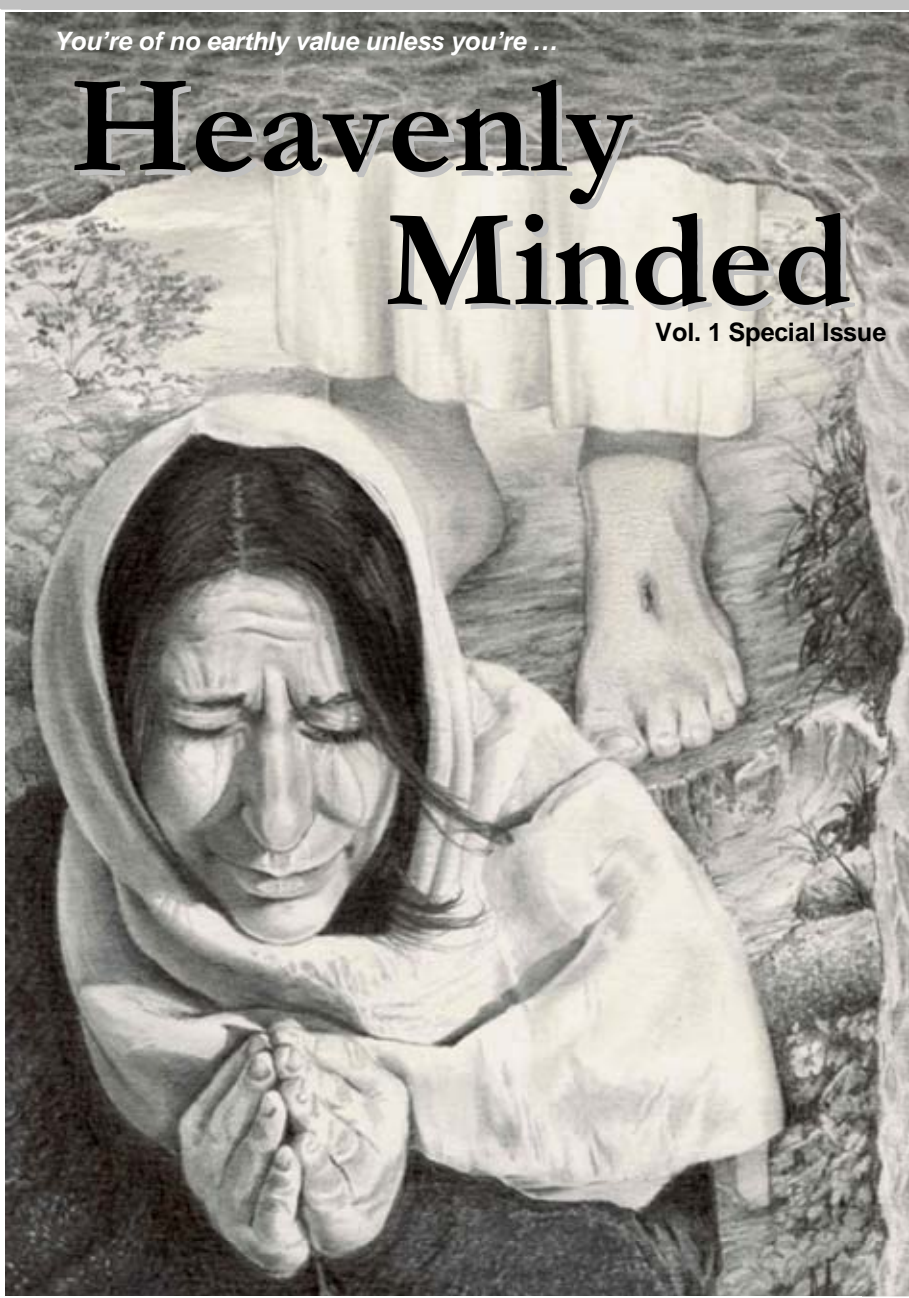


You're of no earthly value unless you're ...

Heavenly Minded

Vol. 1 Special Issue



*Wrong Questions,
Right Answer
ET 101 – Tapestry
Considering Heaven, Part 4*

*The News
Russia Woos Turkey, Libya, Ethiopia
Leadership Void in EU
Radiological 'Mules'
Vatican Target*

Dear Friends,

Scripture exhorts us that in these last days deception will increase dramatically (1 Tim 4:1; 2 Tim 3:13) and will be so bad that even the 'elect' must take heed (Mark 13:22). Masterful deception is taking place when I see honest leaders of our faith 'dissed' for speaking the truth about demon inspired religion as with Franklin Graham recently while hearing that the leaders of our country are praying together in Congress and the White House under Muslim clerics. Allah is NOT our One True God – he's the moon god of Mecca that Mohammed chose as his favorite. That is, he's a satanic imposter. This isn't hate language – good grief, it's historical truth.

Consider Dr. Ahmad Abu Halabiya, a Muslim cleric, who last year preached that the true terrorists are the Jews "who must be butchered and killed, as Allah the Almighty has said." He told Muslims, "Fight them wherever you are. Wherever you meet them, kill them... and kill those Americans who are like them – who stand by them." Now, this is NOT representative of just a small segment of Islam but is based upon what the Koran clearly teaches. Don't be deceived into thinking that Osama bin Laden and his associates are alone among Dar al-Islam (the house of Islam) in their animosity towards Jews and Christians.

As Dr. Graham pointed out, we as Christians are NOT to hate anyone, even our enemies. Rather, we are to love them. This is Christ's teaching. However, Islam has no concept like this – it is not a religion of peace and love. Our prayer is that you will not be deceived by the secular media and that many of those caught in the deception of Mohammed will find the Truth in Jesus Christ, the risen Son of God.

Praise be to Him - Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the Only True and Holy God!
Love in Jesus,
John & Darlene

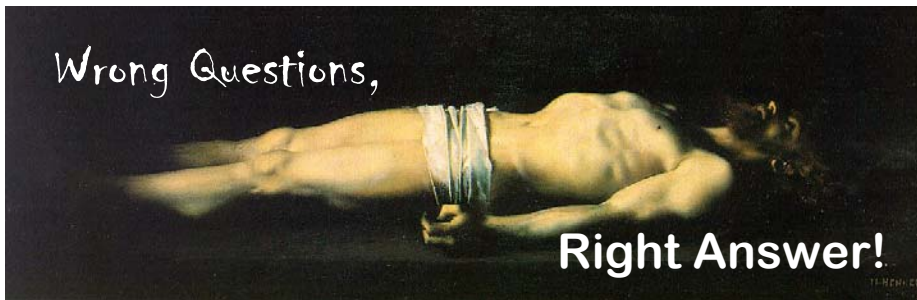
Considering Heaven – Part 4 of 5

Thanks to Randy Alcorn for some of these insights.

Q: In Heaven, will we recall our lives on earth?

A: The martyrs in heaven clearly remember at least some of what happened on earth including their suffering (Rev. 6:9-11). Also, those who endured bad things on earth are comforted for them (Luke 16:25). The comfort implies memory of what happened. Next, the entire reality of eternal rewards points to specific acts of faithfulness done on earth that survive and are brought into heaven with us (1Cor 3:14). Our righteous deeds on earth will not be forgotten but will follow us to heaven (Rev 14:13)

We tend to dismiss our lives on earth assuming that once in heaven it will be as if they never happened. This is nowhere taught in Scripture. For some reason, we disassociate our lives on earth from the life to come. God, however, sees a direct connection between them. At death we are relocated, but this does not relegate our earthly lives to insignificance. On the contrary they have eternal significance. They have been recorded in the sight of all heaven, and serve as an ongoing reference point pertaining to eternal rewards.



Wandering through the phenomenal collection of art in the Louvre museum you can get an odd sense of awe and futility. This former residence of Napoleon is just so packed full with mankind's creative treasures, it numbs the mind. Crowds gather around the Mona Lisa while the rooms of renaissance sculptures are virtually empty – there are definitely popular favorites. After several hours, I discovered mine. It grabbed me instantly and I had to sit down in a kind of surrender to its message. Let me take you to a story in John 20 to explain:

To say it was salting the wound would be a gross understatement. The only person who had truly loved her, the one who had freed her from slavery to sin and evil spirits, the one she called Lord and who held her heart – the rulers had mocked, tortured and sadistically killed him. And now, this...

She'd come to the tomb early. Stumbling her way through the dark garden, she'd found it open -- the stone covering rolled back! OPEN!? "Why?!" her heart cried out along with her lips. 'Why?!'

Searching for reasons in a storm of confusion and ever-deepening

heartbreak, she grasped at an answer – 'they have taken his body!'

She ran to where she found Peter, still sulking, and John. "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb and ..." she began. Hearing this, Peter jumped to his feet and ran out – confused, angry, grieving.

'Oh, no! Why?!' his heart lamented.

"...and we don't know where they've laid him!" she finished.

At that, John broke out of his own dismay and bounded after Peter. He caught up and passed him by, reaching the tomb first. 'Why?!' his heart searched along with his eyes as he stooped and looked in, seeing just the strips of linen left behind.

Peter ambled past, breathing heavily, and entered the cave. Like his fellow disciple, he beheld the linen wrappings and the neatly folded face cloth.

Then John ventured in. For some reason, he saw and something 'clicked' inwardly – he believed.

But Mary remained outside. After the two men had left, she continued weeping. Now convinced that she would never see her beloved again, she looked inside. A bit surprised, she beheld two men dressed in white sitting at either end of the now empty grave clothes.

"Dear woman, why are you weeping?" they asked. She explained what seemed to be obvious, "Because they have taken away my Lord... and I don't know where they've laid Him."

'How-did-it-happen' questions were the last thing her heart could deal with now. She turned away with one more 'Oh, why?!' echoing within her heart.

Just then, another gentle voice said, "Dear woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Inexplicably, this voice seemed to unlock a watershed of heartbroken love.

This man was the gardener, she thought, he would know... "Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away."

A breathless moment passed... Then came a familiar voice and along with it, the scent of fresh rain, wild roses and joy.

"Mary," He spoke softly.
And her heart exploded!

In dark and lonely times, a broken heart searches for answers. Even our Lord Jesus, on the cross, cried out a "Why?" (see Mat 27:46 or Mark 15:34). So it's easy for me to imagine the disciples of Christ doing the same thing.

But God generally doesn't give us the answers we think we need. Not on our terms or timelines it seems. Oh, He answers our prayers, but if you spend some time in the Gospels, you quickly conclude that Jesus wasn't trying to be anyone's answer-man, not in the way his critics or insincere public desired.

You see, God knows that what our hearts and souls truly crave is rightness. But answers to the 'whys' or 'wherefores' cannot bring redemption, restoration, resurrection – rightness. At these times, what we need comes not from an intellectual or emotional explanation no matter how profound, but from our souls being wrapped in His loving heart.

For all things are or will be made right in Him. He, Himself, is the Answer – this is not just a play on words but rather the most awesome truth. (see John 14:6).

When Mary wanted simply to find the body of Jesus, her heart, engulfed in sorrow, was searching for an answer to the wrong question. She, in her mind, saw her Savior as in the painting before which I sat.

But while 'whys' and 'wherefores' within her earnestly desired answers, they were born out of false assumptions. There was Jesus just behind her and it only took one word from Him to make everything right – righter than right – better than right – exceedingly abundantly better than what she could imagine as right. In fact, it was already right – His word simply revealed it to her.

And we are in the same boat with Mary (or rather the disciples) bailing the same water so to speak, wondering if our God really cares. However, if He gave us just the answers to our whys, it would only be like handing us another bailing bucket. You remember the story. Jesus told his disciples, "Let's go over to the other side" of the lake. And while He was asleep on a pillow in the stern of the boat, a sudden

storm had filled it with water (see Mark 4).

But with a single command, the raging storm was stilled.

And we are in the same room with Jairus. His mind first filled with hopes of prevention is now muddled by fear of his little girl's death. (See Luke 8:41-56). Jesus didn't just have an explanation but rather, with a single command – resurrection.

Now, sorrows will come, if they haven't already, for we are living in treacherous days. As a result, many people are asking these same questions (or will be) and those who are dealing with tragedy will not generally be lifted up by some well meaning teacher's 10-point lesson on God's righteous judgments, His sovereignty, His mercy, etc.

But what hurting people need most is Christ Himself. Not just theological answers to the whys or wherefores but an honest, intimate connection to the One who but speaks the word and makes it right or reveals that it is already right.

As the birth pangs of these last days get more intense, we must know how to answer, yes. But even more so, we must be those who display Christ, His love and compassion. We must lead His children to Him, guide them into His arms.

There, held close to His heart, the clay of our souls is fashioned in trust. It's a tender place for He Who came to heal the broken hearted (Isa 61:1) died with a broken heart Himself (John 19:34).

And He rose again!

So the tragedy wasn't the end but the doorway into unexpected joy. Likewise, your hardship, your

tragedy, as difficult as it is, is not the end of joy, the end of love. In Christ and only in Christ, it will one day soon be understood with a completely new perspective – a resurrection perspective.

Looking at that painting, it hit me – He's not there in that grave, in that condition, even though everyone who knew and loved Him thought He was. He was in that grave – He probably looked much like that. His death was real, the pain was real, the sorrow real, the anguish real. But early on the third day, Jesus – the Way the Truth and the Life, conquered sin and death and brought in the real reality – resurrection and eternal life in an indescribably wonderful place.

Mary, the disciples on the lake, Jairus and his family -- all discovered what we need to realize and hold on to – Jesus ends the whys and wherefores of our burdened hearts – not with explanations so much as with loving, perfect restoration – making all things right, maybe not here, but absolutely in heaven – a real place, a steadfast promise, a rock-solid guarantee for those who trust in Christ. Meanwhile, let's look eagerly toward heaven and live in genuine expectation.

Heavenly Minded is a ministry devoted to encouraging friends and family in Christ to break the mold - to set our minds on things above, to sincerely look with 'eager- patience' for the Lord's appearing, to live circumspectly, discerning the times and the seasons, speaking the truth in love and living fully for Christ.

The NEWS

"We're not attacking Islam, but Islam has attacked us. The God of Islam is not the same God. He's not the son of God of the Christian or Judeo-Christian faith. It's a different God, and I believe it is a very evil and wicked religion."

"I don't believe this is a wonderful, peaceful religion. When you read the Koran and you read the verses from the Koran, it instructs the killing of

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.

In addition, there is 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. He will insist upon a one world religion with himself as god. Punishment for not following this religion will be, as with Islam, death.

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
One World Religion -- Revelation 13*

the infidel, for those that are non-Muslim." –Franklin Graham

Middle East

Hizbullah may be next in war on terror

By Janine Zacharia

WASHINGTON (October 24) - President George W. Bush yesterday told Foreign Minister Shimon Peres he defines Hizbullah as a terrorist group of "global reach," making clear for the first time the Iranian-backed group would be targeted in the next phase of the US-led war on terrorism.

"The president said very clearly that Hizbullah is one of those terrorist organizations that qualifies within his scenarios of global reach," an administration official said.

Bush has said after the US completes its war on Osama bin Laden and al-Qaida, it will shift its focus to other terrorist networks of "global reach." The term has yet to be defined, and the administration has yet to develop a master list of who would qualify under the term.

HIZBULLAH BUILDING UP BORDER ARSENAL

October 21, 2001 The Jerusalem Post

Hizbullah has reportedly deployed new lines of weapons along Israel's northern border, in case of attacks by the US or the IDF as part of a second stage of a war on global terrorism. The organization, three leading members of which are included on America's 'most wanted' list of 22 terrorists, has also apparently spent the past few months further increasing the size, scope, and sophistication of its arsenal.

Hizbullah Split Over Direction

11/2/01

NICOSIA [MENL] -- A split appears to have developed within the Iranian-backed Hizbullah movement amid concern that the regime of President Bashar Assad is cooperating with

Washington in the U.S.-led war against terrorism.

The split pits Hizbullah supporters of Syria against those of Iran and comes in wake of the Sept. 11 Islamic suicide attacks on New York and Washington. The debate focuses on whether Hizbullah should suspend attacks against Israel to avoid U.S. retaliation.

JERUSALEM SOLUTION WOULD CURB TERRORISM: SAUDI DEFENSE MINISTER

October 23, 2001

Agency France-Presse

Saudi Defense Minister Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz said Monday a solution for Jerusalem would deny terrorists a chance to use this problem, which concerns all Muslims, as a pretext for terrorism. 'A solution of the Jerusalem issue, which is of concern to all Muslims and not just Arabs, would put an end to terrorism' by third parties 'trading' with this issue to serve their own agenda, Sultan told the Kuwaiti daily as-Siyassa in an interview also carried by the Saudi Press Agency.

Now, Syria Under Arab Pressure on Terrorism

CAIRO [MENL] -- Syria has come under Arab pressure to end its support for terrorism. The pressure comes from Arab countries that object to the harboring of insurgency groups in Damascus. Some of these groups operate against Arab regimes. Morocco has come out openly against Syria's harboring of the Polisario movement. The movement has fought Morocco for control of Western Sahara. Arab diplomatic sources said Morocco has demanded that Syria close down the Polisario office as a condition for improved relations with Rabat.

Researcher: Iraq attempted to smuggle anthrax to U.S., Britain

Special to World Tribune.com
MIDDLE EAST NEWSLINE
Saturday, October 27, 2001

TEL AVIV — Iraq has attempted to smuggle large quantities of anthrax into Britain and the United States, an Israeli analyst says. Dany Shoham, a research associate at Tel Aviv University's Begin-Sadat Center of Strategic Studies, said the regime of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein attempted to bring biological weapons agents into Britain and the United States in 1998. The attempt was reported by Israeli intelligence.

At the time, Shoham said, Iraqi women agents arriving in the United States were hiding vials filled with biological agents under their dresses. Iraq was also attempting to smuggle biological and chemical agents into Britain hidden in duty-free goods.

Shoham, a reserve intelligence officer with close ties to Western intelligence agencies, said the Iraqi effort was foiled by British authorities. He suggested that Iraq succeeded in bringing the anthrax virus into the United States. On Thursday, the German Der Bild daily reported that Bin Laden aide Mohammed Ata, one of the leaders of the Islamic suicide attacks in New York and Washington, smuggled anthrax into the United States. The daily based its report on Israeli intelligence sources.

Israel Finds Radiological Backpack Bomb

RICHARD SALE, UPI Terrorism Correspondent, United Press International, October 14, 2001

WASHINGTON, Oct 14, 2001 (United Press International via COMTEX) -- Israeli security last month arrested a man linked to suspected terrorist mastermind Osama bin Laden armed with a radiological backpack bomb, as he attempted to enter Israel from the Palestinian Territories via a border checkpoint at Ramallah, according to U.S. government officials.

The arrest took place during the last week of September, according to one knowledgeable official who spoke on condition of anonymity. He declined to give the exact date of arrest. Two other

sources interviewed by UPI confirmed the incident, but also declined to give further details.

Fighting reported between Kurds, Bin Laden agents

MIDDLE EAST NEWSLINE

Friday, November 9, 2001

LONDON — Heavy fighting has broken out in northern Iraq between Iraqi Kurds and Islamic insurgents aligned with Saudi fugitive Osama Bin Laden.

Iraqi opposition sources said the fighting reached its peak on Tuesday in a search-and-destroy operation launched by the Kurdistan National Union. The sources said dozens of people were believed to have been killed.

The fighting caps months of tension in the north between Bin Laden agents and Kurdish separatists. Kurdish groups said the infiltration of hundreds of Bin Laden agents was encouraged by the Iraqi regime of President Saddam Hussein.

Lebanon formally rejects U.S. anti-terrorism appeal

WORLD TRIBUNE.COM

Friday, November 9, 2001

NICOSIA — Lebanon has officially refused a U.S. request to freeze assets of Hizbullah and Palestinian groups deemed by Washington as terrorists. Lebanese sources said the decision by the Beirut government was relayed to both U.S. ambassador Vincent Battle and the State Department in Washington. The sources said Lebanon regards Hizbullah and Palestinian groups as liberation movements. Lebanese sources said Washington is also pressing Iran to reduce its involvement in Lebanon. The sources said Iran has pledged to withdraw up to 700 agents and trainers from such countries as Bosnia, Lebanon and Sudan.

But in Teheran, Iranian officials said the issue has not been settled.

They said a debate continues in Teheran over whether to cooperate with Washington in the war against terrorism.

Bin Laden: Yes, I did it

By David Bamber, The Telegraph
11/1/2001

OSAMA BIN LADEN has for the first time admitted that his al-Qa'eda group carried out the attacks on the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon, the Telegraph can reveal.

In a previously undisclosed video which has been circulating for 14 days among his supporters, he confesses that "history should be a witness that we are terrorists. Yes, we kill their innocents".

In the footage, shot in the Afghan mountains at the end of October, a smiling bin Laden goes on to say that the World Trade Centre's twin towers were a "legitimate target" and the pilots who hijacked the planes were "blessed by Allah".

The killing of at least 4,537 people was justified, he claims, because they were "not civilians" but were working for the American system.

Bin Laden goes on to justify his entire terror campaign. "There are two types of terror, good and bad. What we are practicing is good terror. We will not stop killing them and whoever supports them."

In the video, he also claims responsibility for an unspecified terrorist outrage in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, which he claims was sparked by secret messages in one of his videos.

He now claims to have access to nuclear and chemical weapons. Bin Laden made the claims on Friday night during an interview with the English language Pakistani newspaper Dawn.

Bin Laden's nuclear secrets found

11/15/01
Anthony Loyd, The Times

OSAMA BIN LADEN'S al-Qa'eda network held detailed plans for nuclear

devices and other terrorist bombs in one of its Kabul headquarters.

The Times discovered the partly burnt documents in a hastily abandoned safe house in the Karta Parwan quarter of the city. Written in Arabic, German, Urdu and English, the notes give detailed designs for missiles, bombs and nuclear weapons. There are descriptions of how the detonation of TNT compresses plutonium into a critical mass, sparking a chain reaction, and ultimately a thermonuclear reaction.

Nuclear experts say the design suggests that bin Laden may be working on a fission device, similar to Fat Man, the bomb dropped on Nagasaki. However, they emphasised that it was extremely difficult to build a viable warhead.

Knesset Committee Hears of Moslem Plan To "Upgrade" Temple Mount Sanctity

The Knesset Education Committee held a comprehensive hearing today on the damage that the Moslem Waqf continues to cause to precious Jewish antiquities on and under the Temple Mount. The Waqf is working to build a new mosque in underground chambers of the Mount, and antiquities found in ancient water cisterns there are destroyed in the process.

Dr. Eilat Mazar, an archaeologist of the Committee, says that the Moslems' goal is even more grandiose than merely building a mosque or even destroying evidence of the Jewish presence on the Temple Mount. She told *Seri* that the Arab press is full of reports that the plan is to bring "holy water" from Mecca to the Temple Mount cisterns, thus "upgrading" the status of the Temple Mount in Moslem eyes and obviating the need for Moslem worshippers to go to Mecca; they will obtain the same spiritual "value" by visiting the Temple Mount.

Turkey Aims to Develop Central Asia Militaries

11/22/01

ANKARA [MENL] -- Turkey is lobbying the United States for a major military role in Central Asia amid the war in Afghanistan. Turkish government sources said Ankara intends to bolster the militaries of Western allies among the Muslim republics of the former Soviet Union. The sources said Ankara wants Washington to support and help finance this role as part of the U.S.-led war against terrorism.

The military in Ankara has drafted a plan for Turkish help to such countries as Azerbaijan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The sources said the first step would be Turkish help to develop the air forces of the three countries.

Russia/China

Moscow assures Iraq on upgrade of relations

SPECIAL TO WORLD TRIBUNE.COM
Wednesday, October 24, 2001

NICOSIA — Iraq and Russia have agreed to upgrade cooperation as well as trade relations. Arab diplomatic sources said Russian President Vladimir Putin has relayed assurances to Baghdad that his country will improve ties with Iraq. The assurances include Russian willingness to sell equipment and dual-use systems to Iraq.

Earlier this week, a Russian delegation reviewed ties with Iraq and discussed the prospect of advanced transport and telecommunications systems to Baghdad. Many of these systems have been banned by the United Nations as being of use to the Iraqi military.

Russian Nuke Reactor Leaves for Iran

11/18/01

MOSCOW [MENL] -- Iran is bracing for delivery of its first nuclear reactor. A nuclear reactor has been placed on a freighter for delivery to Iran. The 317-ton

reactor left St. Petersburg on Friday and is meant for Iran's nuclear plant at Bushehr. The reactor was completed in the Izhora factory in the Russian city. Russian officials said the body of the cylindrical reactor would arrive in Bushehr in about a month. The reactor is scheduled for completion by the end of 2003.

China Deploys New Missiles

11/9/01

Newsmax reports: "U.S. defense officials have confirmed that China is preparing to test a new missile capable of delivering nuclear warheads directly to the United States. The Chinese Army Second Artillery Corps is preparing to test its new Dong Feng 31, or 'East Wind,' ICBM during the next few days. The DF-31 reportedly can carry a single 3-megaton H-bomb or three 90-kiloton nuclear warheads. The missile has an official range of over 4,800 miles.

The Dong Feng 31 reportedly is equipped with U.S. missile and warhead technology that was obtained by China through espionage and legal and illegal technology transfers from the Clinton administration. It is expected that the Chinese army will declare the DF-31 operational within the next 12 months..."

GORBACHEV SAYS SEPT 11 VICTIMS DIDN'T DIE IN VAIN

October 26, 2001 Reuters

Former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev said on Thursday the victims of the September 11 attacks in the United States will not have died in vain if world leaders use the crisis to create a new world order.

"These victims will not be in vain if the world reflects and looks at itself in the mirror," Gorbachev told a news conference in Madrid, where he was attending a conference.

"If we act as we did (after September 11), uniting efforts of fighting against terrorism, if we maintain the coalition, we will not only prevent a new Cold

War, but we could get a new world order that is so desirable for all of us.'..."

Libya, Russia plan summit

11/8/01

MOSCOW [MENL] -- Libya and Russia are planning a leadership summit that could result in new arms purchases by Tripoli.

Diplomatic sources said President Vladimir Putin plans to meet Libyan ruler Moammar Khaddafi in Moscow within the next eight weeks. They said the two countries are preparing the agenda for the summit.

Russian leaders hope the summit will result in a Libyan decision to purchase new weapons and upgrades. Moscow's competitors for Libyan defense projects are Belarus, China and the Ukraine.

Russia Woos Turkey for Defense Ties

11/22/01

ANKARA [MENL] -- Russia continues to woo Turkey for defense cooperation. Officials said the Russian efforts has intensified over the last few weeks amid reports that Ankara has frozen the assets of Chechen groups aligned with Saudi fugitive Osama Bin Laden. They said the cooperation would include joint training and the sale of Russian defense systems.

The prospect of increased defense ties was discussed last week during a visit by a leading Russian parliamentarian. Duma International Relations Committee chairman Dmitri Olegovich Rogozin met Turkish defense officials as well as parliament's defense committee. Rogozin told his hosts that the war in Afghanistan could serve to launch defense cooperation between the two countries. This could begin with an intelligence exchange and cooperation against Islamic insurgency groups.

Russia, Ethiopia Declare Friendship

December 3, 2001

MOSCOW (AP) -- Ethiopia's prime minister thanked Russian President

Vladimir Putin on Monday for Moscow's friendship through a trying decade. The two leaders signed a declaration of friendship and partnership.

Meles Zenawi arrived in Moscow on Sunday for a three-day visit, accompanied by his country's ministers of defense, foreign affairs, mining and energy, and a deputy agriculture minister -- representing the areas in which Ethiopia seeks cooperation with Moscow.

Putin said: "I hope, Mr. Prime Minister, that your visit to our country will help give a fresh impetus to the development of mutually beneficial relations between Russia and Ethiopia."

The leaders signed three agreements, including a declaration on partnership and cooperation which contained a pledge "to unblock the crisis situations in the Horn of Africa and on the African continent as a whole."

Russia has already provided Su-27 fighter jets, Mi-24 combat and Mi-8 transport helicopters to Ethiopia, and representatives of the two countries have discussed Russian participation in modernizing Ethiopia's air force and anti-aircraft defenses, ITAR-Tass said.

European Union

There's a Leadership Void at the Top of Europe

International Herald Tribune 11/7/01
The writer is director of Forum Europe in Brussels and secretary-general of Friends of Europe. He contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

BRUSSELS Sept. 11 is recalibrating political reputations on both sides of the Atlantic. In Europe, Tony Blair's speed and style have given him new stature. For Germany's Gerhard Schröder and Jacques Chirac of France the picture is fuzziest but not unfavorable. The main loser looks to be Romano Prodi.

It is an open secret in Brussels that Mr. Prodi was the wrong choice as president of the EU executive. With the

pressure increasing for Europe to act quickly and decisively to combat terrorism and recession, his shortcomings are being laid bare. The media are abandoning the polite fiction that all is well and have begun to snipe at him and deride him. If the chorus of disapproval grows louder it may well unseat him.

Senior officials today complain of a power vacuum at the top, while the morale of the rank and file in the commission is plumbing new depths. ...whether or not Mr. Prodi toughs it out to the end of his term in 2004, it is time to be looking for candidates with vision and charisma.

EU Moving Forward with Israel Boycott 11/13/01

IsraelNationalNews.com According to a report in the London Guardian, the European Union will be announcing an end to the duty-free status for imports that were manufactured in Israel, in areas over the Green Line, the Golan Heights, and the eastern capital, those areas that were liberated in the June 1967 Six Day War. The report stated the step was a punitive action in response to Israel's refusal to comply with growing international pressure to withdraw its forces from PA autonomous areas.

New laws will turn EU into a superpower, says Prodi

By Ambrose Evans-Pritchard in Brussels
13/11/2001

ROMANO PRODI, the president of the European Commission, wants Brussels to take far-reaching new powers over government spending, foreign policy, defense and police to try to transform the European Union into a global superpower.

Mr Prodi called for sweeping changes in defence and internal security, saying the terrorist attacks on September 11 had changed the political landscape and made it imperative to accelerate the pace of European integration.



In a move certain to meet stiff resistance from London and Paris, he called for "the entire foreign and security policy of the union" to be brought under EU control, saying that "piecemeal" diplomacy was preventing the union from playing its full role in the world.

He called for enhanced powers for Europol and for "the creation of an integrated European police force to combat terrorism and organised crime".

How European Taxpayer Funds Arafat's Payroll for Terror

31 October: On October 30, four days before an economic conference on the Middle East is due to open at Palma de Majorca, Germany announced it was transferring to the Palestinian Authority the sum of 250 million Deutschmarks.

It may therefore be of interest, particularly before British prime minister Tony Blair calls on Arafat on Thursday, to find out how the Middle East economy looks from the perspective of the Palestinian West Bank hub town of Ramallah, in the light of new discoveries revealed to **DEBKAFfile** by high-placed intelligence sources.

On October 22, when Israeli forces burst into the Ramallah headquarters of Yasser Arafat's presidential guard known as Force 17, they found an extraordinary set of documents containing proof that the Palestinian leader was paying the entire body of Tanzim-Fatah terrorists out of his own "presidential" budget.

The figures were there in black and

white. Every one of the 10,000 Tanzim activists was taking home 875 New Israeli Shekels -- and had been ever since the Palestinian leader launched his armed confrontation against Israel last September.

DEBKAFfile's intelligence sources further report that Arafat fills those wage packets that keep his terror machine ticking over from the subsidies awarded the Palestinian Authority by European Union member governments, including Germany, Belgium, France, UK and Italy.

A simple reckoning shows that, since Arafat declared war on Israel 14 months ago, the European taxpayer has been contributing - unknowingly but regularly - around INS 8,750,000 (roughly US\$219,000) per month to keep the Palestinian terrorist Tanzim militia afloat - a total of INS 122,500,000 (about US\$31million) since September 2000.

United States

Debka Intelligence Report

In the first week of October, a Pakistani arrested on immigration charges in the course of the FBI investigation into the September 11 suicide attacks, complained of bleeding gums and pain, symptoms of gingivitis. He was treated with antibiotics, but was found dead in his cell in Hudson County jail in Kearny, New Jersey, three weeks later.

The cause of death was not released, any more than the dead man's identity. DEBKA's medical experts note that the bleeding gums the anonymous Pakistani was treated for are a symptom of radiation poisoning, suggesting he might have been a "mule" transporting nuclear materials or devices into America. (A subsequent investigation revealed that he had contracted gingivitis as a result of radiation-induced leukemia.)

This explanation would imply that more than one such carrier is employed by al Qaeda to smuggle nuclear materials or devices into the United

States, Western Europe and the Middle East, their mission being to plant their deadly burdens in pre-arranged secret locations, ready for activation.

At roughly the same time, another Pakistani was detained at the Allenby Bridge crossing from Jordan to Israel. According to initial published reports, he was caught trying to smuggle in a "dirty" nuclear device (a conventional explosive mixed with nuclear materials that spreads radiation).

An exhaustive investigation revealed that the arrested intruder carried no nuclear device. However, he suffered the same symptoms as the man who died in Hudson Jail, New Jersey, indicating he had been exposed to dangerous doses of radiation.

DEBKA's intelligence sources reveal that Israel has recently installed hidden Geiger counters in the battery of detectors at its international border crossings. The counter pointed border officials to the suspected "mule", who most probably reached Jordan from Abu Dhabi.

Israel handed him over to the United States.

Bush: fear of bin Laden nukes

By RICHARD SALE, UPI Terrorism Correspondent

The Bush administration is concerned that the al Qaida network of accused terrorist mastermind Osama bin Laden might try to use a small nuclear weapon in a super-spectacular strike to decapitate the U.S. political leadership, according to a half dozen serving and former U.S. government and intelligence officials.

"They believe it's a real possibility," said one former senior U.S. government official, adding that secret plans for protecting the U.S. president and his successors in the event of a nuclear attack were in place.

Bin Laden's efforts to get hold of nuclear material are no secret. Peter Probst, an anti-terrorism analyst formerly with the Pentagon's Office of

Special Operations Low-Intensity Conflict says the Saudi fugitive "has been obsessed with nuclear weapons."

The Times of London cited unnamed Western intelligence sources as saying bin Laden had obtained nuclear materials from Pakistan. General Aleksandr Lebed, the former Russian security czar, said in 1997 that several nuclear suitcase bombs and tactical nukes had disappeared from the Russian arsenal. In testimony before the Congressional Military Research and Development Subcommittee in October 1997, Lebed said there were bombs made to look like suitcases that could be detonated by one person with less than 30-minute preparation.

Cheney: U.S. Fears Massive Attack

NewsMax.com Wires

Thursday, Nov. 15, 2001

WASHINGTON – Vice President Dick Cheney said Wednesday evening that he and President Bush are kept apart because the United States fears a decapitation attack by terrorists armed with weapons of mass destruction.

"You've got people able to organize a conspiracy, able to come into the country and perhaps smuggle weapons of mass destruction in with them and threaten, in effect, not just one individual, but threaten the government and conceivably be able to try to decapitate the federal government," Cheney told CBS' "Sixty Minutes II."

The comments mark the growing concern in the Bush administration over the possible use by terrorists of either radiological bombs or small, portable nuclear weapons, several administration officials told United Press International.

Pentagon builds case to bomb Iraq

11/20/01

USA Today

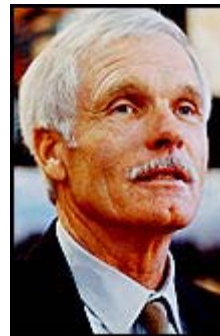
WASHINGTON — Defense Department strategists are building a case for a massive bombing of Iraq as a new phase of President Bush's war against terrorism, congressional and

Pentagon sources say. Proponents of attacking Iraq, spearheaded by Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz, are now arguing privately that still-elusive evidence linking Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's regime to the terrorist attacks Sept. 11 is not necessary to trigger a military strike.

Pentagon officials say Iraq should be a target because it supports terrorism, is trying to build nuclear, biological and chemical weapons and has refused to admit U.N. weapons inspectors for nearly 3 years.

National security adviser Condoleezza Rice said Sunday on NBC's *Meet the Press*, "We didn't need Sept. 11 to tell us that Saddam Hussein is a very dangerous man."

A source on Capitol Hill said Pentagon strategists are looking at an array of military targets in Iraq, including barracks and headquarters of the elite Republican Guard. The State Department has adamantly opposed broadening the war to Iraq out of concern that it would infuriate Arab public opinion and fracture the U.S.-led alliance against al-Qa'eda.



Turner's Lost Love, CNN, Has a Doomsday Plan in the Can

Mitchell Fink, Daily News 11/2/01

Ted Turner, who has battled depression for most of his adult life, is feeling low these days and is filled with regret at having merged his brainchild, CNN, with Time Warner in 1996.

Sources say the Mouth of the South has been telling friends that if he had it

to do over, he would have held on to the 24-hour-a-day news channel.

Let's not forget that he's saying these things at a time when war coverage — and Americans — are filled with uncertainty.

But Turner, it seems, has been a doom-and-gloom kind of guy from the very day in June 1980 when he launched the cable network. He said then, as only he could, "We gonna go on air June 1, and we gonna stay on until the end of the world. When that time comes, we'll cover it, play 'Nearer, My God, to Thee,' and sign off."

Ten years later, I'm told, Turner used CNN production facilities to create what he called his "end-of-the-world" video. Sources tell me it consists of a recording of "Nearer, My God," over footage of a waving American flag. Turner is said to have ordered the tape locked away until it was determined that the world was about to end.

Netanyahu: Terrorists Will Nuke New York

Nov. 6, 2001 NewsMax

Former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned Monday night that Mideast terrorists are determined to obtain nuclear weapons, and when they do, they will use them on New York City.

"They're going to attack America again and again," Netanyahu told Fox News Channel's "Hannity & Colmes." And the great danger that we face is ... if they acquire nuclear weapons - if any part of this terror network acquires nuclear weapons - they will use it. And history as we know it will come to pass."

Ominous Weekend Time-Line

Bill Koenig

November 11, 2001

"Pakistani and American investigators believe that Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda network may have successfully transported several nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons of mass

destruction to the United States," *The Frontier Post* reported Saturday.

A source with knowledge of the bin Laden nuke probe told the Post that the FBI, the CIA and Pakistani intelligence now believe that at least two briefcase-sized nuclear weapons may have reached the U.S. shores.

Investigators have traced at least one of the weapons to bin Laden's al-Qaeda terror network. "The weapon identified is small 8-kilogram device that carries at least 2 kg of fissionable plutonium and uranium," the Post said. "The device, of Russian make, carries a serial number 9999 and manufacturing date October 1988."

The charging mechanism for the weapon can reportedly be activated through a timer or even through a cell phone command, according to the report.

U.S. regards Iraqi report as a nuclear threat

WORLD TRIBUNE.COM

Saturday, November 10, 2001

WASHINGTON — The United States has concluded that Iraq has threatened nuclear retaliation for any attack on the regime of President Saddam Hussein.

On Wednesday, the Baghdad-based *Babel* daily, published by Saddam's son, Uday, reported that the president met with the head of the nation's nuclear and defense programs. The newspaper, reserved for the most authoritative messages from the regime, said Iraqi nuclear chiefs have pledged to accelerate their nuclear programs in defense of the nation.

"There is plenty of reason to watch Iraq," U.S. National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice said. "There is plenty of reason to make very clear to the Iraqis that the United States does not intend to let the Iraqis threaten their own people, threaten their neighbors, or threaten our interests by acquiring weapons of mass destruction."

US plans to spread special operations

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

December 10, 2001

The Bush administration has begun plans for military actions in the global war on terrorism that include placing special operations forces in multiple countries simultaneously. One senior administration official said the Pentagon hopes to finish destroying Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda terrorist network in Afghanistan in weeks, not months.

"We need [these forces] in other parts of the world," this official said. "Everybody here has their own list [of countries]: Iraq, Somalia, the Philippines, South America. Take your pick."

This administration official, and other officials, said Pentagon planners already are discussing whether the Afghanistan model — relentless air strikes, commandos and U.S.-invigorated opposition groups — could be employed to unseat Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

United Nations

Israel Rejects U.N. Call to Leave Palestinian Areas

11/13/01

JERUSALEM (Reuters) - Israel said on Tuesday its forces would remain in two Palestinian-ruled West Bank areas despite a demand by the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council for a pullout.

The foreign ministers of the United States, Britain, France, Russia and China also called on Palestinians to end more than 13 months of violence in a joint statement issued on Monday at the U.N. General Assembly meeting.

Raanan Gissin, a spokesman for Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, said Israeli troops would not leave West Bank areas around Jenin and Tulkarm until Palestinian security forces agreed to restrain militants and prevent violence.

UN skewers Israel in solidarity day with Palestinians

December 2, 2001

Jerusalem Post

UNITED NATIONS (December 2) - UN ambassadors in New York, Geneva, and Vienna marked the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People on Thursday by denouncing Israel and calling for the establishment of a Palestinian state.

"At the start of the new millennium, the Palestinian people should finally be allowed to exercise their inalienable rights, including the right to self-determination and to a state of their own," said Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

Following the morning's events, Israel's representative to the UN, Yehuda Lancry, addressed the General Assembly's annual debate on "The Question of Palestine" with a plea to the Palestinians to end the violence in deeds rather than words.

But before Lancry had a chance to defend Israel, speakers spent the morning reading out a succession of anti-Israel statements

Arafat also urged the 15-member Security Council to become more involved in conflict resolution in the region.

The UN's Chairman, International Coordinating Committee for NGOs on the Question of Palestine, Don Betz, summed up many of the speakers' grievances with Israel in his demand for an immediate apology from Israel to Palestinian refugees. Israel, said Betz, has yet to admit "that they have built their homeland, their state, and their lives on someone else's homeland, some else's history."

Religion

Graham stands by comments on Islam

But 'evil and wicked' quote doesn't cancel Christian love, he says

By KEN GARFIELD



Franklin Graham

Religion Editor The Charlotte Observer

While saying he is called to love people regardless of their faith, evangelist Franklin Graham on Sunday wouldn't back away from his recent statement on a national news program that Islam "is a very evil and wicked religion."

In a prepared statement released to *The Observer* through a spokesman, Graham said his Samaritan's Purse ministry in Boone will continue providing millions of dollars in aid to Muslims in need around the world. But he did not take back the controversial comments aired Friday night on "NBC Nightly News" and repeated on cable stations.

Those pieces were based on an interview Graham gave last month near Wilkesboro, at the dedication of a chapel in his parents' name, when he said: "We're not attacking Islam but Islam has attacked us. The God of Islam is not the same God. He's not the son of God of the Christian or Judeo-Christian faith. It's a different God and I believe it is a very evil and wicked religion."

Muslims to pray in the White House

The Telegraph

16/11/2001

PRESIDENT BUSH, eager to improve America's reputation in the Muslim world, will welcome 50 ambassadors from Islamic countries for a traditional meal and prayer at the White House on Monday to mark the start of Ramadan.

It is thought to be the first time that Muslims will have knelt and touched the floor with their foreheads in a formal ceremony in the official home of American presidents.

In another unprecedented event, the Muslim chaplain of Georgetown University officiated at the opening prayers of the House of Representatives on Capitol Hill yesterday.

Pope Calls World Religions to Peace Summit

11/18/01

VATICAN CITY (Reuters) - Pope John Paul Sunday called a meeting of leaders of all the world's religions in January to pray for peace and to work to overcome armed conflict at what he said was an historic moment for humanity.

The Pope said he hoped the January 24 meeting in the Italian hill city of Assisi, birthplace of St. Francis, would be particularly helpful to improve relations between Christians and Muslims following the September 11 attacks on the United States.

Presbyterian Head Rails Against Biblical Reform Movement

By Allan Dobras

Rev. Jack Rogers, moderator of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), denounced the denomination's Presbyterian Lay Committee for its "militant fundamentalist" views, citing its opposition to repealing the church's refusal to ordain homosexuals.

Rogers also criticized the Lay Committee's support of the Confessing Church Movement (CCM) and its "hastily drawn up, rigidly worded, three-point creed tied to a political agenda," which he derided as "the Layman's creed."

The Confessing Movement's short affirmation of faith states:

1. That Jesus Christ alone is Lord of all and the way of salvation.
2. That Holy Scripture is the triune God's revealed Word, the Church's only infallible rule of faith and life.
3. That God's people are called to holiness in all aspects of life. This includes honoring the sanctity of marriage between a man and a woman, the only relationship within which sexual activity is appropriate.

Vatican Target

11/22/01 Brian Ross

Former CIA counter-terrorism chief Vince Cannistraro, an ABCNEWS consultant, told an Italian newspaper this weekend that bin Laden was virtually certain to attempt another attack over the holidays. Cannistraro, who also advises the Vatican on security, said the pope has been and remains a prime target for bin Laden.

"He looks at the pope as the symbolic head of the crusaders and a natural target," Cannistraro says. But for a series of missteps, authorities believe a plot against the pope would have been carried out six years ago. As the pope prepared for a visit to the Philippines in 1995, bin Laden's operatives scrambled to get into place for an attack. But authorities say the plot was aborted one week before the pope arrived when bin Laden's men accidentally set fire to their apartment in Manila while mixing chemicals for a bomb.

Science/Education

Scientists Invent Transistor Made of a Single Molecule

FoxNews 11/8/01

WASHINGTON — Scientists have invented the tiniest transistor that may ever be possible — using only a single molecule.

Bell Labs' organic nanotransistor, about 10 million of which can fit on the

head of a pin, could be used to fit lightning-fast computers on clothes and paper and otherwise revolutionize technology as we know it.

"It may become the cornerstone of a new era," Bell Labs vice president Federico Capasso said.

Experts say the minuscule, molecular transistor may make traditional silicon transistors obsolete.

"You might think about flexible electronics, some things in which silicon cannot do," Schon said.

Stanford University professor David Goldhaber-Gordon called the invention "really remarkable."

"It really looks for all the world like a standard silicon transistor, and in some ways even has better parameters," Goldhaber-Gordon said

Teachers warn of occult dangers in Potter movie magic

Sunday November 4, 2001

The Observer

He may have single-handedly fought the forces of evil, but now Harry Potter faces a real-life adversary - the schoolboy wizard is in trouble with teacher.

One of Britain's biggest teaching unions has issued a stern warning to parents and teachers that J.K. Rowling's phenomenally successful creation could lead schoolchildren into the sinister world of the occult.

With the premiere of Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone due this month, Peter Smith, general secretary of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, has echoed concerns in America and called on parents and teachers to be wary.

'The premiere of Harry Potter the movie will lead to a whole new generation of youngsters discovering witchcraft and wizardry...', he said.

Scientists build tiny computer from DNA

By Patricia Reaney

11/22/01

LONDON (Reuters) - Following Mother Nature's lead, Israeli scientists have built a DNA computer so tiny that a trillion of them could fit in a test tube and perform a billion operations per second with 99.8 percent accuracy.

Instead of using figures and formulas to solve a problem, the microscopic computer's input, output and software are made up of DNA molecules -- which store and process encoded information in living organisms.

"We have built a nanoscale computer made of biomolecules that is so small you cannot run them one at a time. When a trillion computers run together they are capable of performing a billion operations," Professor Ehud Shapiro of the Weizmann Institute in Israel told Reuters on Wednesday. It is the first programmable autonomous computing machine in which the input, output, software and hardware are all made of biomolecules.

Sunlight could push killer rocks toward Earth

November 23, 2001

CNN Sci-Tech

... our planet has dwelled among giant boulders that occasionally smack into it with catastrophic results. Why do the killer stones orbit nearby?

The hordes of rocks, known as Near Earth Objects, most likely originated from a stable dense reservoir of gigantic, spinning rocks between Mars and Jupiter.

But scientists have had a hard time explaining what might have dislodged many of them from the generally stable asteroid belt and sent them into the neighborhood of the Earth.

Many of the fragments seem to have been swept into narrow chaotic zones known as resonances, where tiny gravitational kicks produced by nearby planets such as Mars, Jupiter, or Saturn can push asteroids out of the asteroid belt...

ε7101 – Tapestry

(This, Your Day – Part 2)

Jesus was in His own town, in the synagogue. Having recently spent 40 days in the wilderness overcoming Satan's temptations, He now began to present some very good news. Standing, He took the scroll of Isaiah the prophet and opened it to what we call Chapter 61. Reading from verses one and two, He said, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel (good news) to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." (Luke 4:18,19)

At this point, He closed the scroll, sat down and with every eye fixed on Him, He began, "Today, this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

Of course, those around were astounded at such a proclamation but something important happened in what He didn't read. You see, the passage runs from verse one to verse three and Jesus stopped in the middle of verse two. The clear implication was unspoken – this part of the passage remained as yet unfulfilled. What immediately follows in verse two is a "day of vengeance" and then a comforting and consoling of those in Zion (implicitly, the Jews) who mourn. Thus, a period of vengeance and mourning yet to come, but when?

Turn to Daniel 9. In our last lesson we looked at a period of time described in verses 24, 25 and the

first part of verse 26 as a total of 69 consecutive seven years "weeks" which culminated with Christ's first coming and specifically His entrance into Jerusalem while being hailed as King. (see Luke 19:38).

Therefore, one seven year period remained. But what is the cause of the disconnect? Why is this last 'week' separated from the first 69?

Let's look again at the passage. In verse 26, the Messiah is "cut off" or killed and then the "people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary." This part was clearly fulfilled exactly as Christ Himself prophesied in Mat 24:1,2 say that the stones of the temple buildings would be thrown down. In 70 AD, four Roman legions destroyed Jerusalem and the temple.

"The prince who is to come" may, as many scholars assert, point to the coming Antichrist who we are shown in other prophecies arises to power in the 'revived' Roman Empire (more on that in another study, Lord willing) and so the "people of the prince..." would speak of the Romans just as was fulfilled.

Now, the next part of the 70 week prophecy says, "The end of it shall be with a flood and till the end of the war, desolations are determined (or decreed)." So, during the period of time between Messiah being cut off and the last week we have a war and some decreed desolations all culminating with a flood.

What is this war? What is this flood? And what are these desolations?

I believe this war is that which has been going on since the time

Messiah was cut off. It is a war between Israel and the Lord. A conflict in which Israel has stubbornly continued to reject the gracious covenant of God through Christ's atoning blood. But the war will end. Isaiah writes, "'Comfort, yes, comfort My people!" says your God. "Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned; for she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.'" (Isa 40:1,2)

And what's this "flood" spoken of in Daniel's prophecy? Well, this isn't the ordinary word used in the Bible for a flood. This word literally means a "cleansing overflow" and I believe refers to that which is spoken of in the following three passages (as well as others):

"In that day, a fountain shall be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for uncleanness." (Zech 13:1)

"Yet hear now, O Jacob My servant, and Israel whom I have chosen. Thus says the Lord who made you and formed you from the womb, Who will help you: "Fear not, O Jacob My servant...for I will pour water on him who is thirsty and floods on the dry ground: I will pour My Spirit on your descendants, and My blessing on your offspring;" (Isa 44:1-3)

"And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they have pierced; they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him

as one grieves for a firstborn." (Zech 12:10)

The desolations were to the land and to the temple. Concerning the land, Josephus who observed the Roman conquest wrote, "The Romans, though it was a terrible struggle to collect the timber, raised their platforms in twenty-one days, stripped the whole area in a circle around the town to a distance of ten miles. The countryside, like the city, was a pitiful sight; for where there once had been a lovely vista of woods and parks, there was nothing but desert and stumps of trees. No one – not even a foreigner – who had seen the old Judea and the glorious suburbs of the city, and now set eyes on her present desolation, could have helped sighing and groaning at so terrible a change; for every trace of beauty had been blotted out by war, and nobody who had known it in the past and come upon it suddenly would have recognized the place; when he was already there he would still have been looking for the city."

Even Mark Twain who toured the area in the late 1800's described it as an unbelievable desolation.

Concerning the temple or sanctuary, the Romans dismantled the temple Herod built stone by stone. In addition, we know from prophecy that the antichrist will desolate the coming tribulation temple (see Mat 24:15 and Dan 12:11) so then it's clear that two temples (plural) will be desolated during this period.

This is predicted in Lev 26 where the Lord, in answering a stubbornly rebellious Israel says, "I will lay your cities waste and bring your

sanctuaries to desolation (note the plural), and I will not smell the fragrance of your sweet aromas (that is, the sacrifices offered will not be acceptable to Him). I will bring the land to desolation, and your enemies who dwell in it shall be astonished at it.” (Lev 26:31,32)

However, as desolations came upon God’s people, land and the first temple, in Christ, He was building another matching, complimentary set – He made a new people who were not a people, bringing new birth to individuals all around the world – the mostly gentile church. (see 1 Peter 2:9,10). Also, He has prepared a new place or land for them – heaven (see John 14:1-3). And, He is forming a new glorious temple or tabernacle by joining together all genuine believers (see Eph 2:19-22).

But the gentile church is not a replacement for the Jewish people. The church is not Israel of prophecy. Israel is the Israel of prophecy. When all the gentiles who are saved in Christ have come in to His family, the age will be ended – a wrap, done, finito (see Romans 11:25). But that’s not the end of God’s plan! The scripture says that Jesus will come for His bride (that’s us who believe!) and will take her home. In this, there is a wonderful alignment symbolically even with the old Jewish wedding practice.

You see, it used to be that when a man would desire a woman for his own, he would come to the house of her parents and pay the price for her. He would then return to the home of his father and would prepare an addition to his house for himself and his new bride.

Meanwhile, as the bride to be did not know when her bridegroom would come back, she would wait eagerly for him, prepared for his imminent return. Even the bridegroom did not know the day of his return for it was his father who would finally say that the new dwelling place was finished. When he did, the bridegroom would come for the bride accompanied by all his friends. He would take her then to himself and bring her back to his home where a grand wedding feast would be held. Then she would be intimately cared for in her new home away from the public eye for one week. After this, they would both emerge and she would be publicly displayed as his new bride.

This parallels perfectly the great anticipation of the church as the bride of Christ. Christ did come and paid the fantastic price for us with His own blood. He then returned to the Father where He is preparing our new home in heaven. The time in which He has been gone has been the Church Age in which He said He would be with us in the Spirit always (see Mat 28:20). When He returns to take us home, there will indeed be a glorious wedding feast and we will spend the next seven years (or ‘week’) on a rapturous honeymoon! After this, we will return with Him to earth to save the remnant of His people and conquer planet earth.

But while we who believe are gone to heaven, that is, during this week of heaven, there’s a week of hell back on earth. This is the 70th week of the Daniel 9 prophecy – just as with each of the first 69 weeks, a seven year period. You see, the

church was not present during the first 69 and will not be present on earth for the 70th – specifically, it’s called the time of “Jacob’s trouble” (see Jeremiah 30:7).

And the church age is about to close. From Abraham to Christ was approximately 2000 years and so also with this present age – a perfect balance if you would. It’s no accident that the entire church, Jew and gentile believers in Christ is called the dwelling place of God. In fact, the wall of the original tabernacle was a beautiful type and symbol of this. In Exodus 26:1-8, we see that the tabernacle’s walls were made of ten curtains – grouped specifically in two sets of five each (five is the number of grace in the Bible!). The two groups of five were then joined together by 50 gold clasps. Now, 50 is the number of jubilee in scripture (refer to Lev 25:10) and when you read about it you recognize that of course, Jesus Christ is our Jubilee.

And so, pictured here in the design of the curtain walls of God’s dwelling we are saved by grace and joined together in Christ – Jew and gentile believers.

But the 70th week is designed to prepare the Jewish bride for her Husband. She has not yet accepted His Spirit (typified frequently in scripture by oil). She is not ready for his appearing. Jesus may have spoke of this when in Mat 25 after describing the Great Tribulation and the unexpectedness of the rapture, He speaks of five (remember the tabernacle walls above?) wise (or saved) virgins and five foolish (or as yet unsaved). The latter couldn’t get in to the wedding feast.

However, the 70th week will prepare them. It will complete the tapestry of the spiritual tabernacle if you would. And it’s right around the corner. Are you ready? If so, you can say, “Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus!”

