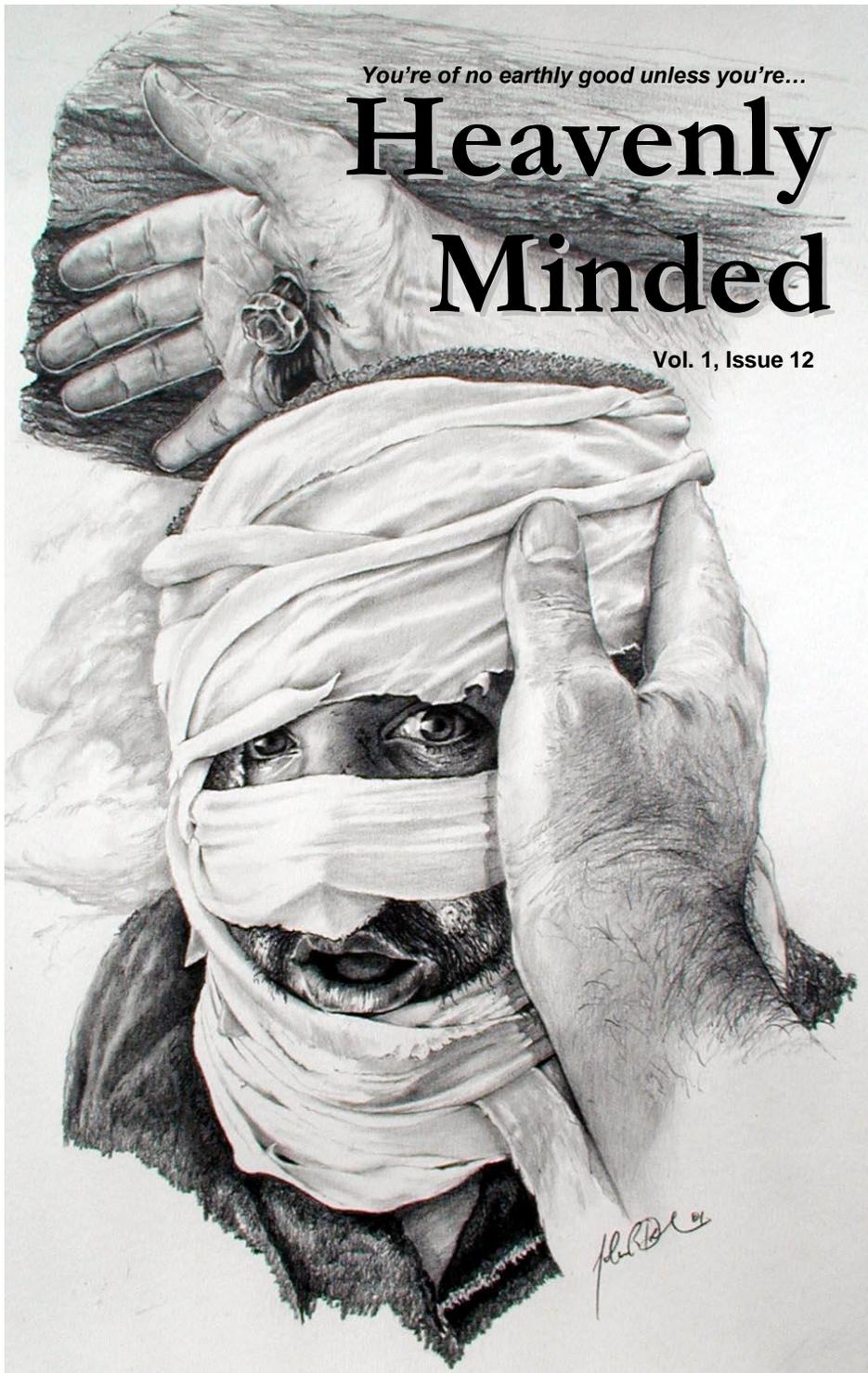


You're of no earthly good unless you're...

# Heavenly Minded

Vol. 1, Issue 12



Dear Friends,

Since September 11<sup>th</sup>:

- some are fearful, tense and expecting more direful events
- some are prayerful and seeking God with greater intensity
- some are pretending nothing significant really happened
- some are angry and wanting revenge
- some are more into the flag than into the cross
- some are sobered and interested in Bible prophecy
- some are aware that we are close to the end of the age

Certainly this is not a complete list, but where ever you are in your heart and soul, we hope you are alert and watching for our Lord. We have nothing to fear for in sincerity, as believers, the worst that can happen to us is the best that happen to us.

Let's remind one another that this world is not our home – it's a temporary dwelling. We should be meeting together to worship and seek the Lord more than ever, loving each other in honest fervor, praying for one another humbly and expectantly, getting a grip on the reality of eternity and casting the anxious cares of this life into the Shadowlands where they belong.

What a privilege to live in these days! As our pastor says, "We were made for them!" May God's love ravish you and may His tenderness melt you. May you behold the face of His love in Jesus and ignite. May the meaningless trappings of this life burn away and may you be thoroughly content in Him.

Love in Jesus,

John & Darlene

(To add a friend to our distribution list, contact us at [jdickey77@yahoo.com](mailto:jdickey77@yahoo.com))

## Considering Heaven – Part 3 of 5

*Thanks to Randy Alcorn for some of these insights.*

**Q:** In Heaven, will we be aware of at least some of what is happening on earth?

**A:** The martyrs in heaven appear to know what is still happening on earth (see Rev 6:9-11). When Babylon is brought down in Rev 18:20, an angel points to events happening on earth and says "Rejoice over her, O heaven! Rejoice, saints and apostles and prophet!..." In specifically addressing them, the clear implication is that the saints in heaven are watching and listening to what is happening on earth.

There is "the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting Hallelujah" and praising God for specific events of judgement (see Rev 19:1-5) which indicates the saints are watching.

Angels saw Christ on earth (1 Tim 3:16) and there are clear indications angels know what is happening on earth (Luke 1:26 and 1 Cor 11:10).

Christ said there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine who do not need to (Luke 15:7) so they must be observing.

In Hebrews 12, it says that we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses. Therefore, there are many observers of our lives in the realm of the spirit.

# Handling Love

“It’s scandalous!”

“It’s immoral!”

“It’s disgusting!”

Whispers, intentionally loud enough to be overheard, passed around the circle of clerics who hung together in a clique as though they feared contact with those outside their spiritual club.

“This proves it. I don’t care what tricks he does,” spoke up one well known apologist, “he’s defiled, and he has obviously done this with a willful disregard for the scriptures.”

“He clearly has no love for God. He wouldn’t stumble us...er...all these people like this if he did.”

“Yes, you’re right. These poor souls around us don’t understand this display is... is... not from a holy God.”

Murmuring ebbed and flowed in the group, but here and there the more curious members slipped away. Their attention being drawn to the man that was causing all this fuss. With torn filthy rags still hanging on him, he was surrounded by common people now whose eyes beheld with amazement what had happened.

Moments earlier, he had broken the traditional laws by approaching the teacher as he left the place of instruction on the mountain. It was a rare moment when relatively few people were around him. Time seemed to slow to a crawl as he neared – his heartbeat visible under his tattered clothing.

Leprosy had made him an outcast so long ago, he’d almost forgotten... no, not really... it was just that the memories of his family and friends, who never came close to him, were too painful to recall.

His skin was covered with oozing wounds, his nose and ears were gone. Several of his fingers and toes

were eaten by rats. His face was covered to hide its barely human form. He shuffled from imbalance not pain – physically, he felt nothing.

His soul, however, was searing with brokenness – he’d pondered taking his life countless times; his rejection by everyone had cast him into a vast abyss of loneliness. He was an abhorrence even to his own children.

If anyone could see inside his heart, they’d view a sight far more wretched than his outward rottenness. He still believed in God, but for a time, he’d hated Him – convinced that Jehovah must also disdain him or simply not care.

Everyone who understood such things said that he was a sinner, rejected by God, reaping the consequence of an immoral life. And he figured that this must be true for there was nothing to refute it.

Meanwhile, he begged for scraps of food. Money was nearly useless – he couldn’t enter a marketplace and no one would handle the coins he’d touched. Most of what he ate, the dogs had left behind. ‘Could hell be worse than this?’ he wondered.

But just today, while scrounging for morsels, he’d overheard rumors about this teacher, this rabbi that could heal people.

Could it be true!? But no one could cure leprosy! Never, had that happened to a Jew. But wait...he thought for a moment and vaguely remembered the tale of a Syrian whom the prophet of God told to wash in the Jordan river and sure enough – he had been healed! He considered how far the Jordan was from where he sat.

Could he walk that far? Maybe. But would this rabbi help him? Maybe...but like the Syrian, maybe he needed to be or to know someone special or maybe he needed some

coins to give... alas, he was helpless in either case. The rabbi would surely recoil at the sight of him.

After hours of mental turmoil, he decided that if the teacher truly had this power from God, then he had nothing to lose by seeking his help – it would only be a matter of his willingness to give the command. And if he did, somehow, after that, he’d shuffle his way to the river.

Now, as he approached, he stumbled, got back up, and nervously he neared the man, Jesus. Odd, he thought, he didn’t dress like a famous rabbi. But something about him was so approachable – there was an ‘air’ about the man – a kindness that seemed to radiate from him.

‘Well, here goes...’ He closed in on the small group – his eyes riveted upon the man in the middle. As he neared, an angry voice seem to shout in his mind that he wasn’t supposed to get this close to people, but his fear was overpowered by his hope.

Now, just a few yards away, he watched the teacher turn to behold him. At any moment, he expected a look of revolt and disgust. But to his utter surprise, the tender eyes he beheld pierced his soul like a sword and then filled him with an unearthly, supernaturally-natural warmth.

Suddenly, he realized this was not simply a gifted rabbi. He fell to his knees and bowed on his face. He was oblivious to the remarks of those around him.

His heart poured out, “If You are willing, You can make me clean!”

In the silent moment that followed, an eternity passed. Would Jesus speak the Word? Would He give the command to be cleansed? And then the incredible happened.....

Jesus, moved with compassion, put out His hand and **touch**ed him...

‘He touched me!!’ the stunned leper exclaimed in his heart. He hadn’t been touched by anyone in years! That for which he had anguished and wept and hoped for such a long time had actually happened!

You see, touching him was forbidden. To the religious, Jesus had defiled Himself – in contacting the man’s uncleanness, He Himself was now supposedly unclean. In reality, He remained spotless.

And with this gentle touch upon his decaying flesh, the man sensed an eruption, a mighty cascading flood of love! Inexplicable, undefinable, uncontrollable, unconditional love!

As he gazed into those heaven-filled eyes, his leprosy became almost irrelevant. He’d approached Jesus for the healing of his body, but now, the healing of his heart, by love, was his consuming joy.

And then came the words, “I am willing, be cleansed.”

Immediately, his body was totally restored -- his skin, as soft as a child’s; his senses, restored. And the best part of all – he knew, he truly knew that God loved him!

Oh, the awesome truth of John 3:16 - “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not die but have everlasting life.”

How could God be any more clear about His global love?! But, where I desire even more awareness is in the love of God for me individually. Now, I know, along with many of you, that indeed, Christ’s incomprehensible suffering reflects His glorious love for each one of us, but I also find great comfort in the personification of love I see in Jesus as He dealt with bums like me.

Although I narrated the story above with some hypothetical

circumstances, I hope that the essential truth of the passage is pristinely clear – Christ loves us personally, and He's not afraid or shocked by our condition. He wants to touch us and to be touchable. Right now, He uses you and I to do this for one another. In fact, it's the proof to the world that we are following Him. However, very soon, He will return to snatch us out of here and then He'll hold us in His arms personally.

Now, we cannot define God's love – even 1Cor 13 is really a description. You see, the love of God is one of His infinite attributes. As such, it is by definition, undefinable.

We can, however, see and appreciate the demonstration of His love by observing Christ. Consider His interaction with Peter on the shores of Galilee's lake. In John 21, after His resurrection, Jesus confronts Peter with such loving openness – three times, He presses the issue, "Peter do you love Me?" fully aware of the bitter sense of failure in Peter's heart for his three denials the night of the Lord's arrest. He even probes by shifting the question from Peter's "agape" (or divine) love to his "phileo" (or brotherly) love which in itself is quite revealing.

But in it all, we see the tender love of Jesus for this bumbling, hurting guy. He's not just instructing or testing, but He's healing Peter's heart. The story reverberates with Christ's individual, unbounded love for the man.

Consider His loving compassion when He wept with Mary and Martha at the tomb of Lazarus. (John 11)

Consider His loving patience with doubtful Thomas in the upper room. (John 20)

Consider the loving truth revealed in His interaction with a single Samaritan woman by the well. (John 4)

Consider virtually every facet of His earthly life and you'll see love – approachable, personal affection.

*Then consider the cross.*

Countless volumes have still understated the marvelous measureless love of God as demonstrated on Calvary that was "just three days ago" for the believer. Armies of gifted preachers and expositors have proclaimed it in every corner of the world. How then, could anyone ever have the slightest doubt of God's earnest desire for intimacy with us?

For several reasons – none of them good – but nevertheless, real.

- We may be hurt or sorrowful
- We may suffer from worthy-worries
- We may have put one foot back in the world or never left it
- We may see the cross as being done just for the world and not for us individually
- We may misperceive Abba (Father, Papa) – Who He is.

Let me explain...

- First, many if not most of us have experienced at some time a crushing tragedy. The loss of a child, a spouse, a break-up, an endless series of foster homes, terrible abuse, a lifetime of loneliness... Without the hope of heaven and a present trust in Abba, these experiences will turn to bitterness and worldly sorrow which the Bible declares bring death – separation from God (See 2 Cor 7:10). Now, God doesn't command us to pretend such things don't hurt, to play a spiritual masquerade, but rather to run to Him for help and to know that the day is soon coming

when sorrow will be no more. Read Isaiah 51:4 and Jeremiah 31:13.

You see, terrible hurt can overwhelm our ability to sense or even believe in God's love temporarily. This is not a failure on God's part nor necessarily a permanent condition of our own hearts. But a crushed, truly crushed human heart simply lacks the ability to discern anything but grief, sorrow and pain.

Though admittedly a weak example, if you took a hot branding iron and seared my back and then offered to give my neck a massage, I surely wouldn't enjoy it because the pain of the burns would be so great.

There was a time when I prayed and tried to hold on to what shreds of trust I had left. Those of you who have lost a child know what I mean. I couldn't believe it; I was surely in a nightmare that would end but then, I knew the nightmare was real.

At that moment, my dear friend entered the little unlit hospital room. My first reaction was the purest indicator of my heart – I turned away from him and wept bitterly. I wailed uncontrollably. It wasn't him that caused my desire to run and scream – it was what he represented – my God. The One who was supposed to love me and yet had taken my child.

He grabbed me gently and I turned around and buried my agonizing face in his chest (he's a tall guy!). All I could sense was my heart and his powerful hug.

He'd traveled more than two hours to see us and at that critical moment he was God's love to me even though I had no more ability to discern it than to swim across the ocean. And God knew it.

Later, however, as the Spirit of God began the mending process, I

considered how loving it was of my Lord to send him and He also showed me numerous other things that He had done which were just incredibly loving. Now, as I look to heaven, I have come to love the Lord and His children so much more dearly as a result.

When your heart fails, God hasn't failed. He never fails. (See Psalm 73:26)

- Next, we may think, 'Oh, I'm such a worthless 'loser'. How could You love me?' or 'I'm confident of God's love because I've been good or I've led someone to Him or...' How often have we entertained such ideas? The pitiful estranged condition of our 'old man' always wants to swing us from 'castigation to congratulation' and back. All because we have a tendency towards trying to earn love. All our lives, it has seemed like people have either loved, liked, ignored or hated us based upon what we did or didn't do – this has conditioned or reinforced the notion of our needing to merit love.

However, God's love (like it or not) is unconditional – totally lop-sided if you would. He never measures out His affection for you based on your worthiness or unworthiness. In fact, He never measures out His love period – it is infinite and relentless! (See Jeremiah 31:3)

- Next, Jesus prayed that Abba would not take us out of the world literally (until the rapture!) - John 17:15, but the Bible says we are to leave the world's attachments and entanglements. (See Luke 14:33, 2 Tim 2:4 and 1 John 2:15). That's because although our Father will always love us, we will not perceive, receive or respond to it if 'the world gets in our eyes'. We only have the

capacity to love one ideal – one master (Mat 6:24).

- Next, we can misperceive of Abba in our minds as playing the role of a global-God but not as a personal God. It's humanly easier for us to conceive of a deity who deals with the 'big picture', the fate of all, the grand design – as if God's some CEO in the sky.

We can even look to John 3:16 where it says, "For God so loved the world..." and accept that more easily since "world" is a big word and God's a 'big Guy' – right? (I'm mean that reverently.) And when that is the case, our relationship with Him remains mostly theological, theoretical, philosophical, religious – dutiful but loveless.

The fact is, Abba's love for you is absolutely personal. You are NOT some speck of dust in the huge cosmos of His plan. You, individually, are worth everything to Him – yes... you – no, not the guy over there – YOU!

Jesus explained it in several stories like in Matt 13:46 where He gives everything to obtain a single pearl – you; or in Luke 15:4, where He leaves everything to find one lost sheep – you; or in Luke 15:8 where He drops everything to find one lost coin – you.

And Paul said it too. He recognized the cross as intimate and personal when he wrote in Gal 2:20, "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved **me** and gave Himself for **me**."

- Finally, we are naturally so spiritually near-sighted that the only God we can perceive, looks like us, thinks like us and behaves like us. No wonder we distrust such a Being. The

first thing sinful man did in the Garden of Eden when he heard the Lord coming was to hide. You see, sin twists and contorts our perception of God a full 180 degrees. But Jesus displayed Abba's character to the world – healing, blessing, loving, compassionate, giving, patient, forgiving and on and on. This why it is so critical that we endeavor to see God as He is – not as the religionists teach or as the world portrays or as the devil fumes. The truth is utterly good. God is good and oh, how He loves you. He doesn't see you like you see you.

You're worth everything it cost Him to redeem you and it cost Him everything. Not only that, but when you're saved, covered so to speak by the atoning sacrifice of Christ's blood and broken body, Abba sees you as beautifully clean -- absolutely pure.

Let me wrap this up with a meditation – the first mention we have in the Bible of love is in Genesis 22:2 where God told Abraham to offer up his son. He said, "...your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love..." This is clearly a picture of the measureless love Abba has for Jesus and yet He gave Him – His only Son, for you. Put it this way, the same strong, gently hand that lovingly touched that pitiful leper also lovingly took the spike of his sins and sickness to make him truly whole.

We are all lepers of a sort and He is still so willing. Let Him touch you too.

## The News

**Peres: Arafat Did Not Start the Intifada -- Foreign Minister Shimon Peres stated on Tuesday that PA leader Yasser Arafat did not start the "Intifada" but it was already underway when he took charge.**

**"Shimon Peres is the first Israeli astronaut." So said former Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu in Washington yesterday, adding, "Peres is in outer space, totally unconnected to what is going on here..."**

*The Bible indicates that the generation which witnesses the rebirth of the nation of Israel will also witness all the events leading up to Christ's 2<sup>nd</sup> coming. It says that in the last days Jerusalem will be a "cup of trembling" – the focus of attention of the whole world. It predicts a massive war with Russia leading a league of nations including Iran, Iraq, Libya, and many others against Israel. It is thought by many Bible scholars that this war will either immediately precede or be immediately subsequent to the rapture of the Church as mentioned in 1 Cor 15, 1 Thes 5 and several other scriptures.*

*There is also the prediction of a revival of a major world power arising out of the former Roman Empire and exerting a strong influence over Israel and in particular, Jerusalem. The leader of this coalition, a charismatic man, will be the ultimate false Messiah and lead the world to oppose Christ's return.*

*Also, Daniel the prophet predicted man's knowledge would dramatically increase in this time.*

*Without a doubt, we are living in exciting and sobering times.*

*As we consider these things in light of God's eternal Word, we can take heart that all is moving toward His conclusion.*

*Just a few scriptures to review:  
Middle East -- Zech 12:2,3, Ez 37  
Church – 2Tim3:1-5, 1Tim4:1,2  
Knowledge growth – Dan 12:4  
Final Generation – Mk 13:28-30  
Russia – Ez 38, 39*

## Middle East

**Israel Launches Offensive in W. Bank**  
TEL AVIV [MENL] -- Israel has launched a military offensive in the West Bank.

Israeli officials said the military has arrested scores of Palestinians and killed at least 20 of them in raids in several Palestinian cities in the West Bank. The officials said the result was the foiling of at least one Palestinian suicide bombing.

The offensive was said to have begun two weeks ago and included a combined task force of armored units, commandos, paramilitary border police and the air force. But officials said the offensive was intensified last week in the aftermath of the assassination of former Israeli Tourism Minister Rehavam Ze'evi by a Palestinian group.

"The activities were conducted from Jenin in the north, through Tulkarm, Kalkilya, Ramallah and Bethlehem," Brig. Gen. Gershon Yitzhak, head of Israeli forces in the West Bank, said. Yitzhak said Israeli forces killed 20 Palestinian insurgents, who included members of Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement. The brigadier, who said the PA was informed of the Israeli military raids, denied Palestinian reports that women were also killed in the operation.

In Bethlehem, Israeli attack helicopters fired missiles near Arafat's headquarters. Palestinian sources said 15 people were injured in the attack. Israeli sources said the helicopter operation was meant to stop a Palestinian shooting attack against nearby Jerusalem.

**IDF tanks enter Palestinian cities**  
By Arieh O'Sullivan

JERUSALEM (October 21) - In the broadest IDF assault ever on the Palestinian Authority, foot soldiers backed by tanks and attack helicopters encircled most of the West Bank cities over the weekend.

Palestinian resistance, armed only with light weapons, was not heavy and the IDF said at least 20 Palestinians were killed. Six soldiers were also wounded, including one who was in serious condition.

The PA condemned the offensive, calling it "a declaration of war against the Palestinian leadership," and urged the world to immediately intervene to prevent a dangerous explosion.

"The Israeli army has a plan to escalate militarily and it is pursuing this plan, in direct challenge to all international efforts to calm the situation and to revive the peace process," PA Chairman Yasser Arafat told reporters after meeting Russian envoy Andrei Vdovin in the Gaza Strip yesterday.

The offensive was launched early Friday morning to drive home Israel's demand that the PA hand over those responsible for the Wednesday assassination of tourism minister Rehavam Ze'evi and crack down on terrorists. Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer said Israel will only pull back from the PA areas if it sees compliance.

### **ISRAEL SAYS ARAFAT ERA IS OVER** *October 19, 2001*

The Times reports: "PLO fears leader is target of assassination plot.... Sharon warning of war within a week ... The Middle East moved closer to a new war yesterday as Ariel Sharon declared the Arafat era over and moved tanks into three West Bank towns.

Israel also killed a leading Palestinian militant, and the PLO claimed to have evidence that the Jewish state was plotting to assassinate its leader, Yassir Arafat.

The rapid collapse of the peace process followed the murder of Rehavam Zeevi, the Israeli Tourism Minister, by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) on Wednesday.

Mr Sharon said: "Arafat has seven days to impose absolute quiet in the

(occupied) territories. If not, we will go to war against him. As far as I am concerned, the era of Arafat is over."

### **Saudis Consider Asking US Military to Leave**

LONDON [MENL] -- Saudi Arabia is quietly debating whether to end the U.S. military presence in the kingdom.

Western diplomatic sources said the Saudi royal family has not relayed any such intent to Washington. But the royal family has been examining the option of calling on U.S. forces to leave the kingdom to relieve the intense pressure by the Islamic opposition.

Western diplomatic sources said, appears to favor such a call. The move is said to be opposed by Saudi Defense Minister Prince Sultan, a rival to the throne.

### **Sudan shaken by Islamic unrest over cooperation with U.S.**

MIDDLE EAST NEWSLINE  
October 15, 2001

CAIRO — Sudan, for years a sponsor of Islamic insurgency, is now alarmed over the prospect of a terrorist backlash.

Arab diplomatic sources said the Khartoum regime has been heavily criticized by opponents for its cooperation with the United States in the international campaign against terrorism. The opponents have charged that Khartoum has extradited Muslims wanted by the United States. Several leading Sudanese clerics have issued a statement that supports the Afghan ruling Taliban movement and Saudi billionaire fugitive Osama Bin Laden.

### **UNITED STATES MAY TAKE MILITARY ACTION AGAINST SYRIA**

*October 13, 2001*

Ha'aretz reports: "Syria repeated its position Friday distinguishing between terrorism and attacks carried out by Palestinian militants on Israelis.

According to Syria, Palestinians have the right to use any means to fight

Israeli occupation and there is no comparison whatsoever to terrorism, Israel Radio reported.

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Richard Lee Armitage said Thursday night that the United States may also take military action against Syria, if it does not comply with U.S. demands to act against terror organizations in its territory.

### **Hizbullah warns Israel will pay price for war on terror**

By David Rudge

JERUSALEM (October 14) - Hizbullah spiritual leader Sheikh Muhammad Fadlallah has reportedly warned that the organization will increase its attacks on Israel, even in the shadow of America's war on terrorism and its ongoing campaign against Osama bin Laden and the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. In an interview with the German newspaper Der Spiegel, Fadlallah was apparently quoted as saying that now is the time to raise the Muslim world's awareness of Western and Israeli oppression.

### **P.A. Paper: How To Attack Jews** Arutz Sheva 10/8/01



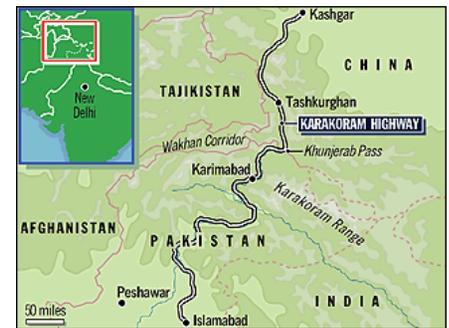
The Palestinian Authority's official newspaper, Al Hayat Al Jadida, published an article two days ago about a Fatah ceremony in Gaza where participants were given a demonstration of how to ambush and kill Israeli civilians. A photograph accompanying the article shows two Arabs with

weapons standing aside a man lying face down on the ground with his shirt half-filled with blood, with many other Arabs looking on.

### **Arabs warn against wider attacks** BBC News 10\_9\_01

Arab leaders have warned the US-led alliance not to extend its attack on Afghanistan to other Muslim or Arab countries.

"Launching strikes against any Arab country under any pretence would lead to severe complications," Arab League Secretary General Amr Moussa told Egyptian radio as the league's foreign ministers gathered on Tuesday.



The 22 ministers are meeting in Doha, the capital of Qatar, to reach a joint position on the US strikes against Afghanistan.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who has fought against Islamic fundamentalism in his own country, expressed his support for the alliance on Tuesday, but asked that civilian casualties be avoided.

"We support all measures taken by the United States to resist terrorism," he said, calling at the same time for the establishment of a Palestinian state.

### **China Moves Forces into Afghanistan** 6 October:

Before even the launching of the major US military offensive in Afghanistan, long Chinese convoys were carrying armed Chinese Muslim

servicemen through northwest China into Afghanistan, according to **DEBKAFfile's** intelligence experts.

They were sent in to fight alongside the ruling Taliban and Osama Bin Laden's Al Qaeda. Their number is estimated roughly between 5000 and 15,000. Our sources report another three convoys are behind the first 3000, who crossed the frontier Friday, October 5.

Beijing is deploying this force in two places:

**A.** Whakyr, the Kirgыз tribal encampment near the Little Pamir-Tadjik frontier, opposite the swelling concentration of US and Russian Special Forces and air strength. The Chinese have brought with them Kirgыз fundamentalist militants from the Ferghana Valley of Central Asia, as interpreters.

From Whakyr, the Chinese generals believe, with Bin Laden's and the Taliban's tacticians, they will be able to block off the movement of the US-led force from its rallying point in Dzharlygumbez, Tadjikistan, no more than 35 miles from Little Pamir, into the mountains of Hindu Kush.

**B.** Jalalabad in north Afghanistan, at the foot of the Hindu Kush range. **DEBKAFfile's** Chinese sources reveal that, immediately after the terrorist strikes in the United States on September 11, the Chinese intelligence service, MSS, handed in to the defense ministry in Beijing their estimation that the United States would go to war to overthrow the Taliban regime, for the sake of which it would sign a pact with Russia. The Chinese leadership viewed this eventuality as the most significant shift in the global balance since the 1962 Chinese-Russian feud, with dangerous implications for China's world standing and its interests in Central and Southwest Asia.

**Chinese Fighters Killed in US Strikes against Kahandar  
20 October**

**DEBKAFfile** has learned from military sources in Dushanbe and Bishbek, capitals of Tajikistan and the Kyrgyzstan respectively, that at least 15 Chinese fighting men on the side of the Taliban, were killed in last week's US bombing over Kahandar and in a separate incident on the ground. This report as confirmed by Pakistani sources in Peshawar, who discovered the Chinese presence alongside the Taliban from their own intelligence reports on the death of the commander of Arab Afghan troops in Jalalabad, Basir al Masri, who was a senior aide to Osama Bin Laden and the Egyptian Islamic Jihad chief, Ayman al Zuweiri.

### **Sharon: We won't be another Czechoslovakia**

By Arieh O'Sullivan

JERUSALEM (October 5) - Pressured by daily deadly terror attacks, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon last night said all attempts to reach a cease-fire have failed and he has ordered the security forces into action against Palestinian terrorism.

"We can rely only on ourselves. And from today forward, we will only rely on ourselves," Sharon said.

"We are currently in the midst of a complex and difficult political campaign. I call on the Western democracies and primarily on the leader of the free world, the United States: Do not repeat the dreadful mistake of 1938, when enlightened European democracies decided to sacrifice Czechoslovakia for a convenient temporary solution. Do not try to appease the Arabs at our expense. This is unacceptable to us.

Israel will not be Czechoslovakia. Israel will fight terrorism."

### **Egypt rejects U.S. coalition, upgrades ties with Iraq**

SPECIAL TO WORLD TRIBUNE.COM  
September 21, 2001

CAIRO — As a policy debate rages at top levels in the Bush administration over attacking the regime of President

Saddam Hussein, Egypt is moving to improve relations with Iraq. Egyptian diplomats said President Hosni Mubarak plans to raise the level of representation between Baghdad and Cairo to the level of ambassador. They said diplomatic ties would be raised commensurate to the level of trade relations.

Egypt has refused to participate in a U.S.-led military coalition against any Saudi billionaire fugitive Osama Bin Laden or any of his government sponsors. Instead, Mubarak has called for a United Nations-sponsored conference on international terrorism, Middle East Newline reports.

### **War Preparations in Israel 21 September**

Without a word to the Israeli public, national emergency war preparations went into high gear Thursday afternoon, September 20.

**DEBKAFfile's** military sources report that hospitals were placed on the ready and medical teams ordered to stay on call. The military authorities warned hospital directors to prepare for a heavy intake of casualties. There was no answer to questions about whether the casualties would come from inside or outside the country – Israeli victims of military operations or enemy attack, or American troops injured after America's war against terror is launched.

**Israeli civilian airfields were also instructed to close down for civilian air traffic as of today, Friday, September 21.** Israeli airlines, including the national carrier El Al, were ordered to begin transferring some of their aircraft to the military authorities.

Israel's strategic supplies are also in the process of being moved to prepared underground shelters – especially the central oil, gas and petrol depot at Gellilot depot in North Tel Aviv, which is very close to densely inhabited residential areas and army bases. A direct missile hit on that location could cause many casualties.

Since September 11, shortly after the attacks in New York and Washington, Israeli air defense systems and units, including two kinds of anti-missile missiles – the new Israeli Arrow and the American Patriot missiles, have been held at a high level of preparedness.

### **Bin Laden Vows Holy War Against 'New Crusade and Jewish Campaign'**

Fox News September 24, 2001

Osama bin Laden on Monday vowed to lead a holy war to crush what he called a "new crusade and Jewish campaign led by the big crusader Bush under the flag of the cross."

"I announce to you, our beloved brothers, that we are steadfast on the path of jihad (holy war) with the heroic, faithful Afghan people, under the leadership of Mullah Mohammed Omar," bin Laden said in a statement provided to Qatar's Al-Jazeera satellite channel.

### **Bin Laden Calls His Balkan Brigades to Arms 26 September**

**DEBKAFfile's** military sources report that Osama Bin Laden's deputy, the Egyptian Jihad chief Ayman al-Zawahiri, has ordered Al Qaeda and Jihad activists in Bosnia, Kosovo, Albania and Macedonia – an estimated 6,000 men – to report for duty and prepare to open a second Islamic front against the United States in the Balkans. According to our sources, that nucleus group is capable of mustering another 40,000 trained and well-armed fighting men. Many hold on to the up-to-date weapons handed out to them by NATO, including the US Army, during the 1998 Kosovo War.

### **PA TEXTBOOKS: WEST WILL BECOME A PILE OF RUBBLE**

An 11th grade PA textbook describes the inevitable victory of Islam over the West with words that become ever so chilling following the World Trade Center horror: "... We do not claim that the collapse of Western civilization, and the transfer of the center of civilization to us



chemical and biological warfare weapons. In northern Iraq, the men underwent a secret intensive course at the hands of Iraqi army experts and instructors in the operation, by three- or four-men squads, of bombs and explosives containing chemical and biological material.

**Turkey rushes troops to Iraqi border**  
MIDDLE EAST NEWSLINE

Thursday, October 18, 2001

ANKARA — Turkey has rushed aircraft, helicopters and thousands of troops to the Iraqi border.

Turkish defense sources as well as Arab diplomats said Ankara has beefed up forces along its southern border with Iraq as part of preparations for any hostility in the region. The sources said Ankara fears a U.S. attack on Iraq or a drive by President Saddam Hussein against the Kurdish autonomous zone in northern Iraq.

Ankara has warned against any U.S. attack on Baghdad. Turkey has tried to improve diplomatic and trade relations with the Saddam regime.

At the same time, Turkish leaders are bracing for the prospect that Iraq will be the next target in the U.S.-led war against terrorism.

**PFLP: Sharon is our next target**

Jerusalem Post 10/18/01

Senior PFLP leader Leila Khaled, infamous for her hijacking of an El Al flight in the 1970s, threatened today that Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is next on their list.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine claimed responsibility for yesterday's assassination of Tourism Minister Rehavam Ze'evi.

Khaled also told the Qatar-based Al-Jazeera television network that her organization will target other Israeli public figures.

(Islam) will happen in the next decade. Nevertheless (Western civilization) has begun to collapse and to become a pile of rubble." ("Some Outstanding Examples of Our Civilization" for Eleventh Grade)

"Islam, The True Religion: The Victory of Islam: . This religion (Islam) will defeat all other religions and it will be disseminated, by Allah's will, through the Muslim Jihad fighters." (Islamic Education for Seventh Grade p. 125) (IRMA)

**GAZA'S ISLAMIC JIHAD PRAISES ATTACKS PUBLICLY**

Jerusalem Post 9/26/01

Islamic Jihad official in Gaza, Abdullah Shami, yesterday praised the terrorist attack on the US declaring he was glad that it had happened. Speaking to reporters on Channel Two he said "What happened in the US made us extremely happy even if we were not responsible for it."

**Iraq trains Bin Laden's Men in Use of Weapons of Mass Destruction**  
29 September

Increasing intelligence reports are reaching **DEBKAF**file that the 200 Taliban fighters reaching North Iraqi in mid-July were in fact members of Bin Laden's Al Qaeda. They came in response to an Iraqi offer to train Al Qaeda terrorist personnel in the use of

**European Union**

**PRODI: US ATTACKS FAVOUR EU POLITICAL INTEGRATION**

October 13, 2001

The EU Observer reports: "One month after the terrorist attacks on the United States, Romano Prodi, the European Commission president, called on Thursday for an acceleration of European integration, saying that the tragic events in the United States opened the way for political integration in Europe. Drawing the political lessons after the terrorist attacks and the global crisis that followed, Mr. Prodi concludes that the European Union is at a crossroad..."

**CHIRAC: BUILDING EUROPEAN POWER IS AN EMERGENCY**

October 5, 2001

The EU Observer reports: "French President Jacques Chirac said today, on Thursday, that the terrorist attacks in the United States show the 'emergency of building a genuine European power.' In a speech in the Southern city of Montpellier, France, Jacques Chirac also said that what changed after the events on September 11 is not the objectives of the European Union, but the emergency of achieving those objectives. 'In the new context, Europe is a given, a necessity and an imperative,' the French President said, 'as it is becoming ever clearer that the problems affecting our societies, the issues that they must confront, can only be solved through the Union, working together and with trust.'

**EU Plans Upgrade of Security Ties with Iran**

9/25/01

NICOSIA [MENL] -- The European Union plans to rapidly improve security relations with Iran as part of a Western effort to fight terrorism.

EU officials said both Europe and the United States have concluded that Iran is a key player in any battle against

Saudi billionaire fugitive Osama Bin Laden. They said both the EU and the United States plan to improve relations with Teheran.

Russia

**Russian forces 'already in action'**

London Times OCTOBER 11 2001

RUSSIAN troops and technical experts, wearing camouflage but no identifying badges, have secretly entered Afghanistan and are waiting with the anti-Taliban Northern Alliance for orders to attack Kabul, according to a prominent Moscow military analyst.

"Two weeks ago . . . Russia effectively went to war on foreign territory without the parliamentary approval demanded by the Constitution," Pavel Felgengauer wrote in the weekly *Moscow News*.

**Russia 'can't allow' U.S to widen war to Iraq**

WORLD TRIBUNE.COM

October 5, 2001

MOSCOW — Russia has already signalled its opposition to a U.S. offensive against Iran and Iraq. Russian officials said Moscow would help Washington with the war on terrorism. But they said President Vladimir Putin would not allow the regime of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein or Iran to become a U.S. target in such a war.

Moscow has sent weapons and troops to help the opposition Northern Alliance overthrow the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. Russia has also agreed to U.S. troops and combat planes in neighboring Uzbekistan, Middle East Newsline reported.

Both Iran and Iraq are on the U.S. State Department list of terrorist sponsors. The Bush administration has been engaged in a debate over making Iraq a target in Washington's war on terrorism.

Moscow has indicated that this is where it would draw the line. Russia has emerged as an ally of both Baghdad and Teheran.

## Iran, Russia Sign 'Military-Technical' Accord

World Tribune 10/4/01

MOSCOW — Iran has signed an agreement to pave the way for purchases of up to \$300 million a year in Russian weaponry and is expected to soon accept delivery of a nuclear reactor. Officials said the agreement was signed during the current visit by Iranian Defense Minister Ali Shamkhani, Middle East Newline reported. They stressed that the accord did not specify what weapons Iran would buy from Moscow but said arms supplies could total \$1.5 billion. "I am very glad that today we have managed to sign an agreement on military-technical cooperation," Shamkhani said.

## United States

To an extent unheard of in recent years, God is suddenly a very public figure in America.

FoxNews and AP 10/4/01

"God bless America" signs are nearly ubiquitous, and lawmakers are urging Americans to pray. Some students are even doing so openly in classes. Many schools have had clergy-led assemblies and some communities have voted to post the Ten Commandments at courthouses.

The scene at a Waxahachie, Texas high school football game recently was typical. At one point, a hush fell over the stadium while football players, cheerleaders and band members from both teams made their way to the end zone. Then, although people in the stands could not actually hear it, the students on the field recited the Lord's Prayer.

"I think you're going to see more Americans not putting up with those secularists trying to make the public square a religion-free zone," said Richard D. Land, president of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, the public policy arm of the Nashville,

Tenn.-based Southern Baptist Convention.

Despite the complaints, the bandwagon rolls on.

In Maryville, Tenn., the school board voted to revive a custom that ended in 1998 and open its meetings with a prayer. The board did it, says member Don Talbott, because "we need to take a stand for what is right." A week after the attacks, the Hamilton County Commission in Chattanooga, Tenn., voted to post the Ten Commandments in city and county government buildings. If a court frowns on the action, commission Chairman Bill Hullander said, "I would sure not want to be the person to walk up there and pull the nail out of it, so to speak, and take it down."

Emboldened by Hamilton County's vote, the nearby town of Ringgold, Ga., approved the posting of three plaques -- one with the Ten Commandments, one with the Lord's Prayer, and a blank one "for those who believe in nothing," as Councilman Bill McMillon explained it. "If we're going to be sued over anything, I'd rather be sued over this," Stokes County Commissioner Willis Overby said. "This is what our country is all about. It's God and country."

## Poll: US-Israel ties stronger than ever

By Dan Izenberg Jerusalem Post

JERUSALEM (October 4) - American support for close US ties with Israel is stronger than ever following the September 11 attacks, a poll conducted by International Communications Research (ICR) shows.

ICR, a leading American polling firm which does work for ABC News, The Washington Post, and the Associated Press, found that 92 percent of Americans endorse full cooperation between the US and Israel in combating terrorism, while 4% oppose such cooperation.

Seventy-four percent of Americans favor either strengthening ties with Israel or maintaining the current, close

relationship. Only 10% favor distancing the US from Israel.

## Pentagon Wants Attacks on Several Mid-Eastern Countries

WASHINGTON [MENL] -- The Pentagon is pressing for a widescale attack on a range of terrorist bases in the Middle East.

Pentagon officials said their plan is for U.S. aircraft to attack bases linked to Saudi billionaire fugitive Osama Bin Laden in several Middle East countries. They did not identify the countries, but they are believed to be Afghanistan, Lebanon, Sudan and Yemen.

"I think there's no question but that there are a number of nations that are on the official public list of terrorist nations, nations that either have sponsored terrorism or been involved in it," Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said. "And we know that a number of those countries are in the Middle East."



## Tactical Nuclear Weapons Deployed 6 October

DEBKAfile's military and intelligence sources report that Presidents George W. Bush and Vladimir Putin, in a single 70-minuted conversation on September 23, eleven days after the terrorist assaults in New York and Washington, agreed on the deployment of tactical weapons. This is an epic shift in the global balance of strength.

Putin gave the nod for US forces

poised in Central Asia to jump into Afghanistan to be armed with tactical nuclear weapons, such as small neutron bombs, which emit strong radiation, nuclear mines, shells, and other nuclear ammunition suited to commando warfare in mountainous terrain.

In return, Bush assented to Russia deploying tactical nuclear weapons units around Chechnya after Moscow's ultimatum to the rebels, some of whom are backed by Osama Bin Laden, to surrender, went by without response.

The US is far from eager to actively inject a nuclear element into the war against terrorism and will not be the first to do so. According to DEBKAfile's military sources, the US plans to hold those tactical nuclear weapons in reserve, unleashing them in the campaign against bin Laden only in certain extreme circumstances:

1. To counter a move by Bin Laden's men first bring out nuclear, chemical or biological weapons against the US force fighting inside Afghanistan.
2. If a chemical or biological assault by the Taliban against Pakistan.
3. Should groups of bin Laden's Al Qaeda network – either in Central Asia or the Balkans – wield these weapons of mass destruction against US military targets or US nuclear arms in other parts of the world.
4. If using them is the only way to save heavy American combat casualties.

## Congress call for adding Iraq to hit list

WORLD TRIBUNE.COM

October 11, 2001

WASHINGTON — U.S. President George Bush is being urged to strike terrorist groups linked to Saudi billionaire fugitive Osama Bin Laden, including Iraq.

Congressional leaders and counterterrorist experts are warning that without such a strike the United States will be vulnerable to additional Islamic suicide attacks. The White House has

also been advised by Pentagon officials to widen the attacks.

Some of the congressional leaders said Iraq should eventually be on the U.S. hit list. They said the United States would first have to demonstrate a link between Bin Laden and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

### 'We'll never sell you out,' Powell reassures Israel.

By Janine Zacharia

WASHINGTON (October 11) - Secretary of State Colin Powell assured Israelis yesterday that the US would never do anything to "sell them out."

Powell was commenting on a now apparently mended US-Israel rift sparked last week by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's airing of fears that the US is appeasing Arab coalition partners in the war on terrorism at Israel's expense.

Asked about the Israeli concerns on NBC's Today Show yesterday, Powell said: "Israel is a strong friend of the United States. We will always support Israel and its security. It is the democratic nation in that region that we absolutely treasure as a friend. And so there should be no concern on the part of any Israeli citizen or leader that the United States would ever do anything to 'sell them out' or to trade away their security."

### White House Rebukes Israel

October 15, 2001

WASHINGTON (AP) -- In the midst of its own war on terrorism, the Bush administration rebuked Israel on Monday for killing the suspected Palestinian plotter of a Tel Aviv disco bombing and set out a series of moves it said Israel must make.

Rejecting any parallel to the U.S. campaign to wipe out the al-Qaida network in Afghanistan by force, the State Department said it remained opposed to Israel's targeting of terrorists for assassination.

## United Nations

### Security Council Adopts Sweeping Resolution to Crack Down on Terrorism

Sep 28, 2001

UNITED NATIONS (AP) - The U.N. Security Council unanimously approved a U.S.-sponsored resolution Friday night demanding that all countries immediately take sweeping measures to crack down on terrorism.

Responding to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States, the council set out a new set of requirements that every nation must meet to cut off funding and support for terrorist activities and improve the exchange of information about terrorist networks.

To ensure that all countries adopt the strongly worded measure, the council created a Security Council committee to monitor their efforts.

"Tonight probably the Security Council made history," said France's U.N. Ambassador Jean-David Levitte, the current council president. "Tonight we have adopted a very ambitious, comprehensive strategy to fight terrorism in all its forms throughout the world."

Ambassador Alfonso Valdivieso of Colombia, an elected council member, said "this is the first Security Council resolution dealing with a conflict that does not name a single country, society, or group of people."

## Religion

Monumental Moslem Construction Work Damages South Temple Wall and Drives Cracks in Al Aqsa Mosque Walls Debkafile

**2 October:** The small protrusion forming ominously in the 2000-year old Southern Wall of Temple Mount - just over the Second Temple's Triple Gate - together with spreading cracks in the fabric of the Al Aqsa Mosque which abuts that wall, are being reworked into fresh fuel for Yasser Arafat's bid to place himself and the Jerusalem shrines at the center of

the international war against terrorism. In this way, he hopes to divert world attention from Osama Bin Laden and focus it on purported Israeli terrorism against Moslems.

**DEBKAFILE's** Palestinian sources report that the September 11 terrorist assaults in New York and Washington left Arafat resentful, feeling that the world jihad's No.1 spot has been snatched from him by the ex-Saudi terrorist.

The alarming damage to the ancient sites developed from five years of unsupervised Islamic construction work aimed at turning the Crusader "Solomon's Stables" and the adjoining chambers under Al Aqsa - with their Second Temple relics - into the biggest mosque in the Middle East.

### Pope urges unity against fanatics

By Bruce Johnston in Rome

(Filed: 25/09/2001)

THE Pope condemned terrorism and religious fundamentalism yesterday, saying they profaned "the name of God" and disfigured "the image of man".

All believers, he said during the second day of his visit to Kazakhstan, had to join forces so that God "may never become hostage to the ambitions of men". Kazakhstan's southern border is just 200 miles from Afghanistan.



The Pope added that the Roman Catholic Church respected "the real Islam", but his words were the strongest he has uttered so far in connection with the current international crisis.

Addressing Kazakhstan's cultural leaders shortly before he left the country, which has a small Catholic minority, the Pope described "the authentic Islam: the Islam that prays, and stands by those in need".

"All believers," he continued, "must join forces, in order that God may never become hostages of the ambitions of men."

### Saudis Launch Crackdown on Christians

10/10/01

LONDON [MENL] -- Saudi Arabia has launched a crackdown on Christian activists amid heightened Islamic unrest in the kingdom. Christian sources in the kingdom said at least 15 Christians from Africa have been arrested in Jeddah over the last few months for conducting non-Islamic services in private homes. Three of them are said to have been tortured in prison.

The Christians are nationals from Eritrea, Ethiopia and Nigeria. The sources did not report any arrest of Western Christians. About 50,000 Americans are said to be in Saudi Arabia, many of them from the military or defense industries.

Saudi Arabia does not allow the worship of any other religion other than Islam. Jews are not allowed in the kingdom and Christians are warned that they risk arrest if they participate in private prayer gatherings. This, despite a directive by the Saudi Interior Ministry that allows private worship.

## Science

### HUMAN CLONE IN 4 MONTHS?

October 8, 2001

Reuters reports: "Scientists could create the first cloned human before the end of the year, a doctor working on the

controversial project said on Friday. Dr. Panayiotis Zavos, who along with his Italian colleague Severino Antinori has triggered worldwide alarm with plans to create tailor-made offspring, said research was going faster than initially expected.

The team has been banned from carrying out research in most European Union countries, but Zavos said that was not hindering progress.

'It is going well enough so we may attempt the first production of embryos, cloned embryos in the very near future. That is, three or four months from now,' Cypriot-born Zavos told Reuters in an interview on Friday. Human cloning could effectively create a replica of another living or dead person..."

#### **Clones contain hidden DNA damage**

NewScientist.com  
9/29/01

Genes disrupted when stem cells are cultured in the lab might explain why cloned animals grown from them die so often, or are grossly overlarge. This discovery, by researchers in the US, rings new alarms about the dangers of cloning humans.

Even when cloned animals looked normal, they still harboured genetic disruptions from the cell culturing process that could pose unseen dangers, the team found. Italy's national medical council has already begun a disciplinary procedure against Antinori for his proposals to clone humans, and says he risks losing his licence to practise medicine in Italy. Both Antinori and the Raelians say they will carry out cloning in countries where reproductive cloning is not illegal.

The Vatican has described Antinori's proposals as "grotesque". Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger was quoted in Italian newspapers on 7 August as saying Antinori is trying to "emulate Hitler". Copying children is "Nazi madness", he said.

Wired.com 9/30/01

**"Scientists have made the hard part of teleportation happen** -- not on next week's episode of the new Star Trek series, but in a real-life lab in Denmark. But don't expect people or objects to be physically taken apart and recreated as they are on the Enterprise. Instead, it is information about this matter that's being moved from one place to the other.

The idea is that if quantum particles -- electrons, ions, atoms and the like -- have exactly the same properties, then they're essentially the same. So if the properties of the quantum particles making up an object are reproduced in another particle group, there would be a precise duplicate of the original object. Therefore, all that needs to be transmitted is the information about the particles' properties, not the particles themselves.

'A teleportation machine would be like a fax machine, except that it would work on three-dimensional objects as well as documents. It would produce an exact copy rather than an approximate facsimile, and it would destroy the original in the process of scanning it,' wrote quantum teleportation pioneer Charles Bennett.

#### **EDITORIAL**

#### **THE END OF THE AGE IN SIGHT**

Hal Lindsay 10/10/01

The Bible Prophets predicted the whole political alignment of the end time. They predicted that all nations would fit into four spheres of political power. At the vortex of this alignment of power is the miraculously reborn state of Israel - restored to its ancient homeland - in possession of its ancient capital, Jerusalem.

Muhammad, a descendant of Ishmael, has brought over one billion people on to his side of this ancient conflict through the religion of Islam. From the time he started the Muslim religion, the dimensions of the conflict

began to enlarge. When his followers laid claim to Jerusalem as the their third holiest site, the die was cast for Jerusalem to become the trigger of the war of Armageddon, just as the prophet Zechariah predicted 2500 years ago. Zechariah prophesied "Jerusalem would become a burdensome stone for all the peoples" and that "All nations of the earth will be gathered [for war] because of it." (Zechariah 12:3) We are eyewitnesses to this taking place right now.

As I have said for more than 40 years, there is no hint of the United States being part of this power. As I have presented in my Video, "Where Is America In Prophecy", something

catastrophic will soon happen to the US to cause power to shift to Europe. Bible prophecy, which has never missed, clearly predicts this revived Roman Empire from within Europe to be the major power of the west and then the world.

For us who know Jesus Christ, it is not a time to be afraid. Our hope is not in this world, but in the any moment appearing of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Messiah. His footsteps can already be heard as He approaches heaven's door. Keep looking up, for your redemption is very near. The prophetic signs are all before us. You will soon hear His voice calling us up to meet Him.

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All Bible prophecy that identifies these spheres of power is plotted geographically from the reference point of Israel.

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# ET 101 – This, Your Day Luke 19:37-44 Part 1 of 2

It was an incredibly special day, unlike any other. After approximately three years of public ministry, Jesus was approaching Jerusalem on His Father's schedule. Quite some time earlier, after miraculously feeding between five and fifteen thousand people with only five loaves and two fish (see John 6:1-15), they had wanted to make Him their King. At that point, Jesus had split the scene – you see, it wasn't time yet.

However, now, as He rode down the slope of the Mount of Olives into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey's colt (see Zech 9:9), the followers began shouting, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!" And Jesus was in to it – it was the day, literally the set time.

But the religious leaders nearby wanted Christ to shut them up, to zip their lips. They said, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples."

Jesus responded, "... if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out."

What? Was Jesus just being a bit enthusiastic? Perhaps euphemistic? Was this just some Middle Eastern saying of the time?

Now, I don't know about you, but I've never heard stones talk and yet Jesus is indeed being literal here. Obviously, the moment is very, very special and the pronouncement of His arrival as the King was

absolutely going to be made. But why?

Well, Jesus gives us the clue. As He drew near to the city, He wept (the word means to sob or wail loudly). In verses 42 – 44 He said, "If you had known, even you, especially in **this your day**, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For the days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know **the time** (literally, the set time) **of your visitation.**"

Now, the word, "day" in verse 42 most frequently means 'daylight period' which makes sense for Jesus claimed that while He was in the world, He was the light of the world (see John 9:5) and the "time" in verse 44 literally means a 'set time' as in a time previously established.

What Jesus was claiming in all of this was that this was a day, a set time, which was foretold prophetically. It was a day and a situation that they could have recognized had it not been hidden from them. (He mentioned a set time or "my time" in other scriptures as well – see John 7:6, 30.)

And some astute disciple might have asked, "Lord, what so special about April 6, 32 AD (and that would have been especially astute seeing as they didn't use our calendar then!)

But to answer this, Jesus would have taken him to a portion of

scripture in Daniel that we know as Chapter 9, verses 24 – 26. It says,...

V24 "Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy."

V25 "Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; the street shall be built again and wall, even in troublesome times."

V26 "And after sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; ..."

In this passage, the word translated as 'weeks' is literally 'sevens' so the prophecy starts with a declaration that 70 sevens have been determined or pre-established in which several awesome things will be accomplished. Note also that these 'sevens' are set specifically for the Jewish people and Jerusalem.

So what are these awesome things? First, he says, "To finish the transgression" or literally, the rebellion or break away. You see, mankind broke away from God back in the Garden of Eden and the Lord says that within this period, the rift will be healed – mankind (including the Jewish people) will be reconciled with our loving creator—the revolt ended, the rift healed. But for this to happen, the next promised occurrence must take

place – "To make an end of sins" or literally offences and their penalties.

All of man's offenses before a just and holy God must be paid for – all past, present and future offences. And furthermore, the slate must be wiped clean so the true reconciliation of man with God can take place. That is, not only will all offences and their penalties be satisfied but it will be as if they never occurred in the first place – "to make reconciliation for iniquity."

The he adds the kicker – not only is the rift bridged, offences and penalties ended and reconciliation produced, but then, a perfect future is guaranteed, for he says that "everlasting righteousness" will be brought in – eternal rightness in everyone and everything! Wow!

Finally, he says that vision and prophecy will be sealed or closed up and that the Most Holy will be anointed.

So this is clearly the grand and glorious plan of God and the timepiece so to speak for it is also clear – the Jews and Jerusalem – like two hands on a clock. And they're ticking off 70 sevens or 490, but 490 what? We'll see that it is referring to 490 years. Verse 25 gives us some more detail. Specifically, we learn that from the going forth or issuance of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem and notably the wall of the city, until the coming of Messiah the Prince (i.e. Messiah hailed as royalty, in the line of David) will be total of seven plus 62 or 69 'sevens' or 483 years. Then verse 26 adds that after this period, the Messiah will be cut off or killed but not for Himself.

This prophecy is so explicit in its schedule – only God could pull it off. You see, just as Daniel predicted, the command which allowed the Jew to restore Jerusalem and to specifically rebuild the wall was given March 14, 445 BC by Artaxerxes Longimanus to Nehemiah. (Note: Other similar decrees were given but this one included the rebuilding of the wall, i.e. restoring the city's defenses as mentioned in the prophecy.)

Now, we're going to do a little arithmetic. Although the total period outlined in the passage is 70 sevens or 490 years, the coming of the Messiah is pinpointed as being after the 62 sevens which clearly follow the first 7 sevens. This puts it after 7 + 62 or 69 sevens. That equals 483 years.

Also, we will use the 360 day calendar for each year. This was the calendar of the day, the calendar originally used as shown in the Genesis account of Noah's flood – it's the prophetic year, if you would. So if each year holds 360 days and we want to measure out a span of 483 years, that is the same as 173,880 days.

Beginning March 14, 445 BC, if we proceed forward 173,880 days, accounting for the 116 leap years, only one year between 1 BC and 1 AD, and a couple other slight imperfections in our own calendar -- we come to April 6, 32 AD exactly. And there indeed we find Jesus, riding on the donkey, entering Jerusalem, hailed as the Son David, that is, Messiah the Prince. Of course the rocks would have cried out!!

This prophecy is so stunningly accurate that numerous critics have tried to disprove it. But honest and thorough historical, theological and archeological research has validated it (as if God's word needed validation!)

And Jesus wept, for the people could have known – if they had not been blinded. And just as Daniel spoke, Messiah was cut off, but not for Himself. Jesus laid down His life freely on the crucifix of Calvary – not for Himself. You see, He was sinless, the spotless Lamb of God. He was 'cut off' for us!

Now, although Jesus said, no man would know the day or hour of His coming to rapture the church – to take us into heaven, (as seen in the parable of the five wise virgins in Matthew 25) He also gave us many prophetic indicators. Paul wrote, "you are not in darkness that that day should overtake you as a thief (catch you unawares).

May we not repeat the blindness of His people concerning His first coming. He told us to watch, to be discerning of the signs of the times and to eagerly wait on His appearing!

There's one 'seven' left out of the 70 then. Lord willing, we'll look at that next time. God bless you as you seek to welcome our coming King!

## ***JIHAD - the Islamic 'Holy War' - what is it? - Barbara Richmond***

It is essential that you understand that Jihad is at the very heart of Islamic faith. There have already been attempts (and there will be more) to propagandize you into thinking that "extremism" is not part of Islam and there are "many nice Muslims" who deplore what happened in New York and Washington. At the risk of criticism, I will tell you the truth. Such propaganda attempts are NOT the truth.

I agree that there are many lovely people who adhere to the Islamic faith who may indeed regret what happened last Tuesday and do so sincerely, but if they pursue their faith as Muslims, sooner or later they will be persuaded that to be a true Muslim, once MUST adhere to the following: Jihad is an essential "tenet of faith" in Islam and nothing will change that. Jihad is a lot more than a Holy Moslem War; it is a required Islamic mentality. You will never understand the concepts of the "Islamic" World or the Islamic Terrorist until you understand what Jihad is, and what it means to the Moslems. It is a spiritual principle that goes beyond military war and is at the very heart of the 'Holy Book' of the Moslems, the Koran.

Jihad includes terrorist attacks, but also the mandate to destroy any believer in the Bible, Jew or Christian, whether by the sword, gun or any other violence. As the campaign against terrorism unfolds, do you think that a 'peace-loving' Muslim will be able to sit quietly by without being pressured by his own community to participate in 'defense of the Holy Koran'? Think again!!!!

While we must resist the temptation to categorically label all Muslims as fanatics who will potentially plunge a knife into our backs at the slightest provocation, we must be aware of what Israelis have learned the hard way. Islam is an extremely powerful force that can sometimes turn an apparent longtime friend into a vicious and unmerciful enemy. David Dolan and others report the fact that over 80% of Palestinians tell pollsters they support suicide attacks upon Israeli civilians. This shocking revelation reflects the strength of their faith (over 95% are Muslims.) These are people who before last September did business on a daily basis with their Israeli neighbors and co-existed in a framework of relative friendship. However when the lines were drawn, they clearly chose the precepts of their Muslim faith over their previous "friendship" with neighbors.

Does militant Islam represent a threat to our way of life? The sad answer is clearly YES, and the US and its allies have no choice but to forcefully stand up to its obvious desire to destroy Western democracies. It was not the United States that declared war last week, but the demonized terrorists and their sponsors who determined to kill thousands of innocent people. Muslims believe that enforcing worldwide submission to the Koran is exactly what the Koran demands, it's Jihad. As one person commented yesterday, "We ought to be challenged by how far they go to serve their 'god' and his instructions!" Terrorism happens because someone is obeying the Koran. To blow an airplane out of the sky with a few hundred Non-Muslims in it, and by doing so to kill several thousand more non-Muslims, IS the very essence of Jihad on display before the world.

Look at these quotes from the Muslim Koran:

"Those that make war against Allah and his apostle and spread disorders in the land shall be put to death or crucified or have their hands and feet cut off on alternate sides, or be banished from the country."

Koran 5:33

"It is not for any prophet to have prisoners until he has made wide slaughter in the land" Koran 8:68

"Prophet, make war on the

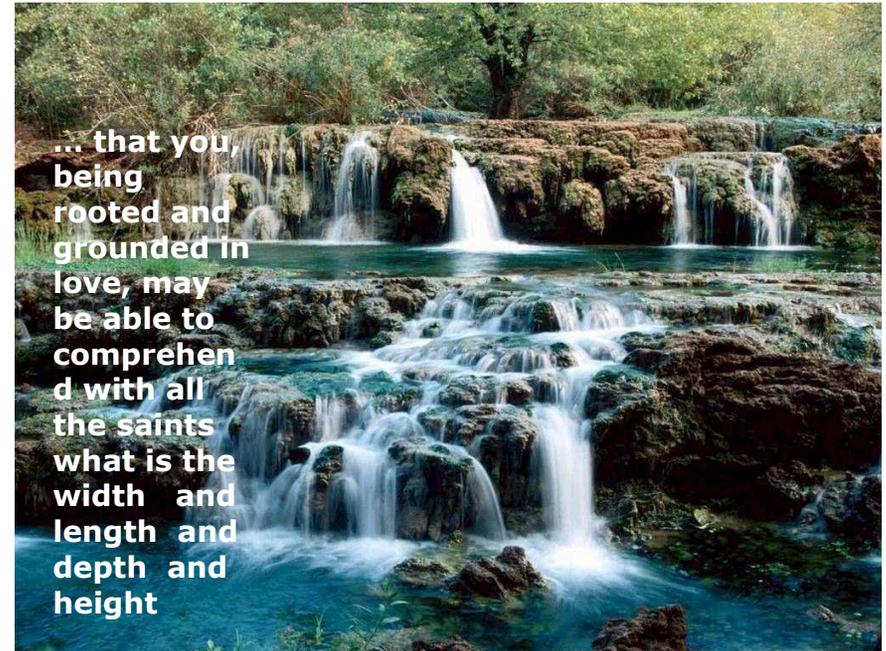
Islamic world or it is death, that is Jihad. Churches all over Europe are being turned into Mosques. The prison system in the United States has made it very easy for the conversion of tens of thousands of prisoner who are embracing Islam, simply because it feeds their hate for society.

Jihad has come to the U.S. and the perpetrators fully intend for it to spread throughout the entire world. Do not dismiss this as an idle threat.



unbelievers and the hypocrites and deal sternly with them. Hell shall be their home, evil their fate" Koran 66:9 It is required of a Muslim to make war on the unbelievers (non-Muslims) until they either accepts Islam or you kill them. And there is no middle ground to that koranic command. Understand that the "unbelievers and the hypocrites" are Christians and Jews; in other words, anyone who worships the true God, instead of Allah. The Koran teaches the Muslims that if they die while killing the unbelievers they will go straight to heaven. Young men are put in special camps to be trained in the ways of terrorism. This is Jihad. The Koran declares that it is to be an

Understand that when you have a very large group of people who have been convinced that their life is meaningless unless they further Jihad for Allah's sake, a large group of people who have no fear of death - in fact, they even welcome the opportunity to die as a suicide bomber for the sake of Allah - you are facing an enemy whose last deterrent has been destroyed - self-preservation! Truly this is an enemy we have not faced before. In the midst of this terrifying prospect here is the great news: The appearing of our beloved Messiah is surely very close. ----



**... that you,  
being  
rooted and  
grounded in  
love, may  
be able to  
comprehend  
with all  
the saints  
what is the  
width and  
length and  
depth and  
height**

**– to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge...Eph 3:17-19**