

# Heavenly Minded

Vol 1, Issue 7

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## The Object of Desire

Have you ever been on a treasure hunt? Have you ever lost something extremely important – your Bible, your wallet, your purse, your keys, and did you notice the unrest in your heart and mind? When that happens, you search and search and ponder and ask around, “Have you seen such and such?” And when the obvious options are exhausted, you start pulling out all the stops – you look in closets or drawers or trunks of cars – places you know your treasure can’t be, but you’re getting desperate.

Sometimes, other people try to help, but they don’t have the

same intensity of desire so their search is pretty lame and they ask, “What was it again?” or “What color is it again?” This is your treasure, not theirs.

But then there’s the exclamation point – “I FOUND it!” Your heart leaps, your mind just dances for a moment and the soothing gladness of having your treasure secure settles in. Now, imagine that we’re not talking about keys or money or credit cards or your ID. Imagine that we’re searching for something 100s or 1000s of

times more precious to you perhaps something of more value than can be spoken. Immediately, most of us will begin to picture someone rather than something...

So now, your search becomes far more intense – you don't want to play ANY games – you want absolutely nothing other than perfectly truthful guidance and understanding, sincere help. But when the consequent discovery comes, it is likewise far more elating.

This is why Jesus said to lay up our treasures in heaven, for where our treasures are, our hearts are compelled to follow. Sad to say, however, many today have treated this command as optional or given it only an intellectual assent. For some, their focus is predominantly to obtain the most out of this life, to pursue personal agendas (sometimes with a spiritual façade), and they slide from the ambassadorship in God's kingdom to citizenship in this world for their treasures are mostly rooted in the planet.

William Wilberforce wrote, *"It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this one."*

The most famous of prayers says, "Thy kingdom – come!" Nevertheless, the Bible tells us that the last-days church called the Laodiceans is one in which

people think they don't need God's kingdom; they are well off – they've bought and sold and planted and built. And in fact, they are pictured as fully engrossed in this activity.

Now, Jesus also said that in the day in which the Son of Man is revealed (that is, His second coming) it would be, *"as it was in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built..."* and soon afterward He followed it with, *"Remember Lot's wife,"* who turned to look longingly at Sodom when it was judged and ... well you know the story. (Luke 17 and Gen 19)

In this, was the Lord just saying that the sinful world would be acting normally – unaware of the coming Judgement? Sure, but that's certainly not all, for that has been the world's behavior ever since we left Eden. The unique and identifying things are that:

- Lot was physically removed from the judgement and ...
- His family was doing the same things as the world – that is, their treasures were in Sodom. That's why Lot's wife turned back.

Lot's family became 'Laodicean' so to speak. Now, clearly, the Laodiceans are pictured in Revelation as a faithless church and that makes

Christ's question concerning His return for His church thunder, if we're listening -- He asked, "Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18)

He's NOT talking of the world, He's exhibiting His concern for His last-days church which becomes indistinguishable in behavior from the world.

Now, earthly treasures may be such obvious things as homes, careers or finances, but they can also be represented in such attitudes as, "I just want to get married first" or "I want grandchildren first" or "I just don't want this ministry to end" – that is, heartfelt desires or even in some circumstances, ministries – anything here in this life that is more important to us than the return and reunion with our Lord.

A.W. Tozer wrote, *"The church is constantly being tempted to accept this world as her home, and sometimes she has listened to those who would woo her away and use her for their own ends... We do well to think of the long tomorrow."*

*There's peace in my eternal home  
On the outside, only war  
And when I gaze in Your eternal eyes  
I find my evermore.*

-- Anonymous

Do you know what you're looking for? You see, everyone's looking – however,

most folks don't realize what they are really seeking, really longing for. That's why they fill their lives with the pursuit of substitutes – things that give at best only a momentary pleasure or satisfaction.

- They look for houses when what they unknowingly desire is the comfort of home – a forever home.
- They look for possessions of all kinds when what they most deeply long for is the permanent inheritance of all things in Jesus.
- They look for temporary pleasures, for fun, for escape from boredom when what they truly yearn for is the eternal joy and forever growing ecstasy of God's presence.
- They look for recognition, success and the praise of men in their job or studies when what their heart earnestly desires is the satisfaction, fullness of purpose and sense of accomplishment in hearing these simple words, "Well done, good and faithful servant..." from God Himself.
- They look for ministerial 'applause' and 'success' when what they most deeply want is the awesome privilege of placing a beautiful crown at the feet of

their Lord – a crown formed only by a loving and obedient relationship with Him, not by how full their schedule is or by numbers of people or buildings or dutiful works or the spotlight.

So why don't most of us recognize what we are truly longing for in our inner man? Why do we fill our time with the pursuit of poor substitutes?

### Perspective.

Why do we work so hard to build what will only one day burn? Why do we hide from deep and tender relationships behind the wall or mask of busyness? Why do we spend so much effort to accumulate that which is only dust in the wind?

### Perspective.

Back in 1649, Richard Baxter wrote, *"If there be so certain and glorious a rest for the saints, why is there no more industrious seeking after it? One would think, if a man did but once hear of such unspeakable glory to be obtained, and believed what he heard to be true, he should be transported with the vehemency of his desire after it, and should almost forget to eat and drink, and should care for nothing else, and speak of and inquire after nothing else, but how to get this*

*treasure. And yet people who hear of it daily, and profess to believe it as a fundamental article of their faith, do as little mind it, or labour for it, as if they had never heard of any such thing, or did not believe one word they hear."* (emphasis added)

It is an eternal perspective that Jesus directed us to embrace. He said, *"Seek first the kingdom of heaven..."* and *"Set your mind on things above..."*

Paul wrote, *"while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal."* And John exclaimed, *"Come Lord Jesus."* You see:

- When we see the consequences of our sin in the light of eternity, we hug the cross.
- When we ponder God's heavenly kingdom, we actually catch glimpses of it.
- When our motivations are brought under heaven's holy spotlight, we can see the gems and the chaff.
- When we earnestly pray, "Come, Lord Jesus!" it's because we are no longer a friend of the world but an anxious bride to be.

Christ is coming very soon. Will you be watching and ready or like Lot in Sodom, will He have to PULL you out overcoming your reluctance? (What a terrible way to enter into God's presence.) Let's set our minds on things above and place the treasures of our trust, our time, our toil, out 'tender' – indeed, our all, in heaven. Let's look for His appearing sincerely, even eagerly and in faith. This pleases God.

***Be "looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God"***  
***2 Pet 3:12***

***"Let temporal things serve your use, but the eternal be the object of your desire."***  
**Thomas a Kempis**

If you have never prayed to receive God's free gift of eternal life. Do it now! Simply confess to Him your sins, your need for forgiveness, believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God Who died for you and rose again – open your heart to Him – the consequences are eternal.



# The NEWS

## **Mofaz: Palestinians do not intend to halt terrorism**

Jerusalem Post



SHEFAYIM (June 11) - "We face a reality today in which we do not see a real intention on the part of the Palestinian Authority to stop the terrorism. We do not see any real attempts to prevent [attacks] and no results, since the firing is continuing," Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz said yesterday.

Speaking to pupils at the ORT High School in Shefayim, Mofaz termed the cease-fire as being used by the Palestinians "for show... to achieve political gains," with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat anxious to see what he would get in return.

Mofaz said that, since the declaration of a unilateral cease-fire by Israel on May 22, 300 attacks had been carried out by Palestinians against Israeli civilians and the IDF, and the PA had released imprisoned terrorists.

He added that it had been proven in recent days beyond a

doubt that "the PA controls the level of the flames of terrorism."

## **Israel, Palestinians urge continued EU role in Middle East**

LUXEMBOURG, June 11 (AFP)

Israel and the Palestinians urged the European Union on Monday to keep up its newfound role as Middle East peacemaker even as the United States makes a comeback in the troubled region.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Palestinian international cooperation minister Nabil Shaath made the appeal in separate meetings with EU foreign ministers, ahead of the EU-US and European summits in Gothenburg, Sweden later this week.

Peres and Shaath were to meet one another later Monday together with EU foreign policy high representative Javier Solana, who has been leading European efforts to get the Middle East peace process back on the rails.

Shaath said, "The continued work that Europe has done on the ground, security wise, politically and in every other way has been very very useful,"

"I think it proves that Europe can do it, that Europe does not always have to play second fiddle, that Europe does not always have to just pay the bills to improve the economic conditions of the area."

"What is going on today with the Israeli leadership is nothing that will create a climate for the return of partnership and return to the peace process," said Shaath.

## **Homosexuality is divinely ordered, says catechism**

By Victoria Combe

Religion Correspondent

The Telegraph

A RADICAL rethink of Church teaching on homosexuality that declares it to be "divinely ordered" is revealed this week in a catechism commissioned by the Archbishop of York.

The second most senior churchman in the Church of England, the Most Rev David Hope, has given the new catechism his imprimatur and describes it in his foreword as "a celebration of Christian living".

Written by Canon Edward Norman, canon and treasurer of York Minster, the catechism seeks to define Anglicanism for the first time since Thomas Cranmer wrote The Book of Common Prayer in 1662.

"Homosexuality," says the catechism, "may well not be a condition to be regretted but to have divinely ordered and positive qualities." It continues: "Homosexual Christian believers should be encouraged to find in their sexual preferences such elements of moral beauty as may enhance their general understanding of Christ's calling."

## **Some Important Facts About Islam to Help Understand the Struggles in the Middle East**

*Barbara Richmond*

The following explanation of basic Islam will help you to understand the foundations of the ongoing struggle in the Middle East and why our prayers are so vital.

As Islam lies at the foundation of the present deadly conflict in the Middle East, it is very important to understand this religion in order to pray accurately. National borders are NOT the basic issue. When Jordan and Egypt controlled the West Bank and Gaza, nobody ever mentioned the idea of asking these countries to establish a sovereign Palestinian state there. What we are seeing is a religious and spiritual conflict between the God of the Bible and Islam.

It is commonly taught that Judaism, Christianity and Islam are the three monotheistic world religions, and many times it is implied that all the adherents of these three religions pray to the same God. President Clinton did much to promote this idea, elevating and popularizing Islam in America. This is a very, very serious mistake that must be clearly exposed.

First of all it must be emphasized that Jews and Christians do pray to the same God. We share the same Scriptures. The New Testament is built upon the Old Testament and there are no contradictions between them.

The same is NOT TRUE concerning Islam. They are not worshipping the same God as Jews and Christians. Let's look at the clear facts. Mohammad grew up in Mecca in Arabia, belonging to the Quraysh tribe in charge of idol worship at the Kabah shrine, containing the black stone and at least 360 idols. The word for god or idol in Arabic is "ilah." Allah was the name for the main idol worshiped in Mecca. The name was probably originally derived from the two

Arabic words "al" and "ilah", meaning "the god" or "the idol."

Allah was also used as THE PERSONAL NAME among the Arabs for the moon god. Its symbol was the crescent moon found on many idols from pre-Islamic Arabia. Every year there was a pilgrimage to Mecca to worship Allah at the black stone. People were taught to turn towards Mecca several times a day.

Mohammad built upon all of these already known forms of idol worship. The only thing that was new was that Mohammad declared the pagan moon deity "Allah" to be the only true god and forbade the worship of all the other idols in Mecca.

Abraham was chosen to leave cult worship surrounding the moon god in Ur of the Chaldeans, to go to a different land, in order to give mankind the revelation about the only true God as a loving Father and Savior.

To confuse the issue, Mohammad declared that Allah is the god of the Jews and the Christians. Noah, Abraham, Moses and Jesus were all prophets sent by Allah. Since Mohammad's beliefs did not agree with the Scriptures, Mohammad declared that the Jews and the Christians have perverted the Scriptures. Therefore Allah has rejected them and cursed them and has sent Mohammad to replace the Bible with the Koran; and to replace Judaism and Christianity with Islam.

It is the duty of Islam to subjugate and destroy the infidels, the Christians and the Jews. Islam is Satan's most powerful and

successful plan to destroy true faith in the God of the Bible.

In Islam religion and politics are joined together. Allah is not primarily interested in individuals. Love is a completely foreign concept in Islam. Allah is destined to rule the world. That is the basis of Islam. Everything else is related to this goal.

When Israel won the first military conflicts with the Arabs it was a tremendous defeat for Allah. Finally, Ayatollah Khomeini in Iran explained that Israel is a judgment from Allah for the backslidden condition of the Muslims.

THE DEFEAT OF ISRAEL, THEREFORE, HAS BECOME THE PRIMARY SIGN OF ALLAH'S PLEASURE WITH THE FAITHFUL MUSLIMS..

We believe that God today is setting up a confrontation with Islam. The war is already going on and eventually it will evolve into a full-scale regional conflict. In talking about His return and the end Yeshua commanded us to not fear but He also said that wars must come. As much as we hate to admit it, the truth is THERE IS NO PEACEFUL SOLUTION!



(Ezek 36:6-12, 22-23)

### Middle East peace?

Janes Intelligence Digest

The announcement this week that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has agreed to a US proposal that aims to establish a ceasefire in the eight-month conflict with Israel has been received with understandable caution. As JID has warned for months, Arafat will not be able to deliver because he does not control the situation on the ground.

The main problem with the Tenet plan is that it will require Arafat to resume his policy of detaining hardline militants - an issue that will put him into direct conflict with organisations such as Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) as well as some within his own Fateh faction - and an acceptance of a buffer zone between Israel and the West Bank. Palestinians fear that the latter proposal could amount to a re-deployment of the Israeli Defence Force (IDF) in Palestinian Authority territory.

### Arafat's 'martyrs plan'

Janes Intelligence Digest

WELL-placed Israeli sources claim that the new hardline prime minister, Ariel Sharon, will apply indirect and gradual pressure on the president of the Palestinian authority, Yasser Arafat, that will drive him slowly but surely out of Gaza and the West Bank, forcing him to carry on his intifada outside the Occupied Territories. Well-placed Palestinian sources, however, disagree. Says one: "Arafat will never leave the West Bank and Gaza to go back to exile. He would prefer to die here."

Sharon, who calls Arafat a war criminal, has let the secret services

off their leash. Special forces, with the help of helicopter gunships and civilian agents, have killed 22 senior Palestinian officers. Israeli agents working inside Arab countries were recalled to base and ordered to target Arafat's lieutenants. The same order went out to the frogman-commandos of Flotilla 13 and the infantry commandos of Sayeret Matkal.

There are signs that Arafat's colonels are cracking under the pressure. Ben Eliezer vowed to "find them and kill them one by one" and his elite soldiers are doing so in a terrifyingly systematic way. Osama al-Baz, special adviser to President Mubarak of Egypt, said recently that he "hoped the gunfire will not hit Arafat and that Arafat himself will not turn out to be a target for the Israelis". However, all signs indicated that he was a target.

### Sacrifice hundreds

Palestinian sources say Arafat will die before giving up his fight and will not surrender power and authority to Sharon. The Palestinian source quoted Arafat as saying that he was working on a 'martyrs plan' which meant that he was willing to sacrifice hundreds more of his own people as suicide bombers and not bow to Sharon.

Our source said Arafat intended to goad Sharon into committing barbarous acts of cruelty against the Palestinians that would turn international opinion against the Israelis.

The Israeli chief of staff, General Saul Mafuz, says he has received instructions to crack down on Arafat's Palestinian Authority - but not to finish it off.

**Our prediction:** Do not be surprised if one day Arafat returns home from one of his trips to find that the Israelis have closed the new Gaza airport, obliging him to land in a nearby Arab country. Alternately, do not be surprised if one day it is announced, that Arafat's airliner has disappeared from the radar screen of air traffic control between, say, Dubai and Morocco.

### **IDF ready for Iraqi involvement in North**

By Arie O'Sullivan

JERUSALEM (June 21) - The IDF Operations Directorate expects Iraq to get involved in any deterioration on the northern border and has prepared plans to deal with Saddam Hussein's forces, the IDF weekly Ba'machane reports.

The IDF is preparing for another outbreak of violence in Lebanon and has not lost sight of the steps taken by Iraq during previous times of tensions. The Iraqis had twice moved armored divisions toward their western border, ready to back any confrontation with Israel.

"The situation in the North is tense most of the time and we are operating there in a way so that a second front does not open. But there could be a situation where not everything depends on us," the senior officer was quoted as saying.

"An escalation can start with a successful attack by Hizbullah which would obligate us to retaliate against Syrian targets," he said. "This sort of situation is likely to quickly lead to a general escalation. We won't be able to put up with Katyusha barrages or a war of attrition.

"We presume that this sort of

situation will lead to Iraqi involvement and an intensification of Syrian participation in events. We are proposing a number of steps that would give an answer according to developments," the senior officer said.

### **Mofaz Briefs IDF Commanders on War Options**

**17 June:** In a most unusual step, Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen Shaul Mofaz summoned a general assembly of top and medium ranking commanders in the ground, air and naval forces for a briefing on the combat challenges ahead.

Gatherings of this sort are rare occurrences in the IDF, except on the eve of war, or after it is over, for analysis. **DEBKAFfile's** military experts comment that the chief of staff would not have initiated this event without prior approval from the defense minister who, with Binyamin Ben Eliezer absent at the air show in le Bourget, is the prime minister, Ariel Sharon.



He made a point of stressing that, whatever happened on the diplomatic front, it was up to the IDF to be ready at all times to win in any showdown with the Palestinians.

The key development on the northern frontier, he revealed, is a constant stream of intelligence affirming that, synchronously with

Assad's public show of evacuating Syrian troops from Beirut, the Syrian army is quietly providing logistic assistance for Iranian Revolutionary Guards elements to join forward Hizbullah contingents along the Israeli frontier.

**DEBKAFfile's** military sources report that Israel's intelligence community is divided over the significance of this development: One faction suggests the Iranians are exploiting Assad's weakness to inject an Iranian military presence into the anti-Israel front. The other argues that it is in line with Assad's intention to beef up Hizbullah positions along the Israeli frontier. The second view gained ground last week when it transpired that some Iranian elements had arrived with additional Katyusha rocket batteries and short-range surface missiles.

According to **DEBKAFfile's** political sources in Jerusalem, Sharon and UN secretary Annan, when they met Saturday night in Jerusalem, devoted little time to the Palestinian question and much more to the security situation in the North. Sharon summoned Maj.-Gen Giora Eiland, Head of Planning in the IDF General Command, for a report on the Iranian presence close to the border.

### **Saudi Crown Prince warns of Middle East war**

Associated Newspapers Ltd., 09 June 2001

Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah has warned of the prospect of a Middle East war, accusing Israel of raising Middle East bloodshed to "unacceptable" levels.

Abdullah told German magazine Der Spiegel that the region is "sitting on a powder keg" that could "explode at any time".

He added that such a war "would not only affect Israelis and Arabs but many parts of the world" but did not elaborate any further.

He told the magazine: "The bloodshed is reaching levels we can no longer accept. The Israeli war machine takes aim daily at unarmed people who are at the most throwing stones."



Abdullah said Palestinian attacks against Israelis were "a sign of desperation and frustration", and that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat could only stop his people's revolt if Israel ends the "cancerous growth of settlements in Palestinian areas".

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In HM, we try to present articles that indicate the course or direction of the world as opposed to isolated events. As we consider these things in light of God's eternal Word, we can take heart that all is moving toward His conclusion.

## ***Faith for Your Family***

On the edge of eternity, as we witness the fulfillment of events that signify the soon coming of Christ for His church, one of the most difficult issues many Christians face is having backslidden or non-believing children. This is such a struggle for some people that they try to ignore the discussions on 'last days' or hope the Lord tarries a good while longer. Certainly, the thought of eternity without the ones they love makes going to heaven something to let come 'in its time' rather than something to eagerly anticipate.

How can we live in that state of hopeful anticipation of the rapture if such is the case? Does the Lord want us to be cold-hearted toward our loved ones and warm-hearted toward Him? Or is this hoopla about the last days and His soon return overplayed?

When I'm asked about this, I frequently reflect upon a story in the Gospel of Mark that provides a huge degree of comfort. In Mark chapter two, we find Jesus in Peter's house where a large crowd had gathered around. Now, not too far away was a group of five men. One of them was paralyzed and had to be carried on a litter by the other four.

They'd heard that Jesus was in town and as they approached the house, it was obvious that they would never get close to Him; the crowd was just too heavy. But one of them got an idea – it probably seemed pretty crazy, yet they loved their crippled companion too much not to try it. Carefully, they wound their way around the house and climbed the stairs to the roof. Now the roof was flat and probably made

of timbers overlaid with branches and dirt about one to two feet thick.

Incredibly, they started tearing up the roof of the house and you can just imagine all the dirt and roofing material falling on the people inside below. Jesus may have smiled as these four guys then lowered their friend down by ropes into the midst of the crowd gathered in the house. What moxie these guys had – just wonderful faith expressed in this loving act.

Now, the Bible says, "When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you." " and soon afterward, "He said to the paralytic, "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, ..."

The point is, that when He saw THEIR faith – not just the faith of the crippled man, but the faith of his devoted friends – He responded in forgiving this man's sins and healing his body. This fellow had not asked for forgiveness but certainly he was elated at the pronouncement. And Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. (Hebrews 13:8)

So consider this, have faith for your kids, for your loved ones -- faith expressed in love. And TRUST the Lord. He is trust worthy! He'll not force anyone into His kingdom, but **He knows how to turn a heart and draw one near to Him.** (Proverbs 21:1, John 6:44) **He will not disappoint your hope** (Romans 5:5). You can rest in this – God loves your loved ones more than you and will honor your faith in Him for them. See also Mark 5:22-42 and Mark 9:17-27.