

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

Heavenly Minded

Vol.2 Issue 10



**World News
All Truth
After the Deception
Inciting Armageddon
My Faith Looks Up to Thee
Failure That Leads to Godliness**

I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, as a light to the Gentiles, to open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the prison, those who sit in darkness from the prison house. Isaiah 42:6,7

Dear Friends,

We pray that you all are enjoying the manifold blessing of God's fellowship day by day and that this issue of Heavenly Minded will be an encouragement and edifying tool for you.

Please pray for Dave and Daniel, the guys developing heavenly-mindedonline.com – our up-coming website. There are a number of prophecy and Christian news websites that are quite good and we hope to soon be counted among them – preaching the trustworthy Good News of our Lord.

As a periodic reminder, HM is a ministry devoted to assisting all of us in our Christian walk and service to set our minds on things above, to store up our treasure in heaven, to discover ever greater intimacy with our Lord and to become more submitted and useful in His hands. As you know, this little periodical is free to all who would like it (and we praise God for His gracious provision!). As the Lord leads, please share it with others and/or let us know if you'd like to add someone to our distribution list. Contact us at jdickey77@yahoo.com or the return address.

For new readers, we are a nondenominational, fundamental and evangelical ministry. Anticipating the imminent return of Christ for His church, we herein emphasize foundational devotionals and potentially prophetic current events. We take pains to present credible news items that may represent important prophetic trends or turning-points versus 'getting a scoop' or advocating some political agenda.

We deeply appreciate your prayers and support!! He is coming for His bride. As God made Adam a helper "comparable" to him taken from his side, may we be conformed to an ever greater degree to our 'Adam', Jesus Christ, by the blood and water that came from His side – Selah. God bless and keep you!

John and Darlene

My faith looks up to Thee

*My faith looks up to Thee,
Thou Lamb of Calvary,
Saviour divine;
Now hear me while I pray,
Take all my guilt away,
O let me from this day
Be wholly Thine.*

*When ends life's transient dream,
When Death's cold, sullen stream
Shall o'er me roll,
Blest Saviour, then, in love,
Fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above,
A ransomed soul.*

by Ray Palmer

*May Thy rich grace impart
Strength to my fainting heart,
My zeal inspire;
As Thou hast died for me,
O may my love to Thee
Pure, warm, and changeless be,
A living fire.*

*While life's dark maze I tread,
And griefs around me spread,
Be Thou my Guide;
Bid darkness turn to day,
Wipe sorrow's tears away,
Nor let me ever stray
From Thee aside.*

From this hymn were taken the last words the poet uttered the day before he passed away. Yet the most touching incident connected with this great hymn is perhaps the story of eight young Christian soldiers that met for prayer in a tent just before one of the terrible battles of the Wilderness in the Civil War. They desired to write a statement which should show how they faced death and go as a comforting message to the relatives of those whom the coming battle might remove from earth.

They decided to copy this hymn and sign it as their sufficient declaration of Christian faith, and they did so. The next day, seven of those brave soldiers died for their country.

All Truth

Inch by excruciating inch, he painfully chipped away with his tiny spoon at the solid rock wall. Hour after day after week after month...for eight years, he desperately tunneled his way toward freedom beneath the dungeon chambers of the Chateau d'If fortress only to fail and narrowly evade a disastrous cave-in. However, when his only friend, a priest, dies in the accident, he trades places with the corpse and thus makes an escape from the island prison after he is thrown into the ocean.

If you've seen the movie or read the book, *The Count of Monte Cristo*, you know that although he escaped the bondage of his cell, the Count was still imprisoned with passionate hatred.

And thus is humanity – imprisoned. This planet is a 'Chateau d'If', if you would, amidst the cosmos and here mankind toils, scrapes and chips away at the meagerness of its existence, hoping to find escape. Chipping away at their jobs, scraping at school, scheming for power, position and/or pleasure, hoping for escape from the dungeon of life's vanity, to find answers, to fill a void within – hour after day after week after month...

Festering with suffering, hatred, death and every foul intention imaginable, it's a brutal place, this prison. And what worsens it -- the 'jailer' takes pleasure by inflicting pain on the inmates as well as duping them into endless pointless pursuits. Meanwhile, he assures

them there's no escape from this cosmic Alcatraz.

But that's not true.

For there is a key, an opening of the prison door, a freedom sublime and sure.

Yet understand, to have it can mean failure, disgrace, suffering, even death (John 16:33, 2 Tim 3:12). It can mean a humiliation which to many is abhorrent (1 Pet 5:5,6; Jam 4:10). To have it means realizing you're "undone" (Isa 6:5), (that's Bible-talk for a real mess, totally un-cool), that you're flat out sinful, destitute of redeeming virtue. It means accepting that you can't dig your own way out to freedom.

"Hold it!" you say. "I'm not that bad." (chip, chip, scrape, scrape) "I mean I help people and do good things." (chip, chip) "I go to church and even counsel other people." (scrape, scrape) "Hey, ...are you trying to ruin my self esteem?" (chip, scrape...chip, scrape)

OK, you just keep digging.

But there is a key, an opening of the prison door, a freedom sublime and sure.

As with the *Count of Monte Cristo*, it involves a death and a trading of places. It involves a baptism, an emersion. Many of you understand Jesus Christ died in your place. And now, if you believe in that and that He rose from the dead, you know that you get to lay your own life down (1 John 3:16), to die daily to your self-interests (1 Cor 15:31)

and to be buried with Him in baptism (Col 2:11,12).

Satan says that's fanatical and unnecessary. However, Satan, sin and self are all great deceivers. Jesus said concerning the devil, "He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources for he is a liar and the father of it." (John 8:44) And so, Satan has no key. Though a jailer of sorts, he is the most desperate prisoner of all. His lies, doubts and seducements are all designed to deceive.

But truth is the key. Spoken by God, it is totally pure.

Look around. You'll notice that we live in the age of deceit. People just can't dig out. Paul wrote, "But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived." (2 Tim 3:13) As you observe today's communication environment, it is steeped in deception.

"Wait a minute, John. That's a bit extreme, don't you think?" you may say. "I mean, I think Wolf Blitzer, Dan Rather, and the 'guys' are quite objective – they even say so themselves." Surely not all we hear from the media is deceptive.

Please understand, I'm not saying that these folks are trying to deceive – rather that their communications are inherently biased and thus they fall short of objective truth. They want you to hear the 'story' the way they understand it and to thus form your perspective. I'm not dissing them -- the issue is that our mutual

human condition causes us to nest the 'truth' in subjectivity.

Here are two points to consider concerning deception: first, by definition, deception appears truthful, and second, motive makes a difference. That is, a true statement made with any motive other than God's is inherently a false witness. You may think those are overly radical statements, but hear me out.

Satan knows that if a lie did not appear truthful, it would fool no one and be useless to the liar. This isn't confined to the used car lot – it's the principle behind modern advertising and media programming – to deceive and manipulate. It is the principle behind politics, the principle behind cults and false religions, and it is even the principle behind way too many interpersonal relationships. What may look true can really be a sham.

Concerning motive, you may recall that when the religious elite of Jesus' day were looking for an excuse to get rid of Him, they found a couple of false witnesses: "...at last two false witnesses came forward and said, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.'" And the high priest arose and said to Him, "Do You answer nothing? What is it these men testify against You?"

Now, Jesus had indeed said essentially what these false witnesses reported (see John 2:19-21) so why were they "false witnesses"? Context and Motive. Their motive was to do evil, and what they said was taken out of context.

But by contrast, everything God says is completely true. In fact, here's something God can't do – He can't lie. (Num 23:19) That's not just because He's got all the facts, but also because His character and motive are absolutely pure. If you do a word study in the Old Testament on truth, you'll find that it is strangely linked, when attributed to God, to something else. Between 35 and 40 times truth is partnered with and mentioned subsequent to the Hebrew word – “checed”. Now, this word is mostly translated as “mercy” but is more accurately “**goodness, kindness or faithfulness**”.

That is, God prefaces, if you would, His truth with His goodness, kindness and faithfulness. When truth is given this way, it is “all truth”. (See John 16:13) This is one reason why Jesus could assert that He was the truth (see John 14:6)

In fact, the New Testament echoes with the Old on this point when it says that Jesus was “full of grace and truth” (See John 1:14,17). For you see, the Greek word for grace is Charis – which literally means, “**that which affords joy, pleasure, delight; good will, loving-kindness, favour; merciful kindness**”. Jesus was ‘the truth packaged in grace’ so to speak. Like the Father -- perfect, pure motive – always.

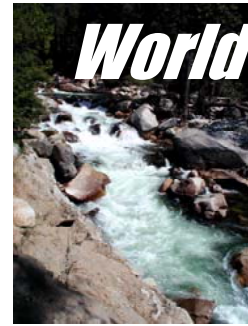
Oh, how we need truth! This kind of truth! Not the so-called truth that deceives and then destroys. Not the so-called truth that spews forth from sin-tainted motives. We need Christ's heavenly truth. It is this truth that sets us free! (John 8:32) It is this truth that sanctifies and sets

us apart from the world. (John 17:17,19) It is this truth that purges iniquity. (Pro 16:6) It is this truth that preserves us. (Psa 40:11)

The principle fruit of the Holy Spirit is love (see Gal 5:22) and yet He is repeatedly called by Christ the “Spirit of Truth”. This is why Paul exhorted us to speak the truth in love, in other words, to speak it as God does. (see Eph 4:15) I submit that apart from this, it may not even be truth – at least not from heaven's perspective.

If we as Christians could just get a handle on this, it would radically change us and the world around us. We are so quick to level people privately and publicly with “truth” and to think we're justified because “all I said was the truth...” But if we want to learn the lingo of heaven, we need to understand that Father God's ‘way’ is goodness, kindness and faithfulness with truth, Christ's ‘way’ is grace and truth, and the Spirit's ‘way’ is loving truth. As the psalmist writes, “‘Checed’ and truth are joined together” in God. (Psa 85:10)

Mankind fell through deception, is enslaved and imprisoned by deception and even when saved by grace, can be made ineffective because of deception. Soon, a grand deceiver, the son of perdition, will come on the scene. May we let the Holy Spirit lead us into “all truth” – not just more facts, more data, but into the place where we perceive and speak the truth as God does – with heavenly mindedness.



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

Iran Jumps Aboard US War on Iraq DEBKAFile's Washington, Gulf Sources

30 September: America's failure to enlist UN Security Council members for a tough new ultimatum to Baghdad is misleading. On the quiet, Washington has made important strides in the bid to assemble an Arab-Muslim coalition for its war effort. Egypt and Saudi Arabia were the first to come on board, although they refrain from publicly admitting to having made their sea and air bases available for the American assault.

According to DEBKAFile's military sources, the big Egyptian military base at Cairo West has been turned over to the US war command as its foremost logistical launching pad, while US warships freely navigate the Suez Canal.

The Saudi Prince Sultan air base northeast of Riyadh is now an American forward base for air raids over southern Iraq.

According to our military sources, a several hundred-strong Iranian vanguard apparently went into northern Iraq some ten days ago. It is believed to be made up of Iraqi and Afghan rebels fighting in the Badr force, an elite counter-terrorism contingent of the Revolutionary Guards. US and Turkish

special forces officers escorted the Iranian unit to its deployment zone in the Kurdish Sulimaniyeh area.

This week, DEBKAFile adds, the military partnership went into political gear. Iraqi foreign minister Najji Sabri, who flew to Tehran Sunday, September 29 to seek support against Washington, was coldly informed by President Mohamed Khatami that Iran wanted the entire Persian Gulf free of weapons of mass destruction.

Now that the strongest Gulf power, Iran, has crossed the floor – and is not the first to do so - President George W. Bush can claim a regional coalition weightier than the one which confronted Iraq in 1991.

The Iranians are now keen to pull Syria out of the opposition camp and over to the American side so as to ward off a potential American or Israeli strike against the Damascus-based Palestinian radical terror groups and Hizballah strongholds in South Lebanon.

DEBKA-Net-Weekly's sources find neither the Americans nor Iranians under any illusion that their old feud is resolved by their new military accord. But, as an ad hoc device, this collaboration has made it possible for the United States to tighten its noose around the necks of Saddam and his regime, while putting its longstanding war of words with Iran on hold for the duration.



Jerusalem is holy to both Muslims and Jews

Jerusalem: Crucible of the conflict

BBC Tuesday, 4 December, 2001, 18:06 GMT

Both Israel and the Palestinians regard the city of Jerusalem as a symbol of nationhood. Both want to make the city their capital.

But it is the religious importance of the city that has proved one of the greatest obstacles to peace.

Ehud Barak, the former Israeli prime minister, insisted at the Camp David summit in July 2000 that Israel retain sovereignty over Jerusalem's holiest site, the Temple Mount or Noble Sanctuary (Haram al-Sharif), as it is known respectively to Jews and Muslims.

Israeli conquest

Israel regarded its capture of the West Bank from Jordan in June 1967 as an opportunity to re-unify East and West Jerusalem under exclusive Israeli control and set about achieving this in a systematic way.

Israel removed the walls and barriers dividing the western and eastern sectors of the city. It then enacted legislation to put Arab East Jerusalem under Israeli civil law - as distinct from the military administration which governed the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Israel's annexation of the eastern sector of the city was accompanied by the redrawing of municipal boundaries, extending them northwards and southwards.

In 1980 Israeli passed another law making its annexation of East Jerusalem explicit.

Although a host of United Nations resolutions have censured Israel for its attempt to change the character and status of the city, Israel has ignored them all and continues to expand

its control over the Palestinian areas of the city.

Israel has expropriated about a third of the Palestinian owned land of East Jerusalem for the construction of 10 major Israeli settlements with a population of about 200,000.

Concessions

The European Union supports Jerusalem's internationalisation as outlined in UN General Assembly Resolution 181 of 1947.

This recommended the partition of the territory under the British Mandate into Arab and Jewish states, with neither state having sovereignty over Jerusalem, which was to be administered by a UN Trusteeship Council.

Lebanon to start pumping water from Wazzani River this week

Ha'aretz 10/6/02

Lebanon will begin pumping water from the Wazzani River on Monday, according to the Daily Star, a Lebanese newspaper, despite Israeli opposition.

At a cabinet meeting last month, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said after being informed of Lebanon's plan that Israel could not agree to allow Lebanon to divert essential water sources.

Since then, the United States sent a delegation to the region, including water

experts, in an attempt to find a solution in the water dispute between Israel and Lebanon and avert an escalation of the crisis. Israel Radio reported Friday

PLC speaker: Arafat signs law on Jerusalem as future capital

Ha'aretz 10/6/02

RAMALLAH - Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat signed a law Saturday formally declaring Jerusalem to be the capital of a future independent Palestinian state, said the speaker of the Palestinian Legislative Council Abu Ala (Ahmed Qureia) said.

"President Arafat signed the 'Jerusalem The Capital' law stipulating that Jerusalem is the capital of a future independent state and the center of the legislative, judicial and executive authorities," said Abu Ala.

Hamas Vows Revenge Following Israeli Attack on Palestinians

CNSNews.com October 07, 2002

Jerusalem - Hamas called for revenge on Monday following an Israeli military operation in a Hamas stronghold in the Gaza Strip where at least 12 Palestinians were killed and scores more wounded.

Israeli troops and tanks entered the Amal neighborhood of Khan Younis overnight following a mortar attack on an Israeli community in Gush Katif in the Gaza Strip.

Ten Palestinians, including a woman and a youth, were reported killed during the operation, when an Israeli helicopter fired a missile into a crowd of people. Israeli sources said the missile was fired to save the lives of the soldiers who were withdrawing.

"All Israelis are murderers and criminals. There is not one of them among them who is innocent," said Rantissi in a statement, according to reports. "Everyone who is calling for

negotiations with Israel is a criminal."

Hamas, which has claimed responsibility for many deadly suicide bomb attacks, has vowed repeatedly to continue its suicide attacks against Israelis.



Hamas march in refugee camp.

Diplomatic efforts continue

Meanwhile diplomatic efforts continue. European Union policy chief Javier Solana was due to meet with PA Chairman Yasser Arafat on Monday following meetings with Israeli officials over the weekend.

Solana arrived over the weekend for talks to promote the "Quartet's" plan for resuming Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. The Quartet is comprised of the EU, the U.S., Russia and the U.N.

Saddam's inner circle is defecting, say Iraqi exiles

The Telegraph 10/7/02

Saddam Hussein's power base is coming under extreme pressure, with members of his inner circle defecting to the opposition or making discreet offers of peace in the hope of being spared retribution if the Baghdad dictator is toppled, according to Iraqi exiles.

Ayad al-Awi, the head of the opposition Iraqi National Accord, said his group in recent weeks had received senior defectors from the Iraqi security

services, which form the regime's nerve centre.

At the same time Kurdish groups said they had received secret approaches from military commanders offering to turn their weapons on Saddam when the war began.

They said members of the al-Majid clan, the pillar of Saddam's tribal power base, had made contact to seek assurances about their fate.

Jordanian prince wants to revive a new Middle East region

(Editor's Note: See Daniel 11:41)
Arabic News Oct 7,2002

Prince Hassan, the cousin of the Jordanian King Abdullah II, said in a statement to the Israeli daily Yadhout Ahronot that he wants to revive the hope of a "new Middle East region." Prince Hassan also described the "martyrdom" operations by the Palestinians as "catastrophic and have to be condemned." Prince Hassan also criticized the Palestinians because they have not "realized" they have become "terrorists, if not in the eyes of the world, at least in the eyes of the Israelis, because they have surpassed their right to legitimate resistance of occupation."

Contributing Editor's Note:

...there may be more than meets the eye here. If you've heard the news recently, that if there is a regime change in Iraq, this is said to be the prince that may take Saddam's place. He is in the original lineage of their Mohammed, and of the Hashemite Kingdom. And before Saddam's bloody coup, the news recently explained that his family were the original rulers of that area. Now, here's some very interesting information on HRH (Hassan):

*www.elhassan.org/main/biography.htm
Read that biography and you'll be in for a very interesting resume of inter-faith, and global peace organizations he's*

either president of, others he helped found, others he belongs to, etc.

- The Club of Rome

HRH is the President

- The World Conference on Religion and Peace (WCRP)

HRH is the Moderator, Member of the Governing Board and Member of the Executive Committee

- World Intellectual Property Organization

HRH is the Chairman of the Policy Advisory Commission

- The International Crisis Group

HRH is a Board Member

- Rights and Humanity

HRH is the Patron of Rights & Humanity

- Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues

HRH Co-Chairs the Bureau with Sadruddin Aga Khan



Prince Hassan dressed for war in 1970

- Arab Thought Forum

HRH is the Chairman of the Governing Board

- Higher Council for Science & Technology

HRH is the Chairman

- Royal Scientific Society

HRH is the Chairman of the Governing Board

- Institute of Diplomacy

HRH is the Chairman of the Governing and Administrative Board

- Royal Institute for Inter-Faith Studies

HRH is the Chairman of the Board

- National Information Centre

HRH is the Chairman of the Governing Board

- National Centre for Human Resources

HRH is the Chairman of the Governing Board

- Hashemite Society for Education

HRH is the President

- Royal Committee for Jerusalem Affairs

HRH is the Chairman

Jordan is all of a sudden taking a big step forward in world peace & the Middle East. There seems to be many candidates of interest to Bible Prophecy teachers/students, but, he's clearly one of great interest now, as he's coming out in the limelight right now, tho' obviously he was bigtime involved in the major global and interfaith issues all along. Read the news article about Israel & Jordan yesterday, too.

Here are some links that have some other interesting info about his families' founding of Iraq and the other Middle East countries as well:

www.rss.gov.jo/phassan.html

www.nti.org/b_aboutnti/b1n.html

Jordan and Israel cooperating on Iraq

Jerusalem Post 10/5/02

Frankfurter Algamaine reports Saturday that Israel has agreed to a request by Jordanian King Hussein to add the Sunni portion of Iraq to his kingdom after Saddam Hussein falls in an American attack, according to Israel Army Radio.

The authoritative German daily adds that the Israeli General Staff Reconnaissance Unit is operating in western Iraq, with Jordanian cooperation. The unit is gathering intelligence on Iraqi missile emplacements and unconventional weapons, in order to identify those targets to be attacked first, in the event

of war with Iraq.

Jordan has reportedly also given Israel permission to fly combat sorties against Iraq over Jordanian airspace.

Civil war: Hamas, Palestinian Authority in firefights

World Tribune 10/8/02

GAZA CITY — Fighting has broken out between Palestinian Authority forces and Hamas insurgents in the Gaza Strip after an assassination attempt on a senior Palestinian official.

PA forces stormed Hamas strongholds and in the ensuing gunfight at least five Hamas members were killed and 30 injured. The operation came in wake of an assassination of a senior PA officer by Hamas gunmen. Hamas denied being involved in the assassination.

Uniting Jordan, Iraq post-war goal?

Establishment of Hashemite kingdom being floated in diplomatic circles
WND 9/26/02

An idea to unite Jordan and Iraq in a pro-U.S. Hashemite kingdom after a U.S. war is being floated in diplomatic and opposition circles, reports Stratfor, the global intelligence company. The plan could be Washington's best scenario for ensuring a stable post-war Iraq.

As a U.S. war against Iraq appears to be nearing, both Washington and Middle Eastern players also are working to make sure the expected American victory will result in strategic long-term gains. The idea of a central Iraq populated by Sunni Arabs joining with Jordan to form one Hashemite kingdom is being considered as one way to secure such gains.

Possible gains for U.S.

[A spokesman] stated that the authors of a "Hashemite plan" are U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney and Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz, both considered the most hawkish of Bush administration officials. Russian

television program "Drugoye Vremya" also reports that it was U.S. officials who twice invited Hassan to meet the Iraqi opposition last summer.

Russia/China

Russia enters Mid-East fray

BBC 9/23/02

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat is to arrive in Moscow on Friday for talks with President Vladimir Putin.

According to Mr Putin's spokesman, the meeting is at Mr Arafat's request - but both sides hope to gain from the encounter.

Mr Arafat has made no secret of his frustration with the United States and his desire to internationalise Middle East peacemaking.

Since Russia is technically the co-sponsor of the peace process, that makes Moscow a natural ally in his current predicament.

AIDS IN RUSSIA, CHINA TO RISE

Reuters 10/1/02

The spread of HIV/AIDS could triple the number of cases in Russia, China, India, Nigeria and Ethiopia by 2010, eclipsing the number in central and southern Africa, which is the current epicenter of the epidemic, a new U.S. intelligence report said on Monday.

The number of infected people in the five countries analyzed will grow to an estimated 50 million to 75 million by the end of the decade...

Moscow losing sympathy for Iraq as \$10 billion debt goes unpaid

World Tribune 10/8/02

MOSCOW — The government of President Vladimir Putin appears to be moving away from Baghdad and closer to support for a U.S.-led war against Iraq, Russian strategists say.

Moscow has become increasingly disenchanted with Iraq and its policies, they say, and Putin no longer believes

that Baghdad will repay its \$10 billion debt to Moscow.

Sergei Markov, director of the Institute of Political Studies, told a Moscow strategic seminar last week that Russia doubts whether Iraq will honor its pledge to provide \$40 billion in energy and other contracts.

Inside the Ring

Notes from the Pentagon.

Russian nuke exercise

Russian strategic nuclear forces are preparing to conduct a long-range aviation exercise that is expected to include aerial probes of U.S. air defenses, defense officials said.

The exercise begins next week and involves long-range bomber deployments to bases throughout Russia, including the bomber base of Anadyr in northeastern Siberia near the Bering Sea and the Tiksi air base in north-central Siberia on the Laptev Sea.

Tu-95 Bear H bombers, which carry air-launched nuclear cruise missiles, will be deployed. Tu-160 Blackjack bombers also are expected to take part in the war games.

Pentagon officials sought to play down the Russian exercises as routine. Other defense officials, however, said the maneuvers show the Russian military still regards the United States as its main enemy.

European Union

BRITAIN: IRAQ PLANS TO USE

WEAPONS

AP 9/24/02

Iraq has military plans for the use of chemical and biological weapons, and has tried to acquire "significant quantities" of uranium from Africa, Britain said Tuesday in a dossier of evidence about Iraq's development of weapons of mass destruction.

"Unless we face up to the threat, not only do we risk undermining the authority of the U.N., whose resolutions

he defies, but more importantly and in the longer term, we place at risk the lives and prosperity of our own people," Prime Minister Tony Blair said in an introduction to the 50-page report.

45 minutes from chemical attack

This is London
9/25/02

Saddam Hussein's armoury of chemical weapons is on standby for use within 45 minutes, Tony Blair's dossier revealed today.

The Iraqi leader has 20 missiles which could reach British military bases in Cyprus, as well as Israel and Nato members Greece and Turkey.

He has also been seeking to buy uranium from Africa for use in nuclear weapons. Those are the key charges in a 14-point "dossier of death" finally published by the Government today.

In an introduction, Mr Blair says that the evidence leaves Britain and the international community no choice but to act.

Blair: UN Resolutions should be enforced in Israel as well as Iraq

Debkafle 10/2/02

"... what is happening in the Middle East now is ugly and wrong. The Palestinians living in increasingly abject conditions, humiliated and hopeless; Israeli civilians brutally murdered. I agree UN resolutions should apply here as much as to Iraq. But they don't just apply to Israel, They apply to all parties. And there is only one answer. By this

year's end we must have revived final status negotiations and they must have explicitly as their aims: an Israeli state free from terror, recognized by the Arab world and a viable Palestinian state based on the boundaries of 1967."



Blair speaks in Blackpool to Labor Party

20,000 UK Troops Destined For Iraq

WND 10/8/02

Tony Blair is to authorize the sending of an expeditionary force of up to 20,000 servicemen and women to the Middle East for a US-led war against Iraq.

Senior Whitehall sources said the Prime Minister's decision, expected at the end of the month, comes amid growing concern among defence chiefs at the lack of strategic direction from the government to allow

them to prepare troops for any mission to Iraq.

The sources said a prompt decision from the government was needed to allow the army to begin training for desert warfare. The "big" British contribution would involve heavy armoured forces to fight alongside US divisions currently gathering in Kuwait.

A strong RAF contingent is also expected to be sent to the Middle East to join Tornado squadrons from RAF Lossiemouth, in Morayshire, and RAF Leuchers, in Fife, that are already in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia on no-fly zone patrol duty.

EU PRESIDENCY PLAN GATHERS STEAM

BBC 10/12/02

The idea of creating a powerful EU presidency is gathering momentum, with German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder



Flags burn in Middle East while Bush argues for war powers.



as we have in the past,' Bush wrote. 'We cannot let our enemies strike first.'

That means taking action against hostile forces like Iraq, he

and UK Foreign Minister Jack Straw the latest to give it their support.

Mr. Schroeder's comments came at a dinner in Brussels with the President of the European Commission, Romano Prodi, hours before the publication of an article by UK Foreign Minister Jack Straw, detailing the British case for such a post.

The proposal for a president chosen by the governments of member states - who make up the European Council - was first put forward by French President Jacques Chirac, but has already won broad support from the UK, Spain, Italy and Sweden.

It is unpopular with some of the smaller EU states, and with members of Mr. Prodi's commission

United States

President Bush Outlines First Strike Doctrine

CNN 9/22/02

President Bush served notice on Friday that the U.S. will shift its military strategy away from the deterrence that characterized the Cold War era, and toward pre-emptive action against terrorists seeking weapons of mass destruction. 'The United States can no longer solely rely on a reactive posture

said, even when multinational groups like the United Nations balk. 'As a matter of common sense and self-defense, America will act against such emerging threats before they are fully formed,' he wrote in 'The National Military Strategy for the United States of America.' 'While the United States will constantly strive to enlist the support of the international community, we will not hesitate to act alone, if necessary, to exercise our right of self-defense by acting preemptively against such terrorists,' he added, 'to prevent them from doing harm against our people and our country.'

RUMSFELD TO ISRAEL: DON'T RETALIATE TO IRAQI ATTACK

Jerusalem Post 9/20/02

U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld has urged Israel not to respond militarily to an Iraqi strike, saying in rare public statement on the issue, it would be in Israel's 'best interests' not to get involved.

During a hearing on Wednesday in the House Armed Services Committee, Representative Joel Hefley (R-Colorado) commented, 'If we attack [Saddam], he showed in the Persian Gulf War that he'll send missiles to Israel. If he sends dirty bombs to Israel... I don't think we can restrain Israel this time.'

Rumsfeld responded by saying that there is no question that Iraq's neighbors will be 'vulnerable,' but 'there's also no doubt in my mind but that it would be in Israel's overwhelming best interests not to get involved.'

U.S. to Gulf allies: All systems go for war on Iraq

World Tribune 9/19/02

ABU DHABI — Iraq's agreement to allow the return of UN weapons inspectors has had no impact on U.S. and British preparations for war in the Persian Gulf.

The Bush administration has sent word to its allies in the Gulf Cooperation Council that there has been no change in plans to topple the regime of Saddam Hussein, Gulf defense sources told Middle East Newline.

In Washington, U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said he was certain that Middle East allies of the United States will help in any military campaign for regime change in Iraq. He said the support by Gulf Arab and other states will include the use of their air space and military bases.

Congress passes Jerusalem bills

Reuters 9/29/02

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Congress last week passed proposals that would define Jerusalem as the capital of the state of Israel, increase support for Israel, and impose restriction on aid to Lebanon and the Palestinians. These decisions are incorporated in the State Department's budget law, and require President Bush's authorization.

The resolutions which relate to

Jerusalem would make the American Consulate in East Jerusalem (which handles matters relating to Palestinians in the territories, and is responsible for relations with the Palestinian Authority) subordinate to the American embassy in Tel Aviv. Up to now the Consulate has had independent status as the Americans' direct pipeline to the Palestinians.

The new law would effectively transfers responsibility for contacts with the Palestinians to the Tel Aviv embassy, which is in charge of handling relations with Israel. In addition, the law calls for all official American documents to cite Jerusalem as Israel's capital, and to write in passports issued to American citizens who were born in Jerusalem that they were born in Israel.

Ben-Eliezer: U.S. attack on Iraq will begin by end of November

Ha'aretz 10/3/02

Speaking at a meeting of Labor Party ministers on Thursday, Defense Minister and Party Chairman Benjamin Ben-Eliezer estimated that a U.S. military attack against Iraq would begin at the end of November.

Sources close to Ben-Eliezer said that the initial assessment of the defense ministry was that an assault on Iraq would commence in the middle of December. They said that the defense minister's remarks Thursday were based on new information received by the intelligence establishment.

An Israeli security delegation arrived in Washington Thursday to consult with U.S. officials ahead of a possible war in Iraq.

US rejects comparisons between Iraq and Israel

Jerusalem Post 10/3/02

The US Thursday rejected every comparison between Iraq and Israel, in regard to weapons of mass destruction, reports Israel Radio.

Senior State Department official Richard Haas, visiting in Cairo, said one cannot draw a comparison between Iraq and Israel, because Iraq has used weapons of mass destruction twice - once against Iran and once against its own people [Iraqi Kurds].

Haas said that Iraq is a violent nation that cannot be permitted to possess such weapons.

US readies for Gulf move
Washington Post October 06 2002

The Pentagon is taking steps to prepare for a rapid massing of US forces around Iraq in the weeks ahead, bolstering stocks of military equipment and ammunition in the Persian Gulf, expanding command facilities and preparing several navy aircraft carriers in United States ports to steam to the region.

Defence officials have sought to keep the build-up as low-key as possible to avoid upstaging the delicate political and diplomatic manoeuvring under way to win United Nations and congressional authorisation for possible US military action against the government of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. Many of the military moves have come under the cover of training exercises or routine operations.

The stealthy nature of the build-up has fed suspicions that the Pentagon is preparing for some sort of surprise attack on Iraq. But in interviews, several defence officials dismissed such speculation as unrealistic. Before any military action, they said, there would need to be a mobilisation of several army divisions, scores of air force aircraft and armadas of ships, plus a call-up of tens of thousands of reservists - moves that would not go unnoticed.

Given the time required to get these forces to the Gulf region, the earliest an attack was likely to come was January, the officials said. But the measures being put in place now would allow US forces, after arriving in the region, to

swing quickly into action against Iraq and avoid a prolonged and costly lingering of forces in Kuwait and other planned staging areas.

US authorities have...approached Britain for permission to move B-2 bombers from Missouri to the Indian Ocean island of Diego Garcia, a British base used by the US as a staging point for B-52 bombers in the 1991 Persian Gulf War.

A back-up command post for running an air campaign has been established in Qatar to substitute for an elaborate US command centre completed only last year at Saudi Arabia's Prince Sultan Air Base.

Bush gets strong bipartisan backing on Iraq resolution

The Washington Times 10/8/02

Key lawmakers declared their support yesterday for the resolution requested by President Bush to authorize military action against Iraq, as the House headed for a vote this week for war.

House Majority Leader Dick Arme, one of the few Republican lawmakers who had voiced concerns about attacking Iraq, said the White House has convinced him that Saddam's weapons buildup is an imminent threat to the United States and Israel.

United Nations

Resolution 1435 (2002)

Adopted by the Security Council at its 4614th meeting, on 24 September 2002

The Security Council, Reaffirming its resolutions 242...of 22 November 1967, 338...of 22 October 1973, 1397... of 12 March 2002, 1402... of 30 March 2002 and 1403... of 4 April 2002, as well as the statements of its President, of 10 April...and 18 July 2002,

Reiterating its grave concern at the tragic and violent events that have taken

place since September 2000 and the continuous deterioration of the situation, ...**Expresses its full support for the efforts of the Quartet** and calls upon the Government of Israel, the Palestinian Authority and all States in the region to cooperate with these efforts and recognizes in this context the continuing importance of the initiative endorsed at the Arab League Beirut Summit;

Religion

Katzav Hopes Temple Mount Will Be Re-Opened To Jews 9/24/02 Arutz Sheva

In an exclusive interview from the Presidential Sukkah in Jerusalem, Israeli President Moshe Katzav told Arutz Sheva's Uzi Baruch this morning that he is hopeful that the Temple Mount will be re-opened to Jewish visitors in the near future. "We have a serious, soulful, historical, and religious connection to the Temple Mount... No one can deny that the Temple Mount is the holiest site in all of Judaism." Katzav recommended that a solution be implemented similar to the arrangement at Hebron's Ma'arat HaMachpela (Cave of the Patriarchs) where prayer times are coordinated between Jewish and Muslim religious officials.

John Paul II Asks Sharon to Lift Siege Against Arafat Also Expresses Solidarity to Palestinian Leader

VATICAN CITY, SEPT. 24, 2002 (Zenit.org).- John Paul II appealed to Ariel Sharon to put an end to the siege of Yasser Arafat's general headquarters in Ramallah, warning that the operation seriously compromises peace efforts.

In addition, [a] Vatican spokesman revealed that Cardinal Sodano sent another message to "President Arafat" to express "the closeness of His Holiness John Paul II and his own personal" support.

Archbishop Jean-Louis Tauran, Vatican secretary for relations with states, has said repeatedly that attaining peace in the region requires harmonizing Israel's right to a secure state with Palestine's right to its own sovereignty. In order to achieve this, the Vatican calls for respect for U.N. resolutions.

CHRISTIANS SINGLED OUT FOR DEATH

Sydney Morning Herald 9/28/02

Black flags flew over churches and Christian schools were closed in Karachi yesterday as mourners buried seven Pakistani Christian workers murdered by unidentified gunmen who bound and gagged the men before shooting them in the head at point-blank range.

All the victims were Christians and were selected for death by the two bearded gunmen, police quoted a Muslim co-worker as saying.

'Unlike the usual terrorists, the killers showed no haste,' said Kamal Shah, police chief of Sindh state, of which Karachi is the capital. 'They took a good 15 minutes in segregating the Christians.'

Church embraces evolution

CBN 10/08/02

The Presbyterian Church (USA), just put out a General Assembly resolution affirming evolution as the model for education. They encouraged state boards of education to do whatever most scientists say. In other words, they reject intelligent design.

Daring leaps of faith

Washington Times 10/14/02

NEW YORK — Seated several floors above a busy Manhattan thoroughfare, the two Egyptian men were restless. "You have to be careful here," one said. "The hot dog stand owners, the taxi cab drivers — they are Muslims and they listen to everything."

Having just come out of church, they were at an indoor cafe, conversing about former Muslims they knew who were now Christians. Some married into the faith. Some of the converts no longer believed in the Koran. Others said they had had visions or dreams of Jesus Christ. And others felt the Christian message of God becoming a man was more compelling than their faith. These converts face all kinds of dangers for having left Islam: ostracism from family members and friends, kidnappings and even death threats.

"Most of the people who come here start to question the Koran," one of the Egyptians said. "They can read sources not available in our countries, especially sources in Arabic."

Most of these converts keep their new affiliation secret, as Islam considers those who leave the faith to be apostates. According to Islamic law as practiced in countries such as Iran, Sudan, Pakistan and in northern regions of Nigeria, the penalty for changing one's religion is execution.

Rage meets Falwell's comment

Washington Times 10/13/02

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Shi'ite Muslim clerics in Lebanon and Iran have reacted with rage at the Rev. Jerry Falwell for calling Islam's prophet a terrorist, and an envoy of Iran's supreme leader reportedly called for his death.

Iranian cleric Mohsen Mojtahed Shabestari, addressing Friday prayers in the northwestern town of Tabriz, said Mr. Falwell was a "mercenary and must be killed," the Farsi-language daily Abrar reported yesterday.

"The death of that man is a religious duty, but his case should not be tied to the Christian community," Mr. Shabestari, a representative of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, was quoted as saying.

Science

Scientists Get OK to Put Human Genes in Cattle

Reuters 10/1/02

WELLINGTON - New Zealand gave the go ahead Tuesday to begin experiments that involve inserting human genes into cattle to produce proteins that could be used to treat medical conditions such as multiple sclerosis.

Under the approved plan, a state research institute, AgResearch Ltd., plans to insert genes from goats, pigs, sheep, mice and humans into the cattle, with the resulting genetically modified embryos transferred into normal cows to create 'transgenic calves.'

Bionic man comes a giant stride closer

The Guardian September 19, 2002

Bionic man - flesh reconstructed by science - moved a step nearer yesterday. US scientists announced that they had devised a new kind of organic polymer that could twitch at a command from a tiny electric signal and serve as artificial muscle.

Researchers have been quietly inventing the Six Million Dollar Man - television's 1970s bionic hero - for more than a decade. Artificial blood could carry oxygen from the lungs, and cochlear implants could stimulate "hearing" directly in the brain.

AIDS is called a security threat -- HIV could weaken 5 nations, CIA told

New York Times 10/2/02

LANGLEY, Virginia -- Rates of infection from the AIDS virus in five of the world's most populous countries are rising so fast that they pose potential security threats to their regions and to the United States, according to a group that advises the CIA.

The countries - China, Ethiopia, India, Nigeria and Russia - comprise 40 percent of the world's population and by

2010 collectively will have more HIV-infected people than any other five countries...In Russia, up to one-third of prospective military conscripts are deemed unfit for service because of HIV and chronic hepatitis from drug use, the report said.

HIV is spreading to wider circles in India through heterosexual sex, in China through the movement of infected migrated workers and in Russia through frequent amnesty releases of large numbers of infected prison inmates and through rising prostitution.

Visa readies wireless smart cards

ZDNet
September 19, 2002

Visa International is making a push with a new smart-card payment system that would allow hands-free transactions.

The credit card company said Thursday that it plans to set up a new system that uses smart cards fitted with radio-frequency chips (sometimes called RF identification, or RFID, tags) that will allow people to conduct a transaction, such as paying a subway fare or buying a soda, without having to fish for change or swipe a credit card.

The credit card company says it will use wireless smart cards as part of a larger effort to allow its customers to carry out transactions more easily and more securely.

"Visa's vision of universal commerce, or u-commerce, enables people to decide when, where and how to make a payment," Sue Gordon-Lathrop, Visa's vice president for emerging consumer environments, said in a statement. "This latest effort and other compelling



Smart cards go wireless

initiatives tied to chip and magnetic stripe technologies move us closer to our goal of displacing cash."

US Patent Awarded for Digital Angel's Microchip Implant

Yahoo Finance News 10/7/02

The recently announced patent for a "unitary core," subdermal microchip is expected to create additional growth opportunities for VeriChip(TM) across an array of advanced applications, including security, financial anti-fraud

protection, and safety-related identification. Worldwide patents are also pending for this breakthrough, "unitary core" implantable microchip technology.

This type of "unitary core" frees up more space within the surrounding tube to accommodate a bigger, more powerful antenna, which will substantially increase the range of VeriChip's radio signal.

The new design improvement also yields a doubling in VeriChip's magnetic field, which helps to open up enhanced applications - such as broader-range, doorway/walk-through scanners - required for a variety of security-related and building-access applications.

The new design has the added benefit of making the microchip more susceptible to an automated production process, which will enable the Company to increase production capacity to meet ever-growing demand.

"Getting chipped" is a simple, outpatient procedure that lasts just a few minutes and involves only local anesthetic and insertion of the chip. Announcements about the timing of future "chipping" procedures in the United States will be made at the appropriate time pending further regulatory clarification.

After the Deception

A pungent odor of pipe tobacco filled the dark room. As I sank into the overstuffed chair in front of the large wood desk, the place seemed dark, ...yeah, dark is the word. But, it wasn't just that the lights were dimmed.

The campus reverend behind the desk looked at me, a 19 year old just-wonderfully-saved kid and asked again what exactly I wanted. "I just gave my heart to the Lord last night and I'd like to follow Him. What do I do?" I responded.

His answer gave me the shivers, "Well, if you really want to know Him, you'll first have to know the devil."

I immediately excused myself and promptly made my exit.

Clearly, this man's advice was at best misdirected. However, knowing about the enemy's devices is indeed an important part of our warfare.

Sin is the topic of this short article, specifically the 'pathology' of sin. It is my intent to briefly put a heavenly spotlight on it in order to remind us of sin's origin, its method of infection, its effects and consequences, and its conclusion. In doing so, it's my hope that we will gain additional Biblical understanding of it (versus any other kind), and that armed with this understanding, we will love, worship, pray and minister all the more effectively until the Lord's return.

Sin loves dark places. It hides in dark places and proliferates in the dark. Conversely, it simply cannot

abide in the Light. Interestingly enough, it seems to have found its origin in Lucifer, which means "light bearer" for it transformed him such that his name became Satan, the devil, the destroyer, etc. (See Eze 28:12-15) Though he can yet appear as an angel of light, that's only a deception.

From here, it appears that he 'infected' some of the angelic host – perhaps a third of them (See Rev 12:4). And certainly, we know that he infected mankind. (See Genesis 3) I use the term 'infected' specifically, for sin is very much like a disease. It's spiritual in nature, but it's sickening consequences are very observable even in the material world.

Now, mankind is universally infected from conception. (See Rom 3:23 and 5:12) Nevertheless, sin displays degrees of magnitude within the individual and within a society. It is clearly constrained in this world by the Spirit of God, (2Thes2:7) but this is the topic of another discussion. Suffice it to say that the scriptures speak of trespasses, sins, great sin, besetting sins, iniquity and blasphemy of the Holy Spirit – the latter being the only one that is not forgiven in Christ for it is the rejection of Christ.

But herein is a very important point – sin always seems to start off small. This is a fundamental part of its deceptive maturation process.

Consider the Garden of Eden. Satan did not tempt Eve to murder, divorce or even hurt Adam. The lure was to do something seemingly 'small' in the way of disobedience to God; something that we can't be sure she even got first hand from

the Lord since she wasn't around when the warning was given to Adam.

But the bombshell was that what looked like a small deal was actually a multi-megaton warhead – the first Weapon of Mass Destruction. The WMD was to doubt God. To doubt His Word, His motive, His goodness, His love and thus to believe Satan instead. You see, doubt is not the absence of belief but rather the believing of something else in its place. Mankind didn't just disobey, he switched masters.

And it is still true today. Sin crouches at the doorway of our hearts, (see Gen 4:7); it inhabits our flesh, and in stealth, in deception, it tries to lure us into its deadly jaws.

It appeals to three things – the lust of our eyes, the desire of our flesh and/or our stinking pride. It is so incredibly effective because as it is destroying, it blinds us to its true nature. Eve did not realize her own deception until after giving the fruit that "was good for food", "pleasant to the eyes", and "desirable to make one wise" to Adam. I used to tell the youth in our church that sin wants you to see it as an ice cream sundae and to taunt you for your 'diet'. All the while, it is really a steaming, stinking 'meadow muffin'.

Now, if it cannot lure us directly into its 'trap', it is satisfied initially in drawing us to the 'edge', to the brink of the cliff so to speak. Insidiously, it knows that as long as we hang out 'near the tree', near the place of sin (in our minds or otherwise), that we will indeed be swept over the brink by the next 'wind' that blows.

Pathologically, the effect of sin is basically to harden, to desensitize

and to disintegrate us. The Bible likens sin to two types or word-pictures – leprosy and leaven.

Leprosy is a disease that infects the nervous system and breaks it down. A leper loses feeling in the extremities.

Leaven is yeast, a material that rots or corrodes its host. And such is sin; it hardens (Heb 3:13, Mat 19:8, Job 41:24, Eze 3:7, 2Chron 36:13) and it creates a callousness over our hearts. Meanwhile, it rots and grows by festering. One sin leads to another to another to another... and you know along with me that it's never satisfied. Like yeast, it breaks down the integrity of its host. It breaks down the mental, moral, physical processes and brings its subject to disintegration and death (Pro 14:30, Isa 5:24). It's a horrific sight.

Now, I would love to be able to tell you that after you give your heart to Christ, this is no longer a problem, but we can all testify that just ain't so. In fact, in some ways, it's even more of an issue.

Upon accepting Christ as Savior and Lord, you were inhabited by His Holy Spirit and your sins – all your sins, big, little, past, present and even future were forgiven by God. It is also true that this forgiveness is complete – that is, God doesn't just put your sins on a shelf so to speak where He can refer to them the next time you blow it, but He utterly obliterates them from His memory and separates them from you by an infinite distance (as far as east is from west).

Nevertheless, that doesn't mean you will not be tempted by sin or experience the consequences of sin

in this life. Paul gave perhaps the most outstanding treatise on this in the book of Romans chapters 5 – 8. When you're saved, you begin to change but sin does not. It still wants to destroy you. Fortunately, as a saved person, you have additional help – although the devil will try to convince you otherwise, you've actually been set free from the domination of sin in your life. When you are born anew, you have the ability to chose not to sin.

Salvation results in the right kind of 'pro-choice' movement if you would.

However, you still occasionally sin don't' you. (Yes, you do, don't deny it.) And what do you do about it?

This is where the saved person can even face more travail for unlike the lost and unrepentant, he/she cares about sin and increasingly recognizes sin for what it is. As Paul wrote, "Oh, wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?" (Rom 7:24)

But when you fail, if you'll listen to the Spirit of God and repent, the result can actually be healthy for it leads to greater and greater humility in your character as well as appreciation of holiness. The spiritually healthy Christian is much more concerned about personally pleasing God than in pointing out others' shortfalls. This isn't self-centeredness, it's God-centeredness.

But unless you know how to deal with it, you can end up either tolerating sin or being condemned for it. The Bible clearly states that "if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." (1Jn2:1) And, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and

just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1Jn1:9) and "there is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ." (Rom 8:1). That is, we are to confess, repent and get moving in the right direction. We are also to 'rescue' our brethren in humility and love when we observe them having problems knowing that we are also vulnerable in the flesh. (See Gal 6:1,2)

Toleration of sin happens frequently when we listen to the thought that says, 'oh, it's not that bad' or when we use the wrong measuring stick – i.e. we compare ourselves to others. Now, I'm not trying to set a standard for you here, but as an illustration, I've had good friends tell me that they watch R-rated movies because "they're just a little violent" or because they know their pastor saw them. I know sincere Christians who've let sin absolutely ruin their marriage, their ministry and their memories, pastors that have deserted their families and ministries, missionaries that have returned self-righteous or bitter and angry from their mission field, the list goes on and on...all because they tolerated sin.

God hates sin with a perfect hatred and we should also (Psa 97:10, Pro 8:13). He will never tolerate it because it's destroying His loved ones, and it cost Him the life of His only begotten Son.

You may think I'm being simplistic but I'm passionate about the ignorance of sin. None of us who believe have the 'luxury' (in these last days) of time to toy with sin, to ignore it or to walk under its cloud.

And trust me, I say that 'in the mirror' much more than sharing it herein.

Certainly, none of us will 'attain' to some sinless state in this life. But as 'we see the day approaching', let's all fight the good fight day by day until our dear Lord's return.

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Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. Col 3:2!!

Failure That Leads to Godliness

– Os Hillman

All those who were in distress or in debt or discontented gathered around him, and he became their leader.... 1 Samuel 22:2

God uses broken things to accomplish His greatest work. When David was anointed to be the next king, he was just a boy, the youngest among all his brothers. Little did he know that the next several years would be years of fleeing from Saul whose successes turned into obsessions as a leader who had fallen from God's anointing. Perhaps David thought, Why am I living a life as a fugitive? I am the next king of Israel. Yet, his life was filled with adversity after adversity before he ever fulfilled the ultimate calling God had for him. Others began to hear of David's successes and identify with his plight. But, it wasn't the successful and polished who came to join him. It was "those who were in distress or in debt or discontented" who would be part of his army

Sin -- never become comfortable with it or condemned by it. Let's always keep the awesomeness of our Heavenly Father and our Perfect Savior in mind. For when we see Him, we shall be like Him. Hallelujah!

and an army it was! His army would become known throughout the world as the greatest ever assembled, not because of their skill, but because of the God behind the army. God turned David's men into "mighty men of valor" (see 1 Chron. 11:10).

God often uses failure to make us useful. When Jesus called the disciples, He did not go out and find the most qualified and successful people. He found the most willing, and He found them in the marketplace. He found a fisherman, a tax collector, a farmer, and a doctor.

The Hebrews knew that failure was a part of maturing in God. The Greeks used failure as a reason for disqualification. Sadly, in the Church, we often treat one another in this way. This is not God's way. We need to understand that failing does not make us failures. It makes us experienced. It makes us more prepared to be useful in God's Kingdom-if we have learned from it. And that is the most important ingredient for what God wants in His children.

Jerusalem Mufti Incites Armageddon

Hal Lindsey on WND 10/16/02

The most volatile issue in the world today is Jerusalem and the Temple Mount. This is clearly predicted in Bible prophecy for the last days. Virtually all of the predicted signs that herald the imminent return of Jesus Christ are already fulfilled. But chief among these signs is the accelerating conflict over ownership of the Temple Mount.

The Hebrew prophets predicted that a conflict over Jerusalem between Israel and the surrounding nations, which are all Muslim today, would be a great burden to the whole world. The prophet Zechariah predicted that this conflict would ignite the last war of this present world (Zechariah 12:2-3). In the light of this, what the Muslim mufti of Jerusalem recently announced is of utmost importance.

According to the Jerusalem Post, Sheikh Ikrema Sabri declared in last Friday's sermon in the Al Aqsa mosque, *"The Temple Mount belongs only to the Muslims, who will not allow anyone to interfere in their internal affairs, including the Israeli authorities. The Israeli government and Jerusalem municipality have been attempting for years to establish new facts on the ground in the Haram al Sharif (Temple Mount) with the aim of taking control of it."*

To those familiar with Bible prophecy, these words are like

throwing a match into a gasoline reservoir. These words could actually set the stage for Armageddon.

For decades there had been a relative calm concerning the Temple Mount. When Israel re-captured old Jerusalem and the Temple Mount in June of 1967, they were respectful of the Muslim holy sites. In fact, the conquering general, Moshe Dayan, turned over the keys to the Temple Mount to the Jordanian authorities who had traditionally kept watch over the site. He only specified that all religions should have equal access to their holy places and their religious rights unhindered. This was made a matter of Israeli law governing Jerusalem.

This all began to change into increasing conflict when Yasser Arafat appointed Palestinian Sheikh Sabri as grand mufti of Jerusalem and head of the Temple Mount guardians called the Waqf. He has incited violence from the beginning of his appointment.

But this latest announcement is something that has brought Islam into direct conflict with Israeli rights that go back 3,000 years in history. From the time that King Solomon built the First Temple, the site has been the heart and soul of Judaism.

For at least the last nine years, the Muslims have illegally tried to remove all archeological evidence of a historical Jewish presence on the Temple Mount.

Since the Palestinian authority took over the Temple Mount, they have illegally changed the status of the Temple Mount. According to the Jerusalem Post, "In 1996, Palestinian Islamic clerics changed

the accepted status quo that had been preserved for generations and converted two ancient underground Second Temple period structures into a new large mosque.

The intentions of the Waqf are clear: They plan to make the whole Temple Mount into a mosque so that a worldwide Jihad can be declared if anyone seeks to share the site. They are defying both Jewish and Christian rights to this area. They totally discount Biblical history concerning Jewish and Christian rights to Jerusalem.

God predicted through Moses that Israel would be destroyed and dispersed twice in its history (Deuteronomy 28). But Moses and other prophets predicted that they would twice be restored. After the second restoration, Israel will build

the Third Temple just before the Messiah, Jesus, comes to set up God's kingdom on earth. Jesus himself predicted the event that will touch off the final war. It will be the placing of an ultimate sacrilege in the holiest place of the Temple. This is technically called in prophecy the "abomination of desolation" (Matthew 24:15 & 21-22).

For this "abomination" to happen, there has to be a Jewish temple rebuilt on its ancient site. Since the Muslims have now elevated Jerusalem to be a holy site equal to Mecca – and since the Israelis have a religious passion for Jerusalem that predates the Muslim claims by at least 2,300 years – a catastrophic conflict is guaranteed.

