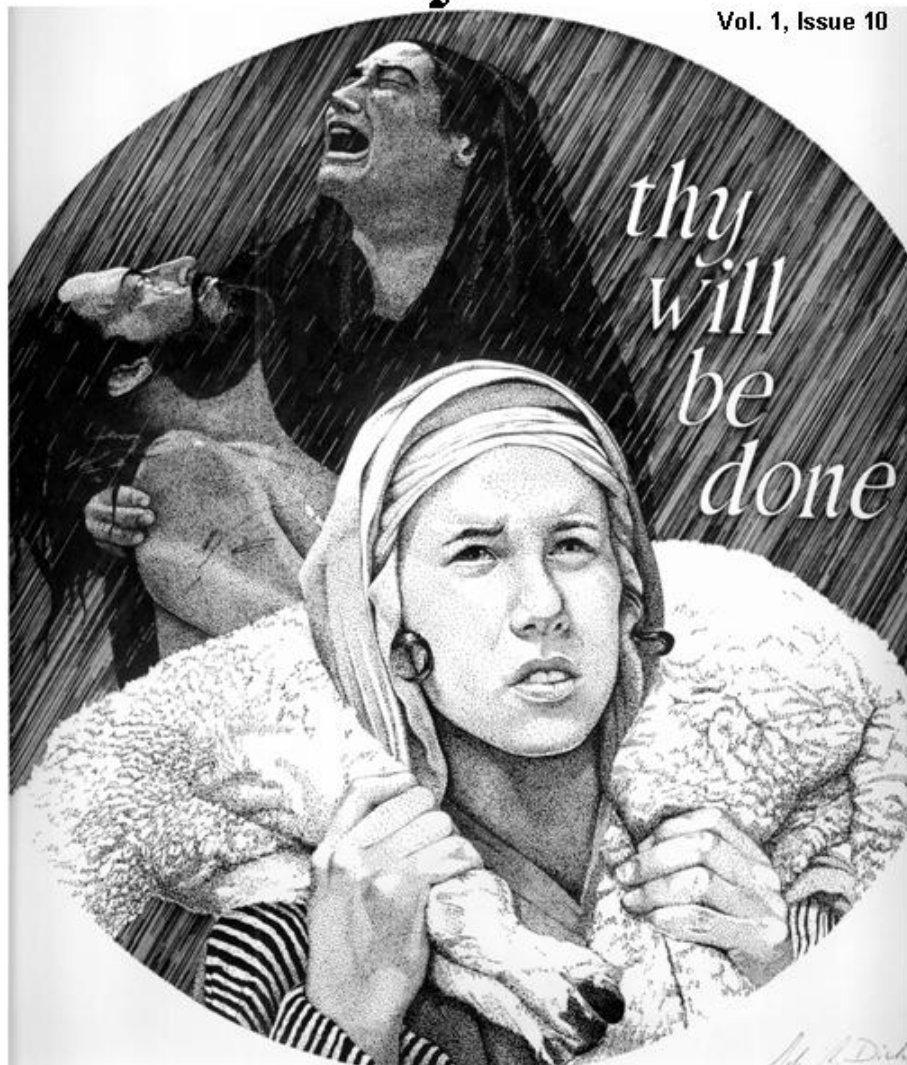


You're of no earthly good unless you're...

Heavenly Minded

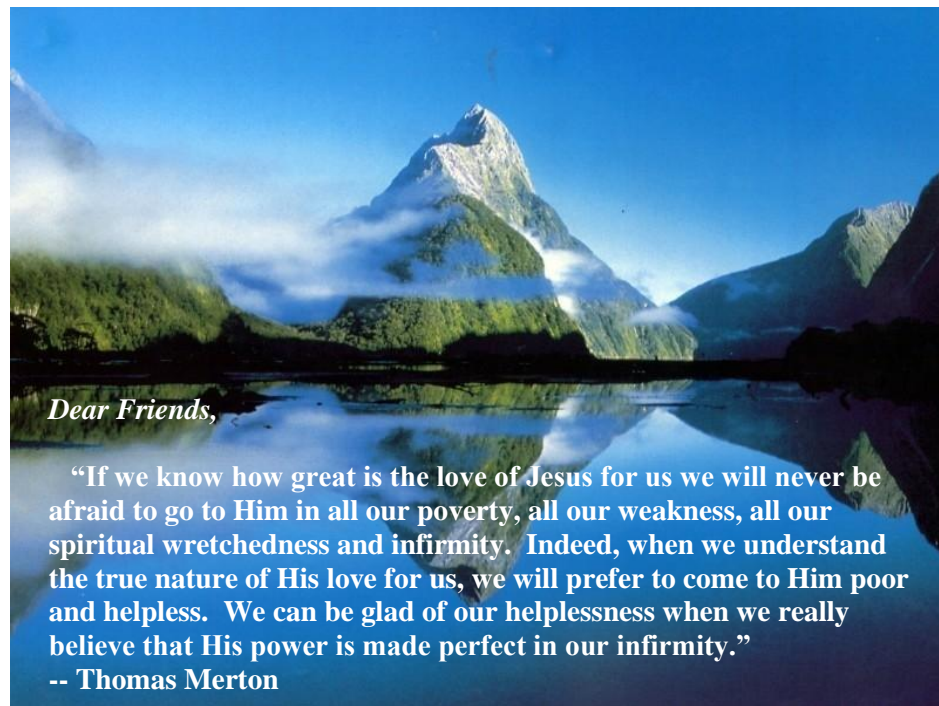
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Dear Friends,

“If we know how great is the love of Jesus for us we will never be afraid to go to Him in all our poverty, all our weakness, all our spiritual wretchedness and infirmity. Indeed, when we understand the true nature of His love for us, we will prefer to come to Him poor and helpless. We can be glad of our helplessness when we really believe that His power is made perfect in our infirmity.”

-- Thomas Merton

“There are three experiences of bliss we shall have in heaven. First, the bliss of hearing God say, “Well done.” Second, the bliss of having all of heaven hear it. And third, that this experience of bliss will last forever.”

-- Julian of Norwich

And for those of us who believe that we've not done anything very "well", that we've stumbled through every labor of love and messed up time and again in trying to follow and obey the Lord, what a mind-blower it will be when we realize that our Father sees things quite differently. (See Isaiah 55: 8,9)

And I'll suggest that "Well done." will not be just a statement of heavenly perspective, but it will also be an expression born in His love, grace and in mercy toward you. So, if you're downcast because of your weaknesses, look expectantly upward. God loves you!

We hope you enjoy this issue

John

If this is the first issue of Heavenly Minded you have received, it is because a friend has asked for your name to be added to our mailing list. There is no cost and we don't ask readers for support. We hope it will encourage and bless you. If you would like to have someone you know receive it, just email us at jdickey77@yahoo.com or send us a note at the return address.

ET 101 - Allies

Who are the 'Players'?

In Ezekiel 38 and 39, it is prophesied that in the 'last days' a military invasion of Israel led by a man identified as "Gog", a leader in "Magog", will occur. It comes at a time after the Jews have been re-established as a nation and gathered from around the world. It is thought by many Bible scholars to initiate the last seven years of time before the return of Jesus Christ.

Some also strongly believe that it is in very close proximity to the rapture of the Church and the beginning of what is called the Tribulation period where God pours out His righteous wrath upon a world that has rejected His Son. It is also referred to in Scripture as the time of Jacob's (Israel's) trouble (Jer 30:7) as it is designed to drive the Jewish people to their true Messiah – Jesus.

Now, this invasion by Magog includes a number of allies listed by their ancient tribal names: Meshech: Meshech was the sixth son of Japheth, the son of Noah. He is identified with the ancient Mushki of the Assyrians and the Muschoi of the classical Greek writers. Assyrian inscriptions describe them as inhabiting Phrygia in northern Anatolia (modern Turkey). Herodotus identifies the Mushki with the mountains southeast of the Black Sea, the northeast part of modern Turkey. Josephus also identifies the descendants of Meshech as dwelling in eastern Turkey. Some also link the Muschkoi with Mushkovi, the ancient name for Russia.

Tubal: Tubal was the 5th son of Japheth and a brother of Meshech. 9th century B.C. Assyrian inscriptions refer to Tubal, just west of Meshech in eastern Anatolia. Herodotus also places them both along the southeastern shores of the Black Sea. Some associate Tubal with the naming of Tobolsk of Russia. **So we have Russia and most of countries that made up the old Soviet Union.**

Persia: Persia includes the descendants of Elam, the first son of Shem and is now modern Iran. Iran was known as Persia until it changed its name in 1935. The name Iran is derived from the term airyana; Middle Iranian, 'ry'n, "Aryan;" New Persian, Iran. Iran is the leading ally in the Ezekiel list and the present major exporter of "Islamic Fundamentalism". **So Persia covers present day Iran and Iraq.**

Cush: Cush refers to the land lying to the south of Egypt, usually translated in English Bibles as "Ethiopia". Originally Cush referred to a piece of territory lying between the second and third cataracts of the Nile. Later it came to refer to a broader area known as Nubia. It is presently viewed as the area referred to as "Black Africa".

There are a dozen strategic materials essential to the modern military and industrial world which are available in only two regions of the world, Russia and Africa. Zaire for example has 95% of the world's known reserves of chromium, 52% of its cobalt, 53% of its manganese, 64% of its vanadium and 86% of its platinum group of metals. This is why Zaire is called, "The Persian



Gulf of Minerals." The US is almost totally dependent upon import for these critical materials. It is interesting to note that South Africa and Russia control over 90% of the world's supply of platinum, over 94% of the world's supply of manganese, over 90% of the chrome, over 95% of the vanadium. Russia is self sufficient in 26 of the 36 mineral considered essential for an

industrial society, importing only three important minerals, bauxite, barium and fluoride. **So we have Ethiopia and parts of central and southern Africa.**

Put: Put, the next ally of Magog in Ezekiel 38. Put was the third son of Ham, the son of Noah. Josephus identifies him as the founder of Libya, whose inhabitants were called Putites. Put is associated with

North Africa, populated by the Berbers and tribes distinct from Cush. Put encompassed the area from present day Libya to Mauritania and the Mahgreb: Algeria, Tunisia, and Morocco. **So we have Libya, Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco.**

Gomer: The next ally mentioned is Gomer. In the Babylonian Talmud the Biblical Gomer, the father of Ashkenaz, is rendered "Germania." Gomer is also associated with the Cimmerians who eventually established themselves in the Rhine and Danube valleys. **So Gomer covers present day Germany and Austria.**

Togarmah: Togarmah is one of the sons of Gomer. The Assyrians called them Til-Garimmu, a name derived from the Hittite city Tegarama and carried into classical times as Gauraema, presently known as Gurun, 70 miles west of Mylayta. The city was destroyed by Sennacherib in 695 B.C. The

Armenians still refer to themselves as "The House of Togarmah" even to this day. **So Togarmah is the present day area that covers Turkey and Turkestan.**

All but one of the allies of Magog (Russia) are very well defined and one thing that they all have in common is that **they are Muslim.** The intense hatred of Muslims towards Israel will unite them in a common cause, to completely annihilate Israel off the face of the earth. The other ally, Gomer is known for the mass murdering of some six million Jews in the holocaust. The breakup of the Soviet Union released the Central Asian Republics: Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tadzhikistan, and Kyrgyzstan to join their Islamic brothers in the Magog invasion. These five independent republics are Islamic, have nuclear weapons, and may be the "hooks in the jaw" that draw Magog into battle.



Dogwood Path by Jennifer Allen

NEWS

The Middle East

"At the time of writing, the entire Middle East is in a state of flux and could break out in any direction."

Debka intelligence
Aug. 28, 2001

Zechariah 14:2,3

I will gather all the nations to Jerusalem to fight against it; Then the Lord will go out and fight against those nations, as he fights in the day of battle.

Arutz Sheva 7_31

Israel Threatens Lebanon For Draining Of Water Supply

The Hatzbani River, which runs from southern Lebanon to northern Israel, is being taxed beyond agreed-upon limits by the Lebanese authorities. Israel recently conveyed to the UN its objection to the excessive pumping carried out by a station built on the river several months ago near the village of Rajer. UNIFIL has confirmed the veracity of the Israeli complaint, according to an ITIM report. Israel says that if the excessive pumping does not end, it will halt its supply of water to other south Lebanon villages and consider military action. Israel is currently in the midst of a very serious drought, and the waters of the Hatzbani are a critical source of water.

Jerusalem Post July 29,
15 police, 30 Muslims injured in Temple Mount riot

By Etgar Lefkovits, David Rudge and Internet Staff

JERUSALEM (July 29) - Some four hundred police officers will remain on the Temple Mount for some time this afternoon to prevent a repeat of the stonethrowing attack on Jewish worshippers at the Western Wall that took place just under an hour ago.

Temple Mount medics say some 30 Muslims were injured, some by rubber bullets. Levy denied the use of rubber bullets, saying the only weapons used were stun grenades as police broke into the Temple Mount area. These cannot cause injury, he said. The Jerusalem Post's Etgar Lefkovitz emphasized that no rubber bullets were used.

Palestinian Authority-appointed mufti of Jerusalem Sheikh Ikrima Sabri, Israeli Arab MKs, the Islamic Wakf, and the PA all publicly alleged yesterday that the Temple Mount Faithful would be bringing the cornerstone to the mount, and urged Palestinians to safeguard the site.

of the shrine with the Israeli Arab fundamentalist Islamic movement.

Israel Kills Senior PLO Leader

Associated Newspapers Ltd.

August 27, 2001

A senior PLO leader has been killed when Israeli helicopters fired two rockets at his office in retaliation for several bombings in Israel. Mustafa Zibri, 63, widely known as Abu Ali Mustafa, was the highest-ranking Palestinian official killed in a targeted Israeli attack in 11 months of fighting.

The Palestinian Authority said Israel "has opened the gates to an all-out war" and accused it of escalating violence that claimed the lives of seven Israelis and four Palestinians over the weekend.

Zibri, who led the second-largest PLO faction, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, was also the most senior PLO figure to be killed since Israeli commandos shot dead Khalil Al-Wazir in his Tunis home in 1988.

MENL

IRAN PROMISES SYRIA MILITARY ASSISTANCE AGAINST ISRAEL

Iran has promised Syria an airlift of military hardware in the event of an all-out war with Israel.

Syria's Deputy President Abdel Khalim Khadam visited Iranian officials in Teheran, Army Radio reported. In an

interview with London-based El-Hayat, Khadam did not rule out the possibility of war with Israel.

MEANWHILE Former US secretary of state Alexander Haig says Iran could suffer an Israeli strike similar to Israel's surprise 1981 bombing of an Iraqi nuclear reactor if it pursues a nuclear weapons program.

"I think the Iranians ought to know that if they develop nuclear weapons they are risking that. And certainly if they ever consider using them they are facing something much worse," Haig told The Jerusalem Post in an interview. Israeli officials have consistently aired their concerns with their American counterparts about Iran developing weapons of mass destruction.

Haig confirmed that he recently told an interviewer, "If the Israelis do launch a preemptive strike [on Iran], it may be saving the world a lot of trouble."

MENL BA'AL STAMP ISSUED BY PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY

The Palestinian Authority has issued a large stamp, valid for international mail, featuring images of the Canaanite god Ba'al as an idol and a bull. In the Bible and in the Koran, Ba'al is an idol and a false god who is in opposition to the one and only true God. Ba'al has also been referred to as the devil (Satan) through the names Ba'ali'za'bub and Iba'lis. Thus, most Christians and Jews would consider this stamp offensive.

JERUSALEM [MENL]

Israel has assessed an increasing prospect of a regional war next year.

Israeli sources said military intelligence has drafted a report that warns of the increasing likelihood of regional war in 2002. The report said the war could be sparked by either an Israeli offensive against the Palestinian Authority or an escalation in tension along Israel's border with Lebanon.

The report, according to the sources, asserts that Palestinian Authority

Chairman Yasser Arafat maintains control over his people and the war against Israel. Arafat, the report said, plans to continue the 10-month-old war until he achieves significant political gains.

It was the first time that a military report raised the likelihood of war over the next year. Earlier assessments by military intelligence maintained that such countries as Egypt and Jordan would seek to halt Arab plans for war.

JERUSALEM (August 10) 15 killed, 130 wounded, in Jerusalem suicide bombing

By Etgar Lefkovits

A Palestinian suicide bomber blew himself up inside the Sbarro pizzeria in the center of Jerusalem yesterday afternoon, killing 15 people, including six children, and wounding more than 130 others. Five members of one family were killed. It was the deadliest attack in the city since the intifada began last September.

Carrying the explosives in a bag strapped to his body, the bomber entered the restaurant at the corner of Jaffa Road and King George Avenue, one of the busiest intersections in the capital, just before 2 p.m. and detonated his device.



Sbarro Pizzeria

The 5 kg.-10 kg. bomb, which was packed with nails, screws, and bolts, completely gutted the restaurant, which was full of lunchtime diners.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon held urgent consultations with Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer and

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in Tel Aviv over how to respond.

Responding to the attack, US President George W. Bush called on Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat to take "immediate and sustained" action to prevent further bombings.

"Palestinian Authority Chairman Arafat must condemn this horrific terrorist attack, act now to arrest and bring to justice those responsible, and take immediate, sustained action to prevent future terrorist attacks," he said in a statement.

Arutz Sheva 8/10/01

The Arab Reaction

Spontaneous mass expressions of joy broke out yesterday afternoon in various cities under the control of the Palestinian Authority when the news of the Jerusalem slaughter became known. In Jenin, home town of the dead terrorist, and elsewhere in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, hundreds of Arabs danced and sang in the streets, fired guns in the air and praised Hamas and the Islamic Jihad for killing the Jews. Islamists handed out candies and knafe (sweet cakes) to the crowds in a traditional symbolic reinforcement of their belief that there should be no sadness at the death of a "martyr." The father of the perpetrator of the Jerusalem bombing told reporters today that he and his wife are proud of their son's action. An Islamic Jihad spokesman declared, "Even the animals in the fields are happy about this attack..." Elsewhere in the Arab world, particularly in Palestinian villages in Lebanon, there were similar spontaneous, joyful reactions to the murders.

From the Israeli consulate. 8/9/01 Statistics of a week of Palestinian terrorism

In the wake of today's vicious attack that resulted in more Israeli deaths and as Israel continues to face hate and

destructions - suddenly accompanied by Palestinian calls for a "cease-fire" and "return to the negotiating table" - the following facts and numbers will help shed light on the true character of Palestinian intents.

From August 1 to August 9, 2001 there have been 272 attacks against Israeli targets (the week before that - 183 attacks). 21 were killed and 156 wounded - many of whom are children and babies.

Since the Tenet cease-fire was "accepted" by the Palestinian Authority (PA), 1165 attacks against Israeli targets occurred killing 34 and wounding 278.

MIDDLE EAST NEWSLINE

August 10, 2001

U.S. launches major air attack on Iraq

NICOSIA — The United States has launched what officials termed a major attack on Iraq.

About 50 U.S. warplanes struck three air-defense installations in southern Iraq on Friday. This included an air defense control center that connects by fiber-optic cables an anti-aircraft missile site and a long-range radar station.

A Pentagon source said all planes returned safely to base. It was the first major U.S. attack on Iraq since February. The source said damage to Iraqi military installations was still being assessed. Missiles from decoys. The radar would use both S-band and X-band radars.

The bombing strike followed stepped-up efforts by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein military to shoot down U.S. and British warplanes that have been policing no-fly zones in northern and southern Iraq since the 1991 Gulf War. None of those planes has been shot down. But Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said in a recent news conference that Iraq was improving its air defenses "both quantitatively and qualitatively" with fiber-optic communications cabling

FROM DEBKA INTELLIGENCE **U.S. Iraq attack to involve ground troops White House plans multi-pronged offensive against Hussein**

An imminent U.S. attack against Iraq will not be limited to air strikes and missile barrages but involve ground forces, according to sources quoted by the DEBKA-Net-Weekly intelligence service.

U.S. Marines who trained in desert warfare last month were flown to the region this week, according to the report. The Marines were trained in air landings of men, armor and artillery and in combined ground and air operations. They were told in no uncertain terms they could be called upon to move against Iraqi army forces in eastern Jordan and western Iraq.

In the past 24 hours, Israel has passed to the United States fresh intelligence information regarding the visit to Damascus last week by Iraqi Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan. Ramadan, who turned up suddenly for urgent talks with Syrian President Bashar Assad and Syrian military chiefs, conveyed a personal appeal from Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein to order a Hezbollah attack on Israel the moment the U.S. strikes at Iraq. Assad agreed to Saddam's request.

Saddam counts on Israel being pinned down by the Hezbollah and, therefore, too busy to join the fray against Iraq.

Pointers to a U.S. military operation were also heard, according to military sources, in Jerusalem and in the telephone conversations U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell held with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in the second half of the week. Powell asked them, on behalf of President Bush, to be considerate of U.S. military activity against Iraq and display the utmost restraint in the face of Palestinian terrorist activities.

That is why Sharon informed Powell of Israel's consent to withdraw its troops from Palestinian Beit Jala,

notwithstanding continued Palestinian gunfire from the village against Jerusalem.

Military sources say, in the light of evidence on the ground, that the next U.S. anti-Baghdad operation will differ from previous U.S. strikes. Previously, bombs, missiles and cruise missiles were deployed against Iraqi strategic targets.

This time, along with planes and missiles, the brunt of the operation will be carried by U.S. Special Forces landing in eastern Jordan, western Iraq and maybe even northern Syria.

They will first wipe out the Iraqi military forces stationed in Jordan and Syria, then advance and destroy the Iraqi armored forces, missiles and planes deployed in the H-3 and al-Baghdadi air bases. After that, U.S. Special Forces troops will go on to attack military targets in central Iraq and possibly, Iraqi bases around Baghdad, too.

Jerusalem Post 8/8/01

The United States relayed an Israeli warning to Lebanon that Beirut will be targeted in response to any further attacks by Hizbullah fighters in the Shaba Farms or elsewhere along the border, according to the Al-Kifah Al-Arabi Lebanese daily. Other countries have also passed on the Israeli warning, said a report in Lebanon's The Daily Star. Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said he would not tolerate the continued presence of Hizbullah's long-range missiles deployed along the border

Prophecy News Today
August 3, 2001

Iraqi forces still in Jordan **Report says agent-commandos infiltrated Amman, stopped on way to West Bank**

An estimated 800 Iraqi commandos, the bulk of the force that stole into Jordan two weeks ago, remain pinned down in Jordan's eastern desert in two places – around Wadi Athner and near the town of Ruwayshid, report the

intelligence sources. Official sources in the U.S. and Israeli governments have denied any knowledge of the Iraqi incursion.

However, small groups of the first batch have since made their way further west. Around 15-25 of these intelligence-trained crack commandos appear to have entered Amman. Another group was on its way to the West Bank when halted in a joint operation by Jordanian and Israeli military intelligence, the reports say.

Jordan and Israel are aware that one purpose of the creeping infiltration of Iraqi commandos and agents into Amman is to create a jumping off base for Iraqi fighters to reach the West Bank. Once there, they will establish a communications center linking Baghdad with the main Palestinian cities.

The Jordanians also reported that an Iraqi brigade numbering around 3,000 soldiers is poised on the Iraqi side of the border, ready to cross into the kingdom at short notice. They show no signs of movement as yet.

Uzi Mahnaimi, Tel Aviv
The Times 8/12/01

Egypt threatens show of armed force to aid Arafat

The threat of a wider Middle East conflict is growing as the Egyptian government considers sending its 3rd Armoured Army into the Sinai peninsula if Israel moves into Palestinian territories.

In recent weeks Egypt has come under increased pressure from the Palestinians to help them. The Sinai option was confirmed by a senior Egyptian security source, who said the Israelis had to be deterred from "destroying" the Palestinian Authority and Yasser Arafat, its leader.

Any encounter now would be no pushover for the Israelis. The Egyptian army has improved dramatically in the past 30 years, and is one of the most modern in the world. Its hardware is advanced and almost entirely American;

its air force is well maintained and its navy bigger than Israel's, and stronger.

Israel's northern border is no less tense. Mubarak's special adviser, Osama al-Baz, said last month that if Israel attacked Syria, the Syrians would not be alone.

Israeli military intelligence warned in a recent report to the government that confrontation could follow on all borders if relations with the Palestinians deteriorated sharply.

The Israeli military also has to take another foe into consideration: Saddam Hussein's Iraq. Iraqi forces have advanced a tank division from a Republican Guard barracks near Baghdad towards the Jordanian border at least twice since the beginning of the *intifada*.

RAMALLAH [MENL] **ISRAELI TANK FORCE ENTERS W. BANK CITY**

An Israeli armored force entered a West Bank city and destroyed a Palestinian Authority police post in retaliation for several suicide bombings in Israeli cities.

Palestinian and Israeli military sources said the Israeli force entered the city of Jenin on early Tuesday. The force, composed of 20 tanks and armored personnel carriers, destroyed a PA security installation in the city and by dawn Tuesday returned to its position.

It was the first Israeli military operation in the heart of a Palestinian city in the West Bank.



NICOSIA [MENL]

IRAQ DECLARES MILITARY SUPPORT FOR SYRIA

Iraq has offered Syria military support in any war against Israel.

The offer was relayed during the current visit by Syrian Prime Minister Mustafa Miro to Baghdad. Miro was offered a range of assistance from Iraq, including military help.

"Iraq will stand by Syria and provide support, including military," Iraqi Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan said on Monday.

Iraq has deployed troops near both the Jordanian and Syrian borders. Over the last year, Iraqi and Syrian military commanders have discussed the prospect of a war against Israel.

BBC News 14 August, 2001
Palestinian fury at Israeli attack

The Palestinian Authority has branded the Israeli attack on Jenin a "declaration of war".

The three-hour incursion - during which the main police station was demolished - was the first into the centre of a Palestinian-controlled town since the current troubles began 10 months ago.

The Israeli army said the action was in retaliation for recent suicide bomb attacks, but Palestinian Information Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo told Reuters: "This is a declaration of war."

The Palestinian Authority appealed to the United Nations for international protection, and the Palestinian militant group, Hamas, said Israel would pay for the attack.

Secret Baghdad-Damascus Military Pact

August 14, 2001

Syria and Iraq have signed a secret military alliance.

DEBKAFfile's military sources report that the Syrian prime minister Mohammed Mustafa Miro ended his three day visit to Baghdad Monday by

joining the Iraqi Deputy President Taha Yassin Ramadan in signing 10 accords. Those accords formalize and cement the secret military understandings operational between the two Arab countries for the past six months, which provide mutual assistance in a regional war against Israel.

DEBKAFfile now reveals that a week before the first visit to the Iraqi capital in two decades by a Syrian prime minister, a large, high-ranking Syrian military delegation arrived secretly in the Iraqi capital to draft the military pacts for signing.

The key points of those pacts are:

A. A mutual undertaking by both governments for each of their armies to come to the aid of the other if attacked by Israel.

B. Combined Iraqi-Syrian command structures to be established in Damascus and Baghdad by their air forces and their missile, tank, armored ground and intelligence corps.

According to **DEBKAFfile**'s military sources, those joint command structures are already in place, the bulk of the joint force present at the Syrian armed forces GHQ in Damascus, where Iraqi air force, missile, tank and intelligence units have been permanently stationed.

BBC News Saturday,
11 August, 2001

Arafat seeks support over Jerusalem

Yasser Arafat is calling for international pressure on Israel to end its occupation of unofficial Palestinian headquarters in Jerusalem.



The Orient House

The Palestinian leader has written to world leaders asking them to intervene urgently, and accusing the Israelis of breaking the terms of the two sides' 1993 peace accord.

In a highly symbolic move, Israeli forces seized Orient House as part of retaliation for Thursday's devastating Jerusalem suicide bomb, which killed 15 Israelis - and brought more calls for restraint.

Israel's Army Lays Siege to Palestinian Cities

MENL -- Aug.18, 2001

Israel's military has imposed a siege on several Palestinian cities in the West Bank.

Palestinian sources said the cities include Ramallah, Nablus and Kalkilya. They said Israeli troops are checking all incoming and outgoing traffic.

Israel's military has acknowledged the siege. Military sources said the operation was taken amid security and logistical considerations. They did not elaborate.

The sources said the military is also concerned that the Palestinian Authority or its Islamic allies are prepared to use shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles as well as anti-tank missiles against Israeli troops. They said the first Palestinian use of these missiles could take place in the Gaza Strip.

Palestinians Brace for Israeli Invasion of Gaza

World Tribune.com August 17, 2001

GAZA — The Palestinian Authority is preparing for an Israeli invasion of the Gaza Strip.

PA officials said security forces have established roadblocks and are preparing weapons caches to confront an Israeli military campaign. The forces have closed off the area around the office of PA Chairman Yasser Arafat.

PA General Intelligence chief Col. Amin Hindi said all of the security

agencies have agreed to coordinate intelligence and military efforts. Hindi said the agencies are on high alert against any Israeli invasion. Hindi said the PA has drafted options to confront any Israeli invasion. He did not elaborate.

Iran Calls on Egypt, Syria to Confront Israel

MENL Aug. 18, 2001

Iran has called on Egypt and Syria to stop Israel in the current war against the Palestinians.

Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharazi called on his Syrian and Egyptian counterparts to adopt what he termed "urgent and effective mechanisms" to stop Israeli attacks on the Palestinian Authority. Kharazi did not elaborate.

Iran does not recognize Israel's right to exist and has increased support to Lebanon's Hizbullah movement as well as to the Palestinians in the war against Israel.

Half Million Marchers

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) Aug.21,2001

More than half a million Syrians marched in support of the Palestinian uprising, including a prominent Greek-Orthodox leader who said Israel's ways "threaten the future of the whole world," the national news agency reported.

Protesters burned Israeli flags and effigies of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon on Sunday in the northern city of Aleppo, 220 miles north of the capital of Damascus, the official Syrian Arab News Agency said. The agency said more than 500,000 people attended. The news agency also carried an interview Sunday in which Syria's vice president was quoted as saying Israel had surpassed Nazi Germany in its evils.

In Damascus, the government has launched a campaign of TV and newspaper ads appealing for donations to support the Palestinian uprising.

Religion



The Sydney Herald 06/08/2001

The Next Jewish Pope

His mother was burned in the ovens of Auschwitz, yet he converted to Catholicism, rose to the zenith of power in the church, and could become its next leader. Jean-Marie Lustiger spoke with Paul Sheehan.

He started life as Aaron Lustiger. Now he is Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger, prince of the Catholic Church, confidant of Pope John Paul II. As the Pope grows more and more frail, Cardinal Lustiger, the Archbishop of Paris, grows more crucial to the leadership of the church.

"When he says Mass at Notre Dame [Cathedral] the place is always crammed and when he walks through the crowd it is a sight to behold," says Professor Colin Nettelbeck, head of the school of languages at Melbourne University, who studied at the Sorbonne while Lustiger was a chaplain there.

As one of the world's most influential and charismatic intellectuals, he is giving lectures in Sydney and Melbourne this week.

"I'm sorry Jesus Christ did not have a good public relations office because maybe he wouldn't have had the bad problem of being crucified," he told the Herald during an interview this weekend.

Although serving as Archbishop of Paris and leader of the college of cardinals, he has the gift of intimacy. Born in Paris in 1926, the son of Polish Jewish migrants, Aaron Lustiger celebrated his 13th birthday as war broke out. His father placed him in the care of a Catholic family and although he never sought to sever his Jewish roots (he remains a great supporter of Israel), in 1940, aged 14, he converted to Catholicism. Sixty years later, he remains one of the church's staunchest defenders.

He has become a living bridge over the river of bad blood, mischief and mistrust that has divided the relationship between Catholicism and Judaism for 2,000 years. Elie Wiesel, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize and chronicler of the Holocaust, has written that when he thinks about the career of Jean-Marie Lustiger he thinks about the history of transgressions against Jews.

United Nations

US backs Israel at UN, opposes international monitors

By Melissa Radler

NEW YORK (August 21) - The UN Security Council met yesterday to discuss Palestinian demands for international monitors to be sent to the Middle East. However, the US, which has veto power in the council, again backed Israel and called the proposed Palestinian resolution one-sided and unworkable.

Acting US Ambassador James Cunningham said the gravity of the Mideast crisis led the United States to "question the appropriateness and effectiveness of any action here in New York." "What is required now is not rhetoric, not debate that polarizes an already volatile situation, and certainly not an effort to condemn one side with unbalanced charges or to impose unworkable ideas that will not change the reality on the ground," Cunningham said.

Russia

SPECIAL TO WORLD TRIBUNE.COM
Monday,
August 13, 2001

Russia projects Middle East war within six months

MOSCOW — Russian defense officials and strategists project that an Arab-Israeli war could erupt in the Middle East over the next three to six months.

The widely-held scenario described a war that would engulf Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria, according to Middle East Newline. The officials and strategists said Egypt could be swept into such a conflict.

"We are moving inexorably toward a

war," a senior Russian diplomat said. "Russia has tried and the United States has tried to stop this, but to no avail."

Russian strategist Yevgeny Stanovsky agreed. Stanovsky, head of the Moscow-based Middle East Institute said a regional war is inevitable in wake of the failure of international efforts to implement a ceasefire.

The trigger for the war could take place in September. The Russian analysts expect an Israeli offensive against the Palestinian Authority triggered by Palestinian bombings of Israeli cities. Such an offensive, they said, could prompt Egypt to direct its Third Army to enter the Sinai.

Considering Heaven – Part 1

Lord willing, in a five part series, we will present some questions about heaven we've pondered and some answers based upon scripture. Many thanks to Randy Alcorn at Eternal Perspective Ministries for some of these insights.

Q: In heaven, will we know each other, including those we knew on earth?

A: First, heaven will not reduce our mental capacities, but sharpen them (see 1Cor 13:12). We will not be dumber in heaven, but smarter or rather more perceptive. Scripture gives no indication of a "memory wipe" that will cause us not to recognize our loved ones and others we've known. If we wouldn't know our loved ones, the consolation of afterlife reunion in 1Thes 4:14-18 would be greatly diminished.

Second, after His resurrection, Jesus was not recognized at first on a few occasions (John 20:15; Luke 24:15, 16), suggesting some change in His appearance. However, after being with Him a while, even His disciples recognized Him (John 20:16; Luke 24:31). This suggests that despite any outer appearance change, the character or the inner identity of the person will shine through, especially to eyes enlightened by heaven.

Third, in Mat 17:1-4, -- the transfiguration, Moses and Elijah were recognized by Peter and the other two disciples even though they weren't introduced and they couldn't have previously known what they looked like (no digicams back then!). This may suggest that we will recognize instantly people we know of but have not previously met.

Fourth, even apart from the indications of Scripture just cited, it would logically follow that we would know our loved ones in heaven. The nature of love itself is abiding in a way that transcends death (see 1Cor 13:13). While we will no doubt lose interest in and choose not to recall many things that attracted us on earth, the shared experience of loving relationships forges a camaraderie parallel to that of soldiers who have served together in the trenches, and who never forget what they experienced together in that foreign land. -- a fellowship of suffering perhaps. (Phil 3:10)

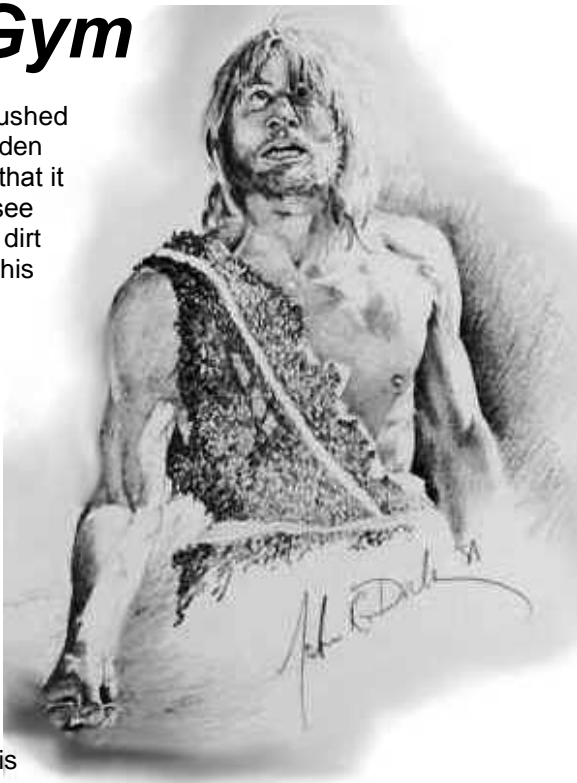
God's Gym

The sweat stung his sightless eyes as he pushed against the heavy wooden beam. It didn't matter that it was dark; he couldn't see anyway. Rubbing the dirt and perspiration from his brow, he avoided the puncture wounds, still sore and oozing, that had blinded him.

The crack of a whip stung his back and a harsh guttural voice yelled something like, "Grind harder, you miserable ox!" The words hurt more than the whip. They were launched from hell and their taunting insinuations were a constant reminder of his condition and his failures before God.

Pushing harder on the wooden lever that moved the huge grinding stone around and around, he thought of his father and mother – how he'd treated them so poorly and now it was too late to change that. He thought of the many stories of childhood that honored the deeds of past heroes – Moses, Joshua, Gideon and others. They used to inspire him; now, they only tormented him as he pondered a life that might have been different... different if only he wasn't so...

He sobbed as he toiled. Again, the whip cracked. He stumbled and fell into the manure below. It had lost its power to nauseate him, but it too reminded him of failure – his



cavalier attitude toward God's commands. His mind flooded with accusations, 'Unclean! Unholy! Unfaithful!'

His arms were so weak, he could hardly lift himself back up; but the guard provided the proper stimulation once again.

And as his tormentor laughed, he also heard the laughter of women – women who had suffered because of him, women also who had baited his lust and left him or teased and manipulated him – and he'd deserved it all and much worse. His passionate sin nature and lack of self control stood in stark contrast to the power of God's Spirit that had, in

the past, given him such strength of purpose.

But, he'd taken God's grace for granted. In fact, he hadn't even realized it when the Holy Spirit had withdrawn. It was such a shock when calamity befell him. Never before, had such pain, such grief, such sorrow overwhelmed his heart – and where was God? Where was the One Who never failed?

Perhaps, the Lord was so disgusted with his life that He'd abandoned him. That's exactly what he deserved. That's what he would do himself if he were in God's place. Perhaps, God was never there... no, he knew better than that. He'd been through too much to believe that lie – but maybe...

Questions and doubts bounced off each other and danced in his weary mind like playful foxes but they burned the fields of faith and trust that once stood in his heart. Now, the fruit of his life looked rotten. For as long as he could remember, he'd been called by the Lord yet callous to the Lord. He'd failed in every way – how could God ever use him again, how could God ever love him. He'd treated the Lord like ... but...

'How could God do this?! Or let this happen?... whatever! What good could come of this defeat? What light could ever shine in this darkness? What ...'

Suddenly, he heard something or thought he did. Was it the chirping of sparrow? Or the cooing of a dove? A light breeze kissed his head.

Immediately, a distant guard's voice echoed in the dark prison, "Bring him to the party!"

Doors swung open, his chains were loosened temporarily. They pushed him through dank corridors and up slippery stairways – finally emerging into a din of laughter and mockery.

His feet were chained again and he felt spit hit his cheek. In contrast to the silence of the prison, the noise here was deafening. Thousands scorned him, remarking how pitiful and scrawny he appeared. His stumbling prompted even more riotous laughter and scorn. They boasted of the superiority of their power, their god.

'I'm so weak, Lord. I'm such a miserable display of your power, your truth.' He could go no lower. His self-confidence was nonexistent; his prayer was feeble; his strength, a distant and fading memory.

He slumped against the cold stone pillar and a lock of sweaty hair fell in his face. But then, in the deepest depths of despair – he heard or sensed the Voice he'd once known. It was a voice in his heart that was unlike any earthly sound for as it spoke gently to him he was supernaturally revived within. His doubts and self-pity unexplainably vanished and new faith – ever so small – emerged. The light of hope flickered again.

He struggled to his feet. Somehow, he realized that his life, all the tragedy, all the failures, all of it was no surprise to the Lord, but rather, He was using it to His glory – but how? He didn't know, but nevertheless, he 'knew' in his heart.

"Yes," the beautiful voice musically echoed inwardly, "I love you and I am with you!" (Hebrews 13:5)

Wonderfully, supernaturally, faith erupted and came alive in him. He somehow knew that he was more in tune with the Spirit of God than ever. Strangely, his attention was riveted not upon his deplorable circumstance but upon a coming heavenly kingdom, and it consumed him like a fire without the burning.

All he desired was to be with his Love, his Maker and to use his every last breath, every last ounce of his life's strength to glorify Him.

His weakness seemed irrelevant. All that mattered was pleasing his Lord. But how? What could he possibly do that would matter, that would make a difference? The joy of a great and eager anticipation overwhelmed him. He knew he would soon worship his Lord, his Love in person – somehow, he just knew it.

Some rotten food hit him in the face, but now, he laughed. He even sang! The lad who was next to him ducked behind the other pillar to hide. He said to the boy, "Are these the pillars of the house? Place my hands upon them."

With his arms outstretched, he suddenly seemed to see a picture in his mind's eye of another with outstretched arms... upon a wooden cross... and it brought tears to his eyes and a holy anger to his heart.

He cried out, "O Lord, God. Remember me, I pray! Strengthen me, I pray, just this once...!"

A sudden rush of incredible power and strength filled him and he pushed the pillars apart. The mirth and mockery of the place soon turned to screams of terror as the huge house imploded – the demonic powers were destroyed, the

enemies of God's people buried in lifeless rubble.

Suddenly, he could see! And what a sight!! Vistas of Paradise surrounded him and tender, mighty arms held him. A familiar voice more beautiful than the sweetest song said, "Well done!"

In Hebrews 11, the 'hall of faith', we find a powerful truth which is absolutely counter-intuitive to the carnal mind. In describing the deeds of the great men and women of faith, the Holy Spirit inserts the characteristic "out of weakness were made strong."

Clearly, this applies to Samson, one of the judges or heroes of Israel, but just as clearly, its truth is universal in God's economy. Paul the Apostle wrote, "...when I am weak, then I am strong." (2Cor 12:10)

Now, when we consider Samson, we naturally think of his physical strength but fundamentally, this principle speaks to our faith in God. Faith in what He accomplished on Calvary and faith that makes it more than theological – but rather personal. As Samson spread his arms to topple the pillars of the house of Dagon, so Jesus spread His arms on the cross and toppled the pillars of sin and death in the house of Satan. (See Romans 8:2). And like Samson, He chose to lay down His life in the process.

It's one thing to acknowledge the wonderful truth of this intellectually and quite another to hold it close and personal when circumstances crush or weaken your heart. But, that's the very time when the purest strength is born. When you finally

know how utterly weak and helpless you are on your own, you're ready for the resurrection of power, the power of His might. Even prophetically, it's when the power and self-confidence of the Jewish people is broken, that they will be saved (see Dan 12:7).

Now, this strength comes as the 'world' fades in your heart into what C. S. Lewis called the Shadowlands, and your attachment to Christ and your heavenly home emerges as the uncontested foci of your life. If you're discovering this shocking but hallowed fact – your own weakness – and find yourself rehearsing failures and what-could-have-beens; if you ever hit the humiliation that always precedes humility or feel utterly defeated, take heart. It comes to all who truly love God. David said, "Someday, I shall surely die at the hand of Saul." (1Sam 27:1) Elijah moaned, "I alone am left in Israel..." (1Kings 19:10) Jacob cried, "If I am bereaved, I am bereaved..." (Genesis 43:14) Peter

wept bitterly about his denial of Christ. (Mat 26:75) All of these came at times of great weakness. Towards the end of his earthly life, Paul admitted, "I am the chief of sinners." (1Tim 1:15).

You see, it's just this simple – man's end is God's beginning.

I know I'm weak in some areas – maybe you do too. However, it is the weak who count on God and as a consequence, will overcome. God will do what only God can do – when you turn to Him, He'll turn your frailty into strength, your despair into hope and your sorrow into joy. Go to prayer again...and again. Go to His Word again... and again!

Remember, if you know Christ as your Lord and Savior, you're just passing through this world. No matter what you're dealing with now, I guarantee, you will one day consider it unworthy to compare to the goodness God has shown you. Friend, He really does love you with relentless affection.



Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him and We will come to him and make Our home with him."
John 14:23

TicketMaster

It can be a dangerous place – sometimes filled with explosive violence.

- Here, honorable facades are dropped;
- here, anger and criticism are freely expressed;
- here, abuse is unspeakably vile;
- here, children of all ages are dumped, ‘dissed’ or destroyed;
- here, people do whatever their carnal passions dictate;
- here, huge sums of money are spent on self-gratification;
- here, is a place of crushing break-ups and abandonment;
- here, is a place to forget and avoid at all costs;
- here, is a place of bondage and bad memories;
- here, is a place that represents failure and regrets;
- here, is a place of hopelessness and isolation;
- here, is a cage of depression;
- here is a place to escape from, if possible;
- here, is a place where hopes and dreams are dashed to pieces;
- here, is a place of hatred, bitterness and sometimes death.

Now, can I sell You a ticket? Made Your next vacation plans yet? Hey, wait a minute! Where are You going? It’s a great deal! Really!!

What did You say? Birds have nests and foxes have holes but You’d rather pass on this one?

Oh, but You don’t understand. We can dress this place up for You – yeah, we’ll make it an real nice place for You.

What’s that? Well...sure... I know it’s just temporary, but remember – it’s got a great location And...

Huh? A fixer-upper? A sham? A counterfeit?? Hey, watch it, Buddy, you’re talkin’ about my home.

You know, our earthly home can be a wonderful place but of the 67 times the Bible uses the word “home” (NKJV), the large majority are with a negative connotation. And for many of us, we can understand why – we can relate to some of the descriptions above.

But you see, that’s because, like Jesus, we aren’t truly at home here any more than we’d be at home on a demolition site.

In Mat 8:20 and Luke 9:58, Jesus didn’t talk about the birds and foxes to draw our pity. Nor was it just an illustration of a necessary commitment. In fact, it was a value declaration. See, He knew what home really is and where it really is --He knew that no earthly dwelling place could compare to our “eternal home” (Eccl 12:5) in heaven. He knew we couldn’t truly

depend on such a sin-filled temporal place for what our home is supposed to be.

He knew that our real home is a place of:

- absolute safety
 - unquestioning trust
 - perfect peace
 - overwhelmingly wonderful reunions with loved ones
 - abundant and ever-expanding love
 - deepest joy that delights in endless ways
 - empathetic longsuffering
 - eternal kindness and amazing grace
 - wondrous pleasures
 - learning and growing
 - fulfilling service
 - outstanding refreshment
 - radiating, enjoining and embracing life
 - transforming worship
 - perfect relationships and endless friendships
 - ever-deepening understanding
 - indescribable radiance, glory and beauty
 - wholesome abundance
 - pure hearts and minds
 - pleasant truth and natural integrity
 - heart warming permanence where:
 - everyone feels loved and welcome
 - laughter dances
 - dancing is common
 - hopes are born and fulfilled
 - nothing, no one, is lost
 - discovery never ends
- Yes, Jesus knew His HOME. He came from there,

and He returned in order to (among other things) prepare a special place in it just for you individually. (See John14:2.3)

And when all is ready there, prepared just as the Father desires, the Son will return for His bride – Jesus will come for us who believe. The Bible says that He’ll gather all of us together and welcome us HOME. And it won’t be long!

If you know the Lord Jesus Christ, you understand that you can’t hang your hopes on finding a real home here. Not ultimately.

On the other hand, if you don’t truly know Jesus – not know about Him but know Him – you may still be striving to compensate for the failures of your earthly home – to find, to build, to somehow grasp that intangible, illusive ‘Eden’ – the fantasy that always demands just a little bit more in order to be realized.

If that’s so, quit the pointless chase and come HOME. You see, your real HOME is both a Person and a place. It’s a relationship of love with Jesus and an eternal perfect place made by Him. Get your ‘ticket’ – it’s called salvation by the grace of our awesome God. You’ll know you’re HOME when you’re in His arms in heaven! For more information, read Romans 3:23; 6:23: and 10:9,10. GBY!

“... as this little child”



“But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty.”
”Corinthians 1:27

“He gives power to the weak, And to those who have no might He increases strength . Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall, but those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:29-31

What awesome but perplexing verses these can be -- the promise of strength when we are weak is really mind blowing, yet doesn't it go against everything we have been taught in this world? Aren't we supposed to be strong, never letting anyone know that we are feeling weak or struggling with something.

Why, even in science we're taught that 'only the strong survive'.

Although I was raised in a Christ-centered home, I find that there are times that I have let the world creep in to my own attitudes. So subtly does the world sneak its philosophy into our lives that we truly have to live ever aware and on guard. Colossians 2:8 says "Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the traditions of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ." The world would love for us to believe that because we are weak that God cannot use us. How totally opposite is our God!

You see, God is in the business of using the weak to confound the wise. How many times has a sick newborn, given no hope, blown doctors' minds and gotten better. Scripture says that if we do not have faith as a child, then we cannot enter the kingdom of heaven. How many think of a child as strong? I certainly don't - I have two of my own.

They're weak, always needing my help. "Mom, will you tie my shoes, will you wipe me - I have to go to the potty." "Mom, do you know where my coloring book is?" and so on.

How familiar does that sound? And yet, my five year old, Charis, knows that she loves Jesus and that He lives in her heart. She isn't tossed about by every playground 'wind of doctrine' that comes her way, she just believes. In the same way, that is what Christ meant when he told us to have faith as a child.

The other day, Charis was asking me why we don't stick things into electrical outlets. My answer was simple, because you don't want to get hurt and have to go to the hospital or even die from it. She looked at me with some confusion on her face and replied "don't we want to go and be with Jesus in Heaven?" She was so right! In her little mind, she understood and had a desire to see Jesus. Just because we are weak physically doesn't mean we have to be weak spiritually.

In the Bible, Samuel is a good example of this. In 1 Samuel 1-3, God did not speak directly to Israel's high priest, Eli, but chose to speak to Samuel, a mere boy. Samuel was there, he listened and God did fantastic things through him. Now, he was young and weak, yet the Lord made him strong.

You see, when we are weak we have no pride in our own strength and so, no boasting. As a result, the Lord can come in and do a mighty work for which only He can get the glory. If you read about Samuel you can see God all throughout his life's testimony.

Also, there's a story I heard on the radio the other day of a missionary who was working in India. One day he was taking an offering during a

service. Now, as a result of the area's severe poverty, the usual offering was grain or some other food product. Yet one day an elderly woman dropped a silver dollar into the offering plate.

Seeing this money, the missionary assumed it had to have been come by dishonestly, but waited to speak with her until after the service. When he asked the woman where she had received such a sum of money she explained to him that God had done such a wonderful work in her life, she loved Him so much and just wanted to do something to help others hear the good news. She had gone that morning and sold herself as a slave for that one dollar. She had a willing heart , weak physically because of age, yet He strengthened her to do the impossible out of love for Him. God just wants us to be willing to give ourselves to Him, weaknesses and all.

I will rejoice when I am weak for I know that God can do wonderful things through a willing heart. Be encouraged today, God has awesome things in store for those who believe in Him. Be excited if you are weak for indeed the Lord will use you. His promises are never ending and His love unending.

It's good to question our reasoning for the things we do in our lives -- are they inspired by God or are they imposed by the world. Let's keep our eyes on Jesus and not on the cares of this life. Somehow all those so called 'important' things that keep us worried and useless to God will melt away and we will see what is truly important -- what God has for us. Walk in His promises and Love today!

God bless you.
Star Shirley