government geologists foresee an earthquake soon--in the central coast section of California that could reach as far as San Francisco. The active San Andreas Fault runs through western California and is noted for its frequent tremor-activity, but this is the first time officials have gone out on a limb to actually predict a quake. Hollister, California, a small farming community of about 6,000 is said to be the place pinpointed where the quake may occur.

Well, the Bible also makes predictions concerning other coming earthquakes including one of such magnitude that it will affect the entire planet on which we are now living. During the period of the coming great tribulation, we read of an earthquake so powerful it will level mountains. Listen to this....in Revelation 16:18, we read: "There was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great." We read: "And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell....and every island fled away, and the mountains were not found."

Did you hear it?

Now here in this passage, "that great city" is referred to and relates perhaps, to the city of Rome, if any specific city is meant. In both commentary and in the footnotes of the Douay Version of the Bible, mention is made of "Rome" as possibly referred to here. Then we might mention a previous reference in Revelation 11:8, where the great city referred to is, without question, Jerusalem. Here we're told of a great earthquake that strikes that city wherein the tenth part of the city fell. And in the earthquake were slain of men, seven thousand.

Now what do you think of that kind of forecasting? One day you will read in your newspapers, if you're still here, of an earthquake hitting Jerusalem and killing 7,000, with 1/10 of the city destroyed.

Just recently, I read of an earthquake that hit the small country of Israel which rattled windows and cracked the foundations of old buildings throughout the area. Now few people would know that there is coming a future earthquake, described in the Word of God, which will hit Jerusalem and a tenth part of the city shall fall. Concerning this latest earthquake, the epicenter was said to be a spot 62 miles north of Jerusalem.

Now it may surprise some of you to learn that there are those in Israel who would like to see an earthquake soon that would level Islam's sacred shrine, the Dome of the Rock, and thus permit the rebuilding of the ancient temple.

It's rather ironical, but in June of 1967, when historian Israel Eldad was interviewed about the future of the Moslem shrine, he replied: "Perhaps there will be an earthquake!"

That an earthquake will strike the capital of Jerusalem is predicted as happening during the great tribulation. As we said, there are already reports of earth tremors in that area so that we could expect an earthquake to strike any day that would result in destruction of the famous mosque.

It's very interesting when you enter this sanctuary to see exposed a huge rock where it is believed that Abraham offered his son Isaac in sacrifice as God was testing his faith. Abraham believed that God could raise him from the dead were he to sacrifice his son, which was a picture of how our Lord was raised from the dead when He was sacrificed on the cross for our sins.

Anyway, it's of interest to see this huge boulder in the temple. Instead of seats, as in our churches, there is this rock. That's why the shrine is called the "Dome of the Rock."

When I was in Jerusalem, I found an entrance to an underground cavern where you could walk back under the city of Jerusalem for some distance. We were informed by our guide that Solomon had hewed out rocks from this underground area for the walls of the city, and perhaps for the temple which he built. You can imagine the large underground rooms resulting from the excavation of all of this rock. It was huge like the underground cave in the mountains housing the Little Pentagon.

While exploring this underground region, I thought of the earthquake mentioned here in Scripture, and the possibility of part of the city caving in, including this sacred mosque. For it is here where the temple will be built according to tradition. There is excitement in Israel as momentarily they anticipate the building of their temple.

Occasionally we are asked as in this letter I have before me, "What is the truth concerning the temple that is to be rebuilt in Jerusalem?"

The latest information available would indicate that there are plans for the rebuilding of the temple. By that we mean there are architectural plans available, and attempts are being made to expedite the construction of the temple.

However, time does not permit a discussion in today's program to talk about the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem so, Lord willing, we will plan to talk about this in another broadcast.

Meantime, we would conclude by suggesting that the hour is growing late. Signs such as "earthquakes in divers places" discussed today would indicate our Lord's coming draweth nigh. While men of science seek to forecast future earthquakes, the Bible has already made reference to, and described in vivid detail, earthquakes still to come.

The final earthquake preceding the reign of Christ upon the earth, no doubt, is described for us in Zechariah 14. Here, reference is made to the Day of the Lord when all

nations will be gathered to Jerusalem to battle. It is then we read: "Shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north and half of it toward the south."

What an amazing description of a fault line that is known already to exist and which, we're told, has prevented some businesses from building in the Mt. of Olives area. From the air, as planes fly overhead, the faultline is also visible.

Finally, what takes place during this quake is described in the next verse. "And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah, king of Judah; and the Lord my God shall come, and all the saints with thee."

Did you hear it?

I heard a prominent radio broadcaster say that when the Lord comes again as pictured in the book of Revelation, he is coming with a band of angels. Of course, He will be accompanied by angels, but this Scripture tells us our Lord is seen coming to this earth to reign, accompanied by the saints.

This is why I believe in the rapture of the saints; for in order for the Lord to come with His saints, He must first come for His saints.

Are you one of the Lord's saints?

A saint is a saved person--one who has received Christ as Saviour and Lord and is found doing His will, dedicated to Him, who loves Him sincerely, and who is looking for His coming.

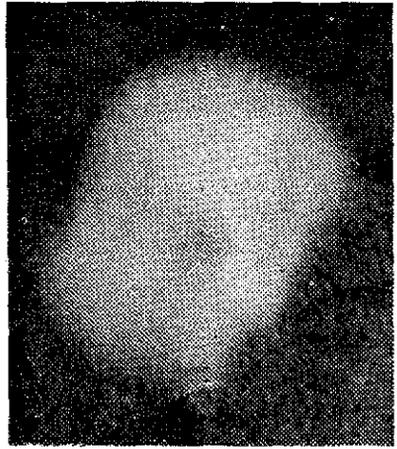
Today you can be one of the saints seen looking for the rapture. Should the Lord come yet today it would mean we would escape all of these judgments seen coming upon the earth, including earthquakes that will destroy our cities and level mountains.

How important to be ready to meet the Lord! Why not discover God's wonderful plan of salvation wrapped up in Jesus Christ Who came as a lowly babe to be your Saviour--Who died on the cross to be your sin-bearer--Who rose again to be your Lord--and Who is coming again as the King of kings, and Lord of lords. Hallelujah!

It may be yet today, and His message to one and all is: "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh!"

Deception

UFO In Photo By Publisher



Reports of UFO sightings in the Southeastern United States have again been covered in the press. The sightings were made on consecutive nights with police in Athens, Georgia, relating unidentified flying objects with "one bright and four flashing lights."

The UFO's, some darting in front of cars, some seen hovering motionless, or occasionally showing great bursts of speed, have been seen by newsmen, police officers and citizens.

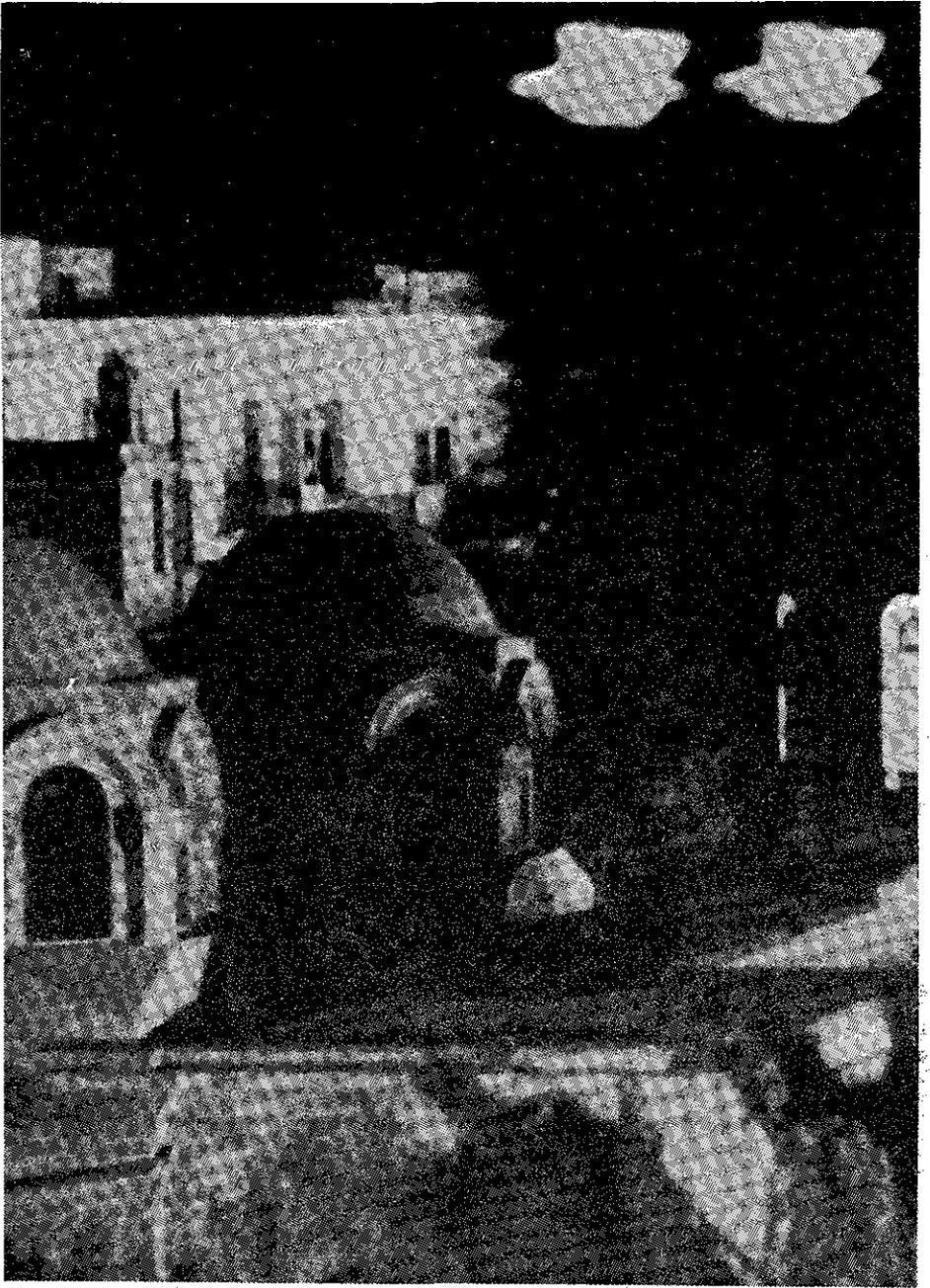
Chester A. Tatum, a publisher in Camilla, Georgia, photographed one of the UFO's. He said it had a "ribbed-type design" and a luminous trail.

A theory advanced by Dr. Ralph Buice, an astronomer and satellite tracking expert, is that UFO's could be assorted bits of space "junk" burning up as they enter the earth's atmosphere. However, anyone seeing an actual UFO knows they are real objects seen in our skies. The denial by our government officials is one of the biggest coverups of all times. We are being deceived into thinking there is no such thing as a UFO, that they are mirages of the mind. In spite of genuine still and movie films showing real objects, and in spite of Radar contacts by the thousands, and actual observances by tens of thousands, we are being deceived into thinking the genuine UFO does not exist.

Did not our Lord tell us there would be signs in the heavens to herald the day of His coming? He also told us "deception" would be one of the greatest signs of His coming.

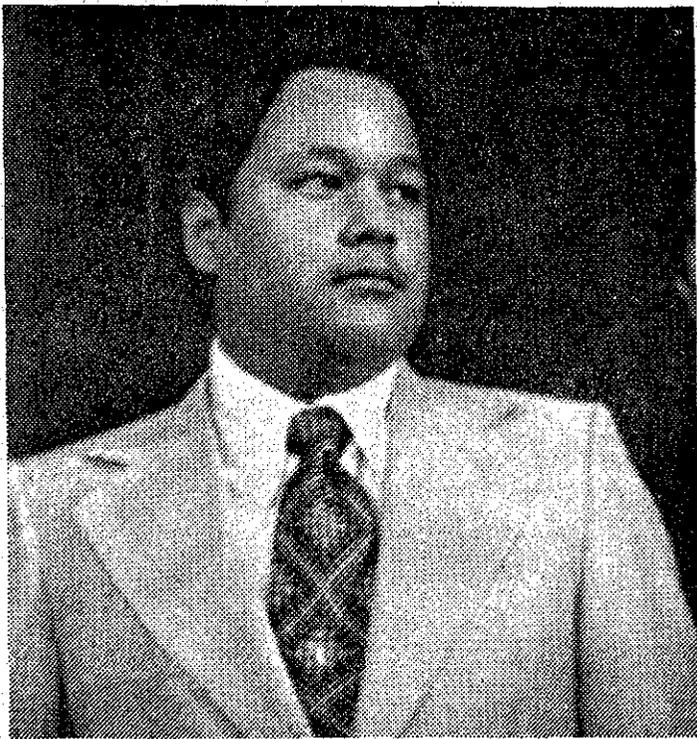
In Cairo, there were reported sightings of a moving figure dressed in white seen appearing around a Coptic Orthodox Church. Fast moving, white doves were said to presage the appearance of the vision first seen on April 2, 1968, and seen occasionally since then.

In the midst of these visitations, hundreds have been cured of sicknesses, others healed of their afflictions, or demons cast out of them. It is estimated that more than 150,000 have been attracted to this simply furnished little church.



ANGELS IN THE SKY! This extraordinary picture snapped with a box camera records the bright lights heralding appearance of the Madonna at the Coptic church of St. Mary the Virgin at Zeitoun near Cairo.

BEYOND



Visiting this country has been the 15-year-old Guru from India, who has been described by his followers as the "perfect master." But the Guru has discovered that no man is perfect. He is suffering with an intestinal ulcer.

However, as we have related previously on this broadcast, there was one Who came from Heaven Who was perfect, Who suffered and died as man's substitute for sin, and Who rose again by the power of God proving that He was indeed the Saviour of the world.

When our Lord was asked: "What shall be the sign of thy coming?", He replied, "Take heed that no man deceive you." Deception is a characteristic of this age.

Even concerning the coming day of wrath, many have been deceived into thinking they will escape the tribulation ahead as long as they have made a profession of faith in Christ. While we would not underestimate one's personal decision, we are very much aware of the warnings and admonitions given to believers to be ready for Christ's coming and to escape the coming day of wrath.

While it is true that "God hath not appointed us to wrath," it is true that wrath is the destiny of the disobedient. As Paul

writes to Christians at Ephesus: "But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints....LET NO MAN DECEIVE YOU WITH VAIN WORDS: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them." (Eph. 5:3, 6-7)

Did you notice? We are warned: "LET NO MAN DECEIVE YOU!" And we're reminded on account of certain sins the wrath of God will come upon the children of disobedience.

After giving instruction concerning the Lord's table, Paul warns of those who partake in an unworthy manner and notes: "For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep."

Then he reminds his readers: "For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world." (I Cor. 11:30-33)

This principal of chastening on account of disobedience is found throughout the New Testament. In fact, we read: "My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him; for whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons." Heb. 12:5b-8

Again, did you notice, chastening comes to all who are not living as they should. The reasons given -- "that we might be partakers of his holiness," and that it may yield the "peaceable fruit of righteousness."

We would yet point out that the Laodiceans are also promised this chastening. Many would write off the Laodiceans as unbelieving church members, those who profess only, but are not truly saved. But remember, our Lord chastens only His own. And concerning these lukewarm Laodiceans, our Lord is heard saying: "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore and repent!"

So is it wrong to believe that the tribulation will be a time of chastening for disobedient disciples? God's righteous judgments are meant for the wicked, but should some fall into the same category, deserving of judgment, they will be chastened while the wicked will be punished.

Perhaps the clearest Scripture which emphasizes the possibility of a believer left behind with unbelievers, is recorded in Luke 12:35-48. If you'll turn to it, you'll notice it is a parallel passage with that of Matt. 24:37 -- 25:30, which relates to our Lord's coming.

While in Matthew's account there is the story of ten virgins going TO A WEDDING which found half of them left behind, in Luke's narration we are warned: "Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; and ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return FROM THE WEDDING...."

Notice, here is a warning extended to those who are told to be ready for the Lord when He returns from the wedding. This must mean that they missed the glorious event of going to the wedding. They were not ready for Christ's coming so they are left behind to go through the awful tribulation period which our Lord warned was a time of trouble such as the world had never seen, no nor ever shall see again. He told us to "watch...and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man." (Luke 21:36)

Might we ask, Why would the Lord urge us to watch and pray to escape the coming tribulation if there was no hope of escape as some would have us believe? The answer is, I believe, that the coming day of darkness, when Satan is cast down upon the earth, is unparalleled in the history of the world so that our Lord provides a way of escape as He provided a boat for Noah, and a way of escape for Lot.

Incidentally, the story of Christ preaching to the disobedient of Noah's day when He died and went to Hades, is an exact picture of what we see happening during the tribulation. Noah and his family were saved above the floods, yet the evidence would indicate that those who were disobedient to his message died, no doubt, while calling upon the Lord in their dying gasp. So Peter recounts how when Christ died "He went and preached to the spirits in prison; which sometimes were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah...." (I Pet. 3:19-20)

Why was the Gospel preached to these disobedient of Noah's day? Peter again tells us: "For for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit." (I Pet. 4:6)

This was also spoken of the Corinthian fornicator who, apparently, was a believer but who was living in known sin. Paul spoke of such an one as delivered unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus." (I Cor. 5:5)

Now here are people today who believe in Jesus, who sing the songs of His coming, and are found rejoicing in the gift of eternal life promised to all who receive Christ. Can God deny His Word and reject these believers who may be living

disobedient, lukewarm and worldly lives? Some may be living in sinful relationships. Thus, the Lord has no alternative but to allow the chastening fires of affliction to cause many to repent of their sin.

In fact, Mark speaks of the coming tribulation as a time of "great affliction."

I have heard well-known Bible teachers say that suffering won't lead a person to turn from sin. However, Peter reminds us of the power of suffering, saying: "He that hath suffered in the flesh, hath ceased from sin." (I Pet. 4:1b)

For that reason we see the day of tribulation as a time of affliction and intense suffering that will drive careless Christians to repentance and forsaking of sin. And, for that reason our message has become one of crying out--REPENT NOW, lest Christ come and find us unprepared for rapture!

How awful to even suppose Christians may be left behind at the rapture because they are not ready! The idea is horribly unthinkable! And yet, the Apostle John warns, "Little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming." (I John 2:28)

What does it mean to "abide in Christ?"

Well, in the context of this same Scripture, we have John explaining: "Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not!"

Beloved, it is not for nought that the Scriptures urge us, "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord!"

While it is true we are saved by faith, and through the grace of God, it is likewise true that where there is sin in our lives, it is to be confessed, cleansed through the blood of Christ, and forgiven. Then only can we have confidence to meet the Lord. When we are walking in holiness and not in uncleanness, we are following God's plan for readiness for Christ's coming. For we're told that holiness is the opposite of uncleanness. (I Thess. 4:7)

So may the Lord quicken this message to our hearts. May we heed His Word and not be deceived by those who tell us that salvation automatically makes and keeps one ready for the rapture from the moment we receive Christ. No, my friends, we are encouraged to live in readiness! Too many Scriptures admonish of the danger of some being left behind at Christ's coming who should have been caught up to meet Him in the air.

Our Lord warns of this happening, saying: "This know, that if the goodman of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through. Be ye therefore ready also; for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not!" (Luke 12: 39-40)

SIGN OF THE REBUILT TEMPLE

One
idea of how
Solomon's
Temple looked.



In the JERUSALEM POST there is a vivid description of activity day and night surrounding the Western Wall in Jerusalem, site of Herod's ancient temple.

"Whoever has not seen Herod's Temple has never seen a beautiful building"....so goes the Talmud.

You will remember how our Lord took His disciples and showed them the buildings of the temple. Solomon's Temple, we are told, would be valued today in excess of ten billion dollars. Herod's Temple was built even greater--a superb design of perfect planning and architecture.

Josephus gives a minute description of the temple. For example, Herod's "Royal Stoa" seen "towering above the southern court of the Temple Mount, and running the entire length of the southern wall...was a structure more noteworthy than any under the sun."

Today it is all left in ruins except for the Western Wall.

Remember how our Lord predicted the destruction of the temple which verily came to pass when the Romans besieged the city in 70 A.D. Our Lord had declared, pointing perhaps to a section of the temple, saying: "There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down." It verily came to pass that when the city was besieged and the temple destroyed, the gold melted and ran down the stone wall and we're told that the blocks of stone were separated as search was made to recover as much of the precious metal as possible. So only the vast supporting walls of the Temple Mount were preserved (to varying heights) with the Western Wall most prominent.

It is here at this Wall, oft-times referred to as the WAILING WALL, that towns-folk along with tourist and weary traveler wend their way in desperate search for comfort and peace.

Moshe Druck describes some of these visits. He himself is a regular visitor to the Wall every day. He arises early in order that he may be at the wall for prayer between the hours of 4 and 6 a.m.

He relates how he visited the wall late at night when the little band of mourners for Zion gradually have melted away, going home to their beds. They have been there--no doubt, praying for the rebuilding of their temple and for peace.

At midnight, there is the mournful lamentation for the destruction of the Temple. As we read: "By the waters of Babylon, there we sat, yea, we wept as we remembered Zion." This remembrance of ancient Jerusalem, the golden city of antiquity, is a dream in the hearts of those waiting to see the temple restored and the sacrifices offered once again.

It's past midnight, but according to Jewish tradition, the DIVINE PRESENCE never departs from the Western Wall.

Look, and you will see a young yeshiva student who has just completed the reading from the Talmud, and before retiring comes to the wall to offer prayer for his mother lying sick in a hospital.

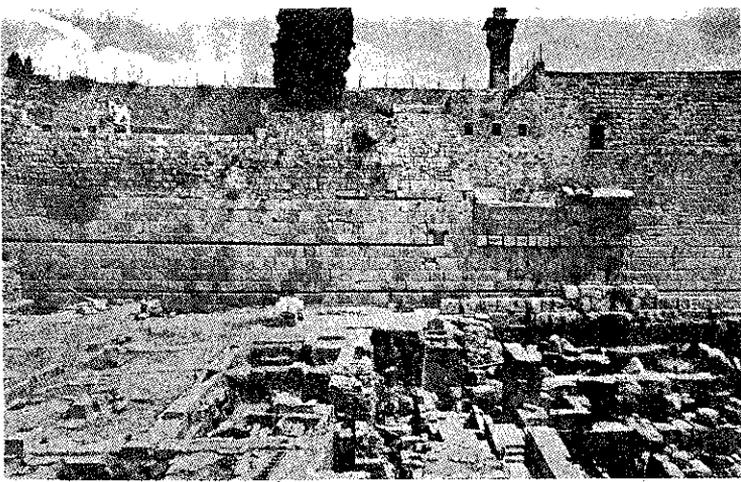
Then there's a man in a business suit. When interrogated as to why he should be there past midnight, he replies: "Listen, since the liberation of the Wall, I haven't passed a day without at least a look at it. Today I was out of town on business and on returning to Jerusalem, I came here before going home. I am not religious," he says apologetically, "but the attraction to this place is in my blood!"

As he speaks, a taxi drives up almost alongside the Wall. A young woman drags herself with difficulty. One could see her in labour. Her husband related how she was on her way to the hospital, having felt labour pains, but just had to stop by the wall enroute. She is seen kissing the wall, mumbling a few words in prayer, and then resumes her travel.

You would suppose that as the morning hours come, the Wall would be silent as the stillness of the night. But again, another taxi pulls up--its roof laden with suitcases. Our reporter finds this to be an American Jewish family that has just arrived from New York, but before going to their hotel, they had to come to the wall.

The father is seen pulling out a pocket knife and slashes the lapel of his jacket as Jewish law demands this of one who sees the Temple in its ruins.

Can there be any wonder why Jews are praying for the rebuilding of their temple? There is Reb Pinhas (that's his real name) who is seen throwing seeds to the pigeons that have their nests in the crevices of the Wall. When asked about his visit to this sacred spot, he declares his simple faith that the Temple will soon be rebuilt, and that he is feeding the pigeons so they will be fattened to be offered as sacrifices.



—Jerusalem Post photo

Will the temple be rebuilt? Excavations have been going on since the Six Day War, said to be archaeological in purpose, but perhaps with the idea of preparing the site for the day when construction of the temple is actually begun. I have seen the excavated areas, looking down to the foundations of centuries past, and thrilled with the history of it all. On one of the walls was quoted Isaiah 66:14. Excavators digging down came upon this Hebrew inscription which read, "And when ye see this, your heart shall rejoice, and your bones (shall flourish) like an herb." Can you imagine the expression of the emotions of Jews who come to Jerusalem who have one sacred desire, to see Jerusalem restored to its former grandeur, including the building of the holy temple!

In fact, in the Jewish Press there has been the report of a group seeking to obtain the legal right to proceed with the rebuilding of the temple. The group calls itself, "The Association to Rebuild the Temple."

According to the report, it was following the Six Day War and the capture of old Jerusalem that David Segal found himself at the Western Wall and felt a compelling dream to get the rebuilding of the temple underway. He interested his brother, Yosef, from Tel Aviv, plus three other friends, and together they sat down to work out the details. Following the Israeli Law (based on the Old Ottoman Law that is still in force in Israel) they had two attorneys list first the name of their association, and then its purpose:

1. The offices would be located in Jerusalem.
2. The association would enlist the aid of Jewish rabbinical scholars to research the laws and traditions revolving around the rebuilding of the Holy Temple.
3. A fund would be organized to begin collecting monies for the actual building and planning.
4. Architects, builders and designers would be enlisted to launch construction of the building.

Needless to say, the Minister of Interior has so far turned down their request. The Israeli government does not want to get into a religious quarrel over the site of the Holy Temple which is today the location of the Moslem Mosque of Omar. This beautiful domed edifice would have to come down if the Temple is to be rebuilt.

The association has gone to court demanding the aspirations of millions of Jews be realized, pointing to the command in the Torah which says the Temple must be built and all are obligated to help, both in money and in body. They declare that neither the Mosque of Omar, the United Nations, or Abba Eban will stand in their way. The temple must be built!

J. Dwight Pentecost, in an article in MOODY MONTHLY, writes: "The question of rebuilding the temple is asked frequently because many wonder whether the temple must be rebuilt before the church's rapture."

He then quotes 2 Thess. 2:4, which speaks of the coming of the lawless one or the man of sin of whom it is said, "He that opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God."

It is this reference to a man sitting in the temple declaring himself to be God that has led many to believe this temple in Jerusalem must be built to fulfil this prophecy. Dr. Pentecost expresses his opinion that "The temple referred to in this verse cannot be built before the rapture and cannot be used or occupied by the lawless one, the head of the federated states of Europe, until at least three and one-half years after the church has been translated."

So Christians need not await the rebuilding of the temple. Our Lord can come at any time for His true body of born-again believers who await His coming.

Hal Lindsey, author of THE LATE GREAT PLANET EARTH, relates that documents discovered following the repossession of the temple area, give the exact methodology of cutting the stones for the temple. Plans had been buried for centuries near the Wailing Wall. Now, says Lindsey, the temple can be pre-fabricated in about six months.

Will the dream of Jews seen standing before the wall soon be realized? Here are men with scull caps and broad-rimmed hats, some reading, some praying, swaying back and forth in a rapture of earnestness, sometimes kissing the wall in hopes that their dream for their temple soon comes true! When asked why he kissed the wall, one replied: "What can we do if the Wall returns our kisses."

God is looking with love and favour upon His people who are returning to their land. We read: "He that keepeth Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps." (Ps. 121:4) The coming of Messiah, we know, is what will hasten fulfilment of these plans

although we see first, the coming of Antichrist, an imposter.

When our Lord was asked what would be the signs of His coming and the end of the world, He declared: "Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying I am Messiah (Christ); and shall deceive many!"

When David Ben Gurion, first premier of the state of Israel was asked concerning the Messiah, he spoke of the Messianic hope as being two fold--national and universal. His reference was to the ingathering of the Jewish people back to their land, and of their becoming in their own country a light to the nations.

While Ben Gurion sees the Messiah as an ideal to be realized, we see the Messiah as an individual to be recognized. The Lord Jesus Christ has fulfilled all of the messianic claims and will be the true Messiah Who will ultimately be recognized and received by a remnant in Israel. In fact, thousands already in Israel acknowledge Christ as Messiah.

We're told that when Arthur Rubinstein, the world's greatest concert pianist, visited Israel and was interviewed on television by the Prime Minister, Golda Meier, he was asked: "What has been the greatest event of your long life?"

His answer was: "The greatest event of my life was when I received Yahshua ha-Mashia (the Lord Jesus) into my heart! Since that, my life was changed. I have experienced joy and peace ever since."

Without wanting to offend anyone, and yet not wanting anyone to be deceived, we declare how God raised the Lord Jesus from the dead to prove to the whole world that He alone is the Messiah-Saviour.

Peter at Pentecost declared to the multitude in Jerusalem: "Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Likewise, we would declare that it is by trusting Christ as our own personal Saviour--inviting Him to come into our own heart and life--that we also come to know this joy and this peace.

While there is hope for the rebuilding of a temple in Jerusalem, the Scriptures teach that our hearts become a citadel where Christ dwells, and our bodies are the actual temple of the Holy Spirit.

Our Lord promises to come again, at which time our mortal bodies are suddenly changed like that of His own glorious body. It takes place in a moment of time.

So, this is the blessed hope of the Christian. After receiving Christ, it's a delight to live for Him and to look for His coming. For He hath said, "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of Man cometh."

Future Of Israel



Following the Six Day War a captured Egyptian general turned to his Israeli captors to say: "You won this one and the last one and you may win the next one, but we will not stop fighting until Israel is demolished."

Thus war continues in the Middle East with the United Nations being called upon to prevent what could turn into a global conflagration. The UN Charter was set up for the purpose of maintaining "international peace and security." It has long failed to achieve this objective but many nations, including our own, believe it is time to put teeth into peace-enforcing machinery. It will be when this happens, my friends, that the prophetic Scriptures will have renewed significance.

For instance, the Prophet Zechariah writes concerning the Day of the Lord, wherein it is the determination of Jehovah to judge the nations at Armageddon. We read in chapter 14: "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..."

Did you hear it?

The Middle East is the focal point of Endtime prophecy. All nations are seen eventually drawn into the conflict seen raging which basically is a battle for control of Jerusalem. For we read: "Behold I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem. And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it."

Jesus also warned His disciples that it was when Jerusalem was surrounded by armies that the day of desolation was nigh. While this had a partial fulfilment in the destruction of the holy city in 70 A.D. by the Roman legions, the context clearly shows this is how it will happen again.

While, today, Jerusalem remains under the control of Israel, we see from this portion of Scripture where Jerusalem will be under the control of the Gentiles at the time of our Lord's glorious return to earth. For it is His coming in power and glory that will destroy the resistance of wicked men, as well as deliver the city of Jerusalem from whence He Himself will reign during the 1000-year millennium.

In the book of Jeremiah, the Lord pronounces judgments upon Israel for their rejection of the Almighty. In chapter one, "Because the people have forsaken me, and have worshipped the works of their own hands," we read of judgment to befall the land.

The Lord asks Jeremiah, "What seest thou?"

Jeremiah replies: "I see a seething pot; and the face there of is toward the north."

Today the Middle East is described as a seething cauldron. And we know much of the provocation of the Arab countries is backed by military supplies being furnished by the Soviet Union.

We read of what will happen. "For lo, I will call all the families of the north, saith the Lord; and they shall come, and they shall set every one his throne at the entering of the gates of Jerusalem..." (1:15)

Eventually we will see nations from the North, including the European countries forming the Common Market, along with Russia and her satellites, drawn into the Middle East conflict.

In fact, Jeremiah informs us what will happen when countries from the North are seen storming the city of Jerusalem. For saith God: "...They shall fight against thee; but they shall not prevail against thee; for I am with thee, saith the Lord, to deliver thee."

And to make sure we believe what God says, he declares: "For I will hasten my word to perform it." (Jer. 1:12 & 19).

Later in the book of Jeremiah we are told when this would happen--when the Lord would deliver Israel from her enemies. In 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."

Now this is what we are seeing in our day. After 2500 years of exile we have seen Jews from every part of the world descending on Palestine. And regardless of being outnumbered by her enemies it would appear that Israel has emerged victorious or has escaped the humiliation of being driven into the sea.

However, there's a day coming...described as "the time of Jacob's trouble." It is a desperate hour when, from all appearances, all the nations of earth turn against Israel.

They move their armies to her borders. They invade her captured lands. Incidentally, in 1967 alone, the Israelis captured 25,000 square miles of Arab territory.

Now, in order to quell the disturbance existing between Jew and Arab, we will see the nations of earth drawn into the affray. Even China, eventually, will send her huge armies representing some 200 million, into the Palestine conflict. Think of it!

This is all forecast to take place; and God declares it will verily come to pass!

The future plight of Israel is described in these words of Jeremiah: "All thy lovers have forgotten thee; they seek thee not." Israel ultimately will be left alone to face her challengers. Even though the coming Antichrist-World-Ruler makes a covenant of protection for Israel, we see him breaking his agreement and coming against her in full fury to destroy her.

Surely we would wonder whether Israel can survive such threats of destruction.

It's difficult to understand how two million Israelis survived a war with a hundred million of her Arab neighbors. What will happen when the whole world turns on her?

The Bible makes it clear as to what will happen. In a jealous rage we find the nations warring with one another while fighting over Israel.

We read in Jeremiah where the Lord says: "For, lo, I begin to bring evil on the city which is called by my name, and should ye be utterly unpunished? Ye shall not be unpunished; for I will call for a sword upon all the inhabitants of the earth, saith the Lord of hosts....Behold, evil shall go forth from nation to nation, and a great whirlwind shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth. And the slain of the Lord shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth; they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried; they shall be dung upon the ground." (Jer. 25:31-33)

In other words, this is what we see will happen. God will eventually permit Jerusalem to be overtaken although a remnant in Israel shall be spared judgment because they are found turning to the Lord their Messiah.

However, in the battle for Jerusalem, no doubt the United States and the Soviet Union will be involved in a nuclear holocaust that will bring death and destruction raining down upon our cities. Remember the prophecy we have just read that "the slain of the Lord shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth." No doubt nuclear dust will bring suffering and death to multitudes.

Albert Einstein once said: "A nuclear war might kill two thirds of the earth's two billion."

So, hear the conclusion of the matter. Here's what God is saying: "Therefore fear thou not, O my servant Jacob, saith the Lord; neither be dismayed, O Israel; for, lo, I will save thee from afar, and thy seed from the land of their captivity....for I am with thee, saith the Lord, to save thee: though I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee, yet will I not make a full end of thee..." (Jer.30: 10-11).

Think of it! Though all nations from whence Jews have returned back to Israel face divine judgment in the day His wrath is outpoured, yet Israel will be chastened for the purpose of correction in preparation for His return to earth to reign.

Do you think it will really happen? Declares Jeremiah: "Behold, the whirlwind of the Lord goeth forth with fury." We read: "The fierce anger of the Lord shall not return, until he have done it, and until he have performed the intents of his heart; IN THE LATTER DAYS YE SHALL CONSIDER IT." (Jer. 30:23-24)

Ladies and Gentlemen, these are the latter days and we are considering one of the most timely prophecies in the whole Bible. The conflicts raging in the Middle East point to the closing events of this age culminating in the second coming of Christ.

Beloved, these are momentous days of opportunity to sound forth the message of salvation to those who will hear.

Listen to this prophecy relating to our Lord's Return. We read: "Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion; for, lo, I come and I will dwell in the midst of thee, saith the Lord. And many nations shall be joined to the Lord in that day...."

What a day of blessing for this earth when Christ returns and dwells in the midst of His people. Whole nations will accept Him, not only as the Prince of Peace, but as the King of Righteousness.

Today you can be joined unto Him if you will accept Him now as your Lord and Saviour. And since the coming day of wrath is one of destruction poured out upon the wicked, we see where Christ is appearing first for His saints to take them from this earth when His judgments described in today's message are poured out upon the world.

We ask again--Would you be ready for rapture were Christ to come today and snatch away His own? By turning from sin to trust the Saviour, you can be made ready for that day.

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