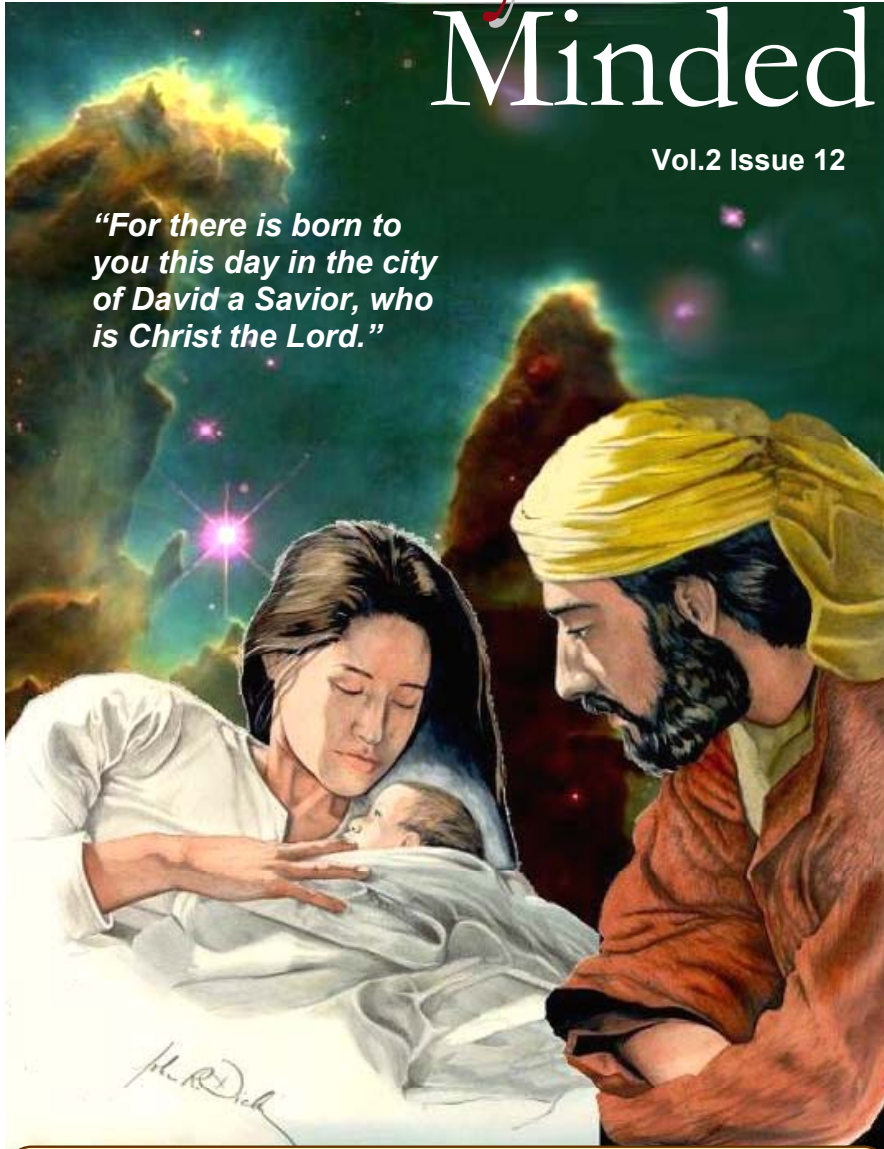


You're of no earthly value unless you're...

Heavenly Minded

Vol.2 Issue 12

"For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."



*World News The Appeal of Zeal The Fuse
A Judas in Jerusalem Hold Fast Second Coming*

Dear Friends,

Whoa! Times of uncertainty are certainly the times our faith is tested, aren't they. Wars and rumors of war, economic concerns, blatant moral decay in business, government, church and school are commonplace. Meanwhile, we're being herded into increasing individual isolation – folks in general are much too busy to be friendly. And we definitely live in times in which everyone does what's right in their own eyes.

At the very time in history in which we desperately need the power, enthusiasm, wisdom, love and general full-on vibrancy of a total commitment to Christ, at the very time we would, in retrospect, burn with zeal for the kingdom of God we are, generally speaking, but embers. As a whole, we're in great need of loving correction.

And yet, we have such a faithful, compassionate Father and a living hope! Even in this environment, all things will indeed work together for the good to each sincere Christian believer. Hey, let's do something out of the ordinary, radically loving, outrageously compassionate, some incredibly kind, unbalanced good. Then do it again! And again! Let's imitate God! And praise Him all the while! May the zealous among us inspire greater godliness and lead us like bell-weather to higher ground! God bless you!

John and Darlene

Hold Fast 1 Thes 5:21-22

by **Henry Blackaby** (Experiencing God)

Test all things; hold fast what is good.

Abstain from every form of evil.

Hold fast to what is good, or the world will take it away. Satan is the relentless enemy of good. When he saw that what God gave Adam and Eve was good, he set about to take it away from them. When he saw that King David was pleasing to God, he attempted to destroy David's relationship with God. Never take the good in your life for granted. If you do not hold on to it firmly, it may be lost.

People will challenge the good that you are practicing. They may criticize you for your moral stand, your child rearing, your use of money, or your involvement in church. Time pressures will attack the good in your life. Your time to pray, study Scripture, be with your family, and serve in your church

will all be pressured by the many other time demands you face. You may give generously to your church and other Christian causes, but you will be tempted to spend your money selfishly and minimize the good you are doing with your finances.

Scripture reveals the solution for holding on to what is good—abstain from every form of evil. Evil robs you of what God intends for you. A spouse and family are great blessings, but the evil of adultery can rob you of the good that God has given. Prayer is a wonderful gift from God. Yet sin robs the power of prayer (Isa. 1:15). If you will not abstain from evil, it will rob you of the good things God has given. God's commandments do not restrict you: they free you to experience God's best. Diligently abstain from every form of evil, and you will be free to enjoy every good thing God has for you.

The Appeal of Zeal

Upon entering the temple, He came to a boil, and it may have freaked out His disciples. At least it stuck in their memory. Looking around, He saw the vendors of 'sanctified goods' and proceeded to whip them out. Such behavior in this holy place was not at all the norm. In fact, the 'head hogs at the trough' so to speak were certainly going to come down on this with a heavy hand. Jesus was behaving as an 'extremist'; John writes, "*And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of Your house has eaten me up.*" (John 2:17)

In contrast, listen to the message that is being given to us today – "extremists are to blame for the bloodshed and terror around the world." Islamic extremists are murdering Jews and Christians by the 1000s. Christian extremists are supposedly stirring up hatred against Muslims. The president and his cabinet members are chastising the 'religious right' and appealing to the 'moderate Islamic' community. The whole force of governmental, media and even religious voices are cautioning everyone to avoid the zeal, to embrace the mainstream, to be sane and restrained if you would.

Now, while the logic of this message appeals to our common sense, it also poses the greatest danger the church has seen in centuries. By lumping the 'extreme' elements of all endeavors into one pot, Satan seeks to neutralize the message of the only one that really matters – the church's. Jesus himself said, "*I came not to bring peace but a sword.*" (Mat 10:34)

Now lest you misunderstand, He was NOT advocating what Islam has done historically – i.e. converting by the sword. He was not saying that we are to slay the infidels – on the contrary, we are to love the infidels. However, He was making clear that the message of the gospel is radical, and those who will truly live it out are likewise radical – they are zealous for God. But, much of the church today is sadly 'room temperature'.

Ministries depend on budgets; callings are just jobs; sermons are designed to entertain. There's no room for zeal – from the pulpit, it scares the flock; from the flock, it scares the pulpit. And so we've nurtured environments that won't offend in the course of either worship or witness. Consequently, we're not changing the world around us to the extent we could – more and more, it's changing us.

You may say, "Speak for yourself, John." Trust me, I do! But to do justice to the issue, let me explain what zeal is, why the Lord desires it and its fruit.

In the Old Testament, zeal is literally the attitude and action spurred by jealousy. This is fascinating because it implies by definition an intimate relationship. A man or woman can be jealous over their spouse, and it results in perhaps the most intense responses we are capable of as people.

The New Testament word for zeal means to be brought to a boil, to be very hot, and of course, this compliments the OT concept. God desires us to have zeal for Him because frankly it indicates a powerful, passionate relationship

with Him. The Laodicean church of Revelation chapter three which to many typifies the church of the last days is rebuked for being neither hot nor cold. That is, there was no zeal or enmity, only a toned down, affluent body of people who had learned to fit in.

God is zealous (see Isaiah 9:7, 37:32; Ez 5:13). Jesus is zealous (see John 2:17). The early church was zealous (see 2 Cor 7:11, 9:2). And Christ tells the Laodiceans to "be zealous therefore, and repent" (see Rev 3:19). So, what intense response are we to have to our God? Does He want us to nuke Mecca or to wear 'angry Christian' T-shirts?? NO!

Paul wrote, "*But [it is] good to be **zealously** affected always in [a] good [thing]...*" (Gal 4:18) and that Christ "*gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.*" (Tit 2:14) He also spoke of the Jews that "*...they have a **zeal** of God, but not according to knowledge.*" (Rom 10:2) and of himself that "*...concerning **zeal**, [before his conversion he was] persecuting the church...*" (Phil 3:6) So clearly, zeal can be right or wrong in its motive and outcome.

The zeal God wants is rooted in a passionate love for Him and in the knowledge of the gospel of Christ. Apart from this, zeal is misdirected and tragic. But without zeal, Christianity is dead, dead at room temperature. God asks us, "How zealously do you love Me and your family in Christ? How zealous are you to do good even when good is reviled and you are persecuted for

it? How zealously forgiving are you knowing that you are forgiven much more? How zealous are you to give what you cannot keep to gain what you cannot lose? How zealously trusting are you of God in the midst of hot times?"

You see, God makes His "*ministers a flame of fire*" (Psa 104:4). They are red hot, zealous of their relationship with Him. Christ was as zealous on the cross when He cried out, "*Father forgive them for they know not what they do*" as He was when He drove the merchants out of the temple. He was zealous when He said, "*come unto Me all you who are weary and heavy laden,*" as well as when He said, "*whosoever among you who forsakes not all that he has cannot be my disciple.*"

The zealotry God looks for in our lives is not wide-eyed, out of control fanaticism fueled by unrighteous indignation. His zeal is the 'real deal' (pardon the play on words). And it is blatantly obvious to the world around. To the rebellious, it's frightening; to the child of God (both lost or found) it's awesomely appealing. It's not 'worked up' by some 'holy cheerleader'; it's manifested by a heart that's entirely wrapped up in God.

I'm reminded of a man who knocked on my front door one morning. Upon answering it, we found him meekly poised, asking to come in and to speak with us. At first, I didn't recognize him, but he quickly explained that he resided just a few doors down the street.

“Oh, of course. Come in.” I replied.
“You know, I should have been here sooner, but... well, let me explain.”

His demeanor made it clear that whatever he had to say was terribly important. As a consequence, we listened somewhat apprehensive.

“You see, about nine months ago, we moved in down the street. I’d gotten a great job with the [sporting goods company] and my wife and two daughters were excited about being here.”

“But after only a few months, we found out that [his wife] was terminally ill with cancer. In only a couple of months, she died.”

“As you can imagine, I was devastated, but even more so were my daughters. The older one became so bitter and rebellious that she got involved with a gang and started using drugs and... well...”

“Anyway, the younger one just recoiled. She isolated herself and became the brunt of every cruel joke at school. She seemed to hate herself more and more and ...”

“I retreated to my work. It became my hiding place from grief. I had no faith to speak of but only a broken... no, a shattered heart that I felt I had to protect.”

“Well, I didn’t see it coming. One day, I came home and found my older daughter with a man much older than her. When I surprised them at my entry, she just erupted at me and they left the house in haste. Later she called and said that she was going to marry this guy whether I liked it or not and ... well, goodbye.”

“I freaked. She was so young and was making a huge mistake. I knew

she had been distraught, but I never expected this.”

“A few days later, she went to the police and claimed that I had sexually abused her. Of course, this was completely unfounded and I later found out that her new acquaintance had put her up to it.”

“Anyway, the authorities believed her and took away my other little girl to ‘protect her’. Shortly afterward, the [local newspaper] printed the story such that I looked very guilty.”

“I remember that!” I said. “That was you?”

“Yes. But it didn’t stop there. In a couple of days, I was let go from my job because the company didn’t want the bad publicity. Then, after I spent all I had in a legal dispute over the girls, I fell behind on the mortgage and the bank gave notice of foreclosure.”

“Wow. Just snow-balled, huh?”

“Yeah. But then, this guy who had taken my older daughter came back to the house while I was out. He must have had her key. Well, I came in and found him literally destroying the place with a pick axe. He’d chopped up the furniture, the walls, the TV, even the last pictures I had of [his wife and kids]. I honestly couldn’t believe my eyes.”

“He threatened me with the ax and laughed hideously. He mocked that my daughter was his now and that if I knew what was good for her, I’d vacate the house immediately. I later found out he wanted to use it as a place to make and sell drugs. Then he left, breaking several more windows on the way.”

My mouth was agape listening to this incredible tale.

“So...I’d lost it all. My dear wife, my daughters, my job, my house, even the last mementos of happier times. I was broke and really broken. I had nowhere to turn, no friends, no family. So I pawned some stuff and bought a pistol.”

“I drove out of town headed north and pulled over on the side of the road to just end it. I took the gun and pointed it at my head. It was shaking so hard...”

“But then, the most miraculous thing happened. In the deepest part of this pit, this dark, dark hole I was in,...for some reason, I saw this picture,... this picture that was so vivid. I couldn’t shake it. And that’s why I’m here.”

“All I could see was the joyful countenance of your little girl. (She was 12 then.) You see, she and [his younger daughter] played together a lot and she was always sharing with her about Jesus. I mean it was natural, so natural. And she was obviously so in love with Christ. She just wanted to help my little one and she really did.”

“But I’d rejected it. At least, I thought so. I was too strong and ‘sane’ for that nonsense – or so I thought. But there in my car, with this gun to my head, I realized I was wrong. Her shining face seemed to say, ‘Come home. God loves you and He will help.’”

“So I put the gun down and drove back into town. I saw [the church on the north side of town] and pulled in. To my relief, the pastor was there and I sat down and talked with him for a long time.”

“There and then, I gave my heart to Jesus Christ and was born again.

And I just can’t tell you how that changed me!”

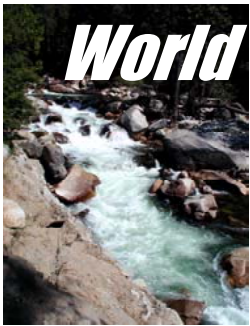
“And the next day, the next day, the authorities contacted me and said that [his older daughter] confessed that her accusation was a lie and that they were returning her as well as my younger girl into my care. Shortly afterward, the paper printed a great article. Then, I even got my job back with a raise. My house is still mine and it’s fixed back up.”

“And we’re totally in love with Jesus! He’s given us new hope and a real faith, more real than anything I see with my eyes! Your little girl’s faith...how thankful I am for that now.”

Yes, zealous Christians are the only ones who make a difference in this world. They are the real salt and light Jesus spoke of. They bear the fruit of the Spirit in abundance. May we all forsake the rags of timidity, the lies of worldly conformity and a spiritually tepid lifestyle.

While the world is vilifying ‘religious extremism’ let us not confuse this with the passionate zeal we need to have for our God. We must be extreme! -- extreme in love, extreme in forgiveness, extreme in sharing and sacrifice, extreme in faith and trust, extreme in the pursuit of our Father’s desire!

It’s this kind of extreme Christianity that’s alive – it’s not just room temperature. It’s truly appealing to God for He is Himself a consuming fire! (Heb 12:29)



World News *with an eye on Biblical Prophecy*

Like a mighty unstop-able river, the course of world events is moving in harmony with the scriptures. Herein, we present the articles of the last month that best portray the 'current' of last day's events. As a reminder, the Bible speaks of the final chapter of this age, the time immediately preceding Christ's return as including: the rise of a dominant world power out of the former Roman Empire, the rule of this power by a charismatic individual known as the Anti-Christ, the attack of many nations against Israel led by Russia, the rocketing of human knowledge, the establishment of Israel and the return of the Jewish people to it, and much, much more. Take heed and read your Bible!!

Middle East

Battle for Tigris, Euphrates Rivers of S. Iraq

DEBKAFfile 11/9/02

Both the US-UK-Iranian alliance and Iraq have in the last two weeks beefed up their elite units in southeastern Iraq. The US-led assault force has two primary missions:

A. Within the 60 days assigned to the UN inspectors for completing their report, the troops aim to assert military control over all southeastern Iraq up to the Iranian frontier including the Hawr al-Hammar lake and marshes. They will encircle the great oilfields of Khozistan, but stay outside. This mirrors the situation established earlier in northern Iraq, where US, British, Jordanian, Turkish and Iranian special forces present since April have taken control of much of the region, but came to a standstill at the gates of the two oil cities of Kirkuk and Mosul.

US-led allied forces are under orders to skirt Iraq's northern and southern oilfields for two reasons: One, their capture would nullify the UN oil-for-food program that requires Iraq to pump oil according to a quota. Two, it could goad Saddam to extreme reprisals such as using his weapons of mass destruction against the assault troops or blowing up wells.

B. When completed, the attacking force's capture of southeast Iraq, on top of its extensive control of territory in the north and west (along the Jordanian border), will transform the political-

military balance. US and allied forces will have caged Saddam Hussein, his family, the ruling Baath and the armed forces in the central region, cornering them in the cities of Baghdad and Tirkut and cutting them off from access to the oilfields. Saddam will be dispossessed of his sole source of revenue for keeping the Iraqi army fighting.

These military gains would open up two options for Bush and his generals:

1. To be ready to lunge at Saddam's [power] centers from three directions and bring the war to its final, decisive stage with no further procrastination, should Iraq fail to comply with the new resolution or the UN go back to foot-dragging.

2. To be able to take the northern and southern oilfields, thereby isolating Saddam Hussein and his support group. The regime's days would then be numbered. It would be bound to cave in under internal pressure or military coup - or both. The US president indicated that this would be his first preference when he stressed that the military option was his last.

Peace quartet refuses to bow to Israeli agenda

Financial Times 11/12/02

The US and its partners in the Middle East "quartet" aim to finalise their peace road map by the end of the year despite Israeli efforts to stall any diplomatic initiative before elections in late January.

Representatives of the US, the United Nations, the European Union and

Russia met in Jerusalem this week to work on the text of a peace plan that envisages the establishment of a provisional Palestinian state by 2003 and full statehood two years later.

It is based on a vision for the Middle East put forward by President George W. Bush in a speech in June. It is opposed by rightwing ministers in Israel's caretaker government and could emerge as a central issue in the campaign for elections on January 28.

Quartet diplomats, including a US team led by David Satterfield, assistant secretary of state, met for five hours on Monday and again on Tuesday with a view to finalising a plan for presentation in Washington in mid-December.

Diplomats said quartet members had discussed the possible impact of the timetable on the Israeli elections but had decided to proceed with their schedule.

Baghdad warns that a US strike will lead it to hit back at Israel

Independent 11/18/02

Tariq Aziz, Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister, gave his clearest warning yet yesterday that Baghdad would launch strikes against Israel if it was attacked by Britain and America.

His remarks followed a prediction by Jack Straw, the Foreign Secretary, that Saddam Hussein would be "making the mistake of his life" if he failed to comply with the latest UN resolution on disarmament. Mr Aziz said that any military action against Iraq would endanger not just Britain and America but also their allies such as Israel.

Asked what the Iraqi strategy might be if, as suspected, it is militarily weaker than it was in the 1991 Gulf War, Mr Aziz replied that his government was "capable of defending our nation". He added: "We are an old nation and we could survive. But I tell you, if the US and UK wage a war against Iraq, the

consequences will be very bad to them and their friends in the region.

Syria Snubs US Demand

BBC/Oracle 11/20/02

The US has approached Syria "at the highest levels" to close down the headquarters of Islamic Jihad in Damascus, US officials said Monday. Since Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for Friday night's ambush in Hebron that left 12 security personnel dead, the Prime Minister's



Palestinians demonstrating in Gaza

Office and the Foreign Ministry have taken the diplomatic offensive, calling on countries to pressure Damascus to close the group's offices. US Ambassador Daniel Kurtzer spoke Monday with both Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, and apprised them of the message. The message was delivered by the US ambassador to Syria, upon directives from the White House and the State Department. Damascus refused the request out of hand, saying the US was responsible "for the current bloodletting because it supports the Israeli occupation and helps Israel shrug off [UN] Security Council resolutions calling for the end of the occupation and the dismantling of settlements."

IRAQ PREPARES MISSILE, AIRCRAFT NEAR SAUDI BORDER MENL 11/20/02

Iraq has prepared medium-range missiles and aircraft in underground shelters near the Saudi border in what could mark preparations to launch a strike against Israel.

U.S. intelligence sources said Iraq has moved several dozen military aircraft to the southwest near the Saudi border. They include the French-built Mirage F-1 fighter-jets and the Czech-origin L-29 light combat aircraft.

The Iraqis have deployed the aircraft in underground shelters over a large area in the desert near Jal Al Batan, the sources said. They said several of the L-29s have been converted into unmanned air vehicles that could deliver weapons of mass destruction.

Jordan: Quartet to announce peace 'road map' on Dec. 20

Ha'aretz/Reuters 11/19/02

Jordan said on Wednesday U.S.-led international mediators would announce a Middle East "road map" to peace on December 20. Foreign Minister Marwan al-Muasher said a quartet of international powers was still working on a finalized text. "We have been assured that this is going to be the case despite the leaks that we've seen, particularly to the Israeli press, that the road map is going to be postponed till after the Israeli elections, this is not true," Muasher said. The US is the leading member of the quartet, along with the European Union, Russia and the United Nations, which has been trying to secure Israeli and Palestinian agreement on a 3-year plan leading to Palestinian statehood.

U.S. to deploy Aegis destroyer to guard Israel from Iraqi Scuds

World Tribune 11/22/02

The U.S. Navy plans to deploy an Aegis-class destroyer in the eastern Mediterranean by January to help guard Israel against an attack by Iraqi Scud missiles.

U.S. officials said a program of six tests of the Aegis will be conducted to develop an emergency deployment sea-based ballistic missile defense against short- to medium-range ballistic missiles.

They said the U.S. destroyer will remain off the Israeli coast to protect



Iraqi soldiers parade in Baghdad

against any Iraqi medium-range missiles fired toward Tel Aviv and the surrounding area.

Elect Mitznah Or We'll Kill You, Palestinians Say

CNSNews 11/25/02

Jerusalem - Palestinian officials say the upcoming Israeli elections are an internal Israeli affair, but nonetheless, they are telling Israelis to vote for newly elected Labor Party leader Amram Mitznah if they want to see an end to terror attacks. Mitznah, considered a super-dove, has said he would be willing to meet with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, who is considered "irrelevant" by the current government. Muhammed Dahlan, former head of the PA Preventive Security Service in Gaza, said Mitznah's election brings back "the hope for peace." In a recent interview with the Ma'ariv newspaper Dahlan advised, "When the Israeli citizen goes to the ballot box, he or she should go with a clear decision - either [suicide] attacks in

the heart of Tel Aviv or a peace process. Either you vote for the Right and continue with the present situation or vote for the Left and end the attacks." Israelis go to the polls January 28 and are not expected to elect Mitznah.

Saddam hides arsenal in people's homes

Intelligence reports show extent of deception by Saddam
The Times 11/29/02

SADDAM HUSSEIN has ordered hundreds of his officials to conceal weapons of mass destruction

components in their homes to evade the prying eyes of the United Nations inspectors.

According to a stream of intelligence now emerging from inside Iraq, the full extent of the Iraqi leader's deception operation is now becoming apparent. As the UN inspectors knock on the doors of the major military sites in Iraq, suspected of housing chemical and biological weapons and banned missiles, the bulk of the evidence is being secreted away in people's homes.

In each case, the scientists, officials and farmers are being warned that they and their families will face severe penalties if they fail to hide these stocks of chemicals and biological materials from prying UN inspectors. Computers and laptops containing vital information about the weapons of mass destruction programme are also being hidden in people's homes.

IRAQ ADMITS PLAN TO USE CHEMICAL WEAPONS

The Times 11/29/02

Iraq has given its first warning to the West that it does possess weapons of mass destruction and that President Saddam Hussein would be prepared to use them if his regime was threatened.

The remarks were a complete contradiction of the official Iraqi position. Baghdad has insisted repeatedly that it no longer has chemical, biological or nuclear weapons nor medium-range missiles.



Putin and China's Jiang Zemin toast new bilateral agreements

Speaking in an interview with *al-Quds al-Arabi*, a London-based Arabic newspaper, an unnamed senior Iraqi official said that Iraq had used chemical weapons during the war with Iran and would use them again if necessary.

Russia

West in mortal danger from Islam, says Putin

Telegraph 11/12/02

Islamic radicals are pursuing the systematic annihilation of non-Muslims, President Vladimir Putin claimed yesterday.

The Russian leader said at a European Union summit in Brussels that western civilisation faced a mortal threat from Muslim terrorists, and claimed that they had plans to create a "worldwide caliphate".

Mr Putin said the world no longer faced isolated acts of terrorism but a "concerted effort and programme" by a global network bent on slaughter, perhaps with nuclear weapons.

He said the West should face up to the reality that Chechen terrorists were religious extremists in league with al-Qa'eda, rather than a separatist movement seeking a breakaway republic.

If the West failed to deal with the Chechen terrorist threat, he said, there would be repeats of the Moscow theatre siege and the Bali bombing "all over the world".

European Union

"President of Europe" plan under attack

Reuters 11/12/02

BRUSSELS - The European Commission is working to kill a proposal backed by France, Britain and Spain for a long-term president of the European Union seen as a threat to its own power, senior Commission officials say.

Instead, Commission President Romano Prodi will propose next week giving his EU executive greater democratic legitimacy by making it answerable to EU leaders as well as to the European Parliament, and possibly having his successor elected.

On the defensive for months in the Convention drafting a constitution for an enlarged Union, the Commission is due to unveil its own proposals next Monday for the future balance of power among EU institutions.

A preparatory document obtained by Reuters shows that Prodi wanted to increase the Commission's authority while maintaining the system of rotating presidencies of the Union, which critics see as a key source of weakness and inefficiency.

The move sets the EU executive on a collision course with the bloc's major powers -- even federalist Germany now agrees in principle to the idea of a President of the Union -- but also with the president of the Convention, former French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing, who backs the idea.

The battle over a "President of Europe" has become the focus of a power struggle over who will lead and speak for the EU once it grows from 15 members to an expected 25 in 2004 and

up to 30 in the next decade.

At present, the Commission president is appointed by EU leaders and gets a vote of confidence from Parliament, which has the power to sack the entire Commission for mismanagement but cannot censure individual members.

EU in a pickle over "robust" Putin remarks about Islam

AP 11/12/02

BRUSSELS, Belgium - A day after Vladimir Putin's outburst over Islam and human rights in Chechnya after an EU-Russia summit, the European Union distanced itself from the Russian president's "robust" language, saying it cannot stop him from speaking his mind.

At a post-summit press conference Monday, Putin said Chechen rebels want to kill all non-Muslims.

The Russian leader, a former KGB spy operative, said Chechen Muslims want a Caliphate - or Muslim state "on Russia soil."

He said Islamic "radicals have much more ambitious goals" and that is to kill all non-Muslims but also many Muslims.

"They talk about setting up a worldwide Caliphate and the need to kill Americans and their allies," Putin said. He added,

"They talk about the need to kill all ... non-Muslims, or 'crusaders,' as they put it. If you are a Christian, you are in danger.

"If you decided to abandon your faith and become an atheist, you also are to be liquidated according to their concept.

"You are in danger if you decide to become a Muslim. It is not going to save you anyway because they believe traditional Islam is hostile to their goals."



Italian scientist Antinori
braas of new cloned human

EU could span from Moscow to Morocco

The Scotsman 11/14/02 ROMANO Prodi, the president of the European Commission, has sketched out an ambitious plan for the next stage of European Union enlargement which could see the trading block run from Moscow to Morocco.

Mr Prodi said yesterday he would like to see the EU surrounded by a "ring of friends" with whom it would share "everything but institutions". Among the areas he envisages could become common ground for such associate members would be free circulation of people, economic trading space and equal access to health care.

The massive expansion is viewed by the EU president as the logical step of the current enlargement programme which will see ten candidate countries, including Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary, join the union in 2004.

"My idea is to have a ring of friends from Russia to Morocco, including Mediterranean countries such as Israel and Egypt ... and to share with them everything but institutions," he said.

Mr Prodi also set himself on a collision course with the Convention on the Future of Europe - a group charged with drawing up a blueprint for the EU post enlargement - by speaking out against the idea of appointing a long-term president.

Proposals to replace the rotating presidency, where leaders of individual member states hold the post for six months, have been gathering momentum.

The plan has been widely supported by Britain, Spain, Italy, France and the convention president, Valery Giscard d'Estaing, who believe the appointment of a president for three or five years would allow more strategic decision-making and greater consistency.

Tony Blair has been touted as a potential candidate for the title.

There was little attempt by Mr Prodi to hide his anxiety that such a post would

be a challenge to his authority. "The problem is to avoid having dual power," he said. "A double bureaucracy, a double executive power would be a disaster."

Prodi says Israel should be part of EU's 'ring of friends'

Ha'aretz 11/16/02

European Commission President Romano Prodi said this week that he supports the expansion of a "ring of friends" to the European Union, which would include Israel and Morocco. Prodi shared his vision in an interview with a Swedish news agency.

According to Prodi, such a move would be a logical step following EU expansion and the planned membership of Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary by 2004, saying the "ring" would determine the boundaries of Europe.

The European Commission president described the "ring of friends" as spanning from Russia to Morocco and including Middle Eastern countries such as Israel, Egypt, and Libya, with whom the EU would share everything but institutions.

Countries in the "ring of friends" would not be part of the EU, but would be able to enjoy such benefits as free passage of people, free trade, and access to medical treatment.

EU says pressing ahead with quartet Mideast peace plan

Ha'aretz 11/19/02

BRUSSELS - European Union foreign ministers on Tuesday promised to press ahead with plans to finalize an internationally agreed road map to end Israeli-Palestinian violence.

The Middle East remained in the grips of "continuing violence which is threatening to widen the gap further between Israelis and Palestinians," Danish Foreign Minister Per Stig Moeller told reporters. Denmark is current president of the 15-nation EU

But ongoing bloodshed in the region would not be allowed to stall EU peace efforts or Palestinian reform, he said.

The EU was determined to secure adoption of a peace blueprint when the quartet group - including the United Nations, the United States, Russia and the European Union - meets in Washington on December 20, Moeller insisted.

"We expect the road map to be adopted," Moeller said.

EU SETS MAY DAY 2004 AS 'E-DAY' FOR EAST EXPANSION

Reuters 11/18/02

The European Union Monday set May 1, 2004 as 'E-day,' the date for the EU's historic eastern expansion into the ex-communist bloc.

Foreign ministers of the 15 current members also agreed in Brussels that the new members -- probably 10 in all -- will participate fully in the European Parliament elections in June 2004 and in a planned conference on a future EU constitution.

From May Day that year, the new members will also each have one commissioner sitting on the European Commission, the bloc's executive authority, overseeing areas of the EU administration.

The 10 leading membership candidates -- Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia -- plan to wrap up their complex accession talks at a summit in Copenhagen on Dec. 12-13.

Skeptics say bringing in 10 more governments and 75 million relatively poor people into the 370 million-strong EU will cost it dear and render it unworkable. Others say healing Europe's Cold War divide will create a world-beating economic bloc.

SURGICAL TAGS PLAN FOR SEX OFFENDERS

The Guardian 11/17/02

Britain is considering a controversial scheme to implant surgically electronic tags in convicted pedophiles amid fears that the extent of the abuse of children has been massively underestimated.

Documents obtained by The Observer reveal the Government could track pedophiles by satellite, with a system similar to that used to locate stolen cars.

The tags can be put beneath the skin under local anesthetic and would also be able to monitor the heart rate and blood pressure of the abuser, alerting staff to the possibility that another attack was imminent.

Tracker, the company which runs Britain's largest stolen vehicle monitoring network, has already been approached about pedophile monitoring and computer company Compaq has been asked to develop the software.

Compaq Software Solutions has developed similar technology for NASA to monitor remotely the bodily functions of astronauts. In the case of pedophiles, the technology would not measure sexual excitement, but would monitor the offender's state of nervousness and fear

United States

You Are a Suspect

Washington Times 11/14/02

WASHINGTON — If the Homeland Security Act is not amended before passage, here is what will happen to you:

Every purchase you make with a credit card, every magazine subscription you buy and medical prescription you fill, every Web site you visit and e-mail you send or receive, every academic grade you receive, every bank deposit you make, every trip you book and every event you attend — all these transactions and communications will go into what the Defense Department describes as "a virtual, centralized grand database."



Stealth bomber being refueled in flight

To this computerized dossier on your private life from commercial sources, add every piece of information that government has about you — passport application, driver's license and bridge toll records, judicial and divorce records, complaints from nosy neighbors to the F.B.I., your lifetime paper trail plus the latest hidden camera surveillance — and you have the supersnoop's dream: a "Total Information Awareness" about every U.S. citizen.

US Asks 60 Countries To Provide Troops

CNS News 11/20/02

London - U.S. officials have asked 60 countries, including Britain, to provide troops for potential military action against Iraq, U.K. Prime Minister Tony Blair said Wednesday.

Blair said that along with the other countries, Britain had received a "general request" from U.S. officials. Speaking in the House of Commons, the prime minister said talks were not at the stage where specific troop numbers or specific military tasks were being discussed.

Shelby: Another Sept. 11-type attack is a certainty

AP 11/25/02

WASHINGTON — Sen. Richard Shelby, an eight-year veteran of the Senate Intelligence Committee, warned Americans on Sunday to expect another major attack from al-Qaeda terrorists.

"Oh, absolutely. It's going to happen," Shelby said on NBC's *Meet the Press*.

He said he based his opinion partly on a warning of a spectacular attack contained in an audiotape, broadcast Nov. 12 on al-Jazeera television in the Persian Gulf emirate Qatar. U.S. intelligence experts attributed the tape to Osama bin Laden, the Saudi-born fugitive who leads the al-Qaeda terror network.

"There were several messages there," said Shelby. "One, to all of his supporters, and to us, that he is alive, and he's kicking, and he's going to be around. And I think he also sent the message he's going to attack us and attack our allies."

Shelby, R-Ala., who is leaving the intelligence committee in the new Congress convening in January, has been known for years as a leading Senate authority on national security. He has spoken repeatedly in the past few weeks of the possibility of another attack by the perpetrators of the Sept. 11, 2001, assaults that killed more than 3,000 people.

In an interview a week ago, Shelby noted a rise in intercepted communications that suggest terror strikes, along with the bin Laden tape, as possible harbingers of a new attack. An FBI warning that followed the appearance of the tape was not overblown, he said, and "there are ominous signs that we should not ignore."

He spoke with more certainty Sunday.

"I think it will be spectacular," he said. "Will it be on the order of the World Trade Tower or the Pentagon? I hope not. But that's something we've got to stop."

U.S. begins pulling out non-essential staff from Mideast

World Tribune 11/25/02

The United States has begun withdrawing non-essential

government personnel from the Middle East. Officials said the action is intended to avoid Arab or Islamic reprisals on U.S. personnel over the next few months as tension builds in the Persian Gulf and Middle East region.

So far, officials said, the State Department is quietly pulling out non-essential embassy staffers and families in such countries as Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco and Saudi Arabia. They said similar measures will be taken in the United Arab Emirates and other countries.

United Nations

Annan calls Israel an expropriator of Arab land, says it must give up "nearly all of the territory" for peace
AP 11/14/02

WASHINGTON - U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan denounced Israel as an expropriator of Arab land and said it must give up "nearly all of the territory" for peace with the Arabs.

Annan, in a speech at the University of Maryland, also accused the Israeli government of imposing "condition upon condition" to block peace negotiations.

Palestinian farmers have been shot dead by extremist settlers intent on robbing them of their olive harvest and are trying to drive them off the land to which the Palestinians are entitled, Annan said Wednesday.

Annan, who met with President George W. Bush later at the White House, drew applause from students assembled in a university field house as he repeatedly criticized Israel and its policies.

US votes against UN bill opposed to Knesset's Jerusalem law
Jerusalem Post 12/4/02

For the first time ever The United States voted against a UN decision calling on Israel to repeal the Jerusalem Law, Israel Radio reported.

In previous years the US has abstained when this issue has been raised.

The Jerusalem Law says that Jerusalem is the undivided capital of Israel and allowed for the annexation of east Jerusalem, captured in the 1967 war, into Israel.

The UN still views the 1947 partition plan that called for Jerusalem to be an international city as valid.

According to the radio, diplomatic officials in New York said that this represents a major policy shift by the US.

U.N. Approves 6 Resolutions on Israel

AP 12/4/02

UNITED NATIONS - Over U.S. and Israeli objections, the U.N. General Assembly overwhelmingly approved six resolutions Tuesday criticizing Israeli policies and calling for new efforts to bring peace to the Middle East.

The resolutions are not legally binding — as Security Council resolutions are — but they are a reflection of world opinion. The key resolution called on the parties and major international players, including the United States, the United Nations, the European Union and Russia to exert greater efforts to halt the deteriorating situation between Israel and the Palestinians, reverse all measures taken on the ground since the latest violence began in September 2000, and push for a peace.

It was approved by a vote of 160-4 with three abstentions, the highest "yes" vote of the half-dozen resolutions. In addition to the United States and Israel, the Marshall Islands and Micronesia voted "no."

Science

Sun's rays to roast Earth as poles flip
The Observer 11/10/02

Earth's magnetic field - the force that protects us from deadly

radiation bursts from outer space - is weakening dramatically.

The effects could be catastrophic. Powerful radiation bursts, which normally never touch the atmosphere, would heat up its upper layers, triggering climatic disruption. Navigation and communication satellites, Earth's eyes and ears, would be destroyed and migrating animals left unable to navigate.

For more than 100 years, scientists have noted the strength of Earth's magnetic field has been declining, but have disagreed about interpretations. But now Gauthier Hulot of the Paris Geophysical Institute has discovered Earth's magnetic field seems to be disappearing most alarmingly near the poles, a clear sign that a flip may soon take place.

On Earth, it will heat up the upper atmosphere and send ripples round the world with enormous, unpredictable effects on the climate.'

Germs develop a deadly defense

Drug-resistant bacteria discovered
Detroit Free Press 11/12/02

A 40-year-old Detroit area woman had endured painfully infected foot sores for more than a year.

Doctors gave her numerous antibiotics, but nothing worked. Finally, last April, they amputated one of her toes -- and made a frightening discovery.

Her sores were infected with a virulent new strain of the bacterium staphylococcus aureus, or staph aureus. By stealing genetic material from another bug, the new strain became totally resistant to vancomycin, the longtime drug of last defense against it. Health officials would not identify the metro Detroit woman or what hospital treated her.

The infection was the first of its kind in the world and a landmark defeat for doctors and public health officials in the

fight against growing antibiotic resistance.

"From a scientific point of view, it's probably one of the most remarkable and significant events in my lifetime," said Dr. Steve Lerner, vice chief of infectious diseases at Detroit Medical Center.

Added Dr. Fred Tenover of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta: "This is an organism that could cause very serious disease if it was in the community."

SCIENTISTS PLANNING TO MAKE NEW FORM OF LIFE

Washington Post 11/21/02

Scientists in Rockville are to announce this morning that they plan to create a new form of life in a laboratory dish, a project that raises ethical and safety issues but also promises to illuminate the fundamental mechanics of living organisms.

J. Craig Venter, the gene scientist with a history of pulling off unlikely successes, and Hamilton O. Smith, a Nobel laureate, are behind the plan. Their intent is to create a single-celled, partially man-made organism with the minimum number of genes necessary to sustain life. If the experiment works, the microscopic man-made cell will begin feeding and dividing to create a population of cells unlike any previously known to exist.

To ensure safety, Smith and Venter said the cell will be deliberately hobbled to render it incapable of infecting people; it also will be strictly confined, and designed to die if it does manage to escape into the environment.

More worrisome than the risk of escape, they acknowledged, is that the project could lay the scientific groundwork for a new generation of biological weapons, a risk that may force them to be selective about publishing technical details. But they

said the project could also help advance the nation's ability to detect and counter existing biological weapons

SCIENTISTS CONDEMN NEW GENE TECHNIQUE

The Guardian 11/25/02

Researchers have developed a technique to speed evolution by inserting human cancer-causing genes into animals and plants...

But the technique - designed to improve production of new animal and crop breeds - has shocked many scientists and environmentalists. Some say the process could result in organisms with human cancer-causing genes being released into the environment. Others worry that attempts to accelerate evolution could be dangerous...

The method involves the isolation of a gene involved in repairing DNA. Some people inherit a version called PMS2-134, which is defective, and become prone to colon cancer.

Putting this gene into animals, plants and bacteria will destabilize their DNA and cause them to create many more mutant offspring than normal. Most mutations will die out, but a greater than usual number will survive, the company says. Thus the rate of creating new plants that can resist disease or animals that can metabolize food more effectively will be increased.

'You can see the logic _ but it's like sitting a monkey at a typewriter and hoping it will write Hamlet one day. It isn't worth the risks,' GM expert Les Firbank of the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology said. His point was backed by geneticist Michael Antoniou, of King's College London. 'It would be cruel to animals and potentially dangerous,' he said

PROFESSOR WHO CLONED DOLLY SEEKS LICENSE TO GO TO WORK ON A HUMAN EGG

The Independent 11/26/02

Ian Wilmut, the scientist who cloned Dolly the sheep, has applied for a government license to work with human eggs in an experiment that prepares the way for human cloning.

Professor Wilmut's application to the



Children of Calcutta sex workers parade during World AIDS day demonstrations

Human Fertilization and Embryology Authority (HFEA) covers a technique in which an unfertilized egg is stimulated in the laboratory to develop into an early embryo. The procedure is called parthenogenesis, which literally means 'virgin birth' and results in cloned embryos that develop without the need for sperm to fertilize an egg.

Experts say that knowledge gleaned from the procedure will be invaluable for doing the sort of cloning that led to Dolly, where genetic material is transferred from an adult cell into an 'empty', unfertilized egg.

AIDS dead could be buried in disused mines

New Scientist 12/3/02

Disused mineshafts in Johannesburg could be turned into catacomb-style cemeteries, in a bid by the City Parks

agency to accommodate the increasing number of people dying from AIDS. Officials are also considering alternative disposal methods, such as powdering bodies using liquid nitrogen, as well as mass graves.

Johannesburg is the largest city in South Africa and about 750,000 of its three million citizens are currently infected with HIV. The city's official death rate has increased by 35 percent in the last five years. It reached 19 per 1000 in 2002, largely due to an increase in AIDS-related deaths in young adults.

"This year we will bury about 20,000 people. In 2010, unless someone develops a cure for AIDS, we expect that figure to be 70,000," says Alan Buff, who is responsible for cemeteries at City Parks.

Bodies are already buried on top of each other in "family" graves in about half of the city's existing cemeteries. City Parks is also in the process of acquiring an additional 1500 hectares of land to use for new cemeteries.

Meanwhile, illegal cemeteries are appearing around squatter camps on the outskirts of the city. But bodies that are not buried properly can be exposed after heavy rain, posing a health risk to local people. These shallow graves are also easier to rob for body parts used in traditional medicine.

AIDS epidemic set to explode in Eastern Europe

New Scientist 11/26/02

The global AIDS epidemic is expanding most rapidly in Eastern Europe and Central Asia and is fuelling famine in southern Africa, according to the latest report from UNAIDS.

An estimated 42 million people worldwide are now living with HIV, up from 40 million in 2001. Five million people were newly infected in 2002. And despite some success with AIDS awareness and prevention programmes in South Africa and Ethiopia in particular, the African sub-continent

continues to suffer most from the infection.

"What we are seeing today in a number of countries of sub-Saharan Africa is an HIV epidemic that is overwhelming the resources of entire communities," says Peter Piot, executive director of UNAIDS.

Religion

Killing Christians: The underreported story of Islamist violence around the world

JWR 11/12/02

OCTOBER 17, bombs killed 6 people and wounded 143 in Zamboanga, the Philippines. While press accounts mentioned in passing that the victims were Christians, few conveyed to the reader that these were people assaulted by Muslim extremists because of their religion. On September 25, militant Muslims shot dead 7 Christian Pakistanis execution style in Karachi.

And the media almost never point out that Christians are being killed, often at places of worship, in several countries with Islamic majorities or governments, not because they are Westerners or Americans (many are neither) but because they are Christians.

People who follow international news are aware that a civil war raged in Ethiopia for more than 30 years. But few realize that it was a religious war--between Muslim Eritrea and Christian Ethiopia--in which tens of thousands perished. Many know that the people of East Timor were savaged, but it is rarely mentioned that most East Timorese are Christian, while the Indonesian militants who killed many of them and brutalized the refugees in West Timor are Muslim. Indeed, Christians in other parts of Indonesia have hardly fared better; for instance, thousands died during riots in the Moluccan Islands in 2000.

The bloody war in the Sudan, similarly, pits the Muslim government in the North against the Christian and animist South. And in Nigeria, as Muslims try to impose a strict version of the legal code called sharia in several provinces, armed conflicts between Muslims and Christians have erupted and thousands have died. Just lately, in the Ivory Coast, Muslims in the North have been attacking Christians in the South.

Nasrallah warns of retaliation if Al-Aqsa Mosque is harmed

Hizbullah hosts massive Jerusalem Day parade in Nabatieh
Daily Star 12/2/02

Hizbullah Secretary-General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah warned Israel Friday that any damage inflicted on Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa Mosque would lead to a wide-scale retaliation.

"Zionists and those behind them should understand that any harm caused to Al-Aqsa Mosque will ignite the entire region," said Nasrallah during a rally held in Nabatieh to mark Jerusalem Day.

Al-Aqsa Mosque is sacred for Muslims. But Jewish extremists call for the mosque's destruction, claiming that it was built on the Temple Mount.

"If they decided to destroy this mosque, then the nation of this mosque will destroy all of the Zionist entity with the blood of the great martyrdom attackers," the cleric said.

Sheik: 'It's OK to kill non-Muslims'
London Islamic cleric caught on tape
WND 11/19/02

A London-based Muslim cleric has been caught on film urging his followers to kill non-Muslims – particularly Americans – and to commit other acts of terrorism.

Sheik Abu Hamza, affiliated with London's Finsbury Park mosque, tells an audience that non-believers should be killed or sold into slavery in a tape

converted to digital files and smuggled onto the Internet.

"If a kafir is walking by and you catch him, he's booty," he says on one tape. "You can sell him in the market. Most of them are spies. And even if they don't do anything, if Muslims cannot take them and sell them in the market, you just kill them. It's OK."

"If Muslims are having a war against these people, than yes, it is legitimate," he says. He said he can't be accused of inciting people to commit violent acts because he's a cleric who only preaches Muslim law. "I say the reality that's in the Muslim books anyway. Whether I say it or not, it's in the books."

Heavenly Minded newsletter is produced by Heavenly Minded Ministries. Please share it freely. You can add to our distribution list by contacting us via email at jdickey77@yahoo.com or at the return address. Col 3:2!!

***The Fuse* by Hal Lindsey**

According to the Koran, Jews are "sons of monkeys and pigs" (Surah 5:60). Modern Moslems commonly appeal to this verse as the basis of their favorite description of Jews.

The Jews are those who distorted the Holy Writings, which were revealed to them (Surahs 2:73; 3:72). They denied God's signs (3:63). They violated the covenant with their God (4:154). Allah cursed them (5:16).

They are forever the inheritors of hell (3:1, 12). Since true Muslims believe these things, how can Arafat or any other Muslim abandon the 3rd Holiest place in Islam to the Jews? –(Dr. M. Cedar, University of Bar-Ilan)

When Myths Intoxicate

According to the Hebrew prophet Zechariah (chapter 12, verses 2 & 3), this Moslem mythology about Jerusalem is going to become the fuse that lights off Armageddon. All of the nations of the region are going to become intoxicated over Jerusalem.

Because of this religiously inspired 'intoxication', Jerusalem is to become a burdensome stone to the whole world, ending with all nations going to war over it.

In the world of AD2002, this predicted situation is already here. It is only a matter of God's timing before all of this explodes into an all enveloping war that will drag the planet into a holocaust so horrific that only the Coming of the Messiah Jesus can stop it.

Ezekiel's Warning To Islam

Ezekiel makes a very unusual prophecy about the descendents of "all Edom" and also the former inhabitants of Mount Seir, who were the children of Esau that co-mingled with the descendents of Ishmael. (Ezek. 35:15) The term "all Edom" is frequently used by the prophets to refer to all Arabs in the last days.

The time to which this prophecy applies is given as, "at the time of the punishment OF THE END." (Ezek. 35:5) This means the Tribulation period that immediately precedes the Messiah's coming.

The first reason God is going to judge these people is this, "Because you have had EVERLASTING ENMITY and have delivered the sons of Israel to the power of the sword at the time of their calamity, AT THE TIME OF THE PUNISHMENT OF THE END,

therefore, 'as I live', declares the Lord God, 'I will give you over to bloodshed, and bloodshed will pursue you; since you have not hated bloodshed, therefore bloodshed will pursue you. And I will make Mount Seir a waste and desolation, and I will cut off from it the one who passes through and returns. And I will fill its mountains with its slain; on your hills and in your valleys and in all your ravines those slain by the sword will fall. I will make you an everlasting desolation, and your cities will not be inhabited. Then you will know that I am the Lord'" (Ezek. 35:5-9)

It is about this "EVERLASTING ENMITY OR HATRED" that I wrote in my new book. The hatred that began in the hearts of Ishmael and Esau became institutionalized in Islam. This hatred will become a roaring, all-consuming flame in the conflict over Jerusalem.

The second reason for judging them is, "Because you [Arabs] have said, 'These two nations and these two lands [i.e., Israel and Judah] will be mine, and WE WILL POSSESS THEM,' ALTHOUGH THE LORD WAS THERE, 'therefore, as I live,' declares the Lord God, 'I will deal with you according to YOUR ANGER and according to YOUR ENVY which you showed because of YOUR HATRED against them; so I will make Myself known among them when I judge you'" [Arabs]. (Ezekiel 35:10-11)

Note that Ezekiel, speaking from the perspective of 'the end times', says they are doubly guilty for

taking over the land of Israel, because they know “THE LORD WAS THERE.”

This could only be referring to the Lord Jesus, the Messiah. The Koran acknowledges that Jesus, the Lord, was in the Holy Land. It also acknowledges He was a prophet and the Messiah. But it blatantly denies His claim of being the Son of God. It makes Jesus subordinate to Mohammad. Therefore they are held especially guilty before the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The final basis of Ezekiel’s warning to Islam is, “You have spoken arrogantly against Me and have multiplied your words against Me; I have heard it.” (Ezek. 35:13)

The Allah of the Koran is not the God of the Bible. All of the claims of Allah’s superiority over the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and over Jesus, who is set forth in the Word of God as co-equal and co-eternal with God the Father, are blasphemy and the LORD has heard them all.

Because of this, Ezekiel warns, “Thus says the Lord God, ‘As all the earth rejoices, I will make you a desolation. As you rejoiced over the inheritance of the house of Israel because it was desolate, so I will do to you. You will be a desolation, O Mount Seir, and ALL EDOM, ALL OF IT. Then they will know that I am the Lord.’” (Ezek. 35:14-15)

The true GOD and LORD of heaven and earth is soon coming back to earth. The Apostle John saw a preview of His return, “And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. He is clothed with a robe

dipped in blood and His name is called the Word of God and on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, ‘KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.’” (Revelation 19:11, 13, 16) When this happens, every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is LORD.

Hope For These Last Days

Jesus, the Messiah, anticipated these days. He promised, “Let not your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way where I am going. Thomas said to Him, ‘Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?’ Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.’” (John 14:1-6)

The Lord Jesus purchased a pardon for all mankind. He died for the Moslems, Buddhists, Hindus, Jews, Gentiles, agnostics, atheists, et.al.

All one needs to do is confess that you have broken God’s laws and acknowledge that Jesus is the Lord who died for your sins. Then receive the gift of pardon for sin that He purchased for you. Immediately, He will give you forgiveness, eternal life and a new spirit that can understand and know him. The choice is yours. Don’t blow it.

Eternity is a long time to regret it.

A Judas in Jerusalem

The Bible describes the Antichrist as the “son of perdition.” It is the same title Jesus used for Judas Iscariot.¹ Perdition means destruction, but not just the ruin of the physical or the flesh – rather, the utter destruction of something. That is, the physical and spiritual destruction of hell. Jesus also said, “... *fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear Him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*” (Mat 10:28)

Since this unique title is given to each, it’s likely that there are some similar characteristics observable in both men. Judas was the ‘treasurer’ if you would of the disciples. He carried ‘the bag’. Obsessed with money, he was a thief (John 12:6) and critical of those who sought to give generously in worship of the Lord. However, he masked this criticism, with a thin veneer of practical compassion for the poor (John 12:3-6). He hung out with the Lord for a significant amount of time but was never changed inwardly. He was a master deceiver – even when he left the upper room to sell out the Lord, the disciples were clueless as to his true intentions (John 13:29). He consorted with the religious power-brokers of the time to deliver Jesus and the other disciples to them (Mat 26:14). He

¹ (Some of the Antichrist’s other titles: *little horn* (Daniel 7:8); *king of fierce countenance* (Daniel 8:23); *the willful king* (Daniel 11:36-45); *the one who comes in his own name* (John 5:43); *the man of sin, the lawless one* (2 Thessalonians 2:3, 8).)

betrayed Christ with a kiss. (Luke 22:47,48)

Likewise, the Antichrist will be economically oriented. Revelation 13 says that he will create an economic order in which no one may buy or sell without his mark, his name or the number of his name. It also states that he will persecute those who desire to worship the Lord (Rev 13:6). He will speak powerfully and persuasively (Rev 13:5, Dan 11:36) yet with tremendous deception (2Thes 2:9,10; Dan 8:25) for his real intent will be to redirect the worship of God to himself (2Thes 2:4).

It’s also quite possible that he and/or his ‘false prophet’ (Rev 13:11; 16:13) will have spent significant time in some association with the church but by Satan’s inspiration will ultimately turn on it and all sincere believers with a hellish fury (Rev 12:13-17). He will probably be Jewish or of Jewish ancestry.(Dan 11:37) Revelation 13 makes it clear that he and his associate, the false prophet, will be masters of deceit (Rev 13:13,14).

And like Judas, he will do his dirty work in the temple. 2 Thes 2:4 says so. He will undoubtedly be treacherous – just as Judas sold out Christ, it may be that the AC who initially seems like an awesome leader, indeed a savior, to the Jews, will ultimately sell them out.

He will conspire with the powerful and gain great power. In fact, we are assured that his power base will be a government arising out of the old Roman

empire – that is, the EU/EC. Consequently, we would expect to eventually see some movement of Israel and the EU toward each other governmentally. Will the EU/EC one day include Israel and more importantly, Jerusalem? I think it's quite possible. Let me refer to Daniel chapter two to explain.

In an earlier issue of HM, we examined in some detail the image of Daniel two so I won't reiterate that lesson. However, it is important to recall that the key to understanding this prophecy is to perceive the governments portrayed by the materials in the vision as not just "world governments" as some are inclined to say, but rather that they were powerful governments which ruled over a Jewish Jerusalem with a Jewish Temple.

You see, if it were just a matter of being a world government, none of the identified ruling systems (Babylon, Medio-Persia, Greece, and Rome) would qualify for none of them governed the world, only a portion of it. Neither is it solely a matter of governing the land of Israel apart from the Jews being there and more specifically, while they are inhabiting Jerusalem as well as engaged in temple worship. Else, you would have the Arabs, the Ottoman Turks and the British portrayed in the vision for they each ruled over the area of Israel.

Let's quickly review the gold, silver, brass and iron governments portrayed in the image. Recall, the Babylonians under Nebuchadnezzar conquered and ruled over Jerusalem for some twenty years until the continual rebellion of the people led to the destruction of the

city and the temple. In 536 BC, seventy years after the initial fall of the city, a faithful Jewish remnant returned and began rebuilding the temple and the city. This occurred during the Medio-Persian rule. Next, the Greeks ruled over a Jewish Jerusalem and its temple. In fact, the notorious Antiochus Epiphanes who foreshadowed the Antichrist desecrated the second temple. Finally, the Romans ruled Jewish Jerusalem and like the Babylonians, destroyed it and the temple leaving in its place a barren waste. Not until 1967 could Jerusalem again be considered Jewish though as yet, it has no temple.

Yes, each of these governments ruled over a Jewish Jerusalem and its temple. This key is also hinted at in Daniel 2:45 where the prophet, looking backward through history so to speak lists the materials of the image in Nebuchadnezzar's dream in the order of iron, brass, clay, silver and gold. This order is different from verse 35 which lists them in the order found in the image from top to bottom. Thus, verse 45 is suggestive that the clay is indeed a government-representing material just like the others. It is also significant that it is placed after the silver (Medio-Persia) historically and before the brass (Greece) – what happened at this time? What happened is that the Jews returned to Jerusalem and rebuilt both it and the temple! That's the key.

So, as we consider the final part, historically, of the Daniel two image, (i.e. the feet and toes) we see that they are made of iron and clay. Clearly, the clay is the Jewish

people – several scriptures say as much (e.g. Isa 64:8, Jer 18:6). But the feet are a composite of iron (the material of the Roman Empire) and clay. Right now, we only have the Jewish people controlling Jerusalem, therefore, we are not in those days yet.

Soon, however, the iron and clay will rule over Jerusalem and over a Jewish Temple. Will that mean EU/Israeli rule? How about Vatican/Israeli rule? We'll soon see; or maybe we won't since this might happen only during the Tribulation period.

In any event, I think it is highly significant that Romano Prodi the EC Commission President has just mentioned his intent of including Israel in the EC "ring of friends" (see this month's news). So I wouldn't be surprised to see more involvement of Israel with the EU/EC or the Vatican. It could be

the AC who actually cements this relationship, and it is very possible that he himself will make a way for the third temple to be built.

Orthodox Jews in Israel today say they will recognize the Messiah because he will be the one to do just that. Christ said to the Jews, "*I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive.*" (John 5:43)

"But when this Antichrist shall have devastated all things in this world, he will reign for three years and six months, and sit in the temple at Jerusalem; and then the Lord will come from heaven in the clouds, in the glory of the Father, sending this man and those who follow him into the lake of fire; but bringing in for the righteous the times of the kingdom" (Irenaeus, late second century)

The Second Coming

From Streams in the Desert by Mrs. Charles E. Cowman

"Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown" (Rev. 3:11).

George Mueller bears this testimony, "When it pleased God in July, 1829, to reveal to my heart the truth of the personal return of the Lord Jesus, and to show me that I had made a great mistake in looking for the conversion of the world, the effect that it produced upon me was this: From my inmost soul I was stirred up to feel compassion for perishing sinners, and for the slumbering world around me lying in the wicked one, and considered, 'Ought I not to do what I can for the Lord Jesus while He tarries, and to rouse a slumbering church?'"

There may be many hard years of hard work before the consummation, but the signs are to me so encouraging that I would not be unbelieving if I saw the wing of the apocalyptic angel spread for its last triumphal flight in this day's sunset; ... O you dead churches wake up! O Christ, descend! Scarred temple, take the crown! Bruised hand, take the sceptre! Wounded foot, step the throne! Thine is the kingdom. --Rev. T. DeWitt Talmage, D. D.