

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

Heavenly Minded

Vol. 2 Issue 5



Dear Friends,

We are so thankful for your prayers and the many kind words you've sent our way. The Lord is using HM to touch lives in ways and places we would have never dreamed from Asia to the US to Europe – please keep praying!

As we watch, the inescapable current of prophetic events is displaying before us a moral, political, scientific, economic and religious environment perfectly in line with what God said would take shape in the last of the last days. More than ever, we pray that you all will enjoy a closer and deeper relationship with our Lord and each other – gathering together often in His presence and discerning the 'signs of the times'.

Love in Christ, John and Darlene

(Heavenly Minded is a free newsletter. To add a friend to our distribution list, contact us at jdickey77@yahoo.com. We are happy to consider providing additional copies for churches and home fellowships. Matted prints of past covers suitable for framing are available.)

There You Go

Is this the strange feeling
Of you working all to good
'Cause I am so confused
I don't even ask for what I should

When I asked for and deserved a stone
You broke and gave your body as bread
And even the stone that dropped down and rolled away
Spoke of the one who bled

There you go working good from my bad
There you go making robes from my rags
There you go melting crowns from my calves
There you go working good of all I have
Till all I have's not that bad

When I asked for and deserved a serpent
You gave a net full of fish
And even the serpent that told the lie
When lifted high foretold the gift

For you so loved the unlovable
That you gave the ineffable
That who so believes the unbelievable
Will gain the unattainable

--Caedmon's Call

THE DAZE OF LOT

What an amazing story! Here's this guy who's got it all – a righteous standing in God's eyes, great wealth, a lovely family... but it's not enough. When given the choice, he wants more of what the world has to offer. And so, he chooses the "valley of the plain"; not any ordinary valley though – he gazes upon the lushness of the area surrounding Sodom and he's captivated.

I've always thought it one of the biggest tragedies in the Bible that Abraham and Lot split up because of their riches. They had too many herds to stay together and too little appreciation of the eternal value of godly fellowship to simply 'down-size'. Now, some could claim that Abraham in suggesting this departure to Lot was finally fully obeying the Lord's original command to leave his family. However, the scripture specifically says, "...*their possessions were so great that they could not dwell together.*" (Genesis 13:6) So it isn't clear that obedience was on his mind.

This is reminiscent of another passage in the book of Revelation, chapters two and three, which describe seven churches that many Bible commentators take to represent not only literal churches of the first century but messages of a personal and prophetic nature as well.

The last church mentioned is Laodicea and it is frequently used by the Lord to personally convict the

self-satisfied Christian as well as to prophetically picture part of the church, generally speaking, in the 'last days' (that is, at the end of the 'Church Age' – today!) See Rev 3:14-22. Of course, no one wants to consider themselves a part of the Laodicean congregation personally or prophetically, nevertheless, we'll take a sober look anyway. But first, back to Lot...

In Luke 17, Jesus used two illustrations to characterize the generation in which we live. He used Noah and the flood as a picture of the Jewish people during the tribulation and He used Lot as a picture for the church. Noah, you see, was saved in the midst of God's judgment while Lot was saved out of God's judgment. We won't study the first one in this article, however, there are strong comparative links between what we read about Lot and Laodicea. And as they both cast shadows upon the 'last days' environment, we do well to study them.

Interesting, that Jesus describes Sodom in Luke 17:28 without any reference to sexual immorality. Rather, He says, "*They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built.*" – a picture of normal everyday life which is exactly His point. For many people, life will be going on without any awareness on their part of impending judgment. But He specifically chose "the days of Lot" as His 'type' or prophetic picture so let's consider him and those days.

In Genesis 18, word had reached heaven, so to speak, that Sodom had become a wicked place, so vile that it deserved utter annihilation.

The Lord, of course, already knew this and so He sent a couple of angelic messengers there on a mission of mercy.

You see, years earlier Lot and his family had left the highlands to the west. He had left his Uncle Abraham when he chose the lush valley pastures of the Jordan plain. The scriptures never indicate that he gave any thought to his family in this decision let alone the will of God – only his cattle, his business, his pursuit of the materially abundant life.

Genesis 13:12 indicates that he left the hardship of living in tents for the comfort of the cities. He chose to have plenty rather than a pilgrimage if you would. But as is almost always the case, he did not go directly to Sodom, rather he seemed to have dwelt in other cities first with a gradual movement closer and closer to the sinful epicenter. He also seems to have used his tent to camp out on better and better territory before giving in to the urge for the 'condo' in town. In other words, it was a slow but deadly seduction.

Thus, when the two angelic emissaries arrive at the city in Genesis 19, we find Lot firmly fixed in Sodom. He now owns a house and resides in the city; at least two of his daughters have married Sodomites and Lot is himself, sitting in the city gates which indicates he had become a real 'player' in the community.

2 Peter 2:8 says that Lot, though personally righteous, "...*tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing (the Sodomites') lawless deeds.*" So

when Lot saw the angels, something clicked – he bowed, addressed them as "lords" and virtually begged them to stay under his roof. He knew what they would observe elsewhere in the city and one can't help but think that he may have been trying to 'cover up' his sinful surroundings as well as to protect his visitors.

You know the story – that night, the house is surrounded by every male in the city and they demand to have sexual relations with these visitors. Then, in a desperate effort to protect the angels, Lot offers to the crowd his two daughters to brutally rape. With this, the mob goes ballistic and is about to 'have their way' with Lot when the angels strike them all blind, grab their stumbling host and pull him inside his house.

At this point, they tell Lot that they are about to utterly destroy the whole place and that he should convince all of his relatives to leave immediately. Consequently, he runs to the homes of his sons-in-law and says, "*Get up, get out of this place; for the Lord will destroy the city!*" *But to his sons-in-law he seemed to be joking.*"

Can you fathom what's probably going through Lot's dazed mind?? He now realizes that his long ride with seduction is crashing. His slide into carnal surroundings (which he may have even thought were 'God's blessings') was about to end very abruptly and his comfort zone is about to radically shrink. But tragically, by this time, his family is almost totally corrupted.

Although the angels mercifully grab a hold of he, his wife and his

two remaining daughters, literally leading them by the hand out of the city – at least two of his other children are destroyed along with Sodom. And if they had any children, they're killed as well. While Lot flees, his possessions are incinerated, his wife is morphed into a salt pillar and eventually, his two surviving daughters end up having sexual relations with him. Whoa!

In all of this, recall, Lot was a righteous man. So how did he come to this and what does it mean for us today? Remember, we are living in the time Christ referred to as being like the “days of Lot”.

I'll suggest that it started with a bad choice birthed out of a misguided heart. The Bible says of Abraham, that he “looked for a city with foundations whose builder and maker is God.” (Hebrews 11:9) The word here for “looked” in the original language means “to look for, to wait for with expectancy”. That is, Abraham had the same heart attitude that is reflected in 2 Peter 3:11-14, *“Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless...”*

In a nutshell, Abraham looked for and anticipated heaven. And it

influenced his whole walk as it will any believer. On the other hand, Lot, although he was a sincere and righteous man, was focused upon the treasures and comfort of this world. Contrary to Abraham, he looked for earthly foundations and they ended up being quite flammable. Therein, he found his ruin.

He tried to mix his desire for the things of this life with the values of the life to come, and that just doesn't work. Jesus said that although we are “in the world,” we are not “of the world”. (John 17) Even in Leviticus, in the Mosaic Law, mixture of livestock, seed and some fabrics was prohibited as a picture of what it means to value the heavenly so single-mindedly that the earthly absolutely pales by comparison. (See Leviticus 19)

This is not to advocate asceticism but a sincere and consuming attraction to Christ.

Lot wanted stuff – he wanted comfort, and Sodom offered that. In fact, contrary to what you might expect, Ezekiel 16:49 says that pride, fullness of food and abundance of idleness made up the iniquity of Sodom which led to its judgment, not sexual aberration. And this is the same criticism the Lord applies to the last days church of Laodicea. He says, “...you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy and have need of nothing...’”(Revelation 3:17)

So WHY would Lot stay there? He knew that what the people were engaged in all around him was absolutely wrong. Was he hypnotically influenced by the abundance? 1Cor 15:33 says, “Do

not be deceived; ‘Evil company corrupts good habits.’” Was he ensnared, stuck in the muck with too little spiritual ‘chutzpah’ to break out?

Here's the rub – many, many dear Christians today are in Lot's sandals – righteous souls being tormented while going with the world's ‘flow’; for some, the passionate pursuit of Christ has turned to a settling into ‘new digs’; there's spiritual paralysis in worldly pleasure and as a result, many Christian families are becoming indistinguishable from the world.

Here's the deal – like Laodicea, we need zeal and repentance. Like Abraham, we MUST be heavenly minded in this world. Lot never changed Sodom; Sodom snared Lot. ***He was powerless to influence because he was focused on affluence.***

Likewise, Laodicea was/is a church in need of a split! To split the scene! Get outta town so to speak! Like Lot, Laodiceans need to wake up and dash for the highlands of God's help (and don't look back!) Psalm 121:1,2.

Lot was saved because of God's mercy and because Abraham prayed. He interceded for Lot and his family just as Christ is interceding for us right now.

You know, our God loves us relentlessly. He wants us to have an overcoming relationship with Him. And so, if you have closed off any part of your life to His Spirit, open the door now. He won't condemn, on the contrary, He'll dine with you. (See Rev. 3:20) Listen quietly. Do you hear His knock?

To each church in Revelation 2 and 3, the Lord makes a promise to the overcomers, but only with the Laodicean church does He exhort them to overcome as He overcame. You see, Christ was in truth rich and in need of nothing, yet He humbled Himself because of a compelling love for His Father. He put aside unimaginable riches and power to be our Savior. When He beheld the vendors in the temple – those who were only concerned with making a buck He drove them out zealously. (See John 2:14-17) Thus, to the last days church He says, ‘Follow My example.’

And so, may each of us hold fast to God's Word in these treacherous days and obey from the heart. Let us not be dumbed-down in the ‘days of Lot’ nor in the DAZE of Lot! May we, as the body of Christ, not be caught up in ‘playing church’ and may worldly pursuits take back seat as the family of Christ prepares sincerely for His appearing.

May you be filled with the fullness of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. God bless you. Heaven's not far away.

Dear Friend, if you are lacking absolute assurance of where and with Whom you will spend eternity, make the decision now to receive the complete forgiveness of all your sins. Jesus the Christ died for you personally – He took your place, took the judgment you and I are both worthy of there on the cross. Just accept that fact and confess it. It is all a matter of grace – God deeply loves you.

The Bible indicates that the generation which witnesses the rebirth of the nation of Israel will also witness all the events leading up to Christ's 2nd coming. It says that in the last days Jerusalem will be a "cup of trembling" – the focus of attention of the whole world. It predicts a massive war with Russia leading a league of nations including Iran, Iraq, Libya, and many others against Israel. It is thought by many Bible scholars that this war will either immediately precede or be immediately subsequent to the rapture of the Church as mentioned in I Cor 15, 1 Thes 5 and several other scriptures.

In addition, there is the prediction of a revival of a major world power arising out of the former Roman Empire and exerting a strong influence over Israel and in particular, Jerusalem. (Dan. 2) The leader of this coalition, a charismatic man, will be the ultimate false Messiah and lead the world to oppose Christ's return. He will insist upon a one world religion with ultimately himself as god. Punishment for not following this religion will be, as with Islam, death. And no man will be allowed to buy or sell without his "mark" in his hand or forehead.

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

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

As we consider these things in light of God's eternal Word, we can take heart that all is moving toward His conclusion.

Just a few scriptures to review:

Middle East -- Zech 12:2,3, Ez 37
Church -- 2Tim3:1-5, 1Tim4:1,2
Knowledge growth -- Dan 12:4
Final Generation -- Mk 13:28-30
Russia/Saudi Arabia/Iran -- Ez 38, 39
One World Religion -- Revelation 13

Quotes

From the Koran

Surah 9:73 (Make war on unbelievers)
"Prophet, make war on the unbelievers and the hypocrites and deal rigorously

with them. Hell shall be their home: an evil fate."

Surah 9:5 (Slay the idolators/unbelievers) "When the sacred months are over slay the idolators wherever you find them. Arrest them, besiege them, and lie in ambush everywhere for them."

Surah 5:33-34 (Enemies should be slain or crucified) "Those that make war against God (Allah) and His apostle (Muhammad) and spread disorder in the land shall be slain or crucified or have their hands and feet cut off on alternate sides, or be banished from the land."

Surah 47:3-5 (Behead the enemy) "This, because the unbelievers follow falsehood, while the faithful follow the truth from their Lord. Thus God lays down for mankind their rules of conduct. When you meet the unbelievers in the battlefield strike off their heads and, when you have laid them low, bind your captives firmly.

(Source: The Koran, Translated by N. J. Dawood, Penquin Books, London, 1999)

News Middle East

Turkey Blasts Israel for 'Genocide'
Gulf News Fri Apr 5,2002

Turkey's prime minister accused military ally Israel yesterday of "genocide" against Palestinians and demonstrators marched in Muslim and other countries as Israel vowed to pursue its drive to root out suicide bombers.

"The whole of the Palestinian state is being destroyed step by step," Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit told party members in parliament. "A genocide against the Palestinian people is being carried out before the eyes of the world."

Ecevit blamed both Israel and Palestinian radicals for the violence and urged both sides to resume peace talks, offering Turkey as a possible venue for

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to meet Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.

Powell Seeks Arab Support 4/8/02

WASHINGTON (AP) - Secretary of State Colin Powell is seeking Arab help in ending the worst Israeli-Palestinian fighting in decades. But Arab leaders say he needs to talk to someone who isn't on the itinerary yet: Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat .

"I don't think he'll find any other interlocutor among the Palestinians and the mission will fail," Amr Moussa, secretary-general of the League of Arab Nations, told ABC's "This Week."

Powell's first stop was Morocco, long a moderating force in Israeli- Palestinian relations, for meetings with King Mohammed VI and Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah.

Abdullah's proposal for a permanent resolution of the Israeli-Arab conflict has been lauded by the Bush administration and was endorsed by the Arab League on March 28.

Egyptian cleric seeks more suicide bombings Praises 'attacks that strike horror into the hearts of the enemies of Allah'

The top Egyptian cleric of Al-Azhar University, Sheikh Muhammad Sayyed Tantawi – after previously advising against the targeting of civilians in suicide bombings – has now declared that martyrdom (suicide) operations and the killing of civilians are permitted acts according to the Koran, and that more such attacks should be carried out.

The great Imam of Al-Azhar, Sheikh Muhammad Sayyed Tantawi, demanded that the Palestinian people, of all

factions, intensify the martyrdom operations [i.e. suicide attacks] against the Zionist enemy, and described the martyrdom operations as the highest



Hamas homicide bombers

form of Jihad operations. He says that the young people executing them have sold Allah the most precious thing of all. [Sheikh Tantawi] emphasized that every martyrdom operation against any Israeli, including children, women, and teenagers, is a legitimate act according to [Islamic] religious law, and an Islamic commandment, until the people of Palestine regain their land and cause the cruel Israeli aggression to retreat

According to lailatalqadr.com, the statements were made by Tantawi at a reception held for Israeli Arab Democratic Party leader Abd Al-Wahhab Al-Darawsheh and his delegation. During the meeting, Al-Darawsheh stressed the depth of relations between the Palestinian and Egyptian peoples, and stated that the Palestinian people were steadfast, would not abandon their land and would continue in their path until they achieved one of two good things: victory or martyrdom.

Musharraf ready to use nuclear arms

The Guardian 4/6/02

Pakistan's military ruler, General Pervez Musharraf, suddenly raised military tensions with India with a stark warning yesterday that he is prepared to use nuclear weapons in the event of war.

In an interview to be published



Palestinian sniper

tomorrow in Germany's Der Spiegel magazine, Gen Musharraf warns that if the pressure on Pakistan becomes too great then "as a last resort, the atom bomb is also possible".

He said India had a "superpower obsession" and was energetically arming itself. Both states tested nuclear weapons in 1998, the first time Pakistan admitted its nuclear capability.

Saudi Arabia Says Fischer's Mideast Plan Contains 'Many Good Elements'

Frankfurter

Allgemeine Zeitung 4/16/02

RIYADH. In an interview here with the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Saudi Arabia's foreign minister on Monday said he supported the seven-point plan put forward by his German counterpart

Joseph (Joschka) Fischer for a political solution to the Middle East conflict.

The initiative contained "many good elements," Prince Saud al Faisal said in the interview, which appears in Tuesday's edition of the paper.

The recent peace plans drawn up by Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah and Mr. Fischer complemented each other well, said the Saudi foreign minister, who has held office since 1975.

He said the plan put forward by the Saudi crown prince, unanimously approved by the summit meeting of the Arab League in Beirut in late March, laid out the grand design for peace in the Middle East, while Mr. Fischer's plan proposed individual measures by which to achieve that goal. Mr. Fischer's plan details how a cease-fire could be achieved and political negotiations started, Prince Saud said, as well as a joint peace effort led by the United States, the

European Union, the United Nations and Russia and an international security component. According to Mr. Fischer, these outside groups should guarantee any commitments made by Israel and the Palestinians on the way to peaceful coexistence.

Saudi troops mass on border with Jordan following reports of Israeli military buildup

AP 4/23/02

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia - Saudi Arabia has sent eight brigades to its border with Jordan after receiving intelligence reports that Israel was massing troops along the Jordanian border, Saudi officials said Tuesday.

In Israel, an army spokesman said Israel had not increased its troops along the border with Jordan.

Some countries neighboring Israel have stepped up their military readiness in response to Israel's call-up of its reserves, a U.S. official in Washington has said recently. However, there was no sign of any offensive activities, according to the official.

The eight brigades, comprising 8,000 soldiers equipped with armored personnel carriers and missile launchers, moved into the Tabuk region in northern Saudi Arabia, the officials said.

Saudi peace plan a 'step forward'

BBC 4/25/02

A member of the Israeli Government has offered his support for the Saudi peace plan, claiming it could offer the best opportunity for a renewal of peace negotiations in the Middle East. Dan Meridor, Israeli cabinet minister with special responsibility for security strategy, told Tim Sebastian in an interview for BBC HARDtalk that the plan was a "step forward".

"Let them [the Saudis] come tomorrow and talk here with me in London, in Jerusalem, in Cairo, in Geneva, wherever they like," he said.

"If they are serious about it they need to come and talk with us because there are issues where we don't agree."

"There will be a Jewish state and a Palestinian state - without the right of Palestinians to call the people to go to Israel and make it an Arab state. What they call a right of return. This should be totally out of the question," he said

"If this is agreed we are in business."

Israel, Palestinians Welcome Summit

5/3/02

JERUSALEM (AP) - Israel and the Palestinians on Friday cautiously welcomed a U.S. proposal to convene an international Mideast peace



Wounded Israeli

conference early this summer, but stopped short of promising to attend.

Both sides said they wanted more details after U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell announced the move Thursday with the support of U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, leaders of the European Union and Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov.

Powell said one of the goals of the meeting would be to clear "the political way forward" to a Palestinian state.

Bush Calls for End of 'Occupation'

WASHINGTON (AP) 5/2/02 -

President Bush said Thursday that important progress is being made in ending the violent standoff in the Middle East and declared that Israel must negotiate an end to its occupation of Palestinian areas in the West Bank.

Bush, speaking after meetings with European leaders, also had a message for the Palestinians, telling them the nation that the international community wants to help them build "cannot be based on a foundation of terror or corruption."

Special In-Depth Report

Armies prep for U.S. Iraq attack Each country moves troops in anticipation of offensive

5/3/02

While no official word has been issued from any world capital concerning the imminence of a U.S. offensive against Baghdad, DEBKA-Net-Weekly's military experts report that the region's armies are all busy in one way or another getting ready for a surprise U.S. strike on Baghdad and its regional backlash. Our sources this week followed the heightened movements of men, tanks, guns, missiles, warplanes and carriers:

Iraq

For most of the last month, Iraq has been massing troops in the west along the Jordanian and Syrian borders for fear of a surprise U.S. military assault on Baghdad by ground or airborne troops from bases in Jordan, Israel and the Sinai, or from aircraft carriers in the eastern Mediterranean, DEBKA reports. Two mechanized divisions and the Republican Guard's Babylon armored

division are deployed at the al-Baghdadi base near the town of Arbuta. Additional anti-aircraft units have reinforced this facility. Planes carrying chemical weapons have been spotted recently at several Iraq airfields, mainly the al-Sharaa military airbase 270 miles north of Baghdad and west of the River Tigris.

Israel

In the last two weeks, according to DEBKA, Israel has stepped up preparations for standing up to a nuclear, biological and chemical attack.



Israeli tanks roll through Balata

The Israel Defense Forces high command has ordered new units to be set up quickly for training in locating, identifying and neutralizing nuclear, biological and chemical substances. Thousands of officers and soldiers, including reservists, have been drawn from various branches of the military and attached to the new units. They are undergoing lightning two-week NBC courses, at the

end of which they are assigned to permanent sectors.

One group has been based with commando forces as well as the armored, mechanized infantry, artillery and combat intelligence corps. A second

group will be deployed at key points in Israeli cities, such as power stations and water pumping facilities, and distributed among street blocks.

Unit equipment and soldiers' personal gear are stored close to these sectors of operation, readily available in an emergency. These trainees, officers and men are told explicitly to prepare in the very short term for an Iraqi attack that will include missile and bomber strikes using nuclear, biological and chemical weapons.

TV and radio stations were ordered to set up alternative studios and broadcasting facilities capable of functioning under Iraqi missile attack.

DEBKA-Net-Weekly's military sources say Israel's high command has given the national home-front service until May 25 to complete the formation of the new units as well as their training and equipment. The home-front command has received the rating of a combat post. Only the northern command in charge of Israel's volatile Syrian and Lebanese borders has been ranked higher.

DEBKA-Net-Weekly's military sources add that at the height of Operation Defensive Shield in the West Bank 10 days ago, Israel secretly began deploying large armored contingents on its border with Egypt in the wake of intelligence information on Sinai-related Egyptian military preparations.

Egypt

Ten days ago, Egypt's Sinai Command was ordered to go on operational footing in the Suez Canal cities of Ismailia and Suez, DEBKA sources say. The Sinai Command goes on operational footing only when it prepares for war. The Second and Third Armies under this command have standing orders to meet an outbreak of full-scale hostilities by pushing into Sinai and taking up positions to defend the Suez Canal. The two armies have not as yet deviated from their regular

routines, nor have they called up reserves.

DEBKA-Net-Weekly's military sources report that Israel quietly asked the United States to sound out Cairo on its military preparations and find out if there was any intention of moving units into the Sinai, where strict troop limitations have been in effect since Israel and Egypt signed a peace treaty in 1979. Egypt replied that military preparations in the Middle East are advancing so rapidly that its high command decided to take minimal logistic steps to make sure it would not be caught off-guard.

Saudi Arabia

DEBKA-Net-Weekly's sources say Saudi Arabia has kept in place the troop concentrations massed two weeks ago along its border with Jordan – despite U.S. President George W. Bush's assurance to Saudi crown prince Abdullah in Crawford, Texas, that no final date had been set for a U.S. military offensive against Iraq. The Saudi high command is taking no chances. Like other military commands around the Middle East, it is not ruling out a surprise U.S. attack being launched at any moment against Iraq. For his part, it appears that Abdullah wants to show Washington he was serious about his proposal to involve Saudi Arabia militarily in the West Bank. According to DEBKA-Net-Weekly's military sources, more than half of the kingdom's combat units are now in a state of readiness on the Jordanian frontier.

They are the 14th armored brigade and the 8th and 20th mechanized brigades.

Saudi Arabia's paratroop brigade is on alert at the Tabuk base. The 12th armored brigade and 6th mechanized brigade have left Tabuk and moved northwest to a point across from the Israeli and Jordanian borders, says DEBKA.

Jordan

Over the past week, Jordanian units continued moving east toward the Iraqi frontier. They positioned their 4th and 20th mechanized divisions across from Iraqi bases and the H-3 airfield, according to DEBKA sources. Elements of the divisions were deployed in the northeast, near the point where the borders of Jordan, Iraq and Syria converge.

Following the recent massive Saudi military deployments along the kingdom's northern border with Jordan, the Jordanians moved their 3rd armored division south from the Iraqi frontier to the Saudi border.

Syria

The Syrian army has taken up defensive positions in four main areas: the Bekaa valley, Baalbek, the Beirut-Damascus highway and the Israeli-Syrian border in the northern Golan Heights, near Mount Hermon and Shebaa Farms.

DEBKA-Net-Weekly's military sources report a full combat alert declared this week for Syria's 1st armored regiment in the Damascus area and the 2nd regiment in western Syria and Lebanon. The 10th mechanized division and elements of the 51st armored division, stationed until last winter in Beirut, have in the past few days relocated from western and central Lebanon to the Bekaa Valley on Lebanon's eastern border with Syria. Some have taken up defensive positions along the Beirut-Damascus highway, DEBKA reports.

The 1st regiment commands the defenses of Damascus and the Syrian-Israeli border on the Golan Heights.

The 2nd regiment secures Syria's eastern frontier and the Syrian expeditionary force in Lebanon.

The 27th and 82nd armored brigades of the 3rd division, and the 87th armored brigade of the 11th division are on the ground in Baalbek in eastern Lebanon, a Hezbollah political and logistic stronghold.

Syria's elite 14th division, comprised of special forces, has moved east, says DEBKA, meeting at the Syrian, Lebanese and Israeli borders in the northern Golan Heights, north of Shebaa Farms.

Damascus ordered these military steps after asking Iran to send new shipments of Fajar-5 surface-to-surface missiles to Hezbollah units in southern Lebanon. The missiles have a range of more than 30 miles and can hit the Israeli port city of Haifa and its military, electronic and oil industries, and essential utilities. Syria assured the Iranians, in response to a query, that Hezbollah positions would be authorized to fire the new missiles as of the first week in May.

According to DEBKA sources, this news sent U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell rushing over to Damascus in the middle of his Middle East mission to defuse the Israel-Palestinian crisis. He sternly warned Bashar Assad that Israel would lose no time in hitting vital Syrian military assets if the Fajar missiles took to the air. Assad gave no sign of his intentions, DEBKA says.

United States

U.S. PLANS ATTACK BETWEEN JULY AND SEPTEMBER 4/3/02

WASHINGTON [MENL] -- The Bush administration is believed to be planning to launch a three-month military campaign on Iraq during the summer.

Western diplomats, intelligence officials as well as congressional sources said the administration has relayed its intention to launch an attack on the regime of President Saddam Hussein by August. They said President George Bush has outlined plans for a staged offensive that would first seek to assassinate Saddam and his key cohorts.

The U.S. attack, the diplomats and sources said, envisions a lightning

offensive against Baghdad and the capture of key Iraqi military installations. They said the move would seek to kill Saddam or drive him out of Baghdad to eliminate the prospect of bloody resistance in the Iraqi capital.

If this doesn't work, the diplomats and sources said, the United States would launch stage two of the military campaign. This would involve heavy air attacks on Iraqi military installations. Stage three calls for a ground attack.

What's next for the U.S. and Iraq? Pentagon officials say U.S. military action may be inevitable

MSNBC 4/23/02

U.S. WARPLANES on combat patrol over Iraq were flying in the face of a higher threat Monday. Pentagon officials reported that within the past few days, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein had moved more anti-aircraft missile batteries into the no-fly zones in northern and southern Iraq.

"That increases risks to pilots that are patrolling in those zones," said Air Force Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. "And that's what's been happening."

Fighting in the no-fly zones has already heated up. Within the last few weeks, U.S. warplanes have attacked three Iraqi anti-aircraft missile sites near Mosul in the north and one outside Talil in the south.

Pentagon officials said this ongoing game of cat-and-mouse between the United States and Iraq was only a warm-up to what may be inevitable: a U.S. military invasion of Iraq, perhaps by the end of the year.

One Pentagon plan would require about 250,000 U.S. ground troops, about half the force used during Operation Desert Storm 11 years ago. A smaller force would be called for because the Iraqi military is now about one-third the size it was then and U.S. warplanes drop about seven times more

precision-guided weapons, which are more accurate and more deadly.

U.S. SETS TERMS FOR PEACEKEEPING FORCE

4/23/02

WASHINGTON [MENL] -- The Bush administration has established guidelines for the deployment of an international peacekeeping force in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Officials said the administration has agreed to the deployment of several hundred troops from several countries who would serve as monitors of any ceasefire between Israel and the Palestinian Authority. They said the peacekeepers would begin as a small force of about 100 and then expand according to circumstances on the ground.

"We're not talking large numbers of troops," U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell said. "We're talking about some small numbers of people that we would draw, perhaps from our diplomatic presence there, or send in some other



A nervous Arafat during siege

and/or other government agencies."

Powell has obtained pledges from several European Union countries to participate in the peacekeeping force. This includes military personnel from Britain and Germany.

Report: U.S. eyes Iraq invasion in 2003

4/29/02

NEW YORK (Reuters) -- The Bush administration is plotting a potential major air campaign and ground invasion early next year to topple the Iraqi government of President Saddam Hussein, the New York Times reported in Sunday editions.

The use of 70,000 to 250,000 troops is being considered, the Times said.

President Bush has not issued any order for the Pentagon to mobilize its forces, and there is no official plan for an invasion, the newspaper said.

The Times reported the use of American or combined allied forces became a possibility after two alternate scenarios were rejected. The White House concluded a coup in Iraq would be unlikely to succeed and a proxy battle using local forces there would be insufficient to bring a change in power.

Inside the Ring

Washington Times 4/26/02

Two Russian strategic nuclear bombers flew within 37 miles of Alaska recently in a rare probe of U.S. air defenses, according to U.S. intelligence officials.

The Tu-95 Bear H bombers were part of a group of four bombers that deployed recently to the military air base near Anadyr, a port in the northern Far East of Russia. The bombers can carry up to 16 Kh-55 strategic cruise missiles, which are equipped with 200-kiloton nuclear warheads.

The bombers flew north along the coast of Alaska. The Air Force scrambled two F-15 jet fighters to intercept the propeller-driven bombers. The F-15s shadowed the bombers for a short distance and then broke off.

It was the first time since September 11 that the Russian military made a run at U.S. air defenses.

Bush: US Won't Let Israel Be Crushed

4/26/02

CRAWFORD, Texas (AP) - Urged by Saudi Arabia to temper support for Israel, President Bush said Friday his message to the Arab world is unequivocal: "We will not allow Israel to be crushed."

Bush spoke to reporters on the morning after his extraordinary five-hour inaugural meeting with Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, in which the president heard Arab criticism of his handling of the Israeli-Palestinian crisis.

"I told the crown prince that we've got a unique relationship with Israel and that one thing that the world can count on is that we will not allow Israel to be crushed," Bush said.

"The crown prince understands my foreign policy. It's important that we speak with clarity and I will continue to do so."

European Union

EU to examine how to pressure Israel
(AP) Fri Apr 12, 2002

The European Union will examine how to best get across the message next week that it wants Israel to stop military operations and withdraw from Palestinian areas, a top EU official said Friday.

External Relations Commissioner Chris Patten said EU foreign ministers meeting in Luxembourg on Monday should strive to issue a balanced decision.

"We can't take knee-jerk gesture politics at a time like this," Patten said. "But on the other hand we have to register both Europe's concern about the regional implications of what's happening, and Europe's concerns about what seems to us to be a growing humanitarian tragedy."

Patten said that "the European Union has an association agreement with Israel which covers not only trade

concessions, but also covers a political dialogue, and there is a specific clause in it about human rights and democracy."

Patten said that the EU should also wait for the results of U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell's visit to the region.

Patten described Israel's actions as "deeply worrying," saying they "apparently have trampled over the Geneva conventions with so little regard for international law."

He said the EU will have to play an "important role in rebuilding" the Palestinian Authority.

"There has been a systematic trashing of the institutions of the Palestinian Authority, and I don't myself believe that has anything to do with dealing with suicide bombings, which are of course inexcusable at any time in any place," Patten said.

EU, Russia Probe Germany's Mideast Peace Blueprint

Naharnet News Desk 4/16/02

As U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell pressed ahead with his search for peace in the Middle East, European Union foreign ministers debated a German peace plan Monday and prepared to assess the situation with their Russian counterpart.

The German plan was a surprise initiative from a country not readily seen as having any role in Mideast peacemaking.

Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer has drafted a two-year timeframe for, among other things, a durable cease-fire, withdrawal of Israeli troops, dismantling Jewish settlements, the creation of a Palestinian state and an internationally monitored buffer zone.

This would be followed by talks on touchy "final status" issues such as the future of Jerusalem and the exact borders between Israel and the Palestinian state. The plan also provides for international security guarantees under the auspices of the United

Nations, the United States, the European Union and Russia.

EU Maintains Funding to Arafat MENL Apr 12, 2002

The European Union has maintained financial support for the Palestinian Authority amid the Israeli siege of chairman Yasser Arafat.

The EU plans to send 50 million euros to Arafat over the coming weeks to pay his security officers and meet other salary obligations by the PA. Officials said Arafat will have discretion over the EU funding, which will be paid in monthly installments 10 million euros until July.

The European Commission approved earlier this week, the continuation of direct budgetary assistance to the PA. They said the assistance is meant to pay salaries to PA employees, especially in the areas of education and health.

Eurofile: £33m budget passed for Euro-CIA

Telegraph (Filed: 27/04/2002)

The European Union is rapidly creating a full-scale police and intelligence arm, similar to a joint FBI/CIA wrapped together at Europol headquarters in The Hague.

This week EU justice ministers agreed to increase spending on Europol by 45.9 per cent this year, taking the total to 51.6 million euros (£33 million).

Much of the extra money is earmarked for a terrorism task force backed by state-of-the-art computer systems. Willy Bruggeman, the deputy director, said Europol was becoming the biggest intelligence-gathering centre in Europe, with a special focus on the "very serious" risks of a biological attack by Islamic terrorists.

There is also a growing military intelligence unit at the EU's defence headquarters in Brussels under the control of Javier Solana, the EU foreign policy chief.

United Nations

UN backs Palestinian violence Arab, European nations pass resolution supporting use of 'armed struggle'

National Post 4/16/02

UNITED NATIONS - Six European Union countries yesterday endorsed a United Nations document that condones violence as a way to achieve Palestinian statehood.

They were voting as members of the UN Human Rights Commission on a resolution that accuses Israel of a long list of human rights violations, but makes no mention of suicide bombings of Israeli civilians.

Canada and two EU countries -- Britain and Germany -- opposed the measure, which supports the use of "all available means, including armed struggle" to establish a Palestinian state. Guatemala and the Czech Republic joined the opposing voices, but with 40 countries of the 53-member commission voting yes and seven abstaining, the resolution is now part of the international record.

The 57-member Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) drew up the Human Rights Commission resolution, backed by co-sponsors China, Cuba and Vietnam.

Israel Should Embrace Middle East Force, Annan Says

4/18/02

UNITED NATIONS (Reuters) - Fearing a fresh wave of Middle East violence, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan told the Security Council on Thursday it was in Israel's interest to reverse course and accept a large armed international force in Palestinian areas.

Israel has long opposed such a force, which the Palestinians want. But Annan said the international community should pursue the option rather than wait for

the parties to arrive at this conclusion on their own.

"A multinational force is essential to a gradual restoration of trust between the two sides, which is so vital if further steps toward a broad framework for a comprehensive, just and lasting peace are to be taken," he said, according to his speaking notes.

Religion

Red Heifer Born in Israel

The Temple Institute April 8th, 2002

It can now be revealed that less than one month ago, a red heifer was born in Israel. After the heifer's owner contacted the Temple Institute, on Friday, April 5th, 2001, Rabbi Menachem Makover and Rabbi Chaim Richman traveled to the farm where the heifer is located, to inspect and validate her status. The rabbis found her to be kosher and were satisfied that this heifer could indeed be a candidate to be used in the process of purification described in the book of Numbers, chapter 19. This is an important development towards the rebuilding of the Holy Temple.

VATICAN PROPOSES INDEPENDENT MILITARY FORCE TO HALT MIDEAST VIOLENCE

4/16/02

VATICAN CITY, (Zenit.org).- A Vatican official insisted on the need to create an independent military force to halt violence in the Middle East.

Archbishop Jean-Louis Tauran, Vatican secretary for relations with states, made this proposal Saturday during an interview on Vatican Radio, in which he also called for a solution to the siege of Bethlehem's Basilica of the Nativity.

The Vatican has appealed since November 2000 for an independent force to halt the violence in the Holy Land, although it is aware of the complexity of the initiative, given that the

two sides "are not deployed along one line."

Archbishop Tauran believes this third force should act as a "friend," which arrives on the scene "to separate the two contenders, who not only shoot at each other, but are unable to look at one another."

The objective of such a force, he said,



Pope John Paul II kisses a copy of the Koran

should be to "silence weapons, create a climate of mutual trust, and make the two contenders return to sit down at the negotiating table."

The Vatican aide said he was hopeful for U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell's mission in the Middle East, because he can talk with all the parties involved, demonstrating again that "one against the other -- Israelis against Palestinians -- will never win the war; together, they might win the peace."

Pope accuses Israel of humiliating Palestinians

The Times 4/4/02

ISRAELI troops pushed farther into the West Bank yesterday as the Vatican summoned the Israeli Ambassador to the Holy See to accuse his country of imposing "unjust conditions and humiliations" upon the Palestinians.

The Vatican also denounced suicide bombings and other acts of terrorism by

Palestinian extremists against Israeli civilians, reflecting the Pope's growing alarm over the threat to Jerusalem's Holy Sites posed by the fighting. It said that the Pope believed that reprisals and revenge attacks did nothing but feed the sense of frustration and hatred in "this dramatic situation". The burden of the Vatican's remarks was, however, seen

by diplomats as anti-Israeli, with the statement calling on Israel to use proportionate force in acts of legitimate self-defence. It said Israel should respect United Nations resolutions, a reference to Israeli withdrawal from Palestinian-ruled areas.

Synagogues burn as Europeans rage

4/23/02 Washington Times

LONDON — A wave of anti-Jewish attacks — ranging from hate mail and graffiti to stonings, shotgun

blasts, gasoline bombs and synagogue bombings — has swept Europe from Britain to Ukraine as the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians worsens in the Middle East.

In recent days, one synagogue in Marseille, France, has been doused in gasoline and burned to the ground; another in Lyon, France, was damaged in a car attack; a third, in Brussels, was firebombed; and a fourth, in Kiev, was attacked by 50 youths chanting, "Kill the Jews," who then beat up a rabbi. An unidentified assailant hurled a stone through the window of another synagogue in southern Ukraine yesterday.

In Britain, which takes pride in a "multicultural" society, police have logged at least 15 anti-Jewish episodes this month, including eight physical assaults, synagogues daubed with racist slogans and hate mail sent to prominent

figures among the nation's 300,000 Jews.

Vatican reaches out to Islamic world BBC 4/29/02

The Vatican has signed an unprecedented agreement with the Government of Turkey to promote religious dialogue between Christians and Muslims.

It breaks new ground in the Vatican's current attempts to reach out towards the Islamic world.

It is the first time the Vatican has signed such an agreement with the government of a predominantly Muslim country as apart from with a religious institution.

Science

Soon, You may be Implanted with Verichip and Not Even Know it ADSX Apr 27,2002

Hundreds of thousands of medical devices are surgically implanted into patients every year. Examples of these life-saving and life-enhancing devices include pacemakers, artificial joints, orthopedic hardware, heart valves, and medication pumps.

After insertion, these devices often require adjustment, repair, replacement, or even recall. A tiny VeriChip, inserted subdermally, stores a verification number. That verification number can be retrieved with a small, handheld VeriChip scanner to access remote databases with information about implants, the person's health history and other relevant information. The database provides people, medical providers and manufacturers with a rapid, secure and non-invasive method of obtaining medical and medical device information.

Future applications may include full medical record archival/retrieval for emergency medical care.

Verichip Signs Deal with Mexico, Sending Chips and Scanners ADSX Apr 27. 2002

Applied Digital Solutions, Inc. announced today that it has signed a non-exclusive distribution agreement with Speko Corporation. Speko is a leading personal security company in Mexico that provides a full range of security products for government agencies, commercial enterprises and individuals. Speko's line-up of products includes personal security devices, building access controls, armored plating for vehicles and bulletproof vests.

A Satellite Baby-Sitting Service 5/2/02

Wired.com reports: "Two companies have announced plans to launch personal GPS "location devices" this year, which will act as a kind of LoJack for everyone from meandering children to nervous executives in kidnap-prone countries.

One is a bracelet, which parents can lock on their kids' wrists to track their location and movements over the Internet, that is made by Wherify.

Another -- and the most sci-fi application by far -- an implantable GPS device that Applied Digital Solutions of Florida plans to develop within the next eight months.

ADS, the company that developed the implantable VeriChip ID, would only give scant details about the product.

Chief technology officer Keith Bolton said the company was inundated with requests from Latin America and Asia for an application that uses the Global Positioning System to keep tabs on potential kidnapping targets.

'They've pleaded with us to please make a device like this,' said Bolton, who predicted that the product would become the company's biggest seller.

DEFCON 3!

There were groanings no other man could fathom, sorrow intense enough to kill, sweat and blood mixed as the capillaries in his face burst. Perhaps all Satan's hellish demons assaulted his mind with lies, terrors and temptations. All it would take was one sin, one slight misstep, even just one thought pattern divergent from perfection and all would be lost – all mankind for all time.

You see, although the Gethsemane trial was both a matter of whether or not Jesus would go to the cross and a matter of how, in what condition. Nothing less than a perfect, spotless and blameless man could or would be accepted by the Father.

When the stakes are high, the dynamics of the spiritual warfare are really intense. Consequently, Christ's first command to the three sleepy disciples with Him was, **"Watch..."**

But on they slept and often, so do we. Many wonderful messages, books, radio programs and other ministries have highlighted our Christian concerns on love, joy, evangelism, giving, social and moral attitudes, prayer, worship, etc. But like a much needed 'wake-up' call, I'm realizing the lack of emphasis within the last days church overall on this very key scriptural command. In fact, I searched through a database of 40,000 sermons and found only one on this topic.

Now, to put it in perspective, the New Testament contains a startling

number of commands (not suggestions) to watch especially for the Lord – as many, if not more, as for loving, 2 ½ times more than for giving or praying, 10 times as many as for preaching or praising and 20 times as many as for worshipping. The Old Testament rarely deals with this concept of watching, but by contrast, nothing is commanded to the followers of Christ more often.

It is said by Bible scholars that when God repeats Himself, it is to make clear to us His emphatic intention or direction. In this case, we are given some 20 or so commands – how emphatic does the Lord need to be to get our attention?

Despite this, we are generally hard of hearing. It's as if these directives were never given or perhaps they were a mistake or simply unreasonable. And unfortunately, I'd dare say that the vast majority of Christians in our country on any given day rarely give thought to them let alone obey them.

So why would the Lord leave us with a command which He knew we would find 'unfulfilled' for 2000 years or so? Why keep watching for someone Who doesn't seem to come? The Thessalonian believers of the first century were so into it, they got very concerned when a false teacher led them to believe they'd missed Christ's appearing and the rapture.

Now, 2000 years of watching isn't much compared to eternity but I'm convinced that the Lord is completely in tune with how long it seems to us. So if the blessed event was to be considerably delayed

from our perspective, why would he say, “Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away. But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is. It is like a man going to a far country who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch. Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming – in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning – lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!” (Mark 13:30-37) Wouldn’t He know that some would become disheartened and some would even turn to mocking those who continued to obey?

Is God being unreasonable here? or just toying with us? Is He having trouble returning? Why should we continue to watch? (or why begin?)

There are at least three purposes for watching: first, God is really in to testing our hearts. Remember the story of Abraham and Isaac? God told Abraham to do the unthinkable, the totally unreasonable (from our perspective) – to sacrifice His son, Isaac, to place a knife in the heart of the one person he loved most of all. How could He require such a thing?

It was a **test**.

Of course, God stopped him. But, even though Abraham believed God would raise Isaac from the dead, can

you imagine the agony he was experiencing? And when the Lord put a halt on, He said to Abraham, “...now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.” (Genesis 22:12) A test.

In like manner, we have been given what some of us may think is an unreasonable command, yet God is examining our hearts. Will we watch?

Second, He not only tests, but He **trains** us to avoid evil. In Gethsemane, Jesus was accompanied most closely by Peter, James and John whom He instructed to pray. An hour later, finding them asleep, He said, “Why do you sleep? Watch and pray lest you enter into temptation.”

You see, there is a definite spiritual strength associated with watching that trains our hearts to eschew sin. If or when we leave off watching, our relationship with Christ wanes and we can even find the world again becoming attractive and enticing. In His parable lesson of Math 24:45-51, Jesus warned that those who believe that the Master is delaying His coming can find themselves “beating” their brethren and drinking with drunkards.

Third, there’ll soon be **transfiguration** and **translation** for the command is indeed sincere – it’s no game, no toying and no difficulty for the Lord. The fulfillment is absolutely real. Yes, He’s coming friends! When we see Him, we will be changed (1Cor 15:52) and snatched up. (1Thes 4:17). And those who have longed for Him, who have looked for Him to appear will

have an exceedingly excellent reward. Paul wrote, “...there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but to all who have loved His appearing. (2 Tim 4:7,8) You see, that’s the essence of watching for the Lord – love.

So Christ gave the commands to test our hearts, to train them and ultimately to transfigure and translate us into His presence. Consequently, I want to watch, but how? Do I need to down lots of coffee? Clothespins for my eyelids? No, it’s not a physical deal, really. It’s spiritual. Watching simply means to be spiritually circumspect, discerning and ALERT as opposed to sleepy and complacent. Furthermore, it means keeping ‘an eye on the sky’. Nevertheless, though it’s straightforward, it goes against our grain.

Our sin nature is to sleep. Oh, not to cut Z’s in the physical sense, what I mean is that it is a delight to our flesh for our inner man to sleep, to nod-off, to schnooze, that is, to let the sin nature govern our thinking and conduct. In fact, it often seems that the fleshly part of our being is continually singing lullabies if you would.

But, watching is that condition in which we are on high alert – DEFCON 3. When we really care and really believe -- intensely so – we watch. It’s not an anxious thing, not at all. But it is eager. Watching reflects a state of readiness, desire and confidence.

“And what I say, said Jesus, I say unto all: Watch. There is something very sobering in those words,

something very pithy. The Lord says, It all comes down to just one word. What is a Christian to do whose hope is on Christ? What is a Christian to do in every circumstance of his life, in every age, and every day? Watch! Be alert! Be ready! Stand consciously before the Son of Man.” –Rev. Carl Haak

Now, if you’re like me, you’ll probably realize that there have been times when you were really pretty ‘drowsy’. Much of the church has been sleeping and Christ knew it would happen. In Matthew 25, in speaking of the last days, He says, “Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins (you know the story)...but while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight a cry was heard: ‘Behold, the bridegroom is coming, go out to meet him!’ That’s what’s happening right now, folks. It’s midnight so to speak, and the signs of the times are proclaiming, “The Bridegroom is coming!” And, “...now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.” (Romans 13:11) Let’s discern the lying lullabies of the enemy, trim our lamps and arise.

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

Missions and the Word

The focus of the HM devotional newsletter is to stir our readers to heavenly mindedness and consequently fruitful endeavors that glorify Christ. Therefore, we would like to present the following ministries for your reference and prayerful support as the Lord leads. We are personally convinced of their integrity, scriptural foundation and good fruit.

Gospel for Asia

The mission of Gospel for Asia is to reach the unreached of Asia with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and fulfill the Great Commission through recruiting, training, sending and assisting qualified laborers to win the lost and plant local churches in partnership with the body of Christ.



100% of Support Dollars Sent to the Field

When a donor sends in their monthly support for their missionary(ies) nothing is taken out for administrative purposes... 100% is sent directly to the field for its intended purpose.

Tremendous Fruit by God's Grace

In the last 10 years over 9,000 churches have been planted by Gospel for Asia native missionaries where no churches existed before. On the average, our missionaries establish nearly six fellowships every day in Asia among unreached villages and people groups. See www.gfa.org or call (800) 946-2742

The Bible League

Since 1938, the Bible League has been working with people like you to provide Scriptures where they are needed most. These Scriptures often become tools in the hands of trained evangelists around the world who use them to disciple people in small group Bible studies. This discipleship brings unbelievers to the point of conversion, baptism, and finally church membership.

200 million Christians worldwide do not have a Bible. And the worldwide shortage continues to intensify. In many countries, the Christian community does not have enough Bibles for every church member to have one.

Without the Bible, these Christians are unable to:

- grow in faith
- reach out to others

Although no one can know the exact number, the Bible League estimates that at least 2 billion people in our world will eagerly receive and read the Scriptures if presented with the opportunity. See www.gospelcom.net/bibleleague or call (866) TBL-INFO (toll free)

Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

