



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

Heavenly Minded

Vol. 1, Issue 9

The Circle of Life

The News

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Iraq Prepares for War

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Gulp!!!



For the earnest expectation of the creation **eagerly** waits for the revealing of the sons of God. Romans 8:19

Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, **eagerly** waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. Romans 8:23

But if we hope for what we do not see, we **eagerly** wait for it with perseverance. Romans 8:25

For we through the Spirit **eagerly** wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. Galatians 5:5

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also **eagerly** wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, Phil 3:20

...so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who **eagerly** wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation. Heb 9:28

Dearest Friends,

There are so many things that can dampen the key adverb in the verses above. When that happens, life becomes daily, ministry becomes career and loving faith becomes law. We've been there (too often) and perhaps you have as well. We desperately pray that this devotional newsletter finds you **eagerly** looking for Jesus, both in relationship and in return.

If 'life' has bogged you down, trials have gotten heavy or doubts and fears have taken root in your 'garden', you'll find every answer, every strength, every resource, every help, every comfort, every grace and mercy in the person of Jesus Christ and only in Him.

We have been so blessed by your letters! And by the way, if you have just started to receive Heavenly Minded, it's because you're a friend we hope to bless and encourage or someone on our mailing list has asked that you be included.

Now, may you each be drawn so close in God's love that you hear 'His heartbeat' and be refreshed by the "many waters" of His awesome voice.

Love, John and Darlene Dickey



The Circle of Life



It's 6:00 AM and the streets of Taipei are hot, humid and deserted. Jet-lag has set in so my body-clock tells me it's really 3:00 PM and it's hard to argue with it. But there's one other fellow who knows it's early – he's methodically sweeping the trash on this large boulevard with a sorry looking straw broom and an old broom-bucket.

The typical wide brimmed Chinese hat he wears is wrapped in ancient plastic wrap and shades a face that is aged and downcast. He stands or rather stoops in a surreal contrast to the flashy, young and sensuous billboards and 30 foot high advertisements for Esprit, Top Girl, Totally Jo-Jo and the hundreds of other false boastings of a modern materialistic world which is quiet now but only a few hours earlier was bustling with crowds of people shopping, flirting, seeking gain.

I gently wagged my head and thought, 'What a life.'

Life – I don't think we really 'get it'. I don't think we really understand what life truly is. Consider... As the actors beheld a beautiful sunset and drank their beer, the old commercial used to say, "It don't get any better than this." And many people think of life in such terms.

Clearly, the overwhelming majority think of life as the pursuit of pleasure. In fact, it's common, when we're stuck in an unpleasurable routine, to hear someone say, "Hey, get a life!"

But life is not primarily 'biological'. It's just that 'biology' so to speak -- the physical world and its values -- are easier for us to deal with, to perceive and identify. Neither is life simply existence; you and I will exist forever, but we know that eternal existence will be either eternal life or eternal death. So there's another more fundamental quality of 'life' to consider.

And I don't think we really 'get it' – but we should definitely try. The Apostle Paul admonished the early church saying, "...you should no longer walk as the rest of the gentiles (unbelievers) walk, in the futility of

their mind, having their understanding darkened being alienated from the life of God..." (Ephesians 4:17,18)

The very fact that he made this statement shows that we as believers can have the same misunderstanding about life as unbelievers.

So what is life – really? And why does it matter? To the one who has never tasted the goodness of God, never been 'born again' through faith in Christ, any attempt to communicate this will make no sense. It will be like describing the most incredible sunset to someone born blind.

Randy Alcorn, in his novel "Deadline", put it this way – his character Finney is ushered into Heaven –

"The crowd visible beyond the passageway grew with each step he took. Some faces he did not recognize, many he did. He took the last step – or was it the first – and entered the new world. As he came out the end – or was it the beginning – over the threshold, he gasped his first breath of heaven's air. The gasp was a gasp of wonder at the beauty of this place, and the magnificence of its inhabitants. ...Many hands grabbed Finney's, which he stretched out toward them, as if to confirm they were real. He must have some sort of body, since he could feel their touch. This struck a chord of familiarity. It had happened before. Or something very much like it. Yes, of course, when he was born into the other world. The passageway had been the birth canal between earth and heaven. And these were the midwives of heaven, supervising his

birth, pulling him into the world, fussing over him and proudly presenting him to his new family. **This was the real world, which he'd been no more capable of imagining before than an unborn child can imagine the infinite wonders that lie beyond the womb.**"

Now, the Bible uses two terms for what we have translated as "life". Their meanings are the same in both Greek and Hebrew, the original languages. However, they represent to the discerning heart, things that are worlds apart.

The first term comes from the word to breathe and means a breathing creature. In scripture, it always refers to earthly life. A few examples are:

*Mat 6:25 "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your **life**, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not **life** more than food and the body more than clothing?"*

*Mat 10:39 He who finds his **life** will lose it, and he who loses his **life** for My sake will find it. ...*

*John 10:15 As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My **life** for the sheep.*

The second term means life or vitality and is the word always used in referring to the eternal quality. A few examples are:

*Mat 7:14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to **life**, and there are few who find it.*

*Luke 12:15 And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's **life** does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses."*

*John 1:4 In Him was **life**, and the life was the light of men.*

*John 5:24 Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting **life**, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into **life**.*

*John 10:10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have **life**, and that they may have it more abundantly.*

*Genesis 2:7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of **life**; and man became a **living being**.*

Now, Jesus in His great "I am..." statements used this second term to describe Himself seven times, twice as much as any other attribute. (e.g. John 6:48, John 14:6, John 11:25). And God Almighty is specifically referred to as the "living God" 30+ times in scripture – more than any other descriptor. So clearly, this is of paramount importance.

In fact, I'll suggest that it is THE theme of God's plan and purpose for man. It was the very thing we forfeited in Eden and the very thing we have had restored through the cross of Calvary. Life!

What happened back in the garden of Eden? We died.

You see, by Adam and Eve, we broke off, detached, separated, became alienated from our Creator. Death is exactly that – separation from God. We say an electrical circuit is dead when it is open or separated from the flow of power. In a similar way, we lost connection with our Source, the essence of life; apart from Him, we rot and decay in every way. (As a matter of fact, we

call it the Second Law of Thermodynamics - a law of physics.)

As a result, what does the world consider to be 'life'? Really, it can be summed up in four letters, s-e-l-f. Self satisfaction, self gratification, self absorption, self realization, self will, self-ishness. Every attribute or quality of what the world thinks of as life is tied to self and thus separated from God.

And analogous to the scene of my companion on the early morning streets of Taipei, many of us are generally inclined to consider life just as a spectrum of worldly opportunities ranging from the poor have-nots to the blissful, binge-ing gotta-haves. But in reality, life, real life, is not even on this plane.

As we study scripture, it's obvious that the closer you are to the Lord, the more connected, the more intimate (John 17:3), the more LIFE you have; consider the four creatures immediately surrounding God's throne in heaven. These are the most privileged created beings of all. Notice, what is their common identifier? (See Revelation 4) They are LIVING! Could God be any more obvious?

You know, in my ignorance, I used to think of these creatures as somewhat robotic or mindless to continually be saying, "Holy, holy, holy. Lord, God Almighty. Who was and is and is to come." When in fact, they are just the opposite. Their incredibly outstanding intellect affords them the ability to comprehend, which leads to their awe and in turn, leads to their continual worship.

No, I don't think we 'get it', but we can – we'll 'get it' as we get it. Got it?

If you have a loving, believing, submitted relationship with Jesus Christ, eternal LIFE will one day soon stun you with joy indescribable. When you are in His embrace, you will know, perfectly, that everything is right – everything – I said everything.

- I'm not talking about some blissful forgetfulness, but the actual tangible understanding of truth, the grasping of His accomplished plan.
- I'm not talking about some feigned obligatory posture of praise in spite of pain but an actual overwhelming change and restoration of your spirit, soul and body as well as ALL that pertains to your joy.
- I'm not talking about a temporary emotional swing or flirtatious affair with glee but a completed work, a never-fading, always-dawning, ever-lasting, ever-expanding gift from God.

Moses, in the Old Testament put it this way, "Choose life!" (Deut 30:19,20) That is, consciously allow God's Spirit to draw you into the closer, more connected, more intimate relationship with Him. Pursue this course with wild abandon of self (and expect the world to think you're nuts!). You have nothing to fear – He's not too busy for you; He'll never leave you; His thoughts about you are without number and are for your good. It's in this relationship and the never ending pursuit for more of God that we comprehend and enjoy life. We GET it.

...to know Him is to love Him ... is to Know Him is to Love Him ... is to KNOW HIM is to LOVE HIM... IS TO KNOW HIM IS TO LOVE HIM... This is the circle of life!

"About the time of the End, a body of men will be raised up who will turn their attention to the prophecies, and insist on their literal interpretation in the midst of much clamor and opposition."

--Sir Isaac Newton

The Middle East



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 2nd 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. Its leader, a charismatic man, will be the ultimate false Messiah and lead the world to oppose Christ's return.

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

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

Recommended website:
www.applegatefellowship.org

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

Israelis Debate West Bank Invasion By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JERUSALEM (AP) -- After months of violence, Israelis are now openly debating the possibility of a military invasion of the West Bank and Gaza aimed at crushing the Palestinian Authority and ending the rule of Yasser Arafat. Military and political officials confirm the army has readied plans for stepping up the use of force -- but the cost in lives and the possibility of a wider regional conflict clearly are giving the government pause in going all-out.

"The army has plans to cover all the possibilities, but what counts is the Cabinet decisions," said Raanan Gissin, spokesman of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. "There are three options: surrender to Arafat, to go ahead with this plan -- to occupy -- or to continue the current course of restraint and self-defense. The government has said it's committed to peace but this situation can't last forever." One military official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said a large-scale attack was about to be launched June 2 -- the day after a suicide bomber killed 21 young people outside a Tel Aviv disco -- but it was put off by Arafat's announcement, under intense European pressure, of a cease-fire. Talk of a massive assault has since intensified as Israelis have grown

increasingly exasperated with the failure of a cease-fire to take hold.

Mortar attacks and even bombings inside Israel continue, and Jewish settlers are targeted in near-daily shootings. The Israeli media has taken to treating the possibility of a serious escalation -- even a reoccupation of the West Bank and perhaps Gaza -- as something of an inevitability, set to be triggered by the next major terrorist attack. "An unusual consensus has taken hold (and) all roads are leading to a catastrophe," wrote Chemi Shalev in the Maariv daily. "A few days after the war breaks out, suddenly everyone will remember how horrible war is ... when it will be too late." Palestinian Planning Minister Nabil Shaath said Sharon -- currently visiting Italy -- presented far-reaching plans to American and European leaders. "I know that both President Bush and (French President Jacques) Chirac spoke very clearly to Sharon about this issue and warned him against the great dangers of such a policy," he told The Associated Press. "One has to take this seriously because other threats have been carried out."

CAIRO [MENL] -- Egypt has warned Israel against any attack on Syria.

Egyptian officials have warned the Jewish state that Cairo will not stand by idly should Syria be attacked. The officials also warned Israel against attacking the Palestinian Authority. The warnings were issued on the eve of a visit by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. It was the first visit by Peres to Cairo under the current government of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

Peres will meet Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Sunday. Hours before the meeting, Mubarak's adviser Osama El Baz, warned Israel that Syria would not be alone in any Israeli attack. "If Israel intends to launch military operations against Syria," El Baz said, "it would pay dearly for its mistake because Syria cannot be alone in the event of an Israeli aggression."

Hizbullah Gaining Control Over Arafat Organization SPECIAL TO WORLD TRIBUNE.COM Friday, July 13, 2001

TEL AVIV — The Iranian-backed Hizbullah has extended its influence over supporters of Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, placing many on its payroll. Israeli security sources said Arafat's ruling Fatah movement has obtained money and expertise from Hizbullah. This includes weapons and expertise in manufacturing mines and bombs.

The sources said Hizbullah has fostered agents within the Fatah movement and pays them to carry out attacks against Israel. Many Fatah fighters seek to moonlight for Islamic cells in an effort to increase their salaries, Middle East Newsline reported. Arafat's security agents earn as little as \$200 a month.

Iranian Rocketeers Take Aim At Israel

07/08/07 According to a British newspaper, Iran has sent small groups of Iranian commandos have infiltrated Lebanon and are preparing to attack Israel. The Pasdaran, or Revolutionary Guards rocket unit, has aimed their long-range Fagr-5 rockets on cities in northern Israel. Evidence of the Iranian advance came when a Pasdaran soldier defected to Israel last week demanding political asylum. The Iranian troops could not have deployed to Lebanon without Syrian permission. On the other hand, the Jerusalem Post says there is no concrete evidence that this is the case, although it is known that Hizbullah - which is trained, armed, and financed by Teheran - has established some 20 outposts, mainly observation posts, near the border.

Israelis, Palestinians Talking Less of Peace Than Retaliation

Mideast: Officials on each side have vowed to ratchet up their response to the other's attacks even as Sharon sends his son to meet with Arafat.
By MARY CURTIUS, Times Staff Writer

JERUSALEM -- Israel warned Friday that it will retaliate swiftly and harshly against every Palestinian attack on its soldiers and civilians, as gun battles raged in the West Bank and Palestinians accused the Jewish state of detonating a car bomb that killed an Islamic militant.

Sharon is being pressured by settlers frightened by daily attacks from Palestinian gunmen and by right-wing members of his Cabinet who are calling on him to go to war. He has authorized the army to carry out operations in Palestinian-controlled territory in the last few days. At the same time, he sent his son, Omri, to meet with Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat in the West Bank city of Ramallah on Thursday night.

"I clarified the need to stop terror," Sharon said of the message he sent with his son. Since his election in February, the prime minister has refused to meet with Arafat. But if Omri Sharon's visit was an attempt to start a dialogue, it may well be too little, too late. Each side has vowed to ratchet up its response to the other's attacks.

In an interview with the Israeli newspaper Maariv published Friday, Mohammed Dahlan, the Palestinian security chief in Gaza, said he believes that Israelis now want to go to war with the Palestinians. "You want war? All right, then. What can we do, then?" Dahlan said. "Most of the people here have the impression that the [Israeli military] wants to destroy the Palestinian people, and they react accordingly."

Palestinians are so determined to avenge the deaths of hundreds and the wounding of thousands in clashes with Israeli soldiers during the last 9½ months, Dahlan said, that it is impossible to achieve the seven attack-free days Sharon demands as the precondition for a six-week "cooling-off" period that would eventually lead to a resumption of talks.

MOSCOW [MENL] -- Syrian President Bashar Assad appears ready to decide on a large-scale weapons purchase from Russia. Assad will visit Russia later this year and hold discussions with President Vladimir Putin regarding a renewal of military cooperation and weapons sales. Russian defense sources said Assad accepted the invitation from Putin.

The Moscow-based Itar-Tass news agency said Putin and Assad have agreed that their countries would redouble efforts to improve cooperation. This would include a resolution of Syria's \$11 billion debt to Moscow and new arms sales. In June, Syrian Defense Minister Mustafa Tlas held discussions with Putin and senior defense officials regarding the purchase of up to \$2 billion in weapons from Moscow. Russian sources said this includes tank and aircraft upgrades as well as the S-300 anti-aircraft system.

July 13, 2001 - The prestigious Jane's Information Group in London, says Israeli generals have a plan in case there is another massive terrorist attack against Israelis. It would involve 30,000 Israeli troops, would result in the destruction of Palestinian armed forces and the Palestinian Authority, and would force Chairman Yasser Arafat back into exile, as he was for 12 years after the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon. They believe that Egypt, Syria and Jordan will stay out of such a war, though Iraq might get involved. The Jane's report indicates that the plan was presented to the Israeli cabinet on July 9. It reflects a possible change in thinking in the current government; earlier governments rejected a military solution to the Middle East dispute. But Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon dismissed the rumors of war Thursday, saying he has no plans to escalate the conflict. Source: CBS

July, 2001 - Barbara Richmond - The next three weeks could be difficult for Israel because of the historical cycle of

destruction associated with the Ninth of Av, a Jewish day of mourning. A brief look at the tragedies that have occurred on this date:

9TH AV

1200 B.C.- Israel told by God in the wilderness that generation would not enter The land of promise.

586 B.C. - The Babylonian army destroyed the Holy Temple.

70 C.E. - Titus and the Roman army destroyed the Holy Temple

135 - "Bethar" the stronghold of Bar Kochba, fell ending the last trial for Jewish Independence.

136 - Rome began to erect the pagan city on site of the Temple dedication.

1096 - The first crusades began.

1290 - The Jews were expelled from England.

1306 - The Jews were expelled from France.

1492 - King and Queen of Spain signed expulsion. By July, on the 9th of AV, Jews had to be out of country.

1648 - Chmelnicki massacred tens of thousands of Polish Jews.

1914 - Declarations for World War I began.

1942 - Plans for the annihilation of Jews were drafted initiating World War II.

Source: WorldWatchDaily

July 16, 2001 Arutz-7 reports: "Senior aide to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Osama el-Baz, announced over the weekend that if Israel makes the 'major mistake' and attacks Syria, Syrian would not stand alone. Egypt announced it would come to Syria's side against Israel. El-Baz added that Israel better think twice before launching attacks against any Arab nations, especially Syria 'that fulfills an important role in the peace process.'.."

July 15, 2001 NYPOST.com reports: "Palestinian paramilitary groups yesterday issued a chilling call to arms to fend off any Israeli invasion of Palestinian-controlled areas in the Gaza Strip and West Bank, The Post has

learned. 'The next days will be fateful and we have to be at the top of our preparedness to face the possibility of the invasion of the Zionist enemy to some parts of our liberated lands,' read one directive from Fatah. 'The task of our competence will be not only to stop the Israeli forces, but to give them a lesson.'

Iran boosts arms supply to Lebanon By Marc Carnegie AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

JERUSALEM -- Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has called Israel a "cancerous tumor" that should be wiped off the map of the earth, is sending arms to south Lebanon in pursuit of his goal, according to top Israeli officials.

Iran's Islamic regime has sent Hezbollah guerrillas in south Lebanon as many as 8,000 Katyusha rockets that could easily strike most of the northern third of Israel, the officials say. Intelligence sources cited in the Haaretz newspaper yesterday said Iran is stepping up its weapons shipments to the Lebanese guerrillas, airlifting hundreds of tons of arms and materiel via Syria in the past few days.

Two months, ago there were reports that the United States had closed off the primary supply route Iran has used for almost 20 years to fly weaponry and other material support to Syria for extremist groups in Lebanon. That success, however, has been countered by Iran's escalating involvement with extremist groups -- primarily Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Hezbollah -- determined to destroy the U.S.-brokered Mideast peace process. Iran's role during the past seven months has grown to levels not witnessed in a decade, U.S. officials said at the time. Israeli Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer told the Jerusalem Post that Iran has become "the mother of international terrorism."

The end of the pseudo cease-fire

Analysis By Gerald M. Steinberg July, 18 2001

July 18 - Since 1948, cease-fires in the Arab-Israeli wars have usually been utilized to prepare for the next round of fighting. Exhausted troops have time to rest, equipment is repaired, ammunition supplies are replenished, and new firing positions and plans are drawn up, all under the cover of a diplomatic initiative and temporary halt to the fighting. The question following each such episode is which side was more successful in taking advantage of the relative period of quiet.

In the case of the Palestinian war that began 10 months ago, the agreement negotiated by CIA head George Tenet never went beyond a pseudo cease-fire. Despite his reluctance, Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat was forced to accept this framework to avoid a full-scale Israeli invasion following the suicide bombing near the Dolphinarium that killed 21 young Israelis and wounded scores more. Tenet left too quickly to ensure that the agreement in its entirety was implemented, and the terror attacks and drive-by killings, particularly in Judea and Samaria, continued.

US intelligence: Israel will attack

By RICHARD SALE, UPI Terrorism Correspondent

Friday, 20 July 2001

The CIA believes Israel's Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has decided to launch a retaliatory full-scale attack on Palestinian-controlled territory if there is another suicide bombing attack, several former Agency and other U.S. intelligence officials said.

Some intelligence sources said they expected the Israeli attack probably within a matter of days.

"There's no question that he's going in," said a former CIA official, referring to Sharon.

The question for these sources was when. They think the Israelis would wait

until after the summit of the Group of Eight industrialized nations in Genoa, Italy. The summit ends Sunday.

According to these sources, Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat was already engaged in talks with Syria about relocating Palestinian leaders to that country.

One former CIA official, still active in the region, said he believed that Sharon would wait for the next in the recent wave of car-bomb attacks before launching "a full-scale assault" designed to drive Arafat into exile and destroy the PA.

Under that plan, the Israeli forces would also capture and kill any members of Hamas, Hezbollah, the Islamic Jihad or other organizations defined by Israel as "terrorist." A "wanted list" has already been drawn up by Israeli intelligence services and approved by Sharon, according to a U.S. administration official.

Iraqi Opposition Reports War Readiness Signals

MIDDLE EAST NEWSLINE Thursday, June 28, 2001

ABU DHABI — Iraq is said to be preparing its military for a war outside its borders. Iraqi opposition sources said the military has been placed on alert around Baghdad and in northern and southern Iraq. They said these include the operation of anti-aircraft batteries and the opening of weapons storehouses. In addition, the military has moved troops to several areas of Iraq, including near the Syrian and Turkish border. The troop movement, the sources said, appears to reinforce major routes that lead from Iran to Syria and Jordan.

Iraq, the sources said, has obtained at least 200 tank transporters from Russia. They said Baghdad plans to import up to 1,300 such vehicles in an effort to compensate for a lack of spare parts for tanks and armored personnel carriers.

Arab intelligence sources have confirmed the preparations. They said

Baghdad is preparing for a military conflict with U.S. and British forces.

Debkaf file 6/27/01 This week, Iraq's key commands and government offices were secretly and suddenly whisked out of Baghdad to underground bunkers outside the capital. For some reason, Saddam looks as though he is preparing for a US attack, which may or may not be in reprisal for some as yet unimplemented Iraqi action. Moreover, the troop concentrations piling up in North and West Iraq may be preparing for an offensive against the Kurdish tribes. That is one possibility. But they may also be a signal to Washington that Saddam will no longer take US actions against him lying down.

Arutz Sheva 7/7/01 It was reported today that the Moslem Waqf's illegal construction continues non-stop on the Temple Mount, causing irreparable damage to Jewish antiquities there. The Temple Mount, where the two Holy Temples stood and the third one will be built, is the world's holiest site in Judaism. Photos published in today's papers show a giant electric saw cutting through ancient stones.

IDF prepared to call up reservists abroad

By Arie O'Sullivan

TEL AVIV (July 22) - The IDF has made preparations for a massive call-up of tens of thousands of Israeli reservists abroad in the event of a major war, the IDF said over the weekend.

The IDF Spokesman said yesterday that the IDF had opened recruitment branches in nine major cities around the world: Los Angeles, New York, Paris, London, Amsterdam, Frankfurt, Bangkok, Bombay and Johannesburg.

"These are the draft centers for Israelis living abroad for over a year, and for Israelis who are currently touring the world," the statement said.

The army added that it had also set up a special unit to absorb reservists

flooding back to the country "in time of need." The statement was released following a major article in Yediot Aharonot on Friday which broke the story.

CAIRO [MENL] -- Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, warning Israel against war, said the military is undergoing constant improvement. Addressing cadets of Egypt's military academy, the president warned that anybody who seeks to launch a war with Egypt will be defeated.

It was the latest in a series of warnings by Mubarak. Egyptian sources said the president has been alarmed by the prospect that the current Israeli-Palestinian conflict will sweep the region.

"We are constantly strengthening our military in the defense of our land to inhibit anyone who thinks of attacking us," Mubarak said on Monday. "We won't sabotage our achievements, interests and our national goals."

"What took place in 1967 will never be repeated," Mubarak said. "If the other side wants to make war, then the damage will be disastrous for all of us."

Arutz Sheva 7_31

Chief Of Staff: Arafat Giving Orders For Terrorism

IDF Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz, speaking at an army induction center this morning, reviewed the events of the current terrorist war against Israel and described his assessment of the situation:

"Over the last few days, there has been a sharp escalation in terror attacks under the direction of the Palestinian Authority. Since September, in my opinion, Arafat has given a 'green light' to mass killings in Israeli cities - this trend is being accelerated. There is now an unprecedented number of assaults against Israeli targets

Jerusalem Post

15 police, 30 Muslims injured in Temple Mount riot

By Etgar Lefkovits, David Rudge

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

The decision to enter the Temple Mount compound and remain there for the time being was taken by Jerusalem police chief Commander Mickey Levy. "It took us 90 seconds to quell the stone throwers," Levy told Army Radio.

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

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

PA Chairman Yasser Arafat's Fatah Party urged Palestinians to rally after midday prayers today, and declared today a "day of rage... to protect the holy city and the holy sites and al-Haram al-Sharif from desecration." Hamas called for gatherings this morning at the Aksa Mosque to defend it "with soul and blood."

30 July: *DEBKAF*'s military sources report that, following Israel's air bombardment Monday night of a mortar factory concealed inside the Palestinian police compound in Gaza, Yasser Arafat is reported to have ordered from Tunis the launching of a large scale mortar offensive in the Gaza Strip, West Bank and Jerusalem. The Palestinian

munitions factory was demolished after Israeli settlements were subjected to a night of mortar fire.

Arafat's new offensive comes on top of the fast-multiplying Palestinian assaults at every hand that brought the confrontation to boiling point Monday. During the day, the Jerusalem police scrambled half a dozen times for false alarms in a city whose nerves were stretched as tightly as wire.

Iraqi Incursion to Jordan

28 July: Two days ago, *DEBKAF*'s weekly intelligence newsletter, in conjunction with the second largest electronic news site in America, **World Net Daily**, broke the news of Iraqi commandos in Jordan. This is undoubtedly the most important military development in the ten months of the Palestinian confrontation with Israel.

Russia

Russians Renew Old Friendship With the Chinese
New York Times Service July 17, 2001

Russia and China signed a treaty of "friendship and cooperation" on Monday that binds to two nations more closely over the next 20 years but also commits them to oppose much of the framework for international security that the United States is seeking to erect after the Cold War. The 25 articles of text joined Russia and China formally in opposition against America's missile defense plans, placed Russia more firmly behind China's claim of sovereignty over the island of Taiwan, and strengthened military cooperation between Beijing and Moscow while rejecting the kind of humanitarian intervention that NATO undertook in the Balkans in 1999.

Russian army in 'critical condition'

BBC Monday, 25 June, 2001

The Russian Defence Minister, Sergei Ivanov, has said the country's army is in critical condition and in dire need of urgent reforms. In a newspaper

interview, Mr Ivanov said the government was planning to cut 600,000 positions from the army in the next three years, and the reduction would free up funds to update military equipment and introduce efficient training. The minister said the proposed reforms would also uphold Russia's military factories, which currently work at a third of their capacity.

European Union

July 12, 2001 - It has been revealed that the EU has contributed great sums to left-wing organizations in Israel in an attempt to influence public opinion. In reaction, fifty-two Knesset Members have signed a petition calling on the European Union to cease its monetary intervention in Israel's internal affairs, and publicize all the groups to which it has given money over the years. Source: Arutz Sheva

Deep European Union Involvement In Israeli Politics

BBC Monday, 25 June, 2001

MK Benny Elon disclosed additional details yesterday of the European Union's financial intervention in Israel's electoral affairs. It was learned last week that the EU had given to the Four Mothers, Peace Now, and other left-wing groups, and now Elon reveals that the list is much longer: "This is unbelievable. There is a whole network that looked for the weak links in Israeli society, and then started bankrolling them.

Environment

July 11, 2001 The Associated Press reports: "Lake Tiberia, the biblical lake where Jesus walked on water, has been pumped almost to its limit. It is now so low that salt deposits endanger its sweet water. Broad mud flats and odd little islands deface the placid expanse of blue that until just a few years ago lapped at old stone walls. Israel's other main sources; aquifers marbled within mountains and along the Mediterranean coast, are depleted by the worst drought in a century. They are being tapped

much faster than engineers advise. With all of their other problems, Israelis and Palestinians are running out of water.

July 10, 2001 The Associated Press reports: "Two million Israelis in the Tel Aviv area received a stern warning Monday – don't drink the water. Breaking into a prime time TV newscast with the sudden announcement, the Health Ministry said the water had turned murky, and boiling it would not purify it. Therefore, officials said, people should not drink tap water until further notice.

This comes as Israel faces one of its worst water shortages because of a three-year drought. The Sea of Galilee, Israel's main freshwater reservoir, is far below what scientists regard as the danger level, and the coastal aquifer is fast becoming polluted with sea water..."

Religion

July 18, 2001 A high-ranking Lutheran priest in Paris has announced his conversion to Catholicism, in what may be the first of its kind since the 16th century Reformation.

Michel Viot, 57, was a Lutheran ecclesiastical inspector, an office that would be the equivalent of bishop in other churches. He told the Catholic newspaper, La Croix, that the joint declaration on justification signed by the Catholic and Lutheran churches in 1999 was the linchpin of his conversion. "In order that the world believes, it is necessary that Christians are united," Viot said.

Rabbi tells of conversation with Messiah

FROM SAM KILEY IN JERUSALEM
The Times FRIDAY JUNE 29 2001

ISRAEL'S ultra-Orthodox Sephardi community was engulfed in a wave of religious optimism after Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, spiritual leader of the Shas party, said that he had conversed with the Messiah in a dream.

Rabbi Yosef, the former Sephardi Chief Rabbi, who recently said that Arabs were snakes and should be annihilated, told his followers that he had the dream on Friday.

Rabbi Ben-Zion Mutzafi, one of his followers, said that Rabbi Yosef had told him that in his dream "at the Western Wall plaza and in all of Jerusalem there were only Jews . . . There were no non-Jewish foreigners there. They had already been expelled (before the coming of the Messiah)."

Third World Network June 28, 2001

Africa has 70% of the adults and 80% of the children living with HIV in the world, and has buried three quarters of the more than 20 million people worldwide who have died of AIDS,' says the Update. At the end of 1999, UNAIDS estimated that some 36 percent of the adult population in Botswana, 25 percent in Zimbabwe and Swaziland and 20 percent in Zambia were infected. These shocking figures reveal an impending catastrophe on a scale that is unparalleled and far exceeds the bubonic plague in Europe, which killed some 30 million people in the 14th century: it took Europe more than a century to recover its population to levels that existed before the plague. They show that AIDS is now out of control, spreading fast and furiously, threatening the continent with extinction.

Science

Human Cloning Attempt Continues, Despite Scrutiny

By Matthew Herper

Forbes.com Friday, June 29 2001

A group attempting to clone a human being was warned by U.S. regulators not to perform certain experiments within this country. One of the group's leaders says the cloning efforts continue both inside and outside the U.S., but they are being careful not to break any laws.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration told the group, which is

conducting cloning experiments on behalf of the Raelian religious sect, not to clone a human being in the United States. Some reports have stated that the cloning group, called Clonaid, was halted in its effort to create a genetic duplicate of a child that died of heart disease. But one of Clonaid's leaders says their work continues.

Scientists Manufacture Human Eggs

By EMMA ROSS

AP Medical Writer July 2, 2001

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP) —

Scientists appear to have found a way that someday could allow women to become mothers after they no longer can produce viable eggs, a potential advance in breaking the last great barrier to fertility treatments.

The technique, described Monday at a conference of the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology in Lausanne, involves taking a cell from an infertile woman's body, and inserting it into an emptied donated egg. The resulting egg contains the genetic material of the woman wanting the baby, not of the donor.

Human cloning 'will never be safe'

By Steve Connor Science Editor 06

July 2001 Scientists have found potentially definitive evidence that cloning is far too unsafe to be used in human reproduction, should it ever be viewed as ethically acceptable in the future. Hidden genetic defects were found in otherwise healthy cloned animals in a study that could fatally undermine the arguments for loosening controls on the most controversial area of reproductive technology. The research could explain why a huge proportion of cloned animals are either stillborn or suffer from congenital defects, and points to the presence of an underlying genetic flaw in all clones. ... the research represented a serious blow to people such as Severino Antinori, the Italian doctor who wants to clone a baby

Departures

By Michael Dickey

Then Abraham breathed his last and died in a good old age, an old man and full of years and was gathered to his people. Gen. 25:8

God's word is just pregnant with mention about the departures of man. Not the departures of leaving one village for the next or one city for another, (though they too abound) but with the greatest departure of all, death. The word *death* carries a cold, murky and dark undertone, invoking fear and anxiety in the heart of man. A person lives their life, basking in all the ecstasy this world can offer, and then in one sharp cutting blow, their life is severed by the knife of death.

Now, this ominous view of death is precisely what man's enemy, Satan, propagates. He promotes the idea of death as an end, a finality, a cessation of life. However, for man to fall into this notion of death is to miss the reality of God's plan. God is eternal. He is not bound by time and as such has no beginning and no ending. The Bible says we are created in the image of God. We have spirits that will never die. Thus "death" is merely a relocation -- for those who put their faith in Christ, into the presence of God and, for those who put their faith in man, to a place of eternal isolation and separation from God.

The data is pretty convincing; it is inevitable, every human will face their own departure. The Bible states clearly: "and it is appointed

unto man once to die but after this the judgement" Hebrews 9:27. Of course, we see this departure everyday -- broadcast in the media, reported by friends and sometimes experienced up close with loved ones. Nevertheless, as much as the hurt and pain is a brutal reality in the death of a loved one, so is the profound treasures bestowed upon us and them by our Lord. The fire of suffering and separation produces divine gold refined in our hearts.

Now, the point of departure has always been an occasion of deep learning for those still devoted to pilgrimage. The scriptures are rich with the departures of men and women of God as with the defiant and foolish man. What can we mine from those departures? What truths are proclaimed and what treasures exist for the seeker?

It is easy to overlook that departures are the paramount lesson of history. Gazing back throughout the thousands of years of man's history, studying countless lives with fascinating stories one can easily minimize the astounding observation that each and every person born... has died, that is, departed. It's like looking at the insignificant and ignoring the significant. Biographical books chronicle the every detail of a man's life only to ignore the crucial conclusion. But this ultimate historical reality stares us in the face!

What would happen if instead of reading history from the viewpoint of a person's birth and subsequent life if we viewed history from the other end, a person's departure with their faith and hope or lack

thereof? After all, is this not the greater perspective? One person views this life as having an end while another views this life simply as a beginning. As followers of Christ we need to be less impressed with the supposed 'great works' of man and more focused upon the great faith and heavenly perspectives of God's people.

And when Jacob had finished commanding his sons, he drew his feet up into the bed and breathed his last, and was gathered to his people.

Genesis 49:33

My departure from this place will be my birthing into the next – that instant of transition. I long for that exhale of this

world's pollution and for that inhale of heaven's sweet air. I'll let that sweet air of eternity fill my lungs, saturate my body with life, filling me completely with Him like an infant's first breath. I do not fear that last breath. I embrace it like a lover.

So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where [is] thy sting? O grave, where [is] thy victory? The sting of death [is] sin; and the strength of sin [is] the law. But thanks [be] to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Cor 15:54-57

Branches bending from the wind

*Tumbling gray streaked clouds hovering over the ground
One small sparrow hidden,
Beneath the haggard and broken rocks.*

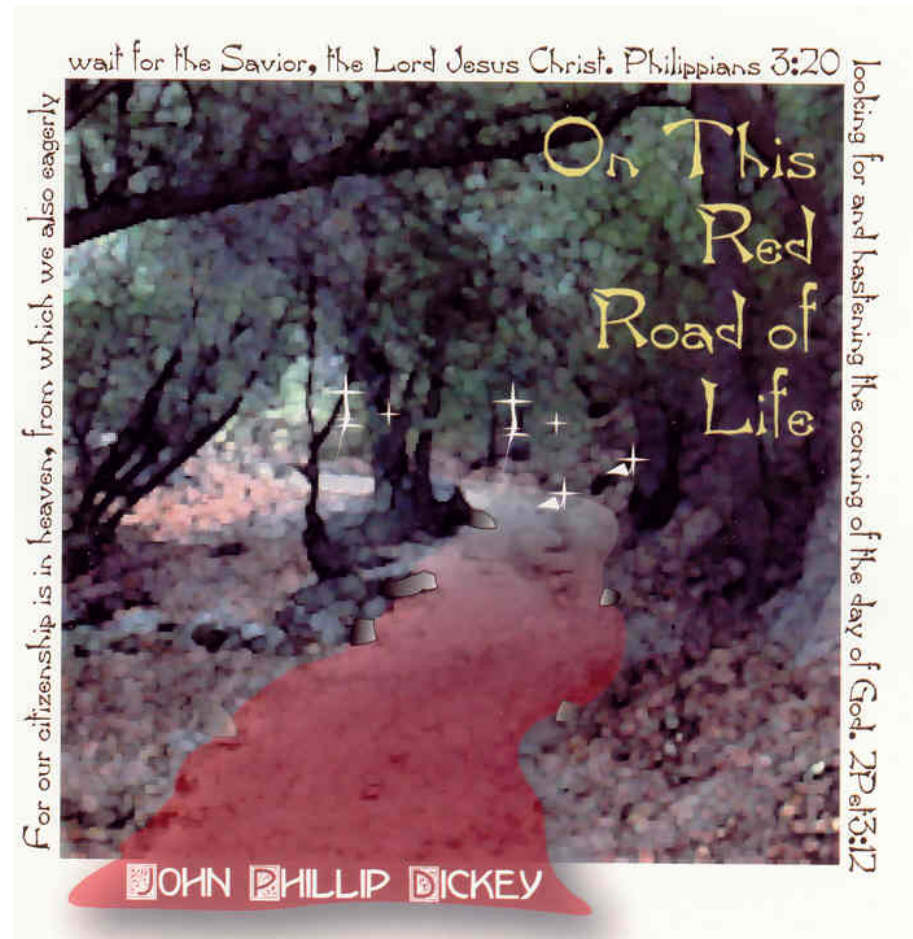
*Is this fragile creature hurting?
It sits so still, gazing silently at the heavens.
Is there no one that sees its frightened form?*

*Lightening streaks the sky
Thunder shakes the mountains
Miraculously, the sun parts the clouds
Its rays climb down a heavenly ladder to the frightened creature*

*With the warmth of its penetrating rays
The sparrow flutters its wings and takes flight
Reaching toward the source of its strength*

*Gradually disappearing
As the Sun encompasses its small form
Sunlight rays dance upon the earth
As if full of the music of Joy.*

By Star Shirley See Luke 12:6,7



John Phillip has created a wonderful collection of songs that encourage us to pursue our *pilgrimage*. This is his first CD and we want to offer it to you free of charge.

If you'd like to receive a copy, just drop us an email at jdickey77@yahoo.com and we'll send it to you.

John created this set of mostly 'unplugged' or acoustic works for the purpose of distributing during his witnessing trips like he would a gospel tract. He's hoping people who listen will catch a heavenly

vision and seek to know the Lord Jesus.

He's also sending copies to Christian coffee houses and Christian radio stations in hopes that the Lord will open doors for musical evangelism and edifying of the 'body of Christ'.

The Red Road of Life refers to the 'highway' all sincere believers travel on their way home – heaven. It comes from Randy Alcorn's novel, *Edge of Eternity* (recommended reading!) I'm a little biased but I think this CD is outstanding! :0)

GULP!!!

"I'm swamped! I'm in over my head!" – Ever feel that way? I took a job once (OK, or maybe twice...) in which I felt overwhelmed – just wearied and worn out by the circumstances. Know what I mean? No peace, no solitude, no time for devotion, for just sitting at the Lord's feet. Instead, it was all running, all doing, tumbling from action to action – a busy, busy man – just too busy, man!

And it's in these kind of situations that we can get carried away by the descending current of this world's priorities. Here, the sand castles of our good intentions are swept away.

So, that's why I love these wonderful reflective moments which for me are becoming increasingly more important and refreshing. Today, I'm reading in the book of Joshua, preparing to teach out of the book of Mark, chapter one.

In Mark 1, we find Jesus being baptized by John in the Jordan river at the same place, many scholars think, where Joshua led the children of Israel across into the promised land. Now, John's baptism was radical – the Jewish people had never used it before as John was doing. They did baptize

converting gentiles, but never was it used as a demonstration of repentance on the part of a Jew.

So when Christ showed up, having no need for repentance, John said, "I should be baptized by You!" Nevertheless, Jesus was submerged by John to, in His own words, "...fulfill all righteousness."

Now this passage in Joshua 3 is



awesome – I think it's plainly prophetic, pointing forward not only to Christ in the gospels but also to the days in which we are living, and it speaks of life!

Here's what happened – after some 40 years in the wilderness of Sinai, Joshua and the children of Israel were camped on the east side of the Jordan river; it was a time when the river overflowed its banks.

The heavenly message was then given – after three days, the captains were to go throughout the camp and tell all of Israel to follow the Ark of God. Now, you may already know that *three days* in the scriptures points to the resurrection of Christ and the *Ark* is itself a fascinating picture of Jesus (more on that in another study, perhaps).

Anyway, Joshua then told the priests to carry the Ark into the Jordan river. Now, this gets interesting because the name Jordan means "descender" and it descends into the Dead Sea. As such, it is a picture of death or sin leading to death. Recall, Jesus was immersed here Himself foretelling His own death and His taking on the sins of the whole world.

But here in Joshua, as the priests who are carrying the Ark, the type or picture of Christ, entered the river, something supernatural happened – the river was immediately 'swallowed up' – the water stopped far upstream, all the way up at a place called **Adam!**

Can you see it? The picture is perfect. When Christ died for us on Calvary (as the Ark entered the river) sin and death (the Jordan) was "swallowed up" in victory (1Cor 15:54) all the way back to Adam! All the way back to the time when mankind first sinned and died.

As a consequence, all the people crossed over on dry ground – death lost its sting (1Cor 15:55) – and they entered the promised land of God's Kingdom. Isn't this beautiful?!

But there's more. Just as Jesus told His disciples to follow Him, Joshua told the Israelites to follow the Ark (see Mat 16:24-26 for example). But they were to follow it

specifically from a distance of "about 2000 cubits". Now, I will suggest that this could be a prophetic illustration of the Jews following Christ in fulfillment of Romans 11:25-27 about 2000 years after Christ's death and resurrection. If that is the case, and I believe it is, we are living in exciting times!

Next, Joshua instructed 12 men to retrieve 12 stones from the dry river bed and to build with them an altar to the Lord so that Israel would always remember. In like manner, we also need to be reminded:

- Of what Christ has done for us
- That the descending current of sin has been stopped for those who believe
- That death has been swallowed up by Life
- That we should follow Jesus and, as a consequence, walk in newness of life

*"Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore, we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk **in newness of life.**"* Romans 6:3,4

You can begin a relationship with your Father in heaven by simply praying and asking Him to forgive your sins, to send the Spirit of His Son, Jesus Christ, in to your heart. Confess, receive and believe that Jesus died for your sins and rose again from the grave. It's that simple. If you haven't already – do it now.